

# THE ELIZABETH<sup>20</sup><sub>18</sub>HAN



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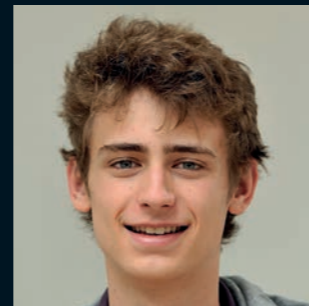
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## THE ELIZABETHAN 2018 CONTENTS

SCHOOL  
LIFE  
4-17

HOUSE  
REPORTS  
18-24

STAFF  
25-27

ACADEMIC  
28-45

THE ARTS  
46-65

OUTREACH  
66-73

TRIPS  
74-87

STATION  
88-109

GOODBYE  
REMOVE  
110-113

ARCHIVE  
114-123



# Abbey talk

by Teenhan Page

The Burlington Arcade opened in 1819 when King George IV, or the Prince Regent as he was then, was enjoying his life of dissolute, gouty luxury. It epitomised Regency excess and very little seems to have changed. It is a beautiful covered shopping arcade and it connects Piccadilly to Burlington Gardens just by Bond Street.

Burlington Arcade Beadles who wear the traditional uniforms of top hats and frockcoats patrol it. The original beadles were all former members of Lord George Cavendish's own regiment, the 10th Hussars. He built the arcade; its website describes it as an 'iconic runway in the heart of Mayfair'.

Here you can purchase a bespoke trunk crafted by Hermes, buy a Vintage Rolex watch made in the year of your birth. Manolo Blahnik can make your shoes here.

A recent addition is the shoeshine stand. You can get your shoes shined in the Burlington Arcade. It was not always the case: the shoeshine stand is new and I was taken aback by how I felt when I saw it.

Positioned in the middle of the 'iconic runway' there is what looks like a tall wooden throne or maybe a commode, with a high seat and two, foot pedals. I watched a young a well-dressed man sitting on this comfortable elevated seat, absently scrolling through his phone whilst another, much older man dressed in a smart uniform, with a 1920's style bellhop hat, knelt, in subordinate silence some distance below him. He vigorously cleaned and polished his customer's already clean and well-polished shoes. Now, I love shoes and I liked his shoes but this little scene made me feel very uncomfortable indeed.

Many jobs are neither nice nor well paid. Earning your living is hard but people have to work and they will often travel huge distances to find employment. I've employed people to do jobs I'd rather not do myself, and negotiated the price down. I'm no utopian idealist. I paid a painter to paint windows and I pay a window

cleaner to keep them clear. I've paid another cleaner to clean the inside of our house including the lavatory and that horrid grimy place behind the pedestal of bathroom sinks. I've had the car cleaned, by four men whom I discovered, were from Macedonia and worked for a Romanian boss. Most of the time I don't feel too bad, although I was little unsure about the car wash.

But I really didn't like the look of this cleaning service. There was no evidence that the shoeshine man was a modern slave or badly treated. He was dressed in a Burlington Arcade corporate uniform. He looked smart and he didn't look as if he was starving. He was clearly free to walk away from the arcade if he wished and I noticed that after the customer paid him he then added a sizable amount of money to his tips tin.

I tried to rationalise it. To think through my uncomfortableness. Surely, he was just doing a job and the customer was just paying for the service; it's just the way of the world. However, something about this set-up was different.

Was it just another sign of social inequality? We see many of those signs all the time, like the derelict men we walk past outside the Salvation Army hospice on our way to our local Tesco's. Or Mark, the man from Jamaica who has lived on Monck Street for the best part of a decade or the young people aimlessly milling outside the Cardinal Hume Hostel near our own sports hall or the immobile bumps in greasy sleeping bags in the doorways of newly redeveloped shops in Victoria Street. All signs of something being wrong. Signs but not symbols.

Paul Tillich a mid 20th century American philosopher wrote a great deal about signs and symbols and their differences. A sign just tells us or shows us something. For example, a 'do not enter' road sign or a 'fire exit' sign. However, a SYMBOL is different. A symbol is a sign of iconic power. It challenges us and demands a response from us either to participate in it or repudiate it. A crucifix therefore is a symbol; a union flag is a symbol; a swastika is a symbol. The tableau of the man having his shoes shined in the Burlington Arcade was certainly a symbol. It eloquently and beautifully demonstrated an hierarchical, ritualistic humiliation and subjugation of one human being before another in a public setting. I'm sure you can probably guess the ethnicities of the young customer and the old shoe shiner. It was not even the lack of personal respect that was so shocking. It was the institutionalised acceptance of it, by all around that made it so wrong.

I'm ashamed to admit this but it affected me far more than the scenes of extreme degradation I walk calmly past every day here in Westminster. That is the power of the symbol. It got me engaged. It had me participating.

'Some things cannot be said only shown' and this was one of them. To explain this scene diminishes its impact. So I suggest you all go to the Burlington Arcade and see how it looks to you. See if you think it is OK. See if you would be happy to sit on the chair, have your shoes done, and then look the shoe shiner in the eye, as a brother.

I felt at that moment the whole social order needed changing and that I must do something. I would push the plutocrat from his throne and see his

## Abbey talk continued

big head crack on the new granite floor. I would liberate the shoe shiner by giving him the single £20 I had in my pocket and give him his dignity back by setting him free, and I would run amok through the Burlington Arcade, looting its decadent treasures and giving them away to those who had little or nothing.

But I didn't do anything of the sort. I just bought some macaroons, went home, felt bad, disappointed, and impotent and mulled the situation over. And wrote this. So perhaps you can help me answer these questions I have:

Was I just wrong to be upset by the whole shoeshine scene?

Should I join a political movement of some sort and if so which?

Should I set up a charity to help shoe shiners?

Should I conduct a social media campaign?

or Should I spend some time praying for humanity to sort itself out?

Please have a think and a chat, I'd really like your advice.

And I hope in a world full of many mundane signs you keep an eye open for proper symbols.

Let us, in a few moments of contemplative silence think of how we respond to the inequalities in the world around us.

Are we blind to the suffering of others in the wider world?

Do we treat each other in our own school community, as we would like them to treat us?

Do we show a lack of empathy to those we meet in our daily lives?

Do treat others as a means to an end rather than seeing them as having innate value?

Can we look all those we meet in the eye and with a clear conscience know we have acted with integrity and respect?

Father give us eyes to see the signs and symbols in this world and the strength to act on what we see.

Amen.



## Interview with Mr Derham

Interviewer – Leo Doody

LD: I wanted to ask you about your time before Westminster, when you were at Solihull and Rugby. Had you heard of Westminster before any possibility of working here was on the horizon and what were your impressions of it?

PD: Whilst I had heard of it, to be totally honest I didn't really have much of an impression about it at all. Rugby, in particular, had its own history and prominent figures, like Thomas Arnold, who really embodied the Victorian focus on education and was a major reformer of the public school system, and that was the focus there rather than on other schools. The only thing I would say is that, when I had accepted the job offer here, I was told that I'd hate it, that "the pupils are all arrogant, the staff are unruly and the parents are a nightmare" and none of that has been true; genuinely, being at Westminster has been the greatest four years of my life.

LD: You and I both joined Westminster on the same day in 2014. I still find there are aspects of Westminster life, and its culture, that I'm getting used to. Do you feel the same way?

PD: Not really. One of the joys of being Head Master is having such a holistic view of school life, and being able to dip in and see every aspect of the school, and have contact with all areas and departments. The one thing that still strikes me, however, is the excellence in every aspect here: whether you go to see art, or drama, or sport, or even just a lesson, the consistent quality of what goes on here is really quite awe-inspiring.

LD: How does Westminster keep up with the modern world whilst still retaining its traditions?

PD: I think the important thing to remember here is that the ideas behind a Westminster education are really quite timeless: teaching students to question ideas and encouraging intellectual curiosity is at the core of what we do here and those are skills that are still vital in the modern world. Also the relationship with the Abbey is crucial: that's a link this school has had for half a millennium and that constant presence will be maintained as a common thread throughout the School's history. So, yes, Westminster will of course adapt to the changes that are happening, but the things that make Westminster so unique will be as relevant as ever.

## Interview with Mr Derham

LD: This year has seen a couple of firsts for Westminster: the first female Queen's Scholars, and then the announcement of the proposed links in China. How is the School's reputation as a place for 'Loyal Dissent' compatible with the Chinese educational marketplace?

PD: It's a good question. The first school in Chengdu isn't scheduled to open until 2020, so there are still a lot of discussions to be had about the curriculum and the ethos of the schools over there. I'm a firm believer in soft power: that getting involved and working to help improve things from the inside is far better than watching from the sidelines, and in China we have a valuable opportunity to engage with their educational system. The consultancy fee will be key to us improving our bursary offerings and moving towards our eventual goal of being needs-blind, and ultimately it is just a consultancy: if we don't like the direction in which the schools over there are moving, we can back out.

LD: There was an article in the Times just last week heavily criticising the proposed schools. Does that bother you?

PD: No, not at all. At times, it seems as though the media is determined to print anything negative that they can find. Constructive criticism is good and something we would obviously take on board, but often they take the views of an individual and frame them in a way that the impression is that that particular point of view is that of the majority. So no, I don't lose any sleep over what the press is saying about it.

LD: This next one may or may not have been suggested by a member of your Sixth Form history set... Pitt, Peel or Gladstone: who would have made the best Head Master?

PD: (Laughs). Wow, that's a tough one. I'm going to have to go with Gladstone, but all three were absolutely extraordinary characters: Pitt's force of will, and his total confidence in what he was doing would have made him a fantastic reformer anywhere, and Peel's sense of duty in sacrificing the Conservative Party for the good of the country was an astonishingly admirable act. However, I'd say Gladstone combined the best of both of them. They'd all be quite fearsome however: Gladstone's wit and sharp tongue could be especially withering!

LD: Do you feel that working at Westminster has changed you as a person?

PD: I think in terms of my teaching style and my organisational style, I've become far better at trusting the people around me and learning how to delegate. At a school like this, where everyone is so proactive and constantly thinking of ways to improve school life, my role is much more 'hand on the tiller', rather than having to be a sort of one-man army in that regard. Whether that's meetings with my staff or with the Monitors, whose focus and creativity in dealing with school issues blew me away in my first year here, there is a genuine sense of purpose and that's changed my style as Head Master quite considerably.

LD: What is the change that you would most like to see at Westminster over the next 50 years?

PD: The long term goal has always been to make the School needs-blind. If in 20 years, when I've retired and I'm sitting on my balcony, reading a book, and that's the case, then I'll be a very happy man.

LD: Last question. You and I have talked about our mutual love of Irish rugby before. Pick one: Ireland winning the Rugby World Cup next year or Westminster achieving record A-level results.

PD: Hahahahah! I've got to go with Ireland. Westminster is breaking records year-on-year.

## Interview with the Under Master

Interviewer – William Mirza



**How did your career progress before you became Under Master at Westminster?**

My interest in teaching started when I was still at university doing my PhD in astronomy. I was teaching undergraduates at Cambridge and from there I applied for a teaching job at Winchester. I spent six years there teaching physics, maths and sometimes English, running football teams and putting on plays. I ran a house for a short time. From there, I became Head of Sixth Form at Magdalen College School in Oxford before becoming Director of Studies. I also became a day housemaster and ran football there so I was used to busy days.

**Did you ever consider a career other than teaching?**

I did! The best thing I ever did, and I tell pupils this all the time, was the work experience I did when I was twenty between my second and third years at university. I'd always assumed from doing my maths degree that I'd end up working in the City. But by the end of that summer I realised that it wasn't for me, so I ended up doing research and completing my PhD. I decided during the PhD that I wanted to give teaching a try. I've never seriously thought of doing anything else since.

**What about Westminster made you want to work here?**

It was the job, specifically the opportunity to become a pastoral deputy head at another great school. I'd veered more towards the academic side of education at Magdalen, so it was about tacking back towards the pastoral side, something I very much wanted to do. And I've absolutely no regrets. I've loved it.

**What's the most enjoyable part of your job as Under Master?**

The most satisfying part is to know that I've done something that has made a real difference to a pupil or a member of staff. Very often that's something which nobody else would realise has happened because of the nature of the work we do. It's frequently behind the scenes and not known to lots of people. To know that I've helped someone is the most satisfying thing, or making changes that I then feel have made a small but significant difference, like those we've made to wellbeing, for example.

The Removes' last day on Thursday was a high point, as there was such a lovely atmosphere.

**And the least enjoyable part?**

Dealing with the aftermath of a personal catastrophe – for a pupil or a member of staff. When that happens I get the call and people turn to me to decide what happens next.

**What drove you to maths?**

That's like asking 'What drove you to drink?!' I've always loved maths. I remember being fascinated by numbers when I was a small boy. I was pretty good at maths at school and always enjoyed finding out more. Down the line I became more interested in the applications of maths: I was always wondering whether to do maths or physics at university. It was wonderful discovering a course like astrophysics that brought the two together beautifully. I do enjoy the teaching of it. One of the highlights of my week is going into the classroom to teach my Sixth Form and Remove classes.

**Do you have a philosophy on education?**

Not something that I can summarise in a couple of sentences, but what I think is most important is viewing education as a way of igniting a fascination with a subject, rather than just a way of ploughing through a series of exams and collecting certificates. When I'm teaching maths I'm always happy to veer here and there off the lesson plan if I think that's going to get the class more interested. Often I'll be talking about black holes, for example, or something not on the syllabus like that. I also think that the breadth of an education is crucial: the fact that all pupils here do station, the younger ones all do LSAs, or even just that at GCSE we say that everyone has to do a practical subject, reflect this. I'd like to think that all the pupils here have that kind of breadth of education. Our aim is that they should have lots of strong characteristics and areas of interest that they can develop. I also like to think that everyone can find a different niche, and that education isn't just half a dozen mainstream topics everyone has to do. There are lots of quirky areas at Westminster, some of which might influence only a handful of pupils but are no less important for that.

**How many Abbey talks have you given in your time here?**

Broadly, I've tried to do a couple a year, so it must be about ten. It really is a remarkable opportunity to stand up in that pulpit and talk about something that you feel everyone should know. Speaking in that environment is an extraordinary privilege. The opportunity is always there for pupils to do it as well, and I really would recommend that anyone who has an issue that they feel strongly about and wants to talk to the whole school about should talk to the Chaplain and try to get one of those slots.

**Which one did you most enjoy giving?**

It's hard to pick. I've always enjoyed it when people come up to me afterwards and say that it really resonated with them. In most cases I've been talking about some kind of pastoral issue: mental health, bullying, something like that.

**Did you receive your red and black cassock from the previous Under Master?**

My first appointment on my induction day was to get measured up for a new one.

**What school trips and expeditions have you run in your time here?**

I went to Greece with the Fifth Form last spring, which was fantastic. A moment from that trip that I really enjoyed was standing on the Pynx looking across to the Parthenon and teaching the pupils about the Golden Ratio by drawing diagrams and writing equations in the dirt.

**What's your advice to a young person entering Westminster for the first time?**

Get stuck in straight away and try as many new things as possible. Go to societies and talks, join clubs, whatever catches your eye. Get as much done as possible but expect to be knackered at the end of the work. Don't forget to check Firefly online for prep!

**And to a young person leaving Westminster?**

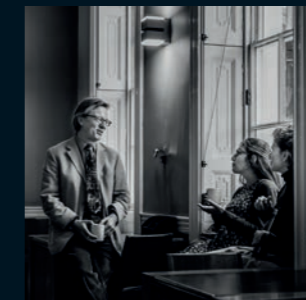
Continue to try new things at university. Don't let money be the only reason for choosing your career: find a job that you love. I believe every university graduate should think about that before signing an employment contract.

**What do you plan to do after you leave Westminster?**

I'm going to be Headmaster of Warwick School and look forward to that. It'll be exciting working at a new school.

**Last of all, what will you miss most about Westminster life?**

I'll certainly miss sitting in Abbey every week. I'll also miss colleagues and pupils, and I'll miss the place itself. I have many fond memories of the School: I've taught my son to ride his bike in Yard during the quiet of Sunday mornings, and watched Fifth Form boarders cheering on my daughter while she did cartwheels in College Garden. And I'll miss London life, as a family we have enjoyed being here.

**WHAT IS AD TE LEVAVI?**

It's a beautifully produced book of photographs taken by Christopher Jonas during his period of residency at Westminster School. It features all aspects and many of the people who make our community.

**WHY 'AD TE LEVAVI'?**

These are opening words of one of our Latin Prayers, 'To you, I lift up my eyes', and of the Advent chant, 'To you, O Lord, I have lifted up my soul'. We chose this as the title of the book because it celebrates all the people at Westminster School, the life of our community and the work that we do.

**WHICH PEOPLE AND EVENTS ARE INCLUDED?**

Christopher's photographs are all unposed. They provide a glimpse into the everyday activity of all aspects of School life, rather than a formal record of events. The 200 photographs we have selected include pupils from all years and teachers, in the classroom, the laboratory, the Sports Hall, on the river, up Fields, in the Barbican, up House, on stage, up School, also in the Abbey, the Art studios – in almost every Westminster space! The collection also celebrates the contribution of those who work behind the scenes to make sure the School is happy, thriving and safe.

**IS IT A RECORD OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2017-18?**

Not all events are represented: Christopher was abroad in January and February, and it would be impossible for one person to capture every event that goes on at Westminster!

Most importantly, however, the book captures the spirit of Westminster School life at this moment in history. People make a place: the book celebrates who we are and why this is such a creative place to live, learn and work. In particular, Christopher's photographs illustrate the balance in School life between continual exploration, experimentation and a respect and enjoyment of tradition.

**WHAT HAPPENS IF I SUBSCRIBE TO THE BOOK?**

You will be acknowledged by name at the end of the book. Or, if you would like to make a gift subscription, the name of the person on whose behalf you are subscribing will be listed. Just let us know when you order the copy.

Subscribers will receive a copy of the book at the discounted rate of £45. Once subscriptions close on 31 December 2018, copies will cost £60 each.

**WHEN WILL THE BOOK BE PUBLISHED?**

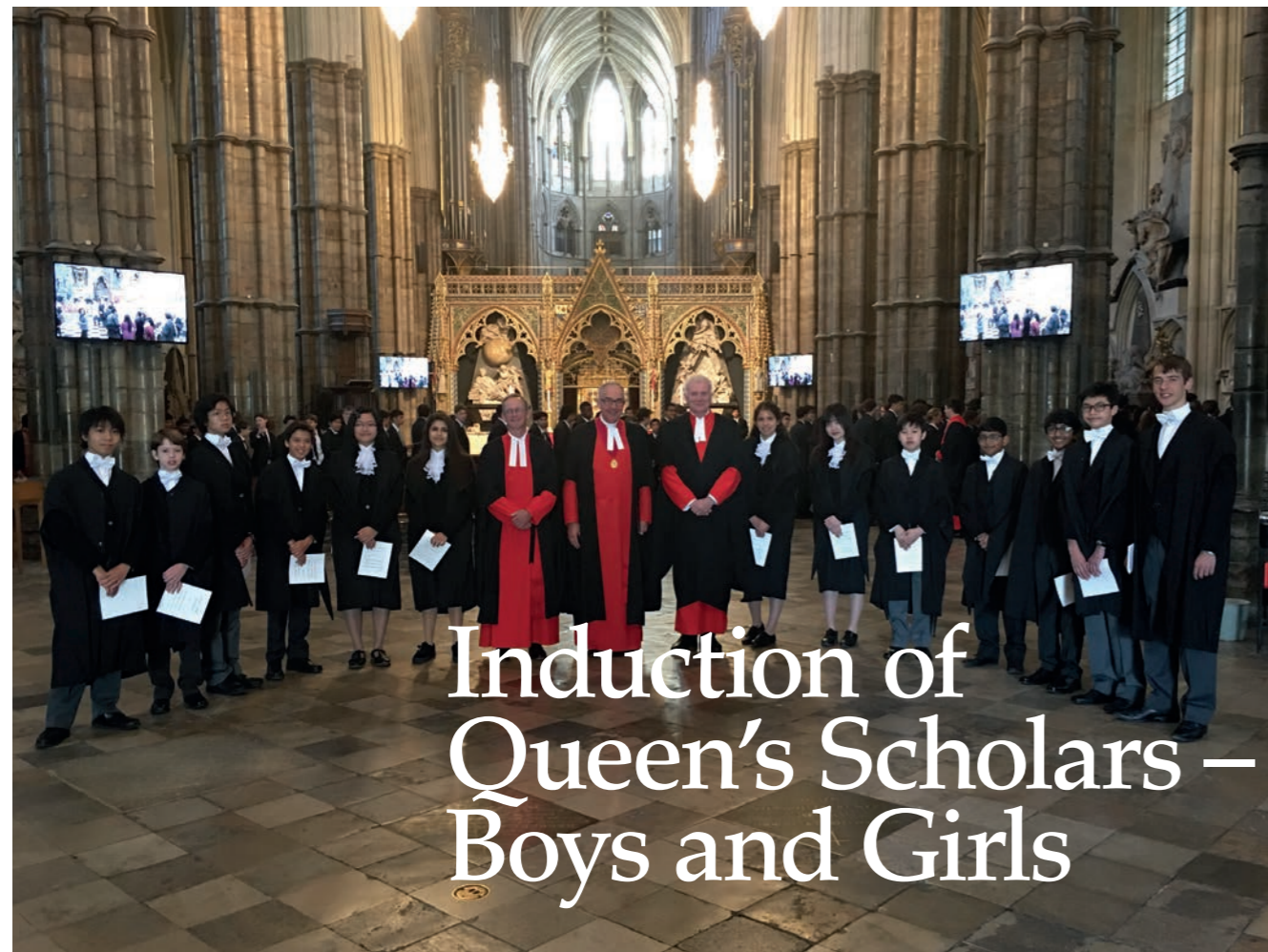
The book will be published in February 2019. Subscribers will receive their copy in the post, unless otherwise requested. Any special requests should be emailed to the Development Office.

**WHO BENEFITS FINANCIALLY FROM THE BOOK?**

All proceeds, following production costs, will go to the Bursary Fund. Christopher has very kindly donated his time and work on the project to help us raise money for bursaries.

**HOW DO I ORDER MY COPY OF 'AD TE LEVAVI'?**

You can subscribe by following the link [adtelevavi.org.uk](http://adtelevavi.org.uk) today.



## Induction of Queen's Scholars – Boys and Girls

Westminster School celebrated an historic moment when twelve new Scholars were elected to the College of St Peter, including, for the first time, four Sixth Form girls.

On 15 September 2017 twelve newly elected scholars presented their credentials to the Dean, the Very Reverend John Hall, as head of the Collegiate Church of St Peter and in his office as Chairman of the Governing Body of Westminster School. They are now admitted to the Abbey community, modelled on the monastic society that preceded it; they have their own seats in quire and attend services as members of the collegiate family, including, by virtue of historical tradition, the privilege of attending coronations and being admitted to Parliament. Although the Abbey and the School became separate institutions in 1868, the ceremony reaffirmed our close links and reminded us that the School, especially College, is an integral part of the Abbey community.

When the Benedictine Abbey of Westminster, in existence at least since 960, was dissolved by King Henry VIII, the Abbey church continued for ten years as a cathedral, but the King commanded that forty poor scholars should be educated at the Abbey's

expense. In 1556 Queen Mary I re-founded the monastery and education continued. Three years later, Queen Elizabeth I dissolved the re-founded monastery and, in a charter of 1560 establishing the Collegiate Church of St Peter in Westminster, consolidated her father's plans for two Masters and forty Scholars:

*...the youth which is growing to manhood, as tender shoots in the wood of our state, shall be liberally instructed in good books to the greater honour of the state.*

Elizabeth I is thus celebrated as the School's foundress. On the historic election of the first female Queen's Scholars, HRH Elizabeth II wrote to the Head Master, Patrick Derham, to send her good wishes.

Following election, the girls soon set to their duties, one of which is to guard the steps to School (the school hall) during Latin Prayers. This traditional role, that of the 'Mon. Os.' and now also that of the 'Monitrix Ostii', was to provide a security presence deterring passers-by who might be interested to explore what was happening up School. The pupil was also required to inform the Head Master of the time throughout the day.

As a source states: '[T]he day passed rather slowly with the 'Monos'. He could, indeed, play rackets by himself, or with any boy who might come out of School for a few minutes – that was all. Still, in the eyes of most boys, the 'studiorum remissio' – 'the forgiveness of lessons' was a sufficient recompense for the monotony.' Gladly, there is no need to miss lessons today!

When the Queen visited the Abbey to open the Diamond Jubilee Galleries on 11 June, she made a special point of meeting the Scholars. Ever observant, she noted that one of girls was missing! We look forward to welcoming our new Scholars in September 2018: Ha-Sen Choong, Alessandro D'Attanasio, Dhruv Jajodia, Baruch Macgregor, Brandon Park, Joseph Stern, Louis Summers, George Zhou, Catherine Breheny, Haley Flower, Shulwaner Liu, Abigail Wallace.



At the beginning of October we were delighted to welcome back Michael Jarvis, Captain of Queen's Scholars 1968-9, who met with Hein Mante, Captain 2017-8 to discuss how the role has changed – and remained the same – over fifty years.



# Platform

**‘Platform’ is the name of Westminster School’s academic enrichment programme for children from London state primary schools in Year 5.**

Working alongside our Bursary Campaign, through which we aim to be able to provide a Westminster education needs-blind, the programme is designed to help academically talented children from lower-income backgrounds access a first-rate education at Westminster and other selective independent schools. This programme is now in its second year and going from strength to strength. Last year’s pilot saw 31 boys complete the course and in 2018 the number has risen to forty, 16 of whom are girls.

Westminster works with over 30 Primary Schools (some local and others as far afield as Lewisham and Rotherhithe) to find Platform students. Over a year, the children, selected by their head teachers, attend classes one Saturday morning a month at Westminster Under School, with an additional two-day course in July. The aim is to ignite new academic interests in Art, Drama, Classics, Music, Geography, French, History, Philosophy and Science, to support rapid progress in English and Maths, and so to allow the children’s academic potential to flourish. In between the Saturday morning sessions, Platform pupils follow a reading programme and complete structured tasks online to help maintain momentum and progress. At the end of the programme, the boys and girls are likely to choose to sit the entrance examinations of schools, including Westminster, where full bursary provision is available.



# The Observatory

by Charles Ullathorne

**The Westminster School Astronomical Observatory is in its inaugural year. Extremely well equipped with a reflector, refractor and dedicated solar telescope, it has taken a little time for staff to get to grips with the multitude of equipment, but it is now certainly bearing fruit.**

In the first term of operation (Play term 2017) KAPW and CJRU received instruction and INSET from the expert suppliers, along with the manufacturer of the ‘mammoth’ mount holding the telescopes. This has been passed on to the Physics department during two separate INSET sessions. Physics teachers are now competent in how to use the telescopes for basic observation.

In the Lent term, pupils were escorted up to the observatory at certain times (when it was not cloudy), and have been able to view, under guidance, various astronomical objects, particularly the moon.

In the Election term, thanks to the increased elevation of the Sun, the solar telescope has been used a great

deal. Several classes have taken place in the observatory, including an entire class of 20 Upper Shells who were able to view sunspots and solar flares erupting from the photosphere.

It is hoped that further pupil based observations will be facilitated in 2018/2019, with use of the 9-10 slot for boarders, and the astronomy GCSE club after school, giving opportunities to do some spectroscopy, make observations and measurements using the equipment. In addition lots of the pupils during the day can continue with solar observing. It is a fantastic resource and is already greatly benefitting the Westminster pupils. In addition it may be useful in the future for outreach, and KAPW has some ideas in this respect.



# Elizabethan Week

by Will Stockdale

Early in the career of a Westminster Fifth Former comes the Elizabethan Week. Only a few weeks into the school calendar in September, it provides an opportunity for exploration of cultural aspects of the School and the wider London environment with a focus on the Elizabethan period.

It is a year group, London-based Expedition, which includes cross-cultural academic seminars led by subject experts, visits to key sites in the capital and culminates in an evening of performance – this time selecting works from Shakespeare and his contemporaries to showcase to friends and parents.

It introduces students to the history of the foundation of Westminster School and allows them to appreciate the foundation within a wider historical context. Each morning started with an assembly focusing on a different topic from the period, with thanks to Mr Edlin, the Dean and Dr Walsh for their time and support.



Then it was time to travel out into London or continue to rehearse ahead of the final performances. Visiting the Abbey allowed students to explore this magnificent feature of Westminster life and understand the changes through the ages from its initial foundation to modern day icon. Journeying to Shakespeare's Globe showed the importance of plays and theatre during the period and put the boys' own performances into context. Visiting the High Court allowed a better understanding of how the rule of law functions across the Commonwealth and gave students the chance to interrogate legal decision-making and process certain key matters that have been presented to the High Court judges over the past decade. Other trips

investigated the importance of statues around Parliament Square, as well as exhibitions at the Tate and local galleries.

The final theatrical performances allowed small groups to interpret a scene from Shakespeare and others. Expertly navigated by Turn of Phrase and the Drama department the final evening provided a stage for future Westminster stars.

A whistle-stop tour supported by Westminster staff and tour guides, the week showed what life might have been like in Elizabethan England and gave the Fifth Form the chance to express themselves through performance and academic investigation.



## The Greaze





## Ashburnham

by Molly Garnett

Predestined from birth by virtue of its position in social Siberia, away from the mêlée of Little Dean's Yard, and lacking both the novelty of Milne's and roguish charm of Purcell's, Ashburnham has remained the plucky underdog this academic year. From handling with verve the aggressive haggings of many at our sweets and popcorn stall at September Saturday (coconut shy RIP), the intrepid efforts of the girl's house netball team, to a sensational rendition of 'Seasons of Love' that left few dry eyes at the house concert, Ashburnham has gone from strength to strength, under the mighty aegis of Mr Walton in his first year as Housemaster. The leather sofa in his office might be 'stained with the tears of a thousand Removes', yet his house meetings are a display of and rallying cry for the kind of compassion and level-headedness many can only dream of in such an academic school, transforming a lonely, marshy backwater of the school site into a real home. The song remains the same for the students: the first House tea, a smörgåsbord of chocolate treats, proved the unsurprising Achilles' heel for the hungry lower years, (lacking a little in the street smarts of conversation over nutrition), but gathered the hardy faithful to exchange happy memories, echoed at the sumptuous celebratory lunch arranged for the parting Remove by our venerable elders.



While we sullen Remove continued to bark at the Sixth Form to kindly shut up while undergoing multiple mental breakdowns during the dark days of October and December, and more recently gnashed our teeth at those enjoying the sun on Green like civilised human beings in June, a kind word and held-open door have never been far away. Relying on each other and forced to contend with the inevitable stream of stragglers hoping to pinch a biscuit from our coveted kitchen, Ashburnham's spirit can be seen in the unwavering warmth of Mr Walton's morning smile, a head that stands aloft amongst the myriad glazed eyes in the Fifth Form day room, and the offers of tea from Sixth Form darlings. As Cher Horowitz so famously said, 'It's like that book I read in the 9th grade that said, "'tis a far, far better thing doing stuff for other people'".

## Busby's

by Freddie Poser

Busby's has seen a stellar year all round. Our ever-growing crown of sporting achievements now includes a fantastic sports day result which saw us trounce the competition. A powerful Busby's side won too many events to keep track of. With our assured performance on the track it came as no surprise to see us take home a number of other trophies: Senior 6-a-side, House Cricket and other events all fell to the unstoppable force that is Busby's.

Busby's pool has gone from strength to strength with even the Lower Shell learning a basic command of the cue ball. The game has retained its rightful place at the heart of the common room, bolstered by the hugely successful Busby's Pool Competition, which engaged teachers and students alike. Film night has become something of an art form with such quality movies as *Naked Gun* and *Airplane* leaving the house in stitches. We were also assigned a solitary Fifth Form boarder this year who has made quite the impact on the house and on whom I'm sure Busby's will leave its mark.

Overall it has been an extremely good year for the house and I'm sure the success will continue long into the future.



## College

by Hein Mante

In 457 years, perhaps the most dramatic change to occur in College did so this year. College now includes girls as full Queen's Scholars! Many thanks to Mr Feltham and Mr Derham for pushing for this change. Indeed, Queen Elizabeth approves very much, having met the new scholars during the recent opening of the Diamond Jubilee Galleries – what a splendid occasion it was. During this year College has seen success amongst racket sports, winning House Badminton and girls House Tennis, but unfortunately this didn't quite translate to Athletics as we didn't manage to take back our title from two years ago. However, within the House there was considerable spirit: from House Table Tennis competitions, to general knowledge quizzes, it was a busy year. Perhaps one of the most impressive occasions was the amazing production of *One Man, Two Guvnors*, starring David Edwardes-Ker and Emily Hassan, which was so popular that it even deserved a visit from the great Thomas Nightingale. A somewhat sadder note is that Mr Feltham will be leaving College at the end of this year. He will be sorely missed, from acting out of dignioras at callover, to inviting the Dean over for Pizza his ideas have greatly contributed to the soul of College. We wish him the best of luck with his new job at UWC in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and welcome his successor, Mr Mann, to the post.

HOUSE  
REPORTS

## Dryden's

by Shay Gillams

Under the vibrant new (or not so new!) regime of Mr Edlin, Dryden's has moved from relative strength to relative strength this year. Renovations have been rife throughout the House: from our new sofas in the Sixth Form & Remove day room, via various new pictures gradually appearing on the walls, to the adoption of elegant library furniture in the ping-pong room... and then the trophy cabinet (all right, it's a shelf) which has finally got some silverware on it – or would have, if we were allowed to keep possession of what we've won. Our Juniors have been bringing home the glory (or the Westminster equivalent given a general indifference to sport) with victories in the Junior Towpath and Junior House Football, and the brothers Rozanov have, in typical

fashion, won the Senior Tennis for the second year in succession. Alongside sporting achievements, the musically inclined among us have thrived, as seen in WMOTY (with not one but two Drydenite finalists) and the House concert, and we've had a sweep of three monitorships in the Sixth Form. Yet it is not these events that make the House. Dryden's is truly found in the impromptu or loosely planned events like the DD Nativity Carol Singing, the Escape Room outing, or the Sixth Form supper. It's at events like these that we see that, though we occupy half a corridor, our House spirit is immense and growing; I'm sure the sense of community will only grow further next year under new HoDD Tommy Mount (and those three monitors...)



## Grant's

by James Fenner

The diverse abilities of Grantites were on full display this year, right from the off.

The annual House Concert in November was the first showcase of talent, with a programme ranging from Chopin and Rachmaninoff to Oasis. Our final thunderous rendition of The Killers' 'Mr Brightside' by the whole house perhaps gave true meaning to the opening line 'Coming out of my Cage'.

We also managed to put in some impressive displays on the sporting front. Our greatest achievement this year was our fantastic victory in House Swimming. We managed to ride this wave of good form from the swimming pool onto the football pitch for the House 11-a-side competition. A string of hard-earned victories landed us a spot in the semi finals. However, in true English style, and for the second year running, we were knocked out on penalties. It was a valiant effort with an unfortunate ending. Perhaps this disappointing result left us mentally scarred for the subsequent House Athletics event, where despite the efforts of a few brave enough to run the mile race,



we ended slightly further down the leader board than expected.

Throughout all the challenges of the academic year, from coursework to exams, everyone in the House remained stoically in high spirits. New additions in Fifth Form and Sixth Form latched onto the Grant's way of life seamlessly, quickly becoming integrated into the warm community. This was helped by an entertaining scone-baking competition (aka 'the Great Grant's Bake Off') at the Cookery School at Little Portland Street, the start of year for all the Sixth Formers, both old and new.

We would all like to thank Matron, our Housemaster Mr Fair, and the tutors, all of whom make tremendous efforts to ensure the smooth running of the House. They are always extremely friendly and a delight to be around.

We are all especially looking forward to next year as a new age is dawning in Grant's. We are delighted to welcome a new contingent of female boarders, as well as the first female Head of House.

## Hakluyt's

by Arjun Bhardwaj

It has been another eventful year for Hakluyt's and a rather successful one. We won the House Chess competition for the second time in three years, beating the formidable College 3-2 in a tense finale. I don't think they were ready for our secret weapons: our two Fifth Formers Samvit and Darshan. Although very small in size, they were more than a match for their intimidating opponents. It was great for Zakary and I to sign off our careers with another victory and we are confident that Milo, our new head of house, can carry on our success next year.

Admittedly we didn't have much luck in any other House competitions – but we all know that House Chess is by far the most important tournament anyway. Our sublime House Cricket run unfortunately came to an abrupt end this year. Hakluyt's had won the coveted trophy for the past three years but the poor scheduling of A-levels and GCSEs meant that we were not able to get our strongest team out. That said, sometimes getting a team together is as impressive as winning. There have been a few lunch breaks when we have hastily scrambled a team together minutes before an event was due to start. No matter who was chosen in the end (thanks Raf for playing House Football in your school uniform) everyone always tried their best for the House. This showed in our Sport's Day performance and in the Towpath, as we bettered our performances from previous years.

Some individuals in the House have accomplished some extraordinary feats. A particular mention must go to Sixth Former Darcy Dixon who was part of the quartet to win the ITV show "Sing It To Win" and she is recording a single for the next NowMusic album. It would be unforgivable not to mention rowers when talking about Hakluyt's. CD has firmly established Hakluyt's as the "rowing House" and Mathijis Deetman (sorry Nick) embodied this in an ergo test. He would have ranked



fourth out of the junior athletes in GB. Max Raphael has also cultivated a "drama" side to Hakluyts, as he has helped in the staging of several plays this year and encouraged several Hakluytians to get involved as well. These are no doubt impressive feats, but are they really as remarkable as Paul Khlat getting Christiano Ronaldo twice in his Panini World Cup sticker album? I think not.

The constant support of the tutors and our Housemaster Mrs Murphy has ensured that Hakluyt's is always a friendly and warm environment. Early starts on Monday mornings are always tough, but it is always made easier by coming in to such a House. My tutor group loved our tutorials with Dr Blache so much that we actually organised another one before we leave the School. I think that this shows just how intimate a community Hakluyt's is. It is not just the Remove leaving Hakluyt's this year. Mr Pyatt will be greatly missed. Every Shag Day for the last five years I've dropped off two pound coins into Mr Pyatt's Shakespeare mug and he was always a friendly face in the House. I feel sorry for the incoming new pupils who will never have the opportunity to meet him.



## Hakluyt's Fifth Form Trip to Alston

by Samvit Nagpal

What's the best way to spend the four working days interposed between a three-day weekend and an Exeat? Take a trip to the countryside? Well, that's exactly what we did!

Hakluyt's Fifth Form were lucky to visit Alston, deep in the North Pennines, from 21 to 24 November. Upon arriving and settling in, we received an in-depth and informative talk on the history and geology of the region before setting off on our first expedition to explore a lead mine. It was a remarkable experience that resulted in many wet jeans (or in Stefan's case, a full soaking when he marched boldly into a five-foot hole), a profound sense of pity for the miners (often as young as 14) who had to toil in these cramped and musty conditions, and even an impromptu poetry composition by our group! After getting back to Nenthead House, a pillow fight ensued in the lounge while *Kingsman* played on TV, culminating in the knocking down of a beam in the bedroom of six! For some unfathomable reason, we were banned from jumping in the lounge after that.

The next day, refreshed by hot showers and a long lie-in, we set off along Hadrian's Wall. Unfortunately, the

rain was determined to make our trip as difficult and slippery as possible – I soon discovered (to my cost) that trainers were utterly useless in such conditions. Hot chocolate and the acquisition of wooden swords at Vindolanda helped to revive us as we turned back home. A series of *Risk* games began, where tensions and passions rose high as we battled to conquer the globe. Meanwhile, others in the group made full use of the ping-pong and foosball tables. We had a filling and enjoyable meal at the local pub (except for Alex, whose steak was drowned in peppercorn sauce by his neighbours) followed by pool and darts.

On the penultimate morning, we headed to Durham. Sadly (or more likely happily) the snow prevented us from getting there. Predictably, more *Risk* and ping-pong ensued, and we rounded off the residential with appetising chicken noodles (courtesy of Alex and Josh) and a cosy watching of *Get Shorty*.

Mrs Murphy and Dr Witney took care of our lively and energetic group with admirable patience and humour and made this first trip at the Great School a memorable experience for all of us.

## Liddell's

by Charlie Howe

This year marked Dr Agyare Kwabi's first at the helm, and he could not have faced a sterner test: not only did he have to follow Mr Page's 10-year tenure as Housemaster, but he was also forced to handle the loss of the beloved Liddell's kitchen, which was apparently stolen by the Library to make space for some lifts. As such, the fact that he has managed so well should not be taken lightly, and – in typical Liddell's fashion – he has met such demanding and burdensome challenges with an overwhelmingly relaxed, friendly and laid-back attitude. Liddell's redesigned kitchen, equipped with a fancy widescreen TV-come-noticeboard, has become a new social hub as well as a seemingly unlimited toast dispenser (many thanks must go to our fabulous matron, Jane). Both of these have proved a major distraction from registration, which has admittedly been pitiful, and we can only apologise to Dr A-K and the administration team, who have had to handle such chaos.

Whilst it is true that being over-relaxed has cost us somewhat, not least at September Saturday when those running the staple Krispy

Kreme stall, having realised that they did not actually have any doughnuts to sell, had to make a last-minute dash to the Victoria kiosk and buy up everything they had, this was clearly an exception to the rule; in all other areas Liddell's has performed far above expectations whilst still not really taking anything too seriously. Sports Day represented a valiant effort from the whole team, which managed to finish in 4th place, with Katie Voake a key member of the girls' team as she competed in (and won) practically every event, as well as championing the girls to victory in the Bringsty relay. We were also runners-up in the Senior House Football 11-a-side, House Tennis, and House Netball. Luke Buckley Harris's victory at the Greaze should also not be forgotten, as he managed to catch, and hold on to, the entire pancake. Having decided that we no longer wished to supply the Head Boy, Liddell's also switched its focus to supplying the Head Girl in the form of Michal Chinn.

At the end of another great year, Liddell's prospects seem as bright as ever, with Dr A-K the perfect fit to continue the tradition.



## Milne's

by Rock Bell

Milne's continues to flourish. A strong showing in House Cross Country spurred on by Annabelle Evan's heroic victory illuminated the path ahead. Lent term proved to be golden for our humble House: we had a record-breaking swimmer in Nick Bacon and top climbers, particularly Rock Bell and Oscar Banchemo, who edged out College to win the House Climbing title.

Participation in other House events showed the strength of character in Milne's and our unwavering commitment to taking part and giving it a good go as exemplified by Athletics Sports Day. Our victorious intermediates were in glorious form with super performances from the Pepra brothers, Edric and Elvin and Andreas Ioannou (Erratum: Petros Ioannou).

Milne's has always been one of those houses that gels together and this year was no different. From Bryan Kwok's 10,000 spring rolls to all those Manning the tombola at September Saturday to morning break banter in our day rooms, there was always a sense of community and humour that made the House an enjoyable place to be (even when disputes over our food ration took centre stage). James Tett was our musical genius in residence, headlining our annual House concert, an event that once again revealed the breadth and depth of musical talent in Milne's – from Polly Ruppel's Weller cover to Alina Nicheperovich's interpretation of Chopin's piano concerto.

This was a great year for Milne's. We strove for success but more importantly achieved a genuine atmosphere of team spirit and camaraderie.

HOUSE  
REPORTS

## Purcell's

by Anish Thuraisingham

Year on year, Purcell's continues to surprise the other – it must be said – older Houses with our ever-growing sporting prowess. During the Play Term, the Girls set the tone for the House by winning Girls House Football (and a stellar performance by Iris Bertrand deserves special mention). The rest of the House soon built on this magnificent start. The juniors followed on quickly with very strong performances in the Towpath and later the Bringsty relay. Next, 6-a-side Senior House Football, where Purcell's narrowly missed out, knocked out in the semi-finals during a penalty shootout – the fifth time our House has been eliminated at this stage of House Football in the last three years! Luckily, history was not repeated in the 11-a-side competition and Purcell's, valiantly captained by Sonny Ashcroft, was victorious for the first time. The year concluded with strong performances in Sports Day, most notably from Maxim Postolovsky, who won the senior 800m, and Herbie Bingham, the runner-up in the inters 800m.

This year we showed our prowess not just in sport, however, and Benedict Mee and Senkai Hsai, in a tight final judged by a former world champion, came away with the House Debating trophy for the first time in the Purcell's history. A highlight of the year for every Purcellite is the annual House concert, and this year was no exception. Despite taking place later in the year than the traditional October date we had come to expect,

the concert exceeded expectation with a wonderful mixture of different genres ranging from The Verve, accompanied by Richard Ashcroft to the more classical Chopin. No House concert is truly complete until the House song, performed by every member of Purcell's, and this year the audience were lucky enough to be faced with a rousing rendition of All Star by Smashmouth.

There has also been outstanding work from Purcellites outside the School and too many members of the House take part in charitable work of some form or another to mention them all here. Among the most notable is Kelda Yeung, who has been working with a charity called My Place Children's Home, which provides government education in a boarding environment for children who live on the rubbish dumps in Maesot, Thailand. Even more impressively, Mahek Vara, the Coding Queen (as the Evening Standard have now christened her) has set up her own charity called Code Camp, which has managed to educate over 78,400 students in Gujarat in the language of coding, a vital skill in our increasingly technological world. As Purcell's moves forward into another year we aim to not only add to our endeavours in School, but also those in the wider world. The House could not be in a stronger position to move on to even greater things next year under the leadership of the new Head of House, Jay Chitnavis.

## Rigaud's

by Ipsu Razu

It's been an eventful year for Rigaud's: We've had to say goodbye to three windows, a microwave, a kettle, a toastie machine (that disappeared under mysterious circumstances), a ping pong table and, saddest of all, the comforting creaks of the front door. The TV however has miraculously managed to survive the whole year enabling the boarders enjoy The Apprentice and Love Island together, as well as numerous pizza and film nights.

The House has stood up well against outside aggression. On each of the several attempts to replace our shower heads this year, within a day, they were all to be found passively-aggressively detached and placed on the floor, to be left there until the old, superior ones were given back to us. Although this was admittedly a win in a petty argument, Rigaud's can also celebrate a win in House Shooting, and a good performance in sporting events throughout the year, keeping the House spirit strong.

## Wren's

by Tomas Pfeffer

Who runs the corridor? Girls. Although the whole House contributed commendably in all our sporting endeavours, it was the girls who came away with the silverware this year: House Netball, Athletics, and a strong second in the Bringsty. On the music front, the Wren's and Dryden's concert, initially postponed due to the snow, went on as all great shows must. The annual détente in corridor rivalry featured the best of the vast House talents and finished with an electric impromptu rendition of Outkast's 'Hey Ya'.

As if this weren't enough Wrenite success, Ms Choraria returned at the end of Election Term from maternity leave introducing us to her daughter Inara. In his typically smooth manner, our interim Housemaster Mr Smith handed back a happy House.

## SALVETE

Alexandra Granville  
Head of GermanAnnie Graham-Brown  
DramaDyfan Coles  
MathsGema Franco  
French and SpanishInga Zeckel  
GermanJeff Tomasi  
PhysicsNick Page  
Deputy Head Co-CurriculumPeter Smith  
Maths

# VALETE



**Deneal Smith**  
Under Master 2013-18  
will be Head of Warwick School



**Mark Feltham**  
1997 Wrens 2004-9; CC 2009-18  
will be Head of United World  
College, Mostar



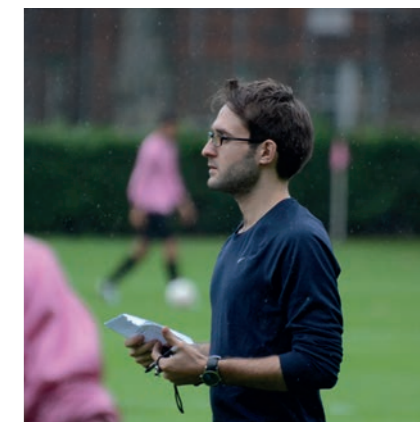
**Kate Clanchy**  
Senior Master 2013-Christmas 2017  
is now Head of the  
Yehudi Menuhin School



**Red Gibbons-Lejeune**  
HofA 2013-18 (HoD 2017)



**Amal Kebaier**  
French 2014-18



**Tom Cousins**  
Maths 2013-18



**Simon Hawken**  
2004-18  
Head of Economics 2007-18;  
Silver Dof E 2005-18



**Ben Parker-Wright**  
Maths 2009-18



**Emily Chappell**  
2002-3; 2007-13; 2017-18 (HoD)



**Michael Sugden**  
French & German 2014-18



**Emily Shortland**  
Theology & Philosophy  
2008-Christmas 2017



**Richard Pyatt**  
English 1986-2018; HoD 1996-2005,  
2010-14; Pres 2000-03, 15-17

# Academic

It's a well-known fact that Westminster pupils, inspired by their learning in the classroom, go on to develop their own extraordinary academic initiatives. In these pages, we celebrate the achievement of Westminsters who won national and international prizes in 2017-18 and we give our readers a taste of the thriving student-led society life during the year.



## Westminsters win... national and international prizes

### Chemistry

#### Cambridge Chemistry Challenge

Elite 'Roentengium' award 2017: Ryan Kang, Brodie McGuire, Jake Swann, Brandon Tang  
2018: Chris Ye (BB) and Weixuan Zhang (DD) achieved a Roentgenium Award.

#### International Chemistry Olympiad

Ryan Kang and Brodie McGuire (both QS) both made it through to Round 2 of the Chemistry Olympiad (top 30 of around 9000 competitors) – only the second time in 14 years that two pupils from the same school have achieved this.

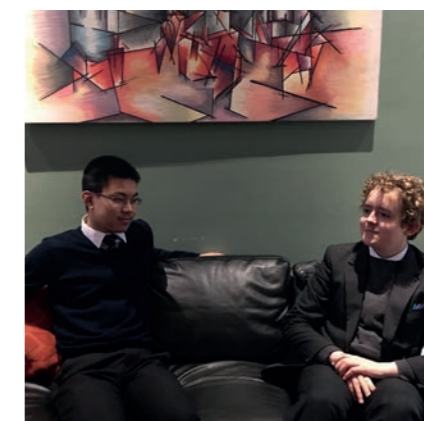
Ryan Kang has been selected twice for the UK team, achieving:  
July 2017 in Thailand: Bronze medal  
July 2018, in Bratislava and Prague (the 30th IChO): Gold medal.



Ryan Kang

### Physics

**British Physics Olympiad**  
12 Westminsters won medals.



Alexander Song and Benedict Randall Shaw

### Maths

**Maths Olympiad for Girls**  
Prize winners: Ella de Csillery, Susie Huang.

#### International Mathematical Olympiad Summer 2017 (Brazil)

Alex Song was selected for the UK team of six. He earned an Honourable Mention.

#### Romanian Master of Mathematics 2018

Alex Song and Benedict Randall Shaw were selected for the UK team of six. Both earned Honourable Mentions.

#### Mathematical Olympiad 2018

Alexander Song, Gianfranco Ameri, Callum McDougall and Benedict Randall Shaw all gained Distinctions in Round 2.

#### International Mathematical Olympiad Summer 2018 (Romania)

Benedict Randall Shaw has been selected for the UK team of six. The competition takes place this summer.



Brandon Tang

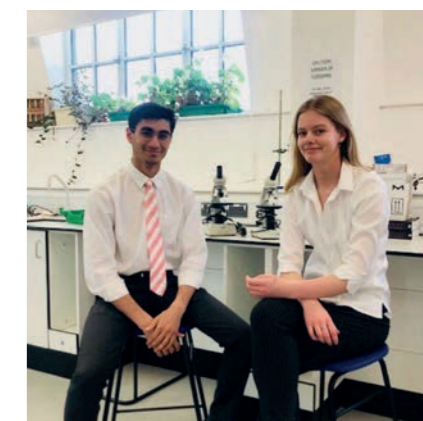
### Biology

**British Biology Olympiad**  
26 Westminsters won medal including 8 golds.

Brandon Tang was selected to represent the UK at the International Biology Olympiad 2018 in Tehran. He won a Gold Medal.

#### Corpus Christi Rackam

**Biology Essay Prize**  
Sophie Barnett and Tanishq Kumar were Runner Up and Commended respectively.



Tanishq Kumar and Sophie Barnett

## Music

### Malcolm Arnold Essay Prize

Isaac Adni's winning essay will be published in the music journal 'Maestro'.

Six Westminsterers in the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain (Hamzah Zaidi, Yuma Kitahara, James Garagnon, Isabella Fulford, Ella and Tom de Csillery).

## Informatics

### British Informatics Olympiad

Finalists: Benedict Randall Shaw, Andrew Smith.

## Law

### Trinity College Cambridge Law Prize

1st Prize: David Edwardes-Ker for his essay on 'Can the law effectively regulate social media? Should it?'

## English

### Peterhouse Cambridge Thomas Campion Prize

Abby Thayananthan 1st Prize for: 'All good writing takes us somewhere uncomfortable'. Discuss the role of difficulty and discomfort in literary writing.

### Trinity College Cambridge Gould Essay Prize

Ziqi Yan commended for: 'Can not knowing what's going on in a poem be valuable as well as pleasurable?'

### Tower Poetry Competition

Ziqi Yan Shortlisted for her poem 'Mermaid'.



Ziqi Yan with Martyn Percy Dean of Christ Church

## German

### German UK Olympiad

Winner: Iris Bertrand; Runners-Up: Sam Rubinstein, Johan Orly.

## French

Winners of the National Joutes Oratoires competition: Sahil Shah and David Edwardes-Ker.



Photographed with the Armenian Ambassador (inviting all participants to the next Francophone summit in Yerevan in 2018) and the backdrop was a magnificent 17th century Gobelins tapestry.

## Spanish

### Westminster won the National Inter-School Debating Competition.

Winning team: Hugh McCarthy and Pandora Mackenzie. But they could not have done it without the help of our second team: Oscar Young and Angus Mackay. Zana Mody came along for support and ideas too.



## Chinese

HSBC British Council Mandarin Speaking competition: Alexander Griffin 2nd Prize Intermediate Category; Arhan Soni – 3rd Prize Beginners out of 100s of candidates from across the UK.

## Economics

Lucy Li Runner Up and Highly Commended respectively in the Institute of Economic Affairs Dorian Fisher Memorial Prize and The Royal Economics Society Essay Competition.



## Linguistics

### UK Linguistics Olympiad

27 Westminsterers (the largest single cohort of those invited) took part. Benedict Randall Shaw, Oliver Beeby, Ryan Kang invited back for next round.

Benedict Randall Shaw was selected to represent the UK in the International Linguistics Olympiad in July 2018 at Charles University in Prague. He won a Gold medal.

## Philosophy

Raman Sanghera Keble College Essay Prize for Sixth Form Students – Honourable Mention for his essay on 'Should Christians be Vegans?'

## National Schools General Knowledge Champions

Leo Doody, Agatha Pethers, Johan Orly, Jonah Poulard.



## National Youth Theatre

Owen Igiehon.



## National Youth Orchestra

Clara Falkowska and Tom de Csillery.

# Options and Cultural Perspectives

by Stephen Bailey

The Cultural Perspectives programme, which is offered across the Sixth Form year is designed to complement the core studies of students in their penultimate year of secondary education. We value this programme as one which draws from the liberal arts tradition in offering students the chance to learn from the great minds of the past and access the contemporary lens of cultural critique, reflection and discourse. As ever, this year's courses have drawn upon the breadth of staff experience, much of which comes from academic study, but also from the passions and interests of the members of the Common Room. By way of example new offerings this year have included 'The Westminster School Model Railway', an anthropological inquiry entitled 'There's Nowt So Queer as Folk', a cutting edge inquiry into 'Cryptocurrencies' and an expressive 'Wagner and Philosophy'. Such new entrants complement the courses in the Options bracket which offer possibilities for students in practical avenues through 'Cooking and Baking', 'British Sign Language' as well as the chance to develop a new language such as Arabic, Modern Greek or Chinese, for example.

Most impressively the students generate some fantastic writing at the end of the three rounds when they are given the chance to go 'off piste' from the formal curriculum and develop new ways of critical reflection on provocative and challenging titles. We are proud that some of this best work goes on to be published in the school's liberal arts magazine 'Camden'. Sample this list below for some of the prize winning titles this year...

Matthew Carver (D): **Why is a leather jacket more acceptable than a fur coat?** Jay Chitnavis (P): **Celebrity culture is highly restrictive in its definition of success. This prevents young people in particular from finding their true values. Discuss.** Patrick Coker (P): **Fundamental British Values (FBVs) are neither fundamental nor British.** Hector Crosbie (R): **How does sport contribute to societal inequality?** Joseph Devlin (M) & Neer Singhal (A): **Is Islam more dangerous than any other religion?** Thomas Laskowski (W): **Can you love someone if you don't respect them?** Claudia Prettejohn (H): **To what extent has Madrid exerted legitimate constitutional control of the Catalan Parliament and people, and can this use of police force be considered justifiable?** Tanishq Kumar (R): **Western Philosophy, Cultural Identity and Boobs: A reflection on pornography and its place in society.** Shreya Rajani (W): **Are social relationships the key to happiness?**





# LOCKE & SOCIETIES

The John Locke Society, a Westminster tradition of talks by external speakers for the Sixth Form and Remove during a designated study period on Wednesdays, has benefitted from a wide range of excellent speakers this year. Fake news, Trumpism, democracy, freedom, Brexit, terrorism, sports, charities, the arts, and even John Locke himself – no topic was too large or too unusual for the guest speakers, writes William Mirza (MM).

The year began with the lecture 'Winston Churchill: Bouncing Back from Failure' from Barnaby Lennon, former headmaster of Harrow School and as such a first-rate authority on the famous Old Harrovian. Mr Lennon's insightful account of the Prime Minister's many setbacks, from his troubles at school to his injury after being knocked down by a taxi, offered an interesting alternative perspective on one of the best-known figures of the twentieth century whose success has often been taken for granted.

Emily Maitlis, a regular presenter on *Newsnight* and one of Britain's foremost journalists and documentary-makers, spoke the following week on fake news and the question of who should take the blame for it. Her superb presentation of the issues in question, as well as her entertaining stories of her experiences from interviewing President Trump, were much appreciated in a world where such an understanding of fake news and its impacts is rapidly becoming more and more important.

Bill Browder, CEO and co-founder of investment fund Hermitage Capital Management, gave an absorbing talk on how he exposed corruption in Russia during his company's work there and as a result was refused entry and later put on trial. The half-term continued with a talk on the London



Emily Maitlis

Air Ambulance by City law firm worker Mark Vickers, and Dr Leslie's Vinjamuri's engaging account on Trumpism (and how to avoid it!).

The turn of October half-term saw the tone change to cultural, with the arrival of Alex Beard, chief executive of the Royal Opera House. His vivid description of the institution's noble history and the job of running of it was greatly enjoyed. Author, philosopher and Master of the New College of the Humanities Professor A C Grayling gave an impressively exhaustive examination of democracy and the problems with it in modern-day Britain, fitting in everything from MPs voting for party policies instead of people to the Remainers who didn't vote on Brexit when it rained in London



Professor A C Grayling

on referendum day. Dr Terence Moore's intellectually heavy talk on Locke was followed by the more dramatic Lord Michael Cashman, who gave a fantastic and gripping account of his acting career, his tireless work as an LGBT+ activist and his time as a Labour peer that resonated with all those present. Former Chief of the General Staff Lord Richard Dannatt gave a brilliant lecture on 'The Road to Recovery' for the military and Britain, drawing from extensive military and political experience, and international relations expert Anthony Dworkin spoke very well soon afterwards on the topical issue of how terrorists should be treated. Once more, following Christmas, the tone of Locke changed dramatically again, with comedian and author





Shappi Khorsandi



Peter Hitchens



Cardinal Hume Centre



Mak Chishty



Ben Heason



Lord Richard Dannatt

Shappi Khorsandi’s terrific and aptly named talk on her ‘Thoughts on Everything’. Covering dauntingly broad topics such as comedy, nationalism, sexism, racism and much else in just half an hour with tremendous energy, Ms Khorsandi’s talk was unforgettable for its enthusiastic delivery, the breadth of subject matter and frequent humour. Dr Craig Jenks followed the week after with fascinating revelations about the airline industry as a New York-based worker in the sector. In a Locke lecture on a topical area of current affairs Mak Chishty, having worked as Commander and Chief Officer at New Scotland Yard, gave engaging arguments on how to defeat terrorism and maintain a clear perception of it. For Sir Jerry Mateparae, current New Zealand High Commissioner and prominent in New Zealand’s military and public service affairs, the John Locke Society joined forces (so to speak) with Geography Society. His well-delivered insight into a relatively niche topic, namely the effect of Brexit on New Zealand, was an interesting corner of the ongoing debate on the subject.

The Mail on Sunday columnist Peter Hitchens spoke with flair on the billionaire lobby for drug legislation and addressed many issues around it which caused lively debate among pupils during questions. One speaker who was very distinguished in his field indeed was Ben Heason, an experienced climber with 10,000 routes under his belt who led the team which made the first free-climbed ascent of the main wall of Angel Falls. Mr Heason’s story of the climb and the many difficulties it posed was a unique example of the results of sheer skill and determination on his part and the part of his team. The Rt Revd Dr Graham Tomlin, Bishop of Kensington, presented stimulating arguments on the concept of freedom and provided a well-argued Christian perspective. The world of sports was the focus of two of the last Locke lectures of the year, one of which was barrister John Merzhad’s wonderful report of controversies in professional sports based off his work as chair of the British Cycling Review. The other sports speaker Alistair Eykyn, well-

known as one of BT Sports’ foremost commentators, gave a sterling talk on how sports commentators operate and some amusing useful tips for those interested in the profession, including not being so tired that falling asleep on air becomes a danger! Several of this year’s Locke lectures have been given by charity representatives and each representative brought to light important social problems and showed their passion in helping their cause in their talks. These include Sarah Corbett, talking about her crafted objects-oriented charity Craftivism, Chair of the London Women’s Refugee Forum Rahela Sidiqi’s discussing how future aid will impact Afghan women’s education, and businesswoman and philanthropist Jillian Haslam lecturing on the poverty she experienced in India as a child and her incredible work against poverty in India today. All told, the John Locke Society has had a year of outstanding speakers with a diverse range of topics and many thanks go to them and to Mr Page, the society’s master in charge.

Locke speakers

CHARITIES

Sarah Corbett  
*Craftivism: the art of gentle protest*  
Jillian Haslam  
*The Perfect Blend*  
Cardinal Hume Centre:  
*Can pizza make you homeless?*  
Rahela Sidiqi  
*How will future aid impact Afghan women's education?*

CULTURE

Shappi Khorsandi  
*My Thoughts on Everything*  
Alex Beard  
*Leading a Cultural Icon*

HISTORY

Barnaby Lennon  
*Winston Churchill: Bouncing Back from Failure*  
Dr Terence Moore  
*Understanding Misunderstanding: Does Locke Hold the Key?*

POLITICS

Emily Maitlis  
*Three reasons why Fake News will make you richer, taller and more handsome!*  
Bill Browder  
*Red Notice: How I Became Putin's No 1 Enemy*  
Prof AC Grayling  
*Democracy and its Present Problems*  
Lord Richard Dannatt  
*The Military Covenant – Fact or Fiction?*  
Lord Michael Cashman  
*Imagine: Europe, Diversity and Inclusion.*  
Anthony Dworkin  
*Should we treat terrorists as enemy soldiers, criminals or victims of propaganda?*  
Cmdr (ret'd) Mak Chishty  
*Getting Upstream in the Battle Against Extremism*  
Sir Jerry Mateparae, New Zealand High Commissioner  
*Challenges and opportunities in the wake of Brexit*  
Peter Hitchens  
*The Billionaire Lobby for Drug Legalisation*  
Dr Leslie Vinjamuri  
*Trumpism: was it inevitable and what does it mean for the rest of the world?*

SPORT

Ben Heason  
*Climbing into the Lost World*  
Alastair Ekyn  
*Sports journalism – an insight*

OTHER SECTORS

Craig Jenks (OW)  
*Airline Industry Challenges*  
Mark Vickers  
*Six and a half minutes to save your life!*  
John Merzhad  
*Sport under the Spotlight*  
Rt Revd Dr Graham Tomlin, Bishop of Kensington  
*What is Freedom?*

Bell ringing

by Dr Walsh

As a regular, formalised school activity, it is safe to say that it has been decades since Bellringing has been undertaken at this school.

The ancient art of church bellringing (known only to the uninitiated as campanology) is an almost exclusively British phenomenon, with the ringing mechanisms here being very different to those found elsewhere. This enables bells to be swung in a controlled fashion in an almost complete circle and – more importantly – for the positions of those in a scale to change (hence the more correct term ‘change ringing’) with many permutations possible, dependent upon the number in the ring.

The activity appeals (pun totally intentional) in a variety of ways: the mathematical, musical and engineering elements are all very intriguing and challenging. It is also a very sociable thing to do with great reliance on team work and a large dose of community service thrown in: surely there can be no more quintessential British sound than a distant peal drifting in on a bucolic summer breeze?

It has been excellent to have a small but dedicated number of students taking up the pastime this year, with Benedict Randall Shaw (CC) and Jadd Virji (AAH) excelling to the extent that they both achieved their first quarter peals within their first year.

I hope more are encouraged to take this up and that change is most certainly in the air.



# Chess

by Raghav Nayak

Despite a relatively modest profile in previous years, chess really came alive at Westminster this year. Highlighting the surge in calibre of pupils, 2017/18 was the first time in several years that Westminster fielded two teams in the National School Chess Championships. Strengthened by the arrival of Ilya Misyura and Tai Remus Elliot, joining Raghav Nayak, Luke Remus Elliot, Gianfranco Ameri and James Tett, our A team was the strongest it had been for a long time. In the first stage, only our two teams finished on perfect scores. We proceeded to fight valiantly against UCS, only to be pipped at the post on tiebreak after a 3-3 stalemate. A rather abrupt and unrepresentative end to the tournament for us but we will be back next year!

Inside Westminster itself, the Beat the Scholar stall at September Saturday lost none of its enduring popularity, and the House Chess competition was invigorated with newfound enthusiasm, as seen by the knife-edge closeness of most matches. This year, it was no longer obvious that College would cruise to victory, and the consistent determination of the Hakulyt's team saw them defeat College 3-2 in the tensest of finals: we shall have to wait until next time to see if the torch has well and truly been passed...



# Classics Conference

by Andy Mylne

The JACT GCSE Greek Conference was a great success.

Dr Bruno Currie used a scene in Harry Potter to illustrate his talk on communication between the sexes in Odyssey 6. In dialogue with Harry, Hermione shows her superior intellect; in the set text, Odysseus and Nausicaa have a similar negotiation, although a student felt that Odysseus's intellectual superiority won out. Dr Currie concluded with the scene in which Penelope asks Odysseus to move their bed, carved out of a tree, which was impossible to move. She challenged her husband to prove he was her intellectual match. From Professor Peter Thonemann of Wadham College, Oxford's flamboyant performance and excellent lecture, analysing Herotodus' preface, to Dr Ellen O'Gorman (Bristol)'s lecture on Tacitus and Caesar, many learnt of the relationship between history and myth, and of times when Britain was thought of as the edge of the known world.

Dr Fiachra MacGóráin of University College, London, highlighted tropes of Greco-Roman tragedies in Virgil's Dido. She pointed out that Venus's first-appearance effectively was an Euripidean prologue. Virgil's Carthage is a theatrical back-drop to the tragedy in the Aeneid. He divided the Book into acts. In the first, Dido is convinced by Anna to surrender to her love. Dr MacGóráin called this 'exposition.' The second, which is focused on Iarbas's speech and Jupiter's response, he called 'counteraction.' The third, which he called Crisis, includes the agon (contest) between Dido and Aeneas. The fourth was therefore Dido's peripeteia, leading up to her catastrophe, Act Five. The students enjoyed the many different models for tragic characters upon which Virgil's Dido is based: 'most importantly, Medea, as her situation seems closest to Dido's'. His analysis was sensitive, sympathetic and pragmatically realist, with beautiful readings of the Latin aloud.

Many thanks to the speakers for giving such interesting lectures.



Tom Holland

# Debating



The year has been an excellent one for debating with Joshua Loo and Luke Dunne starting off by breaking to the finals at Dulwich. Joshua Loo and Jonny Heywood quickly followed this success in their competing in the SOAS finals. KCL was a great competition for Westminster with Jonny Heywood and Luke Dunne finishing as the top team while Ziqi Yan and Boris Karapeytan were the Novice Champions. Jonny Heywood and Joshua Loo also won Debate Mate schools and were placed as the top two speakers. At Cambridge Schools Benedict Mee and Luke Dunne broke to the finals and Benedict finished as one of the top ten speakers while Senaki Hsia and Joshua Loo finished in the semi-finals at Durham Schools. Lara Brown won top novice Speaker at Oxford Schools, SOAS, LSE, Warwick and Dulwich.

# English

by Viren Shetty

**This year, English Society has dominated the societies schedule, as always.**

With talks ranging from 'Tess and the D'Urbervilles and Sin' to 'David Foster Wallace vs Cynical Irony,' our weekly band of Sixth Formers have gathered in D20 to listen to their peers, while snacking on Tesco's Finest. The society has remained completely student run, primarily focused around the Sixth Form year. However, it's also been great to see some younger faces, particularly at the 'Kanye West: A Modern Day Poet?' talk back in November. Turning our minds back to tradition, one of the fiercest debates seen was that between Carver and Hoegh, on Austen v Eliot. This year also saw a rise in the number of discussions at the society, occasionally shifting to the comfy chairs at the back of the room. From 'Don Paterson' to 'Pinter and the Homecoming,' these proved to be both fruitful and productive, whilst occasionally devolving into squabbles over romantic poetry, as is the Westminster way. With the highlight of each session remaining Ms Farr's entrance at 1:33 to take a picture for @westminstergram\_, both the variety of talks and the good food will certainly be missed as the current members move into the Remove. Many thanks to Mr Curran and to the current committee for their hard work and dedication throughout the year.



# History Society

by Patrick Coker

This year, History Society saw an incredible range of student-led talks. Personal highlights for me would be Sam Rubinstein's talk on the connections between the IRA and the Third Reich, and Nicholas Lazarev's talk on "Sex in the Soviet Union". In addition to this, a variety of external speakers came to the school, covering an enormous array of topics, all of them experts in their field. I particularly enjoyed the talk by an employee of the parliamentary archives, who used relics and documents from said archives in his talk on the Gunpowder Plot with great effect. The new committee hit the ground running at the very end of the year, rounding off with a discussion about Great Man Theory chaired by Agatha Pethers. Excitingly, a "Historical quiz night" is currently in the planning stage. We will of course need some bold students to volunteer to give talks at the society, on any historical topic you would like – drop me or any of the other committee members an email if this applies to you. Hopefully, the 2018/19 committee will be able to continue the great work of this year's – it will be a tough act to follow!

## History Society Committee 2018/19:

Patrick Coker PP;  
Thomas Laskowski WW;  
Nicholas Lazarev RR;  
Milo Mallaby HH;  
William Mirza MM;  
Agatha Pethers GG;  
Sam Rubenstein DD;  
Polly Ruppel MM;  
Cyci Singh GG



# Huxley Society

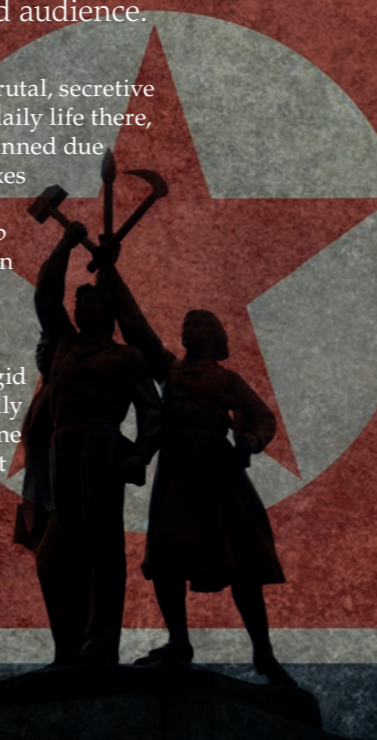
by Hein Mante

Cynics would say that Huxley society was created in answer to UCAS oriented Sixth Formers, to stop the constant requests for new science societies (Natural Sciences Society? I wonder which course that was aimed at ...). Believers would say it emphasizes the integrated nature of the sciences in a modern research environment. Skirting aside that question, from my unbiased viewpoint as co-founder of the society, I can say that it has been a resounding success: over 30 lectures, including a Nobel laureate, cutting edge researchers, and many student-led talks, with topics ranging from dark matter to indole in bacterial signalling – there has been something there for everyone. Particular congratulations go to the Yeung bothers, winners of the treasure hunt, and the team "Coward's Edheads" who won the annual quiz and dedicated their trophy to Mr Coward, who may or may not have been moved to tears by such loyalty. It was an honour to be a part of this and it seems next year's committee will only take the society on to greater things. Floreat.

# Geography Talk

Jeremy Hunter, a photojournalist with two UNESCO awards, gave a riveting and highly entertaining talk on his experiences in North Korea to a packed audience.

He described North Korea as the Hermit Kingdom: brutal, secretive and isolated. And shed insights on all caveats of the daily life there, ranging from the amusing, such as long hair being banned due to the belief that it impedes intelligence and appendixes being removed to pledge loyalty to the regime, to the far more sinister. He masterfully highlighted the deep underlying roots of the regime that are both draconian to North Koreans and menacing to the wider world. The hardship North Koreans face is unfathomable. Not only are they lacking in basic necessities such as electricity, water and food, but also are subject to a rigid class system based on 51 sub-groups and have virtually no access to outside information. And all of this is done in the belief that they are in paradise due to the extent of disillusion they have been trained into. Jeremy's talk was certainly thought-provoking and left many deeply questioning the implications of the future of North Korea, not only as a matter of international security but also as one of human rights.



# Law Society

Unfortunately, law falls under the category of subjects not taught at Westminster. Nonetheless, students who are passionate and interested in legal practice have taken the initiative to come together and form a Law Society Committee. This body of pupils seeks to raise awareness about the niche issues that surround law, touching upon moral and ethical consequences. Law Society aims to reflect upon the importance of the law that goes unnoticed by many, reflecting on its influence on everyday life. This society also looks at current issues within the legal sphere and touches upon a variety of disciplines, ranging from the case of Charlie Gard, a terminally ill minor, to the debate of whether Jaffa cakes are considered biscuits.

To kick-start the newly led society, Kush Patel posed the question, 'To what extent is radical Islam the preeminent threat to western civilisation?' This discussion saw Joseph Devlin and Joel George argue for the motion, whilst Viren Shetty and Adam Mee debated the other side. In what proved to be a highly informative talk, all debaters involved grounded their arguments with up-to-date facts and knowledge. The idea of what constitutes a threat became a point of argument, as well as how best to define Western civilisation and values. Ultimately, it was concluded that radical Islam, whilst the spread of fundamentalism and extremism posed a considerable danger to the west, was not the preeminent threat, overshadowed by global warming and technological advancement.

The Law Committee hopes to see a mixture of talk and debates throughout the upcoming academic year. Additionally, a mock trial is potentially being organised if there is enough support and interest in the cause. Just as the law is constantly changing and adapting to suit the modern world, so does Law Society aim to cater to current issues and popular interest. Law Society is encouraging pupils (throughout the school, not only in Remove) to join in on debates and express their interest in all categories of controversial topics.

# Newly founded societies

by Omar Abu-Suud

## Left Wing Society

The Left Wing Society was established this year following the passion of Stan Campbell to create a formalised and inclusive venue for left wing discussions. The programme started with a pupil-led options period, which then transitioned into a full society with weekly talks. The society's vision for left wing ideas has also been articulated in its programme in which all decisions are made by the democratic consensus of society members in a broadly non-hierarchical structure. Society talks this year have included: "Is Labour still the party of the working class?" (A talk by Adam Mee) and a joint debate with Law Society on the nature of the threat of radical Islam.

## Jewish Society

The first ever year for Westminster School Jewish Society has been exciting and eventful. We have occupied D39 for the year thanks to the generosity of Dr Ward Smith. The year has included numerous student talks on topics ranging from 'Anti-Semitism in the Labour Party', to 'The Jewish Autonomous Oblast in Russia', to 'The History of Spanish Judaism.' In addition, we have hosted outside speakers such as JTV's Oliver Anisfeld who led a heated debate on the divine authority of scripture and the morality of the contents therein. D39 truly has proved to be the land of milk and honey, with meetings aided by a generous helping of Rugelach, a Jewish delicacy of crescent shaped pastry filled with chocolate. We hope for future success and that the society will become a permanent fixture at the school. Next year in the Lecture Room.

## Fashion Society

Fashion Society was established in the Election Term with an Inaugural talk by Laura Bailey, a model, photographer, philanthropist and contributing editor at British Vogue. Laura held an open Q&A session on the difficulties of surviving the fashion industry, beginning with her time as a model in New York, as well as the ever evolving nature of fashion journalism in an increasingly impatient digital world. Laura also spoke about her role as part of the British Fashion Council, and the future of British Fashion, particularly the increasing trend towards more sustainable, slow fashion. Our first student led presentation was given by Carrie O'Toole who expanded on this theme, questioning the balance between creative expression in fashion and wider sustainability. Finally, Stuart Adams, an anti-counterfeit lawyer working for the International Trademarks Association presented his UNREAL campaign, uncovering the ethical and economic dilemmas behind the counterfeit fashion market. Next term further talks are planned, including those in conjunction with Fem Soc and Art History Society.

# MUN

by Jamie Brown

Model United Nations has enjoyed another busy and successful year. The Lower School and Society programmes have both continued to thrive; the pupil committee have done a superb job hosting these sessions with younger pupils and many have a career in teaching ahead of them, should they so desire!



October brought with it a fiercely-contested House MUN. Fuelled by pizza, the delegates debated knowledgeably and with good humour on issues such as the unfolding crisis in Venezuela. Congratulations to College for being voted winners by the panel and to Luke Dunne (RR) and Sahil Shah (CC) for being nominated best delegates.

Berlin was, as ever, a huge success and a great setting for an educational trip, in and out of the conference. Special mentions must go to Felix O'Mahony (WW) and Adam Mee (PP), representing Russia, for winning their case in the International Court of Justice and also to judge Amrita Kocher (WW) for managing to withhold the verdict from them until the official announcement! Seeing the Westminster delegation interacting so confidently and positively with peers from around the world is a great pleasure on this trip and we are a constant source of fascination to our European and international friends – long may this continue!

Conferences at St Paul's School and Magdalen College School followed and brought yet more success: Arjun Seth (WW) winning an award in his Committee at the former and seemingly most of our delegation scooping prizes (and chocolate) at the latter. We now look forward to hosting our own conference in February 2019, with work already well under way to match the fantastic experiences on our travels.

Thanks, as ever, must go to the Committee for running the show as well as to Dr Evans and, welcome-addition to the 'squad', Ms Franco, for their commitment to the cause and unquenchable enthusiasm and positive energy.

## Philosophy

The Philosophy Society had an exciting year with speakers, both pupils and external academics, addressing a dizzying array of topics. The pupil-led talks started off with Luke Dunne (HH) talking about differing notions of 'power' in the work of John Locke, Karl Marx and Michel Foucault. Tanya Sitnikova (MM) addressed a long-established theme in moral philosophy – the tension between reason and desire, provocatively asking whether this division makes sense in light of the insights from modern psychology. Neer Singhal (AHH) looked at the similarities between the philosophy of Friedrich Nietzsche and contemporary Satanism. Angus Colwell (HH) delivered a mind-bending talk on the ethics of simulation. We were also lucky to have some excellent talks from eminent philosophers such as Michael Otsuka (LSE) who addressed the question of free university education from both an economic and philosophical perspective, and Bryan Roberts (LSE) who addressed the philosophical possibility of time travel, stimulating his listeners with perplexing paradoxes and a healthy dose of physics. Finally, a recent Cambridge graduate, Dr Hugh Burling, offered us an enticing talk in which he persuasively argued that new theories from the cognitive sciences on the origins of religious belief could not satisfactorily debunk theism. After a successful year, the Philosophy Society is now in the capable hands of its new committee consisting of Lara Brown (HH), Neer Singhal (AHH) and Cyrus Gilmartin (LL).

# Rec Soc

by Angus Colwell

This year saw the launch of a long-awaited "music appreciation" society. After deciding that the proposed name 'Patrician Society' bordered on frankly disgraceful levels of pretentiousness, Record Society (Rec Soc) was born in November, thanks to the kind support and approval of NP. Mr Allchin who, guitar-in-hand and new-hair-on-face, gladly agreed to be the patron teacher, and our elected venue was the debaucherous den that is Sutcliffe's basement.

Everything got off to a fantastic start; grapes were spilled all over the floor, and everyone was terrifyingly reprimanded by the Art department for foraging into their supplies of bottled water, before the talk had even started. That said, the two lead pupils, Angus and Hari, managed to stutter through a profile of the artist Damon Albarn. Numbers were boosted significantly as Matthew Chattwell drew in unprecedented crowds for his talk on "Madchester". Venturing into a lifestyle that in no way reflects his own, staff and pupils alike were taken aback by the speaker's eloquency when discussing the rhythmic nous of bands such as the Happy Mondays, and Pacific State. In the New Year, Polly Ruppel managed the impressive feat of convincing a group of doubters that Radiohead aren't just for the neurotic.

Alas, this meeting also highlighted a deep flaw within the Rec Soc setup; Sutcliffe's basement, and the brutalist stools associated, was not entirely practical for a society. Furthermore, rumours reached the pupils in charge that several were put off by, quote, "its vibes". Therefore, with the kind permission of Mrs Murphy, we moved into D26.

Francesca Magnus kicked off the new era with an engaging talk on the explosion of soul found within the Summer of Love and Janis Joplin, while two weeks later, Mr Ullathorne enlightened many by finessing through the discography of Iron Maiden, a band who, in contrast, possess about as much soul as a cement mixer. Having said that, a number of pupils were introduced to a new branch of music, one that certainly shouldn't be forgotten. The term concluded with 'Covers Week'; tender rock covers by Max Raphael and John Hindley were complemented by flute covers of Future's 'Mask Off', and the appearance of an unknown bearded man who'd created an acoustic rendition of "All About that Bass" ...people who were there are still processing this.

The summer term concluded Rec Soc; a debate on the greatest album of all

time was convincingly won by Max Raphael's proposal for the 'The Dark Side of the Moon', and defined by Mr Woodrooffe's quote, "People just need to get over The Beatles". We concluded with arguably the highlight of the year – Mr Bradshaw's talk on Kendrick Lamar attracted over sixty staff and pupils into D26; with rap contributions from a Fifth Former, and musical interludes from MRB's own record player, I'm sure anyone who was there felt like they were there on Rosecrans Boulevard, Compton itself. The pupils in charge concluded that this could not be bettered, and the society's activities for the year concluded as Study Leave began.

**What next year will bring for the society both excites and terrifies, but Hari and I are pleasantly surprised at how well Rec Soc has gone.**

# Pride

This year Pride Society has been led by Izzy Collie-Cousins (RR) and Saffie Lewis and has happily fulfilled its aim of being educational and entertaining. Topics have ranged from LGBT+ representation in Marvel and DC comics to feminist philosophy on trans women. Talks were well attended, provoking interesting discussion. We also gave an assembly to the Fifth Form about the society and LGBT+ people in general – important at an age where people are just beginning to discover more about themselves, including possibly questioning their sexuality and gender identity. Speaking openly about our own experiences, we hoped to demystify and explain the extent of that frightening acronym (LGBTQIA and beyond!). On a more serious note, London's Pride celebrations of 2018 were as always a happy event, although slightly marred by protesters and divisions within the LGBT+ community. As Izzy and I leave the school, we pass the society into the capable hands of Thomas Adamo and Dominic Bramley-Carr. Exactly what is to come will be a surprise, but expect new talks, more film nights, drag and cake!



# Spanish Society



Sixth Form theatre trip to see La Casa de Bernarda Alba at the Cervantes Theatre Southwark



Spellbinding talk on Don Quixote and the Art of Reading by Professor Trevor Dadson



Stipatores Honorati

## All for cake, cake for all

Cake Society, or 'Stipatores Honorati' to give its official name (Stip Hon to regulars), is one of the youngest societies at School and definitely one of the most delicious. Dedicated to discovering different treats to enjoy with tea, the group is built, William Mirza (MM) writes, on a manifesto with a message for everyone: take time for life's simplest pleasures.

The inspiration for our name is St Honore, or Honoratus, the patron saint of bakers who lived in fifth-century France. Legend has it that, on being told that Honore had been elected bishop of Amiens, his nursemaid refused to believe that he could have risen to such prominence from his humble beginnings and said she would continue to doubt until the bread shovel that she had been using to bake loaves transformed itself into a mulberry tree. The shovel duly sprouted branches, bore fruit and reportedly survived afterwards well into the sixteenth century. Can there be any more appropriate saint after whom to name a budding (pun intended) society?

In a world where, according to many experts, the pace of our lives increases each day, we of Cake Soc make it our goal to celebrate the pleasure of stopping and sitting down to enjoy tea, something sweet and conversation. In an increasingly homogenous society, our other aim is to explore the incredible diversity of cake the world has to offer. A typical monthly meeting of Stip Hon runs along these lines. The crowd assembles in the cosy calm of St Edward's Refectory. Members pour themselves a cuppa, sit down and

share out cake, after which the talk begins. The speaker opens up with some forgotten, enlightening aspect of that particular cake's background – its history, ingredients, or even its place in literature. As the speaker concludes and the last few crumbs are consumed, fuelled by the sugar rush, we debate the really important questions of cake-ness with thrilling urgency. When is a muffin a cake? Is a muffin a cake? How do we pronounce 'scone'? When we do decide on how to ask for that scone, should the jam or the cream go on first? Are we turning away from cake as a society? Have our definitions of cake become too broad? Don't even get us started on the Jaffa cake/biscuit debate. There'll probably be a riot.

Hosted by Reverend Williams, School Chaplain (as cake ought to be considered an important aspect of the School's pastoral care, if not actually a human right), we have already researched, sipped, eaten, and argued our way through a number of regional delicacies. For our first two monthly meetings this year, we looked beyond the Home Counties with my Northamptonshire Seblet (Seed) Cake and Dorset Apple Cake, the latter advertised with Iris Bertrand's wonderful posters. Adam

Mee gave an excellent talk on Marks and Spencer's iconic (and tasty) Colin the Caterpillar cake in November. The following month Thomas Laskowski's festive Mince Pies were delicious and his presentation was immensely enjoyed by all. The fantastic West Country Easter Currant Biscuits we sampled in March also came from him. Other examples of seasonal cakes from this year include Scottish Black Bun, introduced by Benedict Randall Shaw in January shortly after Hogmanay when it is traditionally consumed, and my own American Washington Pie, a cherry sponge served on the President's birthday in February. Patrick Coker took us back to the Roman Empire in May with his fantastic Ancient Roman Honey Cake, in a talk which offered us a slice of history as well as a slice of cake. Our School Archivist Miss Wells brought the year to an appropriate close with her magnificent St Honoré Cake, a pastry, cream and caramelised sugar delight that disappeared in minutes. We are very grateful indeed to all the members, especially those who took the time to bake and talk, and look forward to another year of cakes: the sky (or perhaps more accurately the height of the oven) is the limit.

## The Maurice de Pange French Society

by Sebastien Blaché

The Maurice de Pange Society began the year with a translation workshop, organised in two parts – theory and practice – by Alessandro Gallenzi. Pupils were treated to an array of authors, from Boileau to Baudelaire and Alessandro particularly commended translations proposed by the pupils on Boileau's 'L'art poétique'.

Dr Choffrut expanded on Occitan, or langue d'oc, which was tragically repressed when French became the sole language in France as part of drive to unify the country politically and linguistically. He explained how French, which fed English via the Norman invasion, is now riddled with Anglicisms coming from the world of advertising and management as well as the Internet. He then distinguished between bilingualism and diglossia, which implies a hierarchy and which is much more dubious and dangerous.

In the mood for love: Nouvelle Vague à la Hong-Kong? Sahil Shah (CC Rem) presented this fascinating and eminently sensuous film by Hong Kar Wai. He discussed it in view of Bresson and the critic Deleuze, whose theory of time and space pervades the work. The sumptuous soundtrack was analysed as a leitmotif reminding the viewer of the significance of the affair between two lodgers. He was

followed by Dr Jacob Leigh, a specialist of Chabrol's cinema, who gave a lecture on the film 'La Cérémonie'. His analytical approach was based on analysing motifs such as mirrors and space.

Dr Caroline Corbeau-Parsons, curator of the sell-out EY exhibition 'The Impressionists in London' at Tate Britain, discussed how she carefully organised the historical context for the show, namely the 1870 Franco-Prussian war and its impact on artists who decided to flee Paris. We were given a virtual tour of the show and marvelled at certain masterpieces, notably Pissarro's Rhododendron Dell, which has never been exhibited before, Monet's series of the Houses of Parliament, Tissot's depictions of high society and Pissarro's obsession with Cricket.

Actresses Marianne Badrichani and Edith Vernes came to coach the Remove pupils on Britannicus by Racine. It was a marvellous opportunity to practise diction, pronunciation but above all, get a taste for Racinean language in all its power and glory. All scenes acted out by pupils in pairs composed a shortened version of the play. The workshop was a real success and the perfect antidote to revision!



# The Middle Eastern Society

The Middle Eastern Society, originally set up four years ago, was revived by Remove pupils as of the start of the 2016-2017 school year. These students, Naseem Moumene, Cyrus Naji and Cyrus Yazdanpanah all hold passionate views about the Middle-East and are not afraid to shed light on controversial issues that may be perceived as sensitive from a western standpoint. With the increasing instability in the Middle East, a vast range of controversial events have arisen over the last decade from the rise of the Islamic State to the ever escalating tensions between Iran, Saudi Arabia and the US. Expert speakers are invited to School and are given the opportunity to communicate their opinions about specific topics relating to the region. Furthermore, students are encouraged to participate in conversation and hence express their views on the Middle Eastern society. Students and teachers are all strongly encouraged to attend the talks since conflicts and socio-political issues in the Middle East have been in the Western media's spotlight for the last few decades and are likely to remain so as stability is unforeseeable in the current climate.

Recently the Middle Eastern Society welcomed the eminent Professor Ali Ansari, who specialises in Iranian studies at the University of St Andrews. He spoke about Western influence in the Middle East (dating back to the Great War) and how this influence

helped to spark the current conflicts in the Middle East. After giving a quick summary of the history of how and why the current Middle Eastern borders and conflicts were created, he went on to discuss America's connections with the Middle East and Iran. He concentrated mainly on President Obama and Trump's different relationships with the Ayatollah and how their relationships reflect their contrasting presidential agenda by presenting a range of eye-widening facts. The professor later introduced the current Ayatollah and described in detail the reaction and reforms introduced as a result of American intervention notably The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA II). To end his enlightening and fascinating speech, he gave his own predictions about the Iran-US future relationship and whether or not Iran will be compliant to Trump's potential foreign policy. Nevertheless, he left two important questions hovering in the air; will war break out and if so, when?

The inaugural speaker of the society was the award-winning journalist and author Christopher de Bellaigue whose talk revolved around the launch of his new best-selling book "The Islamic Enlightenment". Economic, political and military intervention following the First World War is frequently blamed for current friction between East and West. De Bellaigue's assured opinion is that we need to push the explanation

back to when Napoleon invaded Egypt in 1798 and Western banking systems encouraged the Ottoman empire to borrow, indebting themselves to the western world. This highlights the post-colonial extractive institutions that were established by imperial forces and may link to many of the issues in the current Middle East. It is for this reason that having a Middle Eastern Society is vital to exploring geo-historical factors to current instability. The opportunity to bring in a diverse range of experienced lecturers means that Westminster pupils are given a unique perspective on such a complex region.

The Middle Eastern Society's final speaker this year was pupil, Freddie Feltham (Remove), who discussed radical Islam in the UK. Freddie is to be commended for being the first pupil to speak in the society since the society was rejuvenated earlier this year and for raising a topic avoided by the media because of the level of controversy created by the radical Muslims in the UK. The Middle Eastern Society is a very encouraging and intriguing group that introduces the listener to a new world of socio-political issues, that has, to say the least, caused controversy all over the West, especially due to Western intervention within the region. The Society has been very welcoming to pupils keen to join in, especially those that have an interest in current Middle Eastern events in the lower years.

## Careers

by Simon Wurr

Careers education at Westminster treads a careful path; we want pupils of all ages to think about their life post-education without losing the love of learning for its own sake and becoming so focussed on a career that they ignore how interests and motivations can change over time.

It is with this in mind, that the Fifth Form all complete an online questionnaire using the curiously named 'Fast Tomato' test. The array of results can be eclectic (astronaut, accountant, sales executive, plumber...) but it at least provokes thought and discussion. Following on from this, 101 (out of 118) Upper Shells opted to take the Morrisby test, which gives an enhanced profile and set of suggestions, along with possible routes into these different careers.

However, reports, recommendations and pieces of paper are worthless without engagement, and we have welcomed a broad range of speakers who have talked about their careers, their route to where they are now – and a recurring theme is how you don't always find your perfect career at the first attempt.

Careers panel events on the civil service, research and development, marketing and journalism all reinforced the importance of persistence, hard work and a little

good fortune. A new initiative has been the introduction of lunchtime talks, which have included an employee of Google DeepMind, two OWW entrepreneurs, discussions on a career in finance, as well as also lobbying and campaign strategy.

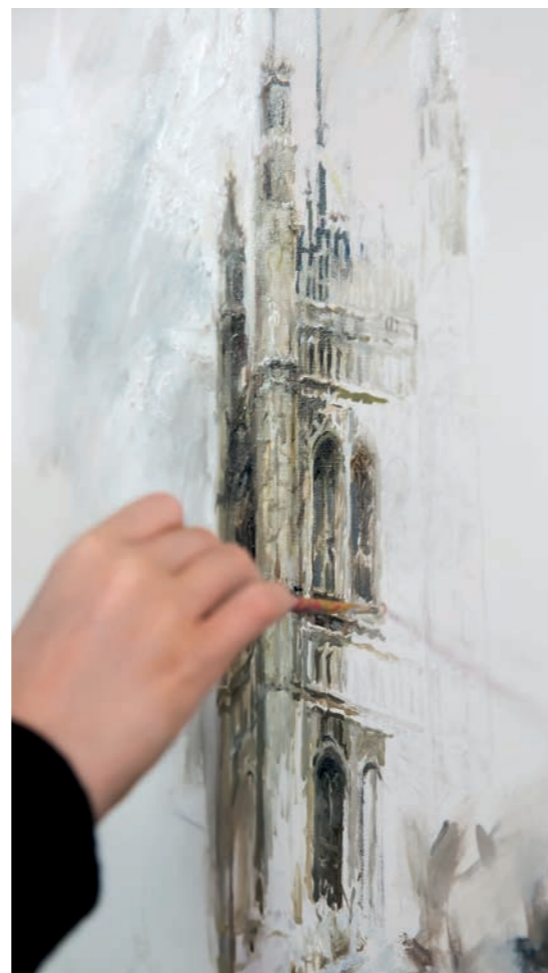
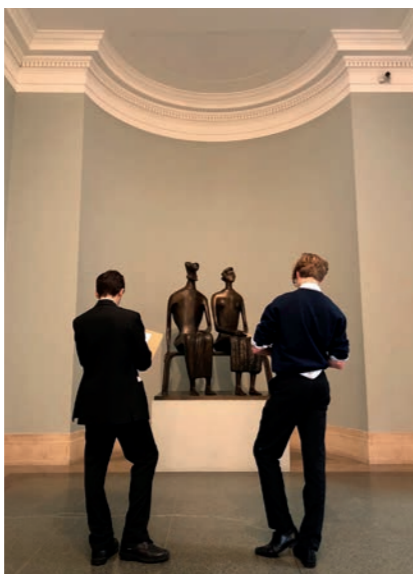
A further exciting new venture open to all girls, was the opportunity to attend a lunch at Lazard Asset Management's Green Park office. After a strenuous application and interview process, nine Westminster and three Harris girls had a refreshing view into the world of working in financial services, which broke down some of the outdated stereotypes of The City. Plans are already afoot for a repeat event in October 2018.

I challenge all Westminsters to go to one or two careers-related events a year. We don't expect pupils to know precisely what they want to do; keep an open mind and study the subjects you are passionate about, but you never know where it will take you.

# Art

by Simon Crow

This year the Art Department has been massively invigorated by several innovations: the studios have been revamped, reconfigured and newly stocked with genius equipment – the laser cutter foremost amongst them. The generosity of the Li family has certainly enabled these physical changes and we are so grateful for their contribution. The impact on the pupils' work has been tremendous and we have seen a vintage year of superb achievements capped by the sensational end of year exhibitions. We have hosted other exhibitions by wildlife artists and illustrators, seen dynamic and inspired installations for the SOLO project and been endlessly wowed by the beautiful work pouring out of the studios. Oscar Banchero was again on the winners podium for the Funaki Prize, this time shared with Lydia Wilford and Buzzy Martin emerging as an equally inspired winner. Chief amongst the thrills though must surely be the visit of John Virtue – master of the Black and White canvas and a long time favourite of the department. The echoes of his visit continue to reverberate through the studios.



## Interview with Mr Allchin (JLA), College resident tutor and art teacher

by Omar Abu-Suud

Mr James Allchin has been a College resident tutor and an Art teacher at Westminster since 2015. He is known for his friendly and dedicated relationship with pupils and teachers alike. His passion for running, which he shares with Mr Wurr and Dr Kov, is one of Mr Allchin's great characteristics, while his role as a resident tutor involved getting to know Westminster from a unique perspective, not only during lesson time but into the evening.

Mr Allchin kindly agreed to an interview and I met him on Friday 22 June at his Art studio.

**What exactly do you do and how have you found being a resident tutor?** Mr Allchin lives Up House (behind college) and he is "on call twenty-four-seven." His main role as a resident tutor is to cover an early duty from 7:15am to 10am and equally a late duty from 10pm to 11:15pm. Since College is a boarding house, Mr Allchin has a close relationship with the College pupils as he "sees them on a daily basis," and admits that "his table tennis has gotten better."

**What extra-curricular activities do you run at Westminster? What would you suggest to encourage more students to join these extra-curricular activities?** Firstly, Mr Allchin currently coaches "the mighty Under 15B's," and boasts how "we win as many as we lose,

which is OK." He also takes Cross Country (for the first two terms), alongside Mr Wurr, and particularly enjoys taking the runners on visits to Eton and Winchester. Moreover, in the summer term he runs Athletics station and helps to organise the School's annual Sport's Day. Mr Allchin describes these extra-curricular commitments as "important parts of my life as a teacher... I didn't join Westminster only be an Art teacher... it's also about seeing pupils outside of the classroom." He suggests that "not all activities need to be competitive, nor do pupils need to have a competitive edge to enjoy Cross Country station or Football station," and he strongly feels that "being outside, in the fresh air, has meditative qualities." He encourages all pupils "to enjoy the fact that you...could compete against your peers in a different setting to your classroom."

**How would you improve day-to-day life for teachers?** Mr Allchin believes that "we are very lucky here at Westminster in the sense that we have a very strong Common Room," and goes on to describe how "Common Room morale is fantastic," due to how often and well teachers communicate with each other. Mr Allchin states "I consider many of the staff members to be friends and there are many times when staff members support one another at things like exhibitions, concerts and races."



# Art Show 2018



Can Koksai



Tamzin Lent



Roland Adams



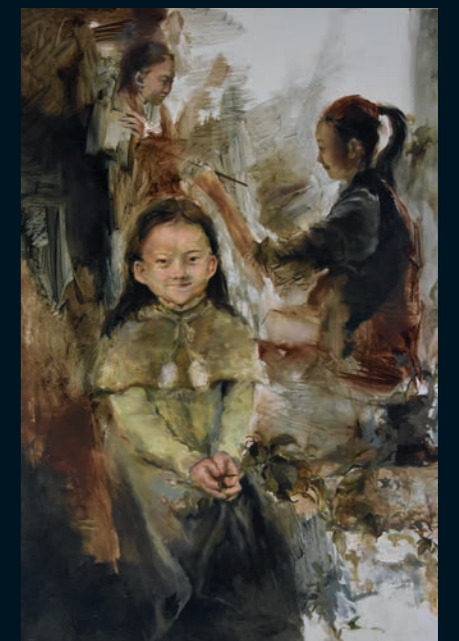
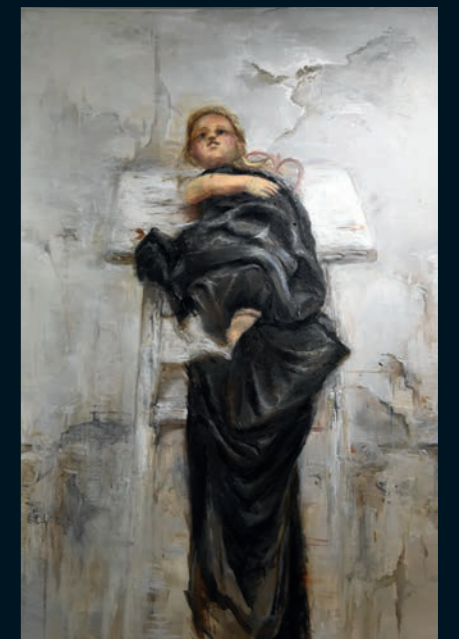
Roland Adams



Nick Zeolla



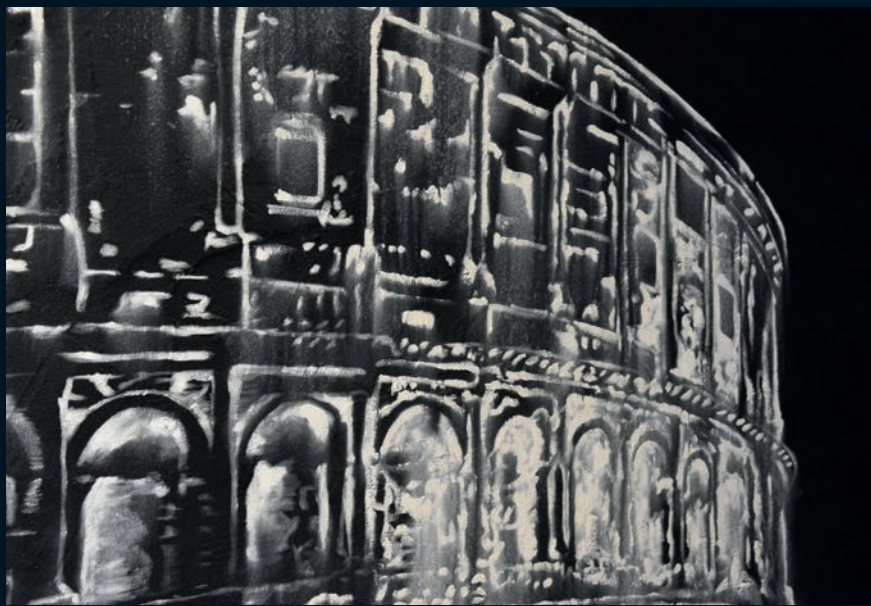
Lucy Li



# Art Show 2018



Oscar Banchero



Ted Smith



Lydia Wilford



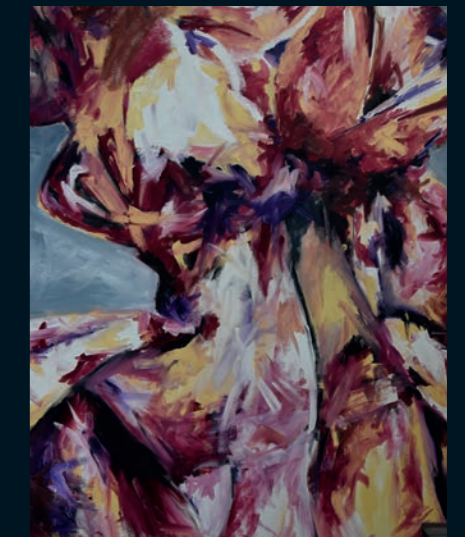
Tom Duggan



Tamzin Lent



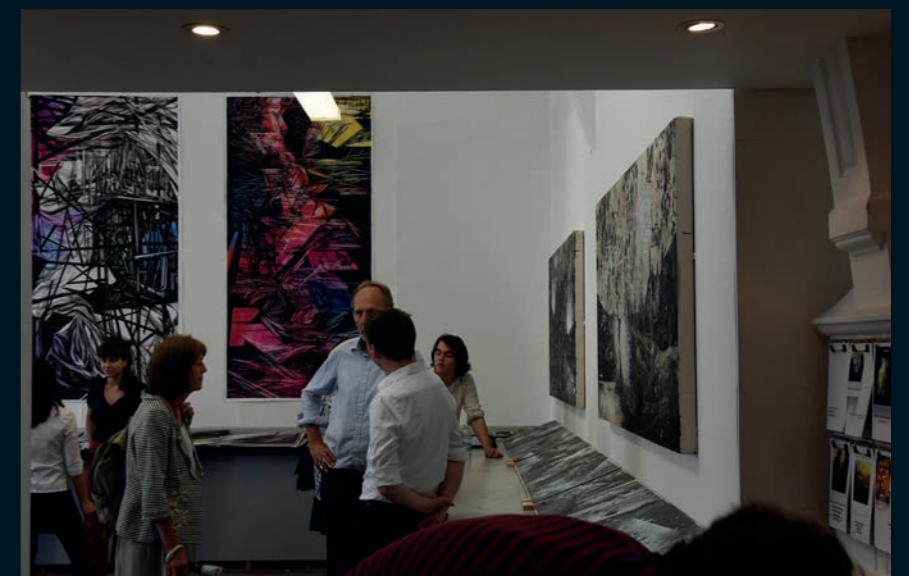
David Bertone



Harry Dew



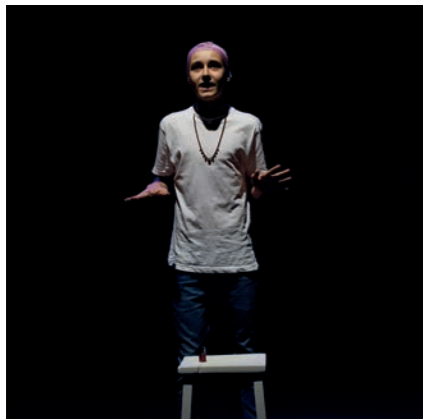
Will Farquharson





# Drama

by Angus Colwell



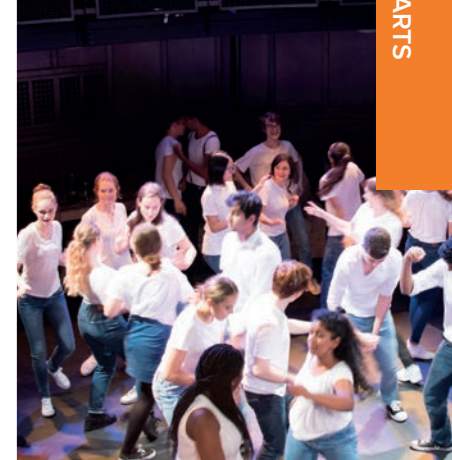
The summer of 2017 was a summer of change for the Drama department. Not only did it see the long-awaited shifting of the stage back to its original position in the Millicent Fawcett Hall, but it also saw the arrival of one Miss Annie Graham-Brown.

Backed up by the reliable dream team of Imamul Ameen and Paul McLeish, with ever-influential directorial oversight from Mr Chequer, the Drama department embarked on arguably its most ambitious year to date. This was most clear from the quality of performance on show at both the Fifth Form and Sixth Form festivals early in the year. The Fifth Form gave hugely polished Elizabethan performances at the end of their Expeditions week, a far cry from the days only a few years ago where performances involved reading crumpled scripts live on stage, while the Sixth Form produced a colossal three-hour evening's entertainment of *American Classics*, from Miller to Wilder. The Head Master

commented that it was the best Sixth Form festival he'd seen in his four years at the school.

What made the evening especially memorable were the interludes of dance and slick choreography between pieces, and on this theme, one of the most frequent visiting professionals seen among the clustered corridors of the MFH this year was choreographer Ellen Jakubiel. The trio of Ellen, Dan Swana, and Mr Chequer led auditions for *Cabaret* early in September, allowing for a more flexible casting process and, crucially, time to choreograph the complex numbers of the 'Kit Kat girls'. A lively cast were able to handle the, let's say, provocative themes of the musical with a level of

urbanity which meant that the true themes of love and political influence were impossible to miss, as much as prostitutes and Nazi strip clubs attempted to distract. Great servants of the Drama department over the years, Ed Easton and Louisa Stuart-Smith, were able to give show-stopping performances in their final production, that transformed what was one of the most complex and tricky rehearsal processes seen in the cast's years at the school, to audience murmurings leaving the auditorium of "best show I've seen here." What made *Cabaret* such a success was not just the genuine quality of cast talent, but by how well the production seemed to fit into the theatre. We were immersed in the underground of 1930s Berlin. Credit



*American Classics*





for this must go to Mr Chequer and to Jasmine Swan, on her first production for the school, for producing a truly unique imagining of the Kit Kat Klub.

The department has also accommodated pupil-led endeavours; the hilarity of Viren Shetty and Daniel Gore's College play of *One Man, Two Guvnors*, featuring David Edwardes-Ker in full fat suit, was certainly a charming end to Mr Feltham's reign in College, as well as the Classics department's contemporary take on Aristophanes' *The Birds*, somehow managing to feature Norm Yeung as Donald Trump and Daisy Goldman as Gordon Ramsay. The production had comedy of every kind: political satire – the first act ended with a slightly orange Tereus, the king of the birds (played by Norm Yeung), shouting to the audience that he would build a wall and make Ashburnham pay for it – slapstick, mimicry, puns, and innuendo. Michael Pennington even swung by in January to give a performance of his solo show *Sweet William*.

The Election Term, often a time of quiet in the MFH, was quite the opposite; three major productions! Miss Graham-Brown's directorial debut; the Lower School play *Zero for*

*the Young Dudes!* was a riotous success – considering the last female Drama teacher at Westminster won the Olivier for Best Director nine years later, who says this can't be the start of something similar? Earlier in the term, members of the Sixth Form independently put on the chilling tragedy *A View from the Bridge*, directed by Angus Colwell. Max Raphael's spellbinding performance as Eddie Carbone, complemented by David Edwardes-Ker, Manon Theodoly and Rosa Calcraft's attempts to restrain his character, presented a tragic tale to two full-house nights. The year concluded in a beautiful sunset in Ashburnham Gardens; the first pupil-directed European Drama Festival drew in many for improvised fish dances, plastic sword fights, and irresistible manchego... But next year also beckons; *My Fair Lady* is pencilled in up, as is a production of *Metamorphosis*, and plans to take a show to the Edinburgh Fringe in the summer of 2019 are well underway. Events to mark the First World War and 100 years of 'equal' suffrage will be gracing the MFH too. Ellen Jakubiel will also be appearing more regularly, with musical theatre dance station confirmed for September, as well as the appointment of a Director in Residence!





The Birds

A View from the Bridge

## European Theatre Festival

by Sander Berg

This year for the first time the Modern Languages department and the Drama department joined forces and organised a largely pupil-led European Theatre Festival, celebrated in Ashburnham Garden on 26 and 27 June. It was a wonderful way to end the term. The weather was glorious, the setting spectacular and the plays a delight. The plays ranged from a modern French play, *Au Musée, Retour aux sources* by Jean Michel Ribes, a German (Swiss) twentieth century classic, *Der Besuch der alten Dame* by Friedrich Dürrenmatt, and a Spanish Golden Age comedy, *La dama duende* by Pedro Calderon de la Barca. The last two were entirely directed by pupils, whereas the French play was directed by Amal Kebaier, the language assistant.





# Slovenia Orchestra Tour

by James Fenner

In July 2017, an enthusiastic orchestra, fifty-strong and made up of all years, with Mr Garrard, Ms Clanchy and Mrs Wyatt, departed for the small Eastern European Nation State of Slovenia.

Few of us initially knew much more than the fact it was the birthplace of Melania Trump but after a week we were all rather impressed.

We began our tour in the picturesque town of Bled located in the Soča valley of the Julian Alps. Surrounded by mountains, our hotel overlooked the magnificent Lake Bled. We were all astounded by the natural beauty of the place.



Our first full day involved much intense rehearsal time, led by our meticulous and passionate young conductor, Yuma Kitahara. He helped to bring our repertoire up to the highest standard. It comprised Beethoven's 1st Symphony and Coriolan Overture, as well as the Haydn Cello Concerto in C major, expertly played by our maestro cellist Hamzah Zaidi. We still had a couple of hours in the middle of the day to explore and taste the local Bled cream cake.

The evening saw us perform our first concert in the small hillside town of Škofja Loka, famous for its well-preserved medieval architecture. We were delighted to play to a full concert hall filled with local town inhabitants who received us warmly.

The next day was devoted entirely to touring and we took the opportunity to visit the astounding Postojna Cave system, which comprised 24km of natural caves with some chambers as large as cathedrals.

After a day trip to the capital Ljubljana, where we visited the castle and went to an authentic Slovenian restaurant 'Vodnikov Hram' (the beef soup was not to everyone's taste) we performed our second concert in the city of Valenje. This was a communist built town from the 1950s and although the theatre we played in was austere architecturally, hopefully our music brought a warmth to the locals.

Our final concert and arguably our best, was played outdoors during a warm evening in Murska Sobota to rapturous applause and a sizeable audience much to our happiness.

To end the trip we spent our last day in the Thermae 3000 Waterpark, consisting of waterslides unlikely to pass the rigorous health and safety standards in the UK but providing a lot of thrills and a fantastic end to a very successful and enjoyable music tour.



# The King's Singers

by Tim Garrard

For the thirty-first Sir Adrian Boult Memorial Concert, on Monday 9 October we welcomed the most famous close harmony ensemble in the world, The King's Singers.

The present singers were excellent throughout their programme which ranged from Lassus, Byrd, Brahms and Rheinberger to folksongs, spirituals and a selection of close harmony. Particularly impressive was their delivery of Richard Rodney Bennett's 'the season of his mercies' and the extremely effective 'Timepiece' by Paul Patterson.

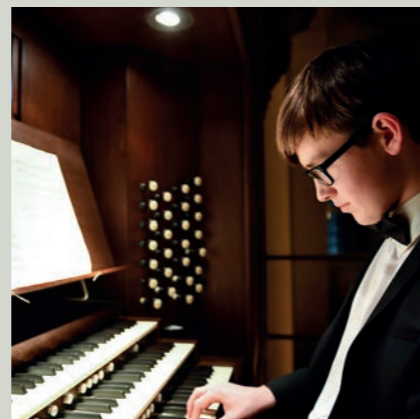
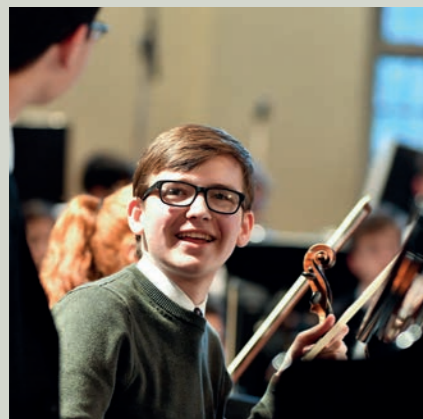
From the moment they appeared on stage, and throughout their programme, every gesture or formational movement was immaculately done and their spoken introductions were extremely polished. This was certainly a lesson in performance etiquette as well musical excellence.

Perhaps the biggest thrill for the Westminster audience was to see the King's Singers collaborate on stage with forty members of the Choir in a performance of Billy Joel's Lullaby: Goodnight my angel. The King's Singers were extremely gracious in giving so much of their time and allowing our pupils the opportunity to collaborate in this way it was an experience the pupils and the audience will never forget.

# Orchestral Concert St John's Smith Square

Monday 6 November 2017

by James Tett



The Lower school orchestra under the baton of David Campbell, provided a rousing start to the proceedings with the universally known Star Wars Epic: Suites one and two. John Williams's music needs strong bowing and even stronger blowing and the brass section duly provided the heroic swell and swagger needed to turn the four-square overture into the stirring tune that is known to almost everyone alive today.

Tommy Leo's extraordinary piano playing has been a major feature of the last five years of Westminster life. Very few indeed can attain Tommy's level of playing without attending a specialist music school. Tommy's playing was bold, fluid and authoritative, allowing us to appreciate the great arching phrases of Rachmaninov's romantic masterpiece. Yet he also exercised appropriate restraint, which allowed dancing interplay with the orchestra moments of flirtatious intimacy. Guy Hopkins's commanding grip of the Orchestra, splendidly led by James Tett was able to provide appropriately swirling vortexes of orchestral power without swamping the soloist.

After the interval, the treats continued as Tim Garrard conducted Camille Saint-Saëns Symphony No. 3 in C minor, the organ symphony. James Tett swapped his violin and position as leader of the orchestra for the keyboard and played with enormous authority and perfect pacing and ensured that our attention was instantly taken and held by the musical storm blowing in from the back of the hall. The restrained and ethereal finale after the air moving organ section was beautifully played by our excellent orchestra and showed that, after the musical storms unleashed, ending with a 'still small voice of calm' can be a very fitting way to finish a very special evening.



The Lower School Orchestra



## Cantandum

by Gilly French

This year before Christmas, Cantadnum performed an all-German programme of music by Bach, Schütz, Scheidt, Mendelssohn and Brahms in commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, with all pieces inspired by Lutheran texts. It was followed in Lent by a concert featuring two of the Handel Chandos Anthems and the Buxtehude Magnificat.

In the Election Term we had two projects: an invitation to sing Evensong at Canterbury Cathedral in late May and for our summer concert we returned to Ashburnham garden for the first time for ages, where the weather was kind and the atmosphere convivially sunny.

Our octet, Floreat, has also been busy: in addition to singing the services at St John's Smith Square, we have made our debut concert at the Guards' Chapel with Byrd and Palestrina, given a concert of Bach and Buxtehude at St Stephen's Rochester Row and sung Evensong at St Matthew's Westminster. It has been a fun and highly rewarding year.

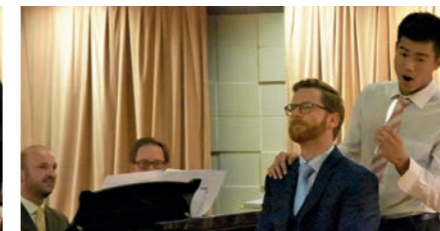
# Barbican

by Edmund Lewis

As we took our seats at this year's Barbican Concert we could not but admire the purple and pink lighting on the stage and wonder: 'are those Lenten or Westminster colours?' The music began with Schubert's Symphony in C Major – not the 'Great' No. 9, but its 'Little' sibling, No. 6. The symphony was composed in 1817 or 1818, so a tenuous claim can be made that this was, like the rest of the evening's programme, an anniversary performance.

The Chichester Psalms of Leonard Bernstein (who would have turned one hundred this August) completed the first half of the evening, and brought with them after their initial frenetic beginning a change to a more reflective mood.

Sir Hubert Parry's (died 1918) 'I Was Glad' made quite the second-half opener, and the choir was so obviously enjoying itself from their fulsome entry. Not all the Parry numbers were so familiar: it was a pleasure to hear for the first time 'The Glories of our Blood and State' as well as the mini-epic Coronation Te Deum. All told, the interesting selection made for a memorable evening of music, and a triumph for all involved, singers, players and not least the man who devised it, conductor and Westminster's Director of Music Tim Garrard.



## The Westminster Young Musician of the Year Competition 2018

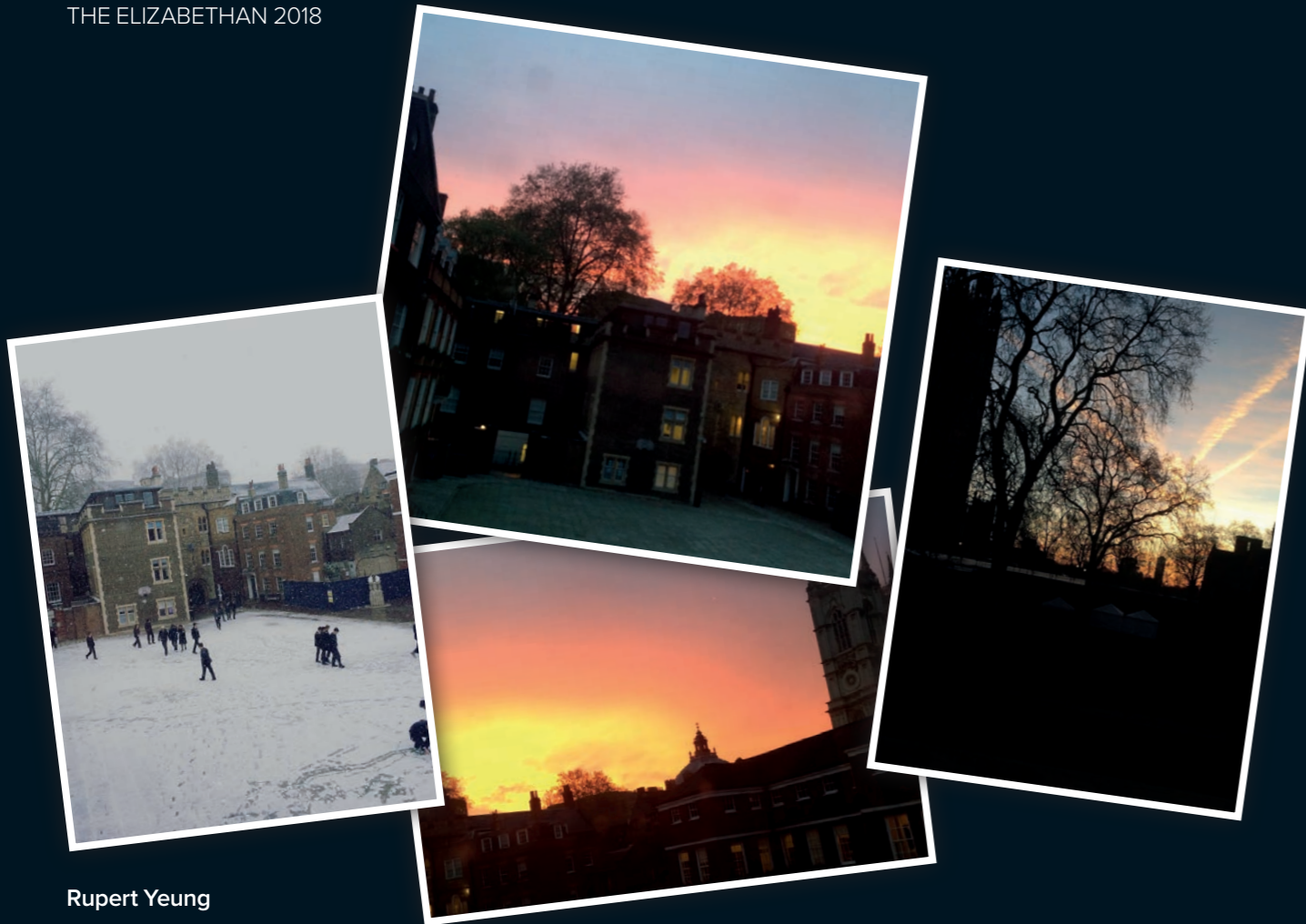
After competing against some superb musicianship in the earlier rounds of the competition, the finalists of the Westminster Young Musician of the Year 2018 gave an outstanding concert on 16 March, before facing the wise adjudication of Alastair Tighe, Headmaster elect of Wells Cathedral School.

The finalists:

Alex Chen (voice)  
Samir Hutchings (jazz piano)  
Veronica Izmaylova (piano)  
Louis Negri (trumpet)  
Sparsh Sharma (drum kit)  
William Shirras (oboe)  
James Tett (violin)

The undisputed winner was James Tett for his remarkable performances of 'La Fontaine d'Arethuse' from 'Mythes' by Szymanowski, a performance undisrupted by a broken string, and 'Tambourin Chinois' by Fritz Kreisler. Many congratulations to all the finalists and our heartfelt thanks to Alastair Tighe.





Rupert Yeung



Shawn Li



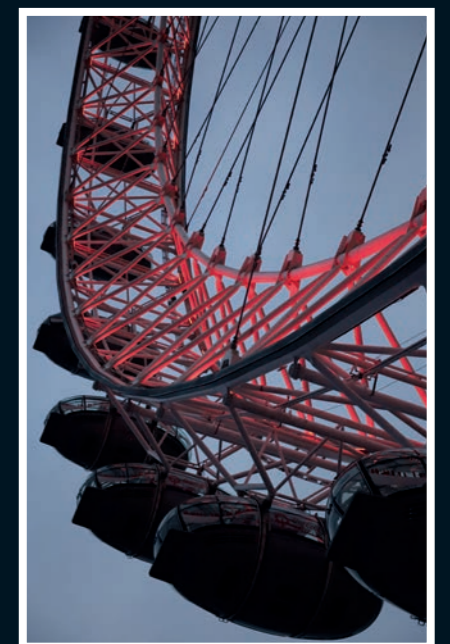
First prize – Freddie Poser

# Photography Competition

THE ARTS



Second prize – Robert Doane-Solomon



Third prize – Sanara Piensuparp

# Volunteering at Westminster

Volunteering at Westminster continues to thrive and to engage pupils in a number of refreshingly different and rewarding activities.

We work with young children in primary schools, breakfast and after-school clubs, homework clubs, youth clubs, subject-based clubs and holiday activities, and help run the scout and guide unit at Evelina Children's Hospital. We also work with very young children at a pre-school playgroup, and learn BSL so we can volunteer at a specialist primary school for deaf children.

We work with older children and teenagers through mentoring schemes at Rugby Portobello Trust, Coin St and Westminster City School, and with older people through our valuable association with the Pullen Centre.

Other medical and health-based projects include hospital visiting, helping at a wonderful swimming club for the disabled and a youth centre for the teenagers with special needs – these are real work experience and hugely beneficial for those seeking careers in medicine.

We've also seen two exciting recent new developments. The first is with a charity called Support a Survivor of Torture, helping Sri Lankans with English classes, where our TEFL-trained students come into their own. The Triangle Adventure Playground in Lambeth, part-run by Jonathan Choo OW, is an amazing after-school project for Lambeth Schoolchildren that involves exercise, outdoor activities and an opportunity to do something different – it's based in a poor area of Lambeth and we hope to further this association even more.

Westminster also has three community centres within easy reach – the Abbey Community Centre, the Cardinal Hume Centre and the St Vincent Family Project. We've enjoyed doing our bit for each.

There is always time to volunteer, and always something we can find you. If this has touched your curiosity, get in touch with GMF to arrange something for next year!

Gilly French

A few minutes away from School, behind the Apollo Victoria Theatre, hides the Queen Mother Sports Centre where I have been volunteering this year with Pimlico Puffins. Soon I understood that it only took a towel, a swimsuit and a smile to swim with disabled people. Every Monday from 9 to 10 pm, I hopped into the water to accompany Jamar, an 8-year-old boy, to crawl through the lengths of the pool. He has trouble expressing himself in English and struggles with moving his legs properly, so it was important for me to stay next to him in case he needed support. However, he was very able and saw no difficulty keeping his breath underwater.

It was challenging at first to establish a relation of mutual trust, but having conquered together the wintry temperatures of the water and reached the scary deep end, little by little we began to enjoy each other's company. I found it rewarding to join Jamar on his journey to master swimming techniques as well as seeing him having fun either diving or with the floats in the warm pool. Hoping to enlarge the group of volunteers next year, I am already looking forward to swimming with Pimlico Puffins again!

Iris Bertrand  
[www.pimlicopuffins.org.uk](http://www.pimlicopuffins.org.uk)

My involvement as an instructor with young people in Vauxhall has been a hugely valuable, demanding but ultimately fulfilling experience. A short journey from School, the weekly commitment involves a few invigorating hours in this inner city area. Volunteering at The Triangle project detaches you from the intensity of school life whilst generating an enjoyable atmosphere for the participants and the instructors. Activities are varied and range from arts and crafts to designing biking courses. Regardless of personal interests, immersion into the current activity provides the greatest fulfilment. Being mindful that the local young people engaging at the centre have frequently endured social hardships requires considerable sensitivity. Volunteering at this highly valuable centre is a super opportunity and new additions to the instructor team are warmly welcomed!

Joe Devlin



James Blithell (pictured above) has worked at the Cardinal Hume Centre for two years, updating the fundraising database, designing materials for community events, reviewing sections of the website, and attending meetings to give his views. 'I learnt a huge amount about office life – an invaluable skill coming from school life which can be very different. The highlight for me has to be the bond I formed with the team I was placed in. I initially thought I'd just be 'another volunteer' and that I'd be viewed differently by the Centre's full-time staff but that couldn't have been further from the case. The team warmly welcomed me from day one and, despite only being there once a week, I always felt valued. The most powerful thing I've learnt from volunteering at The Cardinal Hume Centre is that it doesn't matter exactly what you're doing, it's all about contributing to the overall mission of the charity.'

From 'Centre Life' published by the Cardinal Hume Centre  
[www.cardinalhumecentre.org.uk](http://www.cardinalhumecentre.org.uk)

For the last term, I've been volunteering as a tutor at a local primary school. When faced with choosing my Options, I decided that I wanted to dedicate one of these periods to volunteering, as I really couldn't think of a more valuable or edifying way to occupy forty minutes of the week. I can't deny that my first visit to the school was slightly daunting; volunteers are thrown in at the deep end, and teaching, I soon found out, is not as easy as it looks! However, after a couple more tries, this forty minutes of volunteering became one of the highlights of my school week. I discovered that not only is the chaos of working with primary school children incredibly fun, but also that to witness the progress of young people at such a vital age of development is hugely rewarding.

When, after five weeks of laughter, frustration and outright dejection on both of our parts, one of my six year-old students was able to read through a whole book with me, I think I was just as thrilled as he was. My experience caused me to reflect on the extent of the educational opportunities I have received, as well as the small steps that we can and should take to ensure that every child is provided with an excellent education. Consequently, it has encouraged me to engage with other educational outreach initiatives such as the IntoUniversity programme and the Summer Reading Challenge. I would encourage anyone interested in finding an enjoyable, rewarding and, at times, demanding way to engage with the community to try out volunteering as a tutor.

Cora Wilson



# Phab

by Angus Colwell

Perhaps the best thing about Phab is that the joy of it doesn't necessarily come from a large personal revelation, but from how purely fun the week is in its own right.

2018 saw Westminster Phab run for the 42nd time. Guests with disabilities travel from all over the country, and stay for a week with hosts – current pupils at the school. The week is intended as a holiday for the guests, and their carers back home. The pupils arrive on the Monday, 24 hours before the arrival of the guests. We converted Wren's/Dryden's to homely bedrooms, and while takeaway pizza produced a nice atmosphere in Yard that night, I couldn't help but feel nervous. These nerves evaporated once my guest arrived; the aspects of Phab that I was warned about faded when I began to feel a genuine near-parental care towards my guest.

Throughout the week in Yard, tentative conversations with silences transformed to dancing, riotous Jenga games, and constant laughter – all within the first day. The most beautiful

thing about the week was seeing the boundaries between guests and hosts only decrease, resembling more a relationship of friends. Such developments are only helped by the incredible schedule that Bhavna Choraria and Chris Kingcombe put together. Keeping with the theme of 'Phabosaurus rex', a day trip to the Natural History Museum delighted both guests and hosts, as did the presence of more contemporary animals in Yard, courtesy of Vauxhall City Farm. Theatre night was also a welcome night out for all. Workshops culminated in a fantastic final show, and an incredibly emotional goodbye to all of our guests.

Each host will have had a different experience of Phab, and a different quirk that their guest may have brought to the table; due to its association with 5am toilet trips with my guest, I may



never hear David Bowie's *Rebel Rebel* quite the same again. For others, it may be a catchphrase ("lovely jubbly!"), or a new affinity for the game Candy Crush. It was a week that none of us who took part will forget, and the relationships between host-guest, host-staff, and guest-staff, were those of happy fluidity.

The week is completely devoid of the normal social pressures we face. Phab did make me think differently, but its overwhelming effect was of a truly fun week in its own right for everyone involved.

OUTREACH

## September Saturday



Dr Durno braves the bucket



Mr Kershen is awarded his pinks





# The Homeless Drive

by Raghav Nayak

Set up and led by Westminster students – this year, under the brilliant command of Raghav Nayak – the Homeless Drive is an initiative where young people pool their energy and resources to help the homeless all over London in real terms, by handing out bags of essential supplies.

'This year, having raised over £7,300 (including Gift Aid) and with a superb turnout of 61 Westminster volunteers and their friends, we gave out almost 300 resource bags, and we still have over £4,000 left to fund additional Drives next year. The resource bags each contained: gloves, plasters, socks, water, toothpaste, toothbrushes, crisps, chocolate bars, baby wipes and deodorants – all bought wholesale so we could make the most of our donations. We covered the areas of: Westminster, Victoria, Soho, Green Park, Trafalgar Square, Charing Cross, Covent Garden, Holborn, Kensington & Chelsea, Camden Town, Chalk Farm, the City of London, King's Cross, Oxford Circus, Bond Street, Marylebone and Finchley Road. Because we made so many bags, we were unable to carry the clothing donations with us on the drive, so these were donated afterwards to a homeless shelter.

Thanks to Henry Bishop and Michal Chinn for assisting me in organising the trickier parts of the drive; to Peter Rusafov for involving pupils from other schools; to Viren Shetty and Henry for being part of the talk in Abbey; to Weixuan Zhang, Veronika Izmaylova, Thomas Adamo, Henry and Michal for helping set up on the day, and most of all to all the volunteers who selflessly and energetically gave up their time to come to the Drive on the weekend.'



## The Upper Shell Day 2018

You might think it perfectly reasonable for Upper Shells to sit back and relax after GCSEs. Not Westminster. As soon as the last exams are done, they all returned to School to run a fantastic day of workshops for local primary school children. Having signed up for their chosen speciality before the exams, the boys met again in small groups on the morning of Monday 25 June to devise activities for their sessions. Then, in the afternoon, they gave two or three workshops of 40 minutes each.

Chemistry  
Physics  
Biology  
Electronics  
Computing  
Maths  
DT  
Chess  
Jewellery workshop  
Dance  
History  
Geography  
French  
Spanish  
Latin  
Ancient Greek  
Debating  
Sketching  
Cakes  
Sports  
Fencing  
Fives  
Climbing  
Art appreciation  
Music  
Drama

Many thanks to St Matthew's School, St Vincent de Paul's School, Millbank Academy and Soho Parish School for providing their enthusiastic and hardworking students! The Westminster boys found the experience incredibly rewarding. The day ended with celebratory games and cupcakes on Green.

# Linacre Summer School

by Richard Kowenicki

The Linacre Institute is a charity that gives northern state-school students the confidence to apply to our leading universities, and the skills to thrive there.



Among a number of services it offers is a summer school hosted by Westminster and this year's 5th summer school was another great success. The 30 students attended academic lessons in the morning given by teachers from Westminster and from other schools, as well as university academic staff. Topics ranged from the Higgs Boson to the questions of 'what is justice?'. The students spent the afternoons in various workshops around central London which included The Houses of Parliament, The Foreign Office, The Treasury, King's College London, Herbert Smith and others. The Westminster summer school will be followed up by another in Cambridge later in the summer and all 30 students plan to mount competitive UCAS applications in the autumn, when they will be mentored through the process. An independent report by UCAS has shown that Linacre is transforming students' university destinations, with our students hugely more likely to attend top universities. The charity is very grateful to Westminster School for all the facilities they provided and to all the Westminster staff who help make this possible.

If you would like to find out more please do take a look at our website ([www.linacreinstitute.org](http://www.linacreinstitute.org)) or ask Richard Kowenicki.



# Summer School

by Ed Coward

The Westminster Summer School celebrated its 10th year this summer, with 40 Year 11 students from all over London coming together for a week of academic enrichment and the chance to explore university and career opportunities.



## 24hr football

43 brave Westminster Sixth Formers undertook the most gruelling challenge in world football on 9 March 2017: 24 hours of continuous 5-a-side! They successfully raised a fantastic £17k (including Gift Aid) for 'Alive & Kicking', a charity set up by Westminster's Jim Cogan. 'Alive & Kicking' makes durable balls in Africa, creating ethical employment opportunities for more than 1000 people in Ghana, Kenya and Zambia.

OUTREACH



However, what is written on the tin does not do the contents justice. The week-long course does more than just teach academia, it brings together gifted and talented students from disadvantaged backgrounds and allows them that rare opportunity to which we are so accustomed at Westminster: to mingle with like-minded individuals and rejoice in the freedom of a liberal education. Guided by an enthusiastic team of Westminster teachers and a handful of 6th Form volunteers, the students embarked on a range of activities aimed to foster a love of learning and a drive to continue to do so. From stimulating classroom extension; to talks from the Civil Service and Wings of Hope; to a Q&A session with some of the cast and crew of the West End hit, Hamilton, the Summer School certainly packed a punch. It's difficult to do the week justice in just a few words, but to quote one of this year's participants: "I wish it had been longer".

Our utmost thanks go to the eternally generous Westminster teachers who give up time during their summer breaks and to Krishan Budhdeo (MM), Pandora Mackenzie (RR), Leo Rozanov (DD), Moosa Ali (MM), Lulu Hao (AHH) and Nadia Cooper (WW) who so admirably – and with such great humour – helped so integrally to the running of the week.



# TRIPS



- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 ENGLAND – Alston, Bolton, Cambridge, Cornwall, Dartington, Dorset, Isle of Wight, Lake District, Lichfield, Nottingham, Peak District, Southampton, Suffolk, Surrey, York, Yorkshire Moors | 10 ITALY – Florence, Rome, Pisa, Sicily, Venice                          |
| 2 WALES – Black Mountains, Brecon Beacons, Gower Peninsula, Plas Menai, St David's, Snowdonia  | 11 SLOVENIA – Choir Tour   |
| 3 SCOTLAND – Hadrian's Wall  | 12 POLAND – Krakow   |
| 4 IRELAND – Great Western Greenway   | 13 GREECE  |
| 5 FRANCE – Les Menuires, Nice, Paris, Soustons   | 14 ICELAND   |
| 6 BELGIUM – Ghent  | 15 RUSSIA – St Petersburg  |
| 7 GERMANY – Berlin, Munich   | 16 USA – Boston, New York, Yale  |
| 8 SPAIN – Almuñecar, Cadiz, Catalonia  | 17 BARBADOS – Cricket Tour   |
| 9 PORTUGAL – Sagres  | 18 CUBA  |
|  | 19 AFRICA – Kilimanjaro Summit by Westminster Student Avery Boucher-Rowe |





# Cádiz

by Joshua Loo



Bertrand Russell wrote that “the newly powerful nations [after the decline of Italy], with the exception of Spain, showed themselves as capable of great achievement as the Italians had been”. It may be that this is true: Spain has produced for each Leibniz or Descartes far fewer, and, even today, we might also say that Spain produces far less “great achievement” than its peers. We should not, however, fall into the trap of taking these observations to imply that there is nothing of interest in Spain, and that it is or was devoid of greatness or civilisation, for Spain has its own grandeur – in buildings and paintings which too have survived the passing of the years – no less valuable, especially to the tourist.

Few cities of Cádiz’s population of about 120,000 have a history as distinguished or accessible to the modern visitor, and that is part of the city’s charm. Though Cádiz is not immune to the ravages of empty mass tourism, it still retains a certain allure. There was a sense of achievement, perhaps not entirely justifiable given our use of the internet, in finding the Museo de las Cortes de Cádiz. One, after climbing a staircase, initially is confronted by a rather large piece of wood. On further inspection, its astonishing detail and scale become apparent: every house, plaza and tree, in carved wood, on a hill, all to scale, produced in 1777 despite all the technological limitations of that era. We saw six other people during our

visit: three other visitors, and three members of staff. We were not so much lonely as blessed, for we could enjoy every single section of the museum, without interruption, in a silence occasionally eerie but also appropriate to our momentary connection with the era of tumult in which the model was produced and the Cortes assembled. There was solitude too in the Museo de Cádiz. We saw more than six, but the lack of crowds created a certain (again, appropriate) atmosphere of reverence. The museum showed a little more of Cádiz’s history; originally a Phoenician settlement, the city achieved particular prominence in Roman and Napoleonic times.

The presence of busloads of tourists (including your correspondent et al.) detracted from the experience but not the fundamental beauty of Alcazar (insofar as it was visible to the shorter amongst us) in Seville. The speed of the Reconquista could condition one to expect a lack of continuity in the region’s aesthetics, religion and culture between the mediæval and Islamic, and the early modern and Catholic. There is not so much a dichotomy as their study would indicate; Arabic calligraphy, originally brought with the Islamic Conquest of Hispania, was retained over the many centuries of Christian dogma which followed, and the palace is used as one of the King’s residences. Later Spanish additions to the architecturally Islamic original

palace occasionally clashed, but their collective antiquity exerted a soothing effect. Our visit was long enough to view both the geometric patterns of the Arabs and tapestries brought with the Reconquista without mutual detractor.

We must not forget the ostensible aim of the trip either, viz. the amelioration of our Spanish. There is nothing quite like speaking a language to those who use it daily to speed up one’s acquisition. Verb tables’ contents become habitual, even when repeated in the classroom of a language school, simply by the force of natural repetition; though the Spanish (and, indeed, English) of most aspects of life, whether when buying ice cream or in a bookshop, is somewhat at variance with that demanded by our looming examinations, the two languages have not yet completely separated. Coddled by the clear enunciation of our Spanish teachers and language assistant, we nevertheless all made a decent stab at understanding the Andalusian accent; by the end of the trip, one unnamed fellow traveller had “ironically” begun to drop the final letters of certain words in a reasonable approximation of Andalusian practice.

# Cuba

by Hari Pillai

Cuba is a beautiful country.

Our trip began and ended in Havana, which is the perfect introduction to another style of Hispanic culture, unlike anything we had experienced before. The city was busy and dense, yet maintained an eclectic and thriving atmosphere. This, coupled with the bright and brash colours that are often seen on cars and houses, allowed us to fully immerse ourselves within Cuban culture as soon as we arrived.

We also spent time in the farming village of Viñales and a coastal town called Trinidad, where, upon Dr Berg's insistence we all tried with varying success, to ride horses – in Viñales to local plantations and in Trinidad to a cave formation where many of our group made the most of the freshwater pools beneath.

Throughout the trip we stayed in the houses of individual families due to Cuban tourism laws; however, this only helped us integrate ourselves better, by eating and forming genuine connections with the families.

The Cuban people were immensely hospitable and all of our group expressed their interest to return to the picturesque island which offers a more distinctive brand of Spanish speaking culture.



## Gold Duke of Edinburgh

After Silver, many were intelligent enough to call it a day, but for those of us who were willing to brave Gold there were both hardships to be overcome and experiences that were unforgettable. Under the relentless Welsh sun, we hiked for over 20km a day, often wondering if we were going to make it to the next campsite. We faced many difficulties such as mountains, angry guard dogs, and the mouthwatering temptation of burgers at roadside food trucks all of which made the journey harder. But there were also unforgettable moments of joy and team unity, for example when we scared a field of sheep with our celebrations as England triumphed over Sweden. Overall, while these were a tough few days, they were undeniably worth the pain.



## Sixth Form Art trip to Florence

by Darcy Dixon, Izzy Doumar, Charlotte Parry

The Art Historians' trip to Florence was filled with learning, exploration and fun.

Florence's churches and galleries are truly beautiful and a lasting symbol of the city's past cultural innovation and prosperity. In them, the most amazing sculptures and paintings are to be found. The monastery of San Marco stands apart as both a temple to medieval meditation, and also to some of the Renaissance's finest painting. The cloistered complex is decorated with Fra Angelico's delicate frescoes, and, outstanding amongst them, his Annunciation. No book nor screen captured the wonder of seeing this work in person, for the quartz which Fra Angelico had crushed into the paint truly made the Angel Gabriel's wings appear celestial. We had the chance to go into the cells where the monks would have slept and it was humbling to see where their quiet reflections would have taken place, and refreshing to visualise the simplicity in which they lived. A far grander religious work, and one of the more memorable of the trip was found in the Uffizi gallery: Giotto's Ognissanti Madonna. Yet despite its gilding and mildly unsettling facial expressions – typical of the austere Byzantine style – Mary's sculptural mass and soft form gave her both gravitas and a certain reassuring presence.

Another indubitably crucial part of the trip was the food. Having the chance to wander the city choosing where and what to eat both exposed us to a wide variety of Tuscan cuisine but also helped us make the city our own. Furthermore, fortunately Mr Walton is extremely well versed in Florentine gastronomy and therefore treated us to the best it had to offer at dinnertime. On one special night, we were presented with a tasting menu of countless kinds of pastas and meats. Having dinner together every evening also meant that we had a chance to bond with everyone on the trip and talk to people we might not normally see around school, which made for a most enjoyable group dynamic. Naturally, after dinner we would all get ice creams from one of the city's many amazing gelato places. The most popular flavor? Tiramisu in a chocolate hazelnut cone: hard to beat a classic.

On the last day, we had an opportunity to visit Pisa. While Pisa is not as rich in Renaissance Art as its more celebrated neighbour (having become repressed under Florentine rule since the early 1400s), there was still much to see, notably the iconic Leaning Tower and its comically-posed sightseers. Our visit was focussed on the Piazza del Duomo, comprising three of the main sites in the town: the Baptistery, the Duomo and the aforementioned campanile. The Baptistery was extremely impressive, but aside from its formidable scale and architectural style, one of the most striking features of this building was the performance inside; upon entering, a woman sang three notes, sequentially, but owing to the building's remarkable acoustics the notes formed a chord suspended in harmony for what seemed like minutes.

In just three exciting days, it felt like we saw the whole of Florence, and were still keen for more.



## French Exchange

by Sebastien Blaché

On the first Friday of the exchange, there was a quiz for all pupils taking part, organised by the Librarian at the Janson de Sully and it was followed by snacks and a gift (a collection of short stories published as part of a creative writing prize) to each Westminster boy.

Following the Easter weekend, we visited the cradle of Gothic – the Basilica of Saint-Denis and the boys then played football in the Parc de la Légion d'Honneur nearby. On the Wednesday, because of the strikes affecting trains and RER suburban services, we cancelled Versailles and, instead, visited the Hôtel des Invalides with its famous courtyard where Captain Dreyfus was struck off the French Army in 1894 and was then rehabilitated several years later. The tour of the Soldiers' Chapel was then followed by a visit to the adjacent Eglise Saint-Louis (Dôme Chapel), which houses Napoléon's monumental tomb. Finally, we visited the wonderful Musée Rodin, in the gardens of which a scene from the film *Midnight in Paris* was shot. Revision sessions took place every school day (and during the weekend at home) apart from the last Wednesday.

In return, the French pupils thoroughly enjoyed the delights of London life and Westminster, and the weather was the perfect addition. The Janson pupils were lucky enough to tour the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Galleries on their last day.

# German Exchanges



Sixth Former Germanists on the Munich Exchange climb Osterfelderkopf, Germany's highest summit

As they say in Germany, *aller Anfang ist schwer* – all beginnings are difficult, and this definitely held true with this year's Lower School Berlin exchange! At the time of the exchange in October last year, we had barely had one year's worth of lessons in basic German, hastily armed with the elusive art of subordinating clauses and half-mastered knowledge of the pluperfect, so it was no surprise that few of us felt quite prepared for the week of total immersion into Berlin's hectic culture and lifestyle that awaited us as we arrived at Berlin's Tegel airport.

However, many of these worries proved unfounded. We all found the balance of English and German necessary to cross the language gap soon enough, and within 24 hours of our arrival we had got to know our exchange partners and their families, participated in our first classes at the Beethovensschule, and been on a classic tour of Berlin's great structures: the Bundestag, Brandenburger Tor and the Wall, to name but a few. In the following week we were further involved in lessons with our German partners in the mornings, and would then go on to visit museums and monuments in the afternoons, notably the Pergamon with its famous Ishtarior and 'Palace of Tears', documenting the harrowing stories of those crossing the inner-German border at Friedrichstraße.

Many of the places we visited were not on the well-trodden tourist itinerary, and did much to give us a glimpse of the vibrance of German culture beyond the usual reminders of Nazism and the Wall: not least among such unconventional locations were the Computerspielmuseum, the Museum of German Cinema and the chocolate store of Fassbender & Rausch. Our exchange partners also outstripped us by far in their organisation of evening activities (and thankfully so!): we went bowling, barbecued around campfires, and went to a disco on our weekend in Berlin. Those of us who were fortunate enough to watch German television (and understand some of it) were further introduced to such programmes as *Verstehen Sie Spaß?*, in which con-artistry and Schadenfreude became entertainment – a more relaxing complement to the whirlwind tourism earlier in the day.

The German exchange was certainly a valuable experience offering exposure to German language and culture for all of us, and one we would definitely recommend for next year's Germanists!

# Greek Trip

by Ben Weiss

The Greek Trip this year took us on a both incredibly fun and extremely engaging trip across the whole of the southern part of Greece, covering a surprising distance in what seemed like such a short time, while simultaneously packing in so many sites and cities key to Ancient Greek culture, such as Athens, Delphi and Olympia.

On our first day, we visited Brauron, a sanctuary to Artemis, and explored what it meant to be Greek, and the basis of the beliefs and culture of the Ancient Greeks, themes which we continued to investigate as we continued the trip. We then visited Marathon, where we were treated to an in-depth analysis of the battle that had occurred there so long ago. Briefly visiting Amphareion, another healing sanctuary, we arrived at Delphi, where we went immediately to sleep after a long but enjoyable day of sightseeing.

Waking up at the crack of dawn the next day, we were treated to a beautiful view of the sun rising in the valley over which Delphi overlooks, and, having arrived at the site earlier, were able to explore it while we were the only ones there. Later, we visited Osios Loukos, a still functional monastery that sported a magnificent Byzantine church, and learned about the rise and fall of the Byzantine Empire. At the end of the day, we participated in a quiz that was to become the first of three, and spawned intense competition among

the groups. The next day, after a talk on the Battle of Nafpaktos, in the bay where the town of Nafpaktos now stands, we set off to Kalavrita, where we leisurely rode a train through the beautiful Greek countryside. Soon after, we arrived at Olympia where, the following day, we visited the original ancient site and raced at the stade. However, it being April Fools Day, we were all tricked into believing that running backwards was an Ancient Olympic sport!

After a fascinating two days at Pylos, where we explored Nestor's Palace, Methone and Messene, we drove into Sparta (with inevitable cries of 'THIS ISN'T SPARTA YET!' along the way), and visited Menelaon. The next day, we summited the ancient Byzantine citadel of Mistras, with beautiful views across the Lacedaemonian plain as a reward. Later that day, we visited the sanctuary at Epidaurus, and the physics of the wonderful acoustics of the theatre was explained. It was particularly stunning due to how well preserved it was, thousands of years later.

Finally, after visiting Mycenae and learning about the Mycenaean civilisation, which flourished from 1600BC to 1100BC, we also visited Nemea, where we discovered that there was more than one place to hold games in the ancient world: there were the Olympic, Pythian, Nemean and Isthmian Games. Surprisingly, the prize for winning the Nemean Games was a garland of wild celery! Arriving in Athens, we summited Mount Philopappos, just adjacent to the Acropolis, and visited the magnificent Temple of Athena overlooking the city of Athens, which contains over a third of the population of Greece!

Everyone will have their highlights of the trip, be it playing on the beach, the wonderful cuisine or learning about the culture of the ancient world, but it is certain that everyone enjoyed it just as much as I did. A big thank you from all to our courier, and to all the teachers with their fascinating talks on subjects as far ranging as Classics, Astronomy and Engineering, as well as of course to Mrs McGoldrick, the Matron.

# Iceland

by Oliver Ellis

This year's Geography department excursion to Iceland proved to be above and beyond expectations for both the Upper and Lower Shell involved. We explored both the south and south-west coast, as well as the windswept but gorgeous Westman Islands. After taking full advantage of the weaker Icelandic kronor at a budget supermarket in Keflavík, we met our coach driver and our tour guide, who were both very friendly and accommodating of our (at a select few times) somewhat raucous behavior.

Our first geographical stop was the relatively young Stampar Craters, offering picturesque views over the lunar-like lava fields of the Reykjanes peninsula. A short bus ride later and we had crossed from the North-American tectonic plate to the Eurasian one. We took turns standing in the center of the Bridge Between Continents, looking directly along the mid-Atlantic Ridge.



## Iceland

The final stop of our first day was at the roaring and sulphurous Gunnuhver hot spring, the supposedly haunted site of an ancient exorcism. After an exhausting day of travel and geography, we all flopped into the outdoor pool and hot tub at the first hotel. Unfortunately, we were unable to use the (un-risk-assessment covered) slide.

One early wake-up and delicious breakfast later, we were on our way to the ferry terminal.

Once boarded, we were greeted with stunning views of the south coast, as well as our first view of the green and brown basaltic protrusions that were the Vestmannaey (Westman) Islands. After a hike up Eldfell Volcano, providing panoramic views over the island and to the mainland, we scrambled around the scree side of the peak to chow down on our lunch in the afternoon sun. The next stop for us was a history lesson at a dedicated museum on the social and physical devastation brought about by the Eldfell eruption of '73. Before being given some free time in 'downtown Heimaey', we visited the seemingly calm 'windiest place in Europe', a raised plateau linked to the south of the island by a small landbridge. The last view before total darkness descended was of the deep blue sea in Icelandic twilight.

Day three saw the group strapping on crampons and brandishing ice-axes, as we prepared to start our walk on the Sólheimajökull snout of the Myrdalsjökull icecap. Although still crowned with ash from the 2010 Eyjafjallajökull eruption, the troughs and peaks of the glacier sparkled a stark turquoise in the morning sun.



Pen in hand, we then learnt about the ashen havoc wreaked upon Thorvaldseyri farm during the eruption, and the effect it had upon the resident humans and livestock.

The last and possibly most breathtaking location of the day was Vík beach. Composed of ash and fragments of volcanic rock, the fine grains formed a sensational foreground to the towering columns of Reynisfjara. Formed of slow-cooling basalt, the smooth hexagonal pictures provided an apt backdrop to a group photo. After a game of full contact British Bulldog on the beach, we emptied our boots of black sand and piled onto the coach to get to our hotel in time for dinner. Before bed we had a chance to glimpse the Northern Lights, but unfortunately there was not much activity that night and the best we saw was a greenish cloud in the distance.

The most impressive site of our last full day had to be our second trip to the mid-Atlantic ridge: the Thingvellir National Park. This rocky and volcanic landscape is a World Heritage Site for a reason – pitted with clear aquamarine blue rivers, it represents both one of the most important sites in Iceland's

human history (including the country's first parliament), as well as its natural history. The rift valley is surrounded by volcanic formations, including a spectacular and textbook example of a shield volcano to the North.

The next stop on our itinerary was Geysir, possibly the most famous hot spring in the world, with eruptions up to 60 metres. We subsequently experienced the roar of the Gullfoss waterfall, which can on average discharge the same amount of water in a second that two households use in a year. After a relaxing dip in The Secret Lagoon we settled in for our last night in Iceland.

Our final geographical destination was the Hellisheidi geothermal power plant, which is one of the largest plants in the world (in terms of installed capacity) and produces about 40% of Reykjavík's energy. Two hours of free time in the city and one check-in later, we were on the plane back to Gatwick.

A huge thank you to Mrs Hughes, the support staff, the driver and our guide, for organising the whole trip and making it extremely enjoyable, as well as educational.



# New York Art Trip

by John Woodman

In October 2017 Westminster artists visited New York.

This ever-changing city gives us something new to discover every time, and first up was the magnificent MoMA with an exhibition by Louise Bourgeois. The sight of her giant metal spiders climbing up the walls gave the whole building a rather unsettling atmosphere. The new Whitney is a great museum, a thought clearly shared by Leonardo di Caprio and Tobey Maguire who also visited that day. This caused some excitement but sadly they missed the chance to be introduced to the Westminster artists.

The Met's Rodin exhibition was jaw-dropping and we got to see the superb new Peter Doig show at Michael Werner Gallery, while our budding architects headed off to see the Guggenheim building. The ice hockey match at Madison Square Garden was really exciting and just the tonic after all the art.

We spent more time in Brooklyn this year, stopping under Brooklyn Bridge to admire the view of Manhattan and to hear Mr Crow's wonderful reading of Walt Whitman. The Brooklyn Museum's epic Goya, Eisenstein, Longo exhibition was the perfect precursor to the final night's entertainment: the Empire State Building and the night time view of New York.

Whether due to Sonny's knowledge of flags of the world, Niall wearing sunglasses every second of the trip, Davide and Remi's excitement at, well, everything or the whole group's kindness for a stranger in trouble, we teachers were delighted to spend the week with such a nice group of students. I would like to thank Mr Crow and Dr Evans for giving up their holidays and giving us all such a fabulous time.



# Senior ski trip

by Teehan Page

Never underestimate the power of the Belgians.

This year we celebrated our 10th anniversary visit to the Hotel Skilt in the Three Valleys. This means that nearly 500 Westminster students and staff have now visited and enjoyed the world's biggest ski area and, probably, the world's greatest ski hotel. If not for Brexit I'm sure we would have been honoured by the French state for services to tourism and given a civic reception. I'm sure the textile industries of Northern England must also be delighted that they have now embroidered 'Dat Deus Incrementum' on a similar number of pink, fleecy, pink, adult sized onesies. Floreat.

This year there was over twice as much snow in the Three Valleys than had ever been measured before – really. Over four meters had fallen by the time we arrived and it continued after we left. It was by any standards the season of a lifetime. We took full advantage of all the opportunities this world class ski area affords and some took even further advantages of the local opportunities, which was interesting. Perhaps before losing twice to Belgium this summer at footy, Gareth Southgate should have come to us for advice about how to tackle them.

As always there were many snow stars, but Lily Yu, the only Remove, stood out as the one who loved every moment and simply never stopped smiling. Next year we will be there on the date we leave the EU. We should keep a low profile and certain avoid those from the land of Poirot.

# Sixth Form Russian trip to St Petersburg

by Lulu Hao

I cannot write about this trip without singing the praises of the culinary delights of Russia, which are rarely given the attention and credit they deserve. Everybody hears about the galleries, museums, cathedrals, and concerts in St Petersburg, but for me, the food was the most outstanding part of the city.

The sheer quantity consumed by three girls during this trip would frighten every one of you readers, yet I can honestly say I have no regrets and would gladly do it all again. One particularly memorable experience was lunch in The Soviet Café. Having excitedly overstuffed ourselves with delicious pancakes, pie, and pelmeni (a type of small dumpling), and already slumping back in our chairs, we looked up in despair as the waitress approached wielding three dessert menus. Reluctant to skip what could be our last dessert in the city, and so desperately fighting the ever-engulfing food coma, we each lethargically ordered a variety of cake slices and more pancakes. By the time our multi-layered, sugar-coated desserts arrived, we were practically unable to move. However, faced with my slice of medovik (a traditional Russian honey cake) enticing me with its sweet scent, I succumbed to temptation and picked up my fork, determined to savour this cake one final time. Little did I know that the following afternoon, I would be sitting in a café in Pulkovo Airport, tucking into a slice of medovik before the flight back to London...

After our extended lunch in The Soviet Café, we headed for the Kunstkamera – Russia's first museum. Here we were fortunate enough to examine countless deformed babies pickled in glass jars. Amusingly, a scholar in the 19th century decided that to make deformed children preserved in containers a more popular attraction for contemporary visitors, they should be made to look more pleasant and presentable: as a result, the two-headed, one-eyed, misshapen babies were decorated with bonnets and bits of lace before being returned to their jars. A fascinating conclusion to a fascinating trip.

The weather at Easter was unusually cold, reaching -12C, allowing people to cycle along the frozen River Neva despite the sign that reads 'Going out onto the ice is forbidden' – the ice was considered too unstable and dangerous to walk on due to the sunny weather. This firm restriction proved a constant source of distress, as we were banned from even setting foot on the ice (health and safety), which always seemed to beckon us towards its glistening white surface.



# Venice

by Billa Griffin, Felix Jones and Kate O'Sullivan

The Art History trip to Venice in February was a non-stop cultural marathon, with each day filled with galleries, palaces, and churches as well as extraordinary Venetian cuisine.

On day one we started with a trip to the Accademia – a perfect introduction to the art Venice has to offer, where we took a whistle-stop tour through Venice's artistic prime, from the highly-skilled workmen of the International Gothic to the Venetian Renaissance superstars, Bellini and Titian. Later that day was a wander through the Ducal Palace, where we experienced both the grandeur of the frescoed salone and the squalid cells of the in-house prison. The highlight of our first day, however, was in the evening, when we had the complete privilege of being the only group in the Basilica San Marco; when we first entered we were standing in total darkness. But, as the lights were gradually, one by one, turned on, the flickering gold interior slowly revealed itself. It was a totally unique and unforgettable experience.



On the second day, we spent our time in three of Venice's premier palace-galleries: Ca' d'Oro, Ca' Rezzonico and the Peggy Guggenheim Collection (housed in the Palazzo Venier dei Leoni). All three gave insight into different types of Venetian art-collector. However, it was the Peggy Guggenheim Collection that really stood out. Contrasting sharply with the grand halls of other two palaces, the Peggy Guggenheim Collection's more intimate interiors were an oasis away from the bustling city. Displaying paintings of the 20th century greats

(Picasso, Miró, and Pollock to name a few), the Peggy Guggenheim was a firm favourite. Although we had a plane to catch in the evening, our last day was just as art-filled as the others.

Despite the slightly grim weather conditions, we were still able to tick off two scuole and three churches (with time to spare!). Overall, the trip was a huge success, thanks to the excellent planning of Mrs Chappell, Mr Walton, and Mr Mann, all of whose impressive knowledge of Venetian culture (and local eateries) was second to none.



# STATION



## ATHLETICS

Cool showery conditions didn't deter the 250 members of the School who participated with their usual House spirit and 'can do' attitude at the annual Athletic Sports. The never-ending Busby's conveyor belt of athletes ensured that overall victory was easily achieved, with the age group trophies going to Busby's (Juniors and Seniors), Milne's (Inters) and Wren's (Girls). The decision to switch the 1500m race to a Mile, in honour of the death of Sir Roger Bannister, was a success and is now a new Westminster tradition.

Freddie Flowers (BB) was the star performer in the Juniors age group, with a sizeable victory in the 100m and also winning the shot putt by two metres. Alexander Pitlargo (BB) also showed great versatility in winning the unusual combination of the Mile and High Jump. In the Inters, Oliver Haddad (WW) won the best performance award for his 800m win, only 2 seconds off the record, whilst Jordan Odusanya (BB) powered to victory in both sprints, and Amir Elbishlawi (LL) dominated the 400m.

In the Seniors and Girls categories, the best performance awards went to Archie Harker (BB) and Flavia Massey (WW). Archie's 100m winning time of 11.6 was only 0.2s off the record of Olympic medallist Dom Parsons, and he not only won the 400m but also anchored both BB relay teams to victory – amazing! Flavia also excelled in winning the 100m by 1.5s and the Long Jump. In addition, Jai Dolan (AHH, 100m), Maxim Postolovsky (PP, 800m), Alex Chen (CC, Shot Putt and High Jump), Brodie McGuire (CC, Long Jump) and Katharine Voake (LL, 200m and 800m) also stood out for impressive individual victories.

The annual Rosenheim athletics match at Battersea saw a glut of personal bests, with the highlights being Emir Albishlawi's individual victory in the 400m, and Jai Dolan narrowly pipping Thomas Kemball (RR) and Taran Jawa (BB).

Simon Wurr

## BASKETBALL

Westminster Basketball has continued to grow in size and stature. Our U16 side entered a tournament with local schools at the American School London, playing some very experienced (and tall!) sides. This experience stood them in excellent stead for a fiercely competed league campaign, including a local derby against Westminster City School, in which the boys showed fantastic application but fell away in the last quarter.

The U18s were soundly defeated by a very strong Dulwich outfit, who exploited our somewhat gung-ho tactics by hitting us on the counter-attack. A much closer game away at Tombridge followed, with evidence of some tactical maturity and also more clinical shooting. 'Shout outs' must go to Piers Charnley for his infectious enthusiasm and patience in coaching the younger players, as well as to Owen Igiehon for some spectacular baskets in our matches and steely determination, making him the perfect candidate to lead the team next year

Jamie Brown





## BRIDGE

After last year's triumph in the Loughborough Schools' Cup, this Remove Year's "Golden generation" saw the School through a number of victories before falling at the final hurdle and just failing to retain their title. The Bridge calendar kicked off with our usual all-welcome event with Harris Westminster and the first of three Staff & Students matches in School. Victories over Haberdashers Askes and St Paul's Boys flanked dominating success in the Surrey Schools Cup, bringing home the trophy in the School's first year of entry. The A team of Liam Sanderson, Theo Gillis, Carlos Lapuerta and Oscar Selby have been a tour de force over the last two years and we hope that Oscar can inspire success as the other three go on to University. A very inspiring set of B & C team players came 2nd and 3rd respectively in the Salver competition at the Surrey event and did themselves proud in Loughborough. The Wednesday lunchtime sessions have gone from strength to strength, bolstered by keen and promising players to take us from one to three tables. Bridge is thriving here at Westminster and we hope to maintain success for years to come.

Rob Wagner

## CRICKET 1ST XI

The 2018 season was both action-packed and successful, including a Barbados Tour, a LSCA U19 Cup win (for the 5th time) and a sixth winning season in a row!

All began with the pre-season Barbados tour where a young squad – missing several senior players – did well to win two out of three matches. The first match was preceded by an excellent training session with ex-West Indies and Barbados legend, Franklyn Stephenson. This served the team well as they bowled a St Leonard's School side out for 169 with Muhammad Zainuddin (4-10) returning outstanding figures. In reply, Junaid Ahmed (35) and Angus Mackay (29\*) impressed, but it was U14, Tarun Eapen (44\*) who stood out in a 5 wicket win during which we met another West Indies legend, Collis King. The next match, against Foundation School was a thriller which saw Westminster fall 6 runs short, in spite of the best efforts of U15, Ben Preston (32). The final match was against St Michael's School, coached by former WI fast bowler, Ezra Moseley. Westminster were undaunted and posted an imposing total of 204, thanks mainly to Matthew Carver (59) and Eapen (30) and 55 extras! In reply, Arun Ghai (6-13) came to the party with superb off-spin bowling that sent the opposition spiralling to defeat, and made an excellent conclusion to the tour.

With confidence high, the English season began not with a bang but a whimper as a batting collapse away at Alleyn's led to a defeat, in spite of a good innings from captain, Alex Benson (41) and a spirited effort in the field. The 1st XI bounced back straight away though with an excellent win away at Colfe's (2017 runners-up) in the LSCA U19 Cup. A century partnership between Benson (71) and Ahmed (45) laid the foundation for a large total which the opposition never got within touching distance of, thanks to a professional bowling and fielding effort. Unfortunately, this was to be the 1st XI's only meaningful contest on the way to winning the cup due to a succession of walkovers and concessions.

There followed a keenly contested draw with the MCC where Lucas McConnell (4-58 & 50\*) put in a man-of-the-match performance, aided by a responsible knock by Alex Vinen (46). There was no escaping heavy defeat against a powerhouse Charterhouse side though, in spite of good bowling from McConnell (3-38) and Benson (3-48). This was not improved greatly by a poor batting effort next



up against Aldenham in a disappointing 6 wicket loss.

However, there then followed a four match winning run, starting with a 36 run victory at home to Chigwell on a belting batting track which saw Westminster amass 213-5 off just 25 overs, including an opening partnership of 147 between Benson (80) and Carver (59). Against Lords & Commons though, the top order failed and matters looked bleak at 108-7 before outstanding efforts by McConnell (74) and debutant, Oscar Young (58\*) allowed a declaration at 225-8. This proved more than adequate thanks to outstanding bowling from the new-ball pair of McConnell (5-20) and U15, Gaurav Kocher (3-14).

The game at home to John Lyon was undoubtedly the most exciting of the season, going all the way down to the wire. The opposition posted a challenging 176-4 and, at 139-4 with 7 overs to go, Vinen (55) and McConnell (29) seemed to have the game at their mercy. However, when Vinen was run out, 11 were still needed off two overs with just 2 wickets remaining. Youngsters, Pip Earle & Kocher scampered between the wickets until 2 runs were needed off the last ball. Then, an inside edge onto pad and past the wicketkeeper enabled them to get home breathlessly by 2 wickets.

There was another breathtaking chase to come against the Butterflies as Benson (4-80) and Vinen (2-30) could not prevent the opposition posting a challenging total. Both of the above batted well but at 161-7 victory chances seemed to have gone. Enter Ahmed (62\*) and Bhardwaj (29\*) who batted with maturity and skill to secure a fantastic 3 wicket win.

Back to earth with a bump though at home to Emanuel as a lacklustre fielding effort left too much to do in

a narrow defeat, despite the best efforts of Vinen (3-27 & 51) and McConnell (57\*).

The last competitive match of the season was against the Old Westminsterers for the Jim Cogan Cup, and the School maintained its unbeaten record since the trophy was founded. Batting first, Eapen (46) and Vinen (40) put them in a strong position at 151-2 before a dramatic collapse to 179 all out. However, the most efficient fielding performance of the season ensured that this was enough for victory.

The LSCA U19 Cup Final saw the unique event of an all-Westminster affair but instead of 1sts v 2nds the teams were mixed around with a Westminster win guaranteed. For the record Hawken's Hurricanes beat Kershen's Knight Riders on the day with notable performances from Bhardwaj (3-14) and Benson (60\*).

In summary, it is a story of departures as all-rounders Benson (355 runs at 44.4 & 15 wkts at 21.6) and Vinen (330 runs at 27.5 & 16 wkts at 17.5) will be sorely missed, with the latter winning Player of the Year. However, McConnell (298 runs at 27.1 & 19 wkts at 14.6) showed that he can help fill their shoes as he earned the Most Improved Player award. Alas, his new-ball partner, Zainuddin (12 wkts at 20) departs the School also and we wish him well, whilst Eapen (253 runs at 19.5), Carver (194 runs at 14.9), Ahmed (187 runs at 20.8) and Ghai (9 wkts at 9.4) will all return and look to improve upon their efforts.

The LSCA Cup Final was a fitting curtain call for Simon Hawken, who leaves Westminster after 14 years of loyal and dedicated service to Cricket Station (& Economics). Also, there are sad farewells to former Master i/c Cricket, Mark Feltham who leaves

### 1st XI Record 2018

Played: 15  
Won: 8  
Drawn: 1  
Lost: 6  
Abandoned: 2

### Barbados Tour

St Leonard's 169, 1st XI 170-5  
Foundation 119-9, 1st XI 113  
1st XI 204, St Michael's 96

### LSCA U19 Cup

1st XI 190-7, Colfe's 104  
Kershen's Knight Riders 93  
Hawken's Hurricanes 94-2

### Other matches

1st XI 102, Alleyn's 103-7  
MCC 205-8, 1st XI 182-7  
Charterhouse 194-6, 1st XI 78  
1st XI 96, Aldenham 100-4  
1st XI 203-5, Chigwell 177-3  
1st XI 225-8,  
Lords & Commons 141  
John Lyon 176-4, 1st XI 177-8  
Butterflies 233-7, 1st XI 234-7  
Emanuel 154-5, 1st XI 148-7  
1st XI 179,  
Old Westminster 154-8

after 21 years, and, to umpire, Bob Mcleod who steps down after over a decade of standing in 1st XI matches. All three have contributed immensely to Cricket at Westminster and we wish them all every happiness and success in the future.

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 unstinting hard work, as well as our most consistent performer, the Scorer, Tony Japhet to whom again we owe an immeasurable debt. Thank you too, for their devoted support, to the many parents who were frequent and most welcome spectators at Vincent Square and beyond.

James Kershen  
Master i/c Cricket



# CRICKET U15

Standing on the parched outfield of Blackheath CC after losing the final of the London Schools' U15 cup, the disappointment etched into the faces of competitors and coaches alike, there was a sombre but reflective atmosphere. In that moment, taking stock, it was clear that regardless of the result in the final this was an excellent team of cricketers who more often than not knew how to win. There was an air of clinical professionalism in the way the team won every regular (non-cup) fixture they played, and only lost twice in the season. At the final stage in the London cup they were narrowly bettered by an Ilford side boasting two very good Essex cricketers, and in the national cup they succumbed to a side whose spinners used a turning surface to their advantage. The season as a whole was evidence of rare talent and execution, and no doubt the players will be as strengthened by those two defeats as by the large number of victories. The list of sides beaten during

this season was impressive; Batting first and winning against Alleyn's twice, by 6 runs and then 78 runs, Aldenham by 20 runs, and thrashing Chigwell by over a hundred runs were highlights. They were equally adept at chasing, beating John Lyon and Emanuel each by 8 wickets, and both Charterhouse and City of London by 10.

This team was so much more than the sum of its parts, but it is important to recognise those individuals who contributed to the success. The batting at the top of the order from Ben Preston was excellent, his unbeaten near century at Chigwell the highlight. Vayu Singhal was similarly impressive with the bat and kept wicket beautifully. Will Whiu was awesomely destructive at times, particularly his 77 not out against Aldenham. When Gaurav Kocher was not playing for the first XI he showed just what a quality cricketer he is with bat and ball, and Ibrahim 'Wahab Riaz' Ahmad was raw and effective bowling

with the new ball. Tom Carver just kept getting wickets with his niggling off spin, and leg spinner Ewan Hincks showed wonderful potential as a middle order bat, as did Riccardo Singh whose batting at Charterhouse was his highlight. Henry Chadwick was the best fielder in the side, and able support in the field and lower order came from the likes of Sachin Wadhvani, Sam Moorhouse, Toby Biddell, Abhay Goel and co.

Finally every great team needs a great leader, and the U15s had that in the redoubtable Alex Gardiner. A clever cricket brain and miserly opening bowler, he led the side with aplomb.

Many thanks must go to Mark Mason and Mr Coles for their hard work assisting with the coaching of this talented side through one of the most successful seasons in memory.

Charles Ullathorne

## U15 Record 2018

Played: 11  
Won: 9  
Lost: 2



U14 XI, winners of the 2017 English Schools Cricket Association Cup

# CRICKET U14A

The first match was a close-fought tussle with Alleyn's. The game started in farce as captain Harry Sweeting disappeared, leaving Faizan Malik to toss up. Faizan duly won the toss and choose to bat, which was precisely the opposite to Harry's plan! A clearly discombobulated Westminster then struggled against the Alleyn's quickie, but posted a competitive 133-5 (Sweeting 39). Harry also bowled the ball of the day to take off stump, although Westminster lost by 5 wickets.

The first win came with a comprehensive victory over Stepney Green, and had Westminster been more clinical in the field, the game would barely have lasted 15 overs. Darshan Fernando took 3-3 and Malik claimed 3 smart stumpings. Sadly that was as far as the cup run went, for in the next round City edged Westminster out by just 4 runs. Quality bowling spells from Alex Pitlarge (3-10) and Kapur (3-24) restricted City to 126-8. Tarun Eapen scored 44 but Westminster couldn't get over the line.

At Aldenham, the boys played a full 30 over game and bowled the home side out for 195. Westminster's reply of 157-7 was an honourable effort. Kai Mistry top scored with 39 and Malik improvised well, with some spectacular

ramp shots over the keeper's head. Then on a rare rainy day in this loveliest of summers, the umpires encouraged play to continue against Highgate, and any moaners were soon silenced as Westminster's attacking cricket carried all before them. Fernando proved unplayable, taking 4-20, before Kapur led the run-chase. Arjun rode his luck as he smashed 79\* and returned to a hero's ovation. Fernando had offered invaluable support with 37.

Chigwell had the better of a free-scoring game, on a belter of a wicket on the small square.

An excellent innings by Mistry (57), and an equally classy 53\* from skipper Sweeting, set the game up with 146-2. Westminster's bowlers charged in, but couldn't break Chigwell's top order, and lost by 9 wickets.

At Charterhouse, Westminster were off to a flyer, and all the batsmen chipped in. Honours go to Eapen, whose 50 was a class apart, as was his spell of 3-14 in the second innings. Charterhouse folded for just 46, leaving Westminster winners by 140 runs.

After a poor performance at John Lyon, where Westminster collapsed to left-arm wrist spin for 52, they ended

## U14A Record 2018

Played: 9  
Won: 4  
Lost: 5  
Abandoned: 1



the season with a good performance against Emanuel. Jaiyun Iyavoo had had an inconsistent season, but came to the party here with 4-17. 110 was never going to be enough, and, despite a wobble, Westminster retained their composure for a 3 wicket win. Man of the season Mistry was there at the end to steer them home.

A season report could not be complete without praising Shiyer Mehli, whose bowling showed promise, with his best spell reserved for Aldenham. Tanishq Kumar is a good all-round cricketer, held back a little this season by a wrist injury. John Ridley and Toby Van Mook also made good contributions, and Rick Ghosh will have further opportunities next year.

Thanks to Dr Parry and Buddy Mason for their encouragement and expertise.

Joey Ireland

# CROSS COUNTRY

The season started with the Inter-House Towpath, with strong performances by the individual winners, all of whom had decisive victories: Alexander Pitlarge (BB, Juniors), Oliver Haddad (WW, Inters), Isaac Adni (BB, Seniors) and Annabelle Evans (MM, Girls) who also set the inaugural record for the new 2.5 mile girls course. House trophies went to Dryden's (Juniors), Wren's (Inters), Busby's (Seniors), Milne's (Girls) with the overall trophy being awarded to Rigaud's.

The annual competition between the pupils, staff and OWWs (now held around the Serpentine) was won by Harry Clarke (AHH) with Caspar Griffin (CC) right on his coat tails. With Thomas Adamo (GG) also running strongly, the school trio comfortably won the team prize. Given the strong start to the season, 6th place out of 17 schools was possibly slightly disappointing at the King's Trophy, a position that was matched at the RGS Guildford Relays where Constantine Polychronopoulos (WW), Louis Cuddy (PP) and Herbie Bingham (PP) all ran strongly to show the strength in depth that exists in the School.

Sophie Boehler (AHH) provided a rare highlight at the high standard Harrow inter-schools fixture, finishing 6th, though the calendar year ended on a strong note with Isaac Adni and Annabelle Evans finishing high up in the Alumni Race, hosted on a mud-soaked Wimbledon Common. The Knole Run yet again provided the stiffest test of the season, with the boys' team rallying to finish an excellent 9th out of 28 teams. Although Oliver Haddad (27th) and Isaac Adni (28th) were our best male finishers, Caspar Griffin (only in the Lower Shell) had the best relative run, with an astounding



46th. Annabelle Evans though was our highest placed individual, finishing 26th in the girls race.

Two age groups won team medals at the London Schools Championships: the inters gaining silver, and the seniors bronze, though in both cases Westminster was agonisingly close to the winners. Isaac Adni's barnstorming run in the Senior Boys race was the highlight; he held onto the pack and then pushed hard on the final lap to claim second place. In addition to Isaac, Oliver Haddad also gained selection for the English Schools Championships, with Thomas Adamo and Annabelle Evans selected as reserves. Annabelle then retained

the trophy for the first female athlete in the 'Dash for the Splash' with Mr Allchin leading the Westminster squad to overall team victory.

The season ended on a very positive note, with excellent team results at Winchester (2nd for both inters and seniors) with Thomas Adamo (2nd) and Kyumin Lee (MM, 7th) showing late-season form. Snow may have postponed the original Bringsty Relays date, but it was rearranged and Busby's claimed the Bringsty baton as overall winners, with Purcell's (Juniors), Rigaud's (Seniors) and Liddell's (girls) taking the age group prizes.

Simon Wurr

# CYCLING

Staving off dim, wet afternoons in the Play Term, Cycling station went digital this year. Using the 'Zwift' virtual reality cycling software, pupils were able to pit themselves against cyclists from around the world alongside their peers in our weekly sessions. These sessions saw Westminster sprinting down a virtual Mall, taking a truncated route to simulated Surrey and completing loops of a 3D-rendered Box Hill, climbing the equivalent height of Big Ben each week. Zwift sessions were alternated with spin classes at the Queen Mother Sports Centre, where a challenging regime of high intensity intervals and pumping tunes motivated the cyclists through the winter months. Emerging into the light in the Lent Term, a new batch of cyclists was inducted at Herne Hill Velodrome, learning the particular skills of brakeless track cycling and bringing their hard-earned fitness to bear in a regular programme of sprints, pursuits, and devil-takes-the-hindmost races. With strong legs and freshly-sharpened skills, several Westminster cyclists participated in the pertinent Lower School expeditions, dashing from London to Paris on the road and careening along singletrack in Afan. It has been an enterprising and varied year on two wheels.

Tom Durno



# ETON FIVES

With station sessions oversubscribed, and some pleasing results at both school and adult levels, the 2017-2018 season has been very encouraging.

The nineteen-strong crop of new Fifth Formers has shown potential since September, but must now realise the importance of individual practice. Hopefully, the recent trip to the U14 National Championships will have highlighted how essential it is to reduce the unforced error count, and to be able to play shots not until they go right, but until they simply cannot go wrong.

Jonah Poulard, Angus Bloch, Nicolas Van Dusen and Rupert Yeung continue to form a strong nucleus within the Lower Shell squad and represented Westminster well at various stages throughout this past season.

The Upper Shell continue to be well represented by the hard working Hatam Barma, Oliver Meredith and William Ching. Credit must go to Tarun Eapen, from the Fifth Form, who stepped up to partner Hatam Barma at this year's U16 Championships at Eton.

It has been a while since Westminster School has had a ladies U18 team. The last time was back in 2008 when Westminster School won the Ladies U18 Open. However, this season has seen the emergence of five very keen players: Viva Ruggi and Daisy Goldman, although admittedly inherited from the Highgate School Fives team this year, represented Westminster excellently, reaching the Semi Finals; with some focussed practice these two certainly have the quality to bring the trophy back to Westminster next season. Iris Bertrand and Emily Hassan gained valuable experience in the Ladies U18 festival category and had clearly improved by the end of a full day's

play. Agatha Pethers represented Westminster well in the Mixed National Championships with her male counterpart, Dion Huang. Alongside them Viva Ruggi and Alex Benson battled hard, ultimately losing in the Semi -Finals.

This brings us to the Remove, in particular to Can Koksai, Alex Vinen, Hugo Young, Ali Muminoglu, Connor Shine and Captain, Alex Benson. These six players have been the most loyal bunch over the years and have battled hard on court throughout their school career. Notable results this past season must include Benson and Koksai beating the Men's 8th seeds at the Kinnaid Cup – a first for any Westminster pair. Furthermore, by fulfilling their seeded position of 7th at the Schools' National U18 Championships, they confirmed their clear ability as a pair. Vinen and Young have been hot on the heels of the first pair all season; in fact, these four have been hard to distinguish between in terms of quality. I hope they continue to enjoy their Fives over the coming years.

A new top squad stands in the wings next season in the form of Leo Doody, Daniel Gore, Dion Huang and Brian Chen. Plenty of work to do, but the foundation is looking promising.

Thanks, as usual, must go to all the staff who aid in the smooth running of Eton Fives Station at Westminster School. Congratulations to all on another successful season.

Matt Wiseman



# FENCING

Challenges came right from the start of the Play Term, with a match from Winchester resulting in a 2-2 draw. After a few weeks to properly settle back in, we were ready to prove ourselves in the Lansdowne Club Quadrangular Tournament against Eton, Harrow and the club’s own fencing team in November. Westminster were just short of victory with a 70-72 score against Eton in the finals. However, we remained undeterred for the forthcoming matches that month. Westminster faced a strong Tonbridge line-up, with a one-point difference in Sabre resulting in an overall 2-1 victory. Our success continued with another 2-1 win against St Benedict’s Ealing and a more decisive 2-0 victory in a rematch against Winchester. We brought this momentum into out next tournament: a Triangular against Harrow and Tonbridge. After a long afternoon of fencing, the team gave another strong performance, concluding with a 14-15-7 score from Westminster, Harrow and Tonbridge respectively. Our interschool matches ended with yet another 2-1 victory against St Benedict’s, adding an additional win to our near-perfect individual match record this year.

The fencing season concluded with the Public Schools Fencing Championships at Crystal Palace. As is seemingly tradition in recent years, Westminster never leaves without taking home a prize – this year for a 3rd place position in Senior Foil by Sam Wilson. Outstanding performances came from other age groups, with Mark Evgenev and Marcus Min both placing 9th in Junior Foil and Mount Haes Foil respectively. Congratulations to both the newcomers, who performed exceptionally with only a few months’ training, and the returnees, who have shown overall improvement on their placings from last year!

As always, the outstanding results this year could not have been produced without coaches Tomek and Leo turning our enthusiasm into fencing finesse. We would like to thank them for their continued dedication to helping us improve, along with the unwavering support from teachers during matches and Mr Law for his tireless efforts in organising these events.

Jeffrey Gan

# FOOTBALL 1ST XI

**1st XI Results  
2017/18**  
**Played: 24**  
**Won: 6**  
**Drawn: 5**  
**Lost: 13**

**Pre-season**  
Tenerife Tour – Atletico Union Guimar (a) Won 2-1  
Tenerife Tour – Atletico Chenet (a) Won 1-0  
Walton & Hersham FC (h) Drew 0-0

**Boodles ISFA Cup**  
Hampton (h): Lost 0-3

**Elgin Capital League**  
Forest (h) Lost 0-2  
John Lyon (a) Drew 0-0  
Latymer Upper (h) Drew 2-2  
Alleyn’s (a) Lost 1-3  
Aldenhams (a) Won 3-1  
Royal Russell (h) Lost 0-2  
Brentwood (a) Lost 1-5  
Highgate (a) Cancelled

**Other Matches**  
City of London (h) Lost 0-1  
Charterhouse (h) Lost 1-3  
Winchester (a) Lost 1-2  
Eton (a) Lost 1-2  
Bradfield (h) Lost 0-2  
Kingston GS (h) Won 3-1  
Harrow (a) Lost 1-3  
Bedford Modern (h) Won 2-1  
Corinthian Casuals (h) Drew 2-2  
UCS (h) Drew 1-1  
Dulwich (a) Lost 1-2  
HWSF (h) Won 2-0  
Old Westminsters (h) Lost 2-3

There were some fantastic results and some fantastic football played by the 1st XI this year but sadly the season saw the team the wrong side of a number of very close results and, as such, they didn’t quite fulfil their full potential.

The season started with an incredibly successful pre-season. Firstly the 1st XI squad travelled to Tenerife and enjoyed the first class facilities at the Tenerife Top Training centre on the coast. Here the team quickly adapted to the new 3-4-1-2 formation and took a lot of tactical and technical information on board, while working on their fitness training twice a day in the 30 degree heat. The tour included two matches against tough local academy opposition and the squad showed their potential as well as great togetherness to overcome both teams in closely fought matches. Firstly beating Atletico Union Guimar 2-1 and later beating Atletico Chenet 1-0, which included an important late winner from Upper Shell Connor Manning. The team returned to Vincent Square in high spirits and ready for a final tough test against Walton & Hersham U18 academy side. The opposition were individually very talented but Westminster’s superb organisation and good use of the ball meant that at the very close the match finished 0-0 despite Westminster coming close to winning it on a few occasions. With the pre-season over the team looked in a strong position with a lot of competition for places.

However, sadly the main season started with a string of very close defeats against quality opposition. During this run of matches it seemed that every small mistake the team made was punished and where every time Westminster were on top they just failed to convert their pressure into goals. This included the 1st XI hosting an impressive Hampton side in the 1st round of the Boodles ISFA Cup. The match was closely fought with Westminster putting in a heroic shift at the back and looking to catch the opposition on the counter. However the quality of the opposition eventually told and Westminster were knocked out by a 3-0 defeat. On the way into half term there were some more close defeats but the team managed to stop the run of losses with a respectable 0-0 draw against John Lyon which they were incredibly unlucky not to win. However, during this half term results did not paint the whole picture and the team’s continued

improvement as well as never say die attitude was there for all to see.

After half term the 1st XI hosted a strong Latymer side in the league. Westminster played some of the best football of the season and seemed to have overcome their problems in front of goal scoring two fine goals. However, once more mistakes were ruthlessly punished and the game ended 2-2 with Westminster feeling hard done by This was followed by a tough trip to high flying Alleyn’s who boasted one of the best individual players on the circuit, and, despite taking the lead with a fantastic volley from Rory Muirhead, the team were eventually beaten 3-1. Next a 2-0 defeat to eventual Boodles ISFA Cup and Elgin League winners Bradfield was no disgrace but the team appeared to be out of luck with a late November trip away to an Aldenhams side who had already beaten Latymer and John Lyon.

However on a dark and freezing afternoon and after a long bus trip, the 1st XI produced one of their most complete performances of the year.



## FOOTBALL 1ST XI

Despite individual talent on show from the opposition, Westminster's togetherness and determination shone through and even though they had to weather some pressure in the second half they managed to score a late breakaway goal to run out 3-1 winners by the final whistle. The victory was a real boost for morale and satisfying to see the potential shown in previous matches come to fruition. A 2-0 loss to last year's Elgin League winners and eventual Boodles ISFA cup finalists Royal Russell was again no disgrace but unfortunately, injuries and fatigue got the better of the team as they were beaten comfortably by Brentwood in the last match of the term.

In the Lent term the 1st XI were determined to prove their quality and to improve their record to a level that reflected the closeness of the season so far. They started very well as they dispatched visiting Kingston Grammar School 3-1. Next was a tricky away trip to Harrow where despite being a constant attacking threat the 1sts failed to convert their chances and lost out 3-1. However this defeat sparked a run of good form for the 1sts with a win and two draws. The first of these three games was a gritty win at home against Bedford Modern. Having taken an early lead after an own goal caused by a dangerous free kick from Ashcroft, Westminster kept possession well but failed to create any clear cut chances. With 15 minutes to play the opposition equalised from their first real chance of the game after some good play down the left wing. Westminster showed real character and came back at Bedford and after a bout of pressure captain Archie Harker leapt highest to meet a whipped corner from Hyman and score the winner. Cue wild celebrations. Next were good draws against UCS and Corinthian Casuals, however in both matches the 1sts felt they could have won. The season finished in slightly inconsistent manner as Westminster lost narrowly on a snowy pitch against Dulwich before bouncing back with a 2-0 win against Harris Westminster, only to lose 3-2 to a particularly strong Old Westminster's team, despite a spirited come back.

After a difficult first term the 1sts managed to finish with a very respectable record on an ever more competitive Independent School.

Chris Kingcombe



## FOOTBALL 1ST XI TENERIFE TOUR

As the summer holidays drew to a close, Westminster's finest footballers and Jamie Lloyd-Williams headed off to Tenerife, ready for a week-long pre-season tour that would steel us for the season to come.

The tour could not have got off to a better start. Motivated by the sight of Arsenal defender Gabriel at the airport, the team landed in Tenerife in good spirits, having absorbed a hefty information booklet full of tactics and set plays. Despite the absence of air-conditioning in the rooms, a big performance that night at the buffet stand from Syren Singh further fuelled the hype for the following morning, when we headed up to the famous T3 centre, visited by professional teams such as Liverpool and Barcelona. Even though we were used to the quality of grass at Vincent Square, the green carpet of T3's pitch was absolute mint, and our performances in training rose to match our incredibly professional surroundings. Grass sessions were interspersed with tactics and recovery sessions, led by our very own Paul Barnes and James Lewis. Our week's work focused on implementing Westminster Football's new 5-year development plan, which included a trendy new 3-4-1-2 formation and a focus on building play from the back. This was then implemented in two training matches against local teams, the first against Atletico Union Guimar. A goal from Bhushan Dadarkar cancelled out an early-conceded goal, and Syren scored a winner to seal an impressive victory. We returned three days later to face Atletico Chenet. A clean strike from Connor Manning meant Westminster finished the tour with two wins from two, and we had the perfect springboard to launch our season. We left Tenerife much fitter, but more importantly with a squad brimming with morale. Our thanks must go to Mr Kingcombe, Mr Bailey, Paul and James, who kindly gave their time to take us on tour. Their dedication and support throughout allowed us to fully gel as a squad and enjoy a unique and privileged experience.

Chris Kingcombe

## FOOTBALL 2ND XI

In a season that inevitably breaks in two, with the long winter break that the uncompromising Premiership calendar does not allow for, maintaining consistency is a challenge. For the second season in a row, the 2nd XI team, under the captaincy of Cameron Goalen have found a team spirit that has carried them a long way in the face of challenges and tough encounters. As a development squad, whilst simultaneously becoming a force to be reckoned with in their own right, our role is to try to equip some of our cohort for life for the first team and others for their movement on to university football. Amongst the most pleasing of results from this year, was the last win of the season – a 2-1 victory against a physical and competitive Old Westminster's side. It is a mark of how far the team had come this season in being able to outplay older and more physical players through hard work and the necessary clinical edge. Whilst our players get used to the finesse encouraged by the Independent Schools Football circuit, the grittier game of playing against men, meant that a real scrap was required at times of the game. Other notable performances this year have included our fixtures against Eton, Charterhouse and Bradfield. This season progressed upon strong defensive foundations and this organisation helped us maintain strength in difficult times during the year. Whilst we were not prolific in scoring goals, our trademark was scoring on the break when teams were not expecting it and then remaining organised in our response. All in all, a season that every member of the 2nd XI squad can be proud of.

Stephen Bailey

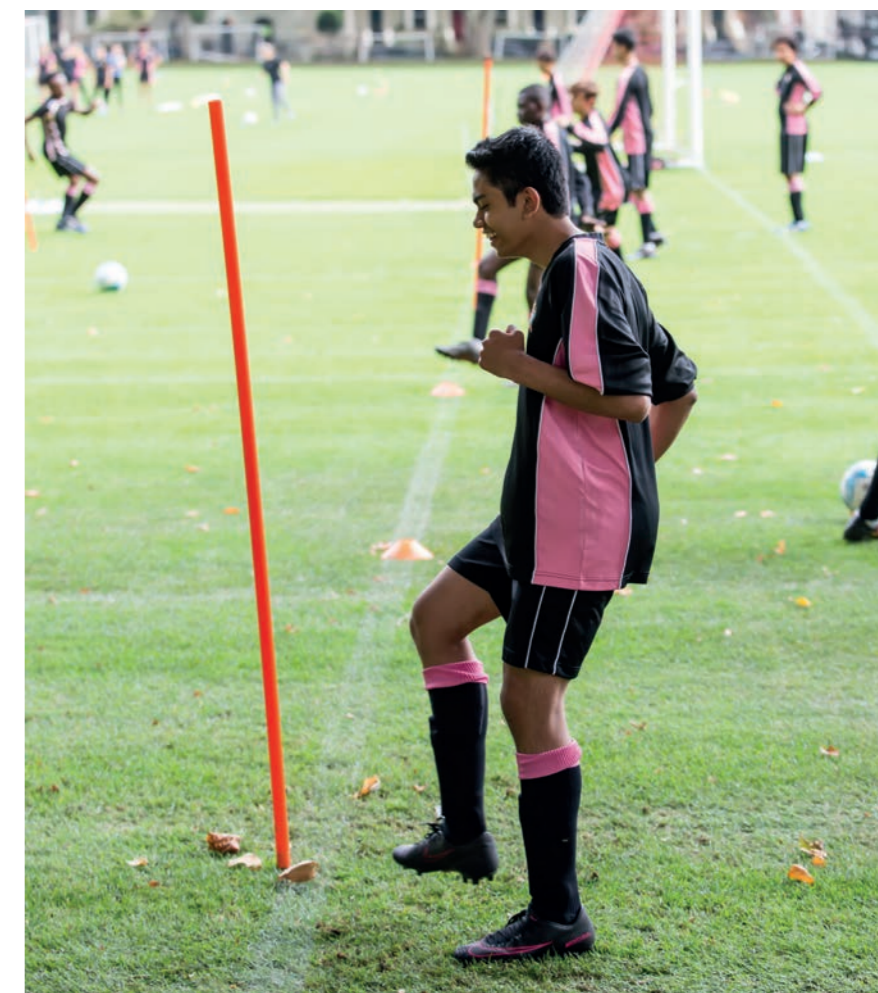
## FOOTBALL 3RD XI

The season started with a wildly entertaining 4-4 draw at home to City of London, with Jimi Oniya bagging a brace. The next three fixtures were a learning curve for a new side as we narrowly lost each time (away at Charterhouse, Winchester and Forest) against strong teams. We were creating plenty of opportunities and playing slick football, but we were not clinical enough with the chances. A first win of the season away at John Lyon was a confidence boost, with another standout performance by Fred Hockey meaning that he was promoted up the ranks.

Our best win of the season was a 5-0 rout of Latymer Upper, with five different goal scorers to boot. Indeed our rate of return up top was improving, delivering victories against Alleyn's and Aldenham as well as a draw away to a combative Brentwood side. Heavy losses against Bradfield and Harrow were timely reminders that there is still work to do in order to compete against the very best.

The season ended with two close games: a victory away at Bedford Modern and an agonising home defeat against UCS, which merited more. Oscar Young has done a fine job as captain in many of the games and there is great tenacity and togetherness in the squad. 33 different players have turned out this year and each individual was able to bring something different to the table, be it James Bates' lung-busting runs, Ed Easton's tight-dribbles near the touchline or the combativeness of Joe Devlin. With the way the players are developing, I am hopeful that we will win more than we lose next season as we continue to embed the new formation. (The England scouts have clearly been to watch some of our games as this is the system they now employ!)

Luke Lorimer



# FOOTBALL U16A

The fixture list was unkind to the U16As this season. Our four toughest opponents were to be our first four opponents, so we knew we had to hit the ground running. To make matters even trickier the boys were going to be playing in a foreign 3-4-1-2 formation.

The first three matches came and went. We had conceded 18 goals and only managed two of our own. We were missing our back four formation, although 8-1-1 was looking tempting at that point in the season. However, following a bout of bad weather we were afforded 6 weeks to recuperate before our next match at Bradfield. The boys worked hard on their fitness and under the leadership of captain Zach Brandman, the intricacies of the system were starting to become less of a puzzle.

At half time we were 3-0 down but the belief in the system kept the boys buoyant. With the wise words of coach Daniel Gill ringing in their ears, the boys finally slipped into top gear during that second half. Eric Pepra and Arun Ghai pulled the strings in the heart of the midfield and seemed to breathe new life into the team and Petros Ioannou and Sachin Thurasingham were bombing up and down the wing. We looked a well-oiled machine.

That second half was the turning point for our season. We went on to win our next three matches on the trot. We had our big wins against Aldenham (6-0) and Brentwood (5-1) with Petros, Sachin, Felix Matheson and Adi Sukumaran all scoring a couple goals. Our greatest moment came against Royal Russell in early December, a school with great footballing pedigree. They were a physically strong side and tried to bully Westminster into submission, however they picked the wrong team. Ben Afram found their tactics no problem as he brushed off challenge after challenge and Nikdad Khayami – who made a seamless transition to midfield this season – took no prisoners either that day. Even as our opposition began to further lose their cool, our boys’ attitude was exemplary. It was a fine defensive display in the second half, with Zach, Ibby Latif and Nathan Adu-Poku working seamlessly across the back with the safe hands of Alex Cowling behind them. In the end it was a thoroughly deserved 1-0 victory and a performance that will stay with our boys long after they have left Westminster, I’m sure.

Following the Christmas break, once again it took us a couple of matches to get back up to speed; clearly the U16As are big fans of mince pies. However, it didn’t take long to get back to winning ways as we overcame Bedford Modern 4-2 with two goals from Adi Sukumaran.

Our final match of the season was another corker; however, we were unfortunately pipped to the post this time around. The boys put everything we had worked on this year into action and played some champagne football once again, passing the ball through the lines all the way from Alex to Benjamin up top.

The progress the team made this season was incredible and performance in the final match was unrecognisable in comparison to what we saw during the first match at Charterhouse. Huge credit goes to Daniel Gill who has an incredible knowledge of the game and was ever so patient with the boys at the start of the season. I look forward to seeing these gents representing the first team over the next two years!

Dyfan Coles

# FOOTBALL U16B

**U16B Results**  
Played: 6  
Won: 1  
Lost: 5

In July 2018 the Men’s England Football team made history with their biggest ever win in a World Cup. England scored six goals against Panama’s one, winning the match comfortably. However, the largest cheer in the stadium was not for Jesse Lingard’s curling strike into the top corner, nor Harry Kane’s hat trick. Rather it was for the 76th minute goal by Panama; their first ever goal in their first ever World Cup. When the final whistle blew, the Panamanians were still celebrating. Sometimes it helps to have keep a healthy prospective and realise that different teams have different ambitions. In the same way, the U16B’s statistics perhaps mask what has actually been a very enjoyable and rewarding season. Final scores don’t give a sense of the fantastic reflex saves from keepers Deng and Pilkington-Scimone. Nor the solid organised defending from the likes of Ryu, Brett and captain Ahmed. The results don’t give an indication of the imaginative and dynamic midfield play from Verma, Law, Chapman, Tomruk, Earle, Mokbel and Kemball and they don’t indicate how dangerous we have been in the opposition box with the likes of Sukumaran, Ameri, Lloyd and Patel playing up front. It is only our sole win against Brentwood in December, which hints at the true potential of the team this year; the final score of 3-0 was a real highlight with Tom Clarke scoring two wonderful goals showcasing his exceptional positional awareness and ball control.

Looking back at their World Cup performances, Panama coach Hernan Dario Gomez insisted that his side should be “proud for playing with dignity and determination against some strong footballing sides.” After watching the U16Bs play this season, I can completely understand how he feels! Many thanks to all the parents who came to support the team during matches.

Josh Moore



# FOOTBALL U15A

The U15A’s season featured a new 3-5-2 formation, something the England set-up has clearly been impressed with. As it happens, there were some similarities with the Three Lions 2018 World Cup campaign here: Vayu Singhal cat-like in goal and, if we are honest, something of a reliance on set pieces – Thomas Young, our goal-scoring talisman, regularly thumping them in with his head in a manner reminiscent of Messrs Kane and Maguire. Mr Brown, sadly waistcoat-less, celebrating with a Southgate-esque fist pump, with coach Cecil Nyako performing a passable one-man impression of the assembled masses at Boxpark Croydon – water bottles flying everywhere.

Football is often called a ‘results business’; if this is the case, we could very generously call this a mixed season for the boys in pink. In fact, it wasn’t until our fifth game that we registered a point – Amir Elbishlawi scoring with a long-range effort away at Forest to snatch a 1-1 draw against strong opposition. This match followed a run of games against the likes of Charterhouse and Whitgift (in the cup) and so it felt good, at last, to get the bus back to School with something to show for our efforts.

Victories against Ibstock Place, Highgate and Kingston GS over the course of the season were scant reward for weeks and months of admirable application and graft from the group. There were periods of domination, in which the opposition were unsettled and on the back foot, but this was rarely sustained enough to affect the scoreline.

That said, it was an enjoyable campaign and one which saw all of the players develop technically and tactically. And so, much like Southgate’s England, we will delay the open-top bus parade and take quiet satisfaction in a job well done.

Jamie Brown

# FOOTBALL U15B

**U15B Results**  
Played: 18  
Won: 4  
Drawn: 5  
Lost: 9  
Goal Difference: -7

On paper the U15B’s may have lost nine of their eighteen matches, but five of those defeats were by a single goal. This season saw the entire Westminster footballing set-up embrace a new formation and footballing philosophy, the 3-5-2. As the season developed, the U15B’s adapted to the formation, developed a greater sense of team shape and finished the season strongly. Player of the Season, Safar Shahbakhti kept goal brilliantly throughout: his distribution started many counter attacks. In front of him, marshalling the defence while playing every minute of the season was Riccardo Singh, who sat alongside Sarp Sevin, a fantastic ball playing Centre back, whose reliable performances saw him honoured with the players’ player of the year award. Blessed with creativity, Thomas Coleman’s performances in the centre of midfield were rewarded with multiple MOTM awards; his ability to score from outside the box turned a game on its head on more than one occasion. Alongside him, Alexander Gardiner whose fitness and ability to charge up and down the wing and whip in dangerous crosses saw him notch up a clutch full of assists. There was great fluidity between the U15A and B sides this year with Ahmad Ibrahim making the step up having scored 7 in 7 during the early part of the season as well as Oscar Selby whose touch and close control became a great asset for the U15A side. This fluidity meant that competition for a place in the side was fierce and created great team spirit. The U15B’s are focussed on overturning the five 1-0 defeats next season and are well equipped to do so.

Jim Allchin

# FOOTBALL U14A

To say that this was not a successful U14A season would be something of an understatement. Whilst there was enough talent and ability in the squad, it lacked the hallmarks of so many successful Westminster teams – namely unity and team spirit. In addition, there seemed to be a reluctance amongst too many players to work hard to improve in the training sessions available. With the advent of Sports Scholarships amongst the majority of our adversaries, as well as playing the challenging 3-4-1-2 formation for the first time, this made for a testing season indeed. The U14A final record read: Played 18, Won 2, Drawn 5, Lost 11, Goals for 23, Goals against 52. The two precious victories came either side of Christmas against Royal Russell (2-0) and Wetherby Senior (4-0, including an excellent Luke Grbesa hat-trick). In addition though, at least three of the draws – Winchester (0-0, including a missed penalty), Forest (1-1) and John Lyon (3-3) – could and should have been Westminster wins.

Individually, Grbesa in midfield was the standout player with pace and skill as well as an eye for goal as leading scorer with 12 strikes. In goal, Thomas Griffin showed a huge amount of potential for the future with a number of fine performances. In front of him, Alex Pitlarge manfully led the team by example with plenty of spirit and determination, and, he was ably assisted in the back three by Alex Matsnev and John Ridley. In central midfield, Theo Mackenzie showed promise having been moved forward from defence, whilst Jack Beard had some nice touches. Out wide, Ben von Bismarck was a spirited competitor, although lacking focus and discipline on occasions, whilst Jack Nation performed consistently throughout and will improve with greater composure. Up front, the duties were shared between Luca Mian, Toby van Mook and Andy Zheng, with the former the more talented but lacking the application and work-rate of the other two.

In summary, this group of players can be successful in the future, but only if they all realise that the team as a whole must be something greater than purely the sum of its individual parts.

James Kershen



# FOOTBALL U14B

As the old cliché goes, football was definitely a game of two halves for the U14Bs this season. After a strong first half of the season (an early mismatch against Charterhouse aside), Alston and the poor weather hit and the team struggled for form after Christmas. The season started in chastening fashion with Charterhouse at home. They had had seven training sessions and a year group of 150 to pick from whereas the match constituted our second session of the year. It also didn't help that they had a player who could pick postage stamp sized areas of the goal to put the ball in, netting four goals in a 7-0 win. After this initial shock, however, the boys realised their potential and three wins in four games followed by a narrow 3-2 defeat to Eton and a reverse at Alleyn's. This form left the lads well set for a run of tough matches against Highgate (A) before the triple header with three of the strongest schools on the circuit, Brentwood, Aldenham and Bradfield. That we only got one point (Brentwood) does not tell the full story. The other games were both narrow 3-2 defeats, one of which was settled with a last minute winner which prompted an (unprintable) outpouring of relief from my opposite number. Unfortunately, after Christmas, Alston and the weather meant many matches were cancelled and we were unable to build any momentum or find any kind of form.

The team was indebted to some cracking goalkeeping from Josh Crouzier and latterly Nicolas Halley enforced by defenders Faizan Malik, Peter Hudson, Harry Day and Kofi Coleman. Attacking wingbacks Shiyer Melhi, Nat Levy and Titus Parker were a threat all year, all having spells in the A team and scoring goals at key times in Shiyer's case. In midfield Tanishq Kumar, Rick Ghosh, Eigo Matsumoto, Alex Cotzias, Jack Beard played a key part in earlier successes and also had spells in the A team. Up front, Kai Mistry's foot injury meant he was sorely missed, though this was mitigated by some very good productivity, both in terms of goals and assists, from Piers Wilder-Jacobs, ably supported by Bastien Virazels and Ilya Misyura.

If the lads start next season the way they started the last, there is no reason they can't avenge some of last season's defeats!

Peter Smith / Martin Robinson

## U14B Results

Played: 13  
Won: 3  
Drawn: 4  
Lost: 9  
Goal for: 26  
Goals against: 54

# GIRLS' FOOTBALL

Having had little experience in a football team before, notwithstanding in a girls-only team, this season of Girls' Football has been rich in emotions. I joined the little group of six Removes and immediately started training as a defender under the leading light of coach Ireland and captains Tilly and Tamzin. Twice a week, we put on our muddy studs to train at Vincent Square, starting with a warm-up and drills and finishing with a match, putting into practice what we worked on, be it tackles or strategical positioning. Despite a few losses against strong teams at Charterhouse or City, the highlight of the year was our triumphant win against Godolphin, with Lydia scoring a hat trick.

In September, Girls' House Football has also been a great opportunity for girls to assert themselves on the pitch: it proved to be a tough competition where both Sixth Form and Remove cooperated to bear House Colours with pride. The trophy was awarded to Purcell's over a 2-1 victory against mighty College, with both teams having demonstrated endurance and skill.

Over the course of the year, we have made incredible progress both individually and as a team. The Remove have been supportive and great role models for us Sixth Formers, shaping beginners to become strong players, with Claudia as our goalkeeper, Iona and Nicola as sturdy defenders and Cyci and Anya as brilliant midfielders. We can only hope for more positive results next term as well as a team spirit as good this year's.

Iris Bertrand



# GOLF

This season has seen some ups and downs, and not just on the greens at Royal Mid Surrey... The Westminster golfers have been more competitive this season than in the previous few years. The ever reliable James Baggarnie has continued to perform for the team, and has been joined by talented newcomer Tanishq Kumar and the improving stalwart Angus Mackay in forming the core of a really strong unit.

A good showing at the West Sussex Invitational (Baggarnie & Kumar 13th out of 30 pairs on gross score) was quickly followed by the first round of the ISGA knockout v Harrow. James won his match 3&2, but unfortunately narrow defeats for Tanishq and Angus meant that the school on the hill took the spoils. In the HMC foursomes Tanishq & James showed the way against Hampton with a fine victory, but the match went to Hampton despite hard fought efforts in the 2nd and 3rd pairs from Lucien Walewski, Rishi Sharma, Rohan Dhir & Ishaan Kotecha.

In the Lent term, there were excellent victories over the Old Westminsters at Royal Mid Surrey, and Thorpe House School at Ealing GC. In the latter fixture Tanishq and James were joined by Zach Brandman to put the team into the next round of the ISGA Plate tournament. A well deserved couple of wins for this skilful team.

We also had a House competition for the second time, in which Angus Mackay took the honours for Ashburnham, bravely fighting the 'Beast from the East' which brought snow and bitter winds to the course. In such conditions Angus performed admirably to win over Tanishq and James.

On a sad note it was time to say goodbye to the Central London Golf Centre where Westminster Golfers have enjoyed their station afternoons, as it is to be developed from next year and will no longer be a golf course. From next year we shall play at Dulwich & Sydenham Hill Golf Club, but it is with regret that we bid farewell to the coaches Gary and Glenn.

Golf at Westminster is flourishing, and it is in a position to go from strength to strength with the move to pastures new. Any budding golfers in the school are strongly encouraged to get on board and join us – beginners or experienced club swingers alike. Fore!

Charles Ullathorne



## SENIOR HOCKEY

The senior Hockey team kicked off their season to a strong start with a 2-0 win in the annual match against the Common Room. The combination of experience and determination in the Common Room team was no match for the speed, skill and enthusiasm of the senior team.

As always, UCS fixtures promise an intense and thrilling match for both the players and spectators. With two matches scheduled for the season, the first meet took place in November with both sides putting up a strong fight to take the lead. Rohan Dhir was instrumental in securing a goal for Westminster giving a draw of 1-1 at half time. Captain William Ashton, Katharine de Jager and Jay Chitnavis were a formidable defence and were well supported by the midfield, in particular by Taran Jawa and Devan Wasan. Despite repeated efforts from James Pasint-Magyar, Neer Singhal and Kiran Weston, the second goal could not materialise. Capitalising on Westminster frustrations, UCS took the opportunity to score another goal and hammered it home with two more, leaving the final score 4-1. The next fixture and last match of 2017 resulted in a disappointing score of 5-0 to Dulwich.

However, the senior team returned after the break, refreshed and more determined than ever. The first fixture of 2018 saw the team win against Highgate with a superb score of 5-1 (thanks to Jay Chitnavis, James Pasint-Magyar, Neer Singhal, Alex Radford

and William Ashton). The team were, no doubt, buoyed by the triumphant return of Matthew Smith, who had missed previous matches due to injury. The experience of Gabriel Allason, Shay Gillams and Louis Pelard-Sillery in defence gave confidence and support to the team as well as to the substitute Fifth Form goalie, Leo Di Nanno.

Emboldened by their success and with the memory of their first meeting against UCS in their minds, the senior team played them again in February and gave an impressive performance, giving them an outstanding victory of 2-1 (Devan Wasan and Neer Singhal). The speed and determination of Young Jae Lee to treat every ball as 50/50 helped to keep much of the play in the UCS half and the senior team welcomed Ewan Hincks and his excellent playmaking skills onto the team for the first time. The final match of the season was no doubt the cream of the crop. The senior goalie, Akshey Rajani was a welcome return to the team making numerous crucial saves. Tavleen Wasan helped to create a strong attacking channel down the right side, which aided in creating numerous goal opportunities for Westminster. The substitution of the sprightly Sparsh Sharma after half time was instrumental in securing the team's victorious win of 5-0 against Eton. (Devan Wasan x 3, Ewan Hincks and Neer Singhal).

Susan Joyce

## LOWER HOCKEY

In a season of enormous promise, the junior hockey team – a mixture of Under 16s and Under 15s with a regular smattering of Under 14s making their Westminster debuts – secured three wins from four completed matches, with two fixtures lost to snow and other schools' logistical problems. A fine 4-0 win over UCS back in November was based on gutsy teamwork leavened by the vital addition of Ewan Hincks in the midfield, while Lent Term victories over John Lyon (a decade's best 8-0) and UCS once again (4-1) were then followed by a narrow and hard-fought 3-2 reverse at Eton. The outstanding Devan Wasan, with ten goals in total and impressive bursts of skill which also earned him several 1st XI appearances, was ably supported at the heart of the team by the finesse of regular 'guest-star' Hincks, the composure of Zach Potel, and the stamina and commitment of captain Oliver Anderson-Shah. Meanwhile the experience of Tristan Best, Emmanuel Miltiadou and Ben Andreyev added solidity and control at the back, and options going forward. Up front, while most goals still came from the midfield, the touch of Rupert Yeung and growing strength of Morgan Bjorklund and Magnus Cameron offer real promise for the future, as all will still be in the junior ranks next year. So will goalkeeper Leo di Nanno, whose mobility and communication inspired real confidence in the defence, and his willing deputy and stand-in, Harry Allen. And the ever enthusiastic embrace of the Double-L warm-up and of staff attempts at Dave Cook-style motivational team talks also bodes well...

Tom Edlin



## JUDO

Under our instructor Larry's eye, Judo has prospered at Westminster. This can only be attributed to two things. Firstly, and not least of which: the passion and respect shown by every individual within the dojo. Secondly, the intense training regime (to which Larry insists on responding "that's me being nice"), grounded on a solid base of technique practice and fighting, is second nature to us all now, as are the calls of "100 press-ups, 100 sit-ups" and "You've finished your 100? Make it 200."

The results are certainly showing – from strength growing in our youngest, to fantastic success in competition from the older pupils: a silver and a gold, out of four Westminsters competing at the Independent Schools Judo Championship, a trophy for 'best small team' at said competition, and two pupils (Rei and Jimin, both in Lower Shell) fighting at nationals. It is incredibly inspiring to watch our quintessential 'incrementum' being given and at our current trajectory, the skill, strength, and subtlety shown in the Westminster School dojo stands to increase.

Alex Coglin



STATION

## LAWN BOWLS

This station is now in its fourth year at the School and we remain the privileged guests of Winnington Bowls Club and their President Mr Bill Widdowfield. The club is situated in an idyllic spot in Bishop's Park, Fulham, and the sport continues to provide a surprisingly physical and technical challenge to those who play it. In spite of a noble effort, the 2017 Westminster School champion, Will Ashton (RR), was unable to defend his title, losing in this year's final to the worthy winner Jay Chitnavis (PP). With a fine action and keen tactical brain, Jay knows his woods from his rinks and he may well be one to watch. It would certainly be good if most people could name a second famous lawn bowler.

Kevin Walsh





## NETBALL

As thirty girls signed up to Netball station, competition for the first and second team positions was fierce. The year began with an inspiring training session with Camilla Buchanan, Head Coach of the Hertfordshire Mavericks. With an equal number of wins and losses this year, it has been a positive end to the season.

Highlights included both A and B teams winning home and away matches to Queen's Gate and a win for the A team against South Hampstead High School. Notable mentions go to India Harvey who was acknowledged three times as woman of the match for her steely shooting skills. If the ball got into India's hand it would certainly find its way into the goal; her nerves of steel could only be likened to those of Helen Housby. Both Sarah Li and Martha Rushbrooke have shown impressive consistency throughout the season; on more than one occasion they have risen to the challenge of playing an unfamiliar position to even out the team. The unstoppable double act of both Michal Chinn and Captain Dandy Doherty in defence has kept many last minute goals finding their way into opposing teams goals, both reading the play smoothly and always ensuring no player is left unmarked.

The team as a whole have shown great dedication throughout the season. Even when faced with a blizzard during station as the Beast from the East swept in, they attempted to keep going as the court quickly disappeared to a blanket of snow. The Sixth Form have made some impressive progress over the course of the year for which many thanks go to our new coach Heidi Green, and positive encouragement from a wonderful Captain Dandy Doherty. Inspired by the England Netball team winning the Commonwealth Games, next year's challenge to get more wins than losses looks even more promising.

Julia Hughes

## SHOOTING

This time last summer we held the inaugural Shooting LSE, which saw 12 boys staying at Bisley camp, the home of shooting in Surrey, for a weekend of full-bore target rifle at 600 yards, clay pigeon, and paintballing. The young shots learnt very fast and enjoyed it all greatly, apart from their phobia of the spiders in the shower block...

We opened the 2017-18 small-bore season with a match against University of London Rifle Club (captained by OW Jack Lennard) in September, for a 6 v 6 match, two 100-point cards per firer. Despite the small number of training sessions beforehand, the Westminster team shot with great consistency throughout the afternoon, and beat the London team by 1078 points to 1029 (ex. 1200). Strong performances from Captain Alex 'Alexander' Ross, and Upper Shell Sevan 'Ninety-Sevan' Vlieghe, who has trained hard since LSAs to get into the first team.

Our first away match was a taking a squad of eight to the English Long Range in November, competing against a dozen or so other schools, on the electronic 50m range at the Lord Roberts Centre, Bisley. The long distance and electronic targets were a great experience, and the young team did us proud against much more established schools, coming mid table. Isky 'The Professor' Mathews top scored for Westminster – with his two cards scoring a brilliant 189.08 (ex. 200).

In December we returned to the 50m LRC range, for the BSSRA Winter Open - but with twice as much shooting, and thrice as many schools. The team saw a few substitutions, but a great improvement, with a remarkable consistency across all four cards for all 8 team members. All team members and team combinations (pairs, fours) came mid table. If we can keep the depth of performance, Westminster should do very well next year.

Andy Brooker



### Westminster vs OURC, February 2018

In February, the Westminster VIII faced off against Mr Brooker's old team, Oxford University Rifle Club, which he has been trying to fill with Westminster talent – current OWs in the Oxford club include Olivia White, Thomas Nightingale, and Daniel Thomas Du Toit. However, (un)fortunately, they were unable to beat Westminster with said talent this year, their 1460 (ex. 1600) falling short of Westminster's 1473. Highlights from the School team included Team Captain Alex 'Not Another One' Ross smashing out two 97s, and an outstanding 99 from Isky 'Frisky' Mathews, another rising Upper Shell talent on the School team.

Both Westminster teams entered into the BSSRA Spring Postal League, which involves hundreds of teams from dozens of schools across the country, competing and sending off their targets to be scored. In Division 8, the B team were victorious on total score, but a slight fumble in the penultimate round meant that they came second according to the BSSRA's points per won round system... A shout out to Isky 'Did You Know?' Mathews for a ludicrous 96 average. In Division 5, the A team also stumbled on the penultimate round to take second place overall. Perhaps there was something in the air that week...

But no doubt the most exciting Lent event was the release of the WCRC x Au Summer 18 Collection. Mr Kevin 'Wow' Au at last fulfilled his burning ambition to be a graphic designer, with a limited edition selection of WCRC tees, caps, and water bottles, that flew off the shelves. Influencers across the School were scrabbling to get their hands on the gear, but any potential black market trading was shut down: you've got to earn this stash.

On 8 March, we held the final of the most competitive fixture of the year: House Shooting. After a week of great shooting in all three rounds of the competition, Rigaud's won with a combined score of 204 in the final (ex. 222) – their team was Alex 'Finally' Ross (103) and Isky '@£\$%!' Mathews (101). Dryden's took second place with 183 – their team was Charley 'Chilly' Gillingwater (89) and Louis 'Gotta Go' Cameron (93).

This year WSRC were ably led by the dynamic duo Alex 'Alex Ross' Ross, and Brandon 'BuhTang' Tang. Many thanks to them for their hard work. Congratulations to the new Captain, Emerald 'Oui' Wei, and Vice-Captain Chris 'Is that in?' Ye. We look forward to seeing what they will achieve.



## SWIMMING

Swimming station has had storming success this year. Nick Bacon, Michael Seoane, Alex Song and Polly Ruppel defeated Tonbridge School in November, dominating the pool in both individual and relay events. Early in the Lent term, the team managed an impressive haul of medals across all ages (10 golds, 3 silvers and 1 bronze) competing against nine local schools in the Borough of Westminster inter-schools Swimming match. Westminster won the freestyle relay in all age group categories. The pinnacle of any independent school's Swimming calendar is the Otter Bath cup relay competition, pitting nearly 100 schools across the country against each other in a gruelling long-course 4 x 100m freestyle relay, late in the Lent term. Swimming for Westminster at the London Aquatics Centre in Stratford were Bacon, Seoane, Song and Herbie Bingham, the latter setting a personal best time on his impressive first leg. The team came 20th in their category and set the fastest time on record for a Westminster team.

Helen Prentice





WATER

Head of Water Hal Barrow RR writes:

Departing for the Soustons Easter training camp in April, the squad was full of a subdued, but tangible, excitement. The future of Westminster School Boat Club was looking bright, with victory in the Schools Head of the River Race for the J16s and second place for the J15s while the top quad and first eight were keen to show what they could do in with race preparation clear from illness and injury.

Straight from a productive camp, the crews headed into Ghent regatta one drone lighter and keen to see how the training had paid off. Although this was an international regatta most crews came up against at least one familiar face, most notably Shiplake in the eight who had placed second at Schools head three weeks earlier. After a nail biting finish on the first day, where the fading Shiplake crew just held off a late charge from Westminster, the match-up on the second day was a chance to exact revenge and this time fortunes were reversed – Westminster going out hard and desperately defending their lead in the second half of the race. This rounded off some good racing which included



Gold for the quad in U23s and Silver in men’s quads while the J15s and 16s also impressed.

At the National Schools regatta at the end of May, tricky cross wind conditions made for somewhat uneven racing; however, Westminster still produced some impressive performances. In the Championship J15 eights the crew narrowly missed out on Gold, really giving it their all from an unfancied lane. The second J15 eight happily took advantage of the allocated best lane to win the Gold easily and the J16’s had to settle for Fifth. Meanwhile the quad defended their seeding and came away with a deserved Bronze after narrowly pipping the other pink crew on the water. Sunday came, and with it one of the surprise performances of the regatta. After the top pair of Jake Swann and George Middleton lost their steering in the time trial, hopes for the pairs rested on the shoulders of Constantine Holle and Alex Davison. Having just failed to reach the A final, they strode away from the rest of the field and won the B final by open water. One of the final events of the day, the J16 coxless fours, carried extra significance, as it would show who was early favourite for the Great Britain



The first Quad



The selected Great Britain under 16 four with coach Cornet



J14 winning Octuple at Putney town regatta

under 16 team later in the season. Westminster were the class crew on the water, never flustered by any pushes made by the opposition, and, in a race where the lead changed countless times, their smooth rhythm prevailed to take the Gold.

Now attention turned to Henley and GB trials. Both the quad and the eight navigated their first race in relative comfort but match ups against the fourth place finishers at National Schools in Bedford, and the eventually Fawley cup winners in Windsor Boys, proved too strong. Meanwhile in Nottingham the J16s were proving that their four had not won by chance. Claiming victory once again brought this time not a medal but a GB vest for their fixture against the French junior team. There were other international successes too, Jake Swann being selected as the bowman for the Junior World Championships eight while George Middleton earnt the two seat in the Great Britain crew for the Coupe de La Jeunesse. The season ended with the J16 four winning their race against the French National champions by about 4 lengths, showing that the future of Westminster School Boat Club looks bright indeed.



To bring the season to a tremendous finale: Jake Swann won Gold in the Junior World Championships in the British eight on 12 August 2018

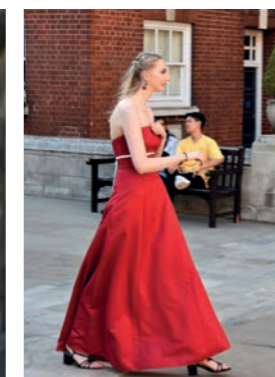
WATER  
events highlights summary  
2017-18

- Isis Sculls (Oxford)**  
Nick Cowling wins both Senior & Junior prizes
- Pairs Head of the River (Putney)**  
Junior Doubles – 2nd & 3rd / J16 Doubles – 1st
- Head of the Charles Regatta (Boston, USA)**  
Quads – 3rd / Singles – 9th: H. Barrow
- Pangbourne Head**  
J15 Singles – 1st: O. Ellis, 3rd: O. Li, 4th: S. Chen
- Teddington Head**  
Open Men’s Doubles – 1st: N. Cowling & M. Deetman  
J16 Eights – 1st / Open Men’s Eights – 2nd / J15 Eights – 2nd
- Scullers Head of the River**  
J18s – 3rd: G. Middleton (10th overall), 6th: H. Barrow.  
J17s – 5th: M. Wickham, 6th: H. Crosbie, 8th: A. Davison
- Hampton Head**  
Quads – 3rd/30: Westminster  
Eights – 7th/22: Westminster  
J16 Eights – 3rd/16: Westminster  
J15 Eights – 3rd/22: Westminster X, 4th: Westminster Y  
J14 Octos – 3rd/13: Westminster
- Schools’ Head of the River Race (Putney)**  
J16 Championship Eights – 1st / J15 Championship Eights – 2nd  
Championship Quads – 4th / Championship Eights – 11th
- Wallingford Regatta**  
Elite Quads – 1st / J15 Eights – 1st / J16 Eights – 3rd  
Championship Junior Eights – 5th / J15 Second Eights – 3rd  
J16 Quads – 6th
- Munich International Junior Regatta**  
Jake Swann wins a hat-trick of gold medals (Fours & Eights) as part of the Great Britain Junior Team
- Putney Town Regatta**  
Won J14 Octuples, J15 Fours (by our 5th Four!), Victor Ludorum & Mixed Beginners’ Quads
- National Schools’ Regatta (Eton Dorney)**  
J15 Second Eights – 1st / J15 Champ Eights – 2nd  
Championship Quads – 3rd / J16 Champs Eights – 5th / J16 Fours – 1st  
Championship Pairs B Final – 1st / Championship Doubles – 5th  
J15 Fours – 5th
- Indoor House Indoor Rowing Competition**  
2000m event – 1st: N. Tomasi (DD, 6.36), 2nd: O. Ellis (LL, 6.38), 3rd: C. Griffin (CC, 6.42)  
J14 event – 1st: N. Rossi (GG, 7.06), 2nd: A. Moec (HH, 7.17), 3rd: B. Weiss (GG, 7.22)  
House Pairs – 1st: RR (J. De Mol & M. Factor), 2nd: WW (W. Fulford & D. Szoke), 3rd: MM (O. Li & A. Salmani)  
House Fours – 1st: RR, 2nd: WW, 3rd: MM  
Coxswains 500m Challenge – 1st: T. Ruppel (PP, 1.56), 2nd: T. Bernard (BB, 2.07), 3rd: C. Muminoglu (RR, 2.12)  
5000 m Team Relay – 1st: Rigaud’s (16.44), 2nd: Wren’s (17.56) =3rd: Liddell’s & Milne’s (both 18.03)
- Marlow Regatta**  
J18 Eights – 1st / J16 Eights – 1st / J15 Eights – 1st / Junior Quads – 3rd
- Great Britain Junior Under 16 Trials**  
Nottingham J16 Fours – 1st: Westminster (A. Stevenson, J. Stevenson, A. Sawhney, A. von Bismarck)  
Selected to represent GB v France in Paris. Won Match in July
- Henley Royal Regatta**  
Princess Elizabeth Rd 1 beat Oratory School by 3¼ lengths, Rd 2 lost to Bedford School by 2¼ Lengths
- Henley Royal Regatta**  
Fawley Rd 1 Beat Henley Rowing Club by ¾ length, Q-final lost to Windsor Boys by 1¼ Length



GOODBYE  
REMOVE





GOODBYE REMOVE

# Richard Pyatt

## Westminster 1986-2018

This summer, Westminster says goodbye to Richard Pyatt after 32 years. Though he has been twice Head of English, editor of The Elizabethan, President of the Common Room, and longtime Liddell's and Hakluyt's tutor, it is for his presence as the wise, friendly, towering, hilarious, careful and truly unique teacher of English that generations of Westminster pupils will remember him best. Angus Colwell (HH), pupil and tutee of RJP, spoke to him.



**What were your perceptions of Westminster at first?**

It felt like coming home, possibly because it was like an Oxford college in London, so I had a feeling almost of being back at university. I wasn't that much older than the pupils, so there was a sense that it was a shared endeavour – it still is a bit like that, despite my ageing and the pupils being eternally young. It was exciting and I had London to explore, as well as being at a school which seemed to be completely sympathetic towards my interests, so I was pretty excited about things.

**So if the Westminster of the 80s was a novel or a play, what work would you say it was, and what would it be now?**

Then, probably a Shakespearian comedy – with the dark sides of those as well. Or perhaps an Iris Murdoch novel, where people were institutionalised but in a good way. Now? Oh, it's a terrible tragedy! (RJP laughs) No... I like the fact that it's still a self-sustaining society. It's a little bit more earnest. It's not Never Let Me Go, although the analogy's interesting – perhaps people are selling themselves in some way, or being used as social ends in ways they don't suspect. But it's not dystopian – I'd probably still say it's within the realm of comedy, Shakespearian in particular.

**Aside from technology, what's the way Westminster's changed the most during your time here?**

It's much bigger. Then, everybody knew everybody else. Geographically, we were very much in Yard; there were classrooms everywhere. The Dungeons were even used as a classroom sometimes... the Lecture Room, the rooms at the bottom of Ashburnham House; Hakluyt's was three classrooms, there were classrooms in Liddell's, Busby's, the basement of Rigaud's, and at the end of School. A lot of teachers who were accommodated at School and who were quite important in the Classics department might even teach in their own flats, in a sort of Oxford tutorial style! So everybody was in Yard, and not much happened outside Yard. Then quickly, buildings popped up like mushrooms when I was here. Science in Sutcliffe's was moved to Hooke, and then afterwards, other buildings came along; much, much later the Manoukian Music Centre and the theatre, and then Weston's, which created a separate Arts faculty, and the most recent one has been the Sports Hall. It's turned from a very tightly-knit little world here, to being a campus within the London streets.

**I imagine wellbeing and mental health issues have come to the fore much more; do you think people are leaving the School better-equipped in that respect?**

Yes I think they probably are. I think one of the big fears people have had at schools for generations is that they could be the subject of disapproval, bullying, or being on the outside of unpleasant peer groups. I suspect that is part of adolescence; you've got to experience a bit of unpopularity sometimes, and you can't have a completely squeaky clean world or you're not equipped for the sorts of things that are going to happen internally, if not externally. I think probably the School has done everything it can to address those kind of things. It's a great school for people who are a little unusual – they can feel very at home here. All minorities seem to be respected, though the Fifth Form can still be red in tooth and claw! But for me to have lived this long and see for example, a Pride Society... that's remarkable. If I tell people outside that the School has such organisations, they are astonished and very impressed.

**An interesting change for you, I guess, would be the connotations of the Under Master switching from the discipline figurehead to the wellbeing one...**

Yes, but there's a little bit of me that's quite curmudgeonly, that thinks sometimes it would save time just to tell somebody that they're out of order. I think sometimes, in terms of structure, it's quite good to say to someone 'don't do that' and not give a reason; they have to have faith in authority. That's not being nasty; just showing, person to person, that you are upset by their behaviour.

**Is it fair to say that young people are reading less than they used to? I think we can mythologise the past. Keeping books and reading going was certainly part of our brief, but there wasn't much competition from other media. That didn't mean to say that people always settled down to books. I heard thirty years ago parents saying "he used to read so much at prep school – what's gone wrong?"; I still hear that now, and people are reading on their phones and on Kindles, though Kindles are a bit old-fashioned now aren't they? But within our own constituency of English, people seem to be reasonably keen to get stuck into books. In fact if anything, the novel, in particular, has come back. I think the turning point was Harry Potter – suddenly people who went off reading were walking around with this giant hardback as they had been in my youth with Lord of the Rings, so that rebooted people's confidence that a long book was not necessarily a dull thing, although I've never read Harry Potter...**

**Do you think pupils have less time to think creatively now?**

Yes, they're more bothered, I imagine. Again, I imagine; I don't live your life so I'm only doing it through observation, but I imagine, and see, that they are bothered. They are having to check their phones all the time, and I suppose there's the flakiness which affects my generation as well, which is that people are constantly changing arrangements, so they don't look forward to something in three weeks' time – they might have altered it several times before they get there. I would have thought that literature's capacious enough to take all that on, and it's time for some more exciting writing about the fluidity of life. It might be a source of inspiration.

**Thinking about texts, and how one group will react differently to another, have you encountered any that work every time? Yes, some sink without trace! Though, a text like The Beach by Alex Garland, which is not a great novel by any means, is a one-size-fits-all, in that quite intelligent pupils in the Lower School will find lots to say about it and think about it carefully, and the others find it exciting and a bit offbeat... it's quite something to find in the Lower School, a text where nobody's complaining. That is quite a difficult thing to achieve, but The Beach was one of them.**

**In terms of English teaching, with the greater stresses on teaching qualifications and exam syllabi, is there a danger we will lose the discursive authenticity of English teaching?**

Yes, although it does come and go. When I first started teaching I felt I had to justify everything I did, and if you do a PGCE, you have to produce a detailed lesson plan, and justify what you do, have outcomes and so on. It's very bureaucratic, and anybody who comes for an interview here has to produce a lesson plan. I wouldn't necessarily expect that of them, but that's routine. On the other hand, it is good sometimes. If I went around again I'd spend more time allowing pupils to find their own way into the literature – I've become a bit pedagogic, so it can end up being a bit of a lecture where people are either getting bored or entertained. I feel we're at a slightly different type of school where people want to come and find teachers who are pretty keen on their subjects, and I feel sometimes I need to demonstrate that. I think the other thing is as people get older, they tend to become, not authority figures, but they have less patience with things. It's actually exhausting; if you were teaching 27 periods a week, keeping that up...

**Richard  
Pyatt**  
1986-2018

You were Head of English twice. Is this something you enjoyed doing? I do quite enjoy being in the thick of it. There were times when it was very challenging and difficult and I felt alone, on the line and being got at, as people can do in a managerial role. Other times I felt like passionately defending the subject, sometimes against other subjects... I seemed to have a lot of energy for that; guest speakers, ordering books, all sorts of things. Defending English yes, though that was mostly my own paranoia! Best of times and worst of times, I think. The first time I was a little bit intimidated by the fact I was having to herd cats with my older colleagues, and they could be difficult, though they also saw me as a kind of Angelo from Measure for Measure! Gavin Griffiths was a former Head of Department, who was there to both encourage, support and satirise; he could do all in the same sentence. His presence and support throughout the whole process was very important. I could cope much more easily the second time round.

**Do you have a particular favourite memory from your time at Westminster?**

Well, I used to really enjoy House Singing, which is presumably why the School got rid of it! Things like the Greaze, all those weird and wonderful traditions when I arrived. My real memories are of good lessons when things were really going well, when there were moments of epiphany, when somebody said something and the text opened and other pupils' understanding worked – there are hundreds of moments like that, and they keep you going. There are lots of moments where that doesn't happen, but a sense that you're actually discovering something while you're in lessons is unique.

**Do any visiting speakers stick out?** Yes! A famous author came here in the late 90s and pretty much set the place on fire. His speech wasn't that great, it's what he did to everybody afterwards. I learnt, you should never invite an author to talk when he's between books, because he doesn't care whether he lives or dies. This gentleman attempted to take the entire Sixth Form out for a drink. I can't give you all the details of that evening, but no one was harmed. We've had also people who have just come to wax lyrical. We've had some quite bad runs with poets. Even though they might be quite famous names, they've sometimes comes across as being rather conceited, and those have not been pleasant experiences at all. Without naming names!

**Do you have any plans for post-Westminster?**

I'm lucky enough to not have to think about them in relation to anybody else, but it does mean I'm going to be spending more time on my own; it's quite daunting but I'm going to train myself! That does mean travel, and it does mean writing, and it also means paying off a few debts; you have to settle your affairs at various stages of life, and this is a good stage for me to do that. I think nature abhors a vacuum, and I know enough people to know that actually, an awful lot of people can crowd in on you when they know you're available. I think the sooner I get some kind of occupation where I can't possibly be disturbed, the better.

**So you're not too concerned about not being able to let Westminster go?** Well I think there will be a few dark days. I might think "well, today would have been nice to share my enthusiasm for something with a group of people". Westminster is an institution; I'll come back for drinks a little bit. One of the great gifts of Westminster over the years is that I've made friends, and there's a lot of grey areas between colleague and friend. There are all sorts of ties with people that go back a long time ago; it leaves a legacy. I will pop back, and I'll think of it as a support and a resource in some ways. On the other hand, I won't be standing outside Weston's saying "remember me?!" covered in sackcloth...although now I think about it...

**Final question: you're abandoned to a desert island with the complete works of one playwright, one poet and one author. What do you choose?**

Aarrghh!!! Well, the playwright's probably going to be Shakespeare, I'm really sorry about that. A few years ago I would have come up with something else in order to sound a different note, but there is enough there for a lifetime, and it can be treated as a quotable resource and bible. The poet? I might go for Philip Larkin, though he's not that good in that island context, so I might go for something dreamier... Wallace Stevens, the American poet – I think I'd take all of his works, because he's a philosopher as well. The author? I'd need to have society and companionship. Although I don't think he's the greatest author who ever lived, I might go for Anthony Trollope. On the other hand, if I can stand the mental fatigue of it, I might go for Joseph Conrad who's also very good at marine and metaphysical settings.

**Thank you very much Sir.** Perfect!

# Westminster School and the First World War

by Elizabeth Wells



As I write this, in June 2018, we are drawing to the conclusion of our project to mark the centenary of the First World War. Back in early 2014, we spent some time considering the most appropriate way to commemorate this significant anniversary.

Westminster School has changed drastically in the last century. It was clear that the jingoistic approach to the centenary taken by some institutions would not work here. Westminster is no longer a militaristic place and it is now 50 years since we had a Combined Cadet Force. When the school's First World War monument – with St George slaying a dragon at its centre – was destroyed in the Blitz, the memorial which took its place was deliberately simple and removed any suggestion of glorification. Many of the School's community have mixed feelings about the conflict and how it has been portrayed. That is not to say that there was no desire acknowledge the centenary and the personal sacrifice of those who died, but the tone of our commemoration was to be strictly one of remembrance.

Consequently, we chose to focus on each of the 224 Old Westminsters known to have lost their lives in the War in turn. Looking at each of these individuals gave us the opportunity to unpick some of the myths that have become part of the tapestry of how the First World War is perceived. It also enabled us to involve pupils within the School, particularly members of Fifth Form, in researching and writing articles about each of those who had died. Displaying these biographies in real time, both online and in printed form on a display board in the School, has given us all a visceral sense of the relentless attrition of this long war. The project is yet to be completed – it is now summer, but there are still more than a tenth of the biographies to be researched, written and published. However, this seems a good moment to highlight some of the things I have learnt from the project thus far.

## Westminster School and the First World War

### Who do we remember?

One of the early stumbling blocks was compiling a list of those Old Westminsters known to have died as a result of the war. The School's war memorial was an obvious place to start, but it quickly became apparent that not all of the names included here were recorded by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC). The CWGC has strict criteria, and individuals need to have died within qualifying dates and have been in military service at the time of their death, or have died from injury or illness which the CWGC was satisfied was caused or exacerbated by their service. The School clearly took a softer approach, and included three individuals who would not otherwise have been acknowledged: Herbert Philip Frith who died in November 1914 from wounds received in action at Lokoya, Nigeria; Eugenius Alfred Roche who died from illness, aged 64, in August 1918; and Gerard Layton Phipps Eyre, who died from the effects of gas-poisoning suffered in active service, in May 1921. Roche had been an army doctor until he retired in 1907, so it is probable that he resumed medical work during the war and the strain brought about his premature death. Frith likely died putting down a rebellion, rather than fighting enemy soldiers. This was not uncommon; closer to home, Godfrey

Jackson Hunter was killed in action supressing the Easter Rising in Charles Street, Dublin.

Of course, the School's war memorial only included individuals known by the School to have died, and consequently some of the fallen who had not remained in touch with the School or their contemporaries were left out. The death of Alexander Daniel Reid, on the first day of the Battle of Passchendaele, 1917, remained unrecorded by the School until 2012, when a researcher working on Reid's papers got in touch with us. It is possibly that there are others still to be discovered.

The biggest problem is that the biographies we produce are inevitably uneven. For some Old Westminsters, we know a great deal about their lives at the School, their family, war service and death. Charles Dennis Fisher, who drowned on board HMS *Invincible* in the Battle of Horn Reef, at Jutland, was the subject of a verse by Robert Bridges, the Poet Laureate. For other Old Westminsters it is a struggle to produce more than a few sentences about their lives. Photographs are elusive, and we only have images of around a third of those who died. Whilst we have tried to ensure that our commemoration is as egalitarian as

possible, where there is an interesting narrative we have always chosen to share the story. Rather than seeming invidious, I hope that this enhances the poignancy of those shorter biographies and the untold lives behind them.

### Dulce et Decorum est?

One of the things I found most shocking is the number of Old Westminsters who died from illness or accidents rather than from injuries received in action – deaths which now seem avoidable and shockingly wasteful. Arthur Guy Worthington drowned during a routine 'bathing parade' in a lake near Quetta in modern day Pakistan. Bathing parades were an enforced activity and seen as important for maintaining hygiene in hot countries, but many soldiers could not swim. Harold Herbert Tanner also drowned whilst bathing at Boulogne, France.

Poor conditions in field hospitals combined with the lack of antibiotics meant that many died from illness and diseases which are now treatable. Three Old Westminsters: Eric Raymond Hicks, Hugh Logan and Austin Hale Woodbridge died from pneumonia in the harsh winter following the armistice. Eustace Walter Russell Hadden died of appendicitis

Left: Charles Dennis Fisher, killed in action on 31 May 1916  
Right: Eustace Walter Russell Hadden, died at Abbeville from appendicitis, 11 June 1916



18 Old Westminsters died as a result of aircraft crashes during the war.

### Lions, Donkeys and Dinosaurs

Another persistent image of the War is that of brave young men being sent to their death by ignorant generals, far from the front line. We do know of one former pupil who travelled out to France whilst still underage. George Benjamin Johnstone Stoddart left school and enlisted as a trooper in the 2nd Dragoon Guards on 1 September 1914 when he was just 15. His age was discovered when he was recommended for a commission in January 1916 and he was sent back to England. Once he turned 18 he joined the RAF and was killed accidentally whilst flying near Piquigny, France in 1918.

A recent publication *Public Schools and the Great War*, made much of the fact that 'whereas some 11 per cent of all those who served in the war died as a direct result of the fighting, the figure for public school boys was over 18 per cent.' Most of the Old Westminsters who died were in their late teens and early 20s. It was common for them to enter the army as officers of the lowest rank, 2nd Lieutenant. Responsible for leading their troops by example, over the top on the western front, they inevitably clocked up a high casualty rate. The popularity of the Royal Flying Corps, indicated above, added to the statistics.

However, we should not forget that thirty-one of those who died were aged 40 or over. Arthur William Hammans died in 1916 aged 71 from the effects of over-work as a Recruiting Officer.

Alfred Grahame Cartwright met a similar end, working in his 50s as a Lieutenant-Colonel in a training battalion, before his health prevented him from continuing. Gustaf Oscar Roos died at the Battle of the Somme, aged 47. As a young man Roos had organised working boys' clubs in the East End and worked as a 'poor man's solicitor' at Toynbee Hall. He served in the Boer War and had settled in South Africa when war broke out and insisted on serving, despite being initially refused a commission because of his age. Frank Street was also over enlistment age when war broke out, but decided to serve, rather than remaining as a teacher at Uppingham School. Street was shot after his battalion had captured two German lines near the Somme in 1916. His body was never found.

### Global War?

The debate concerning the extent to which the First World could be classed the first global war will not be settled on these pages. However, my perspective has certainly changed as a result of this project. Although the Western Front dominates the casualty list, Old Westminsters also died fighting in the Indian sub-continent, Africa and the Middle East. What is more, these soldiers were drawn from across the world, many living abroad in Canada, America, New Zealand, Australia, South Africa, Hong Kong, Chile, Argentina, and India before the



The recently recovered photograph of College, 1914. Dawson is the leftmost of the four figures standing on the back row.

## Westminster School and the First World War

War. Guy Labertouche had been born in Australia and attended Westminster School when his family moved to England. By the outbreak of war, Labertouche was a Major of the 122nd Rajputana Infantry, in the Indian army. He lost his life from wounds received in allied action at the Battle of Shaiba, in what was then Mesopotamia. It is also worth remembering that London at the turn of the century was a cosmopolitan place, and many attending Westminster School at this period were from immigrant families, often from Europe. George Constantine Paul, for example, who died at Ypres in 1915 had been born in Belgium.

### We will remember them...

Whilst not an aim of the project, our research has often provided touching insights into the lives of those left behind. The widow of William Claudius Casson Ash – who died on the Western Front in 1916, placed an *In Memoriam* notice in *The Times* for her husband, every year until her death, in her 80s, in 1955. Arthur Cecil Estall, who died in 1917 from wounds received in action at Ypres, was commemorated in a similar fashion by his mother.

One of the most poignant memorials I have read was written by a contributor to *The Elizabethan*, who signed himself in Greek: ἐγρηγορός φρόνημα. The unknown author perfectly encapsulates the aim of our centenary commemoration:

*It is with some diffidence that I ask for the inclusion of this letter, because the paragraphs of eulogy that appear with absolute precision in most school magazines on the dead condemn themselves by their sentimental universality as in most cases obviously untrue. Nor shall I eulogise now. Much might be written upon the three young King's Scholars whom the battle has claimed so far as its toll. First, we saw the death of W.B.W. Durrant, next of K.T.D. Wilcox, and now it is T.R. Dawson—all three only sons. But it is of the last that I should like to speak, for I was one of the few who knew him well, and it would be a pity if to future generations of Westminsters he were but a name on the wall. Not popular, not distinguished in athletic or intellectual ability, not striking except in a personality of extraordinary obstinacy and endurance. Such characteristics devoted to low ideals might have brought fame. Directed on the side of the angels, they were realised in full*



A memorial window designed by Christopher Whall in St Etheldreda's Church. It commemorates the three Gascoyne-Cecil brothers, who were all educated at Westminster and all lost their lives in the war. Rupert Edward was killed in action near Ypres, 11 July 1915; Randall William was killed in action at Masnieres on 1 December 1917; and John Arthur was killed in action at Ficheux, 27 August 1918.

*only by those to whom it was given to know him to the very end. It is as the first Head of Water after the revival that the School collectively owes him the deepest gratitude. Head of Water, but he gave up his place in the four when he saw someone better to fill it. But reference to foregoing pages would show in how many ways he did the 'spade-work' while others held more showy positions. And it was only his obstinacy that got him into the Army when the War called for officers, for, like Hannibal, he was blind in one eye. And, personally, may the gratitude be recorded of one who knew what it was to be able to rely on him absolutely when all others might fail – gratitude that 'Bacchus' Dawson did live once?.*

When we first produced our biography of Dawson back in 2015 we had no identifiable image of him. However, a few weeks ago, a named photograph of the King's Scholars taken in 1914 was returned to the Archive by an anonymous donor. Our website, <http://firstworldwar.westminster.org.uk>, will remain live following 11 November 2018, and we hope that we will continue to discover more about the Old Westminster fallen.



Sigurd Ayton Dickson, killed in action near Ypres, 1 February 1917



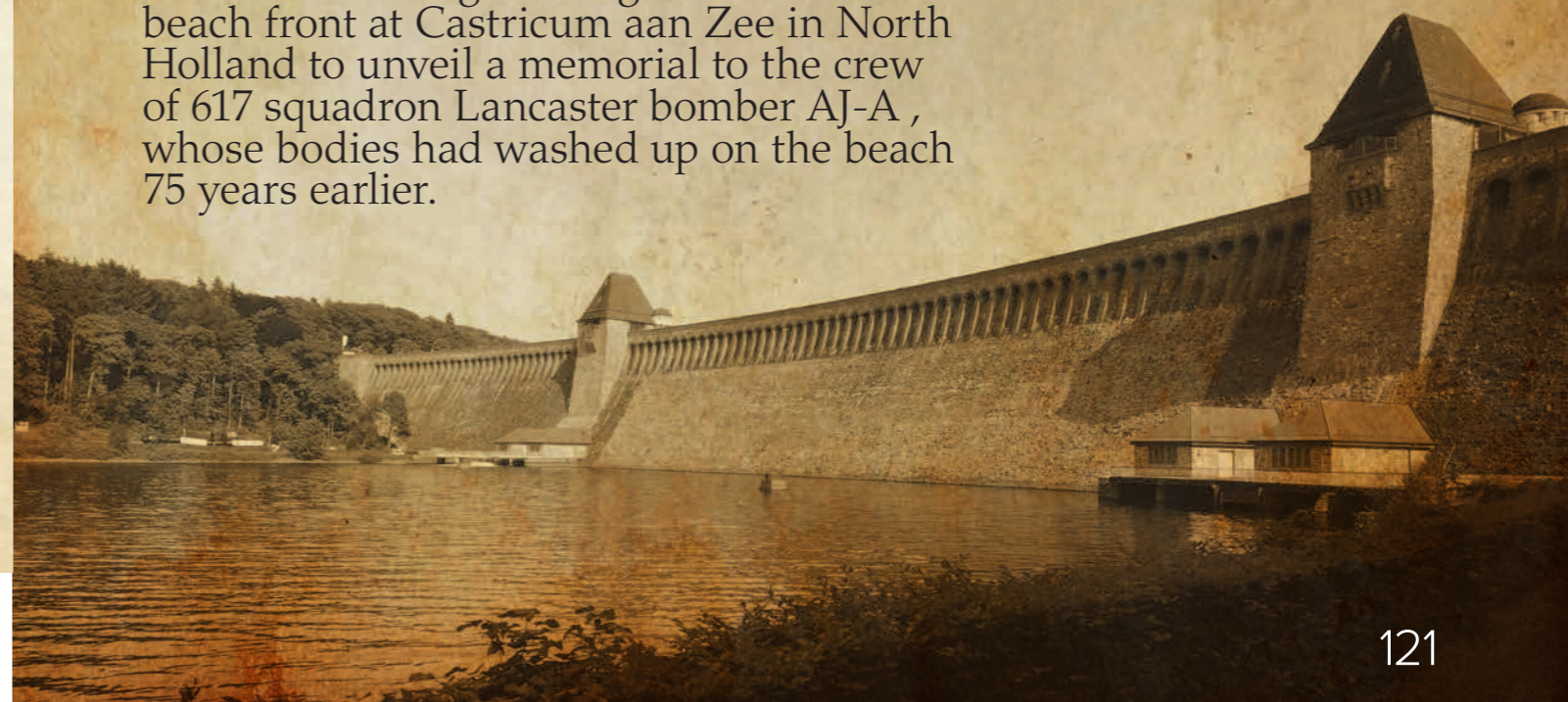
Arthur Nesbit Charlton, killed in action at Cambrai, 30 November 1917



## 75th anniversary of Westminster's Dambuster; Melvin Young

by C D Riches

On Friday morning the 18 May this year, an international gathering met on the beach front at Castricum aan Zee in North Holland to unveil a memorial to the crew of 617 squadron Lancaster bomber AJ-A, whose bodies had washed up on the beach 75 years earlier.



## 75th anniversary of Westminster's Dambuster; Melvin Young

The Lancaster bomber, piloted by Squadron Leader Melvin Young DFC had been shot down over the Dutch coast as it returned from successfully breaching the Mohne dam with a direct hit on the dam wall from the Barnes Wallis designed bouncing bomb.



Sqn Ldr H M Young DFC  
& Bar Pilot of Lancaster: ED887/G  
Call sign: AJ-A First wave.  
Fourth aircraft to attack Möhne Dam. Mine  
dropped accurately, causing breach. Aircraft  
shot down on return flight.

Henry Melvin Young was born in Belgravia, London, on 20 May 1915. His father was a solicitor, although in the army at the time of his birth. His mother was American, from a wealthy Californian family involved in the real estate business.

He had a somewhat disjointed upbringing, spending several years in the USA during his schooldays at Kent School, Connecticut but ended up in the Sixth Form at Westminster School before going up to Trinity College, Oxford to study Law. He had taken up rowing at school, racing in the Westminster third and fourth eights, and carried on at Oxford, gaining his Blue for rowing in the two seat of the winning Oxford crew in the 1938 Boat Race.

Young joined the Oxford University Air Squadron qualifying as a pilot and joined the RAFVR in September 1938. Young's first operational posting in June 1940 was to 102 Squadron, flying Whitleys. Some of their bombing operations took them as far as Turin in north Italy. It was during this tour that his 'ditchings' took place. The first was

when he and his crew spent 22 hours in a dinghy in the Atlantic, while providing escort duty to a convoy, and the second was in the English channel south of Plymouth. He finished his tour of operations in February 1941 with the new nick name "Dinghy", and was awarded the DFC.

Young started a second tour in September 1941, with a promotion to Squadron Leader, with 104 Squadron on Wellingtons. A detachment of 15 aircraft and crews from 104 Squadron was then sent to Malta and then on to Egypt. There he completed another tour, and received a Bar to his DFC. By March 1943, Dinghy Young had joined 617 Squadron at RAF Scampton. His seniority and administrative skills made him the obvious choice to be a flight commander, and it fell to him to do a lot of the necessary organising to get 20 crews ready for Operation Chastise.

*Operation Chastise was an attack on German dams carried out over 16-17 May 1943 by 617 Squadron of the Royal Air Force under the command of Wing Commander Guy Gibson VC, later called the Dambusters, using a purpose-built "bouncing bomb" developed by Barnes Wallis. The Möhne and Edersee Dams were breached, causing catastrophic flooding of the Ruhr valley and of villages in the Eder valley. Two hydroelectric power stations were destroyed and several more damaged. Factories and mines were also damaged and destroyed. An estimated 1,600 civilians, about 600 Germans and 1,000 mainly Soviet forced labourers died. Despite rapid repairs by the Germans, production did not return to normal until September.*

On the raid, Young led the second formation in Lancaster AJ-A. He arrived at the Möhne Dam just a couple of minutes before Gibson began the first attack. By the time Young's turn came, a certain amount of desperation must have been creeping in. Gibson and Martin's mines had not been successful and Hopgood had been shot down.

To distract the anti-aircraft defences as Young attacked, Gibson flew across the dam on the far side and Martin flew

alongside AJ-A. Young made a perfect run, releasing the mine at the correct speed and distance, and it bounced three times, sank at the wall and exploded, sending up a huge column of water. But when the tumult died down there was no obvious breach, to the disappointment of the attackers circling overhead.

David Maltby was sent in and again made a perfect run. However, as he approached he could see that 'the crown of the wall was already crumbling' and that there was 'a breach in the centre of the dam'. He adjusted his line slightly so that his own mine would strike to the left of Young's and it too exploded causing a larger breach. Barnes Wallis had predicted that it might take two mines to cause the dam's collapse, and so it proved.

Young was then instructed to go with Gibson to oversee the attack on the Eder Dam, ready to assume command if Gibson was lost. Therefore, he witnessed the attack, which caused the Eder to collapse, and then, this completed, he set course to return home and reached the Dutch coast just before three in the morning. Out over the sea, disaster hit when the gun battery at Wijk aan Zee fired at the rapidly disappearing Lancaster. At that stage, the aircraft was well past the last gun battery and only a few hundred yards from safety. A gun battery at Castricum aan Zee on the Dutch coast reported shooting down an aircraft at 0258, which was almost certainly AJ-A.



Over the next few weeks, the sea yielded up the victims. Part of the wreckage was washed ashore and the first bodies – those of Melvin Young and David Horsfall – floated up on 29 May. They were buried in the General Cemetery at Bergen two days later, and were joined by the bodies of the other five which were washed up over the next thirteen days.

# Westminster School and the Great War Centenary

by C D Riches

Over the course of the Great War centenary between 3 August 2014 and 11 November 2018, the School embarked on a mission to visit the final resting place or official war memorial (if missing in action) of all the Westminster alumni who fell in the Great war.

To date, as the centenary of the armistice looms, staff, former staff and old Westminsters have visited 160 of the 224 known graves and memorials. The Most recent visits recorded include Brigadier Peter Fabricious OW visiting 2Lt John Dodgshon RFC in Upavon and Clem Naylor OW finding Lt Eric Hicks MC in Alexandria and Captain Arthur Churchill in Ismailia war cemetery in Egypt.

Most of the remaining 64 are on the Western Front and will be visited before November but a number are further afield and we need some more help from the Old Westminster community to complete the task. We are endeavouring to find visitors for the following locations, to visit, pay their respects and send a digital photograph of the grave to me to be included in the final publication of the Westminster Great War dead remembered.

If you would like more information on the project, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school by email [david.riches@westminster.org.uk](mailto:david.riches@westminster.org.uk)



Cologne Southern Cemetery – Captain Charles Schlötel  
Dawlish Cemetery UK – 2Lt Kenneth Kemp  
Chatham Naval Memorial UK Flight – Sub-Lt Frank Besson and Sub-Lt Archibald Gordon  
Delhi Memorial Gate – Gentleman Cadet Worthington  
Gaza War Cemetery – Captain Alexander Clark-Kennedy  
Glenealy Church of Ireland County Wicklow – Major George Drought  
Grangegorman Mil Cemetery, Dublin – 2Lt Godfrey Hunter  
Haidar Pasha Cemetery, Istanbul – Captain George Sumpter  
Hamburg Cemetery – Captain Norman Robertson  
Jerusalem War Cemetery, Israel. – Lt Charles Cracknell  
Johannesburg Braamfontein Cemetery – 2Lt Leslie Imroth  
Karasouli Military Cemetery, Thessalonica – Lt Leonard Moon and Captain Walter Purves  
Kut War Cemetery, Baghdad – 2Lt Alfred East  
Plymouth Naval Memorial Engineer – Commander Edward Meeson  
Ramleh War Cemetery, Israel – Lt Colonel George Stack  
Shirley St John churchyard, Croydon – Lt James Dunlop  
St Johns Church Seaborough, Dorset – Major Ralph Batley



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