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Commemoration of Benefactors 2012

RENEWING A RITUAL BINDING PAST AND PRESENT

Taking over responsibility for Big Commem was something of a daunting prospect, admits Tom Edlin, who masterminded the school's major biennial celebration, but the 2012 service was a chance for some small innovations in our main institutional celebration.

■ Commem is about continuities, but it should also be a living event, reflecting upon the life of the school as it is now and giving thanks for our more recent benefactors alongside those named in the well-worn Latin cadences of the nineteenth century *Commendatio* prayers. As the school has changed (dramatically), so too must its equivalent of 'Founder's Day', but subtly and with sensitivity; and across my own frame of reference – twenty years exactly – that has certainly been the case.

My first experience of Big Commem came in 1993, in the days when the entire school attended, health and safety imposed no limits on numbers in the Abbey or at receptions after-

“faintly mystified by the vast tracts of Latin”

wards, and this impressionable Fifth Former, for one, was faintly mystified by the vast tracts of Latin (in that John Field era comprehensible only to the initiated, or those who had paid attention in several morning Abbeyes' worth of practice...) but perhaps more entranced than I knew by the subtly-lit magnificence of a full Abbey and the sense of a ritual binding past and present. As a Sixth Former, I attended the first Big Commem directed by John Arthur; without claiming to have been liturgically precocious, perhaps I understood something of the subtle flair with which he was revising the

order of service to bring unity and coherence to its narrative core. I had no idea, of course, that my next Commem would be as a member of the Common Room, in 2008, followed by the 450th Anniversary service, as JECA's assistant and anointed successor, and then in sole charge in 2012.

When John retired in 2011, I inherited an event of thoughtful, eloquent complexity – and several files of plans, diagrams, briefings and schedules to prove the point. Unlike my two predecessors, I am no theatrical director or impresario; but I hoped that an OW's institutional memory and an historian's instincts might assist. At the heart of the service JECA's narrative remains strong, of the 'journey' of the Roses, brought into the Abbey by the 'town party' and escorted eastwards by the Queen's Scholars, whose *Benedictus* chants, recalling our community's monastic origins, mark the stages of the procession, interspersed with prayers of thanksgiving. The presence of the Head Boy and Head Girl, an Honorary Scholar and an Under School Boy, as well as other pupils in the role of acolytes, is designed to ensure a sense of the entire school being represented, but there remained scope for broadening this involvement and, in particular, redressing the balance in a cohort of pupil-participants which would, following traditional patterns, have included 45 boys and just one girl.

And so was born the idea that the College girls, representing their peers, should join the procession of thanksgiving in its final stage, from the Crossing to the tomb of the Foundress, as well as sharing in College's much-



loved 'House duty' of lighting guests through the Cloisters at the end with flaming torches; as girls have joined the school roll so they should be incorporated into the narrative of the event as it unfolds. This would be seen by some, but we wanted something of the rationale to be heard by all, and so SCS produced a beautiful setting of verses from Psalm 148 (itself part of the original *Commendatio* service) to be sung from the tomb by three Queen's Scholars and the College girls; not only did this provide a sense of moving from the monastic Benedictus to a contemporary reworking of our oldest traditions, it also set the scene beautifully for the laying of the Roses, while the party got into position by the tomb.

My second innovation was sparked by the positive response of Old Westminsterers to the placing in 2010 of a candle on the stone marking the spot where John Rae's ashes are interred in the Dark Cloister – on the route, of course, followed by guests as they move from the Abbey to receptions in the school. The 2,000-odd people buried in the Abbey include many Head Masters, Deans and Old Westminsterers, and several significant benefactors of the school, and yet the practice at Commem has always been to lay roses on the tomb of the Foundress alone, and through her to thank the many others. Without in any way wishing to

diminish that moment, why not, I thought, lay single roses on the graves or monuments of other major benefactors after the central thanksgiving, perhaps as the Roses party and Queen's Scholars returned westwards during the *Te Deum*?

Some obvious candidates for the honour came immediately to mind – George II, who along with his father (in a rare moment of solidarity between the two) supported the building of Burlington's dormitory and is buried in Henry VII's Chapel; Dean Stanley, buried further east, who granted the school additional rooms; Mildred Cecil, Lady Burghley, who gave books for the library and is buried in the Chapel of St Nicholas; Dean Vincent, preserver of the playing-fields, buried in St Benedict's Chapel, alongside Dean Gabriel Goodman who supported the school as it grew during Elizabeth's reign; and Dr Busby himself, who left his own library for the use of the school, and his favourite pupil Dr Robert South, Prebendary and benefactor in turn – both buried at the foot

“an eighth and final rose was reserved for Dr Rae”

of the Sacarium steps but with monuments in the South Ambulatory.

By selecting these monuments for our thanksgiving we had seven further benefactors to honour, all located on the 'southern route' back from the tomb of Elizabeth to the College seats in the South Transept, the perfect number to allow each of the College girls to lay a single rose, thus confirming their own newly defined role in the service. And it was, for those few of us who were able to see it happen, one of the most graceful and touching parts of the whole liturgy, one which I hope to retain and develop over the coming years. To thank him for his indirect inspiration, an eighth and final rose was reserved for Dr Rae.

For the most part, the master-in-charge is in no state to enjoy Commem, being on the edge of the seat he only actually occupies for the first third of the service, or rushing around via the Quire Aisles to check that people are in position, knowing that if they're not there is precious little he can do, or hoping that the Vergers have the right microphones on the right switches... but what matters is that the event should live and offer its own moment of conscious recognition, amidst the busy, forward-looking world of twenty-first century Westminster, of the debts we continue to owe to our predecessors. Commem speaks truth of the past to the present, following an accustomed narrative, but every time anew. *Floreat!*

St Edwards Chapel

ASPERGING IN THE NEW CHAPEL

If you have never been asperged before, writes Reverend Gavin Williams, you might have wondered what was happening at 5.30pm on Tuesday 4 September in St Edward's chapel, inside the building which also contains the new Purcell's.



■ The Dean began the commissioning of the new school chapel by sprinkling the congregation with holy water. This is an ancient rite, a reminder of baptismal promises, and appropriate for a celebration by the school of

“an ancient rite, a reminder of baptismal promises, and appropriate for a celebration by the school”



its move to the former chapel of the Society of St John the Evangelist. After asperging and dedication prayers, the Chamber choir sang Evensong. This has become a regular fortnightly event to which staff, pupils and parents are welcome. In addition to the Chamber choir, the Chancel and Chapel choirs are also rehearsing in the chapel. At the handover service on Ascension Day, Fr Peter installed the Head Master as the new Superior!

The chapel has a marvellous acoustic. The organ, relocated from the Manoukian Music Centre, is being played by pupils. It is used to accompany the lower school when they come to the chapel for Latin Prayers by year group. Other uses of the chapel include a regular lunchtime Eucharist, staff and parent prayer groups, a pupil-led Christian Forum and the opportunity to find a quiet moment in a sacred space. It is hoped that pupils are able to find the Chaplain and the Chaplain's Pastoral Assistant more easily. Their office is now immediately opposite the chapel by the entrance to the new Purcell's. Another quirk is that the former Lady Chapel is now Purcell's TV room.



“Yet the prestige of being a scholar remains reserved for boys only”

Abbey Address

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Abbey Address by
Ellie Shearer (WW)

Happy International Women's Day. It's amazing how those four words can be so irritating. As Mary Berry explained in a recent interview, “Feminism is a dirty word.” Because when used today, the word “feminist” implies the full caricature: angry, militant, determined that all men are the enemy, and, dare we say it, a little sexually frustrated. It's time we accepted that feminism is not an extremist movement, but an entirely reasonable one. If you believe in equality between men and women, you are a feminist. No bra-burning and no man-hating is required. Moreover, there are no gender constraints to being a feminist either. You don't have to be a woman to believe that everyone should be treated equally. You just have to be human.

The theme of this year's International Women's Day is ‘gaining momentum’ – celebrating what has been achieved without forgetting that problems still exist, a time to both look to the future and reflect on the past. Our grandmothers and our mothers lived in a world very different from our own where basic rights like education still seemed the exclusive preserve of men. When my mother read English at Oxford, her college had only been mixed for four years, and sexism and racism were rife. As one of his first female and

very first black students, her tutor gave her less attention and less respect because she was not lucky enough to be born a white male.

This isn't the distant past, and so many of us have stories like this in our families, whether mother, grandmother or aunt. Amazingly, in only a few decades our society has become gradually more equal. The pay gap is shrinking and girls outperform boys in school exams. Of course, there are still unresolved issues. Institutional sexism, though rare, persists in the Anglican and Catholic Churches, where women are barred from becoming priests or bishops. In many professions, though women may not be systematically discriminated against, the demands placed upon them can prove incompatible with family life, leading to significant gender imbalances in parliament,

“you don't have to be a woman to believe that everyone should be treated equally”

the judiciary and boardrooms. At Westminster School itself, it is an achievement that girls can have access to the education it provides, and yet the prestige of being a scholar remains reserved for boys only. Overall, however, in the UK, in the 95 years since women were given the vote, the advances for equality have been numerous and significant. But it is called International Women's Day for a reason, and

it is important to remember that not all women are as lucky as we are.

For example, the global completion rate of primary education for girls is around 80%. This may sound like a lot, but there are huge regional variations. In some areas, as many as two thirds of girls are left without basic literacy and numeracy skills. This effectively bars women from the workplace and imprisons them in the home. It leaves girls ignorant about their sexual health in countries where HIV/AIDs is endemic. In school, girls can also develop an understanding of their legal rights. It was for the sake of education that Malala Yousafzai, the schoolgirl activist, was shot by the Taliban. They knew that her campaign, if successful, would have been a massive step towards the transformation of society in Pakistan.

When it comes to education, awareness and advocacy are key. The global coverage given to Malala Yousafzai was enough to spur a UN petition in her name, calling for all school-age children to be in primary education by 2015. An online campaign to secure her a Nobel Peace Prize nomination would, if successful, send a powerful message around the world that leaving girls out of education is no longer acceptable.

We are fortunate to live in a society that our mothers and grandmothers would barely recognise, a society where equality finally seems achievable. Sadly, it is also a society that women across the world today wouldn't recognise. If we take anything away from International Women's Day that lasts all year long, let it be this: be thankful for what we already have, but never forget that others are still fighting for it, and that it's our responsibility to help them. After all, we are all feminists, aren't we?



From the School Archive: Edward Lear's Grecian Travels WITH EDWARD LEAR IN GREECE

This year Westminster School has published a manuscript from its archive collections online, writes Elizabeth Wells, the school Archivist: 'WITH EDWARD LEAR IN GREECE: Being recollections of travel in Hellenic lands two generations ago, with extracts from his Journals and Letters, and illustrated by his sketches'.

The text was originally prepared for publication by Charles Marcus Church (1823–1915) around 100 years ago and details Edward Lear's (1812–1888) first tour of Greece in 1848. The full text and many more of Lear's drawings, along with an interactive map of their route, can be viewed online at edwardlear.westminster.org.uk.

Charles Church first met Edward Lear in Rome in 1837. Having graduated from Oxford, Church was making a long tour of Europe. When the two men met up again in Athens in 1848 Lear postponed his original plan to travel on to Constantinople, and instead the pair toured Greece, where Church had introductions to local families. Lear arrived into Athens by boat having sailed from Corfu on a naval warship, HMS *Antelope*. He found the city overwhelming, noting in his journal that ‘surely nothing on earth can surpass this mass of grandeur and beauty and interest’. He broke away from the high society of the British diplomats with whom he had travelled wanting to do ‘nothing but draw, draw, draw’. Over this first two week period in Athens he produced 29 sketches. As Church remarked, ‘many of these contain features which have since disappeared from building and landscape, of picturesque and historic interest...the Parthenon standing amid its wilderness of white marble blocks and long grass...all have disappeared amidst the growth of modern civilisation.’ Whilst Lear was drawing, Church was making plans

for their tour of Greece. They set off from Athens on 15th June, but almost immediately there was disaster – Lear wrote in his diary that ‘soon after we had left the city, perhaps an hour, we were galloping, when my horse came down like a shot. I fell over his head and was much hurt in the shoulder and side’. He remained determined to continue their travels and regained his good spirits the following day. As they approached Oripò on the coast of the *South Euboean Gulf* he felt able to make up some impromptu verses:

'The Hens of Oripò

The aged hens of Oripò
They tempt the stormy sea;
Black, white and brown, they spread
their wings,
And o'er the waters flee.
And when a little fish they clutch
Athwart the wave so blue,
They utter forth a joyful note –
“A cock a doodle doo!” (oo).
O! Oo! Oripò-oo!
The hens of Oripò!

The crafty hens of Oripò
They wander on the shore,
Where shrimps and winkles pick
they up



“nothing on earth can surpass this mass of grandeur”

And carry home a store.
For barley, oats and golden corn
To eat they never wish;
All vegetable food they scorn,
And only seek for fish.
O! Oo! Oripò-oo!
The hens of Oripò!

The wily hens of Oripò,
Black, white and brown and grey,
They don't behave like other hens,
In any decent way.
They lay their eggs among the
rocks,
Instead of in the straw.

The nasty hens of Oripò,
With ill-conditioned zeal
All fish defunct they gobble up
At morn or evening meal,
Whereby their eggs, as now we
find,

A fishlike, ancient smell and taste
Unpleasant doth pervade.
O! Oo! Oripò-oo!
The hens of Oripò!



his 'pocket volume of Herodotus' Story of the Great Persian War' which helped act as a hand-book for Lear's sketches in this region. Many were later used to illustrate Grundy's book on the *Great Persian War*.

Once they crossed back to mainland Greece, reaching Lamia on 27th June, Church and Lear found conflicts continued in the area. Insurgents led by Tsamalas Papakostas and Yannis Velentsas were fighting government troops led by Major-General Yannis Mamouris. However, the pair managed to avoid trouble. Lear continued his drawing, frustrated by rising one morning to find 'Mt Olympus, disgusting to say, invisible – considering I had made a huge careful sketch mainly depending on its appearance.' In Lamia he was particularly excited that 'All the old buildings are frequented by lots of storks – on one alone I counted 18 – which clatter and clutter with their bills incessantly. Many sit quietly



ing that 'the sea was very rough, and a narrow rock-path only led on between immense cliffs and the waves. Bay after bay, headland after headland did we cross, the succession of black cliffs, the roar and foam of the water, seeming endless. By and by we came to a river, and half an hour went in finding a ford. "Two hours more" to Cumi, said a man in a hut. Up we went in the dark – awful precipices, but my horse never slipped. This lasted an hour, when, as we halted below a vast mass of mountain, Janni confessed to having lost his way. We shouted again, and at length one of the baggage-men joined us from the other side of a ravine – one of their horses had fallen. After a winding down and up the ravine sides, came a long, long pull to Cumi – and here we actually are, in a verminous place, many gazers, and hash-bashy women. We are glad of tea and bed.' The scenery as they travelled along up the northern coast of Euboea enraptured Lear, who wrote of one sunset scene, 'never saw I one more exquisitely beautiful'. For Church the great interest lay at the north end of the island where they could look 'down upon the plains bordering the Straits of Artemisium, the scene of the naval battles in which the Greeks broke the strength of the Persian Armada which was invading Greece, and the Channel which divided Euboea from Thermopylae; and the scene of undying fame, of the Greek defence on land, was before us'. He had brought

on the minarets.' This trip to Greece was probably the first time Lear had seen a stork in the wild or in flight. He had made many ornithological drawings of storks, from captive or preserved specimens, for John Gould's *Birds of Europe*. Due to the heat, and as Lear was suffering from pain in his shoulder, Church 'considered that it was more prudent now to make for Thebes by an easier route, so as to be within reach of Athens, in case of need'. He was wise to do so as although Lear continued to sketch, some notes made on his drawings ('Ah mi sento male!') indicate that he was not in perfect health. Lear began to suffer from a fever which Church wrote, 'made him helpless and at times delirious and a cause of great anxiety for several days'. When sufficiently recovered Church managed to get him back to Athens 'by 4 horses on an Indiarrubber bed'. Here their paths would diverge although they were to remain friends and correspondents throughout Lear's life. Lear recovered and went on to travel many more times in Greece and further afield, settling on Crete. On his death his friend and executor, Franklin Lushington wrote of him 'From first to last he was, in whatever circumstances of ill-health or difficulty, an indomitable traveller. His sketches were not only the basis of more finished work, but are an extraordinary record in themselves of topographical accuracy, abounding in beauty, delicacy and truth.'

>> Travelling through the site of the Battle of Delium, where Lear noted that he hoped that 'Socrates did not find so many thistles to walk through!', the pair reached Chalcis where they rested for two days. The town, located where mainland Greece almost meets with the island of Euboea, was once the chief seat of the Venetian Republic in Greece. As with Lear's Athenian sketches, his works are evidence of landmarks now disappeared. Church records the 'Venetian castle and drawbridge' with 'carved Lion of St. Mark' having been 'swept away by the modern Greeks since 1848'. Whilst Lear was busy sketching, Church undertook to research the political situation in the area north of the town where they were planning to travel. The European revolutions of 1848 re-ignited conflicts in Greece which had not been completely resolved after the coup of 3rd September 1843 and the granting of a new constitution. Church found that 'alarming letters had followed us from Athens: "The Government have received information that the insurgents have reappeared in force upon the frontier and in Northern Greece. Take good advice at Chalcis when you are about to leave it for Thebes ..."' Church and Lear instead 'decided on making a week's tour in Euboea, which was free from "insurgents," was untrodden ground to travellers for the most part, and abounding, by all accounts, in beautiful mountain and woodland scenery'. Their guide, Janni, a Greek dragoman engaged to cater for the trip and to arrange for the hire of the horses and transport of baggage was perhaps less enthusiastic about this change of plan, being unfamiliar with the region. Having worked their way east again along the southern coast of Euboea, Lear and Church wished to travel across the island to Cumi on the northern coast. Lear notes simply that 'Janni in a great fuss, asking the way every minute', but was clearly preoccupied with the scenery: 'a pretty plain of cornfields, and then we cross a low range of hills, and descend to a valley. Thence a wonderful view of a chasm or ravine, which I had fain drawn.' As the light began to fade, he became rather more concerned recall-

Westminster in the Community: Summer School 2012 CONTROLLED ACADEMIC EXPLOSIONS

The Westminster Summer School is a project set up by Jeremy Kemball with a charity, Future Foundations, which aims to give teenagers a taste of post-GCSE schooling and help them to think about making university and life choices, reports volunteer Matt Diffey (GG).

Each year, a group of Sixth Formers volunteer to help out as Westminster Ambassadors at the summer school, providing assistance ranging from running errands and helping out with administrative duties to helping in lessons, answering questions about the subjects they take and how they came to their university decisions. My major role became event photographer, though I wound up helping as well.

Outside of academia in its strictest sense, the programme features various lessons and seminars such as public speaking and interview skills. For these we used the Manoukian Music Centre, where each class gave a presentation on the subject that they had been learning through the week. Highlights included an improvised lesson on the history of Finland given by Ida Sjoberg, and controlled explosions in the Manoukian.



What struck me most was how keen all the students were to be there. On being asked, even off the record, all of the teenagers had volunteered to attend the summer school and were genuinely interested in what Westminster teachers as well as the tutors with the charity had to offer. Everyone was keen to learn more about subjects old and new, and about sixth form life in general. Even in the absence of parents or teachers, and in the aftermath of a universally stressful GCSE period, their intellectual drive was invigorating.



Westminster in the Community: Volunteering Voices LOUDER THAN WORDS

Westminster life is not all about working hard, putting on plays, making music or winning in the field: we volunteer! writes Abigail Cave-Bigley, who has led the volunteering programme for the last three years.

Each year over 250 pupils have made time every week to volunteer in the local community, since 2010. We've been making intergenerational friendships, teaching children at local primary schools, supporting youth clubs, peer-mentoring, building web-pages for local charities, working with the volunteers on Hampstead Heath and volunteering at local hospitals. Here is a snap-shot of what we do and how we feel about it.

'Teaching children was far more challenging than I had expected.'

'I hope that someone else will be able to take my place, because you really do feel like you are making a difference as a volunteer at Garside. The residents look forward to your visit all week.'

'Meeting the elderly at Pullen Centre has taken me out of my comfort zone. Initially I found it quite intimidating. Now we've got to know each other, it's a real

pleasure talking about the old days while playing dominos with them. We have a good laugh.'

'I like volunteering with a Reception class because the kids have got their priorities sorted in life. They don't particularly care about your university prospects, they only want you to tell them about how 'the tiger came to tea'. Volunteering like this can drag you out of your personal stress whirlpools and remind you that other things are important too.' >>

>> 'Having a masterful eleven-year-old footballer compliment my ball skills was the highest praise I could have asked for.'

'I feel I've benefited as much as those I've helped.'

'Our toil on Hampstead Heath, digging, chopping and weeding, was rewarded by the landscape's spectacular transition from brown to green as the seasons passed.'

'The concentration on Elizabeth's face reminded me of how hard we have to focus in lessons. Each week she would totter around the hall holding onto our hands until one week she waddled her way up the ramp and through the door, unaided by her mum. Now Elizabeth is coming up to 3 years old, and loves to run around the hall.'

'In an RS lesson I was helping the children write a poem about how a community is like a vine. When two of the girls asked me if it was still a poem if you wrote it out in the shape of a vine, we began to talking about poems in shapes. The next week I brought in a collection of George Herbert poems and showed some of the kids 'Altar' and 'Easter Wings'. They were so excited to see that they had the same literary ideas as some of the most renowned poets of the past.'

'The delight of the four children when they were finally able to keep

up in class, made me realise how important our TEFL teaching had been.'

'I help out with a discussion-based philosophy class and then stay on for homework club. I'm amazed by the ingenuity of the children as a group, but also able to help those one-to-one who have some trouble with their work.'

Bill is in his eighties, sharp as a tack, and enjoyed telling us about his footballing potential (back in the forties he could have gone professional had it not been for his hip) and his first "proper" cigarette at ten: he was told by his tobacconist, "No, no, that's not how you do it! Come on now, sit down here and actually breathe the smoke in!"

'I'm at the forefront of a new project – the Evelina Children's Hospital Guide and Scout Group – which, following our example, will be made possible in other hospitals. As someone who takes straight arts subjects, volunteering at the hospital with all the applicants for Medicine was also an eye-opener!'

'I've been going to Burdett-Coutts for nearly three years now and the familiar smiling faces add another dimension to my school life.'

'They cried when we came for our last session.'



"I'm amazed by the ingenuity of the children as a group"



Westminster in the Community: PHAB A WEEK OF CHAMPIONS

PHAB is a week that takes place early in the summer holidays each year, in which pupils live with, care for, and ultimately have fun with people with various mental and physical disabilities. It is a unique experience that will forever stay with everyone that takes part, affirm Riki Houlden (DD) and Isa Ouwehand (PP).

meet newly-made friends and admire the projects everyone had worked so hard on throughout the week, at the PHAB Olympics Closing Ceremony. The art slideshow, film, play and music performance brought back memory after memory, and the week came emotionally to a close as we sang our truly heart-warming theme song together for one last time.

The PHAB Olympics 2012 was kick-started with the PHAB Olympics Opening Ceremony, celebrating all things British. Throughout the week, every 'athlete' took part in one of four workshops – art, film, music, or drama and dance. There were also a wide range of London outings for guests to choose from each afternoon, from sightseeing on the London Eye to watching *The Amazing Spider-Man* at the IMAX. On one afternoon, we all went to Westfield Stratford City for a bit of shopping and to take a photo in front of the Olympic Park, inadvertently causing a "PHlash mob" as we sang *We Are the Champions*, which became our theme song for PHAB 2012.



With every evening came a different event, full of unforgettable moments: the dance-packed karaoke and disco; the band night with a spontaneously forming human chain; and show night, where athletes went to see one of a choice of seven musicals. On the last evening, as we felt the end of the week creeping around the corner, we partied our hearts out at the annual dinner and disco.

The last day brought together the families of all the athletes at the barbeque, to come and

The week is an opportunity for guests to renew old friendships and grow close with the new hosts. To many it is the best week of their year and, for that reason, is a highly rewarding experience, which was clear from everyone's initial shyness to our tears at the end.

A huge thanks from all of us to the departing Director of PHAB, Sam Baldock, and the best of luck to Ransford Agyare-Kwabi, who will be taking on this responsibility from next year.



Westminster School's NEW SPORTS CENTRE

Since buying Lawrence Hall, the Royal Horticultural Society's building in Greycoat Street in 2012, Westminster has converted and kitted out its new Sports Centre in time for it to open at the start of the 2012–13 academic year, writes James Kersten, Master in Charge of Station.



boarders' can now try their hand at a wide range of sporting endeavours – as well as the option of working on their general fitness – as compared to the limited programme offered in the old School gymnasium.

In Station, there have been numerous positive effects, including budgetary savings as well as the increased variety of the Station programme with the introduction of new Stations like Table Tennis and Triathlon Training. Arguably the most profound effect is in travel time. Whereas previously Westminsters were dispersed far and wide across London on Station afternoons, now the Sports Centre is home to at least ten different Stations under the same roof on Tuesdays and Thursdays. This has made it a hive of physical activity for over 200 pupils each afternoon and created a positive buzz throughout the facility. It has also engendered a genuine spirit of communal physical endeavour by Westminsters and now allows pupils to see their schoolmates performing their particular Stations. Consequently, pupils gain a new appreciation of just the kind of commitment and skills required for the successful practice of sports like Rock Climbing, Badminton or Fencing, and even get the chance to have a go themselves – as long as they have the correct footwear!

Westminster's varied but previously disparate Station programme has been centralised and has a hub in the shape of the Sports Centre which serves to bring the pupils closer together geographically, metaphorically and pastorally.

With the visible pleasure of undertaking new sporting skills now clear to all, the next 450 years of Station at Westminster looks bright. *Floreat!*

■ The most recent Elizabethan Newsletter detailed the facilities on offer in the Sports Centre and how they are used during the typical Westminster week. I am delighted to report that virtually all the feedback is very positive; such has been the seamless and successful incorporation of the facility into Westminster life that it is hard to imagine how the School has managed without the Sports Centre for the last 450 years!

From a PE perspective, the Sports Centre has opened up a world of possibilities for the Fifth Form syllabus. So good are they that CD Riches (Master in Charge of Water) and I agonised long and hard about what to include and exclude. The restructuring of the timetable with fortnightly double lessons has meant also that PE contact time for the 5th Form has been increased from 20–25 minutes per week to 65–70 minutes per fortnight.

It has been a similar story with the Lower School Activities (LSA) programme where Nick Fair has had to put a cap on the amount of sporting options offered from the plethora now possible.

Pupils over the age of 16 – once they complete an induction process – have the opportunity to use a state-of-the-art Fitness Suite all week round to work on improving their general fitness or to complement specifically their work undertaken during Station time.

From 9–10pm on Mondays–Thursdays



“Westminster's varied but previously disparate Station programme has been centralised”



The Sports Centre RAISING THE STANDARD

The beginning of the academic year saw Westminster welcome Matthew Bull as the head of the enormous new sports centre in Lawrence Hall, formerly one of the halls belonging to the Royal Horticultural Society, report Caitlin Bailey-Williams (BB) and Cameron Kerr (GG).

■ Mr Bull has faced some challenges throughout his first year at the school, not only faced with the mammoth task of converting the building into a high-class sports centre, but having to run it efficiently on a day-to-day basis. As if this it were not enough, the building is listed, greatly limiting the construction of specific sports facilities. Yet despite all the potential problems the sports centre is now a highly developed and functioning space for student and staff use. Regularly in use by hordes of pupils from the most athletic to the most contemplative, it hosts badminton, fencing, gym fitness, indoor football, land training, martial arts, rock climbing, table tennis and yoga, and has its own catering facilities. The centre has also seen the school become even more involved in the community: not only do the Under School and the Great School use the sports centre throughout the day, the Westminster Abbey Choir School also benefits from the facilities as do local primary schools such as Burdett Coutts and St Matthews.

Mr Bull estimates that there are 40 or 50 students in the sports centre every night and even more on busy nights – it's hard to imagine the fully functional centre as the conference hall it was only a few months ago. In the evenings, activities on offer include indoor football, badminton and rock climbing in the main hall. Climbing is made possible by the exciting new bouldering wall that lines

the side of the main hall and allows climbers of all levels to climb without a harness, safe in the knowledge of the thick protective matting that will comfortably cushion any falls. Other attractions of the centre include the leisure suite, where boarders may go in the evenings to work up a sweat or burn off the stress of a hard day's work. Of course the rowers ensure that the upstairs Ergo suites are used non-stop, following their departure from Weston's basement (a move which came as a great relief to those teachers who had their peace disrupted by thumping 'inspirational' tunes). Various members of staff have been joining in the fun and games too. What could be described as friendly competition between teachers and students has become a common sight throughout the Centre's floors. Time will tell how much this huge new facility will change the nature of sport at school, but the impact is already being



felt. The sports centre has added yet another colourful dimension to life at Westminster, and is going from strength to strength as it becomes more of an integral part of the school and the local community.





Life up Vincent Square STATION TO STATION

Behind the scenes at Vincent Square, everyday operation is made possible through the work of Franklin Barrett, the groundsman and backbone of the running of the square, reveal Cameron Kerr (GG) and Caitlin Bailey-Williams (BB).

Mr Barrett has enjoyed working at the Square for four years, Westminster being the sixth school he's worked at. He sees it offering creative opportunities for enhancing school sports, including football, cricket, athletics, netball and tennis. He is assisted by David Wicks who has been with the school for 18 years. On most mornings his main challenge can be found in the piles of leaves that line the perimeter of the square in fresh layers every night, and clearing the tennis courts of debris. He begins every day in exactly the same way, the scale of the challenge being such that throughout the second half of the Play term he employs two part-time assistants for the sole purpose of collecting leaves dropping from the 66 trees that line the square.

He and David undertake a wide range of tasks, including washing kit for school teams, arranging new cricket nets, buying new cricket screens and football posts for three pitches, decorating the pavilion, and updating the honours boards. One recent innovation was the installation of a long jump pit in the corner with a wheel-away cover, and another is to introduce honours boards for girls. Plans for a new drainage system will make the grass easier to care for and allow it to sustain the current frequent use. The acquisition of the sports centre means he no longer has to host tea in the clubhouse, but he still gets frequent telephone calls from people enquiring after using the space for events, as well as from film crews wanting to see 'the birthplace of football'. This is less irritating

than finding people sleeping under the cricket covers or passers-by wandering in.

The Square sees use from either the Under School or the Great School almost every day. This naturally means that the pitches of Vincent Square are exposed to greater wear than the pitches of most Premiership clubs. The high quality of the pitches is a testament to Mr Barrett's skill in preserving the ground, a task which takes up the majority of his day through mowing and marking out aeration to prevent further compaction of the soil. He not only maintains the grounds, but shapes them as he is responsible for pitch markings and every year will start from scratch, marking out a brand



new 200 metre running track for the Under School's sports day, which is now a regular fixture at Vincent Square.

The week's preparation is usually based around the build-up to match day on Saturday, when most block fixtures are played. Friday usually sees Mr Barrett placing the finishing touches on the square before welcoming the opposition, making the most of the only day when the Square sees no play. Match day is always an exciting event and Franklin has seen a number of games that he considers Westminster classics over his years at the school. Among



his hall of fame of great 1st XI football games include the 1-0 win against Bradfield last year, the tragically late snatching of defeat from the jaws of victory against St Bede's, going out on penalties after conceding an equaliser 90 seconds from full time, and the recent victory against Charterhouse.

Next year marks the 150th fixture between Westminster and Charterhouse, the two schools credited with the invention of modern football and Franklin cannot wait, however does admit grimly that in 149 games, Westminster have only been victorious 17 times.



200 Unexpurgated Years THE WATER LEDGER

Since 1813, 'The Water Ledger' has been kept faithfully by the secretary of Water at Westminster and it now provides an insight into the growth of the building and the rowers who make use of the oldest boat club in the world; that of Westminster School on the Putney Embankment, writes a proud Cameron Kerr (GG).

The ledger itself is a record of the events that took place in the Boat Club each year. In the beginning this took the form of a simple record of the members of the school's 1st VI (that later become VIIs) that year, detailing their names, position in the boat and their weight. However, as time progressed the ledger began to become the canvas on which a more and more colourful portrait of life at the Boat Club was painted. Short entries detailing their successes and failures in races participated in that year grew into the long reports of events in the life of an average Westminster rower that fill the pages of the ledger towards the end of the 20th Century.

"Westminster reached the final of Henley Royal Regatta after overcoming impossible odds"

The formal and proper archiving of crews that was originally encountered was replaced by the untidy handwriting of the year's secretary of Water with photographs and results sheets to illustrate the entries.

The most interesting aspect of the ledger comes from the fact that it is written by boys, for boys. As a result there is no input (or indeed, editing) by masters, coaches or indeed any responsible adult. The last entries in the ledger, before records stopped towards the end of the century, give account of the personal reactions of the boys to events in all their humour, triumph and tragedy. Perhaps the most striking entry and that which best illustrates this characteristic of the ledger's



Chinese Teacher Training Agreement Formalised

ROLE MODELS

For several years we have been hosting students from Shaanxi Normal University in Xi'An, one of China's top teacher-training establishments, reports Kevin Walsh.



In April, the Head Master and I visited the university to sign a formal agreement to this effect. SNUU has many links with other universities across the world but this is the first official link it has made with a school for placements as part of their students' university studies.

"Role models: first official link"

The signing ceremony was a formalisation of the arrangement, securing the link between our two institutions to ensure productive cooperation and collaboration in the general field of teacher training, but specifically in the area of science education research and development.

SALVETE



TOP ROW (l-r):
Catherine Buchanan,
William Galton,
Anna Gibbs,
Alex Griffiths

MIDDLE ROW (l-r):
Chris Kingcombe, Nicolle McCartney,
Laura Murphy

LEFT (l-r):
Gabriella Rutherford, Christina Wrege

University Film Foundation. After completing an internship in Management Consultancy, Anna decided the City was not for her and has happily arrived at Westminster to teach Economics. She also enjoys painting, cooking and travelling, and intends to make the most of the school holidays by continuing to visit developing countries around the world.

Alex Griffiths

Alex Griffiths read Modern Languages (French and German) at Durham University, with her third year spent just south of Bonn, and later in St Etienne. After graduating, she completed an MA in Technical and Specialised Translation and became particularly interested in the relationships between the author and the reader in texts and their translations. She went on to work in patent and legal translation in London before retraining as a teacher at KCL. Outside work, she enjoys reading and spending time with her family.

Chris Kingcombe

Chris Kingcombe read Natural Sciences at Girton College, Cambridge, specialising in Zoology in his final year. He graduated in 2010 and spent a year working at AQA examinations board before deciding that he wanted to become a teacher and starting at Westminster in 2011. He enjoys teaching both biology and chemistry as well as coaching the mighty U14A football team. In his spare time his interests include playing a lot of sport (football, hockey and tennis among others), travelling and photography.

Nicolle McCartney

Nicolle McCartney joins the Maths department having taught for three years at St Olave's Grammar School, Orpington. She read Mathematics at Trinity College, Oxford and initially embarked on a career in accountancy. However, less than a year in to training, she found herself missing maths enough to apply for a PGCE at King's College, London.

Nicolle has enjoyed opportunities for travel and has been lucky enough to fit in a trip on the Trans-Siberian railway as well as travel in South America. When the opportunity arises, she enjoys swimming, gardening and trips into the countryside.

Laura Murphy

Laura Murphy took a rather circuitous route into teaching. On graduating from St John's College, Cambridge in English Literature, she worked briefly in publishing

where it became quickly apparent that studying books was far more appealing than selling them. As such, she went on to gain her bachelors degree in Law, dutifully followed by qualifying as a solicitor at Travers Smith LLP. However, the lure of literature proved irresistible and when the opportunity arose, she eagerly took up a teaching post at Trinity School, Croydon. Now safely ensconced in the book-lined rooms of the English Department up Weston, Laura is thoroughly looking forward to her time at Westminster.

Gabriella Rutherford

Originally from Cornwall, Gabriella Rutherford studied French and Spanish at Pembroke College, Cambridge. Dedicating much of her final year to the study of Mapuche Indians in Chile, she spent a year in the country as part of her course where she completed internships with NGOs and worked in relief efforts following the earthquake in 2010. She is a keen Latin Americanist and travels as often as she can to those parts. In addition, she thoroughly enjoys going to France and has worked and lived in Southern France and in the Alps for extended periods of time. She last worked as a French teacher at Westminster Abbey Choir School. When in the UK, and not in the classroom, she is an avid chef and general 'foodie'.

Christina Wrege

Printmaker Christina Wrege graduated from Winchester School of Art in 2005 and the Royal College of Art in 2010. She joins the Art department after having worked in London galleries and undertaken an artist residency in New York, as well as completing a PGCE in Art & Design at the Institute of Education earlier this year. Christina is primarily concerned with the notion of systems and chaos and the way this can be seen as an analogy to human associative imagination. Working in etching, relief print and lithography as well as video installation and text Christina is looking forward to future solo and collaborative exhibition projects. Her work can be seen at www.pedrospomy.wordpress.com and www.cardiffsessions.wordpress.com

VALETE



Eddie Smith

Eddie arrived at Westminster in September 1973. He departed from Westminster in December 2012 having spent almost 40 years teaching at Westminster. That extraordinary commitment to an institution is humbling. Eddie was deeply committed to Westminster and contributed so much in so many areas. Those colleagues and pupils who only knew Eddie in his later years would hardly recognise him as he was then. Also they would have no idea of the varied skills and passions he brought to Westminster over the years.

I took up the post as Head of Maths at Westminster in the summer term of 1973. I was interviewing Eddie in Easter term 1973 before I was employed. Eddie had previously been teaching at Lord William School, Thame. We were sitting on the fender in the CR talking when a very crusty teacher came up to us and tried to throw us out because he did not know either of us. Eddie always remembers this as a strange introduction to Westminster. Perhaps the reason for the attempt to eject us was that in those days Eddie had a large beard and an Afro hair cut! There certainly used to be the evidence of this in Liddell's in a House photo where Eddie was a tutor.

When Eddie and I joined Westminster there were some excellent teachers in the Maths department. It was important for me as a new Head of Maths to have someone like Eddie in the department who could also teach the brightest pupils and inspire them to take the equivalent of Further Maths A level and even go on to study Maths at university. I believe that a Maths department was formed then that has been built on over the years and flourishes to this day.

Beyond the Maths department Eddie contributed incredibly widely in so many ways – he was Master i/c Fencing for many years, enabling Westminster to carry on a lasting tradition of excellence in this sport.

Eddie was also a walker and mountaineer leading many expeditions. He was an expert among amateurs. In those heady days there was no health and safety limiting us and yet we all seemed to manage to get the pupils back safely. I remember several great expeditions led by Jim Cogan where Eddie and I acted as his sidekicks and Eddie saved us from disaster. On one occasion when we were half way down Scaffell Pike, Eddie noticed that we were missing a boy. Eddie and I were sent back to rescue him.

Eddie took on many roles in his career at Westminster. He was Head of Maths, Housemaster of Liddell's and Under Master and he did all those jobs incredibly well, supported particularly in Liddell's by Margaret.

Eddie, as Under Master, was everywhere about the school from dawn to dusk. He was regarded with awe by the pupils, particularly the naughty ones, but he managed to have that fearsome presence with a teddy bear underneath and the pupils knew this. I remember seeing in a shop window near the school a notice which said: "Don't smoke here or we will ring Eddie to come and get you".

He worked very closely with Philip Hewitt – the school counsellor – and helped set up the first proper PSHE classes at Westminster where six of us volunteered to take a lesson a week with each of the Fifth forms.

He was incredibly supportive to me, when in my second year as Head Master the Remove were rioting and the rest of the staff were covering in the Common Room.

As Under Master he was involved in every area of Westminster life and he worked tirelessly.

There were the unsung areas that were his initiative. He believed strongly that Westminster should reach out to the community. He reinstated our links with the Westminster Boys' Club and arranged for pupils to visit. He inspired our links with the Greenhouse project.

He was also the person who took over from John Field as Archivist and did much to involve the rest of the school in Westminster's past. He was and is a real expert on many areas of that past. Through this and just being sociable about the place he strengthened the school's links to the Abbey. Hence the honour they paid him, which no one else at the school has ever received, of their making him an honorary officer after he stopped being Under Master.

Eddie will be greatly missed at Westminster as will Margaret and their children, Emily, Nick and Dominic.
Tristram Jones-Parry
(Head Master 1998–2005)

VALETE

Rod Beavon

Few currently at the school in any capacity can remember a time without Rod at Westminster. Sadly, all good things come to an end since this will change at the end of this academic year. Rod has been a very high profile presence since his arrival in September 1992 from Sherborne School. Appointed as Head of Science, to follow the evergreen David Muffet who appointed him, he held the post until July 2009 when he became Senior Master. His excellent teaching and wide knowledge of both his subject and much else besides made him an instant hit with the Westminster pupils. Indeed, it wasn't much of a challenge for them to get Rod talking about anything (and everything) for the whole lesson without touching on any chemistry whatsoever. Nonetheless his pupils, of course, achieved excellent results reflecting his passion for the subject and his ability to impart the knowledge and understanding required without endless reference to the requisite syllabuses and revision guides.

During his time as Head of Science he made many excellent appointments and oversaw the development of the Robert Hooke Centre by the aptly named Perfect Air. Happily his rolling blackboard survived the upgrade. Despite being very computer literate Rod avoided PowerPoint presentations and whiteboards. It is always easier to produce beautiful diagrams with coloured chalks after all! His lab 401 was adorned with beautiful prints, the Periodic table, a massive magnet used as a doorstop until Rod became bothered by compliance, and Moldy Warp. This loveable cuddly mole fascinated and intrigued his pupils! Past copies of the Hooke magazine with many exciting Bevman and Robbo escapades are now treasured.

The Chemistry department benefitted not only from Rod's extensive knowledge of the subject but also from his role as a long suffering A Level Chief Examiner, and latterly Principal Examiner, at EDEXCEL. He marked thousands of A Level scripts over the years, initialing many with the infamous fountain pen charged with copious amounts of red ink. He also wrote numerous questions, many sought to interest the students, as well as test their understanding of A Level standard chemistry, by making the questions relevant to the world around them. Particular favourites included the chemical compositions of the liquid sprayed



by the aggressive bombardier beetle and the red hot capsacin in chillies. He translated his expertise and experience in the exam field on to paper by writing revision guides for both the original modular and AS syllabuses. His website was also a favourite for many aspiring chemists, giving exam tips as well as more in-depth topic discussion. For those who were easily distracted they could learn, like Westminster pupils, about amateur radios, canals, railways, aeroplanes, Robert Hooke and more. Unfortunately his opinion on Global Warming cannot be found on these pages!

In the late 1990s Rod was president of the Common Room for three years and at about this time he also began his long attachment as House tutor up Wren's. It was here that he made a great impact on those pupils he did not teach. He has prowled the orange corridor ever since, be it for tutor meetings, registration duty or standing in for any of the four Housemasters during their Alston visits. As a no-nonsense Brummie who calls a spade a spade, pupils took their life in their own hands if they dared to wear anything other than immaculate school uniform when it was Rod's registration duty morning. The speed with which pupils spotted his presence as they staggered in as bleary-eyed they lumbered through Dryden's was something to behold. He always greeted pupils with a degree of enthusiasm and good-cheer that was hard to match at 8:30am and perhaps because of this, the pupils warmed to him and respected the fact that he was able to give them help not only with their Chemistry prep but also with most other subjects on the curriculum. Rod took great pride in getting to know all the pupils in the House and rarely missed any House occasion. His party piece however was the annual baking of a cake in the shape of a Wren's Church, that he designed (but which his wife Julia baked!) to celebrate the Christopher Wren's Birthday Party; a culinary delight which had to be seen to be believed. More latterly (and since his exalted rise to the upper echelons of school management as Senior Master) it was entirely to his credit that he still did a huge amount up Wren's and relished the chance to interact with all Wrenites (and even interlopers from Dryden's) about anything and everything.

From a Housemaster's perspective, Rod was never anything but fair. He had an impressive ability to cut straight to the heart of any issue and an uncanny facility to dissect, diagnose and solve the most intricate problem in words that even the current Wren's Housemaster could understand. His words of advice on all matters UCAS were like gold dust.

As Senior Master Rod managed to juggle both the more mundane aspects of his post (the bottom three probably being registration, DfES returns and attending the *Tatler's* annual awards ceremony) with visits of Heads of State, the Pope and members of the Royal Family. Whatever the duty, each and every one was dispatched with equal efficiency, good humour and a cast-iron desire to get things right first time. Which he did! The school has become familiar with his exuberant cue to stand in Abbey and his colleagues with the running Al-

manack and very precise timings for all formal events. Synchronise watches.

In June 2005 Rod married Julia. Together they have enjoyed the London life. Now as a new chapter unfolds all will wish them the very best in their – well Rod's at this stage – retirement to the North Norfolk coast.

Martin Robinson and Simon Wurr

Emily Chappell

Teaching the art and architecture of the Middle Ages has been, not surprisingly, quite a challenge, writes Emily Chappell of her time teaching Art History at Westminster.



Our pupils are perfect examples of the contemporary world: their clothes, their taste in music, their language, their opinions and, of course, their multiple i-gizmos. They are hardly able to take responsibility for their homework, let alone whether they are headed for Heaven or Hell. The Middle Ages have never seemed further away than today.

Discussions about the acquisition of relics have always been greeted with plentiful eye-rolling and a conviction that Mrs Chappell has lost the plot. That was until one pupil arrived in class a couple of years ago and proceeded to display her newly acquired necklace containing a piece of coal from the Titanic. I immediately seized on my new teaching resource – what could better illustrate the Medieval passion for relics? I began by asking how she knew it was from the Titanic. She told me it had been signed and stamped as being such. "Just like Medieval relics" I announced with relish. The link at this point passed over their heads but all pupils were now fully engaged in what they saw as a debate which was successfully leading me on a tangent away from my lesson. "Who signed it?" I pressed. "No idea" she replied. "So how do you know it really is from the Titanic," I continued. "Because it says so on the packet," she argued. "But you've already said that you don't know whose word you are taking on the packet," this was turning into a great debate. "It is possible, plenty of items have been retrieved," she went on. "Indeed," I agreed, "but what you have demonstrated to us this morning is that your desire to believe has overridden your sense of evidence and that's exactly how the Medieval mind worked. As Kenneth Clark writes in *Civilisation*, 'The Medieval mind cared passionately about the truth but their sense of evidence was different from ours.'" The eye-rolling had subsided: modern Westminsters do indeed have Medieval minds.

Jacqueline Cockburn adds: Emily contacted me in 2002 asking about our Teacher training scheme at Westminster having

heard about it from a previous student. Highly qualified and energetic (as well as pregnant) she soon came to join us at Westminster shortly before she gave birth to Harry in January 2004. A year or so later we had a highly motivated group of students doing our Option course and keen to study the Medieval World. I called her and asked her if she would like to get some experience and along she came to teach a wonderful course on Gothic Architecture which finally got her hooked on teaching. It has always been a delight to work with Emily and when she applied for her first job at Latymer Upper, soon after we were back in contact working out together how on earth she could give a class on Mondrian about whom she knew very little. Typically of Emily she rose to the occasion and the pupils quite rightly loved her. So I was delighted when she applied to teach at Westminster in 2007 and I cannot begin to explain how much we will miss her. Her wicked sense of humour, her delightful sense of fun and joy in teaching, always trying to improve on methodology, and succeeding in turning a period of history which can seem distant, into such an enjoyable experience.

Emily has run courses on Anthropology, World Architecture and a hugely successful Option on Gap Year travel where she was able to discuss her own extensive journeys, some alone and some with her husband Luke. A recent trip to South Africa enabled her to ride with her family including her little daughter Siena. As a keen horsewoman she was happy as ever to share her enthusiasms. She has also taken trips to Florence, Paris, Barcelona and, of course, Cabourg, which have been popular and have encouraged greater numbers to take the subject at A Level. But it was really her roof space trips to Canterbury and Westminster which captured students' imaginations. Her links with the Abbey as well as Canterbury have been invaluable.

Now, sadly, Emily is moving on. Keen to develop her interests beyond her published MA thesis on Mediaeval oak sculpture, she has ideas for a PhD which sound fascinating and an important contribution to academic research. Her 'project' and home in Sussex, a huge property with mediaeval buildings in need of restoration, also beckons and she will have time to pursue these challenges in the coming years.

I would personally like to thank her for her academic rigour, her silly humour and her insightful advice, support and friendship over the past eleven years. Her students too have enjoyed her classes here at Westminster for six years as well as her energy: many have gone on to study the Gothic world in more detail and write enthusiastically and gratefully to Emily for her meticulous, rigorous and yes, at times, frankly geeky teaching!



Martin Boulton

Martin Boulton arrived at Westminster in the Play Term of 2001 to teach Physics, coming from Sherborne where amongst other activities he had coached the School's 1st Rugby XV. Westminster offers no Rugby so Martin had to expend his energies in other spheres and did so by immersing himself in rock-climbing where he was one of the key figures leading to Westminster's meteoric progress in the sport. He also took over as Master in charge of Expeditions, a role that saw him co-ordinate and lead expeditions both in the UK and across the globe. One of these, the Lyke Wake Walk, a 42 mile hike across North Yorkshire Moors, which has been a fixture on the Westminster calendar for many years, Martin ran together with Simon Wurr, shattering the course record with the unbelievable time of eight hours and eighteen minutes. This was all the more impressive given that it was heaving with rain and, by the time Martin and Simon had finished, the rescue missions for the pupils behind them were already underway.

Martin replaced Mark Tocknell in 2005 to become the third Housemaster of Dryden's, the previous two regimes having spanned some 25 odd years between them. Dryden's was at the time a particularly happy and thriving environment and so it was to remain. There was, however, and I write as a proud former Tutor, one area in which Dryden's had been perhaps somewhat deficient, or as old members of the House might say, successful, and that was in not managing to win any silverware. This was all to change, and over the next five years Dryden's was to clean up in just about every competition going. The House was so successful, in fact, that at the inaugural meeting of The Old Drydenites Society the dismay of the rather non-athletic old members was palpable!

Five happy years in Dryden's were soon to pass and the opportunity arose for Martin to become the next Under Master and a member of the Collegiate Body. At this point I pass over the story to the Head Master.

Martin took over as Under Master in September 2010 from Gary Savage, who had

left to become Head of Albyn's. Allocating some of the elements of his predecessor's job description to the newly-created post of Senior Tutor gave Martin some added valuable time to devote to the welfare of staff and pupils, and he has been a very visible and friendly presence and a listening ear throughout his tenure. This interest in people has been often and warmly commented upon as he has strengthened links with the Abbey and our neighbours in the wider community. He has also been tireless and with always the knack of being in just the right place at the right time, whatever time of the day or night – as many pupils will attest!

In his first term in the job Martin led us successfully through an OFSTED inspection with great deftness, ensuring compliance in an ever-increasing regulatory environment but never allowing bureaucracy to swamp the personal touch. Now, in his final term, he is preparing us for another Boarding Inspection early next academic year with the ambition of turning last time's overall verdict of 'very good' into 'outstanding'. We must not let him down!

Martin's two great passions beyond school were begun whilst a pupil at Manchester Grammar School. The first – gliding – still occupies much of his free time, either as an instructor or in his own single-seat aircraft, which he has flown extensively in competition in the UK and on expeditions as far afield as the French and Swiss Alps and the Pyrenees. His second great love is of the mountains, which is also something that seeped into his veins on schoolboy expeditions to the Alps. At Westminster, despite the absence of mountains in the Thames valley, this passion continued, a highlight being a month-long expedition to Greenland, where he and some friends made a number of first ascents.

It is to MGS that Martin is to return in September as High Master. This hugely prestigious appointment after his splendid career here will see him 'coming home' to launch the 500th anniversary of that great school and to steer it through to the next stage of its development. He is a friend and colleague of outstanding merit, whose further career we will all watch with close attention and collective pride.

Stephen Spurr and Mark Feltham

Kevin Olding

Kevin arrived at Westminster in unusual circumstances: we had a new teacher who had left the school after one lesson, and he had just decided that the high-flying legal career on which he had embarked was not for him, and started a PGCE; a fortunate dinner-party encounter put the prospective teacher in touch with the needy Department. We are very grateful to him for giving up his PGCE and stepping into the breach: it is not easy to come into a school as a new teacher part-way through a year, but Kevin managed this with great resourcefulness and his characteristically calm approach to any difficulty.

He has been a very thoughtful Mathematics teacher: he is never content just to present the ideas in the standard way, and has developed ways of working with his classes in a more cooperative and less teacher-directed style than is usual here. His classes have benefited hugely from the care he puts into preparing lessons for them, his generosity with his time, and the patience with which he deals with those who are not finding things easy.

His tutees in Busby's have really appreciated his blend of sympathetic, but practical advice, especially while they have been applying to University: they have found that he always has time to listen, and is supportive in the choices that they have made, and that he doesn't over-react when things go wrong, while making it clear what the right course is. As well as more informal pastoral contacts, Kevin has always been very interested in the more formal aspects of our pastoral guidance and, this year, he has been taking a Fifth Form PSHE class. His work on this has been much appreciated both by the boys, whose discussions he has guided sensitively, and by his colleagues.

Much of the education a pupil acquires at Westminster does not come in the form of lessons, and Kevin's wide range of political and social interests has meant that those pupils who come into contact with him outside the classroom have enjoyed a rich intellectual experience: he is very good at provoking pupils into discussion, and presenting them with opinions and ideas to grapple with that are rather different from those they might usually come across.

Although he decided to leave the legal profession, Kevin has brought to Westminster a depth of understanding of the law which has been very helpful to those who have been interested in studying the subject at University. He has also organised Westminster's participation in Model United Nations conferences and encouraged those pupils who enjoy this form of engagement in the international political world.

Kevin is sadly leaving us for a post at Dulwich College and we all hope that he will



enjoy the wider range of Mathematics teaching he will meet there – but he won't be far away, even if going South of the river will be a new experience for some of us.

Michael Davies

Hugh Salimbeni

Hugh arrived three years ago from Winchester, and it was obvious from the start that he was going to make a marvellous School Master, of a now slightly old fashioned sort: dedicated to his teaching, but also keen to get immersed in every aspect – sporting, pastoral and cultural as well as academic – of the life of a boarding school.

He has been an inspirational teacher: his classes have a real atmosphere of excitement and you can see that his students are enjoying doing Mathematics with him. I saw his Upper Shell class, who have been with him for two years, hear the news that he was leaving and their real disappointment was palpable. Despite his busy life, he has always had time for any pupil who needs help with their work – in the House and around the School in the evenings, as much as in class.

Hugh has been Resident Tutor in Rigaud's for just two years but has made the job his own in that time and leaves much admired having won the hearts of colleagues, pupils and parents alike. Energetic, efficient and utterly reliable, he has a finely-tuned pastoral sense which has come to the fore and been much utilised as he's made himself accessible to the boarders and day pupils: they trust him without reservation, which is no mean feat, and his positive contribution to their lives and to his tutees in particular cannot be underestimated.

For me, the response of Rigaud's pupils upon hearing that Hugh was leaving says everything: Junior House Sixes saw the whole squad and their supporters wearing House T-shirts adorned with varied messages of tribute to 'Salimbeni'. This inspired them to an emphatic tournament victory which was dedicated to Hugh; they could not have offered a more heartfelt 'thank you'. There's no doubt that he will be missed, but all in Rigaud's congratulate Hugh on his exciting move and wish him the very best.

Hugh is a very impressive musician, singing and playing at a professional level, and he has been most generous with his support of musical pupils, including organising two wonderful House concerts, and coaching and accompanying many individuals preparing for performances at every level.

Hugh has also run Fencing Station: a huge logistical challenge, particularly in his first two years when it took place in several scattered venues, which he has faced cheerfully, if not patiently. He's a good fencer himself but, most importantly, has encouraged pupils of all



skill-levels to commit themselves to and enjoy the sport.

Hugh is leaving to be Head of Department at the London Academy of Excellence, a State Sixth Form in Newham. I am sure that he will make a tremendous success of this job, as he has of his time here, and be an inspiration to both pupils and teachers. We all hope that he will enjoy this new challenge and wish him the best of luck: since he will be working for a previous Westminster Mathematics teacher and resident Tutor in Rigaud's with an equally flamboyant style and unusual sartorial taste, he will probably need it.

Michael Davies and Huw Williams



Sophie Young

Sophie Young may only have been at Westminster for seven terms and a week but in that short time she threw herself into many areas of the life of the school in such a way that her departure for Queen Anne's Caversham, has left a substantial hole (and a bicycle with two flat tyres on the bike rack).

She acted as charities coordinator with the Senior Tutor and was invaluable in organising the Christmas Hampers three years in a row. It is something of a 'straw that breaks the camel's back' job at the end of a long Play Term and it would not have been such a success without her.

She assisted Sarah Leonard with the entry process for Sixth Form girls and with their pastoral care once they arrived at Westminster. Disappointed that we do not play Lacrosse, she helped with Body Step and Yoga Stations. She ran two Lower School expeditions to kite surf on the south coast at Hastings, from one of which she returned with a broken wrist. While at the school she completed an MA in Christianity and Art at KCL. She was also an occasional teacher in the History of Art department, providing wise advice to Removes about their Pre-U personal investigations, a calling which she hopes to pursue in the next academic year at her new school.

But above all, Sophie was the Chaplain's pastoral assistant, reaching parts of the school that would otherwise not be reached, including the Easter ski trip to the Alps. She spoke in Abbey, she helped with Chaplain's breakfast and Confirmation preparation and she supported the birth of a Christian Forum that, under her care, has become a pupil led Christian Union. She was an informal friend of all in the Common Room – lots of people

talked to her regularly and she made time for everyone. And everywhere she went she smiled! Her 'positivity' will be sadly missed.

Gavin Williams

Maggie Catling

Maggie got talking to Lesley Bateman as she was walking her beloved Labrador, Sophie, in St James's Park one day and this is how she came to join the library at Westminster, replacing Mrs Bland the Senior Library Assistant at the time. Maggie slipped into her role with exceptional ease and quickly became fully involved in the hustle and bustle of school life. Since then she's been involved in so many of the School's activities – Pilates, book binding, charity fundraising – that we've lost count of her contributions!

Maggie's a dab hand at keeping the librarians organised and getting the job done in a short space of time. In her genial and quietly



efficient way, displays for the walls were effectively created, tasty cakes were baked to help support the various charitable events and library book bags were sold on September Saturdays – no mean feat when running a jewellery stall.

Not to forget book club! Maggie rescued the book club when Selma Thomas left and became the glue that held the group together. Her emails organising dates and times (so everyone could get together to discuss *The Brothers Karamazov*, or *The Hare with the Amber Eyes*) kept the group motivated and connected, although, in all honesty, "didn't get around to reading..." has been the confession of one particular participant on more than one occasion. This participant, however, has not been let off the hook, as we hope Maggie will continue to grace the book club with her presence and her knowledge of literature for some time to come.

Maggie retires (too early) to spend more time with her family in her country home. We shall miss her daily contributions to library matters, the camaraderie, friendly good humour and the little gifts, like the pots of Cotswold's honey, that appeared on our desks at the start of every term.

Caroline Goetzee

Patric Choffrut

Polyglot and passionate: two adjectives which encapsulate Patric to a t. His prodigious *joie de vivre* and energy remained omnipresent since he joined the French Department four years ago. We all know how delighted he was to finish his illustrious international career (which took him to France and the USA) here at Westminster. We will remember his infectious enthusiasm with fondness and of course his *coups de gueule* against the weather or the coffee machine, his singing Southern accent and of course his incredible professionalism. We really hope he will continue to send his marvellously varied emails on all things French. We wish him and his family a happy retirement in London, his recently-adopted home-city and expect him to come and visit frequently in the future. Patric, rather than farewell, *au revoir!*

Sebastien Blache





September Saturday SPLASHING OUT

Spending Saturday afternoon up School is usually a dreaded punishment for selected reprobates, rather than the much anticipated pleasure we discovered on October 6th, confide Lucy Fleming-Brown (MM) and Martha Glaser (CC).

After the morning's initial concerns about 'shag' wear from some bemused Sixth Form girls, everyone arrived to discover Yard transformed; football had been exchanged for face paint and the scones were ready to roll. With the smell of candy floss lingering in the air, brightly coloured stalls filling Yard and pupils carrying tray loads of classic *Krispy Kremes*, September Saturday was anything but mundane. From rave tent to record stall, Westminster's annual fundraising fair enjoyed freak good weather and, to top off a seemingly faultless day, even an appearance from notorious School rock band, *The Faceless Bureaucrats*.

The behind-the-scenes effort, too, was excellent – with each House assigned a stall, everybody had the opportunity to take part, resulting in £21,000 raised. Raising money for such worthy causes as Westminster PHAB and i-India has never been so much fun, whether you took advantage of the much-anticipated bouncy castle (without age limit!), queued for home-spun candy floss or made out like a bandit at the auction.

There was something for everyone to enjoy – the record stall for vintage finds, the Hook-a-Duck stall for those plucky enough to try

their hand at the game, and the human 'fruit machine', to name just a few. Children were transformed into walking works of abstract art by the skills of the face-painting team, whilst a scale-model train set filled the downstairs conference rooms impressively. Honourable mentions are due to Mr. Kemball who bravely faced a public gunging – the annual chance to ruin a teacher's day and raise money for charity simultaneously – and the Milne pancake crew who struggled admirably in the face of burner failure and indigestion.

As the closing strains of 'Parklife' boomed across Yard to rapturous applause, we knew that we had witnessed more than the sum of cakes baked, crockery smashed and shag donned – we can only look forward to next September Saturday for more of the same.



Life up Purcell's A NEW BOY'S TALE

When I first heard of the option to move to Purcell's to become part of a new intake of boys in the previously all-girl House, I was very excited, concedes Vikram Mashru (PP).



It was not until a few weeks later that I realised that I was the only one who felt that way. It became clear that I would be the only Remove boy in Purcell's, a somewhat daunting prospect. I consoled myself by thinking of my lovely history teacher, Dr Ward-Smith, who is also the Purcell's Housemaster. I also found out that there would be three other boys in the year below and a full year of Fifth Formers. Still, it seemed a little foreboding, particularly as I would be leaving my former House.

The first few days were, however, a pleasant surprise: all of the girls and boys were nervous and lost in the new building that Purcell's now occupies, but this shared situation made it easy for us to form friendships. Admittedly, the new location caused a few problems. I spent much of my first day showing people around a building that I had never entered in my life. However we all rapidly realised how lucky we were to have it. It was previously owned by an Anglican religious order, so has its own grand chapel as well as a beautiful roof garden and its own dining room – we are undoubtedly the most extravagantly equipped House in the school.

Despite my initial worries, the open and amicable Purcellites have made it incredibly easy to make friends. There are so many new students in the House that everyone has made an effort to get to know others. We began with the Purcell's pizza night, an amusing occasion with a seemingly never-ending supply of food. The House spirit shown that night – welcoming and friendly, but never quiet – has certainly continued since.

St Valentine's Day PUTTI IN THEIR HANDS

After more than ten years spreading romance in the form of carnations around the school on Valentine's Day, Dr Ward-Smith's House finally decided to retire from this exhausting task, confesses Caitlin Bailey-William (BB).

Amid fears that this fine tradition would disappear and along with it the chance to confess clandestine crushes, share witticisms and – on occasion – say something meaningful, a valiant group of cherubic volunteers stepped in at short notice to save the day. This year the carnations were sold to raise money for Caxton Youth Organisation, which works in the Westminster area to advance the education and social development of local young people with disabilities, and where a number of the Carnation Helpers also volunteer on a weekly basis. For the first time both boys and girls were part of the process, organized by Mrs Cave-Bigley, and after hours of writing out anonymous love letters, sorting them into Houses, and eventually attaching these valentines to hundreds of carnations, the 14th February was at last upon



A few minor mishaps along the way, including an under-delivery of carnations, were dealt with only a little stress, and each House received a fine bucket of bright red carnations at eight o'clock on the Thursday morning. A trail of carnation fever could be seen around the school all day as flowers peeped out of bags and tags were compared for handwriting and humour. All-in-all the carnations were a great success and confirmed in many minds that this custom should continue, not least because of the huge amount the event raised for charity – over £800 this year, and let's hope more can be done in the future, all in the name of love.



“one of the many great examples of the quirky school spirit of Westminster”

The Greaze 2013 OUT OF THE FRYING PAN

As Shrove Tuesday approached, the excitement of participants and spectators alike increased as did the number of rumours flying round, divulges Caitlin Bailey-Williams (BB), who witnessed the event for the first time.

For a new girl, the Greaze is the stuff of legend – a unique Westminster tradition like Latin Prayers – and so, as tales abounded of ‘booking’ (when the chef fails to throw the pancake over the iron bar more than three times and so the boys throw their text books at him as a punishment, grievous injury, and even death), I was a little concerned as to what I was letting myself in for. Not sure what to believe, I headed to the library display case to find out how much of this was true. As it turns out, a lot of it is, including the ‘booking’; in 1865 one unfortunate cook when ‘booked’ retaliated by hurling his frying pan into the crowd of boys and escaped in the ensuing bloody mayhem, never to be seen again.

Armed with this knowledge, I joined the rest of the spectators on the tiered platforms: here the competition for a good vantage point was almost as fierce as the competition on the floor for the pancake.

The first pancake was launched out of the frying pan by the cook, the audience held their breath, and Charles Murphy (Grant’s) leapt from the sideline unchallenged to grab it whole – unfortunately the pancake had not cleared the bar. The head cook prepared again and this time, possibly frightened of the prospect of a



‘booking’ if he continued to miss, overthrew the pancake slightly: the mass of 30 boys leapt to grab it and then collapsed as one on to the floor, pressed against the barriers protecting the audience. It was impossible to see who held the pancake as boys dragged opponents from inside

the ruck and some more determined members even dived into the top of the pile: all that could be seen was mismatched socks waving above the melee. The two minutes of contest continued much in this fashion, accompanied by original and interesting chants from the supporters; when the whistle blew and the mass broke up, the boys who held some portion of the pancake approached the scales. A hush descended as the moment of truth approached – the competition seemed to be between Rigaud’s Fred Boyce-Rogers, without doubt the underdog in this bid for glory, and the more solidly built Milo Johnson of Dryden’s.

After a highly scientific weighing process, Milo Johnson was finally pronounced winner of the 2013 Greaze to much applause and the formality of the Dean’s Play was begged and allowed. I found the whole event bizarre but massively entertaining and one of the many great examples of the quirky school spirit of Westminster – a five minute episode in which it is easy to take yourself back to the origins of this tussle hundreds of years ago and see the same values of intelligence (winning requires superior tactics, or so I am told), competitiveness, and an enthusiasm rarely displayed to this extent elsewhere.



HOUSE REPORTS

COLLEGE

It’s been another wonderful year in College! Of course, one of the major highlights of College’s calendar is Big Commem, and I’m pleased to say that it was a total success; scholars and College girls processing down the flanks of Abbey, singing Latin chants in tuneful voice, was a fantastic sight to behold. However, it’s not just in Abbey that College excels. For the third year running, College has stormed to victory in the House chess competition, crushing any team that dared stand in its way. Another wonderful success was the Towpath, in which the College senior team was also victorious.

I could continue to list College’s numerous achievements, but how could I neglect talking about the delight of living in College itself? The friendly, homely atmosphere of College makes boarding very enjoyable, not to mention the various treats that are offered in the evening, from doughnuts and cookies to a pizza night with the Dean of Westminster Abbey himself! Yes, even after my time at Westminster is over, College will always have a special place in my heart.

GRANT’S

Mr Hargreaves, the Granite who doubles as Housemaster and, on Thursday evenings, pasta chef, has been known to remark that annual House reports can sometimes read like statements issued by 1930s Ukrainian tractor farms – each year production targets are declared to have been exceeded and new glories reached. This academic year, for instance, has seen a stellar House concert, which finished with all years sublimating their energies into screaming Robbie Williams’ *Angels*, directing all their love, of course, at matron (“and through it all, she offers me protection, a lot of love and affection”). We put on a House play, won the House debating competition and performed less dreadfully than usual in an array of sports, especially

those that took place in the House TV room, where the Lower Shell excelled at FIFA 2013. In addition, we beat Rigaud’s in every possible way. That is, naturally, not a measurable achievement, but it is true.

For day students wondering what they miss out on, one Lower Shell boarder summed up the Grant’s nightlife better than I can: ‘I believe that being a boarder adds to a great experience in the House, the icing on the cake. You are able not only to enjoy talking to friends after school, but to make a lot of new ones with older and younger boarders.’ Then, for any doubters, he adds the killer blow: ‘In my opinion, being a boarder has also helped my work.’ So there you have it: Grant’s is a slick social scene where young sophisticates go to work hard, and play hard too.

As ever, we are deeply grateful to Mr Hargreaves – it is difficult to imagine a Housemaster more dedicated to the welfare of each individual member of the house – as well as to all of our wonderful tutors, not least the ever-jovial Mr Fair, whose efforts as resident tutor have helped make the House a truly happy place in which to live and work. Those of us who are leaving this year will miss it more than we can say.



RIGAUD’S

And what a year it has been for Rigaud’s! The House now has a library, proving wrong the few doubters who thought that Lower Hall conversations could not reach more eloquent heights, and a new carpet, which is widely agreed to be the most exciting single refurbishment since the 1895–6 fire and reconstruction itself. So wonderful was the transformation that even Mr Wurr remarked in a recent visit that the House is ‘going places’.

Success has been always and everywhere: victory in cricket (for the third consecutive year) junior football (for the second time in three years) and climbing, with runners-up in Fives, as well as girls and senior sixes football, and third in shooting. Regular feats of the impossible have proved increasingly commonplace: the girls, for instance, continue to pull off the notoriously hazardous House orange without clashes and with outrageous aplomb.

The Doh-may-Rigaud’s *acapella* tradition was carried forth in a thoroughly enjoyable concert, again punctuated by fine displays of musicality, and the play (Miller’s *A View From The Bridge*, shared with DD) is currently odds-on to be a triumph.

And although this year also marks the end of the Drayton, Fellows and Aldred dynasties, the 21st century backbone of the House, with such fine current members, with so wonderful a matron and with Dr Williams at the helm, it >>

“The junior six-a-side team proved all doubters wrong by beating Milne’s”



HOUSE REPORTS



>> seems that the future will, as ever, be orange. Carlsberg, I am reliably informed, don't do boarding houses, adhering, as we all ought, to the school's excellent alcohol policy, but if they did, they could probably not better this place. *Ipsu Razu*.

BUSBY'S

■ Another year, another raft of successes for the inhabitants of 27 Great College Street. Victories in House Football, both the Boys' XI's and the Girls', serve as a reminder of the House's sporting prowess, as does the retention of the House Shooting trophy for the fourth consecutive year. At the end of the Lent Term, the House took on Dryden's at a spot of paintballing, led from the front by our determined Housemaster; the spectacularly large bruise which was soon inflicted on the top of Mr Kembal's head as a result of his handiwork set the tone for the day, with Busby's ignoring the pouring rain to bind together young, and, in the case of the staff, very old alike to record a raucous victory.

The House's charitable endeavours have also blossomed, with a hugely popular milkshake and jewellery stall on September Saturday, while the friendly rivalry between PAB and SDW over who would get the most donations fuelled the drive for jam at Christmas, leaving a mountainous pile of jars covering the floor of PAB's study. This was topped off by a bake sale for Red Nose Day, raising a considerable sum of money for Comic Relief, down in no small part to the generosity of the parents and pupils who baked for the stall, and the enthusiasm which runs across the House to make such occasions possible.

Indeed, enthusiasm for all things Busby's is what sets us apart from the other Houses: yet another well-crafted and witty edition of the House magazine, *The College Street Clarion*, was published, continuing a tradition which stretches back for decades. Intra-House com-



petitions in Chess, Pool, Debating and General Knowledge have flourished and, at the time of writing, the House is preparing for its annual concert, with the sounds of feverishly-practising pupils punctuating the normal serenity of Busby's Yard. All things considered, this was a very successful year, and there is much to look forward to in the future.

LIDDELL'S

■ Liddell's has had another successful year, with our excellent record of participation continuing unabated as we fielded teams in diverse fields; a particular shout out on the sporting front to the Liddell's junior runners, especially Freddie Hill, who have had a storming year in the Towpath Cup and the Bringsty Relays. The House netball team's highly impressive 3rd place we feel deserves recognition. The by-now-traditional *Krispy Kreme* stall at September Saturday once again did a roaring trade, and the 'Party Tent', although at first prompting bemusement from

the punters, did in the end manage to coax the Head Master himself in for a little boogie. On the musical front, the House concert was another triumph, with the ratio of Liddell's to Hakluyt's performers being the most favourable in living memory; Azmain Chowdhury's *Faceless Bureaucrats*, by now a familiar fixture around the school, performed an excellent set, and the ethereal strains of 2Pac's *Changes* still echo in the memory and through the corridors of the Manoukian. Within the House the changes are still ringing – our new selection of bottle-green Chesterfields seem to be bearing up fairly well thanks to the absolutely sterling work of the cleaners. We were very pleased to welcome to the House a new tutor, Dr. Prentice, who has become a key member of the boarding House community, which has been thriving under the august and impartial despotism of Head of Boarding, Hamzah Ahmed and his appointed Chief Oracle, Harry Clement-Jones. Certainly we can look forward to another dynamic year for this most dynamic of Houses – for remember, *possimus qui posse videmur*.



ASHBURNHAM

■ Ashburnham has enjoyed a very encouraging year and it is clear that there is much success to look forward to. Special credit must be given to Dr Ragaz who, in her inaugural year as Housemaster, has managed to create the perfect atmosphere in which extra-curricular success can thrive.

First and foremost however, Ashburnham's superb victory in the House netball must be noted. Under the stewardship of Emily Harper, with stars including Maria Hunt, Grace Rowan and Eden Fung, we successfully retained the Netball cup; let's hope that future years are able to maintain this dominance.

One area in which future success is surely guaranteed is music. A special mention must be given to Ravi Veriah Jacques (violin) and Henry Kitchen (trombone) both of whom managed to make it to the final of the Westminster Young Musician of the Year competition. The pair will be joined by Ashburnham's other musical superstars in what should be a highly successful House concert in Election term.

Back to sports and it is clear that Ashburnham is laying the foundations for future success. The junior six-a-side team proved all doubters wrong by beating Milne's and drawing with the eventual runners-up Dryden's despite having a man sent off. Further up the school, the heavily-depleted Ashburnham senior six-a-side team managed both to scrape a draw with Hakluyt's and also to avoid the slaughtering at the hands of Dryden's that many had predicted! It has been a fantastic year for the house and the future is certainly bright.

WREN'S

■ This school year has been a great one for Wren's. Wrenites achieved more wins in House competitions this year than in recent

“our new selection of bottle-green Chesterfields seem to be bearing up fairly well”



memory, reaching the finals in competitions where previously we had allowed other Houses go ahead.

One of our most staggering achievements was winning the Bringsty Relay. Our girls had a total time of 27:45, beating the record by 2:01! It is fair to say that Mary-Alice Davison simply 'owned' everyone, including many of the boys, with her time of 5:58.

Wren's had some fantastic wins in football. We won the Senior House Sixes; after a draw with Rigaud's in the final, our win of 5-4 in penalties was well-deserved. Other solid performances include 2nd place in the Senior House 11-a-side competition and 3rd place in Junior House Sixes.

Great talents were displayed in Junior House Swimming as Wren's was 2nd and Marwin Kalo came first for breaststroke. Wren's also reached the finals in House Chess. Most surprising of all, our team of Eleanor Shearer and Alexander Mafi has made it through to the finals of House Debating! In the past, Wren's had been unable to break the first-round barrier in debating, so this is a truly stunning triumph.

In sum, all Wrenites deserve a pat on the back for their success in all the activities that they take part in. They should be proud to be part of such an inspiring union of students, who undoubtedly reign as Kings and Queens of the Corridor.

DRYDEN'S

■ The Dryden's team, led by our exotic manager – known only as DHB, have been operating a rotation policy within the trophy cabinet. This controversial tactic prevents dust from settling on the silverware that would otherwise remain in our cabinet year on year as the other Houses succumb to our might. The seniors' House sixes trophy has been given a rest for this year and is sitting on the bench in Wren's (believe it or not). In its place now stands the gleaming senior Fives trophy, won by our dedicated team of Remove players, each of whom has amassed the 10,000 hours of practice, advocated by Matthew Syed to become an expert. The same can be said of the ping-pong players in the lower school.

As well as the world's finest Fives players and some mean cruciverbalists, Dryden's boasts some of the Remove's most revered individuals, from the Secretary of the John Locke Committee to the Head Boy himself, under whose watchful eye Dryden's has blossomed in the flowerbed that is Westminster School. A former Head of Dryden's recently said in a frank moment of honesty that 'this Dryden's Remove is by far the best bunch since the vintage of 1998 – my year!'

There have been some change outside the trophy cabinet too. With the departure of our old favourite tutor Gavin Griffiths, three new tutors were required to fill his boots, Ms Wrege and Messers Galton and Walton, who have far exceeded expectations and have injected youthful vitality into the House.

With this vitality has come a sense of harmony and sensitivity directed towards our most bitter rivals, the Wrenites, who leer at us down the corridor and treacherously use our black box to register themselves in the afternoon. Thankfully these rivalries across the corridor were allayed for the annual Dryden's-Wren's House concert, a mellifluous arrangement of minims, crotchets and quavers that resulted in the creation of the new Dryden's jazz combo.

Dryden's has not only put on a House concert to show our musicians in all their glory, but also a House play to display all of Rigaud's best actors. Our production of Arthur Miller's *A View from the Bridge* had every upper lip in the MFH quivering, and was as slick a house play as one could hope to see.

But the highlight of the year came when midway through March Dryden's and Busby's lined up face to face in a mire in Sussex, armed to the teeth with paint and ready to cover the other from head to toe. The paintballing outing was yet another distinguished and resounding triumph for the men in red, as Busby's *n00bs* buckled under our tactical supremacy, derived from our collective mastery of Call of Duty. >>

HOUSE REPORTS

>> Long may this upward trajectory continue as Dryden's asserts its pre-eminence in returning to the glory days of 1998.

HAKLUYT'S

■ Hakluyt's... How do I begin to describe Hakluyt's?
 "Hakluyt's is flawless."
 "I hear Hakluyt's kettle is insured for £10,000."
 "I hear Hakluyt's Remove common room is a location for car commercials – in Japan."
 "Once Johnny Depp visited Hakluyt's..."
 "... and he said that it was pretty."
 "Once I got punched in the face by someone from Hakluyt's. It was awesome."

Mean Girls references aside, it has been a good year for the Blue Army. After deciding to "give the other, less fortunate Houses a chance" in the sporting competitions, our confidence in our physical prowess worth far more than any tawdry trophies, we have turned our attentions towards intellectual pursuits.

It is with this spirit that Hakluyt's has dominated not only essay-writing challenges, such as the Gumbleton (with most winners being Hakluytians), but also the inaugural Westminster Musician of the Year. Not only is the winner, Eliza Millett, a loyal Hakluytian but the runner-up, Forbes Anderson, and the winner of the string and voice sections, Aditya Chander, are also both Blue comrades.

It is, perhaps, with sadness that I leave Hakluyt's (and, though far less important to me, the school). But when I am old, and all other Westminster Houses have recognised the clear superiority of Hakluyt's and sworn fealty to her greatness, I will remember this year with triumph, and speak the motto of our House with pride:

"I'm sorry that people are so jealous of me, but I can't help it that I'm so popular."

PURCELL'S

■ This has been an adventurous year for Purcellites as we now welcome boys under our roof. The transition from Barton Street to St. Edward's House is still underway but the atmosphere of the House is as warm as ever, helped by radiators that refuse to turn off! The year kicked off successfully with September Saturday where Purcell's had the most number of stalls as we monopolised the too-pretty-to-eat-cupcakes front.

House netball was a success as we showed other Houses that netball can be played in style and with skill, and thanks to the even-



"a bit of harmlessly cruel competition"

ing training sessions, our all-girls team came fourth. However we had some hiccups in other House events. We were unable to compete in the senior boys' House football – apparently 4 players isn't enough for a team – but our junior team played some excellent matches. The score did not matter but we were certainly the only House with Remove girls cheering for a junior team.

MILNE'S

■ This year has proved to be impressive for Milne's in all aspects of school life. We've kept up our tradition of going for everything and have yet again achieved excellent results. Things got off to an ideal start, with a sizeable victory at the Long Distance Races in September – the fourth successive Towpath victory. The Inters destroyed the competition, with special mention to Nicholas

Clanchy and Mo Barry-Wilson who came first and second respectively. Further success came in March as we came second in the Bringsty Relays (after some dubious manipulation of the scoring system), with Andreas Ioannou outstripping all other competitors and attaining the fastest time in the school. Sporting success of course did not stop there, with the netball team losing by just one goal in the House finals. To add to this, the football team managed to reach the semis in the Upper School eleven-a-side, beating the favourites, Drydens, and although they did not pass the group stages in the House sixes, we at least tasted sweet victory in our win against Ashburnham.

Besides sporting success, the pancake stall on September Saturday, run by Chloe McLain and Daniel Ki, proved to be hugely successful, raising almost £200. On top of this, the Milne's House concert, organised by George Moore, raised further money for Comic Relief. The event marked the second Milne's-only concert since its creation and displayed the wide range of talent Milne's possess, ranging from a self-composed piece by the organiser to a rousingly entertaining performance from Nicholas Kenny on the bagpipes. Milne's wonderful House spirit does not stop there. Mr Crole's renowned quizzes continued as always and showed great integration between years and of course a bit of harmlessly cruel competition (spurred on by the sugar rush from the free sweets and drinks). Most notably perhaps, was the inaugural issue of the Milne's magazine, organized by the Sixth Form, and special thanks goes to Andreas Ioannou and Ji-Min Lee for its creation. The magazine celebrated the success of Milne's achievements last academic year, presenting yet another sign of House spirit, and promises to continue in the future with the current Upper Shells already stepping up.

As is abundantly clear, Milne's has had another excellent year, proving again to be the best House on Dean's Yard and beyond!



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Nepal:

Philip Hendy Travel Prize BACK IN TIME

Fascinating as it was to be greeted by a cow at the airport, it was also a bit disconcerting to have it chew at me for over an hour, allows Hamzah Ahmed (LL).

Even after I left Baggage Claim it felt quite surreal getting into the back of an '84 Toyota Corolla and being bounced through Kathmandu's many potholes. But in the haze cooked up by the morning's *daal bhat* and the dust scattered by thousands of kids long-jumping their way to school, the streets of Nepal's most polluted city were sprawling with the array of a culture defined by its variety.

Nepal's religious heritage has remained an intrinsic part of its cultural legacy: whether it's the sadhu monks who entertain foreigners with their extraordinary facial hair, or the imaginative carvings of lions and elephants that guard the *Nyatapola* (Five-Roofed Temple), the spiritual has permeated Nepalese society such that even building a home is steeped in ritual – blessings and rites are followed to ensure that even the Buddha himself is satisfied with the foundations of every building in the valley. What's more, Kathmandu has its very own *Kumari*, or 'Living Goddess', who lives in an elaborately symmetrical palace that she can't leave more than once a month. She has her very own chariot festival and so pleased was my tour guide when she appeared at a top floor window that he called his wife straight away and proclaimed that the weather would be top notch for the following three days. Even through the sceptical eyes of a Westminster the magic and drama of the sacred was genuinely moving. Funnily enough, the *Kumari* has a limited choice of playmates (as

determined by caste) and whenever she wants to play *Top Trumps* she is legally obliged to win every round.

Thousands of temples are sewn into the heart of the Kathmandu Valley and each has its own story: in the symbiosis of Hindu and Buddhist rituals, a unique approach to manifold religious practise has allowed people to coexist without social inhibition. Stunning monuments venerate gods of both religions and a Western approach of trying to distinguish one faith from the other is futile. Entire towns live as they did centuries ago; 17th century Tanka painting schools in the same redbrick cloisters and handmade paper workshops still operate under

“It is this *mélange* of cultural ancestry that has made Kathmandu an eclectic and colourful city”

candlelight – I was undoubtedly privileged to be sent back in time.

It is this *mélange* of cultural ancestry that has made Kathmandu an eclectic and colourful city: tiered-temples, humming monasteries and holy waters circulate the vibe of a capital enriched by its gleaming golden eaves. As the



sun sets over Kathmandu, cluttered streets are lit by fluorescent signs of Internet cafés and glimpses of the Facebook logo through muggy windows are the only reminders of a world that exists outside the uniquely antique Kathmandu Valley, a place far removed from the tiny cobbles of Little Dean's Yard.

Chilean Exchange

August 2012

CHILEAN CHUMMY WITH GUMMY BEARS

When we saw our Chilean counterparts at Santiago airport, I was immediately greeted by Fernando, my exchange, and his mother, both of whom started speaking to me in the most unintelligible, rapid blur of words I was certain I had never encountered in my previous years of Spanish lessons, divulges Merlin Beyts (WW).

However, through perseverance and many glances at my 'Oxford Pocket Spanish Dictionary', I was able to begin to understand the dialect and speak it by the end of the trip, to a level that I had never believed possible. The lessons, at first, were a struggle: the classes are made up of similar number of pupils, but the way in which they are taught at 'The Grange' is very different from Westminster. The school itself had a few odd traditions, to say the least: there was a national holiday called *Día del colegio* (or 'School Day'), during which a monumental show was put on by the pupils in their last year; this involved many competitions and events such as dancing, singing and even *Mr Muscle*, which is essentially a Chilean schoolboy version of 'Mr Universe'. Along with this, there was *La Golmita*, which translates as 'The Gummy Bear' – I'll spare you the details*, but it was quite harrowing and, being the only English exchange who had to do it, I can't really put it any better than saying it was a mild assault – I'm sure that if you ask anybody who has been on the exchange, you will find out exactly what it is! We found over the course of our time in Santiago that our stay had not only gone incredibly fast, but also that our Spanish had improved vastly.

I never imagined that it would be fulfilling, not only to have someone to look after for a month in my own home, but also to spend a great deal of my summer soaking up such a different culture. For any Spanish pupil in the Sixth Form at Westminster, I wholeheartedly recommend it as a mentally draining yet quite unforgettable and thoroughly enjoyable experience.

*Actually, no I won't – you really need to know this: '*La Golmita*' was a teacher-approved ritual in which they force you to go on stage (their rugby players come up to you and physically force you on stage) and then they put a gummy bear in a girl's mouth and the boy must take the gummy bear out with his mouth. This is teacher-approved and watched by everyone in the school, only when I did it, they cut the gummy bear up into quarters to make it even more fun!



Sixth Form Munich Exchange THE GREATEST GERMANS

With the greatest German since Goethe, or perhaps Schiller, at our helm, our fears about heading to Germany for a month were greatly alleviated, claim Kit Winder (LL), Victoria Hingley (DD) and Piers Dubin (LL).



■ Watching Germany's last game in the European Football Championship that same evening also cheered us up. School started at 8 every morning, and our day began with an invigorating cycle ride through the suburbs of Puchheim, more picturesque than the bleak windows of the tube. Lessons varied, from Physics to French, and although many of the intricacies of scientific vocabulary were beyond us, the insight into the German education system proved fascinating. This was followed by literature lessons given by our very own modern Goethe, which turned out to be much richer than we could have known. Introductions to Schiller and Stefan Zweig gave us an insight into the German language we were becoming more accustomed to.

Daily trips into Munich, visiting the Pinakotheken art galleries, Nationaltheater, and the Residenz palace were followed by the opportunity to explore the city for ourselves. The independence we enjoyed increased both our responsibility and our enthusiasm for the cultural side of the trip, allowing trips to Wagner's Ring Cycle and the 1972 Munich Olympic Stadium.

“the insight into the German education system proved fascinating”

When Herr Supperstone arrived in the third week we were soon pushed out of our comfort zones, walking for five hours to the Schachenhaus on top of the Wetterstein mountains to find very basic accommodation for the night. This was certainly a trip to remember for a long time!

Mrs MacMahon brought more sunshine and inspiration in the fourth week. By the last few days, the shift in our linguistic abilities was apparent, and on our departure the one thing no-one could deny was our newfound ability to speak German to a level hitherto unseen by British examination boards, we hope.

Our thanks go especially to Herr Hennig and Mrs MacMahon, and to Herr Supperstone, who will be remembered fondly.

September Bicycling Expedition THE HILL

As recounted by Kent Vainio (GG).



■ ‘Car down! Car down! Car down!’ The cry ricocheted down the length of the line and back up again. But the drone of the downpour was too thick to be penetrated. I only heard strangled cries from the cyclists in front and behind me. The next thing I knew, a plume of water had erupted towards the roadside into my face – not that I wasn't already drenched. ‘Car down!’, I thought bitterly to myself. I carried on cycling. Suddenly, the road started to turn into a hill.

My thighs started to burn as I began my ascent. So much for downhill all the way, I thought. The teachers had told an obvious lie. I pushed harder on the pedals to get more momentum as the incline steepened, spluttering and coughing as if there were not enough air above my head. Everything was a distorted grey swirl through the lead curtain of rain falling around me.

At that moment, the finish line seemed a very long way away. I carried on. The hill was a battlefield. Behind me, constant groans of exertion and pain mingled with the incessant thrumming of the rain on the ground. Raindrops like arrows

“this created a domino effect that spread with alarming alacrity”

flew into my eyes and dug into my legs from every possible direction; I was under siege from nature and struggling to pull through. The slope was pulling me back down, as if a black hand was reaching inside me and squeezing the air out of my lungs. It felt like an eternity.

I tried to carry on. The hill was in fact endless.

Or so it seemed. Devoid of any conscious thoughts, only the rhythm of my things as they pumped up and down and the ragged, infrequent gaps of my breath, I became absorbed in the grey mist. The sounds of the battle were now drifting away from reality. My mind was elsewhere in a happier place, a place full of sunshine and palm trees and – BAM! A jet of water hit me full on in the face and I almost fell off my bike. I swerved violently to keep control and almost took out one of my friends in the process. This created a domino effect that spread with alarming alacrity down the line causing every cyclist to veer this way or another.

‘What are you doing?’ Came several angry cries from behind me, followed by an immense bellowing voice: ‘STAY TO THE LEFT!!!’

Immediately, I returned to the line and kept my position. The rain continued, but something felt different. Everything had happened so fast that I had forgotten to look around me. For a moment the feeling was implacable until I realized that I was cycling on flat ground. Relief.

The Hill had been defeated.

Ten minutes later, on stopping in a small glade just off the main road, we all dismounted our bikes to take a break. Everyone was exhausted. Sunlight filtered through the green and yellow canopy overhead. It was a welcome turn of weather; sun at last.

We rested for a short while and then re-mounted our bikes. Everyone was full of energy again. The line moved off one by one. I reached down to grab my water bottle and on doing so happened to glance at the gear display on my handlebars.

To my dismay, I realized that I had just cycled up the hill in gear 7, the hardest gear possible.



Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award

AND THEN THERE WERE SEVEN SIX, FIVE, FOUR

Recalling how arduous our expedition was: that was the real challenge, admits Koshiro Kiso (WW). With every passing second the trip seemed to become less like a walk in the (National) Park, and more like a mystery thriller, so to speak.

■ Some went to Naples, others to Venice, to what we envisaged as endless hours of sunshine, countless *gelati* and the luxury of a single bed. For us, thirteen Westminsters, a 50km walk stretched ahead, and it was with a grim sense of trepidation that we arrived at the YHA Ambleside on the banks of Lake Windermere on a dark, windy, Monday evening.

It was on that same evening, before we had even begun to head off for our one day of training beforehand, that the first casualty, Vivek, fell with a dramatic crack. In a flurry of sorting out luggage, he had fractured an ankle that put him on crutches for weeks, reducing my group, one of two, from seven to six. However, the idea that any more would drop out was unthinkable, and after the practice walk the following day, we packed our 70-litre bags with an optimistic resolution. After all, what was the worst that could happen?

The answer was soon to come. After a solid eight hours walking in beautiful weather, our morale was shattered with the news that our 'leader' Moses was feeling under the weather. Despite everything that we could do, from heating his meals to offering to dry his clothes at the campsite, the next morning he was carried off with the assessors Jacques and Perry. So then there were five. Heavy rain throughout the night had ensured that our tents were not to be the warm havens that we had hoped, and this, coupled with the losses we had suffered, kindled an atmosphere of ill-feeling in our group, perhaps exacerbated by the fact that the other group had packed and left almost a full hour before us. Thankfully, the weather was merciful and seemed to decide that we had enough on our plates at the moment, leaving us to a day of monotonous clouds and the occasional light shower. On the other hand, the route was no less difficult than when we had planned it months earlier: by noon we discovered, after completing a wide circular loop and climbing a steep hill for the best part of half an hour that we were utterly lost, and had managed to complete a mere quarter of our route.

At this point extreme frustration led to several of us coming close to giving up. A phone call to Jacques established that our chances of passing had become rather slim. While trudging dejectedly down the hill our navigator-in-chief, Felix, sprained his ankle on a slippery stone. Although he managed to cut across the vast expanse to the minibus with the assessors that was as much as he could do, with 13 km still to go that day alone. Only then did we finally realise that our group had reached the minimum number required to pass the D of E Award: four. Any fewer and we would have to merge with the other group. Somehow this knowledge strengthened us and we carried on through the shortened path that providence, in the form of an International Mountain Leader, had set out for us survivors, managing to arrive in time to erect our damp tents before the sun set completely.

However, the Lake District was not quite done with us just yet. The final, crisp day dawned, sun shining and dew glistening off the

“our tents were not to be the warm havens that we had hoped”

top of our tents. Crossing a number of barbed-wire fences, we limped on, newly-formed blisters and all, through the marshes, swamps, quagmires and muddy messes that were the paths. At last, one kilometre from the finish, we met up with the other group, who had endured a far longer route than us, and we crossed into Wray Castle as Team A, rather than Group A, to our slight enjoyment, ahead of Group B.

What was simply a three day walk in the 'Mud District' became for us a parallel with Agatha Christie's best-selling mystery, to stay in our hearts for the near future. At least until the Gold expedition...

The Lyke Wake Walk

ENDING AT THE GRAVE

Twenty hours, forty-two miles, cries James Alster (DD), on the annual Remove trek across the North York Moors.

■ We had been walking over muddy and freezing moors for seven hours in the dark and we were crawling over the map towards a distant promise of a hot breakfast. That is, if we were going the right way. Our coats and handwarmers were little help against the frost and the path was hard, twisting and endless. Stopping on the tired ground would only have made us colder. Sunrise cheered us but brought no sight of our next stop. Christmas Carols and Mr Baldock's and Mr Kingcombe's energetic navigation finally pulled us to hot and greasy eggs and bacon.

We had started out in high spirits. After a nervous wait over fish and chips we had set out into the night – and promptly got lost for an hour. Soon we would just be glad if we finished. Nothing had prepared us for just how far 42 miles would be and how damn quiet and empty the moors were. Our spirits were lifted by breakfast, but the sure firm path soon gave way to a line of white posts in a misty bog. Getting lost was a constant worry while the endless rolling bog, twists in the exiguous paths and countless false summits made every step more gruelling. We began to feel delirious in the agony. The previously close-knit group now painfully straggled down the final slope to lunch. Only eleven more miles to go apparently – but they got longer and longer.

A radio mast seven miles away heralded the finish when we summited the penultimate hill. Then the most agonizing stroll of my life brought us down a ridge and into a gully – which we promptly had to climb out of again. We finally blasted up the final mile to collapse at the finish marker – a gravestone. We learnt that we had come in second (not that we were competitive) about 45 minutes behind. But glad just to finish with a complete group, we hobbled into the youth hostel and collapsed. There are few other things I have been so proud of doing.





History of Art Barcelona

ART AND INDEPENDENCE

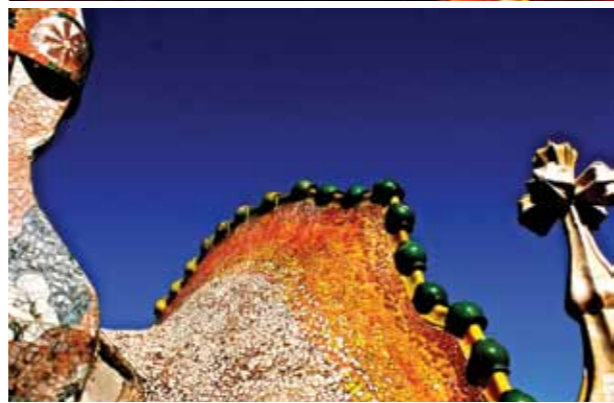
Four intensive days of Barcelonan life was the reward for making it through the first half of the Play Term for the Remove Art Historians, sighs a relieved Alice Procter (GG).

Over the course of the trip we covered several centuries of the city's history, expanding our knowledge from the classroom and getting a real taste of life there. From the Barcelona Museum of History to the Miró Collection, the MNAC to the Picasso Museum, the small but stunning Monastery of Sant Pau de Camp to the Tàpies Foundation, we covered a vast area of Barcelona on foot. Thanks to Mrs Chappell's sense of direction we made our way from site to site, amused by Mr Walton's riddles along the way. Despite promises of constant rain and an ever-present umbrella, the fine and warm weather allowed us to appreciate the beauty of Gaudí's buildings from the outside as well as in (and to debate vigorously whether Casa Milà or Casa Batlló would be a better place to live), and to see the imposing Columbus monument and the (rather mystifying) monument to Picasso. Most of us chose to visit the spectacular Parc Güell and the Sagrada Família (every architect's nightmare?), both designed by Gaudí, on our afternoon of free time. Watching an impressive performance in a Flamenco club

(after receiving a brief but extremely useful history of Flamenco and Gypsy culture in Spain from Dr Cockburn) and a concert in the highly decorated Palau de la Música Catalana were highlights for many. A deep understanding of Catalan national identity and its appeal to artists, from the Gothic to

“from the Gothic to the contemporary via the modernista”

the contemporary via the *modernista*, was something we gained that was impossible to appreciate in a classroom. Dr Cockburn, Mrs Chappell and Mr Walton gave us the best possible introduction to Barcelona in a thoroughly enjoyable trip. Will there be an independent Catalunya? Who knows, but artistically it can certainly hold its own.



“The fine and warm weather allowed us to appreciate the beauty of Gaudí's buildings”



Upper Shell in Russia

PETER STILL GREAT, BUT IVAN ONLY FOURTH

“Now,” Lena paused, a smile of anticipation ready on her lips, “Who was the last tsar of Russia?” There was silence, confides Tom Ashton (QSS).

Everybody looked around nervously at the spectacular yet formidable buildings that stand inside the Kremlin as Dr Aplin's words echoed in our ears; “Lena will ask you lots of questions and if you get them wrong, she will shout at you”. However we had been forewarned of this particular trap. “Peter the Great”, someone mumbled nervously. “Yes!” Lena said with surprise and possibly a little disappointment, while 19 pairs of shoulders lowered slightly in a sigh of relief. Nicholas II was in fact the last ruler of Russia, so his name was the obvious answer, but Peter the Great changed the name from tsar to emperor during his office, so as to provide future tour guides like Lena with entertaining questions to ask.



In reality, though, Lena was exceptionally friendly as well as informative, and had a great sense of humour, as we discovered when greeted by smiles and laughter at Moscow's Domodedovo airport. But woe betide anyone who referred to Ivan IV as “the Terrible”!

Happily for us, this year's trip to Moscow and St Petersburg coincided with the also apparently once-yearly visit of the Moscow sun. But there were no complaints about the strictly untraditional Russian weather as we trooped out of the airport and into the coach that was to become very familiar to us over the next couple of days, our smiles lit up by sunshine.

Moscow is a vibrant city, and every little piece of it we saw delighted us, from the majesty of colourful St Basil's Cathedral to the jaw-dropping Moscow circus and, in particular, the street signs familiar from our textbooks, seen for real for the first time. So it was a sad moment when we stepped onto the night train to St Petersburg, bidding Moscow *do svidanya*. But our sadness turned to anticipation as Dr Aplin told us what was in store; “I'm a Petersburg man, myself: less expensive, less touristy and much more beautiful.” It did not disappoint.

St Petersburg is a place anyone going to Russia must visit. The bright colours and breath-taking architecture of every building are stunning, and while it's not an exotic city, it's just so *Russian*. We ate lunch in cafés that were “exactly the same 25 years ago”, according to our guide, and then visited the Hermitage, a museum situated in 18th century palaces at least two or three times as big as the British Museum, filled with astounding paintings and treasures. The best was saved till last though, with Catherine's Palace on our last day. This wonderful building a few kilometres south of St Petersburg is packed full of gold, mirrors and ornate carvings.

Although we got beneath the surface of Russia's cultural depths, everyone was hungry for more, and I expect we will all return at some point or another. Our firm linguistic grounding helped make Russia much more accessible for us, and this trip reminded us how grateful we are for having the opportunity to learn Russian, and how thankful we are that we took it. We appreciated above all, though, the chance to go somewhere so fantastic with a group so good-natured and with leaders so dedicated. Thank you very much!

Cádiz NORSE, PEAK, ESPAÑOL

We started the trip by flying to Gibraltar. Quite honestly it was like London in the 1960s, except with much better weather, declares Charles Symonds (AHH), who flew there en route to Cádiz, itself one of Europe's oldest cities.



■ Gibraltar is a must-see on the European checklist. We ascended Gibraltar Rock by cable car and were amazed by the beauty of the panoramic view, with extraordinarily clear skies and scenery stretching from the Mediterranean entrance to the Atlantic Ocean, to the picturesque mountain ranges of northern Morocco, not to mention the Barbary Macaque monkeys consistently pestering us for food.

After departing this tropical English microcosm, we drove to Cádiz to stay in the Old City. This region of Cádiz exudes history and culture, with extensive, narrow streets leading from plaza to plaza. The ambiance was exceptionally energetic but a mild coastal breeze kept us cool. Upon arriving, a wave of host families enthusiastically welcomed us. They were incredibly kind and generous, and did not speak a word of English, which at points got very aggravating.

Our typical day was made up of language classes at *Academia K2*, where we spent hours studying Spanish lifestyle and language, most often by playing Spanish card games. We then had the afternoons free where most of our time was spent playing football either in the plazas or on the beaches, at the expense of some cars and a few children who were standing at the wrong place at the wrong time. As a group, we collectively solved the Spanish

debt crisis in one week and three shops: a bakery, a place that make sandwiches, and a gelato shop. One day the weather was exceptional, and we spent the entire afternoon on the beach. Luckily for us, so did a group of approximately 30 Norwegian girls, who seemed to not notice our company until the end of the day.

On one of the days we travelled to Sevilla, where we explored the city's outstanding monasteries and religious sectors. We were also privileged enough to have someone who brought along speakers, so the bus rides to and fro were accompanied with some eccentric rap music. Some other excursions included the famous *Torre Tavira*, the highest building in Cádiz, providing us with an astonishing view of the Atlantic Ocean. The building also had the world's first camera obscura; essentially a series of mirrors and manoeuvrable lenses which reflected light onto a screen. This was fundamentally the world's very first security camera, allowing us to witness some persons on the street unfortunately breaking several school rules! Nevertheless this was an experience not to be forgotten. We were also fortunate enough to be able to watch a flamenco dance live. It was truly an eye-opener!

At the end, we were ready to go home, but the trip definitely improved my Spanish, widened my horizons, and confirmed our beliefs about Scandinavians.



Upper Shell Hispanists in Almuñécar STRAY CATS STRUT

A large portion of students in the Upper Shell doing Spanish this year took the opportunity to visit Spain and stay with Spanish families in the coastal towns of Almuñécar and Cádiz, relates Alex Bridge (RR).

■ This class of rowdy and extremely English-sounding boys flew out with el Señor Witney and la Senorita Leech, who handled the pressure of looking after a gaggle of excited adolescents remarkably well, despite the odd dropped passport and delayed train. From Malaga, a coach trip through the stunning Andalusian landscape, the mountains cast in a hue of orange in the sunset, finally brought us to the bus station. Here we were greeted extremely hospitably, considering our dodgy Spanish and ragged appearance, and we dispersed with our respective families.

After a night of rest we were ready to head out to Granada for a guided tour of the town. The scattered buildings that formed the outskirts of the town sitting at the foot of the Sierra Nevada Mountains were reminiscent of a shanty town, with strong Arabic influences in the culture and architecture. As we moved into the more touristic areas we encountered many adorable stray cats willing to pose for photographs and feed out of hands, and we were able to take in the intricate delights of



the Alhambra, where engraved into every wall in Arabic was the name of the family who had commissioned the building. A bandana was bought, and duly stolen and thrown around the group as the owner wondered at its disappearance – a pointless activity which amused us until we went back on the coach to Almuñécar.

The next few days were a blur of Spanish lessons, ice cream melting too fast in the October sun, desperate dives over the sand to keep a game of beach volleyball alive, an Atlantic stretch of coast that was far too cold to swim in, and being shown up by 12-year-old girls at flamenco dancing. One particularly memorable point was the incredible 7–8 score line in an unnaturally hard-fought game of football in the stadium – some of our wounds from misjudged slide tackles are still healing now. At the end of all the tomfoolery, the trip was a success – I for one can tell my Spanish has improved and we enjoyed a week of immersion in an exotic culture.



Classics Residential Trip GIVING IT A BASH

Given that last year's Classicists swanned, like Verres, in Sicily, it was with surprise but nonetheless a determined air, that we sallied to the alloyed roofs and hallowed steeples of autumnal Salisbury, announces George Bustin (RR).

■ Our lodging? An archetypal Thomas Hardy-period country house nestled in the willows of the water meadows, by a quiet river and a Monet-style footbridge. No finer place to develop a keen eye for grammatical structure, a ruthless penchant for vocabulary and a deft grammarian's touch.

In the mornings our eyes were opened (metaphorically, but on occasion literally) to unseen translations, covering episodes such as Caesar crossing the Rubicon – the action upon which Rome's future hinged – or the first rationalisation of *oikonomics* – the root of modern economic studies. We would draw in the night reading Euripides' *Bacchae* and Aristophanes' *Frogs* by the fire – moments of the highest emotional intensity ('Ai! I am being foully

killed') were read with increasingly deadpan delivery.

In the afternoons like unarmed hoplites we would march for hours (usually two) taking in the River Avon (one of four in the South) and a local trout farm (the owner of which, when asked as to whether he liked fish, answered 'Oh no, I hate them'). In town, we ventured to the history-steeped Cathedral and the Magna Carta within, a curry house and – for the intrepid few – Sports Direct.

Profound thanks must go to FGS and JAI who fulfilled their role as *didaskaloi*

“like unarmed hoplites we would march for hours”

in every sense of the word: teacher, poet and general educator. We returned older and wiser, perhaps not fluent in Platonic dialogues, but certainly willing and able to give it a bash.



Upper Shell Berlin Exchange NON STOP PLAY

In Berlin airport we had reached the culmination of all our fears. Behind the thin glass pane our German exchange partners stood huddled in the corner waiting for us to arrive, reveal Sam Bates (WW) and Siegfried von Thun-Hohenstein (LL).

“this would be an educational experience, to say the least”

■ Herr Hennig and Frau Griffiths beckoned; we followed. Time went in slow motion, eyes scanning the group, searching for faces that we didn't even know.

A tap on the shoulder caused Siggy to whirl round; we'd been surrounded. No experience could have prepared us for the level of intimidation we experienced as a ring of smiling German faces enclosed us. The silence was broken by a barrage of 'Wie geht es dir's. Where to look? Where to turn? The only option was surrender.

It became apparent from the moment that we stared blankly at the parents, nodding absently and adding the occasional 'ja', that this would be an educational experience, to say the least.

Three hours later we found ourselves sitting comfortably round a table with our exchange families, gorging on divine delicatessen fare whilst discussing the current Euro crisis... or football. The rest of the weekend passed in a blur as our lovely ('endgeil') exchange partners whisked us to musicals, flea markets and a side-splitting, open-air karaoke stage. Our German was certainly improving already.

On Monday we joined up in the canteen of the Beethoven School. We visited some lessons and then headed off straight to Berlin Mitte to sample the sights (and chocolates) that the city had to offer; perhaps the most striking sight being an indoor panoramic artwork of what the Berlin wall looked like from West Berlin. After the excitement of the day, our exchanges took us to some of the sights during the Festival of Lights, an annual show where many of the major monuments and buildings are illuminated with vast searchlights of many different colours.

The next day we spent touring Berlin, stopping for a photo shoot at the Brandenburg Gate and staring at the giant Reichstag, and

we ended the day clustered in front of TVs despairing over Sweden's seemingly impossible comeback against the Germans.

On Wednesday, we all had a well-deserved forty-five-minute lie-in and rose at the leisurely hour of 7:45. Herr Hennig and Frau Griffiths then marched us off and we queue-barged our way past a one-hundred-metre line into the Pergamon Museum, or as Herr Hennig called it, 'booking ahead'. We marvelled at the Ishtar Gate and the Pergamon Altar. Shortly after some excited tours of various shopping centres with our exchanges, we returned home to an early(ish) night, but not before a good dose of quality German TV, of course.

On Thursday we spent almost the entire afternoon in the Computer Games Museum, which was fantastic. That night we relaxed into some casual bowling.

On our final day we took a tour of the *Neues Museum* ('New Museum'), directly adjacent to the Pergamon Museum. A fascinating tour of Trojan and Greek artefacts got even better when, to our surprise, we were treated to a lunch in a restaurant with Currywurst twice the size of those we could buy on the street. That evening, various groups of exchanges enjoyed different ways of celebrating the last night of our stay; an enjoyable end to our time there.

There was a joyful mood as a group of new friends said their goodbyes on the last day; we all looked forward to seeing each other again in just three short weeks for the return visit of the Berlin party.

A huge thank you goes to our wonderful host families and the teachers at the Beethoven School in Berlin for their organisation!



Berlin Exchange in London CULTURAL EXCHANGE

We had a marvellous exchange with Westminster School and an unforgettable stay in London, write Bella Schuy and Akira Stühler.

■ We were very excited when we arrived in London in November. A great week started by meeting our host families, who were all very friendly and obliging and with whom we got along really well.

Right from the first day we had a wonderful time. On Monday, we visited the school and took part in lessons to get a feeling for the English school system. The teachers and students gave us this chance for which we are very grateful.

For the rest of the week we toured through London with our group.

We had a very full schedule and went to several parts of London. For example, we saw Buckingham Palace with the Changing of the Guards and we took a cruise on the River Thames. Exploring this fascinating city, we also visited a lot of museums, parks and shopping centres.

The exchange was a great experience and we can highly recommend it. The majority of us saw London for the first time and our linguistic proficiency has certainly improved. We also made many new friends and are already planning our next trip.

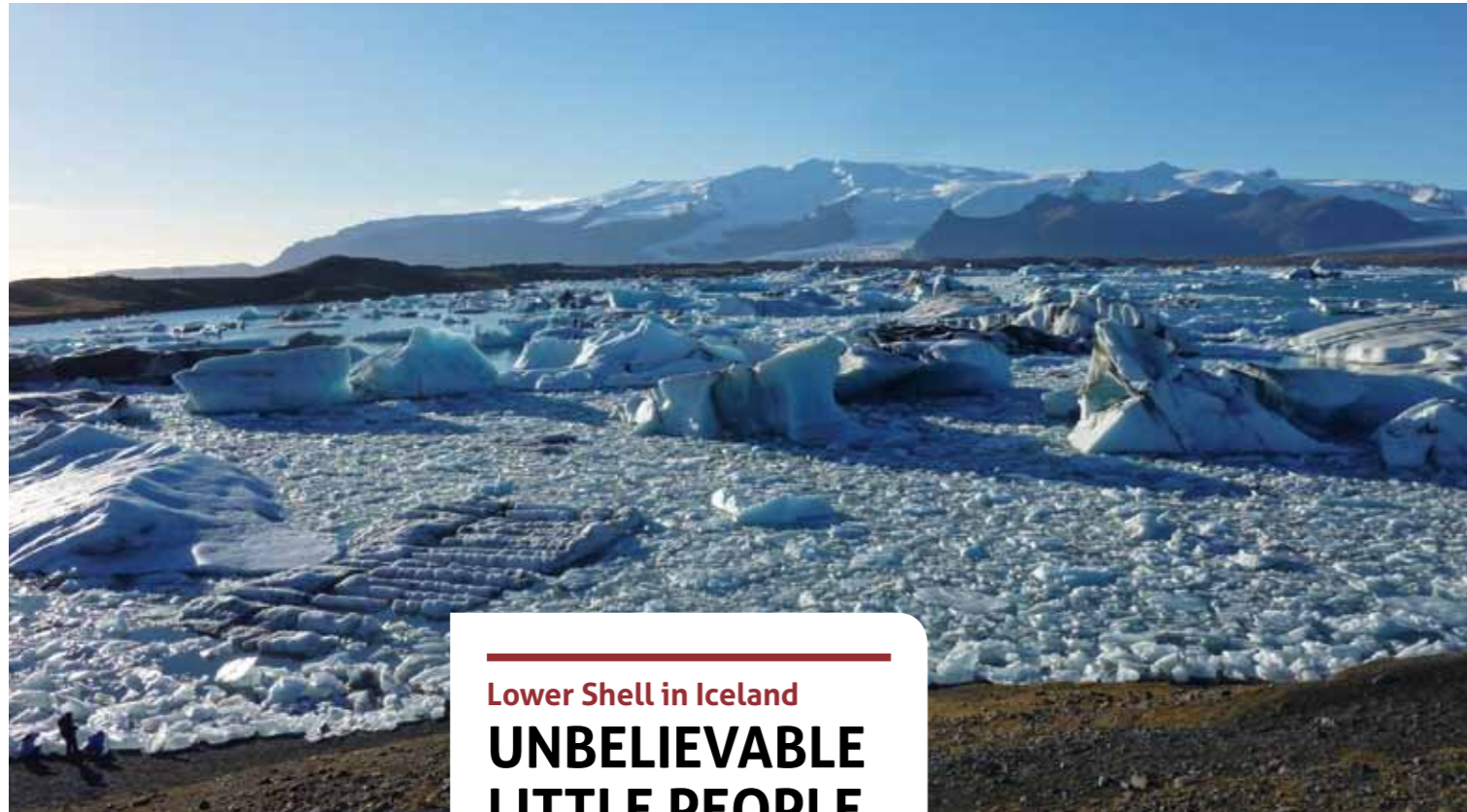
USA Universities A NEW LEARNING EXPERIENCE

With over four thousand universities in the United States, myths about facilities and opportunities can start to blend with reality, and the flow of information can quickly turn to a flood, asserts Rachel Bransom (AHH).

“each one offering something unique”



■ To ascertain how these institutions differ from each other, and from UK universities, a dozen Westminster pupils embarked on an American college tour during Play Term Exeat. Making our way up the East Coast, we found ourselves wandering through a diverse variety of destinations from the grids of Manhattan to the silent forests around Swarthmore, Pennsylvania. We found that the individuality of the universities was their only shared facet, with each one offering something unique. Some Westminsters were seduced by Princeton's eating clubs, others by University of Pennsylvania's 'Spring Fling', the biggest (and ostensibly best) college festival on the East Coast. Every institution had its own personality and it was fantastic to get a true sense of which one each of us was better suited to. Walking around the campuses and interacting with the student body (often expatriated OWs) gave us all a better feel for what each university was like – an acquired knowledge >>



Lower Shell in Iceland UNBELIEVABLE LITTLE PEOPLE

This LS Geography trip was, shall we say, an eye-opening experience to the odd culture and amazing beauty of Iceland, reveals Edward Bentley (LL).

It was managed by Miss Leonard, Dr A-K, Mr. Page, Mr. Mann and our delightful native Icelandic guide, Oli, who led the trip with both vim and vigour. On arrival we went to the famous Blue Lagoon, a geothermal lake filled with silicon, making an incredibly relaxing mixture of warmth and exfoliation. At the lagoon, a few of the lads met a neighbouring school party from a school in Scotland. Throughout the trip we crossed paths with the Scots often.

Oli seemed to know almost everyone in Iceland, but this was not such a feat according to him, as the population was roughly 319,575, and two thirds of this tiny number was situated in the biggest village in Iceland, Reykjavik! He used this popularity to get us to some amazing places in Iceland. These included the spectacular glaciers with beautiful corries, the massive ice caps on the infamous Eyjafjallajökull and the Hotel Cabin of Reykjavik with a World Class Icelandic buffet.

The part of the trip which tickled my fancy most of all was experiencing the culture of such an isolated island, which has kept many of its odd traditions and beliefs from the ancient Norse society. The most fascinating and

>> that brochures and websites simply couldn't provide. At some universities we were even given the chance to sit in on lectures and experience a learning environment entirely different from any we had encountered before. It was a chance to see the schools from an insider's perspective.

Our time was not, however, spent entirely on academic researching: our hop across the pond was to be granted additional privileges. Dr Boulton and Dr Ragaz made sure we had the full-blown, gas-guzzling, big-whopper-with-extra-cheese American experience. We shamelessly devoured Philly-Cheese steaks in Philadelphia whilst marvelling at the city's sprawling array of street-art, visited the New York City Museum, scoured the furthest reaches of 5th Avenue for the much dreamed-of bargains (there were none), and bought enough university merchandise to sink the Titanic. Dragging our heels back to Blighty and back to the eternal drizzle of London, we were left with a lasting impression of the outstanding US university experience, one which has affected and will continue to influence our application decisions in the coming months.



bizarre of all was the widespread belief in the 'little people', an elf society which inhabits the island. Much of the beautiful landscape is also thought to have been formed by giants, turned to stone by sunlight a long time ago.

The trip provided a brilliant opportunity to expand our geographical knowledge and also experience some of the most beautiful and breath-taking places on Earth. I would like to thank Miss Leonard for organising such an amazing trip and the other members of staff for making the trip possible and so enjoyable.



Lake District Walk WALKING TO CIRCLES

In December a dozen intrepid Westminsterers set off for the snow-clad Lake District. Despite initial reservations, the trip was brilliant, proclaims Atalanta Arden-Miller (AHH).

We listened to a loop cycle of the following hits: *We Are The Champions*, *Bohemian Rhapsody*, *Gangnam Style*, and Flo Rider's 'Right Round'. We enjoyed these for seven hours all the way to the Lake District and, luckily, on the ride back again.

Our first day of walking was sensational. It was along a horseshoe ridge, from which one could see mist-filled mires and lakes. The peak was tough to reach; covered with slippery frozen snow, and inconveniently steep. One of the climbers resorted to dragging himself up using handmade ice-picks – two rocks (very effective). The view from the top, however, was incredible. We stood in silence taking in the awe-inspiring scenery around us (with occasional lapses into foot-pain complaints).

The second day was best described as 'character building'. This is especially true if the character one desires to build is intensely cold, hungry, wet, and rather like a soldier in the trenches. We traversed the hills through a variety of methods: belly-sliding on ice, tumbling through heather, falling down muddy slopes, even the occasional lapse into plain marching. We then walked to various different stone circles, some of them as old as the late Neolithic! Though the excitement of the first stone circles was hard to trump, the second and third stone circles were also very exciting. We then ambled back to town and, in classic Westminster style, headed directly for hot chocolate – which after four hours of solid walking through rain was just about the best thing ever. Gradually we unclenched our numb and frozen fingers, and wrung out cups-full of water from our garments. That evening we warmed up over tea, cards, and a heated game of mafia. All in all, a pretty glorious trip. I'm already planning which thermals to bring for next year.





Lower School Art History in Madrid A STOMACH FOR ART

The first stop on our trip to Madrid was lunch. Our hotel in the centre of town was surrounded by some of the best local tapas bars, write Clem Farrar (DD) and Thomas Leverick (DD), identifying the heart of their experience.

These purveyors of delightful Spanish cuisine, however, were not the first choice for some of the more culturally enlightened boys; the majority opted for a light spot of KFC. By the end of the trip, though, most of us had broadened our culinary as well as our artistic horizons.

We walked off lunch on the way to the Prado. The dawn start was starting to take its toll on the less hardy of the group, but the Prado's wonders kept even the weariest of us rapt. Especially memorable was Velázquez 'Las Meninas'; we stood in wonder at the size of the painting and the artist's detailed observation of the dwarves, dogs and *enfantas*.

The next morning brought us to the astonishing Escorial, once residence to the king of Spain but now a school, monastery and museum. From the outside its architectural beauty was questionable, but its breath-taking size was undeniable. In the three hours we had there we saw just two per cent of the palace. The Prince's and Princess' bedrooms were filled with slightly pompous self-portraits which perpetuated the Hapsburg dynasty's dubious reputation for allure and beauty. But the mood changed in the Pantheon of kings, an amazing but undeniably spooky underground tomb housing 22 monarchs.

Relieved to be back above ground, most of us plucked up enough courage to take a sniff at what Spanish cuisine had to offer. Paella, tortilla and tapas of all sorts fed a few. Many, however, still seemed to forget that pizza, although from the continent, did not count as Spanish food.

The Reina Sofia gallery was our late afternoon destination and this one was really

impressive. Picasso featured heavily and the history of his 'Guernica' came to life as we explored the hidden images running through the fascinating piece.

Dinner was at Casa Patas, but this restaurant not only fed us but treated us to live flamenco. The dancers showed incredible stamina, strength and rhythm as they performed alongside a live band; this experience set right any skewed ideas of what this famous Spanish dance was really like.

On our final day, we finished off 'The Golden Triangle of Art' by visiting the Thyssen Bornemisza. Once the second-largest

"Picasso featured heavily and the history of his 'Guernica' came to life"

private art collection in the world, the gallery housed over 1,600 artworks from Renaissance oils to contemporary film. One of these, a video of Lucian Freud at work, helped breathe life into his dense, laboriously observed paintings as it showed the old man, even in his last years, dancing back and forth from his canvas.

The return flight gave time for reflection on a truly great trip that provided a perfect start for the Christmas holidays and a more adventurous attitude to Spanish culture. A big thanks to Miss Rutherford and Mr Walton who organised the visit.



Geography in Morocco CROSSING THE ATLAS

Ten days before Christmas, a team of Westminster geographers headed 31° North, to Morocco, records Martha Glaser (CC).

On our first evening, having left our Riad in central Marrakech, we embarked on our first mission – to try some authentic Moroccan cuisine. With mopeds flying haphazardly across the narrow streets of the 'medina', we had to dodge skilfully to avoid being run over; the air, hazy with plumes of smoke rising from the food stalls, only added to the vivacity of our surroundings.

The following day presented a five-hour journey from Marrakech to the town of Ouarzazate, the truest test of iPod battery-power. Our two minibuses, laden with backpacks, eager students, and our trusty Moroccan guides, soon left Marrakech and entered the country. The roads climbed through the High Atlas Moun-

tains, and whilst we enjoyed breathtaking views of reddish hillsides studded with olive trees and snow-capped peaks rising from the horizon, donkeys lost their carts and wandered alone.

By the time we had left M'hamid, the last village before the desert, the road ended, rather abruptly. Ahead of us stretched a daunting expanse of, well, nothing – nothing but sand. Several camels waited expectantly for us, and their capacity for carrying everything we needed for the four-day trek was remarkable. Then, we began to walk. Even in December, the heat was nothing short of an inconvenience, and as we encountered vast stretches of undulating dunes, hiking boots would fill with sand as one strug-

"Even in December, the heat was nothing short of an inconvenience"

gled to walk up quickly enough and avoid sinking. But the group remained in high spirits throughout, relishing the zero-okta cloud cover and enjoying the many cups of Moroccan mint tea. The unblemished night sky punctured with thousands of



stars and constellations was, for many, the highlight of the trip.

On our return journey, we stopped to marvel at the ancient Kasbahs of ait Benhaddou and visited the infamous Moroccan souk. The atmosphere in Marrakech's main square was fascinating, with something captivating lurking in every corner. Haggling with the sharp souk owners proved to be addictively exciting, and only the bravest chose to indulge in a Moroccan favourite, sheep's head stew. We returned to London thoroughly invigorated and fascinated by what we had seen – a truly remarkable trip.





The Chile Exchange

WINTER IN LONDON! THE WONDERFUL TUBE!

Of some thirty pupils who applied, you can imagine how thrilled we were to learn that eleven of us had been chosen to participate in the exchange with Westminster and we all cheered outside our classroom when the news was announced, declares Miki Soto, who came on the exchange with The Grange School, Santiago de Chile.

■ Winter in London! After months of excitement, when the plane finally touched down at Heathrow, the dream became a reality.

One of the first things I noticed was the architectural beauty of the Abbey and the impression it seems to leave on those who first lay eyes on it; the feeling of being so small alongside such a magnificent edifice steeped in over a thousand years of history. Apart from the surrounding ancient architecture, what surprised me about the school was the fact that all the doors had entry codes: all of a sudden everything was so technological and modern that I felt like a pensioner trying to operate an iPhone. And what can I say about the fingerprint registration? It was simply mind-blowing! The way the various buildings are arranged was also something different for us and I got completely lost the first time I had to go to Hooke. The walk to the sports field turned into a near odyssey for me and Consuelo; the fields were magnificent and we marvelled at the sporting opportunities available. But the place we Chileans enjoyed the most was the Dungeons; I loved the idea of having a cosy room with a TV where pupils can relax and, in our case, enjoy the endless wonders the vending machine had to offer (seriously, I think I probably ate everything from that machine).

On arrival, I felt like a four-year-old going to school for the first time, but everyone made us feel extremely welcome and there was always someone willing to help, or just to have a nice chat with. In this way, the exchange became much more than just going to classes; it became an opportunity to meet different people from all corners of the world, which allowed us to make new friends or simply learn from them. I know that sounds like a cliché, but I guess it pretty much sums up our experience. Furthermore, pupils at Westminster actually take notes in class! They discuss things with their teachers and ask lots of questions, something that certainly contrasts with some of my classes in Chile; this was such a pleasant surprise and made for a fun environment where we didn't feel afraid to join in, indeed we were encouraged to do so.

Drama at Westminster is a big deal and I enjoyed the play *Judgement Day* in which the actors seemed almost professional. It left me speechless. In Art we were simply encouraged to do what we wanted and our classmates were excellent people whom we will never forget. Traditions, too, are a big part of the school and all the Chileans enjoyed *The Grease* and *Latin Prayers* – very different and really fun experiences.

Then there was London. London, London! Such a beautiful city! So much to offer! The great cafés and the Pizza Express on Wednesdays, the West End theatres, the Tower of London, the amazing parks; our unforgettable travels on the tube where, despite everything, one way or another we always ended up where we wanted to go; the hardcore shopping on Oxford Street, the legendary trip to Hampton Court and the London Eye. Everywhere we went there was something to do and everything was filled with history too. As Samuel Johnson said: "When a man is tired of London, he is tired of life". Those words rang completely true. The city itself felt modern, filled with bright lights and activity, yet it still retained an 18th Century air.

There is so much more I could add about our wonderful experience, but I would simply like to conclude by thanking the families who welcomed us in their homes for a month: you are all in our hearts and we would like you to know that we left a second family back in England. And of course, we thank the teachers who had us in their classes and the students for just being awesome people. Especial thanks to Miss Monica and Mr Witney who took care of us, who made this trip possible and who were always there to help us with smiles. And how can we forget our exchanges, the people who became our second brothers! Can't wait to see you all in Chile for more unforgettable memories! ¡Nos vemos en Santiago!

Climbing in Morocco

HIGH QUALITY

Before us was a sheer hundred metre cliff face. It was shaded from the bright Moroccan sun, but was covered with tufts of dry, crumbling lichen, and there were few cracks big enough to place gear, let alone footholds, reflects James Fage (LL).

■ With the first day of climbing already under our belts we felt confident of our ability to conquer the rock. However Andre, our Russian mountain guide, a veteran of school climbing trips and a true climbing beast, managed only about 30 metres before progress was cut short by overhanging sections, lack of holds and uncomfortably loose rock. Indoor climbing seemed tame by comparison. This was altogether more real; it was true climbing. The practice we had had on the school climbing wall could never have prepared us for this. After all five of us had managed to best the first 30 metre rockface and retrieved the gear on the way up, we joined up with the rest of our group and spent the remainder of the afternoon free-climbing amidst a surreal landscape of painted pink and blue boulders.

We twelve Westminsters, led by Dr Agyare-Kwabi, Marlene Petit-Liaudon and Andre Kosenko, were in Morocco for a week of climbing, sun and culture in Tafraout and the famous Todra Gorge. We were fairly busy most days and our time was split so we could try every type of climbing, from bouldering and standard top-roping, to the more hardcore traditional climbing and leading where you attach yourself to anchor points as you ascend. Except for the crumbly lichen-encrusted cliffs we encountered on the second day, the rock was dry and the climbing high quality. This was helped by the weather remaining uniformly sunny throughout the whole trip.

We were spoilt for choice in what to climb. We often got our directions to good climbs from books kept at the inn which contained tips from previous climbers. The directions were sometimes rather vague, and it was often hard to tell if we were travelling in the right direction. What we had thought to be a dirt road was looking suspiciously like one of the paths used by villagers for donkeys.

When we weren't climbing we soaked up the Moroccan culture in the souks and casbahs, and sampled the local food every night. Unfortunately this meant those who hadn't been on previous trips with Dr AK were unable to try his legendary camp-style cooking and his spicy 'Thai-namic', but the varied cous-cous and tagine dishes (as well as Tom's 5 kg. box of dates) were an acceptable substitute.

The trip went almost without a hitch. We did an impressive amount of climbing in a mere six days and saw a lot, from snow in a desert to goats in trees. We had had many a convivial meal together, recounting the day's achievements and showing off any superficial cuts and scrapes we had as evidence of our exertions. Most importantly though, we had had the time of our life, and returned with a heavy tan, photographs and fond memories.



Finland Ice Marathon TO THE FINNISH LINE

The Finland Ice Marathon Expedition is one of the best trips I have ever been on, declares Oskar Ulvestad (WW).

■ This was my third trip to Kuopio to skate the Marathon. As soon as we arrived we unpacked and headed straight for the lake to get our skates and have skate practice with Siebrand, the ice coach. Later we went out for an evening skate with a star-filled sky above and lights from Kuopio on the sides of the frozen lake.

The day of the marathon was a tough one. All of us did the 37.5km race and although not as long as some people's track, it was still tough and at points the wind was a monster to skate into. An hour and a bit later I finished my race, followed soon after by Will Frost and Will Wood (coming 34th, 76th, 105th). Not long after that, Hannah Bird finished, followed quickly by Katharine Lyness and Ffion Dash (coming 44th, 47th and 50th). It has to be said Mrs Stonehill did well coming 26th. When everyone was done speeding past the Finnish we headed inside to see results and relax a bit.

Later came a trip to the Finnish saunas and quick test of my manliness, jumping into the snow with only my swimming costume. A cold rush runs through you as you hit the snow and moments later you are jumping into the swimming pool to warm up. We finished the day with a trip to Harold's Viking Restaurant and ate some bear sausages and reindeer steak, followed by some tar ice cream. I recommend it. We returned happy, having once again enjoyed the challenge of The Finland Ice Marathon.



"We went out for an evening skate with a star-filled sky above"



Trip to Paul Smith's Studio A LINE LESS TRAVELLED

On an overcast afternoon during the February half-term, a select group of Westminsterers arrived at an inconspicuous door in Covent Garden, discloses Natasha Doherty (WW).

■ Unexpectedly, the door was eventually opened by Sir Paul Smith himself, wearing one of his own black suits with its distinctive fluorescent-orange pocket lining.

Sir Paul's studio is more of an arts and crafts hub than an office. The walls are covered with sketches, prints and pictures of all different colours and vibrancies. Each room opens up a new world of fabric, furniture, graphic or shop design, as well as new collections, media and marketing. Paul took us through it all; he talked us through each

"Paul's studio is more of an arts and crafts hub than an office"

stage of his process, from the beginning of an idea to the finished product.

A place that can only be called 'The Room of Ideas', Sir Paul's personal room full of books, cycling jerseys, old toys and knick-knacks was very intriguing. He uses the paraphernalia there to find inspiration for all his collections; he insists that inspiration can come from anything. He suggested that he could sit in his room for the rest of his life and still get enough ideas for all his future collections. Not bad, eh?

The best part of the tour for many of us was getting to know the designer himself. A warm, quirky character, he can count the number of times that he's used a computer on one hand. He bestowed upon us some wisdom as we left: whether you want to be a lawyer, a doctor or a graphic designer, the people around you will always be moving in a straight line. Only by following your personal interests, by going in all different directions, will you ever be able to discover uncharted routes. And that will make all the difference.



Munich Exchange in London CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

Our first impression was astonishment at seeing such an old and beautiful building, write Fabian Angenoorth, Alexander Wilk and Constantin Cornell, seeing the Abbey in February for the first time on their visit during the London leg of the annual Munich exchange.

■ Having arrived, Mr Hennig warmly welcomed us to the school and introduced us to our exchange partners and their families. We were also given our programme and our timetables for the next weeks. It consisted of a combination of taking part in lessons and outings in and around London. Due to the fact that Westminster is also a

boarding school and there are generally only up to twelve students in a class compared to more in a German school, we found that the students have a really good and close relationship with their teachers. Besides our lessons we also learned a lot about the history of the school and Westminster Abbey, which up to now we had only known as a famous London sight from our English books. What a chance to be able to take part in Assembly! Another very interesting opportunity was the ability to take part in the Sixth Form Higher Education Morning. We also learned about the sports and music facilities at Westminster School, watched some matches between the Houses and joined in with Station. Some of us were even invited to take part in a swimming competition or join in playing at the Concert at the Barbican Centre. Apart

"What a chance to be able to take part in Assembly!"

from our experiences at the school, we also had some time to get to know London and Cambridge.

We all want to say a huge thank you to all our exchange partners and their families, to the students and to the teachers of Westminster School who allowed us to take part in their lessons and join in the school community for the time of our stay. It was a great experience and we are looking forward to our exchange partners coming to Puchheim.

Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award Training UNFAMILIAR TERRITORY

Listening to the rain drops hitting the tent, I was shivering for the whole night, admits Rachel Zou (PP).

■ It was so wet and freezing, though separated by a sheet of tent and sleeping bag, the coldness from the muddy and damp grass still touches my back so clearly and sharply.

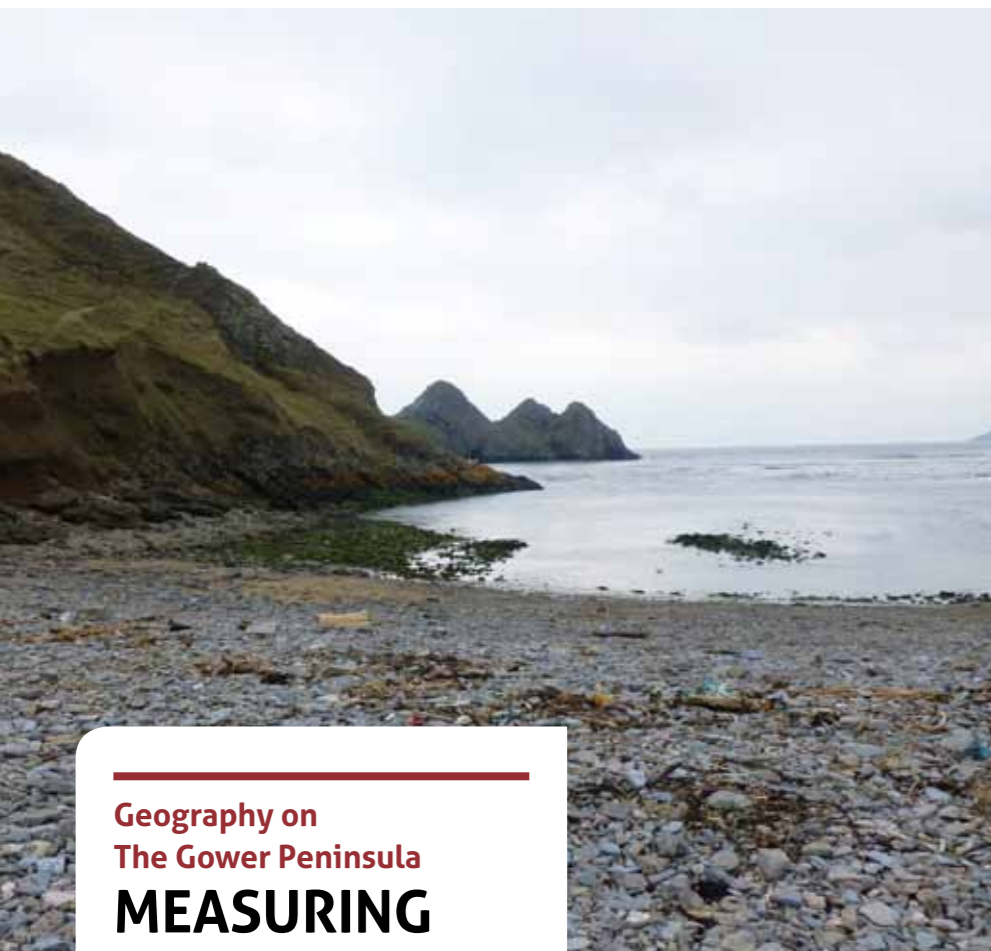
The rain never seems to come to an end; I can't remember how many times I was woken up by the chill during the midnight, though everything wearable was put on, all the clothes, trousers, tights, socks, and even my still-wet water proofs. Night was thorough suffering and miserable, but all I could do was to wait for the coming of the dawn.

When walking and climbing in the daytime, it was still hard but in a fun way. As I warmed up and got a chance to see all those fabulously beautiful views of Wales (the saying *never go to Wales, unless you have to complete your D of E* is so wrong), I got all the encouragement from my teammates which magically powered my energy and relieved the 20kg weight on my shoulders. I was experiencing something that I've never experienced before: how much I wanted to give up contradicting how much I hoped to



carry on.

If there is something terrible and pleasant, frustrating and cheerful, which makes you about to cry but then smile when looking back, in my life so far it is this D of E training trip in Wales; such a different and mind-changing experience!



Geography on The Gower Peninsula MEASURING THE LOVE

It was with great fervour that the entire Sixth Form Geography faculty set off for the Gower Peninsula in South Wales over the Easter holidays, discovers Leo Lerner (WW).

The hard work started immediately with the distribution of the M4 iSpy checklist to each bus. The rainy weather, induced by a low-pressure system blown in from the continent put no damper on our spirits, and neither did the evening's briefing on just how much hard work was going to be involved. We are Geographers after all, and hard work is what we're used to.

With a proper breakfast from our hosts at Parc Le Breos, the next day we followed the River Ilston from Source to Mouth. Armed with waders, flow meters and a local guide, we traced meanders, witnessed the full erosive power of the tiny river, and put to use our knowledge gleaned in the classroom. The work did not stop on return to our accommodation: we worked late into the night, and for four days the twelve of us were immersed in what we love. Geography.

Pre-breakfast runs soon became obligatory for those who wanted blow the cobwebs out



from the long night, running proper Chariots-of-Fire-style along pretty beaches. For the 'Gower villages day', we were deposited in various villages throughout the peninsula completing stock Geographical surveys and supporting the local economy. Then there was a quick walk down to Europe's third best beach, Rhosilli Bay, to look at slopes, before another long night.

Wednesday was D-Day, with the prospect of a full, three-hour mock exam in the afternoon. The Urban transect through Swansea was a nice preamble, and offered more chances



"the banter rate was almost as high as the work rate"

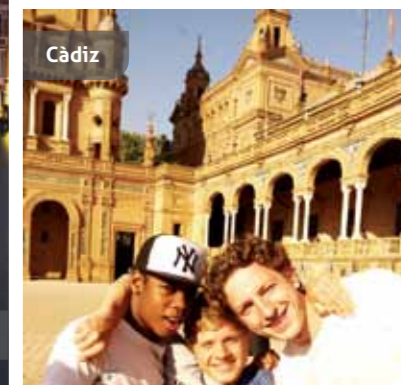
More Trips: Part 1 IN PICTURES



Venice



Lake District



Cadiz



Iceland



Morocco



Plas Menai



Art History Trip, Paris SPEED DATING AT THE LOUVRE

The 2013 Art History Trip to Paris was an intense affair, characterised by flying visits to exhibits, Metro journeys, bistro meals and music, recalls Isabelle Kent (RR).

■ However it also promised to create the foundations for an enduring love of this wonderful city and its fabulous works of art. As an ardent Art Historian I was pleased to read our crammed itinerary, and realised that sleep would not be a predominant feature of our four-day visit.

Famed for its magnificent collection and complex layout, the Louvre did not let us down. Seeing pieces by David, Ingres, Géricault and Delacroix in quick succession was like an Art History version of speed dating. We would just be beginning to feel the horror of *The Raft of the Medusa* before turning away to be seduced by the exotic *Women of Algiers*. Despite the fact that many of the paintings are showing signs of their age and years of damaging environmental conditions, these brief encounters made me hungry for more and I will certainly be

returning to the Louvre before these fine masterpieces deteriorate further.

The much anticipated St Denis did not disappoint. The building surpassed my expectations: vast, airy and full of jewelled light. We were also able to steal an hour simply to experience the cathedral and (if inclined) to draw part of it. A moment of meditation was very welcome and gave us the opportunity to develop an affinity with this architectural marvel.

One of the most enchanting features of Gothic architecture is the fabulous acoustic created by the stone surfaces and curved vaulting. To my delight we were able to experience this at a concert in the Rayonnant bijoux that is Ste Chapelle. The string quartet was superb, but after an exhausting day it seemed many of our party drifted into oblivion to the harmonies of Schubert and Vivaldi.



“these brief encounters made me hungry for more and I will certainly be returning to the Louvre”

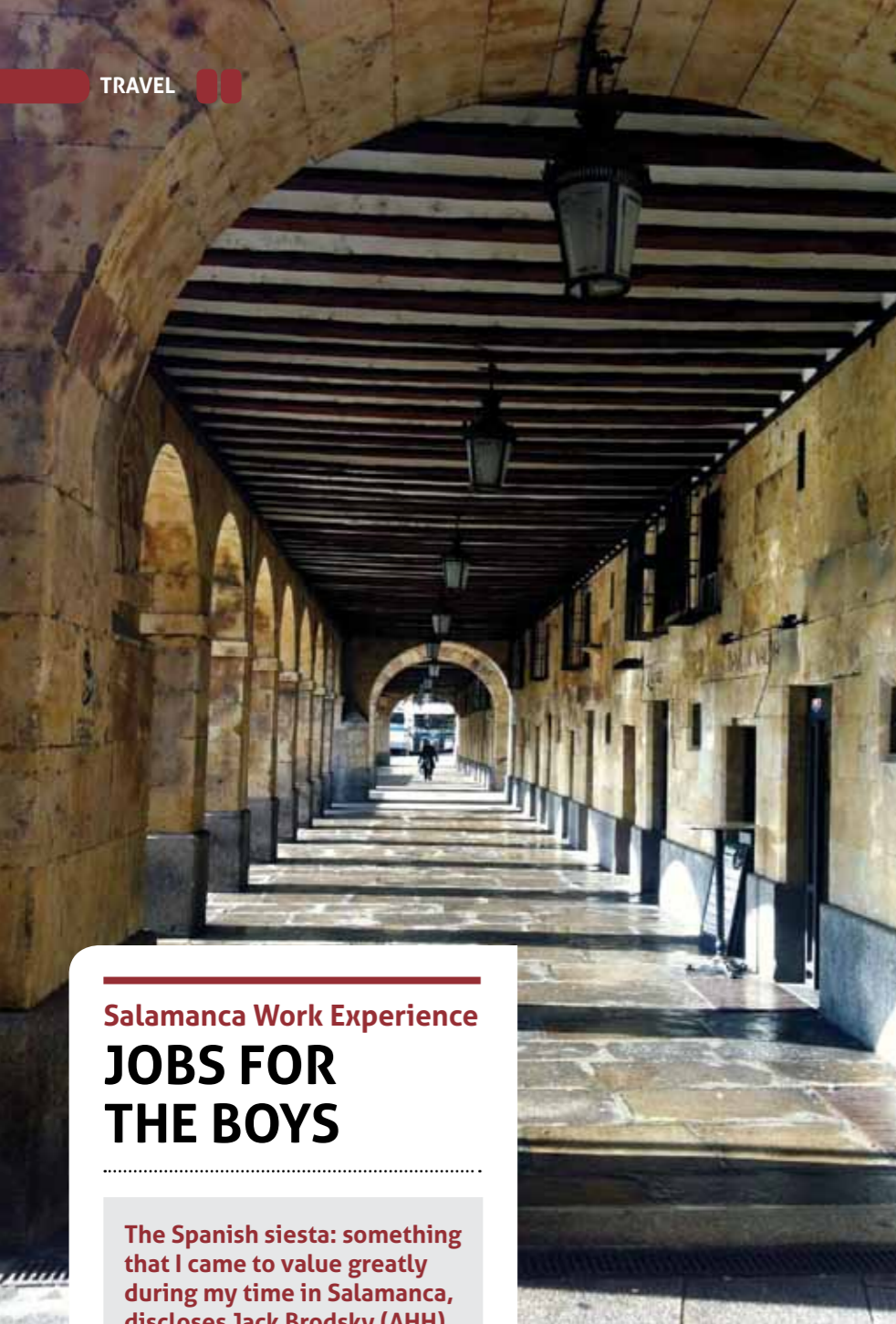


Music was a recurring feature over the four days especially in the art works at the Centre de Pompidou. Synthetic cubist works with names such as *Femme à la Guitare* and *Le Guitarist* exude music, and the chaotic, abstract forms in Kandinsky's works seem to dance and revel in unheard symphonies. Richard Rogers and Renzo Piano's 'fun palace' houses one of the best collections of 20th century art in the world, but the building itself is also a work of art. This iconic 'inside out' structure, with its colourful pipes and open plan display, excites the imagination. It represents a cultural shift in 1970's Paris and shows the assimilation of socialist ideals into society. Mr Walton's fascinating commentary shone an entirely new light on the building, placing it in the context of the period.

The Musée d'Orsay was possibly my favourite location of the trip. The Beaux-Arts railway station and hotel, with its great steel and glass vaulting was ingeniously converted to house the world's leading collection of late 19th century art. However it is the harmony between painting, sculpture and architecture that is most impressive about the museum. The unrivalled collection of Manets in the Musée D'Orsay also illuminated the work of this revolutionary painter.

In effect, the city of Paris is one huge gallery. Wandering the streets one is exposed to different genres and movements, from Haussmann's ornamented facades to the Art Nouveau designs in the Metro entrances. Mr Walton, Dr Cockburn and Mr Mann were, needless to say, all fabulous! The trip gave an enticing taste of the wonders this city has to offer, leaving us hungry for more.





Salamanca Work Experience JOBS FOR THE BOYS

The Spanish siesta: something that I came to value greatly during my time in Salamanca, discloses Jack Brodsky (AHH).

■ In Spain the day starts earlier and finishes later than the routine we are used to in London, which means an hour or two of sleep in the middle provides the perfect tonic for recuperation. Having been set up with individual work placements, each Westminster had a different working day. However, the end result was always the same: we came back to the hotel exhausted, but feeling far more adept at speaking the language than at the start of the day. The progression from the first day to the last was remarkable and plain to see; one of my roommates, who was doing his work experience in a local restaurant, slumped onto his bed at the end of the first day, knackered, bemoaning the fact that he was constantly fetching other waiters to help him translate and deal with the customers. However, upon visiting his restaurant myself on the final day I can bear witness to the huge progress he had made: he was joking with the chef, disputing

“blown away by the warm ambience of the city, as well as the affability of the locals”

the quality of the previous night's football with other waiters and shamelessly flirting with local *chicas* in order to earn himself tips.

All the local food we tried was delicious and quality three-course meals could be found for under €10. The *Plaza Mayor* itself was packed with restaurants and cafés that were

“an hour or two of sleep in the middle provides the perfect tonic for recuperation”

perfect for relaxing in the sun or simply for admiring the wonderful architecture. My work placement, at the *Museo Casa Lis*, was 15 minutes' walk from the *Plaza Mayor* which afforded me due time to explore the city on my journeys to and from work. A trip up the New Cathedral gives a perfect view over the whole city. I also visited my friends on the way back from the museum, which took me to a different part of the city every day. Jobs ranged from museums to chocolatiers (with the immensely popular *chocolate y churros* becoming a regular feature of our evenings) to music shops, each tailored specifically to the letter of application we sent in advance of the work placements. I must confess that I knew very little of Salamanca before the trip and I was blown away by the warm ambience of the city, as well as the affability of the locals. Of course I knew the Spanish take their sport very seriously, and after work we divided our free time between exploring the city and engaging in small-sided ball games with friendly locals; the games were competitive and enthralling in equal measure,



and afforded us due time to relax outside our busy work placements. We returned to Luton a week later, slightly more tanned, our Spanish much improved, completely worn-out but having enjoyed our week immensely.



Fifth Form in Greece

MEMORIES LINGER

Over the Easter holidays, members of the Fifth Form embarked on an exciting and eye-opening trip to Greece, document members of that long-established expedition, Dominic Brind (QSS) and Alfred Murray (DD).

■ For eleven days we completed a circuit around the main sites of Southern Greece. We visited places not only of classical significance, but also others from Greek history, from the Mycenaean era, 1500 BC, to the Rio-Antirrio Bridge, which opened in 2004. In the process we also learned about the Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman eras. Having seen such a varied

array of fascinating places, it is difficult to distil our favourites into a short piece.

But the site of the Battle of Marathon lingers in the memory, with its steep mound in which are interred the bodies of the 192 Athenian casualties who repelled the Persian invaders, and saved western civilization at its roots.

The Amphiareion, a sanctuary north-east

of Athens we visited on our first day, gave us a beautifully presented idea of all the other sanctuaries we were to see, still with a remarkably well preserved ancient water clock, or *klepsydra*, complete with original bronze plug. Also memorable were inscribed statue bases left by notable Romans such as Brutus and Sulla.

Thucydides predicted with remarkable prescience that, in contrast to Athens, if all that were left of Sparta were its public buildings and ground plan, visitors would struggle to grasp the political importance it once commanded over the Peloponnese. Indeed there is little left pre-dating the Roman era, which tells more about Sparta than ruins would – of a militaristic, functional society, the antithesis of flamboyant, cultural Athens.

Over the trip we visited many stadia, but our favourite was the stadium at Nemea. As well as the indispensable races (and humming of the *Chariots of Fire* theme tune!), the stadium featured an entry tunnel, still with ancient graffiti on the walls, scratched in by nervous competitors waiting for their event.

However, the highlight of our trip was Athens. It is impossible to describe our wonder on seeing the Acropolis! However, the scale and power of the Parthenon was at least matched by the surprise of seeing the Hephaestion in the Agora. The surprise arises from the fact that this temple stands, after two millennia, still with its roof, having survived all of Greek history.

As well as these highlights, there were, of course, many other brilliant moments – not least Mr Ireland's Greek dancing, as well as many enjoyable trips to the beach, including the construction of a sand-basilica.

Our thanks must go to Nikos, our invaluable 'fixer', without whom the trip would have run less smoothly, as well as Aris, our long-suffering driver. We must also thank Messrs Edlin, Kembal and Ireland for their daily jokes, historical insight and cricketing updates, Mrs Shanta, for her medical assistance, and Mr. Mylne for his stunning organisation and leadership of the trip.

More Trips: Part 2 IN PICTURES



Rigaud's in Alston



Hispanists in Almuñécar

Upper Shell French Exchange LINGUA FRANCA

It felt a little bit like that uncertain moment before opening an exam paper, or perhaps like the moment before a very odd blind date, as we stood in the Gare du Nord, the English kids in one line, the French in another, and large stretch of no-man's-land in the middle, quavers Tom Ashton (QSS), embarking on the first ever Upper Shell French exchange with Lycée Janson de Sailly in Paris.

■ As the names were called out in matched pairs, I contemplated whether my exchange would be a superior, chic Parisian who would turn his nose up at my clothes, or perhaps a psychopathic de-winger of flies with weird habits and a python.

As it turned out, neither of these were the case, and all the exchanges were delightful,

not at all smug, and very easy to talk to – until our French ran out, but even then we could communicate in universal languages like music – and football. Well, mainly football.

We spent the first weekend with our host families, discovering what French teenagers do in their spare time (playing football), how they relax (playing football) and what they do in the evenings (watching football). To be fair, we did much more besides football: Parisians do a lot of shopping, and some of us went to the wonderful Musée Rodin, where we bumped into the inferior Art History trip (an account of which can be found shunted into some small dark corner of these pages*), and after that first weekend I barely strayed onto a pitch.

It was during that first weekend that we got to know our correspondents properly. I talked to my exchange, Thomas, about Harry Potter, French electronic music, gay marriage and many other subjects. We watched the Simpsons in French, Topchef (the French version of Masterchef) and a huge amount of Malcolm in the Middle, with which Parisians are all obsessed for some strange reason.

At first it was difficult to get my meaning across at times – frustrating for both of us – and I said ‘oui’ to a lot of stuff I had no clue about, but I definitely improved very quickly – or at least circumlocuting when I was stuck. Thomas tried very hard to understand me however garbled my grammar, and corrected me gently when I made a serious mistake. He had a great sense of humour too, which really helps when you’re sharing a room with someone you’ve never met.

On Monday morning, lessons started – or rather, they didn’t, because for some very French reason not many of our exchanges had lessons scheduled on Monday mornings. So we met Dr Blache at 11.30 in Janson de Sailly



and established our regular timetable for the rest of the week: lunch followed by a spot of revision and then cultural visits round Paris with Dr Blache as our well-informed guide.

Janson de Sailly is located in the 16th arrondissement of Paris, a central and very pretty area within walking distance of the Eiffel Tower and the Arc de Triomphe. From there over the course of the week we visited the Latin Quarter and Notre-Dame, the Champs-Élysées, the Musée de l’Orangerie for Monet’s Nymphéas, the Jewish Quarter and the Cimetière du Père-Lachaise to name but a few. Paris is a wonderful city to wander around, but this trip was different because living with our French families allowed us to experience Paris as a Parisian rather than Paris as a tourist.

This trip was ideal for getting to know Paris, building up confidence speaking and listening to French in preparation for our exams – learning a few *gros mots* on the side – and was great fun as well. Many thanks to all the organisers (and Miss Rutherford in particular)!

* see pages 50–51



SOCIETIES AND LECTURES

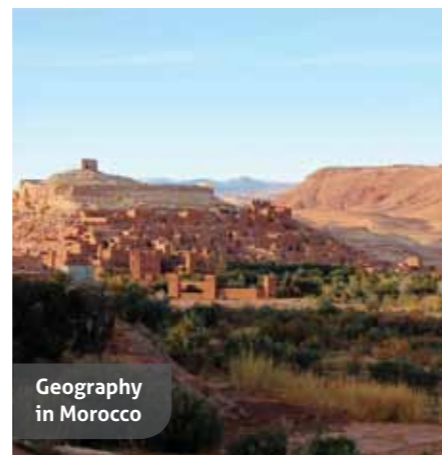
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More Trips: Part 3 IN PICTURES



Art History
in Paris



Geography
in Morocco

John Locke Society TOKENS ACCEPTED

This year John Locke Society has welcomed 24 highly distinguished speakers from varied backgrounds to address the Sixth Form and Remove, writes Archie Stonehill (DD).

Attendance is voluntary, but talks have usually seen over 200 upper school pupils in attendance, more than ever before, and lunches were booked up within seconds.

Our introduction to this year's programme was, fittingly, an OW, Jenny Kleeman. Stressing the importance of intellectual curiosity and adventure, she spoke of her extraordinary experiences as a documentary filmmaker working in some of the most dangerous places in the world. We had a stimulating, quirky talk from fashion designer Sir Paul Smith, who saw inspiration for a new sock design in School's ceiling. Editor of Vogue, Alexandra Shulman, defended her use of underweight models whereas Rona Fairhead, CEO of the FT Group, defended media freedom. Mayor Boris Johnson lightened the mood with an engaging commentary on London, before fending off some tough questioning from our resident Lefties. The neuroscientist Professor Margaret Esiri spoke on the complexities of the human brain, a trend continued by Professor Kevin Dutton, whose absorbing presentation on psychopaths left everyone worried about the person sitting next to them. PCS union leader Mark Serwotka's emotive attack on the government divided the audience. Keir Starmer, Director of Public Prosecutions, who seems to have what is the most interesting job in the UK, gave one of my favourite talks, providing unique insights into the future of law, given new technologies and crimes. Professor AC Grayling defended his New College of the Humanities admirably, leaving several audience members wishing that he had spoken a month earlier. The Times' Danny Finklestein encountered bitter opposition whilst The Guardian's Frank Ledwidge commanded extreme respect. Michael Sherwood, CEO of Goldman Sachs International, was surprised to encounter tough questions from a well-prepared audience member. Shami Chakrabarti's talk on our government's human



rights violations was perturbing, while Professors Peter Hennessy and Jo Wolff lectured on more theoretical aspects of contemporary British politics, as did CEO of the RSA, Matthew Taylor. In Election term, Sir Tim Berners-Lee, the inventor of the World Wide Web, will be joined by criminal barrister Jerry Hayes and newly appointed Baroness Martha Lane-Fox of

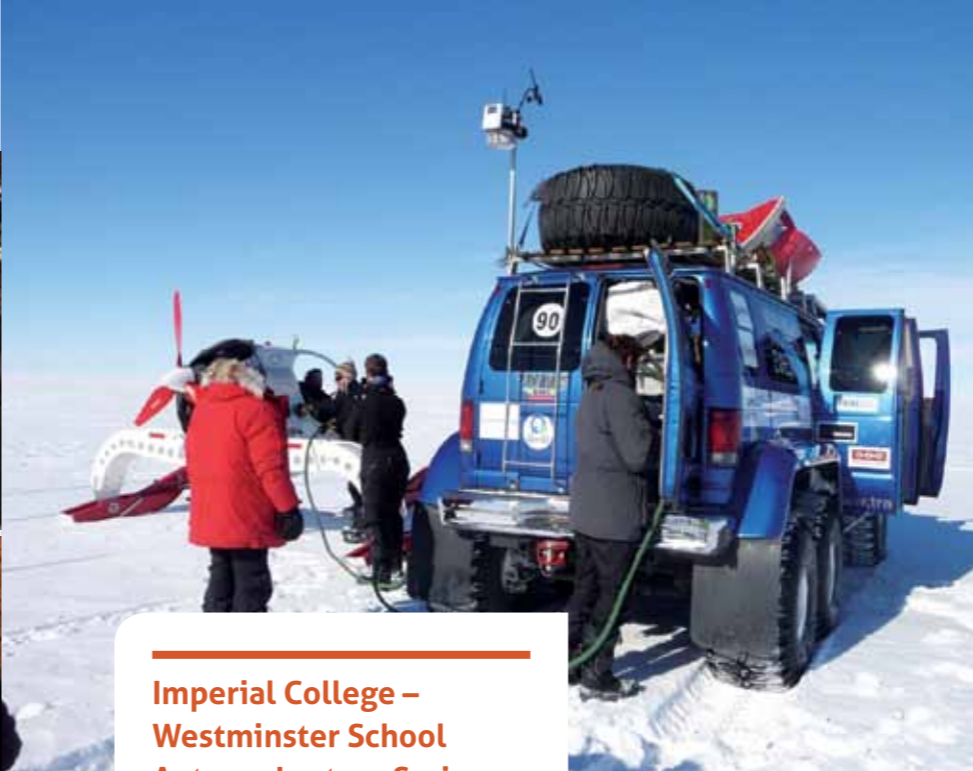
“fending off some tough questioning from our resident Lefties”



Soho to finish what has been an unforgettable year and experience.

One peculiar aspect of this year's Locke programme has been Mr Simpson's fortuitous timing. Secretary of State for Education Michael Gove's eulogy to the British Empire came but two days after the announcement of his new Gove-Levels. The Chief Medical Officer Dame Sally Davis was awaiting the highly publicized Francis Report on the very day she visited us. Actress Helena Bonham-Carter managed to visit on the day of the premiere of her new film, *Great Expectations*. Vince Cable visited us the week of the UK's credit downgrading. These happy coincidences have made for some heated questions and lunches.

It is those lunches that help to make the Society so special. Many schools have lecture societies, but very few people can boast to have had lunch with so many fascinating figures. The conversation is sometimes jovial, sometimes intense, and never dull. It is a unique atmosphere, powered on by our fantastic committee or Removes. The real driving force is, however, Mr Simpson. He has assembled the most remarkable assortment of speakers and for that not only I, but the entire Upper School, will forever be grateful.



Imperial College – Westminster School Autumn Lecture Series NOW YOU SEE IT...

The multi-disciplinary nature of scientific research and endeavour was once again brought sharply into focus with an especially eclectic trio of talks laid on by Imperial College, reports KAPW.

In *Trans-Antarctic Crossing: 4000 km in 22 days*, Ray Thompson described in vivid detail the meticulous preparation undertaken for this extreme expedition, the main purpose of which was to explore transport methods in the demanding conditions at the South Pole as well as monitoring the health of the explorers, assessing the environmental impact of their vehicles and analysing the environment itself. His account of the expedition itself was peppered with tales of daring, skill and good fortune, including a particularly graphic tale of how one of the main vehicles survived a close encounter with an enormous ice ravine.

A principal contributor to the Antarctic project was Imperial's Institute for Bio-inspired Technology and the second talk in the series was given by Dr Pantelis Georgiou from that department but this time the context was medical: *The Bio-inspired Artificial Pancreas for the treatment of Diabetes*. In his fascinating talk, Dr Georgiou spoke about the extraordinary device developed at Imperial which replicates the functionality of the biological pancreas to deliver real-time glucose control. In the

heart of the device lies a microchip programmed with a sophisticated algorithm that when connected to a glucose sensor can calculate the amount of insulin you need to stay healthy and reduce all the secondary complications usually associated with diabetes.

The final talk in the series was given by the eminent theoretical physicist Professor Sir John Pendry, whose lecture was given the wonderfully intriguing title *The Science of Invisibility*. The focus of the talk was metamaterials, whose physical structure causes impinging electromagnetic radiation to be bent around the material to render it effectively invisible. Some well-known tried and trusted physics was put through its paces but the audience was left in no doubt and whilst these fascinating ideas may have a long way to go before cloaks of invisibility become available, metamaterials are likely to produce very exciting developments in the near future in the field of radar and communication technology. Watch this space: something might appear – or disappear – soon.

“replicates the functionality of the biological pancreas”

materials are likely to produce very exciting developments in the near future in the field of radar and communication technology. Watch this space: something might appear – or disappear – soon.

Art History Society ACCESSIBLE ART

The Art History Society's lecture series on video art and film, with the notable exceptions of Andrew Graham Dixon (OW) and former Westminster teacher Ben Street, was a radical departure from last year's Renaissance theme, declares Josephine Geczy (MM).

As we consider the rapid emergence of video art, it remains an elusive, varied form, whether it be the products of the emerging genre of fashion film such as those by OW Gabriel Gettman, or the difficulties of documentary as expressed by Bruno Wollheim's film *'A Bigger Picture'* which is about David Hockney's work leading to the 2007 Royal Academy Summer Exhibition.

The poignancy of Pinny Grylls' short film *Peter and Ben*, which observed the gentle companionship between a reclusive man and a stray sheep in the Welsh mountains, provides a stark contrast to Wollheim's documentation of Hockney. The intimacy found in Grylls' documentation is for the larger part lost in Wollheim's caution in his representation of Hockney, and in his consciousness of the film's form in itself, rather than an extension of the aesthetic of Hockney's painting. This awareness of form is perhaps the clearest link to Ben Street's lecture on the Baroque painter Annibale Caracci, where the latter painter's imitation of sculpture within his painting presents painting attempting to escape its own form.

And yet, whilst Mr. Street's consideration of the conceit within Baroque painting was compelling, Andrew Graham-Dixon's animated imitation of Caravaggio's sword-fighting skills is equally difficult to forget; Graham-Dixon's personal dramatics echoed the drama of Caravaggio's tonal composition. Although one could argue that works by Caravaggio such as *The Conversion of Saul* have a distinctly cinematic quality, in their dynamism, posed nature and careful consideration of the viewer's position, Baroque and video art are primarily similar in their accessibility. Whereas Carravaggio's Baroque was to be the art of the people, video art is the art of the modern age – both accessible, and as this year's lectures demonstrated, both stimulating.

Classical Society

TRANSMISSION,
TRANSLATION,
TRANSACTION

The Classical Society has enjoyed another busy and stimulating year, writes JAI, with a range of sometimes literally amazing lectures.

The programme began with a talk on numerology in Latin, Greek and Hebrew texts by Dr. David Howlett, who was formerly the editor of the Dictionary of Medieval Latin from British sources. He revealed amazing patterns of numbers in classical and Biblical texts. Exposed to a sceptical Westminster audience, perhaps not all of whom were convinced by his argument, he showed a dazzling complexity in his research.

The interdisciplinary theme was continued by Prof. Peter Pormann, a research fellow at the University of Manchester. His theme was the transmission of Greek texts to the Islamic world. His lecture elucidated many links between fields such as Islamic philosophy and medicine with their Greek forerunners, and sparked a great deal of discussion.

Prof. Anthony Woodman, on sabbatical from the University of Virginia, jetted in to talk about Tacitus, from transaction to text. He was extremely clear in his delivery, posing the question of what evidence Tacitus had at his disposal and how much of the *Annals* are his own invention.

Dr. Matthew Leigh is one of Oxford's leading classical tutors and lecturers. In a talk on military ethics, he argued that the balance between human and inhuman acts was as difficult for the Romans to consider as it has been for us today. Referencing a course which requires American naval officers to consider precisely this, Dr. Leigh gave a reminder of the longevity of the concerns clearly identified by classical authors.

Prof. Paul Cartledge is the A.G. Leventis Fellow in Greek Culture at Cambridge University. His talk on the Olympic Games focused on the development of the culture of the games in ancient Greece, in particular looking at the origins of specific athletic disciplines and their parallels in the modern games. With the

Olympics still fresh in everyone's memory, the audience was full of questions.

Mrs. Katy Ricks, the Headmistress of Sevenoaks School, is writing up her DPhil on Dryden's Translations of Virgil this year. She was especially interested in Dr. Busby's collection of exercise books and translations. She is researching the theory that Busby encouraged his pupils to translate in a free, non-literal style. In an excellent talk, she argued that Dryden does this without losing the essence of Virgil.

Each year we enter pupils for the reading competition organised by LACT. Congratulations to KAR's Lower Shell, who won joint first place with their Greek chorus. Congratulations also to Forbes Anderson, who read with feeling a passage from *Annals* 1 and won first prize in the Open Latin section. Highly commended were Eliza Millett and Helly Khullar for their heated altercation from the *Bacchae*.

Camden History Lecture
TALK OF WAR

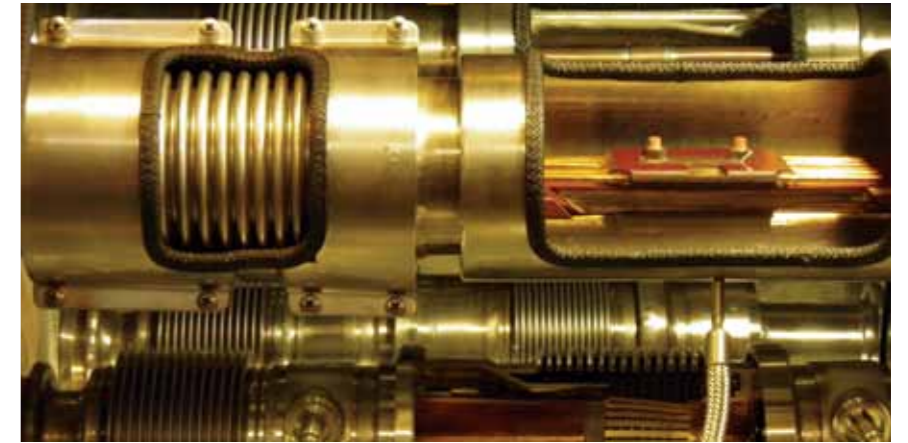
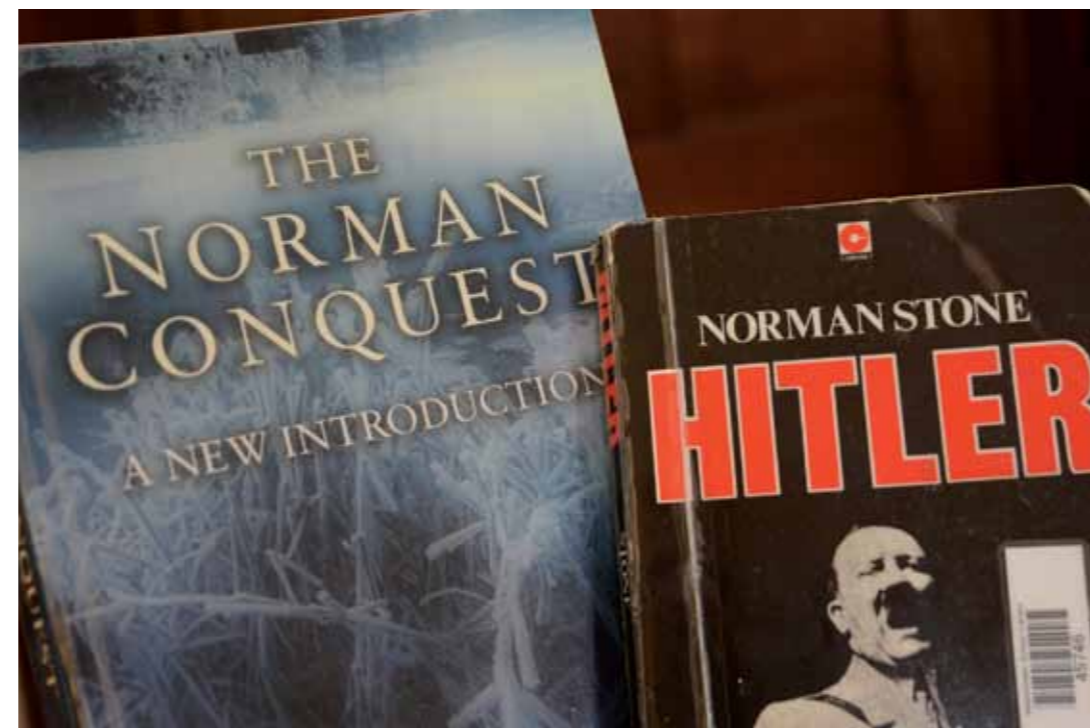
Distinguished professor Norman Stone came to Westminster during the Lent term to give the Camden Lecture – the highlight of the History department's programme of lectures and society talk, records Caitlin Bailey-Williams (BB).

As well as being Professor of Modern History at Oxford, Professor Stone was an advisor to Margaret Thatcher on foreign policy in Europe and produced *David Gilmour Live 1984*, a film of Gilmour's *About Face* tour.

School was filled with Historians and non-Historians alike from across the years as well as interested parents who all came to hear his insight into the Second World War from a German perspective. He began the talk by asking why the English have lost interest in Germany. This may seem surprising to many, especially as some audience members spend huge amounts of time studying Germany in History GCSE and A Level, but given the importance Germany plays in Europe at the moment relatively little news space is dedicated to it. Professor Stone interestingly managed to link much of what is going on today in Germany and what policies they implement in the EU with what was happening in Germany in the first half of the twentieth century. He

did say that Germany is now a very different country to what it was. Then Germany was characterized by the post-First-World-War hyperinflation; Hitler merely channelled these feelings into a sense of nationalism and provided an outlet for the German public's need to absolve themselves of responsibility for the war with anti-semitism. From that period there are very few records but private diaries, which as Professor Stone explained, give a fascinating insight into people's views, such as the genuine justification of the theory of nuclear war. Even then, as now, Turkey presented a problem for Germany and Professor Stone suggests that the German governments 'unimaginative' policies towards Turkey are possibly another subtler grab for power. The actions of the British Cabinet are often praised, and Churchill's successful leadership has caused him to be one of the most celebrated figures in British history; Professor Stone, however, was less than complimentary about Churchill and explained that although the Cabinet was undeniably intelligent they made a number of huge mistakes, most obviously in thinking that the Second World War would be a short one.

Professor Stone offered a very different and thought-provoking perspective on German history during the twentieth century for both those with a fairly detailed knowledge of the period and for those with none at all. I am looking forward to seeing whether next year's one lives up to this.



Hooke Lecture Series 2013

NUCLEAR
EFFECTS AND
POISONOUS
RELATIONS

The tragedy of what has become known as the Fukushima Daiichi disaster was, among other things, a powerful reminder of humankind's profound fear of the word "nuclear" and "radiation", records KAPW.

The first of the 2013 series of Hooke Lectures tackled this matter head-on with the talk Health Effects of radiation: Separating Fact from Fiction, given by Prof. Geraldine Thomas (Imperial College). After reminding us of the different types of ionising radiation, she expertly presented carefully and thoroughly collected data (including much arising from Chernobyl fall-out) to reassure her audience that much of their likely fear was unnecessary. After establishing the Chernobyl Tissue Bank, her research has provided infrastructural support (both physical and ethical) in Belarus, Ukraine and Russia for thyroid cancer diagnosis and research into the molecular mechanisms that underlie the increase in thyroid cancer seen after the Chernobyl accident. Drawing on this experience in her talk, many myths were dispelled; the power of statistical data representation was portrayed in striking fashion and one could have wished for no better encouragement for young people to become much-valued nuclear engineers.

The second talk in the series was contrasting in its material but no less striking with its message. How a grain of sand became a pearl – the poisonous relations between Hooke and Newton, given by Dr. Piers Bursill-Hall (University of Cam-

bridge), was a wonderfully detailed and at times graphic account of the great rivalry between these two legendary scientists. Although very sensibly sensitive to the name of the lecture series, Bursill-Hall was frank about Newton's superior intellect (especially mathematical) but made a strong case for Hooke's vital role in the production of perhaps the greatest scientific work in history, the *Principia*. Enormously informative and entertaining this was not a talk for those who believe in stereotypes.

The third speaker in the series described himself as something rather unusual: a theoretical materials physicist. Dr Arash Mostofi (Imperial College) brought together theoretical physics and materials science in a truly fascinating account of how new materials are being developed via vast supercomputer number-crunching only made possible very recently. His lecture included a particularly exciting and memorable description of how his work has enabled powerful predictions to be made of viable (high zT) thermoelectric silicon nanowires, with current global energy wastage figures pressing home the importance of such work. It was particularly fitting, as he pointed out, that he sits on the Executive Committee of the 'Thomas Young Centre for Theory and Simulation of Materials', Young's expertise, like Hooke's, being rather extraordinarily broad.

The final talk in this year's series was given by Prof Nikos Konstantinidis of UCL, who has been fortunate to have worked on projects based at CERN's Large Hadron Collider for a couple of decades. He truly has been involved in the experimental search for the Higgs Boson from the very early days and in his talk *LHC: a window to the first moments of our universe*, he spoke with great clarity about arguably the world's most famous science experiment: how it has evolved, what makes it so special and what exactly it has discovered. This remarkable project, culminating, but certainly not ending, with the great announcement last year, is the greatest example of how technology on the most enormous scale is being used to explore the tiniest things in the universe and thus shed light on how we came to be here to be able to study such things in the first place. He finished his talk suggesting that many of the questions that continue to be posed will be answered by the generation largely represented by the spell-bound audience. He could be right.



Brock Lecture

DRIVEN TO THE SUMMIT

The Upper School Expedition Society was pleased to welcome Alan Hinkes to speak up School for the 2013 Brock Lecture in February, recalls Alex Bishop (LL).

■ In 2005 Hinkes became one of only 11 people to have climbed all of the highest mountains on Earth, those over 8000m. When he achieved this extraordinary feat more people had stood on the moon. Hinkes started his career climbing mountains around his home in Yorkshire as a boy. His lecture was centred on how to survive at 8000m, in climbing terms this being 'in the death zone'. He emphasised heavily how the statistical chances of a successful climb were often daunting and, faced with the reality, how the fine line between life and death is very apparent. With your brain starved of oxygen mistakes are all too easy. He showed footage that had been cut from his documentaries showing the slips and falls that brought him just a thin rope away from falling several thousand feet to his death. In 1997, after summiting 9 of the 14 mountains, his climbing almost came to an end after a sneeze at high altitude led to a prolapsed disk in his spine.

In addition to the physical challenges faced on the mountain, he spoke about the mental challenge of being away from his family for months on end, being alone miles from help should something go wrong. He has photos of himself on the summit of all 14 peaks most of them featuring the picture of his daughter that accompanied him on every climb. He also surprised many with his honesty when he admitted that the desire to climb extremely high mountains came close to being a mental problem. The desire to push yourself as hard as possible is as much an affliction as it is a talent. He said that much as he loves mountains there are very few reasons why he would go back to the eight-thousanders.

His talk was engaging, funny, harrowing and tragic; and I don't hesitate to say that some of the aspiring climbers in the room might have taken away a few ideas.

Tizard Lecture

FROM SUPERCRITICAL FLUIDS TO CHEESEBURGERS

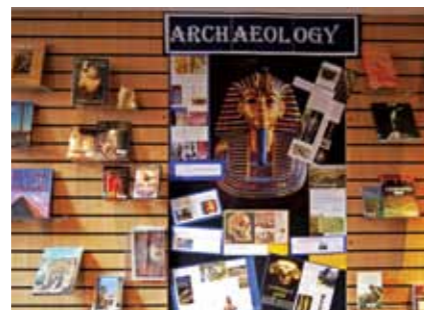
Traditionally the Tizard Lecture never disappoints and this year was far from being an exception, announces Alex Matthews (HH).

■ OW Martyn Poliakoff, Research Professor in Chemistry at the University of Nottingham, displayed more energy than the aggregate of Lower Shell pupils in delivering what was a highly reactive and extraordinarily enjoyable lecture. Professor Poliakoff lit up the lecture theatre with his profound and charming display of affection for both the school and science, all delivered in the style of the typical nutty professor.

With his exploding Einstein-style grey hair, he launched into his talk, enthusiastically explaining how, in an age where ecological welfare is highly valued and sought after, his research at the University of Nottingham is centered around the desire that the sciences do their part in saving the world for future generations. Most of daily life is dominated by chemical reactions and Poliakoff defended his belief that the easiest, and by far most promising, route to a greener future is through the modification of industrial processes to make them more reliable, renewable and efficient. With a display of enlightening diagrams and photos from his laboratory, he brought to life his complex field of work in supercritical fluids to the huge audience up School with great success.



Thereafter, the professor dedicated the remainder of his lecture to his work with the journalist Brady Haran. This dynamic duo of Brady, playing Robin to Poliakoff's Batman, have teamed up to spread the professor's love for chemistry to young people around the world over YouTube. As he delightfully pointed out, his videos are in competition with the likes of Justin Bieber but have had enormous success, detailing every element in the periodic table and then further exploring the more exotic fields of chemistry such as cheeseburgers in hydrochloric acid. For those who were unfortunate enough not to see Poliakoff's heart-warming return to Westminster, I suggest they delve into the many golden moments available online.



Library Displays

LITERARY TEMPTATIONS

Library displays are as dynamic and integral to the library as its resources, write Caroline Goetzee, Librarian, and Katie Stone, Assistant Librarian.

■ Always carefully planned and thought out, they are an opportunity to highlight and showcase library provision to borrowers who, busy with day-to-day life, do not have time to linger and explore the bookshelves themselves. To keep them looking fresh each of the three permanent display areas are made-over every two weeks with topics of interest that have caught the attention of the library staff. The large display board in the entrance is the focal point as it is seen by everyone who enters the library with the intention of being there for more than a few minutes. Here the displays can take two or three weeks to plan and put up and are often based around a connection to literature, a festival, anniversary, or school event. The other large display in the corridor overlooking the stairs showcases newly-arrived books to catch the eye and tempt passers-by. The smaller display leading to Milne is more self-contained, so a particular genre of books, reading lists, pupil choice, or a top ten pick from a member of the Common Room is preferred. The librarians so enjoy creating displays they've also taken over the English and French department displays and have recently managed to worm their way into Hooke.



Debating Society

WINNING LOUD AND CLEAR

Westminster has had another fantastic year of debating under the stewardship of Mr. Omrani and our stellar coach, Ben Woolgar, declares Louis Willis (MM).

■ This was capped by our victory in March at the Durham Schools' Debating Competition, which made us one of only two schools to have won all the major national competitions. After two days and seven debates, both of our teams succeeded in making it to the final of a hard-fought competition, where they argued for the banning of pornography. The victory eventually went to Barnaby Raine and Louis Willis, with Ellie Shearer and Jessica Yung taking a close second, making the final a Westminster sweep. None of this would have been possible without Dr. Evans, who kindly gave up her weekend to accompany us.

Earlier in the year, we succeeded in getting two teams through to the final of the Dulwich Debating Competition, with the win eventually going to Archie Hall (in the Lower Shell) and Jessica Yung. Although we saw victory snatched from our grasp in the finals at both the LSE and SOAS, Ellie and Louis were able to respectively top the speaker tabs of the two competitions, with their partners, Jessica Yung and Will Kitchen (also Lower Shell), taking 4th and 2nd place respectively. At the Oxford Union Schools' Debating Competition, Ellie and Louis broke first to the grand final. In a debate about whether Western governments should

“the judging panel took almost two hours to decide on a winner”

the result of the debating society's unprecedented depth has been a House competition as strongly contested as any I can remember. As well as the House debating final, we await the finals' day of the International Competition for Young Debaters, in which Westminster will be represented by some of our rising stars. The two top teams qualifying from the London regional round both came from Westminster – Hugo Raine and Stephen Horvath narrowly defeated Archie Hall and Will Kitchen in the regional final – giving us good reason to hope for further success, both at ICYD and in the years to come.

Late news from Stephen Horvath (BB):

At ICYD Finals on Saturday, I was in the B team with Hugo Raine. We finished 1st, 1st, 2nd, 2nd and thus ended up on 10 points. After our four preliminary rounds, we were ranked 2nd out of 60 teams competing. We were the only English team in the final, against two Ca-



fund the Syrian opposition, we put up enough of a fight to ensure the judging panel took almost two hours to decide on a winner, allegedly agreeing to settle the result on a coin toss. Ellie's second place on the speaker tab was another worthy consolation.

On a more international level, Barnaby was selected to represent England at the World Schools' Debating Championship, at which they reached the Quarter-Finals. Internally,

nadian teams and a Scottish team. We narrowly lost in the final on a 5–2 split vote, and the two Chief Adjudicators told me afterwards that we were extremely close, and that we won their votes. As an individual, I came 3rd out of 120 speakers, the highest ranked English speaker, and Hugo came 6th, and he was the highest ranked 14 year old. Sadly the other teams did not get on quite as well, but we all really enjoyed it and got excellent feedback.



Model United Nations STERN RESOLVE

Westminster has had an extremely successful year in the Model United Nations (MUN) circuit, winning countless awards, passing numerous amendments and declaring war on Argentina, France, Russia and China, twice, announces delegate Harry Spillane (DD).

MUNs take the form of committees on specific matters, with around 20 to 30 in each committee. The morning sees two or three pre-planned debates, for example Syrian Refugees and Middle Eastern Stability for Political Society. These issues will be debated and resolutions proposed, amended and voted on. The afternoon is altogether more interesting as it entails an impromptu debate on a surprise issue. This year the London Oratory School MUN had a 'General Assembly Crisis Forum' focused on the Argentine claim to the Falklands. Since Westminster represented Argentina, this debate proved to be Westminster-dominated as not only Argentina, but strangely Lebanon (also represented by Westminster), were extremely vocal!

The year began at the London Oratory School in December with Westminster scooping 'Best Delegation' with the Lebanese Representatives: Alexander Christie, Forbes Anderson, George McGrath and Harry Spillane, as well as a number of Commended and Highly Commended Delegate awards. The conference was a day of Westminster triumph. Discussing issues from the Falkland Island crisis to the solving of world hunger,

Westminsters took centre stage in committee competently arguing and indeed heckling the opposing sides. In policy forums over ten Westminster resolutions were passed, all contributing to making the London Oratory School MUN the "best they had ever hosted".

Having got a reputation for confidently and realistically representing Middle Eastern Nations, Westminster represented Iran and Azerbaijan at the City of London School in March. Once more we took two of the five 'Highly Commended Delegate' awards and Westminsters spoke powerfully on the issues of Arab Spring redevelopment, Nuclear Disarmament and the Syrian Crisis. Talking to delegates from other schools, it becomes clear

"in policy forums over ten Westminster resolutions were passed"

just how useful Cultural Perspectives and Options are, as well as the wide range of societies at school, in nurturing political views and a grasp of worldly facts and events. One delegate went as far as to ask "whether we have MUN lessons at school" since our delegations were so adept at bringing in specific and detailed, often humorous, examples and anecdotes.

All in all a fantastic year for 'MUNers' who have given Westminster a reputation as strong debaters, innovative policy makers and all too often bellicose representatives of Middle Eastern states!

History Society YEAR SUCCEEDING YEAR

In the wake of last year's re-introduction of the History Society into mainstream Westminster life, this year's committee have done their best to expand even further, introducing a student-led discussion every Monday lunch, proclaims Harry Balfour-Lynn (BB).

There has been a fantastic range of talks, leading to ever more interesting discussions with contributions from everyone in attendance. We've been lucky enough to hear talks this year not only from students in the Remove, but also from pupils across the year groups, giving some younger regular attendees the opportunity to voice their own opinions and chair discussions.

The year started well with a talk from Harry Balfour-Lynn on the origins of the Conservative Party. The next few weeks immediately demonstrated the wide scope of topics we grew to expect, with talks from Sarah Timmis on the persecution of the medieval Jewry, Misha Gabe-Wilkinson on the age of the Vikings, Tam Winter on the Peloponnesian War, Tommy Walters on Niccolò Machiavelli, and Freya Turner on the meaning of chivalry.



Following a brief interval for exams to be taken, and papers to be written, some keen historians from lower years volunteered their expertise. Benjamin Brind offered a fascinating analysis of the changing depiction of the Vietnam war in cinema, Harry Spillane introduced us to the world of Tudor espionage, and Nicholas Stone presented his very own thesis on the use of scapegoating as a tool of the State.

We were also lucky enough to receive a number of thought-provoking lectures outside of the weekly lunchtime meetings. The school archivist, Miss Wells, kindly came to speak on mirrors for princes, an area she has specialised in. Jonathan Phillips, Professor of History at the Royal Holloway University of London, gave us his alternative perspective on the First Crusade. Our final lecture of the year came from the internationally renowned Professor of International Relations at the University of Bilkent, in Ankara, Turkey, Norman Stone. He lived up to his impressive reputation, explaining the First World War from a German perspective, somehow managing to slip in a number of hilarious anecdotes on his years working with the Thatcher administration.



Environmental Society REAL WORLD IMPACT



It's been a productive year for the Environmental Society, enthuses Thomas Hildebrand (BB).

As a relatively new society, we can choose a new direction every year. This year has been spent consolidating the great foundations laid down last year, with the introduction of recycling bins, and cementing EnviroSoc as a real alternative to other societies when looking for members. We are unique – the only society to be based on group discussion rather than individual talks or lectures – and this makes us able to perfect ideas, be innovative and provide an atmosphere that all our members enjoy. Our casual mood is epitomised by our meeting place: the Dungeons, where the Sixth Form and Remove usually relax during break.

Do not think, however, that our relaxed nature means we don't get anything done. On the contrary, members feel able to speak their mind and we spend our time grappling with the difficult environmental issues that face our school, making sure that we balance the environmental impact of decisions with the cost and popularity of such an idea. We're not idealistic: on countless occasions people have brought up ideas such as rearing chickens on green, or planting solar panels all over school (although we're actually silently confident that that's possible...). Instead we concentrate on what we can do realistically – looking for problems to correct or opportunities to capitalise on. For example, we are expanding the number of recycling bins in the school and are looking for space for new cycling racks. It is already possible to recycle batteries and we are implementing a 'cash for cans' scheme that will allow us to raise money for charity and recycle

"we spend our time grappling with the difficult environmental issues that face our school"

our used aluminium cans too. There has already been an Environmental Society bake sale and a themed Shag Day for the society too. This has allowed us to raise awareness and money, so far £1400, for the World Land Trust – a charity that our members chose, after a social media poll (we have also set up a Facebook page). EnviroSoc even has an approved tie for our most passionate members. It is usually in the summer when the natural environment is most appreciated so there are many awareness campaigns pencilled in for the Election Term. You will be seeing a lot more of us. We're a society living in the present but mindful of the future. EnviroSoc offers an experience like no other society, where individual actions lead to school-wide initiatives – implemented in the real world with real consequences, outside Westminster's usual academic confines.



French Society CULTURAL EXCURSIONS

We have been fortunate enough to attend a series of tremendous lectures this year hosted by the French Society, declares Jack Brodsky (AHH).

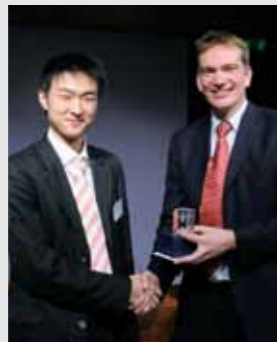
They have all been engaging and inspiring in equal measure. The first of which, given by Westminster's very own Mr. Witney, addressed the technique and expression of the celebrated, multi-talented Jacques Brel. It appears that Brel enjoyed huge success in numerous artistic fields, but Mr. Witney's talk brought to light some of Brel's more remarkable poetry, and was accessible to connoisseurs of French poetry and novices alike. The talk was given with great enthusiasm and was the perfect introduction to a series of lectures focusing on French literature, culture and art.

October saw the arrival of Marc Roche, the UK Correspondent for the venerable French newspaper *Le Monde*. M. Roche spoke with eloquence, honesty and passion, giving an illuminating insight into his work as a journalist, and usefully compared France and England. Budding journalists were in for a treat. Next we were spoiled by the talk given by Dr. John Leigh of Fitzwilliam College Cambridge, a specialist in Voltaire, or to use his full name François-Marie Arouet. Dr. Leigh presented a detailed analysis of his most famous work, *Candide*, and it was fascinating to study one of

the more controversial and outspoken characters in French history. Voltaire is renowned for his relentless barrage of criticism aimed at the Catholic Church, as well as his support for freedom of speech and intellectual independence. The next two lectures, the first by Richard Hudson, professor of Linguistics at UCL, entitled 'The Glamour of Grammar' and the other, 'What are French Studies today?' by the eminent medievalist Professor Simon Gaunt, were extremely thought-provoking and maintained the variety of subjects over the course of the year. The penultimate event of the year appealed particularly to Art Historians and Anglicists and demonstrated an impressive turnout. The subject was the prevalence of the myth of Prometheus in Western European art throughout the 19th century. It was particularly interesting to mark how Prometheus has dipped in and out of the narrative of art. Dr. Caroline Corbeau-Parsons (Tate Britain) brilliantly demonstrated how these trends correlate with the notable literary works of Goethe, Balzac or Byron. Dr Tom Wynn OW (University of Durham) provided a fitting end to a series of successful and diverse talks with a dazzling talk on 'Libertine literature'.

Chemistry Olympiad TURNING TO GOLD

This year's bumper crop of Olympiad Chemists achieved the best results in Westminster history by picking up 13 Gold, 25 Silver and 16 Bronze Certificates, reports an impressed RK.



Westminster was awarded more Golds than any other school in the country and Ravi Shah was selected for Round Two, being ranked in the top 25 students. At the time of writing we are still waiting to hear if he can join in the footsteps of Callum Bungey (OW) who last year represented the UK in the International Olympiad in Washington DC. Callum was the top performing

British Chemist, picking up a Silver Medal. Elsewhere, James Dai was awarded a Roentgenium Certificate in the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge and was invited to talk about his favourite element, Chromium, at the iconic lecture theatre at the Royal Institution.

Economics Society SWELLING NUMBERS

This year in Economics Society saw a number of fascinating talks elaborating on economic situations around the world from a range of speakers in the Sixth Form and Remove, imparts Cameron Kerr (GG).

Every Friday lunch time, members of the society were treated to the views of members of the upper school regarding various world issues, from Chinese investment in Africa to government intervention in education.

The society is unique in that it attracts an audience from a wide range of years in the school, with members of the Upper Shell becoming regular attendees of the society. Every week the number of pupils that piled into one of the Economics classrooms to hear a pupil-led talk, grew rapidly as can be seen through the number of chairs that had to be borrowed from neighbouring classrooms in order to

"all of the talks were of a high standard"

satisfy demand. The society demonstrates pupils going beyond the call of duty by speaking on subjects foreign to the syllabus, demonstrating their passion for particular fields.

All of the talks were of a high standard. However, special mention must be given to Robert Doumar, Alex Winter and Zaem Bhanji for giving three of the most memorable and notable talks tackling subjects which invited speculation or were very contentious; still another was interesting through the unappreciated nature of its subject matter. Through talks such as these, the society encourages debating skills, and allows us to become comfortable with forming and delivering insightful questions, all while broadening the Westminster perspective on world affairs and developing issues. This can only be achieved through the efforts of the organisers and those who participate; it is only through their dedication that it has been such an exciting year.



English Society FROM SHAKESPEARE TO PSYCHOPATHS

Friday lunchtimes at Westminster pay homage to a wide array of academic societies, each vying for the loyalty of the student body, says Martha Glaser (CC).

This year, the English Society has flourished, becoming a fully-fledged, student-run organisation built around its student talks, with a variety of acclaimed visiting speakers covering a great range of stimulating topics.

The wave of enthusiasm emanating from Room D20 – transformed into a thriving hub of intellectual curiosity – was launched again in early September with two stand-out talks. First, from Iain Overton, the investigative journalist who recounted his travels around the globe, searching for truth in the most uncompromising locations, and Maggie

Ferguson, who related a fascinating insight into the life of poet George Mackay Brown. Latterly Professor John Mullan of UCL came and gave a lively talk on Jane Austen's 'tricks': the dances, the sea and the mistakes she didn't make, posing detailed questions which nearly, but not quite, stumped the assembled audience of pupils and teachers.

Student talks from the Sixth form, however, drew out a remarkable sense of maturity, both from the speakers, and the masses who turned out to listen. Spanning centuries of literature – from Shakespeare and Yeats, to modern-day psychopathy in literature and graphic novels – the talks attracted both students of English, and those who choose to spend more time in Hooke than Weston's. The society has not failed to come up with inventive ideas for literary enquiry – one of the first meetings consisted of a brave effort to match Hemingway's legendary back-of-a-napkin six-word story. Thanks are given to Gaetano Lo Coco, the society's former head and the driving force behind its recent success.

Hard work, dedicated speakers and enthusiastic members has ensured that the English Society has embedded itself as an integral part of extra-curricular life in the school.

Biology Society FASHION EXTRACTION

Topics have ranged from the nature of butterflies and the science of attraction to the internal workings of the brain. Westminster pupils from all years who have attended the



A great variety of enlightening talks have graced the Lecture Room on Friday lunchtimes for this year's Biology Society, reveals Freya Easton (AAH).

"The coveted Golden Microscope Award"

society have not only enjoyed lectures, but participated in other activities such as a fiercely fought quiz – the winning team receiving the coveted Golden Microscope Award.

Of course the year could not have passed without the society celebrating the 60th anniversary of Watson and Crick's discovery of the DNA double helix. To celebrate this anniversary students extracted their own DNA which they could then take home with them in small flasks attached to necklaces (a potential fashion craze?). Biology Society has been highly successful this academic year and we are very much looking forward to more captivating lectures in the future.

WAVE Society TANGO HOURS

For as many years as the legendary Mr Simpson has been at Westminster, WAVE has been a student-led society providing a cultural flavour to the Sixth Form write a passionately committed David Conceicao (BB) and Lisa Molodtsova (BB).

WAVE has traditionally involved visiting a range of galleries and museums in central London, but this year we had the privilege of taking WAVE in a new direction. The diversity of our trips ranged from art galleries to Argentine tango sessions. There were times when we were moved to tears watching the emotional *Les Intouchables*, but equally Sixth Formers outshone all others at the Somerset House ice rink.

The defining feature of WAVE has been the power it's had to engage people in activities that there is little time for at school. The eagerness of pupils in attending the Pre-Raphaelite exhibition at the Tate Britain was almost overwhelming, and it was difficult to envisage how there could be another trip quite like it. However the desire to learn the Argentine tango – particularly from Sixth Form boys – exceeded all expectations. Whilst at first some were tentative and reluctant, by the end of the session our passionate dancing meant that we were vying for dominance with the tango professionals on the floor.

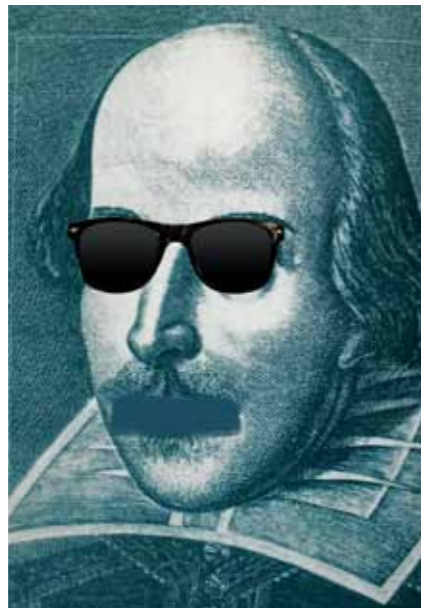
There are few other societies that have used the location of Westminster in the heart of London to their advantage in the way WAVE has. This is why WAVE society has been so valuable to the Sixth Form, and indeed the WAVE committee members. With our strong emotional attachment to WAVE, we hope that its legacy will be fruitfully continued in the years ahead.



Samizdat Shakespeare NO ASSEMBLY OF TWENTY

In *Timon*, a wealthy man is cast out of society after running up huge debts in trying to entertain his many false friends, and rages at the world, alone in the wastelands outside Athens. Having found it difficult to get full managerial support for an official time slot in which to set up a group where students would read through an entire Shakespeare play once a week, I decided to operate in secret. It was an act of trust, and success depended upon broader emotional and intellectual appetite in the school. The first few weeks seemed to confirm this leap of faith: *Macbeth* and *The Tempest* stand out as magical highlights of the autumn.

However, as exam pressures began to bite, attendance began to wane, and the final few sessions were conducted in solitude. An assembly of twenty became the unrecognisable dream of one theatrically-inspired pupil in the depths of the English Department. I dream still that academic efficiency can be sometimes be put aside in the protection of an ideal. Sometimes people deserve more than just A-Levels.



'Let no assembly of twenty be without a score of villains' – so goes the line from *Timon of Athens*, reminds a dramatically inclined John Phipps (RR).

Physics Olympiad TOP TABLE



CJRU sends this summary of pupils' success in the British Physics Olympiad.

Gold medals: Yuting (Irene) Li and Charlie Barton both got Top 50 Golds in the Olympiad, and Distinctions in round 2. They are therefore in the top 15 nationwide and are attending selection for the National team over Easter, an impressive achievement.

The following also gained gold medals: James Dai, Fred Tomlinson and Udayan Bannerjee-Bulchandani.

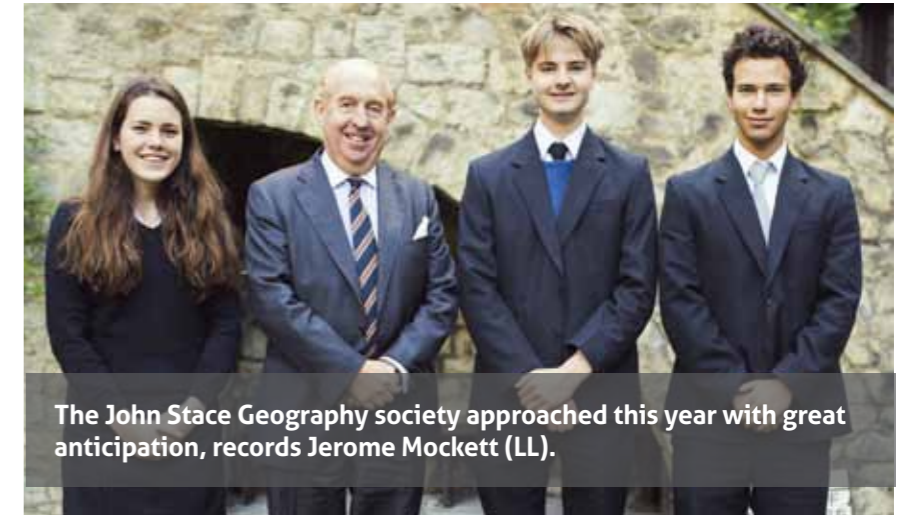
In the Challenge, the Upper Shell equivalent of the Physics Olympiad, gold medals went to Hugo Ventham, Koshiro Kiso and Jared Jeyaretnam.

John Stace Geography Society GENERAL APPLAUSE

Our initial goals were twofold; both the wider inclusion of younger members of the school and the establishment of an innovative range of events that might become fixtures in the Society's calendar.

The Lower School Quizzes were an embodiment of these goals: thoroughly enjoyable, evoking interest and maybe even, I dare say, educational both for participants and organisers.

The ring-circled and undoubtedly most anticipated events of our calendar were the talks by our visiting Generals. General Sir Michael Rose spoke in November on the challenges of managing the UN Peacekeeping mission in the Balkans. General Sir Rodger Wheeler spoke of working with his aforementioned colleague in the Balkans as well his wealth of experience from the Falklands to Borneo. Both proved extremely insightful and fascinating talks, rooted in the geographical aspects of their experiences.



The John Stace Geography society approached this year with great anticipation, records Jerome Mockett (LL).

"most anticipated... were the talks by our visiting Generals"

The Travel Photography Competition was another inaugural initiative launched this year. This was a fantastic opportunity to enlarge

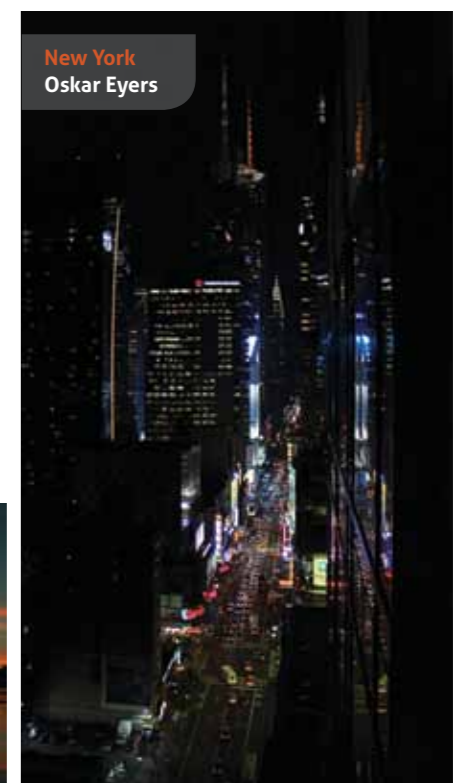
our scope, particularly to the younger years and congratulations to Oskar Eyers as the lower school winner. Sophie Brooke was the Upper School winner with a fantastic portrait entitled 'Peruvian Weaver' whilst Huw Williams won the teacher entries. The overall winner was Isa Ouwehand. Many congratulations to all who entered.

After a highly successful year the committee wishes to offer its best luck to those leading the society next year: they have a tough act to follow!

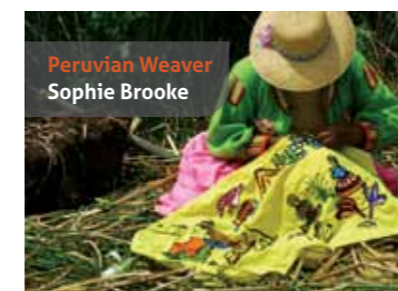
John Stace Geography Society TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION



Burmese Children
Isa Ouwehand



New York
Oskar Eyers



Peruvian Weaver
Sophie Brooke



Inner Sound from
Camusterrach
Huw Williams

Philosophy Society

CONTROVERSIAL MINDS



After a hiatus of a number of years, the reintroduction of the Philosophy Society in 2012 debuted with a lecturer from the University of Oxford. Eminent speaker Professor Pamela Anderson addressed a group of students on some common misconceptions of Kant. This was a challenging talk that set the pace for what was to come, declares Mayowa Sofekun (AHH), President of the society.

Our occasional Friday lunchtime meetings began with Ida Sjöberg, who engaged the varied audience in a discussion on the philosophy of language. Her Finnish background was useful in providing anecdotes that supported her thesis on how our first language affects the way we view the world.

Yoel Sevi's provocative talk entitled 'Is cloning the same as death?' deconstructed the notion of personal identity. Arguing that it is psychological continuity that constitutes a self, Yoel's controversial talk elicited rebuttal from a certain Head of Maths. Mr Davies' lecture in response to Yoel Sevi was one of the

highlights of the society this year as it captured the essence of the mind/body debate within philosophy. Moreover, it was the moment we realised we had outgrown our meeting room as over fifty people attended the talk!

After a series of thefts from Westminster School students, Barnaby Raine (Grant's/Remove) provided a defence of the perpetrators in his talk on 'Why I support muggings'. Although a seemingly unethical stance to take, using G.A. Cohen's 'Parable of the Shmoo', he led the audience through a set of logical propositions that argued that economic privilege inevitably leaves people open to attack from those who are less fortunate. Unsurprisingly, the talk resulted in a heated debate from proponents supporting both sides.

Various other students addressed the society this year, including Joe Kelen who spoke about the limits of scientific inquiry. The concluding lecture of the Philosophy Society for the year was delivered by Dr Christopher Hamilton of King's College London. Dr. Hamilton spoke about the little-known French philosopher, Simone Weil. Weil, we learned, was an eccentric figure who lived out her philosophy in bizarre ways such as working in car factories in order to more closely identify with the poor and fighting in the Spanish Civil War. The Philosophy Society has had a successful year and next year will have more to offer.

Raspberry Pi Computer Challenge

AirPi: TOUCH THE SKY

Last October, Alyssa Dayan and I entered a competition run by PA Consulting, a technology consultancy firm, announces Tom Hartley (HH).

The challenge: to design something using a Raspberry Pi – a £25 credit-card sized computer developed by Cambridge University – that would 'help the world'. The project we decided upon was a weather and air quality monitoring station; after much debate, we titled it 'AirPi'. The Pi takes in measurements every second, including temperature, humidity, UV intensity, sunlight, air pressure, nitrogen dioxide and carbon monoxide levels. These measurements are subsequently uploaded to a website we built (see URL later) where any user can see live updates every few seconds. We also added a small screen on top of the Pi, so that users without Internet could still see readings displayed on the screen.

After sourcing the various components and sensors from places as varied as Nottingham-

shire and Hong Kong, we pieced it together, and wrote the code to get it working. Three weeks after submitting our initial brief in February, we were invited to the grand final near Cambridge. A fortnight later, we headed up to Royston, AirPi in hand. After being warmly greeted by the folks at PA, we got a tour of the building, and then settled down for the judging.

The judges ranged from the BBC Technology Correspondent to the Head of Computer Science at Cambridge. After an hour of examining all the entries, we were announced as the victors in the 16–18 category, beating teams from Highgate and Dalreida School in Ireland. After receiving a cheque for £1000 and a golden case for the Pi, we had a chance to chat to some of the consultants at PA.

This was the crazy moment for us – they



told us that they wanted to help us take the project further. There hadn't been any mention of this in the competition brief and they had no obligation to do so, but they liked the concept and execution of the AirPi so much that they wanted to help us create a finished design. We have been working with them recently to create a prototype for the product, and we are aiming to have a finished product by the end of August. This includes designing a case and a circuit board for the project, as well as organising the manufacturing and distribution. Our plan is to start by giving them out to schools to build as kits during technology lessons.

You can find our site at <http://airpi.es/> and the BBC news report at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-21882845>

2012

PRIZEGIVING: PART 1

History Mitchell Prize	James Adams	LL	History Neale Prize	Daniel de Lisle	BB
Religious Studies	James Adams	LL	Religious Studies Upper Shell	Johnny Digby	DD
French	James Aldred	RR	Economics Sixth	Natasha Doherty	WW
Russian Sixth	James Aldred	RR	English Fred D'Arcy	Natasha Doherty	WW
Chemistry Sixth	Lachlan Alexander	MM	Clark Community Service	Piers Dubin	LL
Product Design Upper Shell	Hasan Al-Rashid	DD	Greek Sixth	Flavia Edelsten	BB
Elizabethan Photography Second	James Alster	DD	Art Fifth	Jonathan Edwards	MM
History Neale Prize	James Alster	DD	Geography Upper Shell	David Elliot Johnson	BB
Latin Sixth	James Alster	DD	Religious Studies Remove	Poppy Ellis-Logan	MM
Crickets 1st XI Most improved player	Kavi Amin	RR	Biology Sixth	Adam Evans	QSS
Spanish Stuart Leaf	Graham Anderson	AHH	English Phillimore Second	Aoife Fahy	DD
Economics Sixth	Louis Ariss	MM	Music Fifth	Teddy Favre-Gilly	LL
Russian Lower Shell	Thomas Ashton	QSS	English Remove	Rachel Finegold	HH
Music Lower Shell	Joshua Ballance	MM	Religious Studies Lower Shell	Patrick Fitzgerald	AHH
Geography Remove	Alexander Ballard	GG	Art Remove	Grace Fletcher	AHH
Music Strings	Rachel Ballard	RR	History Walker Prize	Misha Gabe-Wilkinson	WW
History Lower Shell	Matthew Bannatyne	QSS	History Upper Shell	Angus Goalen	WW
Music Lower Shell	Matthew Bannatyne	QSS	Chemistry Fifth	Barnaby Graff	QSS
Latin Upper Shell	Gabriel Barrie	LL	Crickets U14 Player of the year	Barnaby Graff	QSS
Art History Remove	Tom Barrie	WW	History Martin Leake Second	Barnaby Graff	QSS
English Fifth Creative First	Mo Barry-Wilson	MM	PE Fifth	Barnaby Graff	QSS
Mathematics Sixth	Charles Barton	QSS	Peer Supporter	Anna Greenburgh	RR
Electronics Sixth	Charlie Barton	QSS	Drama Special Drama Prize	Carolina Grierson	WW
Geography Fifth	Lawrence Berry	QSS	Russian Stuart Leaf Russian Prize	George Grylls	HH
Art Upper Shell	Niall Biser	HH	English English Society	James Gunn	QSS
Mathematics Fifth	Taylor Boyce	RR	French Stuart Leaf Prize	James Gunn	QSS
Drama Lower Shell	Ben Brind	LL	History Fifth	Archie Hall	QSS
Peer Supporter	Fergus Brooman-White	MM	History Martin Leake Third	Archie Hall	QSS
Electronics Lower Shell	Matthew Budd	DD	Greek Remove	Jess Hao	GG
Product Design Lower Shell	Matthew Budd	DD	Music Solti Prize	Emily Harper	AHH
Chemistry Remove	Callum Bungey	HH	Mathematics Upper Shell	Tom Hartley	HH
Latin Lower Shell	Sebastian Burgess	MM	Art History Sixth	Rupert Henderson	GG
Greek Sixth	George Bustin	RR	Drama Sixth	Rupert Henderson	GG
Art History Remove	Gabriel Cagan	DD	Peer Supporter	Ellie Hickling	DD
History Mitchell Prize	Gabriel Cagan	DD	English Phillimore Fourth	Victoria Hingley	DD
Physics Remove	Edward Carter	AHH	Latin Remove	Peter Hitchcock	QSS
Mathematics Remove	Edward Carter	AHH	Art Lower Shell	Jack Hochschild	WW
French Gibb Prize	Augustine Cerf	HH	Religious Studies Lower Shell	Jack Hochschild	WW
French Remove	Odette Chalaby	HH	English Phillimore Third	Benedict Honey	WW
Peer Supporter	Odette Chalaby	HH	Chemistry Sixth	Riki Houlden	DD
Music Sixth	Aditya Chander	HH	Spanish Sixth	Maria Hunt	AHH
Religious Studies Fifth	Alex Choi	DD	Physics Upper Shell	Andreas Ioannou	MM
Electronics Upper Shell	Azmair Chowdhury	LL	Physics Fifth	Christos Ioannou	MM
Religious Studies Upper Shell	Azmair Chowdhury	LL	Greek Upper Shell	Andreas Ioannou	MM
Latin Remove	Johnny Church	LL	Spanish Remove	Ben Ireland	RR
History Lower Shell	Nicholas Clanchy	MM	Geography Upper Shell	Oliver Iselin	BB
Greek Lower Shell	Nicholas Clanchy	MM	Peer Supporter	Jade Jackman	PP
French Stuart Leaf Prize	Milo Constable	RR	English Lower Shell	Maxime Janbon	GG
German Remove	Milo Constable	RR	French Lower Shell	Maxime Janbon	GG
Peer Supporter	George Cox	BB	Chemistry Upper Shell	Akash Jayasekara	QSS
German Upper Shell	Thomas Cox	LL	Spanish Upper Shell	Akash Jayasekara	QSS
Drama Lower Shell	Tom Critchley	RR	Spanish Sixth	Vikram Jayaswal	QS
Art History Sixth	Sive Curran	HH	Mathematics Lower Shell	Jared Jeyaretnam	BB
English Phillimore First	Sive Curran	HH	Crickets 1st XI Player of the Year	Milo Johnson	DD
English English Society	Sive Curran	HH	Latin Fifth	Lucas Jones	LL
History Sixth	Sive Curran	HH	Drama JECA Performance Award	Tristan Jordan	WW
English Fifth Creative Second	Olivier Dacic	WW	English Fifth Creative Second	Elliott Jones	HH
Crickets U15 Player of the Year	Eugene Daley	QSS	Latin Lower Shell	Arnav Kapoor	MM
Art Fifth	Alex Dallman-Porter	BB	Drama Oli Bennett Award	Hannah Karet	BB
Physics Lower Shell	Nick Daultry Ball	GG	Peer Supporter	Hannah Karet	BB
Music Upper Shell	Michael Davin	AHH	Greek Upper Shell	Nick Kenny	MM
English Upper Shell	Michael Davin	AHH	Physics Lower Shell	Daniel H Kim	QSS
Drama Remove	Daniel de Lisle	BB	German Lower Shell	Daniel H Kim	QSS
Drama Special Drama Prize	Daniel de Lisle	BB	Greek Lower Shell	Daniel H Kim	QSS
English Remove	Daniel de Lisle	BB	Mathematics Cheyne Junior	Daniel H Kim	QSS

2012

PRIZEGIVING: PART 2

>> Biology Lower Shell	Daniel H Kim	QSS	History Whitmore Prize	Barnaby Raine	GG
Chemistry Lower Shell	Daniel H Kim	QSS	Peer Supporter	Chloe Ramambason	CC
Biology Lower Shell	Koshiro Kiso	WW	Russian Upper Shell	Hugo Ramambason	QSS
Chemistry Lower Shell	Koshiro Kiso	WW	German Stuart Leaf German Prize	William Ripley	HH
Russian Lower Shell	Koshiro Kiso	WW	Peer Supporter	James Ritossa	LL
Geography Lower Shell	Henry Kitchen	AHH	Mathematics Fifth	Edward Rong	QSS
Geography Sixth	Phoebe Kitchen	AHH	History Whitmore Prize	Chris Rowe	HH
Biology Fifth Form	William Kitchen	AHH	Greek Fifth	Tibo Rushbrooke	QSS
Greek Fifth	William Kitchen	AHH	German Hugo Garten German Prize	Katerina Russman	HH
History Fifth	William Kitchen	AHH	Chemistry Remove	Kshitij Sabnis	QSS
Mathematics Lower Shell	Moses Koo	QSS	Electronics Remove	Kshitij Sabnis	QSS
Art Lower Shell	George Kuhn	DD	Physics Remove	Kshitij Sabnis	QSS
Music Brass	Kiran Laidlay	WW	Russian Remove	Charles-Edward Sealy	RR
Music Fifth	Darius Latham-Koenig	DD	Physics Sixth	Ravi Shah	LL
Biology Remove	Hassal Lee	HH	Music Adrian Whitelegge Award	Sarah Shone	PP
Economics Remove	Lee Su-Min	MM	French Sixth	Antonia Skinner	BB
History Martin Leake First	William Leet	AHH	Music Solti Prize	Antonia Skinner	BB
English English Society	Jack Lennard	HH	French Upper Shell	Alistair Stewart	MM
Physics Sixth	Yuting Li	PP	English Fifth Creative Third	Nicholas Stone	BB
Mathematics Cheyne Senior	Yuting Li	PP	History Fifth OW Research Prize	Nicholas Stone	BB
English Fred D'Arcy	Grace Linden	MM	Drama Upper Shell	Charles Strachan	GG
French Philip Webb Prize	Grace Linden	MM	French Philip Webb Prize	Charlie Strachan	GG
Latin Sixth	Grace Linden	MM	Geography Lower Shell	Conrad Thomas	MM
Geography Fifth	Thomas Lindsay	DD	Russian Stuart Leaf Russian Prize	Theo Tindall	QSS
Peer Supporter	Tillie Lloyd-Thomas	GG	Physics Upper Shell	Marius Tirlea	WW
Art Upper Shell	Gaetano Lo Coco	GG	Latin Upper Shell	Marius Tirlea	WW
History Upper Shell	Gaetano Lo Coco	GG	Mathematics Cheyne Junior	Marius Tirlea	WW
Peer Supporter	Nicholas Lorch	QSS	English Phillimore Second	Freya Turner	RR
Music Singing	Betty Makharinsky	BB	History Sixth	Freya Turner	RR
History Remove	Charles Malton	BB	Russian Sixth	Freya Turner	RR
Peer Supporter	Luke Mann	GG	Physics Fifth	Kent Vainio	GG
Geography Sixth	Vikram Mashru	DD	Biology Fifth Form	Kent Vainio	GG
Biology Upper Shell	Kenki Matsumoto	DD	English Fifth	Kent Vainio	GG
Music Percussion	Jack McNeill Adams	DD	French Fifth	Kent Vainio	GG
Peer Supporter	Jack McNeill Adams	DD	Latin Fifth	Kent Vainio	GG
Russian Remove	Sacha Mehta	QSS	Religious Studies Fifth	Kent Vainio	GG
Spanish Lower Shell	Rory Meryon	MM	French Lower Shell	Hugo Ventham	QSS
Greek Special Classics Prize	Edward Millett	BB	Spanish Lower Shell	Hugo Ventham	QSS
Peer Supporter	Alex Momeni	WW	German Lower Shell	Siegfried von Thun Hohenstein	LL
History Remove	Theo Morris-Clarke	AHH	Elizabethan Photography First	Jamie Voros	MM
Mathematics Remove	Theo Morris-Clarke	AHH	Art Sixth	Joanna Vymeris	WW
History Walker Prize	Ariane Moshiri	PP	Art Sixth	Ellie Wang	DD
English Phillimore Third	Martha Murphy	RR	Mathematics Sixth	Han-Xi Wang	BB
English English Society	Martha Murphy	RR	Music Martin Ball Piano Prize	Benjamin Wetherfield	HH
Music Upper Shell	Aryaman Natt	GG	Music Remove	Benjamin Wetherfield	HH
Cricket 2nd XI Player of the Year	Max Naylor Marlow	AHH	Peer Supporter	Nicholas Williams	MM
Spanish Remove	Aousha Nightingale	AHH	Religious Studies Remove	Nicholas Williams	MM
Peer Supporter	Ben O'Dwyer	RR	Spanish Upper Shell	Reuben Williams	BB
German Sixth	Robert Oldham	BB	English Phillimore First	Louis Willis	MM
English Fred D'Arcy	Ellen O'Neill	RR	Peer Supporter	Jack Wilson	AHH
English Phillimore Third	Ellen O'Neill	RR	Greek Remove	Harry Winter	GG
French Remove	Lucile Pannetier	CC	Economics Sixth	Tam Winter	GG
Drama Lushington Prize	Tom Parker Brooks	BB	Music Woodwind	David Wong	QSS
German Sixth	Kwesi Peterson	QSS	Religious Studies Sixth	Poppy Wood	MM
Mathematics Cheyne Senior	Kwesi Peterson	QSS	Biology Sixth	Alexander Zargaran	AHH
French Upper Shell	Anthony Petrenco	GG	Biology Upper Shell	Yikai Zhang	QSS
Peer Supporter	Lucy Phillips	LL	Chemistry Upper Shell	Yikai Zhang	QSS
English Sixth	John Phipps	RR	Elizabethan Photography Third	Yikai Zhang	QSS
Chemistry Fifth	Edward Pickup	BB	Mathematics Upper Shell	Yikai Zhang	QSS
English Fifth Creative Third	James Plaut	HH			
PE Fifth	Nicholas Plaut	WW			
German Upper Shell	Ali Porteous	MM			
French Fifth	Matteo Pozzi	AHH			
Biology Remove	Alice Pullen	MM			
German Remove	Alexander Rafter	AHH			



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Music: Round-up of the Year A GRAND YEAR IN MUSIC

Tim Garrard, Director of Music, gives an overview of an ambitious year in Westminster School music.

In the Election Term 2012, our pianists performed in the Piano Concert and, just a few days later, ten Remove pupils accompanied by the Symphony Orchestra gave wonderful performances of concerto movements by composers such as Arutyunyan, Chopin, Gershwin and Saint-Saëns. The stage was then set for an evening of Gilbert and Sullivan favourites. The Ensembles Concert included no fewer than twelve large ensembles performing alongside six chamber groups, many of whom were making their debut, and concluded with a performance of Haydn's *The Clock* Symphony given by the newly formed Lower School Orchestra. The Remove reappeared for the Leavers' Concert up School and the Leavers' Service in the Abbey. David Wong (clarinet) and selected members of the Chamber Choir performed at the Election Dinner and, in addition to this, the Choir was also invited to sing at both the Election of the Lord Mayor of Westminster and at a masterclass given by the internationally renowned composer Eric Whitacre.

A number of concerts took place up Manoukian during the Play Term, including House concerts and both the Upper School and Lower School Soloists' Concerts in which there were some exceptional solo performances. The Vocal Studies Department organised an evening of Spanish Song with repertoire ranging from Obradors and Granados to Enrique Inglesias. Ravi Veriah-Jacques (violin) performed with great aplomb at the dinner for



preparatory school headmasters. Later in the term, the Popular Music Concert gave singer songwriters an opportunity to showcase their own music.

One of the most exciting developments of this academic year was the purchasing of St Edward's House, which allowed the Choir the opportunity regularly to sing the service of evensong, beginning with the Chapel Commissioning Service on Tuesday 4 September.

The twenty-sixth Sir Adrian Boult Memorial Concert was given by the Choir of Westminster Abbey in the nave of the Abbey. The Organist and Master of the Choristers, James



“one of the most exciting developments of this academic year was the purchasing of St Edward's House”

O'Donnell, conducted the Choir with organ interludes performed by the Sub-Organist, Robert Quinney.

Immediately before the October Exeat, the Music and Drama departments combined to stage a fantastic production of Kurt Weill's *The Threepenny Opera* in a run of three sell-out performances.

During the Exeat itself, members of the Choir performed in a masterclass with the King's Singers, before travelling to Ely to take up residence at the Cathedral. Highlights included a masterclass with the Director of Music at Jesus College, Cambridge, Mark

Williams, and evensongs with Stephen Cleobury, the Director of Music at King's, Cambridge, and Graham Ross, the Director of Music at Clare who brought with him the Choir of Clare College to join the Westminster pupils in performances of Charles Wood's *Hail Gladdening Light* and William Harris' *Faire is the Heaven*.

The second half of the Play Term contained two of the year's largest events, namely the Commemoration of Benefactors and the Orchestral Concert at St John's, Smith Square, (*reviewed separately*). Another Ensembles Concert showcased the many ensembles currently established at Westminster, including two string orchestras, two percussion ensembles, two brass ensembles, the Big Band, two concert bands

“twelve large ensembles performing alongside six chamber groups”

and numerous smaller ensembles such as the Cello Ensemble and the Clarinet Ensemble. A few days later we were treated to some truly remarkable performances from string quartets, piano trios, piano quartets and a wind ensemble at the Chamber Music Concert.

Many pupils took ABRSM examinations in December, with a good number gaining distinctions before the term drew to a close with the Carol Service, featuring a performance of a new carol by competition winner, Adam Bonser, after adjudication by the internationally renowned composer, Judith Bingham. Eric Whitacre invited the Choir to perform his carol, *The Chelsea Carol*, and he was himself able to come and conduct the performance which was a great privilege for us all.

The Lent Term was incredibly rich with musical activity. The inaugural Westminster Musician of the Year Competition involved a series of seven sectional competitions which took place throughout February with adjudicators such as the acclaimed international pianist, Murray McLachlan, the new Director of the National Youth Choirs of Great Britain, Ben Parry, and the Head of Woodwind at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, Meyrick Alexander. At the Inaugural WMOTY Final

the adjudicator, Tom Poster, was overwhelmed by the standard of each of the eight finalists, and awarded first prize to Eliza Millett (cello), Westminster Musician of the Year 2013.

On the very same evening as the WMOTY Final, three of our chamber music groups were performing at the National Pro Corda Chamber Champions Concert at St John's, Smith Square, having progressed through the preliminary rounds, semi-final and final of this national competition to be selected to perform in a concert which featured more Westminster pupils than any other school. Aditya Chander's article on this event is featured in this section of the magazine.

The Choir and Orchestra of Westminster School and The Westminster Choral Society performed to an extremely receptive audience on Monday 18 March at the School's annual concert at the Barbican (*reviewed separately*). Britten's former assistant and former artistic director of the Aldeburgh Festival, Stuart Bedford, gave a fascinating pre-concert talk.

Back at Westminster, six Houses staged concerts up Manoukian. The annual Jazz Evening was well received, and the termly Ensembles Concert included performances by the Concert Band, Clarinet Ensemble, Cello Ensemble, Brass Sinfonia, Senior Brass Ensemble, String Sinfonia, Symphonic Wind Band, Westminster Soloists and Westminster Strings.

Congratulations to Sidharth Prabhu-Naik who has been awarded an organ scholarship to Christ's College, Cambridge, and to Aditya Chander and James Adams who have both been awarded choral scholarships at St. John's College, Cambridge. Aditya was also, this year, selected to join fellow violinist, Emily Harper, in the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain.



Spanish Music Evening SEDUCTIVE SATIRE

At Westminster we never pass up on the opportunity to expand our artistic and cultural horizons, proclaims Daniel Ocampo (BB), and on a cold Thursday night in October, we were transported to the Spanish-speaking world by some wonderful music.

Thanks were due firstly to Kevin Kyle, whose hard work and persistence brought the night to fruition, and to Kevin Au, whose piano-playing prowess was much needed. In the end the show was stolen by some fantastic performances by many pupils, including Ismail Salim's moving performance of *La Mi Sola*, Laureola and Daniel Ocampo's rendition of *Besame Mucho* – apparently the most sung and recorded Spanish-spoken song in the world, so an appropriate choice. An unforgettable highlight of the evening was, however, James Aldred, who gave an uncanny impression of Enrique Iglesias whilst performing one of his numbers. In fact his 'Enrique' was so good that he instantly seduced most of the ladies in attendance when he walked on stage, and certainly all of them once he'd given his introduction. His song was a brilliant satire of the kind of song we are slightly loath to admire, given the slimy nature of the musician and his influence on the world of Spanish music. More music ensued, and another piece to remember was Ollie Iselin's and Zi-Ding Zhang's *Il Divo* number, with the audience showing their appreciation through the fits of laughter they were sent into by the similarly satirical nature of this performance. All in all the night was a great success and hopefully enlightening about some of the joy (and obnoxiousness) of Hispanic music.



Orchestral Concert St John's Smith Square

VITALITY AND QUALITY

The Play Term is always busier than one ever imagines possible, especially the second half of it, as indeed your reviewer found to her cost when, as a result of another rehearsal over-running, she arrived a few bars late for the start of this major event, reports Gilly French.



Fortunately the stewards were persuadable as to her Relative Importance of the Moment and relented. Quite how the pupils managed to put together such an impressive and ambitious public concert in the available time made the evening even more remarkable.

Bach's third *Brandenburg Concerto*, as Joshua Ballance's informative programme note tells us, 'showcases the virtuosity of the players... whilst maintaining a chamber music feel'. Difficult to pull off, especially as a programme-opener in the not-always-entirely-kind acoustics of St John's, but the result was musically pleasing, with crisp and lively playing from the upper strings, ably led by Eden Fung.

“authoritative brass,
soaring oboe and horn
statements followed by
expressive pianissimos”



Once dubbed 'the French Mendelssohn', Camille Saint-Saëns was a prodigiously gifted composer of sophisticated and appealing music much of which has been unjustly neglected in recent times. His three highly inventive and technically demanding *violin concertos*, of which the Third is best known, abound in soaring melodies and expressive subtleties. Aditya Chander, the soloist, was an assured presence throughout. With his commanding opening, delicious cantabile and the triumphant, expansive 'passionate storminess' of the finale, he captured the spirit of this piece with his intelligently articulate style; playing from memory, with faultless intonation and a gentle personality, he drew a focused and sympathetic audience well into the music. The orchestral playing was characterised by deliciously-toned wind and stylishly assured orchestral strings; Sarah Shone's flute solos and a beautiful episode for muted upper strings being particularly notable.

Dvorak's *New World Symphony* was written in 1893, shortly after the composer arrived in New York, although its title is misleading: as Eliza Millett writes in her programme note, '...avidly as he sought and absorbed the flavour of American life, he never mistook it for his own' and indeed the whole piece is somewhat Bohemian in feel, perhaps contrasting the 'new world' which the composer had just entered with the 'old world' of his home. It quickly became one of the composer's most popular works, and is one of the most enduring symphonies in the repertoire. It certainly made for an exhilarating second half of the concert. A restrained start quickly led to an exuberant tutti, with authoritative brass, soaring oboe and horn statements followed by expressive pianissimos; the playing was rhythmically exciting throughout. The famous second movement started with Matthew Bannatyne's cor anglais solo over a sensitive accompaniment of muted strings.

The third movement continued with warm tones from the clarinet and particularly the cellos, and by the finale the playing had developed real momentum, with well-paced mounting tension, incisive string quality, a splendid trombone section led by Henry Kitchen, and a soaring clarinet solo from Thomas Jordan. My personal test of a good concert is whether one comes out humming the tunes, and the vitality and sheer quality of this one was to stay with me for some days.



Chamber Music Concert MUSICAL HIGHS

Having only joined the teaching staff at Westminster in September, I was eagerly awaiting my first Chamber Music Concert in November, writes Will Galton.

I had high expectations, of course, but I was quite taken aback by the standard: each group (and there were ten of them) delivered a well-prepared, convincing performance, often displaying impressive refinement and sense of ensemble.

The concert started with sincere, well-controlled deliveries of a Mozart piano trio and a Tchaikovsky string quartet. Next a wind quartet treated us to some great ensemble playing in a lively rendition of an arrangement of Mozart's *The Hunt*. This group really showed off the wonderful acoustics of the Manoukian Music Centre. A bravura and well-characterised performance of Dvorak's *Dumky* followed, and the first half was rounded off by a Beethoven string quartet with some notably strong support from the inner strings.

The thrilling pizzicato of a Ravel string quartet started the second half, with some particularly engaged playing from Josh Ballance on cello. We were then offered a very well prepared rendition of Dubois's rather humorous *Quatuor pour clarinettes*: at its conclusion it was good to see a number of wry smiles on the faces of audience and performers alike.

A string quartet by Grieg was then given an impressive performance by members of the Remove (Aditya Chander, Eden Fung, Ellie Wang, Antonia Skinner): great communication meant that they played with one cohesive sound, and the group really captured the driving energy of the movement. There followed another



“thrilling pizzicato of a
Ravel string quartet”



rendition of Mozart's *The Hunt*, this time in its original string quartet form, Eliza Millett providing energy and support on cello. The final performance was a particular treat: fully committed, edge-of-seat playing from the Remove's Emily Harper, Antonia Skinner and Sidarth Prabhu-Naik in a Mendelssohn piano trio concluded the evening on a real high.

The hubbub during the interval and at the end of the concert is an indication of just how much the audience enjoyed themselves; indeed, a number of people commented on how unusual it must surely be to have so many groups of such a high standard. Bravo to all the performers – I'm already looking forward to the next one!



“It is worth highlighting the difficulty involved in writing an orchestral piece”



Contemporary Music Concert A GREAT SCHOOL OF MUSIC

Of the many concerts that the Westminster Music Department organises the Contemporary Music Concert is unique for two reasons, writes John Phipps (RR).

■ The first is that the music played is of extreme complexity, composed by some of the most important figures of the avant-garde. This year, we were treated to works by Birtwistle, Webern and Sir Peter Maxwell Davies, to name but a few. The second reason is the presence, throughout the programme, of works written by students in the contemporary idiom. All of these have been given a level of attention throughout their preparation that is, to our knowledge, unparalleled in schools across the country.

This year, these works ranged from entries for solo piano, to works for full orchestra, such as John Balance's fearsome *'Fantasia of Colours'*. It is worth highlighting the difficulty involved in writing an orchestral piece. Leaving the aside the extreme difficulty of expressing thought or emotion in a language further removed from English than that of the Bugakhwe people of the Okavango, the practicalities of the matter are astonishing. Parts (and spare parts) must be printed and individually checked for an orchestra of seventy people; rehearsals must be organised, a conductor must prepare the music,

more parts must be printed to replace those lost by the Brass section... The presence of three student pieces for large ensemble on the programme is a logistical miracle, performed in no small part by the astonishing Head of Academic Music, Dr. S. Carter Savaskan.

But credit here cannot be given to just one man, no matter how enormous his influence and skill. For the concert is a showcase of student talent, and this year it was shown in abundance. Eliza Millett started the night with a thrusting rendition of Hindemith's *Cello Sonata*. The ease with which she played belied the technical difficulties of this Neoclassical gem, which immediately become apparent on a glance at the score. Complementing this, were the *3 Pieces for Clarinet Solo*, by the inventor of Neoclassicism, Stravinsky. These miniatures though, were written in the transitional period between Stravinsky's early 'Russian' style, and his move into Neoclassicism, and the impeccable performance given by Yuma Kitahara allowed the audience to savour the rare taste of both periods, in delicious bite-sized portions.

Elsewhere, of the three great schools of early 20th century music, it was Debussy who was best represented; not through his own work, or those of his early acolytes, but in the influence his music had been exerting on the student pieces that featured in this year's concert. Aryaman Natt's *Impressions* and Josh Balance's *Three Impressions*, the latter performed ably by Eden Fung, both for solo piano, were thoroughly in line with the Debussy school in their use of colouristic harmony and the emphasis the composers placed on sonority. Special mention must also be made of the enigmatic Adam Bonser. His symphonic poem *Myriad* showed traces of that great Debussian, Takamitsu, in its unity of gesture and orchestration. Bonser sent his liquid theme up over the orchestra like a white shadow, and it could be seen residing on the lips of many audience members as they whistled their way out of the concert hall.

A programme as varied as the one presented this year is likely to cause the audience to reflect on not just the music they are hearing now, but of the music that it is pre-empting,

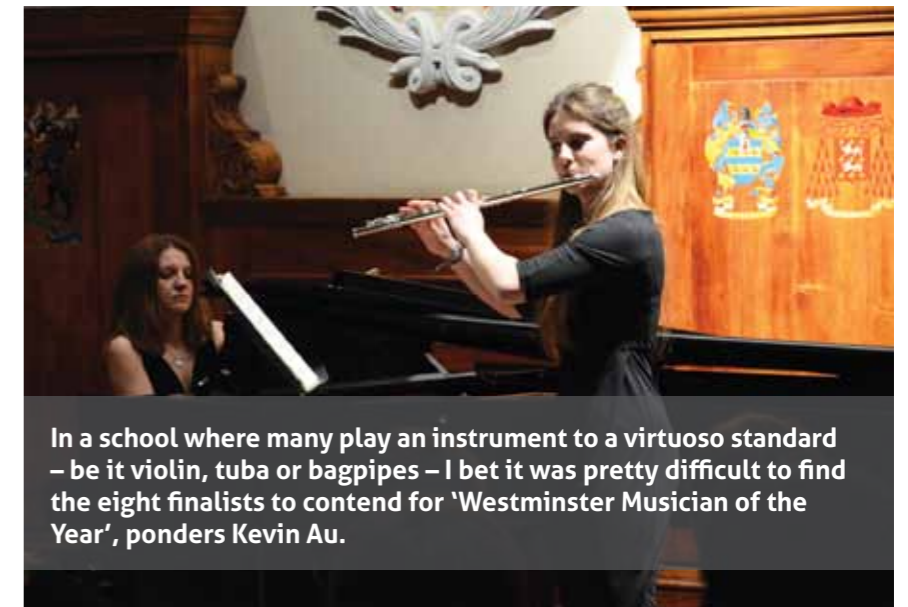


and reacting to. Darius Latham-Koenig's rendition of Prokofiev's impetuous *Danse Du Diable* brought us to the very roots of the neo-classical movement, written over ten years before Stravinsky's innovations. Later, Sarah Shone and Jasmine Curtis's cool recital of Birtwistle's rare flute duets showed, along with Peter Maxwell-Davies's fiercely complex and innovative *5 Klee Pictures* the rich territory into which the Manchester School took those early advances. At the concert's finale, the experimental work of Charles Ives could be felt resounding in the hall when Aditya Chander showcased his work for string orchestra and three soloists. The unashamedly populist harmony of the piece was complemented by the theatrical presentation of the three soloists, moving fluidly across the concert hall as they exchanged soft-tongued blows with the orchestra.

“theatrical presentation”

The list of people who need acknowledgement is too long for these pages, however note must be made of the huge body of students who took part in the concert, and the composers who make the event unique, and who have put, in some cases, more than a hundred hours into their work. However, the final round of applause must go here to Dr. Savaskan, who plans and programmes the concert, workshops and rehearses the pieces, conducts the orchestra, and will accept no thanks or congratulations for his efforts. It is his devotion that helps make this the most important and remarkable concert of the calendar year, and very probably its most enjoyable.

Westminster Musician of the Year A CRESCENDO OF TALENT



In a school where many play an instrument to a virtuoso standard – be it violin, tuba or bagpipes – I bet it was pretty difficult to find the eight finalists to contend for 'Westminster Musician of the Year', ponders Kevin Au.



■ I attended several of the earlier rounds, including the jazz and percussion sectional finals, whose winners did not progress to the Final. The sectional adjudicators were stars in their own right, and it was good for all the participants, at whatever level, to receive a mature, critical appraisal, as well as advice on improving technique. The Final adjudicator was Tom Poster, internationally-renowned pianist and former finalist of the BBC Young Musician of the Year Competition.

Watching the performance, the idea that it was a competition became secondary to me. Each finalist relaxed into the programme and gave something uniquely personal in each piece, communicating this to the audience with expression reaching the sublime. Sarah Shone's *Danse de la Chèvre* sang out eerily; you might have imagined a mountain goat leaping from precipice to precipice. Aditya Chander – always tough going first – kicked off with a deliciously pained *Nigun* from Bloch's *Baal Shem*. He said afterwards that he'd burnt his arm on the oven door earlier, which seems to me an excellent way of summoning the emotion of agony in performance. Ravi Veriah-Jacques closed the first half with the *Scherzo Tarantella* (you know:

'dum-dum-di-DUM-di-dum-di-DUM' with a thousand notes in between), a performance full of bravura, and well-moderated when it reached the *tranquillo* passage. Yuma Kitahara had a varied programme, but I found his second piece, the Stravinsky, the most fun.

My expectations were defied, too. The trombone, always a perplexing instrument to me, but deftly handled by Henry Kitchen, gave us a surprisingly expressive and studied rendition of Guilant's *Morceau Symphonique*. James Adams, who went on to win the third prize, and whom I had not heard sing in the vocal finals, opened his mouth and produced a startlingly beautiful mahogany baritone with two songs by Vaughan Williams and one by Finzi. Forbes Anderson, the eventual runner-up, gave two big, showy numbers on the piano, which might have been theatrical if we hadn't been ready to believe just how absorbed he was in performance, especially with the *Grave-Doppio Movimento*.

Eliza Millett was the winner, with a cello transposition of Franck's *Recitativo-Fantasia* from the Violin Sonata in A, exercising a level of technical control and musical fluency expected in musicians with many more years of experience. Tom Poster gave excellent commentary on each of the finalists; when it came to Eliza, his only criticism was that she only gave one piece in her programme—he would have loved to hear more. She won the winner's trophy, a silver-plated salver, donated by the Old Westminsters' Lodge.

Tim Garrard and his department, particularly the accompanists, deserve an ovation for this festival of music, the Final constituting but a small part, and for managing to fit it into a schedule of music which already does the School much credit.



Barbican Concert

GETTING BETTER ALL THE TIME

One of the perks of spending many years at Westminster is an institutional memory, documents David Hargreaves.

■ It is less accurate than I sometimes imagine – like Gilbert Pinfold, I find I remember much in sharp detail, just some of it dead wrong. I could have sworn, for instance, that this year was only the second and not, as it undeniably was, the third occasion we have taken the Barbican. When gentle voices (not yet belonging to men in white coats) reminded me that last year was the Brahms and the previous year Verdi, I felt mortified. I had been to both and enjoyed both.

Maybe my confusion can be ascribed in part to an ongoing excitement that we should be using this venue. It is one of the guilty thrills all Westminster constituencies share that it can all get a bit larger than life. Oh, so the Abbey's not big enough, is it? Truth is, it isn't – not if you are wanting to watch the orchestra and to see the choir. I don't remotely understand the science of acoustics, but I do know that by a full orchestra in the Barbican can convey a precision of sound made which simply isn't available when the roof is nearly a thousand years old and soars towards the heavens. Not that that doesn't have its charms or its purpose, of course.

And this year's concert was my favourite to date. If it hadn't been, it's true, I wouldn't say, but since it was, I can. There are several reasons for that, one of which was a deep partiality for *Tannhäuser*, and an appreciation (perhaps a squeak of surprise) that a pupil orchestra didn't remotely massacre it. The second was a long-standing affection and regard for *St Nicolas* and – here's the thought which may occasion a measure of sniffiness on the part of some readers – the revelation that throughout this sacred oratorio, there never was a moment when the choir either faltered, nor one in

which its discipline slipped and it wasn't in triumphant balance with the orchestra. And that seemed to me a mark of seriousness and maturity, a reason for a gentle shoulder pat to every single person who was on stage.

It goes against the grain to single out individuals, but this is one of those moments where justice would be ill-served if I did not. Tom Jordan (clarinet) and Toby Goodman (bassoon) were harshly exposed in the Wagner, and Tom again with Sarah Shone (flute) in the Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves. All communicated a wonderful depth of sound. Many a Director of Music has felt some ambivalence when it comes to leavening their orchestra with professional talent, though Britten's cantata was written for professional string quartet and school orchestra, and the School's string tutors helped embolden the formidable talents of this year's string players from the back of each section. However, Eden Fung, Ellie Wang and Antonia Skinner all led sections upon which, at different times of the evening, the ears of the huge audience were wholly directed. The same could be said of Gabriel Barrie and Darius Latham-Koenig, and of the Gallery Choir directed by Kevin Kyle. The voices of sopranos and altos such as Emily Harper and Dabin Kwon added moments of pure lyricism to an evening already steeped in interest and pleasure.

Two other names perhaps need special mention. One is that of Andrew Kennedy whose colossal range, knowingness and whose flawless delivery made his *St Nicolas* not just one of the finest, but indisputably the finest, to which I have ever been privileged to listen. There was a strong visual dimension to this as well. Britten's libretto leaves us in no doubt that his *St Nicolas* is a kindly but virile character, a man capable of knocking heads and full of common sense and humour as well as one of intense devoutness. To this extent, it is opera as well as oratorio, it is dramatic and theatrical as well as performance, and all of this was palpable and immediate in Andrew Kennedy's performance.



“a reason for a gentle shoulder pat to every single person who was on stage”



The other name is that of the leader of the orchestra, Aditya Chandler. I am breaking ranks slightly when I say that the day before he had been performing among the successful finalists of the Pro Corda. The morning of the Barbican Concert, he was in Cambridge competing for a choral award. The following day, he was one of the finalists competing in the school's Musician of the Year. By any standards, that is a monumental task and each was performed with aplomb, calm intensity and prodigious musical intelligence. Appealing, if I may, to the long institutional memory, he is surely one of the great Westminster musicians.

When Tim Garrard and I met some days later to review the evening, he was sufficiently unguarded to admit a degree of satisfaction. The rationale of the programme had, of course, been predicated in part by the coincidence of two great bicentenaries (those of Verdi and Wagner) coinciding with the centenary of Britten's birth. But each of the pieces had also, he believed, been fully vindicated: the technical demands of each had been significant,

but all sections of the orchestra and of the different choirs had come together in joyous acclaim. As it happens, I agreed with him wholeheartedly: I had been a little agnostic about the inclusion of the Verdi, wondering if it was a sweetener to the anti-modernists. But, despite a few anxious moments at rehearsals, orchestra and massed choirs had combined gloriously – perhaps especially in the Chorus of the Scottish Refugees from *Macbeth*.

The Barbican was very nearly but not entirely full – which it deserved to be. This was a colossal moment in the school's year, and not just those of the musicians. I know one or two people were a bit tight-lipped about the choice of Britten and, if that led them to staying away, more fool they. I am no knee-jerk champion of the heterodox, but *St Nicolas* conforms entirely to the truism that surrounds all great art – the more you know, the better it gets. Tim Garrard's blithe determination to roll back musical frontiers has given us each much upon which to look back with gratitude, and much to which we may look forward as well.



Cantandum Concert

AWESOME SACRED BOSS MUSIC

I came to the Cantandum concert in November with a heavy heart, expecting to make fun of my teachers and see lots of bored classmates around me, writes a penitent Thomas Underhill (HH).

■ My musical scope is limited to video game music, video game music and more video game music and I've never been too big a fan of sacred music. However, my assumptions were quashed as I realised the similarity between my favourite video game pieces and what I heard that night and I also heard what brilliant voices my teachers have.

The first piece, *Dum aurora finem daret*, a re-sonory for Saint Cecilia (one thing I learnt was that the day was the feast day of Saint Cecilia, the patron saint of music). It was a truly awesome start to the evening, starting with a solo and swelling to include all the voices. It reminded me of a final boss battle in *The Legend of Zelda* with the same tense beginning and loud, spectacular climax.

This was followed by a *Magnificat* by Vivaldi, a much longer piece and felt like it had many different moods. One of these moods in particular was reminiscent of touching down on a planet in the *Metroid Prime* games. That sense of excitement as well as looming dread.

Next came two pieces by Victoria, both hymns to Mary as the Queen of Heaven. The pieces both had a very heavenly feel. I felt I was among the angels in *Kid Icarus*, though luckily my wings didn't melt.

Finally the epic conclusion to the Cantandum concert, Steffani's *Stabat Mater*. This was a piece of many elements, that all came together for an epic conclusion, one that took me back to playing *Super Smash Bros Ball* with my friends, where in the end all the characters from various franchises are joined together to defeat an evil menace.



LSA Summer Production KES

The LSA Company's production of *KES* was performed in June 2012, reports Thomas Critchley (RR), with captions by performer James Geddes (MM).



#3

This company consisted mostly of the Fifth form and for many was their first chance at putting on a school play. On both nights the auditorium was packed and led by Julian Sunley playing the protagonist Billy, the company created an emotional atmosphere as they portrayed the story of a young boy with family trouble. The play



#1



#2

was interesting as without greatly changing the set the youngest actors in the school managed to keep the audience captivated and the audience's response to the more emotional scenes showed how successful the cast was in their work. All in all it was a great effort and a success, with over £300 being raised for charity. This play showed the dedication of the Fifth form for drama; it will be interesting to see future productions.

1: The big fight between Billy (shouting) and McDowell, who has repeatedly bullied him is set in the playground with the other school kids standing around the playground and egging on the two of them to fight. Tensions spark and they start shouting at each other until a full-on fight breaks out.

2: McDowell, (whose arm you can see) insults Billy by bringing up the matter of his abandoning father and his brother, sparking the argument.

3: McDowell goes for another blow after having taken down Billy.

4: The scene changes from the classroom into a forest: the desks are inverted to represent trees while Billy walks among them following the sound of the bird Kes, which he later trains.

5: Billy is interrupted catching the bird by a farmer, who at first tries to get rid of him but in the end relents, allowing Billy to climb onto the wall and get the kestrel. They talk about the bird and how long it's been there.



#4



#5



The School Musical: The Threepenny Opera KNIFE-EDGE DRAMA

Bertolt Brecht's socialist satire of capitalism, in the form of a musical, gave the Westminster audience an early taste of the talent on show regularly at the Millicent Fawcett Hall and Manoukian Music Centre throughout the year, as CJB led his grand production onto the school stage in early October in a collaboration between the drama department and music department, record Cameron Kerr (GG) and Kevin Au.

Mr Barton's adaption of the originally Victorian London-set musical brought the story into the modern age in order to address a modern audience, to which it brings its ever-relevant challenge to the failures of the capitalist system.

The joke of *The Threepenny Opera* is the brazen subversion at the end; here the *deus ex machina* is realized in the beggar Filch riding astride a hobby horse announcing all is well. Similarly, the music jumps from the serious and angular to being tonally jolly and music-hall, with some of the singing accompanied only by piano or organ (defly-handled by pianist-conductor Guy Hopkins), creating an intimate cabaret-like feel. As a rule I (KYA) dislike the tendency in musical theatre to signpost the 'coming of a song', that is, to break away from dialogue abruptly and then wait for the orchestra's first bars, but in this show it almost feels appropriate.

Audience-goers who have not seen *Threepenny* before may well still feel as though they have, particularly with the larger-than-life Street Singer, reminding us of that other creation of musical theatre, *Cabaret's* Emcee. Rupert Henderson's style of belt in this role was ghoulishly appropriate for the role, leaping between *sprechgesang* and song with skill. In

general the singers coped admirably with a technically-demanding score in terms of vocal range, especially for the female actors; Bel Parker managed particularly adroitly as Mrs Peachum, pulling off manoeuvres in the lower register like an accomplished *chanteuse*. Charlie Strachan, as Macheath, swaggered around giving a mellifluous delivery of his songs, the constant smile on his face reminding one not to take it too seriously – perhaps a little less 'Knife' than laid-back wide boy. James Aldred, as Peachum, and Martha Murphy, as his daughter Polly, delivered their songs with charisma, all ably supported by a cast who treated Weill's melodies with the right amount of roughness, that is to say, as toys picked up from a box, played with once, and casually tossed back.

The costume department once again outdid itself with all characters dressed like kings (or very realistic beggars in some cases); many actors could be seen outside in Yard warming themselves up for their role through method acting, primarily through taking long naps on the benches outside Ashburnham House.



“the music jumps from the serious and angular to being tonally jolly and music-hall”

The band, consisting of a small jazz ensemble, was integral to this ragtag feel, and negotiated through difficult parts of the score with ease.

The production took place up school, where the stage was an awesome sight, with the space being transformed into an operatic venue complete with a rising auditorium and orchestra pit. Audience members were thrust into the world of the musical immediately upon entering school as they found themselves met by a multitude of beggars asking for loose change to fill their polystyrene cups. This change went, along with other funds raised by the production, towards the musical's chosen charity, Alone in London, which offers support to homeless young people in London.

The production was made all the more impressive by the negligible amount of time the crew gave themselves to prepare the piece for performance, no small feat considering the large cast, combined with a complete orchestra, performing for just short of 3 hours. It was an incredible accomplishment and a thoroughly enjoyable experience for all involved. In the words of Mack the Knife himself:

“That wasn't just nice... That was art”

Drama: The Laramie Project LIGHT FROM DARKNESS

The choice of *The Laramie Project*, a controversial play which has been used to combat homophobic prejudice and to teach tolerance across the world, led director Archie Stonehill to make some bold decisions, reveals Lucy Fleming-Brown (MM).

■ The experimental nature of the script and the stark economy deployed in both set and costumes could have resulted in such a radical play collapsing under the weight of its own political relevance, and a stilted, detached production. Stonehill, however, triumphed in directing this deeply original and enduringly provocative play in a truly compassionate and perceptive fashion which will leave a lasting impression on a generation of Westminster students.

The play was written as a direct response to the shocking murder of gay student Matthew Shepard in 1998. It is compiled from a series of interviews and accounts taken by the Tectonic Theatre Company, who visited Laramie to follow the ensuing court case, media maelstrom and the unfolding reactions of the close-knit local community. The use of this 'Chinese-box' re-telling added layers of intimacy and intrigue to the plot, which unflinchingly pursues the facts of the killing and the legal case without neglecting the overwhelming emotional aspect of the story. The diverse sources presented during the course of the play, and the interweaving of recurring personal narratives, provides the audience with a profoundly moving and multi-faceted overview of the tragedy. The full range of emotional responses was conveyed by an enthusiastic and mature cast, who were able deeply to engage their audience in a series of shockingly affecting story lines and tableaux.

The narrative veers violently from viscerally horrifying scenes to moments of great tenderness and poignancy. The audience travelled from the picketing of the funeral by a fanatical evangelical bigot to the announcement of Shepard's death by a broken hospital director amongst a sea of hostile, intrusive journalists. With each actor playing a wide variety of roles, the potential for dramatic contrasts and moments of insight were skillfully conducted. The masterful versatility which characterised this



“Dr Boulton remarked that it was the finest production he had seen during his time at Westminster”

ambitious production was perhaps most artfully captured by Jamie Griffiths, whose intense performance as hellfire preacher Fred Phelps was juxtaposed with his seamless transition to the role of sensitive, insecure student Jedediah Schultz. Tom Parker Brookes, unforgettable as Matthew Shepard's father, delivered a searingly powerful soliloquy, in which the real tragedy and bitterness of the situation was expressed with resolute pain and integrity. Other compelling performances came from James Aldred's Doc O'Connor, Imy Wyatt Corner's Rebecca Hilliker and Alex Bishop as the minister.



Few productions could survive the transition from a minimal studio setting to the gothic grandeur of Westminster Abbey so brilliantly; it was to Stonehill's credit that his cast were able to command both audiences with the inherent pathos and drama of the script, and the raw, provocative power of their performances. The excerpt included in Reverend Williams' end of term Abbey address on tolerance was received with acclaim, not least from Dr Boulton remarked that it was the finest production he had seen during his time at Westminster. It was a harrowing, incendiary, but ultimately optimistic production, drawing an illuminating and compassionate piece of theatre from the darkness of the Shepard tragedy.

Drama: Judgment Day TOUCHING DILEMMA

A German play written in 1937 by Odon Von Horvath, *Judgment Day* is both a thriller and a moral fable and thus it was a very ambitious play for the drama department to undertake, declares Caitlin Bailey-Williams (BB).

■ Directed with great originality by Peter Chequer, ably supported by an outstanding backstage crew, the cast made full use of the space in the Millicent Fawcett Hall so the audience felt truly transported to a wartime Austrian village. The company performed easily-misunderstood characters with a humanity that was touching.

The play, staged on a catwalk along the full length of the auditorium, with the audience divided into two halves, was brilliantly presented to allow both the viewers and the performers to be within constant touching distance. This ambitious device avoided the many pitfalls of blocking and focusing to create both a realistic setting and a dramatically symbolic one. The tale begins with gossiping members of the village on the station platform, where the the audience meets the conscientious and hardworking Thomas Hudetz, portrayed with passion and sensitivity by Rupert Henderson, who immediately isolates himself from the rest of the town by his single-minded focus on ensuring the trains run on time and on the control his wife has over him. Anna, a local girl, played with a mixture of childlike innocence and a wisdom beyond her years



by Ellie Jacobs, and Ferdinand, her smitten betrothed, in both a comic and dramatic role performed admirably by Max Reynolds, appear on the platform in order for Ferdinand to take the train home. When Anna and Thomas are alone on the platform, Anna taunts Thomas about his wife and then dares to kiss him, causing Thomas to miss the signals and cause a fatal crash. This creates a moral dilemma which is the focus of the remainder of the play as Thomas tries to convince the authorities, played by Finlay Stroud, Archie Stonehill and Eddy Khalil, that he is innocent and Anna perjures herself in an attempt to ease her conscience and protect Thomas, but Frau Hudetz, his jealous wife, tells the truth. Daisy Hayes was brilliant, rendering the wife as a woman broken by love – both frail and determined simultaneously. Merlin Beyts played her brother Alfons, creating compassion in a seemingly unsympathetic role, as he showed how Alfons was torn between his love for his sister and his desire to be accepted by the community.

The play is split between two police inquiries, that of Hudetz being investigated for responsibility for the crash and then when Hudetz is sought for the sudden and shocking death of Anna. The play portrays how public opinion can shift, based mainly on the vindictive gossip characterized by Frau Leimgruber and Leni, played by India Opzoomer and by Bel Parker respectively, but none changed their views more strongly than Anna's father, the landlord, performed compellingly by Will Stevens, who due to prejudice and, as it turned out, his poor judgment, supported his daughter and Hudetz wholeheartedly during the first trial but then, destroyed by grief after Anna's death, wanting noth-

“a heart-wrenching scene as Hudetz is tempted to suicide”

ing more than to kill Hudetz. The arrival of the interval was almost a relief as watching this intensity of performance was draining, but all that was talked about was the twist in the plot – could Hudetz have really killed Anna only moments after becoming engaged to her?

As the play reached its climax and the truth becomes apparent, Hudetz, having always apparently believed that he was innocent of both crimes, begins to question himself. The dramatic culmination is a heart-wrenching scene as Hudetz is tempted to suicide from beyond the grave by two victims of the train crash, eerily portrayed by Ali Porteous and Cameron Thomson. As the lights flash and the roar of the train grows louder, Hudetz jumps and the stage blacks out – the audience remembers to breathe again. It was a fully engaging evening of unusual drama, and utterly absorbing.



“Art Department Summer Show”



Art Department ART AND SOLO

The studio developments have led to a further sense that all is well up SS! proclaims Simon Crow, displaying the fruits of a big year in the Art Department.

The newly decorated studios, glowing in their gallery white, are truly welcoming spaces. The Department Gallery looks magisterial and serves as the perfect space to see ambitious work by both our own students and that of visiting artists. We have welcomed Christina Wrege to the department and enjoyed her skilful contributions not only through print making, but in all ways. She exhibited her new work in the gallery as a form of introduction. Elisa Alaluusua made a 24 hour long drawing – a series of deliriously attractive circles overlapping floor, wall and ceiling – wow!

ARTISTALKS: The department hosted David Yarrow, a professional photographer, who gave a wonderful account of his time in the far-flung places of the earth, recording exotic landscapes and animals. “Get up early in the morning if you want the best shots”, was his advice to the eager crowd. Chris Otley exhibited his stunning drawings, much inspired by the work of Robert Hooke’s Micrographia – the work was universally admired and his talk a scintillating account of the cultural territory his work explored. His training as an Art Historian and his skills as a practising artist were in joyful harmony. The department also plans to welcome Professor Jon Bird – the world’s leading authority on Leon Gollu, a sensational artist from New York.

A series of wonderful Solo shows have been abundant and impressive: Hamzah Ahmed’s

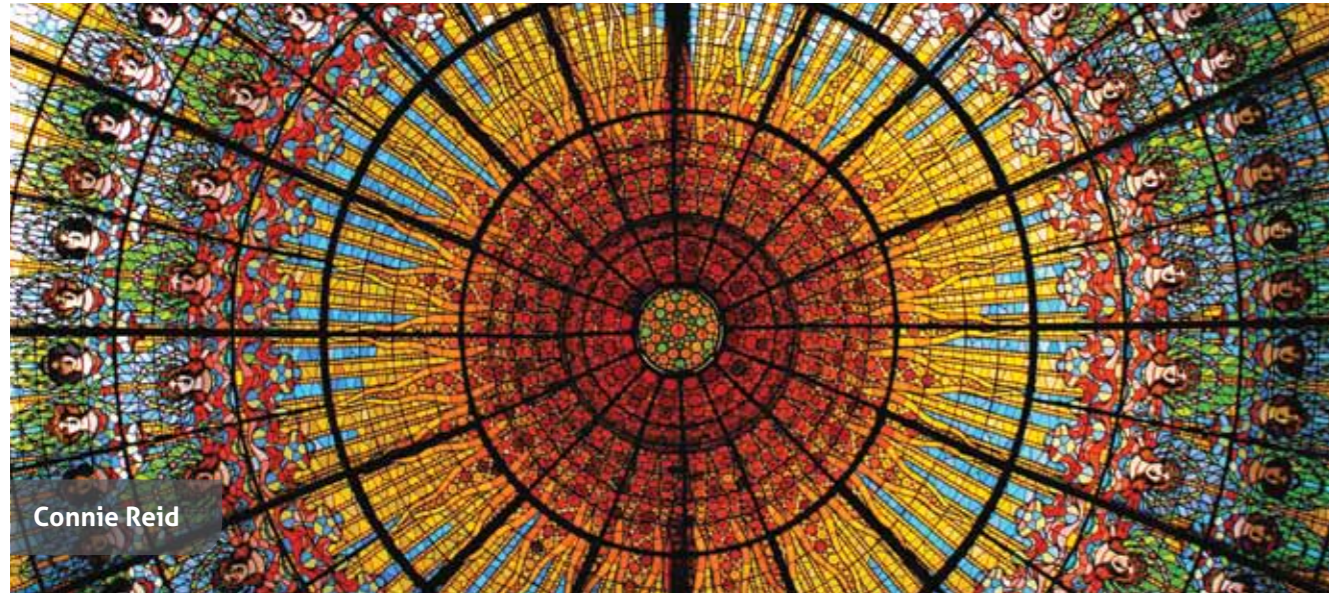
extraordinary use of the gallery for an installation was wickedly funny and hugely enjoyable. Nick Learoyd’s astonishing fireworks were projected onto the walls around yard, whilst Ellie Wang’s gorgeous work (an enormous painting) graced the large wall in Studio 1, as well as the cover of the programme for the first Westminster Musician of the Year. Joanna

“wickedly funny and hugely enjoyable”

Vymeris’s approach was more melancholic and quiet, and her beautifully restrained work was situated perfectly in the Carleton Gallery. Sive Curran’s moody and atmospheric paintings were shown next to some highly imaginative photography, all of which played on the idea of the Puppet. Riki Houlden’s awesome drawings (made for ‘fun’) would be exhibited in the gallery and looked every part the ‘real deal’. Other shows are planned too.

Life class was re-imagined and hugely successful thanks to some extraordinary efforts by all staff – particularly Christina Wrege’s dynamic and interactive events! Indeed, the studios have been filled with extremely interesting work of all types – the inspirational work of the GCSE boys, the thoughtful experiments of the Sixth Form and the ambitions of the Remove have made this a thrilling year.

The newly-launched departmental website has been incredibly useful and inspirational – check it out, and all the other sites too, at: <http://www.westminsterart.com/> and <http://www.soloschool.co.uk/>



Connie Reid

Westminster School
PHOTOGRAPHY



India Opzomer



Katie Broke



Archie Hall



Archie Hall



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Season 2012–2013 FOOTBALL 1ST XI

P:27 W:14 D:5 L:8 GF:60 GA:44

■ Having lost the nucleus of last year's record-equalling 1st XI, 2012–13 was expected to be a transitional season and viewed with a certain amount of apprehension. With hindsight, worries were unfounded as the 2012–13 vintage reinforced Westminster's positive reputation on the Independent Schools' football circuit. Overcoming early setbacks, the side went from strength to strength and finished up just one short of equalling the School's record for the most 1st XI wins in a season.

The team's success was built around unity, spirit and a disciplined, positive work ethic. They lacked some of the technical ability of the previous year's side but were more of a team and cohesive unit, always pulling in the same direction. As such they were a joy to deal with and demonstrated what can be achieved through hard work, positivity and talent.

The team's solidity and cohesion in defence – from October onwards – provided the springboard for an industrious midfield to work the ball forwards to a pair of dangerous attackers who could threaten from both inside and outside the penalty area and the side posed a clear and present danger from set pieces. Added to this, the foundation of their success was an outstanding home record at Fortress Vincent Square which saw them win 12 out of 16, losing only one all season.

Yet all did not start auspiciously as there were convincing defeats against strong Alleyn's and Eton sides. The League win over Brentwood lifted spirits but came at too high a price as Ben Leslie, George Bustin and Ji-Min Lee suffered long-term injuries which necessitated re-shuffling the side. Unfortunately, this was not achieved in time to prevent defeat in the ISFA Cup away to Latymer and at Marlborough – which was arguably the worst performance of the season.

However, from then on performances began to pick up as the defence became more compact and miserly which allowed confidence to grow going forward. So much so, that the side went on a run of eight wins out of the next ten matches which took them to Christmas



with an impressive ten wins under their belt. This included a historic – and well-merited – victory over the 'auld enemy' Charterhouse, and, some measure of revenge exacted upon Latymer by inflicting their first defeat. In the New Year, the freezing weather meant the cancellation of several fixtures which prevented regaining the pre-Christmas momentum. Nevertheless, there were still impressive victories, culminating with ending the season on a well-deserved high with a 3–1 win over City of London.

There were minor disappointments also, such as the only home defeat against St Paul's in a tight encounter in the London Independent Schools' Cup, but, the highs clearly outweighed the lows for a group of players who

“The foundation of their success was an outstanding home record at Fortress Vincent Square”

richly deserved all the success they achieved.

In goal, George Grylls maintained his development from the previous season and was solid, dependable and positive throughout. Ciccio Coppola and Max Kehoe fought a battle royal for the right-back spot and both promised much for next year. In the centre of defence, Toby Goodman was arguably the most improved player, maturing into a capable stopper and a scorer of numerous important goals. Alongside him, Oliver Iselin was the

defensive linchpin and standout player as he organized the back four, broke up opposition play and provided a launch-pad for our own attacks. It was one of the major turning points of the season when he moved to defence from midfield. At left-back, Ollie Tuch showed resilience and great potential with a maturity beyond his years, and he was picked to play for the ISFA U16 South side. Captain Kwesi Peterson led by example with unending energy and commitment, and was transformed from a full-back, in previous seasons, into a marauding, wide midfielder. His pre-match 'call-to-arms' was quite something to hear and belied his undemonstrative persona. In the centre, Milo Johnson and Ali Porteous formed an industrious, rugged and effective partnership with the former never shirking a challenge and creating much through driving at the opposition or hurling in his long throws. Meanwhile, Porteous too improved dramatically as he played the holding role, breaking up play and trying to use the simple pass to get us moving forwards.

Up front, Henry McNeill and Louis Fellows formed a potent combination with 31 goals between them. The former worked tirelessly and made life uncomfortable for opposition defenders, scoring some spectacular goals, whilst the latter grabbed his opportunity and showed himself to be a predatory striker, latching onto opposition mistakes.

There were telling contributions from others also during the season including Ollie Draper out wide left, Bonar McGuire as a creative substitute, and Charles Murphy and Alex Winter as defensive cover.

In summary, this team was a privilege to work with and a credit to themselves and the School throughout, deserving of enormous praise and recognition. I thank them wholeheartedly for their hard work and commitment in training and matches and wish them every success for the future.

I would like to thank all of Football Station's staff and coaches for their efforts, and particularly the 1st XI coach, Paul Barnes for his knowledge, enthusiasm and straight-talking. Big thanks to the grounds staff and to parents and supportive spectators too. **JDK**

FOOTBALL 1ST XI: RESULTS

- St. Andrew's Boys Club (H): Drew 2–2
- Alleyn's (A): Lost 0–3
- Old Westminster's (H): Won 2–0
- Eton (A): Lost 1–6
- Brentwood (H): Won 2–1
- Latymer (A – ISFA Cup): Lost 1–3
- Marlborough (A): Lost 2–3
- Forest (A): Drew 1–1
- John Lyon (A): Won 4–2
- Winchester (A): Drew 1–1
- The Leopards (H): Won 4–2
- Charterhouse (H): Won 2–1
- Latymer Upper (H): Won 2–0
- Aldenham (H): Won 2–1
- Bradford (A): Lost 3–7
- KES Witley (H): Won 4–0
- London Academy of Excellence (H): Won 7–0
- Highgate (H): Won 2–1
- Harrow (A): Lost 0–2
- St Alban's (A): Won 2–0
- Corinthian Casuals (H): Drew 3–3
- St Paul's (H – LIS Cup): Lost 0–1
- Bedford Modern (H): Drew 1–1
- St. Columba's (H): Won 6–1
- King's Canterbury (H): Won 3–0
- Dulwich College (A): Lost 0–1
- City of London (H): Won 3–1

LEADING SCORERS

- H. McNeill: 17
- L. Fellows: 14
- T. Goodman: 7

HOUSE COMPETITIONS

Junior 6-a-side	Rigaud's
Senior 6-a-side	Wren's
Senior 11-a-side	Busby's



Season 2012–2013 FOOTBALL 2ND XI

P:20 W:10 D:3 L:7 GF:44 GA:28

■ Paul Gascoigne once said, “I never predict anything and I never will”, and this is exactly how I feel at the beginning of most 2nd XI seasons. With many new faces in the squad, the inevitable loss of players to the 1st XI, anticipated and unanticipated, the 2012/13 season was no different and it was very difficult in September to foresee how the team would fare over the coming two terms. However, sitting here writing this piece on the same evening as our final match of the season (an outstanding victory against City!) I can honestly say that the season has exceeded my expectations and I feel very proud of everything the squad has achieved on and off the pitch.

Kit Winder captained the side charismatically and maturely throughout the season and his own game development considerably too. Other members of the Remove like George Bustin, Nick Schwartz, Vikram Jayaswal and Alex Winter gave a second year of excellent service to the 2nd XI, consistently showing great amounts of skill and spirit. However, I think our secret weapon was the depth of talent we were endowed by the Sixth Form. Charles Murphy, Angus Goalen and our agile goalkeeper Kenki Matsumoto were particularly outstanding and helped us gain the string of above results, the equivalent of which in the Premier League would place us in about 5th position, where Arsenal and Everton currently stand.

I am hugely grateful to our magnificent coach Matt McEntegart, who set very high standards for the squad throughout the season. Everyone involved with the 2nd XI, including me, has learnt an enormous amount about the game from him. Thanks also go to the many parents who came to watch us, particularly Mr and Mrs Winder who have loyally supported the 2nd XI home and away for two years. We will miss you both next season. **NAF**



FOOTBALL 2ND XI: RESULTS

- Vs Alleyn's (A): Lost 0–1
- Vs OWW's (H): Won 3–1 (T Jordan 2)
- Vs Eton (H): Drew 1–1
- Vs Brentwood (A): Lost 3–1
- Vs Marlborough (A): Won 0–6 (J Fairhead 4)
- Vs Forest (H): Lost 2–4
- Vs Winchester (H): Drew 1–1
- Vs Charterhouse (A): Drew 1–1
- Vs Latymer Upper (H): Won 1–0
- Vs Aldenham (A): Won 0–3
- Vs Bradfield (H): Won 2–1
- Vs KES Witley (A): Won 7–2 (N Siracusa 3; J Fairhead 2)
- Vs Common Room (H): Lost 1–3
- Vs Harrow (H): Lost 1–2
- Vs Bedford Modern (A): Won 0–2 (N Siracusa 2)
- Vs St Columba's (H): Won 3–2
- Vs King's, Canterbury (A): Won 1–2
- Vs KCS Wimbledon (A): Lost 0–1
- Vs Dulwich (A): Lost 3–2
- Vs City of London (H): Won 4–1 (K Winder 2)

Season 2012–2013 FOOTBALL 3RD XI

P:15 W:7 D:1 L:7 GF:37 GA:41

This has been the most successful season in the history of the Third XI. Despite a desperate start, losing 6–1 at Eton, 5–2 to the OWs and 7–1 at Alleyn's, Westminster were steadily developing into an effective combination. Tommy Walters delivered excellent corners and Nico Siracusa scored a sweet goal from distance at Eton. A great goal over his shoulder from James Fairhead and a poacher's strike from Mark Jerjian impressed OWs. Skipper Merlin Beyts himself played well under pressure.

Brentwood were the first to feel the quality which had been lying dormant hitherto. A 5–1 thrashing included clinical finishing from Will Ariss, Louis Ariss, Tom Johnston-Purvis, Dan Ocampo and Wilson-Smith. Hard work in the rain at Winchester, who won 3–2, laid the foundations for an excellent performance at Charterhouse. Spurred on by two Siracusa goals, Westminster almost held on for a famous win, before conceding in the last minute to draw 3–3.

Goals rained down from everywhere in the 7–2 defeat of Latymer. A Will Stevens hat-trick took the headlines, but good pressing and control underpinned the win. A sterling defensive effort, including a great save by Michael Davin, led to the 2–1 win over Aldenham. There was another good finish from Siracusa and a sniffer's goal by Walters after a cross from Will Ariss.

At Bradfield Fairhead's goal gave the boys a 1–0 lead at half-time. Ultimately tiredness and a heavy headwind would combine to defeat plucky Westminster 5–1. An Ed Sellers hat-trick atoned for this against Harrow. A smart finish from Jerjian and a well-deserved goal for Sam Winters, following up on the goal-keeper, secured a 6–0 win, thanks also to more predatory goal-hanging from Louis Ariss.

Only 10 available players made it to Bedford Modern. Yet they played the opposition off the park, with sleek passing and controlled possession to win 4–0. Few can touch Dom Drey-Brown in full flight. His fifty-yard run and smash raised quite a smile from this most undemonstrative of captains. Two from Jerome Mockett (one awarded – just – by the dubious goals panel) and a strike on the turn from Fairhead sealed the day.

Full of confidence against St. Columba's, Westminster won 3–2. A good finish over his shoulder from Sellers and a true striker's goal from the well-placed Ariss (L) set the tone. The defence were surprised by the reaction from St Columba's, who almost equalised, but Westminster finished the stronger of the two teams.



A serious ankle injury to Johnston-Purvis shocked the boys at King's, and in the circumstances a 2–1 win is a credit to their composure. Goals were scored by Sellers and Fairhead, but the celebrations were muted. On a treacherous pitch at Dulwich, where the ball would stop suddenly in standing water and Louis Ariss left the pitch soaked from head to toe, Westminster were unable to play their passing game and slumped to a 4–0 defeat. This meant that only defeat at home to City could deny the boys a winning season.

Sadly, and despite spectacular heroics in goal from Angus Mylne and outstanding defensive performances from Mockett, Laffy, Aldred and Kang, this was the anticlimactic outcome: but not without a battle. After withstanding significant pressure from a well-organised City midfield and coming in at half time drawn without score, Westminster were not favourites to leave victorious. However, a more disciplined and intense second half saw Westminster at their best. Pacey football in midfield from Ocampo, Will Ariss and Beyts and some very near misses – notably from Sellers, Jerjian and Louis Ariss – put real pressure on the City players: Winters then combined down the right with Sellers who put a searing cross in with his first touch. This was met by Strachan's stunning header back across the keeper and into the goal... only to be blown for a marginal offside. Pressure was maintained and Westminster were, by now, clear favourites until an uncharacteristic mistake saw City break decisively down the left and score the winning goal with minutes to play. The 1–0 defeat was difficult to bear.

However, a fine season with some fabulous spirit saw the boys 'break even'. They would argue, no doubt, that the cancelled match against the Common Room would have given them the victorious season they deserve. It would be hard to bet against them at their best, so in the interest of the record books maybe the CR should give them the walkover? Well done all. JAI

Season 2012–2013 FOOTBALL U16A

Moving up to U16 level, a team would normally expect to lose a couple of players to the first eleven and this year was no exception. Indeed it was only towards the end of the Play term that the new team really settled down to play good football. Having said that, we did actually get off to a fine start in our first match with a side bolstered by the presence of a couple of players from the Sixth Form earning a comfortable 4–0 win at Alleyn's, Bates scoring a hat-trick. After that we struggled: with back-to-back losses against Eton, Brentwood, Winchester, Charterhouse, Aldenham and Bradfield, putting the squad under pressure. Eton and Bradfield were just too strong but the match against Brentwood was a very even affair with us showing excellent defensive organisation but failing to create many opportunities to score. Similarly, against a strong Charterhouse side we worked hard to prevent them from scoring until the last few minutes of the match. Winchester was a match we could have won and Aldenham one we should have won, but we were not confident in front of goal and simply not scoring enough. It was in fact the return of Tuch to strengthen the midfield for one match against Highgate that proved to be the turning-point of our season. We came away with a hard fought 1–0 win, our spirits refreshed and looking forward to the Lent term.

We did lose the next match against Harrow, but in the second half our tackling went up several notches. Suddenly we were managing to win the 50–50 balls that can swing a match. It was a 4–1 loss but we took positive momen-



tum in to our next games which resulted in a 1–1 draw against St Alban's followed by 3–0 wins against both Bedford Modern and King's Canterbury. We closed with a soggy loss against a talented Dulwich side.

Date was ever-present in goal and had several very strong performances. The back four was made up of the captain, Dunning, definitely a player to watch for next year, the committed Jambon, the fast-improving Baines and the reliable Draper. In midfield, Salmon played the holding role, showing good positional sense and a composed outlook; Leverick was more attacking, picking incisive passes with increasing regularity as the season progressed. The promising Bertone played the first half of the season before injury ruled him out. Down the flanks, Godfrey, Kalo, Gurmail-Kaufmann and St John all showed themselves to be industrious and creative players. Up front, Bates worked tirelessly but never quite recaptured his goal-scoring form of last year and Wallis proved to be a very welcome addition, determined and competitive with a good eye for the target. Arthur was sub on a number of occasions and scored the goal in the St Alban's match.

James Lewis, our coach, was thoughtful, encouraging and motivated the team well, providing excellent training sessions throughout. Many thanks, and congratulations go to him for the fantastic progress the team made. MHF



Season 2012–2013 FOOTBALL U16B

The Under 16B team was hoping to capitalize on the amazing season they had in 2011–12. However we knew that it was most likely not going to be our season when even our coach had lost count of the goals we conceded in our first match against Eton. We settled at 5–0 though our goalkeeper Hector Coles claimed to have conceded at least 9 times. Despite this, we managed to regroup and after some 'inspiring' yet terrifying team talks from our captain Colm Hanway, we thrashed Winchester 6–2. It was absolute carnage with a formation of 2–0–8, Michael Ogilvy getting 2 on his debut for the Bs. A valiant effort was sustained throughout the season despite setbacks with injuries and call-up to the As, and the last game of the season

“we had great spirit and there was never a dull moment”



summed us up as a team. Playing in trench warfare conditions against a strong Dulwich college side, we earned a hard-fought draw with wonder goals from star striker Kofi Arthur and midfield maestro Sasha Foss. The team may not be remembered for masterclass skills or ability (indeed we are often referred to as the Stoke of U16B teams), yet we had great spirit and there was never a dull moment at any point of the season. Dan Andreyev



Season 2012–2013 FOOTBALL U15A

P:21 W:10 D:5 L:6 GF:67 GA:58

■ The U15A football team had an exceptionally good season, with a handsome record of fine victories, alongside some gutsy performances.

The season began with a hard fought 4–4 draw at Eton – a tough place to go first up, so a pleasing result. Then came a 5–3 victory over Colfe's in the first round of the ISFA cup, before ISFA cup runners-up Brentwood brought the team back to Earth with the first taste of defeat. The cup run continued however with a win over Forest, followed by a comfortable victory over John Lyon. A 4–4 draw in the lashing rain at Winchester and a competitive 1–1 draw at Charterhouse sandwiched the only game in the season that was lost that really shouldn't have been lost – a tired performance away to Chigwell resulting in a 3–2 scoreline to the hosts. The eventual winners of the ISFA cup, Whitgift outplayed us in the third round (last 16) but it was still a creditable performance against a team full of academy players. Victories over KES Witley and Aldenham were pleasing, although the team were outplayed by a strong Bradfield side, and a draw with Highgate rounded off the first term.

In the second term, two losses to Hampton and Latymer Upper were minor blips in an excellent run of skilful football. A 3–2 win at Harrow was particularly pleasing, as was the 7–2 demolition of St Paul's and the 5–1 beating



of St Albans. There were also victories against Kingston Grammar, Highgate and King's Canterbury along with a tough draw against Bedford Modern. The final Saturday of term was the match against Dulwich in which the pitch was awash with puddles. The team used their water polo skills to good effect to win 3–2.

The individual performances over the season include the excellent shot-stopping of 'keeper Angelos Anastasakis, the solid defence from Song Kim, Joe Schwarzmann, Theo Legeris, Hugo Bailey, Sam Leslie and in particular Oscar Schwartz. In Midfield the foursome of Dante Tejuoso, Clem Farrar, Max Clark and Kazuki Kinukawa were dogged and tenacious, ably backed up by the likes of Olivier Dacic and Harry Bird. Up front Barnaby Graff and Zak Khaliq were prolific, with B team top scorer Ivo Trice breaking his way into the team later on. The team showed character and resilience, and improved over the course of the two terms, at times playing some remarkable football.

The player of the season, and captain, goal scorer extraordinaire, box-to-box workhorse, dead ball specialist, provider of the greatest number of supporters from his family and leader by example was Max Clark. Most improved player over the season was Oliver Dacic. Much is owed to the coaching of Bleu, who worked hard to get the best out of the team, so many thanks to him. CJRU



Season 2012–2013 FOOTBALL U15B

P:17 W:9 D:2 L:6 GF:44 GA:49

■ A win against Eton is always a good way to start the football season. Ivo Trice made himself known very early on by scoring two great goals including an incredibly deft chip over the Eton keeper – impressive goals would become Ivo's trademark this season. A loss against Brentwood followed but it was clear that wins were going to come flooding in. And sure enough they did: 3–0 against John Lyon and 5–4 in a tremendous come back against Winchester. Yet more wins followed against Chigwell, Charterhouse, Aldenham, Highgate and Harrow, with only a loss against Bradfield to spoil the run. The team was really coming together now. Sam Magnus, Hugo Ross, Hugo Bailey and Felix Goodman were defending Andreas Jespersen's goal with confidence and conviction. Mo Barry-Wilson and Horatio April would frequently race past opposition players with apparent ease on the wing, and whip off great passes into Freddy Warren in midfield and Bohee Ahn up front. James Chapman came back from injury to dazzle the opposition with his precision touches and impressive awareness. The two Wren's wonders, Joe Schwarzmann and Olivier Dacic, also showed great skills in midfield before taking a mid-season transfer to the A team (fee undisclosed). The opposition was now getting tougher and a 4–3 loss against Bedford Modern suggested that the final matches were going to be tricky. Identical 1–1 scores followed against St Paul's and King's Canterbury to give us our only draws of the season. It was next away to Dulwich to play on not so much a 'floodlit' pitch but rather a 'lightly flooded' pitch – conditions were particularly muddy underfoot and the boys tried their best but ended up losing 5–2. An identical 5–2 loss finished the season at home against Latymer Upper. Despite this, the boys still showed great spirit and determination and should certainly be very pleased with their performance throughout the year.

Many thanks to all the parents who have come to support the team throughout the season and indeed to all the players who I have not had a chance to mention. JAM

Season 2012–2013 FOOTBALL U14A

P:15 W:4 D:0 L:11

■ The U14As have battled hard through a tough first season in which we never really built any momentum. Our first matches against Eton, Allyn's, Brentwood and John Lyon all came at us thick and fast with a lot of the team adapting to new positions. Unfortunately a lack of organisation off the ball cost us and we didn't manage to get anything out of any of these games but we did show a lot of improvement with each game. This improvement culminated in a great 4–3 victory against Winchester. A hard fought game was won with a great last minute goal from captain Hadrien Janbon. This gave us confidence and we played our best football in the following game against Chigwell. Some excellent midfield play and cutthroat finishing allowed us to canter to a 6–1 victory including two goals each from Advik Banerjee and Jack Snell. Sadly the poor weather and the Exeat meant we had to wait nearly a month for our next game, halting our momentum. A little rusty, we lost three on the bounce to good sides from Charterhouse, Aldenham and the particularly strong Bradfield. However rounding together we finished the first term on a high against KES Witley coming from 0–1 down at half term to win 6–1. Another great performance

from the whole team, particularly reserve keeper Matt Carlton, included two goals apiece for Will Sergent and Jack Snell.

Unfortunately again we could not keep this momentum after the Christmas break and we started with a couple of dispiriting losses. An 8–3 loss against Harrow and a weak 6–4 loss away at St Alban's (although this did include Phil Freeman who scored all 4). After this the team put in a lot of hard work in training and the rewards were there for all to see, particularly in defence. We were very unlucky not to get anything out of the following games against Highgate and Bedford Modern losing by the odd goal in both. However the season had a final highlight left in the match against King's Canterbury. After a slightly nervous start we dominated the match and were rarely troubled at the back. After many near misses the team stayed focused and a late strike sealed a well deserved victory. After this we went into the toughest game of the season away at Hampton and despite showing good teamwork and work ethic could not quite match Hampton's ability and lost 5–0.

Despite the slightly disappointing results, all the boys deserve great credit for their diligence and commitment and they have all improved immensely. Hadrien Janbon set a fantastic example, James Wilson showed great progress and Jackson Philips performed to a consistently high level to name just a few. The defence worked hard and improved immeasurably. Up front the trio of Jack Snell, Advik Banerjee and Phil Freeman all chipped in with valuable goals.

The entire team would like to thank Cecil Nyako for his constant energy and enthusiasm which rubbed off on the boys. Sincere thanks also go to the many parents who supported the team throughout the season. CMCK



Season 2012–2013 GIRLS' FOOTBALL

■ This has been the first year that Girls Football has trained twice a week and it has been accompanied by a greater sense of commitment from all the team. Having spent the first part of Play Term in intensive skill training we were launched into a busy schedule of matches. Our first fixture against Charterhouse, one of last year's great rivals, was a rather crushing defeat, but it allowed us to identify our main weaknesses. When we played them again three months later in a tournament at Bedales we fought hard for an impressive 0–0 draw. The tournament in question was for many of us the high point of our season. Though achieving no victories we left the tournament undefeated and eager for a win.

This desire was fulfilled in our next match against North London Collegiate. Despite blizzard conditions and low light levels we clocked a staggering 6–1 victory. Although the rest of the season did not bring fresh victories, we grew closer as a team and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. With a promising group of Sixth Formers to lead next year's team we hope Westminster will have an undefeated season. SEL

Season 2012–2013 FOOTBALL U14B

P:14 W:2 D:3 L:9 GF:21 GA:48

■ The statistics perhaps give an unfair impression of this U14B season. Narrow losses to Chigwell, during which the team played some of their best passing football of the season, Charterhouse, Aldenham and Highgate don't really do justice to the fighting spirit that these boys showed throughout the year. This was epitomized by the hard-fought draw against Eton and the remarkable second half performances against Highgate and King's Canterbury. In the former, we almost snatched a 5–5 all draw in an extremely exciting finish. At Canterbury the team went one better with two excellent goals by Luis Lesmes ultimately winning the game. The last game of the season was against a very competent and successful Hampton side. Hugo May, due to an absence, played in goal instead of up front and had a fantastic game. A fine goal by Regan Ring and Hugo's acrobatics kept us in the game right up to the final whistle.

The team was ably led by the dynamic and hard-working Omar Zakaria in the midfield with Rob Lownie developing his skills in organizing the defence. Matthew Carlton had some superb games in goal and in many other seasons would have kept goal for the A-team. Adam Dean, Harry Rowson, Ben Barbour regularly had good games and many others played their part particularly when cover was needed due to Alston absence. The player of the season was without a doubt left back Tom Lister, who showed composure in defence and was never afraid to go on ambitious attacking runs without neglecting his defensive duties.

The whole squad should be pleased with their efforts during the season. The quality of some of the football played was impressive although the defence will need to learn to be more confident in possession and not to panic. We conceded too many silly goals unnecessarily. Importantly the boys have been a pleasure to work with and many of them are certain to progress to greater things as they make their way up the school. Good luck to all. RK

Season 2012 CRICKET 1ST XI

P:11 W:5 D:5 L:5 Abandoned:7

Wet, Wet, Wet! I refer not to the Scottish pop rock band which had massive international success, but rather to the words which best describe much of the English School Cricket season of 2012. With all but one regular returning for 2013, this was a promising side which managed to win as many as they lost although seven games were abandoned in a season which never really got into its stride.

Having enjoyed a valuable and productive pre-season tour to La Manga (as described in the 2012 edition), the 1st XI were unable to get into the middle for a month, and, when they finally did their batsmen's lack of practice



“The Jim Cogan Cup against the old boys saw the partnership of the season”

and foot movement was cruelly exposed by Merchant Taylor's bowlers. Bad weather and a coin toss gave the 1st XI passage in the HMC National T20 but this was ended at the hands of a strong St Alban's side, in spite of the bowling of Leo Nelson-Jones and the batting of Kit Winder.

There then followed though a run of three victories over Chigwell, Ernest Bevin College and the Old Westminster. Half centuries from Winder and George Bustin did the trick against the former before a fifty from Milo Johnson and a five wicket haul (including a hat-trick!) from Kavi Amin took the 1st XI through in



the LSCA U19 Cup. The Jim Cogan Cup against the old boys saw the partnership of the season (146) between Winder and Johnson as both scored swashbuckling centuries to take the game away from the opposition.

This was followed by two defeats though as, after good starts, the team failed to get enough runs on the board in close finishes against both John Lyon and City of London.

Good bowling from Barnaby Graff and Dan Andreyev backed up by a determined batting rearguard from Yash Diwan and Eugene Daley was enough to secure a draw against

the Butterflies. However, the season ended disappointingly with a convincing defeat for a weakened team against a good Highgate side.

Individually, the 1st XI Player of the Year, Johnson was the pick of the batsmen as he scored over 400 runs, including two centuries and one half-century, whilst Winder hit a century and a fifty also and Bustin showed good consistency with three half-centuries. In the bowling department, U15 spinner and the 1st XI's Most Improved Player, Amin was the dominant figure as he took some 30 wickets, including four 5 wicket hauls and a hat-trick,

to make him one of the leading wicket-takers of the season in schoolboy cricket across the country. Young seamers, Graff – U14 Player of the Year – and U15 Andreyev bowled well also alongside Winder. The captain, Nelson-Jones led the team effectively picking up 10 wickets and over 100 runs but will be slightly disappointed perhaps with his all-round tally.

These were the stand-out performers but all members of the squad played their part to make it another enjoyable season.

Finally, I would like to thank all the staff and coaches connected with cricket Station for their efforts throughout the year, and especially, Paul Weekes for his professionalism and enthusiastic input. Sadly, as I write, Paul has accepted the offer of a full-time post at Belmont School and so will not be continuing to work with us in 2013. He will be sorely missed. We welcome Keerthi Ranasinghe who has joined the School as 1st XI coach for 2013. In addition, I would like to thank the groundsman, Franklin Barrett and his assistant, David Wicks and, as our most consistent performer, the scorer, Tony Japhet. Thank you also to the many parents who were frequent supporters at home and away.

RESULTS

- vs Emanuel School (Tour): Won by 8 wickets. Emanuel 121 (K. Amin 5–21); 1st XI 122–2 (G. Bustin 57*)
- vs La Manga Select XI (Tour): Won by 70 runs. 1st XI 212–6 (M. Johnson 105, A. Stewart 44); La Manga Select 142 (K. Amin 5–19)
- vs Merchant Taylor's: Lost by 188 runs. Merchant Taylor's 220–7 (K. Amin 3–59); 1st XI 32
- vs St Alban's (HMC T20): Lost by 58 runs. St Alban's 161–6 (L. Nelson-Jones 3–23); 1st XI 103 (K. Winder 58*)
- vs Chigwell: Won by 87 runs. 1st XI 216–5 (G. Bustin 58, K. Winder 50); Chigwell 129
- vs Ernest Bevin (LSCA U19 Cup): Won by 10 wickets. Ernest Bevin 98 (K. Amin 5–17 incl. a hat-trick!); 1st XI 103–0 (M. Johnson 52*)
- vs Old Westminster (Jim Cogan Cup): Won by 118 runs. 1st XI 273–4 (M. Johnson 118, K. Winder 110*); Old Westminster 155 (K. Amin 5–52)
- vs John Lyon: Lost by 7 wickets. 1st XI 189–9 (G. Bustin 66); John Lyon 193–3
- vs City of London (LSCA U19 Cup): Lost by 6 wickets. 1st XI 140–7 (G. Bustin 39); City of London 141–4
- vs Butterflies: Match drawn. Butterflies 190–9 (D. Andreyev 3–29,



B. Graff 3–38); 1st XI 153–8 (Y. Diwan 49, E. Daley 36*)

- vs Highgate: Lost by 8 wickets. 1st XI 113; Highgate 114–2

LEADING BATSMEN

M. Johnson: 429 runs at 42.90
G. Bustin: 285 runs at 35.62
K. Winder: 255 runs at 42.50
L. Nelson-Jones: 110 runs at 15.71

LEADING BOWLERS

K. Amin: 30 wickets at 10.83
L. Nelson-Jones: 10 wickets at 27.40
K. Winder: 9 wickets at 27.11



“he took some 30 wickets, including four 5 wicket hauls and a hat-trick”



Season 2012 CRICKET 2ND XI

■ All but three matches rained off!
SCH/MHF/GPAB

Season 2012 CRICKET U15

P:9 W:4 D:0 L:5

It was an unusual season for the U15 cricketers. The weather was truly atrocious at the start of the season, disrupting matches and training sessions right through the end of April and the first couple of weeks in May. Even the old heads on the coaching staff (JDK, FSMB) couldn't remember many seasons quite like it. But by the end of the term, the team had reached the final of the London Schools' Cup.

The batting relied on the elegance of captain Eugene 'Arthur' Daley allied to the brutal power of the Date twins ("double dating") and some late order slogging from the likes of Dan Andreyev. Merchant Taylor's and Chigwell both proved too strong for a team short on preparation time, despite good performances with the ball from Mihir Date and Sam Bates in the latter fixture. John Lyon were soundly beaten though, with the innings of the season, 95 not out, from Eugene Daley and some decent bowling from Callum Greaves

Then came the cup run, with victories in the 2nd round over Frederick Bremmer, in the quarter final over BTG and in the semi-final over Mayfield school. The team was strengthened in the cup with U14 talent such as Barnaby Graff and the return of spin king Kavi Amin from the 1st XI. A great run to get the final was ended at the last hurdle on a beautiful day in Dulwich to a Dulwich College team that were just too strong.

Ismail Salim kept wicket expertly throughout the season, and there were good all-round performances from the likes of Sam Bates, the aforementioned Dates and Greaves. The bowling attack featuring the pace of Andreyev and skill of Daley took plenty of wickets, with a good spirit throughout.

The coaching by Mark Mason continues to get the best out of the boys, and of course the gritty Scottish pluck of Mr Fair was an excellent addition to the staffing mix. A topsy-turvy, weather-affected but ultimately satisfying season of cricket, with a runners up spot in the cup being just reward. CJRU

Season 2012 CRICKET U14A

P:9 W:3 L:6 Cancelled:1

There is plenty of talent in this year-group and when the boys gelled they were a match for anyone. Hardened by defeats against the two strongest sides, and with rain constraining time for practice, confidence took time to grow.

Despite totalling 36 at St. Paul's, there was excellent catching from Barnaby Graff and Hugo Bailey, whose nonchalant take over his shoulder was a highlight. Next was a trip to Moor Park, where the batsmen tried hard but a disappointing run-out, some loose shots and an excellent hat-trick from the Merchant Taylor's leg-spinner dispatched Westminster for 51. Olivier Dadic hit a gorgeous cover-drive and marked himself out as a good prospect.

Given the chance to bowl first at KGS, the new-ball pair of Graff and Zak Khalique seemed unplayable. But a combination of judicious Kingston hitting, friendly fielding and Mr. Extras allowed the fish to wriggle off the hook. Chasing 141, Westminster again started brightly but when Graff went for a controlled 30, the middle-order came unstuck against spin. Wang enjoyed himself in his 18* but the run-rate was too high and the team lost by 23 runs.

Skipper Graff was the star with bat and ball at home to Chigwell. Dadic also bowled well and a target of 142 was, just, within the home side's grasp. Westminster were thankful for Sahil Shah's composure as wickets tumbled after the loss of Graff for 67. A one-wicket win thrilled the crowd and was the turning point of the season.

The loss of Graff to the 1st XI galvanised the boys against John Lyon. Dante Tejuoso came at short notice and his catch was one



of several smart pieces of fielding which supported the bowlers. Sam Leslie took three for 17 with his out-swing and two superb run-outs from Ben Edwards and Khalique allowed Westminster the comfort of chasing 101. Kartik Prabhu put on 48 for the first wicket with Khalique who hit three sixes in his 28. Shah registered another red-inker (11*) in a six-wicket victory.

Westminster kept the ball up to the bat very well against St Dunstan's. Khalique and Bailey were especially economical. Better fielding helped restrict the target to 132. A typically rumbustious start from Khalique (25) gave the boys a 'flyer.' Graff, controlling his aggression, deserved a half-century but he went to a brilliant catch on 49. Dadic (29*) and the talented Lawrence Frape (10*) cruised home for a 7 wicket win.

When Highgate had scored 181-6 they might have expected a comfortable victory, but they hadn't met Zak Khalique. He can hit short and good-length balls alike a very long way and his first half-century of the season (52) raised hopes of a famous victory. But when the required run-rate increased, risks had to be taken and Westminster fell 23 runs short. This was a respectable way to finish an enjoyable season.

Congratulations to all who represented the School and best wishes to them for future cricketing success. Thanks also to Mark Divin, a professional cricketer for Tasmania, who fit School cricket around his work as Director of Coaching for Hampstead CC. Mark's, encouragement, invention and patience benefited the boys throughout the season. JAI

Season 2012 CRICKET U14B

P:4 W:2 L:2 Cancelled:1

The U14Bs exhibited plenty of ability and promise for the future in registering victories over Kingston GS and John Lyon. Either side of this purple patch, there were defeats at Merchant Taylor's and Highgate, where the batting didn't fire against strong opposition.

Kartik Prabhu was the only batsman to come to terms with the difficult conditions at Merchant Taylor's. Others learned from him the virtues of a sound technique and determination to prize his wicket. 49 runs were too little to prevent a nine-wicket loss, but the boys boarded the coach knowing they'd scored more runs than the As had that day. Sam Leslie played a starring role at Kingston (59* & three for 33) and his big hitting intimidated the opposition. He led the visitors to 118 for the loss of only five wickets. Max Greenbury's wily swingers and seamers earned him excellent figures of four for 22 as Westminster won by 15 runs.

A strong team spirit had developed and success followed from this unity. At John Lyon, the boys were delighted to congratulate Joseph Schwarzmann for his all-round display of attacking brio (65 runs and four for 17). He was also outstanding in the field. Defending the imposing total of 149, Sahil Shah was on top form with the ball (three for 3) and John Lyon were bowled out for 67.

The boys deserved to end the season on a high and, of course, Highgate was their final destination. Accurate bowling and a super performance in the field restricted the home side to 77-6 in the allocated overs. Unfortunately a slow wicket had meant that scoring was never easy and Westminster slid to a 45-run defeat. Mr. Brocklesby departed the School pleased that his team had been competitive and eager cricketers. We pass on good wishes to him and thanks for all his hard work in coaching and running fixtures for Cricket Station. JAI



Season 2012-2013 WATER

The annual Station reports for the Elizabethan are always something of a review of the Easter to Easter period and a preview of what is to come in the summer term based on what we have seen emerge in Easter training camps in Sarnen (Switzerland) and Gent (Belgium).

The top squad lead boat was again a quad that impressed on camp but to avoid complacency they raced much of the Election term in singles with great success, with wins at Nottingham city for George Bradbury, George Matthews and Nick Scott. At the National Schools Regatta, George Bradbury stormed to spectacular Silver in the Championship singles whilst Ivan Karpov and George Matthews just missed out on the bronze in the Doubles. In the Championship quads the following day, the crew overlapped the leaders but finished with bronze. The crew's Henley preparation went very well with a win in Elite Quads at Reading regatta and a match win over KCS, the winning National Schools first eight!

At Henley Royal Regatta the crew easily beat Melbourne Grammar School (Aus.) in the first round then in a mistake-strewn race narrowly lost to Marlow Rowing Club. It was a difficult end to a year of promise.

The J16 eight came off the back of an excellent camp in Sarnen in which long daily revision sessions were interspersed around the workouts to leave the crew ready for both Academic and Water challenges in the term. The exam timetable conspired to allow only three or four outings in the boat in the six week run-up to the Nationals but the groundwork was done and the crew snatched victory in the J16 first eights with an inspired row.

The J15 squad of seven boys had few racing options but Sam Meijer emerged as the strongest single and finished 4th at the Inter-regional Champs and 6th at the National Schools. The J15 four (Wu/Thomas/Ventham/Balgarnie cox Afkami) began the medal tally with a silver at the National Schools behind Hinksey and finished the term by beating Hinksey at Reading Regatta in a quad with Sam Meijer and Oscar Frith replacing Alex Balgarnie and Hugo Ventham. Sam and Alex also won the J16 event at the Dulwich Track Cycling Championships with Sam winning the Golden channring for the greatest points score in the whole competition.

"The crew snatched victory in the J16 first eights"

The J14 group had some National Schools cross-wind preparation at a new regatta on a day trip to Gravelines. The two octuples finished 1st and 3rd and the quads 3rd and 6th. Some boys also raced for the first time in singles with Nick Plaut 2nd, James Plaut 3rd, Oskar Arzt-Jones 4th and Ian Hollander 5th. At the National Schools both octuples made it into the semifinals but just missed out on reaching the finals.

Nicola Mason flourished in the US lightweight junior category at Princeton in April

EVENTS CALENDAR

- **Water: Junior Inter-regional Championships (Nottingham) Thames Down River (Westminster) won overall. J16 Eight: 2nd - Westminster; J16 Single: 3rd - D. Bradbury; J15 Single: 4th - S. Meijer; J15 Four: 7th - Westminster**
- **06/05/2012 Water: Wallingford Regatta Inter 1 Singles - 1st: G. Bradbury. Inter 2 Singles - 1st: G. Matthews; 2nd: I. Karpov. J18 Singles - 2nd: N. Scott; 3rd: J. Gunn. J15 Quads - 2nd: Westminster**
- **19/05/2012 Water: Nottingham City Regatta. IM2 Class - 1st: G. Bradbury, 3rd: I. Karpov, 5th: G. Matthews. IM3 - 1st: G. Matthews. Girls' IM3 - 2nd: N. Mason. J18 - 3rd: G. Bradbury. Girls' J18 - 4th: N. Mason. J17 - 1st: N. Scott. Novice - 1st: N. Scott, 2nd: J. Gunn**
- **19/05/2012 Water: Twickenham Regatta Novice Singles - 1st: D. Kim. J17 - 2nd: W. Ripley**
- **26/05/2012 Water: Gravelines Regatta (France). J14 Octuples - 1st: Westminster A, 3rd: Westminster B. J14 Singles - 2nd: N. Plaut, 3rd: J. Plaut, 4th: O. Arzt-Jones, 5th: I. Hollander. J14 Quads - Westminster: 3rd & 6th**
- **01/06/2012 Water: National Schools Regatta (Nottingham). J15 Singles - 6th: S. Meijer**

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but was always going to find the GB heavy-weight competition tough. Despite this, she finished 2nd and 4th in the Nottingham city events and then with an inspired semi-final snatched a place in the final of Girls Championship singles at the National Schools regatta.

Play Term 2012 began with some serious hard training and some outstanding sculling performances. Eight division wins at Isis sculls in Oxford opened the account followed by a superb 2nd and 3rd place for Nick Scott and James Gunn at Wallingford long distance sculls. These two combined to record another 2nd place in Junior Doubles at the Pairs Head. At the spectacular Armada cup on the 9km Wohnensee course near Bern in Switzerland. Sam Meijer emerged first from the snowy mist to win the J17 class and was closely followed by Cameron Kerr (5th) and David Bradbury (6th).

Another fine performance followed by the top quad as the highest-placed school crew in the Fours Head with 2nd in junior quads. The second quad were 5th school crew overall. The top boys voyaged to Boston (Lincs.) for Great Britain trials where James Gunn excelled in 8th place shortly before getting glandular fever

which put him out of contention for GB selection. Sam became top GB J16. At the Scullers Head of the River the youngest man in the race, Sam Meijer, finished 28th /500 and second in J18. Cam Kerr, Will Wood and Nick Scott all made the top 100. Cam later decided to visit the mother country to take bronze in the Scottish indoor Championships.

Other crews were not idle at this time. Whilst the new J14s were learning one end of the boat from the other, the Girls and J15s visited Cambridge Winter Head to embarrass a few student crews. The Girls eight finished a joyous 6th in Freshers eights, whilst the J15s placed 6th and 10th in the College eights event, causing many a college first eight to regret a late Friday night!

Training continued unabated over the Winter break and 2013 heralded Westminster racing in many eights. Despite the cancellation of numerous events due to flooding, the second VIII scored first with a win at Quintin Head but the J15 VIII retaliated with a fine J15 win and second overall at Hammersmith Head and 1st and 2nd places in J16 quads at the Prince Albert II Coastal Rowing Challenge in

Monaco. The J15s then took the Championship Pennant in the Schools Head by more than 20 seconds. The fledgling first eight prepared for the Schools Head with a three-nil Match Victory over Shrewsbury and followed it up with Westminster's best Schools Head result since the early 1990s, with a sixth place finish. This crew then divided into two quads for the National Sculling head at Dorney the following day and finished joint first in both J18 and J17 Quads. The J15s followed up with a silver in First quads and gold in second quads. The J16s joined the bandwagon by winning the fours at the Schools Head to make it our most successful two day event ever. The J14 octuples exactly matched the result of the previous year so set up another fine cohort for the future. The First eight finished the term with an excellent win at Kingston Head with the Tideway head cancelled.

Full training through Easter is taken for granted and a cold but calm week was spent in the Swiss Alpine paradise of Sarnen by the top squad whilst the others were blown about the river in Putney. All crews came together for the Belgian Junior Championships in Gent

with some fabulous results. The Eight won and collected medals in fours and quads and Sam retained his J16 international title. The J15s took medals in J16 doubles, fours and eights and the J16 four secured their own silver.

On the 70th anniversary of the Dam-busters raid on 16th May the new eight will be officially named 'Melvin Young DFC' in memory of the Old Westminster oarsman, Oxford Blue and 617 squadron Lancaster pilot who breached the Mohne dam, but was sadly shot down on the return.

The bi-centenary of the Boat Club's official foundation with the establishment of the Water ledger takes place in the academic year 2013-2014 and a number of events will mark this occasion. The Westminster vs Eton race will take place on Monday 8th July in front of the Houses of Parliament with both crews rowing in the 1829 replica wooded cutters and landing at Black Rod's steps. The anniversary will culminate with a row-past at Henley Royal Regatta on Saturday 5th July 2014. CDR



The Queen's Diamond Jubilee River Pageant VENICE-ON-THAMES

Nicholas and James Plaut rowed in the Diamond Jubilee Pageant. Nicholas (WW) wrote the words.



When Mr Riches asked James and I to join him and his son rowing in the Diamond Jubilee I expected to be cruising down the Thames gracefully and with ease in a huge boat filled with 20 or so rowers, so I was a little surprised when I realized that we would be spending the 6 or 7 hours of unbroken rowing in a four man boat.

My image of grace was also a little askew as Venetian rowing is appreciably harder than it looks, and the oar has a habit of popping out of the gate at inconvenient times, as we found out on our one practice session. Even so, I was feeling quite confident as we pushed our way through the crowds thronging the side of the Thames by the Putney boathouse, only a little daunted when the 8-man and 18-man crews of the other Venetian boats pushed off ahead of us, especially since we had a small electric motor to make up the difference in manpower.

However, as we rowed towards the start of the race, a loud grind and crack issued from the motor, and it split off the boat, presenting us with the challenge of keeping up with the larger crews. However we continued, and we

Venetian-rowed along with the other boats, until the Embankment where it became too rough and we sat down and paddled it like a canoe. At this point many of the boats around us, including one of the Venetian boats, began to drop back and had to be towed, to prevent being swallowed by the next group of boats behind. We felt rather smug as larger crews dropped back until the pace quickened and the disadvantage of a small crew began to take its toll. We made it to Tower Bridge but had to be towed from there, for the last mile or so to the end. The disappointment was softened by the fact that we were towed along with an Atlantic-crossing crew.

Unfortunately, our landing pier was closed, so, after about an hour of waiting in the rain (which may have contributed to a mild case of hypothermia on James' part), we had to leave the boat in the pouring rain via a rusty ladder

“a loud grind and crack issued from the motor, and it split off the boat”



rising up the Embankment without paddles and other kit. Despite this, it was an extremely interesting and memorable experience and it was an honour to have taken part in such a momentous procession.

- **02/06/2012 Water: National Schools Regatta (Nottingham).** J16 Eights – 1st: Westminster. Championship Single Sculls – 2nd: G. Bradbury. J15 Coxed Fours – 2nd: Westminster. Championship Double Sculls – 4th: Westminster (I. Karpov & G. Matthews). Championship Girls' Single Sculls – 6th: N. Mason.
- **03/06/2012 Water: National Schools Regatta (Nottingham).** Championship Quadruple Sculls – 3rd: Westminster
- **09/06/2012 Water: Reading Regatta.** Elite Men's Quads – 1st: Westminster (G. Bradbury, G. Matthews, N. Scott, I. Karpov). J15 Quads – 1st: Westminster (T. Wu, S. Meijer, C. Thomas, O. Frith, cox – H. Ramambason)
- **16/06/2012 Water: Westminster.** 1st Quad v KCS Wimbledon 1st Eight. Won 3-0
- **28/06/2012 Water – Henley Royal Regatta.** Fawley Challenge Cup – Last 16. Westminster beat Melbourne Grammar School (Aus) easily
- **29/06/2012 Water – Henley Royal Regatta.** Fawley Challenge Cup – Last 8. Westminster lost to Marlow R.C. by 1 length
- **07/07/2012 Water: Kingston Regatta.** J17 Doubles – 1st: Westminster (W. Wood & O. Ulvestad)
- **22/09/2012 Water: Isis Sculls.** J18 Doubles: 1st – Westminster (W. Moss & O. Ulvestad); J17 Doubles: 1st – Westminster (W. Wood & O. Ulvestad); Novice Doubles: 1st – Westminster (A. Brochard & M. Chwu); J18 & IM2 Singles: 1st – N. Scott; J17 & J16 Singles: 1st – S. Meijer; Novice Singl
- **29/09/2012 Water: Wallingford Head.** School Long Distance Sculls: 2nd –

- N. Scott; 3rd – J. Gunn. J17: 2nd – D. Bradbury
- **13/10/2012 Water: Pairs Head.** Junior Doubles – J. Gunn & N. Scott: 2nd/37; T. Lewis & A. Brochard: 17/37. Junior Pairs – C. Kerr & W. Wood: 6th/26; D. Bradbury & R. Dobson: 15/26; W. Moss & J. Ritossa: 20/26
- **27/10/2012 Water: Armada Cup (Berne).** J17s: 1st – S. Meijer (42nd/300 overall), 5th – C. Kerr, 6th – D. Bradbury, 9th – R. Dobson, 10th – W. Wood. J19s: 7th – N. Scott, 17th – W. Ripley
- **03/11/2012 Water: Teddington Small Boats Head.** First Quad won Junior Quads (2nd overall). J17 Four 2nd in U18 Fours. J16 Quad won Novice Quads. J15A 2nd in Novice Quads; J15B won J15 Fours; J15C 2nd in J15 Fours; J15D won J15 Quads
- **10/11/2012 Water: Fours Head (Mortlake-Putney).** Junior Quads – Westminster A (N. Scott, J. Gunn, S. Meijer & W. Ripley): 3rd (29th/500 overall); Westminster C (W. Moss, A. Brochard, O. Ulvestad & J. Ritossa): 10th (5th School crew & 66th overall); Westminster D (J16 Quad): 33rd (157th overall).
- **10/11/2012 Water: Fours Head (Mortlake-Putney).** Junior Coxed Fours – Westminster B (R. Dobson, W. Wood, C. Kerr, D. Bradbury & H. Ramambason): 7th (4th in School Second crews & 149th overall).
- **17/11/2012 Water: GB U18 Trials (Boston).** J. Gunn – 8th/150; S. Meijer – 19th (top J16 overall); C. Kerr – 22nd; W. Wood – 64th; D. Bradbury – 65th; R. Dobson – 101st
- **17/11/2012 Water: Cambridge Winter Head.** Girls' Eight – 6th/12 in Freshers'

- Eights. Freshers' Boys' Eight – 12th/18. Student Novice Eights: Westminster U15 A Eight – 6th/14; Westminster U15 B Eight – 10th/14
- **08/12/2012 Water: Vesta Scullers Head.** Boys: S. Meijer – 2nd Junior (28th overall); C. Kerr – 4th (48th); W. Wood – 8th (88th); N. Scott – 9th (89th); R. Dobson – 22nd (226th); W. Moss – 24th (251st). Girls: G. Michotte – 8th Junior (330th overall)
- **19/01/2013 Water: Scottish Indoor Rowing Championships.** Men's Junior 18 Hwt – 3rd: C. Kerr
- **26/01/2013 Water: Quintin Eights Head.** Novice Eights – Westminster: 1st/27. J15 Eights – Westminster A: 2nd; Westminster B: 9th
- **13/02/2013 Water: Westminster City Indoor Rowing Championships.** Girls – 2nd: F. Greenstreet, 3rd: H. Bird. U15s – 1st: N. Plaut, 2nd: E. Bentley, 3rd: A. Williams. U14s – 1st: P. Santos, 2nd: M. Manning, 3rd: T. Johnson
- **16/02/2013 Water: 1st VIII v Shrewsbury 1st VIII (h).** Won by 2 lengths
- **16/02/2013 Water: Prince Albert II Challenge (Monaco).** J16 Quads – 1st: Westminster J15A, 2nd: Westminster J15B. Masters – 2nd: Old Westminster (1989-2002)
- **17/02/2013 Water: Prince Albert II Challenge (Monaco).** J18 Quads – 3rd: Westminster J15A, 4th: Westminster J15B. Masters – 4th: Old Westminster (1989-2002)
- **24/02/2013 Water: GB U18 Trials (Boston, Lincs).** S. Meijer & C. Kerr: 4th in J18 Doubles
- **24/02/2013 Water: Hammersmith Head.** Westminster A J15 Eight won J15

- Eights, J16 Eights as well as 2nd in J18 Eights and 2nd overall!
- **07/03/2013 Water: The Schools' Head.** Championship Eights – 6th: Westminster. J15 Championship Eights – 1st: Westminster. J16 Fours – 1st: Westminster. Mixed Quads – 2nd: Westminster A (W. Moss, W. Wood, G. Michotte, C. Lyness).
- **08/03/2013 Water: Junior Sculling Head.** J18 Quads – Westminster: 1st/21. J17 Quads – Westminster: 1st/16. J16 Quads – Westminster: 9th/38. J15 1st Quads – Westminster: 2nd/39. J15 2nd Quads – Westminster: 1st/39. J14 Octos – Westminster: 8th/57. J14 2nd Octos – Westminster: 12th/57
- **16/03/2013 Water: Kingston Head.** Intermediate Eights 3 – 1st: Westminster 2nd: Oxford Brookes Univ.
- **17/03/2013 Water: Cambridge Sculling Head.** J17 Singles – 1st: W. Moss (Overall Singles winner also). J15 Doubles – 1st: J. Plaut & N. Plaut (Overall Doubles winners also). J18 Girls Singles – 3rd: G. Michotte
- **14/04/2013 Water: Belgian International Rowing Championships (Gent).** Junior Eights – 1st: Westminster; J16 Singles – 1st: S. Meijer; Junior Quads – 2nd: Westminster; J16 Eights – 2nd: Westminster J15s; J16 Coxless Fours – 2nd: Westminster; J16 Doubles – 2nd: J. Plaut & N. Plaut

2012 FENCING

For the Station, this has been an unprecedented year in terms of change. The move to the Sports Centre has provided the much-needed opportunity for the expansion of the station. Thanks to the extensive efforts of Mr Salimbeni, the number of matches we have played has seen a new all-time high, which has really been reflected in our performance throughout the year.

Historically, Westminster has proven resolute in producing some of the most inconsistent teams out of all the schools we compete against. Over the years, we have been both a team to be reckoned with and one to be overlooked.

What followed has undoubtedly been the most crushing chain of defeats in the history of fencing at Westminster, with first foil only claiming their first victory late into the Lent term.

In spite of this, statistics do not do justice to either the quality or the dedication of those who do fencing. The determination of Alex Christie, Forbes Anderson and Seb Burgess has not only seen the revival of sabre, but also brought about the renewed success both at the Public schools championships and in matches throughout the year.



“statistics do not do justice to either the quality or the dedication of those who do fencing”

The high level of fencing came through in the unparalleled set of results from the Public school's championships which rounded off the season.

Harry Bird led the way with an outstanding 1st place in Junior Foil out of a pool of 116, whilst being at the bottom of his age group. This was closely followed by Daniel Kim,



who came 6th, losing narrowly 14–12. Nick Daultry-Ball and Alex Rabeau were placed 35th and 37th respectively.

In Junior Epee, Daniel Kim came 16th (once again losing out narrowly on a place in the top eight), with Nick Daultry-Ball placing 58th out of a field of 126.

Meanwhile in the youngest Mount Haes section, Tiger Ji achieved a respectable 22nd, and Angus Brett placed an encouraging 31st out of 114 competitors.

While this has been an impressive end to a good year, with Westminster finally claiming our rightful place as a top team, I look forward to seeing how we develop as a team in the terms to come.

Finally, on behalf of all the fencers, I would like to thank Mr Salimbeni for his unwavering commitment to this station and wish him all the best at his new school, L.A.E. in September.
Tom Kwoh (Captain)

tionally good player, we were unable to win the battle with Cagan and Rafter losing 6–4, 5–7, 8–10 despite some close points. Church and Ho easily won their match 6–1, 6–0 but Alex Rafter was unable to beat the very good first player losing out 1–6, 1–6. Lots to be taken away from the event and a great way for the first IV to end their Westminster career.

The usual Common Room vs. OWW fixture was cancelled this year since the OWWs were 'unable to field' a team to cope with the agility, consistency and power of Messers Johnson, Hayter, Craft, Parker-Wright, Woodman and Page, Dr Kowenicki as well as Dr Cockburn and Miss Leech! That said, the Common Room, having lost Mr Craft and Mr Johnson this year, may well see them back this year on the opposite side of the net, this time representing the OWWs!

The future looks bright for Westminster Tennis as we approach the start of the 2013 season. Following an excellent winter tennis season Aleks Mardinian, a new recruit into the 6th Form, assumes the role of captain. Alex Henderson continues in the post of Head Coach, with Jenny and Chloe working with the 5th Form at Battersea. We are looking forward to fixtures against the usual rivals, Harrow and Eton as well as some new opposition this year in the form of Wellington for the girls and KCS Wimbledon for the boys. Here's to hoping that Westminster Tennis enjoys an equally fruitful year in 2013 and success at the end-of-season Youll Cup.

CML



2012 TENNIS

The 2012 Tennis season was unfortunately blighted by the tempestuous British weather! A number of our usual fixtures, including our first 'warm-up' against Mill Hill for both the boys and girls, and the annual Harrow match, were cancelled. Due to a tight fixture list and the busy exam calendar it was impossible to rearrange a number these fixtures. Nevertheless we played as much as possible, once again under the strong captaincy of Johnny Church, supported by the rest of the strong 1st IV, Gabriel Cagan, Alex Rafter and Alex Ho – a fine first IV for the past five years.

We enjoyed a successful senior and junior House tennis competition this year with Rigaud's winning the junior competition,



Dryden's the senior boys' and Ashburnham the senior girls'. Further fixtures this season against Haileybury, for example, saw some solid performances across all age groups with Tibo Rushbrooke and Angelos Anastasakis the consistent star pairing of the U14 age group, Oli Tuch and Marco Bertone winning comfortably as first pair of the U15s and in the seniors, the usual first IV, supported by Kenki Matsumoto, Henry McNeill, Alex Lee, Anthony Petrenco and Gaetano LoCoco amongst others.

Despite a loss at Eton and a number of cancelled fixtures, overall wins at Winchester, MTS and Haileybury set the first IV up nicely for the first Youll Cup Westminster have entered for a number of years. With a new team kit and some sunny weather to match, feelings were high for the four day Youll Cup tournament held at Eton. Despite some early nerves, things went to plan in the first round against Whitgift with Cagan and Rafter winning 5–7, 6–4, 10–6, and Church and Ho easily taking the second match 6–1, 6–3. We had to return the next day for the 2nd round match against little-known Canford: having only one excep-



2012–13 ETON FIVES

The season began with a real sense of excitement at the level of Fives that the top Westminster players had achieved and of anticipation of the results which that may bring in fixtures over the year. This excitement however was tempered by the decision to hold the Schools Nationals Championships at Shrewsbury after the Lent term had ended. The logistical problems which this caused meant that only the top two Senior pairs would be able to participate, the usual climax to the season for the majority of players sadly removed, and the emerging talent at U16 and U15 in particular not able to test themselves in the fire of this competition.

A good number of able and enthusiastic players signed up for Fives Station in September at U14 level; as in other years, these players have been supplemented by good take-up of the LSA and I am pleased that Fives retains its appeal even with the competing attractions of the Sports Centre. Guttenplan and Amin emerged as the top players and will be a potent combination in years to come. McGarry, Park, Kuhn and Quadrio Curzio provided consistent and increasingly skilful support. The results over the season did not offer many outright victories, but they did show that this is a squad with resilience and enthusiasm whose skills are developing well.

The U15 squad is constantly evolving: over eight players were used in various matches, with the combination of Lim and Shah emerging as the pair to beat. There were good victories against Emanuel, Harrow and Charterhouse, in which Malik and Black contributed valuably, and Oswald, Jones and Dallman-Porter were an increasingly reli-



able support act. I hope that the last two will next year manage to shrug off the niggling injuries which dogged their play over the season. However the 'big guns' like Eton, and Shrewsbury remained a bit too strong for us at this level – an all-too-familiar gap which is only ever closed by our players increasing the amount of time they spend on the court, and focusing on the precision and intelligence of their play. It has been good therefore to see Shah and Lim getting as much court-time as they can, and this is something that the others would usefully emulate.

The U16 squad has continued to offer skill, enthusiasm and determination in depth. Salim and Lewin again led from the front: they have the shots and the athleticism to register significant victories, but again, if they are to be a consistent match for the top pairs from the top schools, they will have to learn to deploy these skills more subtly and to bring a greater focus to their game. Time on court is the key here. This would apply to the other players of quality in this group too, led by the pairing of Critchley and Sinha, whose competitiveness and success grows each year, but including Amin and Ashton as well. There is both spirit and ability here and the omens for the next two years are very good.

The Senior squad was the focus of the anticipation and excitement that the season brought. The top two pairs were as good as any I can remember over the last 6 years – good as players but also as ambassadors for the sport. It was a rare, and occasionally awkward pleasure to be in a position where the most effective pairing of these players did not make itself clear until the Nationals. Alster, the Captain of Fives, Houlden, Nelson-Jones and Tomlinson, in various combinations, registered some noticeable successes, both in School competitions and elsewhere. Houlden and Nelson-Jones reached the semis of the EFA U21 competition: Houlden and Alster won the 'Pepperpot Trophy' of the Kinnaird: in both cases getting the better of some quality opponents. Reaching the semis of the Williams (3–pair) Trophy was another highlight: as was the victory at 1st pair, after a game of great quality and entertainment, over Eton. All four players played regularly with different OW Fives teams in the EFA leagues and gained valuable experience of playing the game at adult level. It is a measure of the quality of their play that for the second time in two years the Westminster 1st pair (Alster & Houlden) reached the quarter-final of the Nationals: that Tomlinson and Nelson-Jones at 2nd succumbed in the 3rd round was an added bonus. It has been a real pleasure to oversee players of such good humour and dedication to the game. It will be very sad to see them go. They were excellently supported by Merrett and Stewart who are players of great individual promise themselves. Praise too must go to Chung and Nguen who, as the Westminster girls' top pair, had a great run of victories over Charterhouse, Berkhamsted and St Olave's. Finally, thanks are due as ever to Matt Wiseman for the usual combination of wisdom, understanding and professionalism which he brings to his coaching at all levels. AEAM

2012-13

CROSS COUNTRY



■ The Long Distance Races gave a glimpse as to how good the season could be: Shaun Houlden won the Junior race in the fastest time for 22 years, Nick Clanchy's Inters victory was the second fastest in 20 years, Mary-Alice Davison smashed the Girls record by 2:30 and David Conceicao pulled clear in a competitive Seniors race. It goes without saying that Dr Hartley's army yet again took the team title back to Milne's.

The school were perhaps a little light at the sharp end of the King's Trophy, where they finished 6th out of 18 teams, the highlight being Fifth Former Shaun Houlden putting our senior runners in their place, and Mary-Alice Davison winning the Girls competition. The team's consistency was evident at the RGS Guildford Relays where ten runners finished within about forty seconds of each other, and even Westminster's 'D' team managed to finish mid-way down the field. Our Inters then swept the board at Harrow, led home by a victorious Nick Clanchy closely followed by Oliver Ramsay Gray.

This year's GRIM certainly lived up to expectations, as competitors had to break through ice-encrusted water hazards! David Conceicao ran a sensational race to finish 19th out of over 2000 runners, with Westminster remarkably providing 15 of the first 75 finishers. The extra sessions many attended over Christmas paid off at the gruelling Knole Run, where Mary-Alice finished just outside the medals in 4th and Andreas Ioannou led the boys' team home to their best performance in five years.

However, the undoubted highlight of the season was witnessing all four teams secure medals in Siberian conditions on Hampstead Heath at the London Schools. For the tenth successive year, Westminster were the leading school overall; the Juniors finished third and the Inters, Seniors and Girls all won. As if that wasn't enough, Westminster claimed four

“competitors had to break through ice-encrusted water hazards!”

individual medals: Andreas Ioannou won the Seniors ahead of David Conceicao in third whilst Mary-Alice Davison finished second in the girls competition. With Nick Clanchy also ensuring automatic selection for the English Schools via 5th in the Inters, it represented Westminster's most successful ever return at this event.

The team returned with yet more silverware at the Radley Relays, where both the Inters and Seniors finished 2nd out of 17 schools before Inter-House rivalries were renewed at the Bringsty Relays. Wren's triumphed overall, helped in no small part by their girls' team who smashed the old course record by over 2 minutes, whilst Milne's Juniors and Busby's Seniors won their respective competitions. With Nick Clanchy finishing inside the top 10 at the South East Schools Championships and eight runners making the borough team for the London Mini Marathon, the season ended on a real high.

The exceptional performances this season have been the product of a lot of hard work and determination behind the scenes. This work ethic is visible on Station afternoons, at races and in the number of pupils who have added extra sessions into their busy schedules. Younger pupils have taken their lead from more established athletes and with the inaugural Alston training camp due in October 2013, the future looks very bright indeed. My thanks, as ever, go to Mr Walton, without whose help this season's successes wouldn't have happened. SDW



2012-13

ATHLETICS

■ The 2012 Athletic Sports Inter-House cup was retained by Wren's who held off the challenges of Milne's and Dryden's. In the age group competitions Wren's won both the Juniors and Inters with Dryden's emerging victorious in the Seniors and Hakluyt's in the Girls. The cheque to the registrar by the event organiser is apparently already in the post.

“all ten of the 1500m runners recorded new personal best times”

Although the cool, damp conditions were not conducive to record breaking, there were some near-misses: Joseph Schwarzmann (WW) just 0.7s off the Junior 800m best and Mylo Portas (MM) an agonising 0.6s off the Senior 400m being the best two examples. These two were awarded best performance medals for their age group, as were Marwin Kalo (WW) for winning the Inters long jump with a performance that would also have beaten all the Seniors (!) and Joanna Vymeris (WW) for flying to victory in the Girls 100m in 14.0s.



Despite the lack of any new records, there were some very encouraging performances. In the Juniors age group Edward Bentley (LL) powered round the 200m to win by 2s, and Hugo Ross (BB) and Olivier Dadic (WW) each won two events. In the Inters Nicholas Clanchy (MM) won a very competitive 1500m, Tom Hage (LL) won the high jump in 1.50m and Bonar McGuire (WW) won both the individual 400m and timed his surge to perfection along the home straight.

The Seniors and Girls age groups were no less exciting. Ben Cooke (DD) and Tristan Jones (WW) looked sharp in the sprints (Tristan also won the high and long jump competitions) and Sammy Skipper (DD) edged Su-Min Lee (MM) in an enthralling 1500m. Yinka Ogunbiyi (HH) impressed yet again in the Girls 200m and Nicola Mason (PP) won a very competitive Girls 800m.

A hardy core of Westminsterers took the opportunity to compete in the Rosenheim match at Battersea Park and benefited from the chance to test themselves at a higher level, with all ten of the 1500m runners recording new personal best times. Despite the best attempts by the British weather to thwart our twice-weekly trips south of the river, Mr Botton, Dr Williams and Mr Moore remained cheerful and resourceful throughout. Thank you, one and all!

SDW

2012-13

TRIATHLON

■ Well-known for being the hardest sport in the Olympic Games, Triathlon is the ultimate test for any athlete. Team Triathlon though, allows great specialisation in each event, and it was with great vigour that three teams attended the annual South London Swimming Club Team Triathlon at the Tooting Lido in September. The course comprised eleven lengths of the pool, two laps of the common by bicycle and two shortened laps on foot, or 1km swimming, 6.4km cycling, and 5km running.

A Westminster staff team, in one incarnation or another, has domi-



“Westminster staff team, in one incarnation or another, has dominated the event for the last few years”

nated the event for the last few years, and pupil teams rarely come close to challenging them. Unfortunately they were unable to hang onto their crown for another year, missing out by a cruel 22 seconds, competing in a field of 27 teams.

The teams were 'Westminster Wrens', the curiously named 'Team Dryden's', (there was only one Drydenite) and the even more curiously so 'Will Moss Must Die'.

All three acquitted themselves very well, with particular mention to Lerner, who was second fastest overall on the cycle leg, and Conceicao, fourth fastest on the run.

Mafi and Moss both deserve a special mention for even getting in the pool at all. The water temperature was 11 °C and neither of them was wearing a wetsuit! Water comes out of the cold tap at a comparatively warm 14 °C.

Thanks are due to Dr. Prentice and Mr. Riches, who organised our entries. Anyone interested in Triathlon should contact them.

Leo Lerner (WW)

TEAMS

Team Drydens: William Moss, Armand Brochard, David Conceicao (6th)

Westminster Wrens: Alex Mafi, Leo Lerner, Mary Alice Davison (12th)

Will Moss Must Die: Helena Khullar, William Frost, William Wood (19th)

Westminster Warriors: Helen Prentice, CD Riches, James Maggs (2nd)





Season 2013 HOCKEY 1ST XI

P:9 W:5 D:2 L:2

Westminster Hockey has again had a fantastic year and despite the loss of some 1st XI veterans the team stayed solid and performed well above expectations. With the initiation of Anthony, a hockey coach from out of school, and the visit of James Tindall, who has 64 England caps and 30 Team GB caps, the 1st XI were able to challenge very experienced opponents. Even though we did not have a perfect scorecard throughout the season, very few challengers claimed an advantage over the 1st XI this year.

After a slow start against Reigate, a 3-1 loss, we gained momentum from the classic grudge matches against the Common Room and the OWW towards the end of the Play Term with two strong victories against the staff and a win and a draw on an icy Battersea pitch against the old pupils. The next school team we faced was Eton (although we would have faced UCS if it wasn't for all the snow) who we let get past us once in a tense and defensive game held together by Jacob Dutt our

star sweeper, Alex Cranston our rigorous right back and Rohan Date our lethal left back, who each saved a shot on the line.

Following this slight upset we ventured our way to Alleyn's for a match which we drew after conceding in the very late stages in the game. Determined to win, the attack (led by our very able Vice Captain Joseph Andreyev) scored in the second half giving us the 1-0 advantage we were hoping for. However we did not keep the lead, for again at the last minute Alleyn's squeezed in an agonising goal.

After Alleyn's, two more opponents remained, St Dunstan's and St Benedict's. On the astro at St Dunstan's we claimed a comfortable 3-0 victory, two goals of which were scored by our new Suarez-like striker Patrick McNamara who was brilliantly assisted by wingers Shanil Hansjee and Tom Hildebrand, and midfielders Max Spicer and Matt Falkner. At St Benedict's we had the return of Will Barrott and Will Pannetier, who were both previously injured, and a 7-0 decisive victory; there were two goals from Will Pannetier, and goal of the season from Edwin Audland, scoring from a Caitlin Bailey-Williams-engineered short corner, which even our brilliant keeper Angus Mylne would have struggled to save.

This amazing victory marked the end of the season with a promising future for Westminster Hockey: the current Remove will face a stern challenge in the OWW match next year.

Lachlan Alexander (MM)

2013 JUNIOR HOCKEY

P:4 W:2 D:1 L:1

Despite the cold weather, junior hockey this season has been a great success.

Four Under 16 fixtures were played over the Play and Lent terms, and Westminster came out with two wins, one draw and one loss – especially impressive given the low numbers of people playing hockey compared to other schools.

The first match was against Reigate Grammar, and it finished as an exciting 3-3 draw in a closely-fought match after Westminster spent most of the game trailing. Our second game was against a strong UCS side, and although it was again very tight and Westminster created a lot of chances, UCS's one goal proved decisive, with the match finishing 1-0.

It only got better from there, and the U16 side went on to defeat Westminster's great rivals, Eton, 4-1 in a convincing and pleasing victory against one of the stronger hockey schools. This spurred us on to another 4-1 win against St Benedict's, again convincing, with a great hat-trick from Archie Hall.

I'm sure everyone has very much enjoyed Hockey Station, both training sessions and fixtures, this season and will be ready for another impressive season next year.

Tibo Rushbrooke (QSS)



2012-2013 CLIMBING

It has been an important year for rock climbing with the advent of the Sports Centre providing much speculation on the proposed wall. Would the wall be big enough? Could it provide enough routes to occupy us? Fortunately, the combination of an enormous budget and some fantastic route-setting meant that Mile End could be left behind, and a new home could be created in Greycourt Lane.

Lent Term brought national acclaim, as 12 climbers travelled to Bristol to participate in the country's most prestigious climbing event, the Independent Schools Climbing Competition. With considerable performances from all the climbers and through the cold of a former church, Westminster seized victory in both the Junior and Senior categories. Notable was Jed Thompson for achieving 3rd place in the Open Age Lead Climbing section. With this being the fifth consecutive win for Westminster, the onus is on the lower years to continue the streak, though their enthusiasm means that I have no doubt that the Station will shine on.

Indubitably, the highlight of the year was House Climbing: tricky routes were set; the chalk re-stocked; and the beats were pumping. With the atmosphere perfect, inter-House rivalry ensued with Yumeya Yamamori clinching gold as kuro-uma of the competition. Yet, in the grand scheme of things, it is team performances that count, leaving Rigaud's the proud winners of the exalted Tocknell Cup followed closely by Ashburnham.

Eventually, the time comes for the mantle of Master of Stone to be passed on to another worthy recipient, as is the way of things. It has been a pleasure and an honour this year to climb with all the talented individuals in the school. Nevertheless, with the glint of steel and unbridled zeal in the eyes of the Sixth Form, there is no doubt that this Station will carry on upwards, leading Westminster climbers to loftier heights yet.

Yoel Sevi, Captain

2012-2013 GOLF



What our golfers lacked in competitive success this season was more than made up for with panache, flair, and Ryder Cup-level banter. Station once again took place up Central London Golf Centre: the finest golf course in Tooting Bec by a country mile. It would, admittedly, be an exaggeration to claim that

head professional Gary Clements had success in curing all of our swing ailments, ranging from the dreaded squinting shank to this author's angry snap-hook; but he definitely gave it a jolly good try.

In the HMC Knockout competition, we were drawn against Cranleigh School. Despite the puzzling lack of any pink on the team uniforms whatsoever, we put up a gallant effort, only narrowly losing all of our matches to the opposition's finely tuned golfing robots. A good time was had by all at sunny West Sussex Golf Club when the crack team of Francesca Ho, Kit Winder, Rory Forsyth and Sam Winters launched their assault on the National Schools Invitation. Whilst neither the wise counsel of match manager CJRU nor the treasure trove of tips provided by partner Sam Winters could coax captain Rory Forsyth into draining a single putt of consequence, the complementary lunch was very pleasant. Westminster beat one team, probably Eton, in finishing 15th out of 16 in the team competition. Considering our urban location and relative moral integrity (Wellington actually import scratch players from overseas), it was a pretty decent result.

Our final match of the year took place at Royal Mid-Surrey Golf Club (which is definitely in either Middlesex or Surrey), where the Old Westminsters hosted us in March. In addition to being absolutely fantastic company throughout the round, the OWs very kindly paid for everything from green fees to bar fees. They even had the generosity to allow Angus Mylne and honorary Remove CJRU to record the school's solitary point of the year, closing out a tight match on the 18th green. Luckily, the two remaining pairs had the wisdom to continue this theme of reciprocal concession: showing flashes of raw talent in politely losing both remaining matches to their hosts.

We must thank SCH and JCW for running the Station with such humour and skill, as well as our enthusiastic Match Manager CJRU. Don't be put off by the trousers and any rubbish about snobbery: nothing could be further from the truth. Golf is a great sport and we'd love more people in the Station: whatever their age, ability, gender or sartorial taste. Besides, there's no dress code.

Rory Forsyth (GG)



2012–2013

SAILING AND KAYAKING

■ Sailing and kayaking Station has reached new levels of popularity this year as people hear tales of exploration, ship-wrecks, barge-dodging, top banter and, of course, great friendships. Every Tuesday a small group of Westminsters make their way to Westminster Boating Base, opposite Battersea Power Station, to take part in something that only a very small number of people in the world are able to do – water sports in the middle of London. The space that the river provides is a breath of fresh air, and there have been a rewarding mixture of challenges this year – battling up to the Houses of Parliament against wind and tide, exploring Chelsea Creek, tacking and jibing on gusty days, raising spinnakers on calmer ones, suddenly capsizing.... On a Tuesday morning you never know what will happen in the afternoon but it's always great fun, even on days when it's been icy cold.

We are privileged to work with excellent instructors and learn new skills each week. Each thing we do requires something different: canoeing is about team work; power boating is about developing awareness of your environment; and kayaking is about being persistent in windy weather – it helps you keep calm and relaxed during what can be busy and stressful weeks at school. The station is a time to relax, talk about a whole manner



“the space that the river provides is a breath of fresh air”

of things, develop new skills and get away from hectic life. A big thank you to Mr Hooper for what has been such an enjoyable and memorable year.

Will Barrie (GG) and Rachel Zou (PP)



Martial Arts Competition

RETURN TO THE INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

It has been at least six or seven years since Westminster has sent anyone to this prestigious inter-school judo tournament as we have never really felt like we have a strong, able squad, divulges Cameron Durdy (RR).

■ That was the case until March when, after a long time away, we decided to send a small squad (6 of 20 pupils who do judo station) to the tournament to test the waters.

There was much to worry us about the tournament, most notably weight categories, with almost everyone trying to lose or gain weight to secure a maximum advantage. After much worrying (it reached the extent that I had little dinner and breakfast just before the weigh-in to avoid being the lightest in the heavier category and a team-mate drank several litres of water just to qualify at all) we had a squad of two juniors (Hamzah Zaidi, Ben Dayan) three intermediates (Alex Bridge, George Kuhn and myself) and the might of Kazimir Butrimas to compete for us in the seniors.

Once everyone had weighed in successfully (our sacrifices were not in vain) the tournament began. The juniors were on first and Hamzah secured a well-fought bronze medal, having survived several tough encounters with well-trained, seasoned ninjas. Ben, who has been doing the sport for just a term and a bit secured an impressive win in one of his three fights before just losing to a more experienced opponent.

There was yet more success for the school in the intermediate age band with a silver medal for Alex, despite the weight disparity between him and many of his opponents. After a shaky start in an early round and a severe talking to from Sensei

Larry, who incidentally had a bet over a fight with Chuck Norris (the loser had to take the starring role in some appalling action films) in the late 1970s (it is said that Chuck grew his beard to hide his face from the shame), Alex pulled himself together, carrying off an impressive forward throw in his second fight. George fought well, winning an impressive *tai-otoshi* which for me was throw of the day, along with many promising fights but, due to the sheer numbers of the weight category he was in, did not win a medal.

I was blessed with a smaller weight category of 10–12 fighters and won my first fight in a surprisingly short encounter, which gave me time to recover. Alas, I was beaten by the *judoka* who went on to win that weight category. His victory in the final came as a considerable blessing to me as it gave me a chance to fight in the *repechage*, a bout in which the two fighters defeated by the gold medallist fight for the second bronze. I was suffering at this late stage but pulled a late throw out of the bag to secure the second bronze for the school.

Unfortunately it was not all good news. After a gruelling fight that lasted the full three minutes Kaz was narrowly defeated in the senior contest. He won his second fight after his opponent did not show up but had to drop out due to extreme dizziness and headache. He has now recovered and is itching to fight again.

All-in-all the trip was a valuable one for the experience of fighting in a tournament. That was the most important part of the episode and to have some real, tangible success in medal form is a nice bonus too. Larry and Mr Crow have now been talking about entering more tournaments and sending more of the new squad, which will grow into a force to be reckoned with.



2012–2013

MARTIAL ARTS

■ Westminster Judo has prospered this year, due in part to the move to the Sports Centre, and of course to the continuing guidance and encouragement of coach, Larry Stevenson. Having our own *dojo* to call home – complete with its own crash mat used in the Olympics – has allowed us to host some excellent training sessions with Harrow and St Paul's. 2013 also saw a satisfying return to the HMC Independent School's Judo Tournament at High Wycombe, with a clutch of medals: Silver for Alex Bridge, Bronze for Hamzah Zaidi and Cameron Durdy (see full report that follows). With new blood in the form of enthusiastic and able Fifth Formers, alongside an old guard steadily refining its skills, the future is looking promising. Here's a *hajime!* to the Station's glorious new era! SNC



2012–2013

REAL TENNIS

■ It has been exciting to complete the first full year of Real Tennis, now back as a Station option, playing at Queen's Club. Real Tennis is the original racket sport. It uses hard balls (like cricket balls), bent wooden rackets reinforced with metal and a net. The court also contains windows, corners, roofs and of course a bell.

We began by trying to get to grips with the bizarre rules that govern play. Although it is like tennis in many ways there are certain key differences which make the game initially difficult to understand yet all the more enthralling once these things start to click. All the pupils taking part have learned to play to a very good standard and are improving all the time. Luke Hone's skill and excellent judgement is matched only by Hamzah Ahmed's wild shot-making (which is also a little terrifying). John Morse and Piers Dubin play to a similarly high standard but in very different ways: one with wily use of spin and the other with forceful driving shots. Joe Ogilvy and Alec Sinha have also learned to play with great skill while Thomas Holdaway has been most impressive in learning to play to a very good standard in a short space of time and against pupils two years his senior. Perhaps their skill on court was best displayed when the Remove pupils went to play in the National Schools' Doubles Championships at Queen's Club in February. Although often playing against schools who have their own courts the Westminster students acquitted themselves well and managed victories against pairs from Clifton and the Oratory School. It was great to see the pupils play so well and I look forward to seeing more of this in the future. Congratulations to all the students that have taken part this year! JGW



2012–2013 TRACK CYCLING

■ We took a team of three Under 16's to the Dulwich Schools Track championships in May 2012. With an excellent large entry there was some high class racing. The Westminster team were outstanding, winning the team pursuit and Sam Meijer winning the sprint and coming second in the scratch race. Leo Lerner won the Australian Pursuit, Alex Balgarnie came second in the



points race and 6th in the scratch race. The team won the overall Under 16 trophy and Sam won the Golden Chairing for accumulating the greatest number of points. It was a grand day out! **CDR**

2012–2013 NETBALL

■ The girls have worked very hard this year and their determination and motivation have earned them one of the most successful Westminster netball seasons in recent years. Particular achievements to mention are our excellent performance in the Istock Place Netball Tournament in which we came second out of fourteen schools and in addition, our A team away-match victories against Latymer Upper and City of London Girls. Also important have been the convincing victories scored against South Hampstead and Highgate as well as some friendlies played with London Academy of Excellence in the new Sports Centre where Westminster/Academy pupils joined forces to form combined teams.

To reward the girls for their excellent overall performance, they enjoyed the slightly unorthodox treat of a one-off British Military Fitness Session in Hyde Park and savoured every minute of their decadent afternoon tea at the Criterion Restaurant in Piccadilly.

This term, the highlight was doubtless House Netball where Ashburnham retained the trophy for the second year running. The event, as ever, proved to be great fun to all those taking part and even prompted the girls to ask whether we could not have more mixed netball in the future. Something to consider perhaps? Whilst Emanuel, St Paul's and LEH remain schools to beat, I am hopeful that with the continued help of netball coach, Gordon Dudman, and Matt McEntegart, who is helping develop the girls' fitness, we will continue to build on our performance next season. Thanks very much to the captains Emily Harper and Antonia Skinner for their hard work and to Ms Megan Murray-Pepper for her support with coaching. **GVR**



2012–2013 YOGA

■ Yoga is a girls-only Station option, with a relatively small class size of around ten. Classes are an hour-long session of stretches, balances and core exercises, set to a soundtrack of soothing music and culminating in a ten minute meditation period at the end. The only station to offer head massages, yoga may not be as athletically regarded as some of the more punitive stations, but it is certainly more fun. The calming atmosphere and gentle pace create an opportunity for restoration and reflection, which – since all the yoginis are in Sixth Form and Remove – provides a much needed antidote to the stress of exams. No notable victories, since yoga is not a competition, and we are all winners. *Namaste. Aoife Fahy (DD)*

