

# THE ELIZABETHAN 2009

ISSUE 728







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**THE ELIZABETHAN**  
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## COMMEMORATION OF BENEFACTORS 2008

John Arthur, who revised the liturgy and prepares the ceremonial of the service, writes about this year's 'Big Commem'.

■ Every three years the School commemorates its benefactors in a great service in Westminster Abbey. In the intervening years, a smaller service is held attended just by College, known as 'Little Commem'. The service takes place on the Friday nearest to the anniversary of the succession of Queen Elizabeth I, who re-founded the School and Abbey as an Anglican college following the reign of her Roman Catholic half-sister Mary.

Elizabeth required the education of forty scholars but gave no money. That and the fact that the School did not own the buildings it used, meant that we have always been singularly dependent on the generosity of benefactors to survive, let alone develop. In the 19th century, the practice of having a Play to mark Elizabeth's foundation was extended to holding a service to include the commemoration of all benefactors.

The current form of service is based on a Latin service used in the latter part of the 19th century. Under the Act of Uniformity of 1549, the Royal Colleges were allowed to continue to use Latin 'for the further encouraging of learnynge in the tongues' when the rest of the country had to use the new English services; this privilege we continue to claim, which is why even today much of the service is in Latin. For the spoken Latin and the two ancient Latin hymns, we uphold the tradition of 'Westminster Latin', already an academic anomaly by 1661 when the diarist Evelyn remarks on the Westminster Scholars and their 'odd pronouncing of Latine, so that out of England no nation were able to understand or endure it'. However, it remains the pronunciation of many of

the Latin tags (*Anno Domini, qua, a priori* are just three examples) that have survived in common usage. The Anglicized vowel sounds make it difficult to sing, however, so the Choir and Scholars use ecclesiastical Latin for their contributions. The traditional culmination of any service of thanksgiving was a *Te Deum Laudamus* (We praise thee, O Lord) and so it is for Commem.

For as long as most of us can remember, a posy of pink roses has been borne into the Abbey and laid on Elizabeth's tomb. Since 1995, the Roses Procession has included a boy from the Under School, an Honorary Scholar, another junior Town Boy (the Westminster version of day boy), a senior girl (now the Head Girl), Praefectus, or Captain of the Queen's Scholars and the Rose Bearer, who is always the top Scholar of the first Election (or Fifth Form). The Roses are presented to the Bearer by the party of juniors and accompanied from the Great West Door to the Tomb by the rest of the Scholars, who chant suitable verses from the Psalms. At various points on their journey, prayers are said for benefactors throughout the ages. In the original Victorian service, the list was exhaustive; today we select key benefactors we might have heard of, like Dean Vincent. Living benefactors are not mentioned by name, though they are very much in private thought.

A drawback to the service is that the culmination of the ceremony, when Praefectus lays the posy on the Tomb, cannot be seen by most of the congregation, for the chapel that

holds the Tomb is small. Thanks to the Abbey's sound system, we can now relay the words, at least, spoken at the moment and hope that the atmosphere created by the chanting of the Scholars, the dimmed lights and the stillness will enable every one to recreate the scene in their mind's eye. That moment is greeted as the Choir bursts into the *Te Deum*.

In a School that has never gone in much for ceremony, Big Commem is a grand affair: it is the only time the Common Room appears in full academic dress, the Lord Mayor of Westminster and many distinguished guests, and of course benefactors and Old Westminsters as well as parents and current senior pupils are invited. Even by the standards of the Abbey, it is a large and complicated event that requires a fair bit of rehearsal. This is an opportunity to thank publicly all those who take part in the service, particularly the Scholars. For me, though, and I hope for many of them, the reward is not just participating in the ceremony, but the extraordinary experience of rehearsing in the stillness and half-light of the Abbey at night.

The next Big Commem will be in just two years, in 2010, on the occasion of the 450th anniversary of the Foundation of the Royal College of St Peter in Westminster. A new *Te Deum* has been commissioned and plans for that service as well as many other special events for the anniversary year are already underway. More than ever, the next Big Commem will be a reminder of the gratitude we owe to those who have gone before us and a call to meet the challenges of the future.

# MARY AND ELIZABETH: SISTERS IN HOPE OF THE RESURRECTION

The first of the pair of lectures celebrating the anniversary of Elizabeth I's accession on 17th November 1558 was held Up School, a fitting location adjacent to the Abbey where she had been crowned 450 years previously, write Alex Labrom (GG) and Sam Fishwick (DD).

■ It is easy to forget that this event was also a commemoration to mark the death of Elizabeth's predecessor, Mary I. However, as benefactor of Westminster School, it was the longer-serving, evangelical monarch that the majority of the crowd had come to revere. On acceding to the throne, Elizabeth took over a country inclined towards Catholicism. However, by her death in 1603 she had extinguished the Catholic threats to her sovereignty and created a firmly Protestant nation. Religious stability (along with the foundation of this successful school, of course) was arguably the greatest achievement of her reign.

The two guest speakers for the first event were Sir Roy Strong, an expert on the portrayal of Elizabeth's image, and Lady Antonia Fraser, biographer of a number of figures throughout history. Sir Roy tackled the issues of gender politics in Tudor England and investigated the reasons why these two sisters were buried together, as they were, in the north aisle of Henry VII's Chapel in Westminster Abbey. He argued that the great embellishment of their tomb was to represent the return of religious

images to churches  
after their  
removal  
during  
the

Reformation. Also, despite giving a generally positive review of Elizabeth, he claimed that there was still a state of elation at the succession in 1603. Fraser continued the examination of gender politics and put forward the obvious comparison between Elizabeth and Mary, a competition that was bound to take place at such an event. However, at times the arguments of both historians about Elizabeth verged on the critical. Addressing a crowd of those appreciative to our benefactor meant that these opinions did not always find favour!

Overall, despite occasional inaccuracies which the more informed members of our group, i.e. teachers, found hilarious, this lecture was a pleasing start to the series. It touched upon areas that some of our group, particularly art historians, found fascinating and others previously had very little knowledge. Therefore, following this lecture, we had further ammunition and evidence with which to tackle the issue of how Mary and Elizabeth overcame the initial difficulty of gender when attempting to secure their posi-

tion. It carried particular merit in its efforts to break down the borders that separate past and present; presenting a far more personal portrayal of the siblings than is commonly proffered. The historians themselves, Professor David Loades, Doctor Jessica Martins and Professor Patrick Collinson, made considerable effort to re-engineer the understanding of those present. Martins' contextual justification of the Marian burnings as a "necessary surgery rather than a butchery", removing the infected Protestant from the Catholic body of England, was but one interesting footnote accompanying the wealth of information covered over the course of the evening. One or two glazed looks and lolling heads were inevitable amongst a youthful student body at the end of a school day, but given the multitude of questions posed by an audience of pupils and adults alike it was evident the majority were thoroughly engaged. The lecturers were entertaining whilst never allowing character to overshadow content, with, no repeat, sadly, of Sir Roy Strong's theatrical appearance sport-

"The great embellishment of their tomb was to represent the return of religious images to churches after their removal during the Reformation."

tions as monarch. However, the main outcome to be drawn from the event was the opportunity to attend a lecture given by two reputable historians on the subjects which they had spent their life researching and which they felt most passionate about.

The second lecture explored the very human natures of Mary and Elizabeth Tudor, and the relationship between the two sisters, and

ing gelled-back hair and enough rings to make Saturn blush.

Ultimately the lectures proved a great success, presenting their audience with a far greater understanding of two of history's more fascinating individuals. If the past is indeed a foreign country, "Sisters in Hope of the Resurrection" staged a successful effort to bring its content home in the 21st Century.

## 'WE ARE MOST HUMAN WHEN WE ARE MOST IN TOUCH WITH GOD'

### John Locke and the Archbishop of Canterbury

In May 2008 the school welcomed the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, who addressed the upper school as the guest of the John Locke society. The full text of his talk and the subsequent questions from pupils can be found at <http://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/1785>





## AN OLD FRIEND IN NEED

Teehan Page asks if the secular view of life has won in education and society.

■ Until the last century for anyone to have considered a public school in any other context than as a religious community, would have been as odd as if, today, one were to doubt the existence of radio waves. 'Religious foundation' was a predicate of 'school'. Somehow though, I don't think that the great founders of religious schools of the past, St Augustine, Henry VIII or Nathaniel Woodard for example, would find much that they recognised the modern versions of religious foundations.

Nowadays the idea of institutionalised religion in schools broadly speaking comes in two forms and tends to evoke one of two reactions. 'Faith schools' are a modern phenomenon, the product of a multicultural society and they tend to create a certain sense of unease in anyone who is not of that particular faith persuasion. 'Religious foundation' on the other hand produces a feeling of safety and comfort. A school with such a 'religious foundation' is a decent part of our heritage, traditional, safe and certainly not too fervent in expressing any demanding beliefs about the deity. It is a paradox that religion in such schools is accepted and indeed used as a marketing tool as long as no one really takes it too seriously.

The God of classical theism turns the world upside down. The God in modern Anglican schools is a God for whom, it seems being nice to one another and avoiding fuss is all that matters. The problem is that apart from the history and tradition it is hard to say how a modern religious foundation differs from a secular one. The ethics of the sacred and the secular seem identical. Remove the two hymns we sing (or actually don't sing) every week and the nice inclusive prayers we hear and then take away the charming but somewhat barmy Latin prayers and what have we that in any way distinguishes us from a brazenly secular institution, other than the pomp? This is certainly not a problem that is unique to us here at Westminster School. The Legislature, the judiciary, the military, much of society has a religious element woven into it. Our society grew up with religion at its core and now we are not sure what to do about it.



"The God of classical theism turns the world upside down. The God in modern Anglican schools is a God for whom, it seems being nice to one another and avoiding fuss is all that matters."

We accept its presence tacitly but when we examine its implications the findings are a bit awkward. We can't say, 'we're sorry but nowadays we don't believe in the invisible sky god any more than we believe the world is flat or the sun goes round the earth so let's remove all references to it'. Neither can we say, 'we proclaim the truth that immortal God, creator of all the universe, became a man 2000 years ago and died sacrificially, to release us from a debt of sin that would have otherwise resulted in our destruction and eternal punishment'.

Institutional religion renders us speechless.

State or formal religion as we have it belongs to the same category as the Changing of the Guards or the State Opening of Parliament or the Lord Mayor's Parade. It seems to have little to say about life after death, judgement, heaven and hell or any metaphysical matters. We would be embarrassed if it did, but the uncomfortable truth remains that it was for these promises of eternal life

that the martyrs gave up their lives and not for a bland message of social inclusivity that could be found on the lips of any modern-day atheist politician. Once religion and society agree, religion seems to become irrelevant.

In 1882, Nietzsche famously announced in 'The Gay Science' that God was dead. When the madman in the market place saw the astounded faces of his audience he stopped his rant and realised that he has spoken too soon: he knew that the world was not ready for his message.

*'God is dead: but as the human race is constituted, there will perhaps be caves for millennia yet, in which people will show his shadow. And we – we have still to overcome his shadow!'*

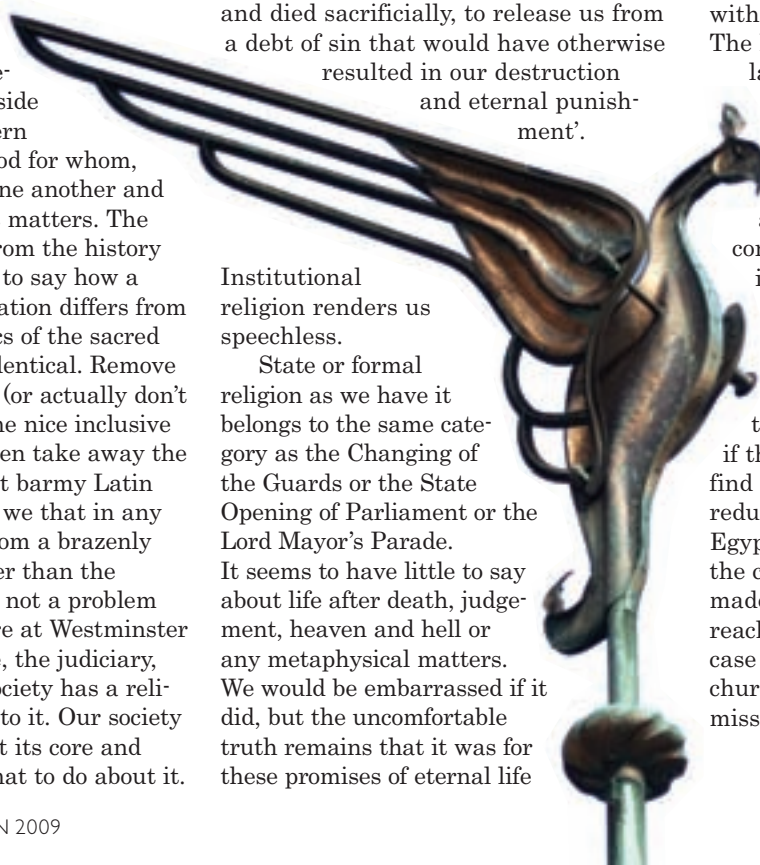
It would seem that 126 years later that is still the case, but I can't help

but feel the clock is running down on religion. Has the secular view of life won? Should we get on with our worlds without God?


There is of course of course another possibility and personally I would like this to be the case as the nihilistic world of Nietzsche is not a comfortable place to be, and that is that religion does have much to offer us in the world and possibly beyond it. But the truth is that only religions that seem to begin and end with metaphysical claims are growing. The liberal western tradition of the

last 500 years has, with the best of intentions, undermined its own foundations and is declining with ever-increasing rapidity. The very liberality that made it appeal as a broad church has now contributed to make it irrelevant; it exists at best as a social vehicle and all its social good is, in a modern society well provided by other agencies.

So as Pope John XXIII said at the Second Vatican council in 1962, if the church is to survive it must re-find its founding charisma or become as redundant as the religions of Ancient Egypt or Greece. Even thirty years ago the case against the church had to be made; now a tipping point has been reached and the church must make its case to the world. I hope it can do so: the church is an old friend whom I would miss, terribly.







## ‘AND ALL THE PEOPLE WENT TO BE TAXED...’ THE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

The Chaplain, the Reverend Gavin Williams, gave this address to the school in the final Abbey of the Play term, 2008.

■ At about 3pm on Sunday 30 November, a man called David Sycamore was shot dead by police on the steps of Guildford Cathedral. The police had been called after David said to a member of the public, ‘I have got a gun and I am going to kill people’.

An eye witness said, ‘The police turned up in two vehicles. I think the man put his hand in his pocket and pulled out something that looked like a gun, and they shot him. The bullets passed through the cathedral crèche and the area where the cathedral guides normally sit.’

After the shooting, David Sycamore’s family issued a statement, part of which read: ‘In his short life David has suffered with manic depression which we believe he coped with... David found solace in the grounds of the Cathedral and said it brought him inner peace and closer to God. Unfortunately, that day, he did not find inner peace. His intentions were never to harm anybody. He would never do this...’

Contrast that statement with what Victor Stock, the Dean of Guildford Cathedral, said about the attitude of the police. He complained that they had shown little understanding of what a cathedral was – a sacred space, hallowed ground – or the idea of sanctuary. After the shooting they closed the cathedral without asking him first, they did not allow him to go near David’s body to pray over it, and they planned to leave his body unattended all through Sunday night. He said that for the police, the shooting might as well have happened outside a big Tesco.

The ‘mad man’ sees the cathedral for what it is, the police apparently do not. Similarly, clearing up after the Carol service on Monday night, I was interested that so many parents had left behind their Evening Standard newspapers. How easy it is to mistake the Abbey for a carriage on a Tube train.

Perhaps it is time to ask, as commentators like Polly Toynbee often do, about the extent to which this is still a Christian country. The last time our government tried to find out, was with a Census taken in 2001. 15% of respondents in England and Wales ticked the ‘no religion’ box. No surprise there. But what is surprising is that 72% ticked the ‘Christian’ box. Of these, I expect the majority do not go to church regularly, and would say that their religious beliefs were ‘a bit of a muddle’. And yet millions of people will go to some sort of Christian service this Christmas.

Why is Christmas such a big draw? Many people enjoy singing carols. They like watching their children in nativity plays and they like the Christmas story; especially when the story is allowed to speak for itself. Since the Word has been made flesh, there is every reason to keep words to

mythology – literally interpreted and therefore irrational – and rational science, and many chose rational science. Truth became limited in meaning to what was demonstrable. So the world in which we live came to be demythologised. This process is still going on.

Last week I read that the Oxford Junior Dictionary is getting rid of the words bishop, altar, vicar, abbey, aisle and monk. They are being replaced with words like blog, broadband and celebrity.

And yet, although reason has transformed our lives, many people feel that there is something missing. In an age of reason, we still want myth. We still long for stories that help us to make sense of our story. The Christmas story read to us by Jeremy and Vyvyan should turn our ideas about God upside down.

Is God found in an Abbey church? No. Is God born to wealthy parents? No. God is born of parents who are shunted around by an oppressive foreign government, among people who are treated as rubbish. Is the birth announced to rich people, to educated people? No. It is the shepherds who were the first Christian worshippers. Kneeling in the mud, in a stable, they

“Although reason has transformed our lives, many people feel that there is something missing. In an age of reason, we still want myth.”

a minimum. Which leads us to a deeper reason for the popularity of the Christmas story. We are the inheritors of John Locke’s legacy. Two hundred years ago, he and others forced people to choose between

got down to God’s level; and so can we. The Christmas story is spiritually challenging, and, if we will become part of the story, transforming. Happy Christmas everybody!



## SALVETE



### KEVIN AU

■ Kevin Au read Maths at Pembroke College, Oxford, specialising in topology and set theory in this final year. After graduating he worked for a while in publishing, then in musical theatre, before accepting a post at Westminster. Previously he has taught English as a foreign language to children in the Far East. He enjoys playing piano and watching television.



### SANDER BERG

■ Sander has two MAs from the University of Amsterdam: one in French, another in General Linguistics. He did part of his teacher's training in Suffolk, lived in Cambridge for a while, then travelled and taught French in Haarlem, Holland. He has published translations of Chrétien de Troyes' *Lancelot* and the *Death of King Arthur*.

During a sabbatical he travelled some more and worked as a waiter in Andalucía. He returned to Holland, was Head of French for two years and moved to England where he taught French and Spanish at Rugby and Merchant Taylors'. While at the last school he decided to formalise his Spanish and started a degree in Spanish & Portuguese which he hopes to continue at post-graduate level. He likes books, films and music.



### GARETH BROCKLESBY

■ Gareth Brocklesby was educated at St. Thomas a Becket RC Comprehensive High School and Pontefract NEW College in West Yorkshire before taking a Bachelors Degree in Mathematics at Keble College, Oxford. He graduated in 2003, working for a year as a credit analyst with O2. After gaining a PGCE from the University of Bristol

in 2005, he spent the first three years of his teaching career at QEH Bristol. During his time there, Gareth was involved in the school's Duke of Edinburgh and Ten Tors programmes, whilst also coaching rugby and cricket. He enjoys a little light cycling every so often and tries to catch live music when he can.



### JOAN CROSSLEY

■ Joan Crossley joined the school as Assistant Chaplain at the beginning of the academic year. Joan taught Art History at Manchester and Leicester Universities before being ordained in 2000. Her publications include a book on images of the Army in Victorian art, an exhibition catalogue on images of children in English painting, and articles on a diverse range of

subjects including Baroque Court art, the Victoria Cross and the architecture of hospital chapels. After ordination Joan served in St Albans Diocese and had a parish in Bedford before coming to Westminster. Joan has two grown-up children and is married to an art historian. Her hobbies are expensive: theatre, opera and travel.



### SIMON CROW

■ Simon Crow is interested in the power of images: a universal language that provides the opportunity to explore ideas through creative expression. Having enjoyed nine years at the Royal Grammar School in Newcastle he was delighted to return to London as the Head of Art at Merchant Taylors' School. Those six years passed quickly and the

magnetic attraction of Westminster was enough to lure him from one great department to another. His ambition has always been to encourage independent endeavour through the making of Art – he believes that the creative, expressive and aesthetic experience allows the intellect and instinct to unite.



### ELISABETH DESSOUROUX

■ Elisabeth was born and bred in Paris (France, not Texas). She studied languages at the Sorbonne and trained as a teacher. She then came to London to perfect her English, married an English man and stayed. She has taught French at Hill House School and in Colombo, Sri-Lanka. She has also travelled to many places in India and the Himalayan kingdoms

and retains strong ties with that part of the world. She has now joined the team part-time in the School Library, and enjoys coming to work through the arch into Little Dean's yard with the view of St Stephens Tower in the background, as well as dodging the footballs the pupils kick around Yard.



### TOM EDLIN

■ Tom Edlin (OW) has returned to Westminster after ten years to teach History, and is slowly coming to terms with the fact that fourteen of his former teachers are now his colleagues. In the intervening years he read History at Merton College, Oxford, worked for the *Dictionary of National Biography*, did some research in late

medieval British History, completed a PGCE and taught in north London. Out of term time he is generally to be found in mid Wales, pursuing the 'balanced life'.



### TIM JOHNSON

■ Tim Johnson read music at Cambridge where he was Organ Scholar at Robinson College. After university he spent a year in the Czech Republic presenting a weekly music programme on Czech Radio. In 1995, he was appointed Assistant Director of Music at Wellington School, Somerset, before going on to take up the position



of Director of Music at Eltham College in 2000. His work with the choirs at Eltham included several professional engagements with the London Symphony Orchestra, London Mozart Players and City of London Sinfonia as well as CD recordings on the Herald and LSO Live labels. He is married and lives in Greenwich, just a stone's throw away from Charlton Athletic Football club, where he has spent many painful Saturday afternoons in the last year.



#### **RICHARD KOWENICKI**

■ Originally from Guernsey, Richard Kowenicki escaped that island paradise to read Natural Sciences at Cambridge and, after a short spell as an environmental consultant elsewhere, returned to complete a PhD in Inorganic Chemistry. After post-Doctoral study in California and a less-than-brief holiday in Australia and South East Asia, he returned to

England to take up a position at Tonbridge School, where he taught for two years before being appointed Head of Chemistry at Westminster.



#### **CLARE LEECH**

■ Clare Leech joined the Modern Languages' Department following two years at Sedbergh School, Cumbria. Having read Modern and Medieval Languages at Downing College, Cambridge, Clare returned to her roots in the North-West to complete a PGCE and subsequently teach at Sedbergh. Having enjoyed the bliss of the countryside, the bright lights of

the city attracted Clare back to the South. Outside of school she enjoys spending time on the badminton and tennis courts and enjoying the pleasures of the city.



#### **PETER SHARP**

■ While studying Natural Sciences in Cambridge, Peter Sharp became fascinated by what has become a persistent interest – Geophysics. His undergraduate work on long-term climate change lead him to study an MA in Environmental Technology at Imperial and hence to work for a charity aiming to forge links between Parliament and scientists, hoping to

improve understanding on environmental issues. After several years he made the move to teaching, completing a PGCE at the Institute of Education, and working at Highgate before moving to Westminster. In his spare time he is a keen hill walker, cyclist and a rather amateurish astronomer.



#### **EMILY WETHERED**

■ After finishing her degree in Theology at Oxford, Emily Wethered completed a year's dance diploma before going on to teach Religious Studies at James Allen's Girls' School in South London. She then worked for a charitable think-tank in educational and social research, before coming to Westminster to join the Theology and

Philosophy department. She's a keen skier, dancer and secretly an aspiring writer of children's fiction.



#### **HUW WILLIAMS**

■ Huw Williams studied Anatomy and Developmental Biology at UCL and then took the seemingly obligatory gap year to hone his surfing skills in warmer climes. He was awarded the Beddington Medal for his PhD on signalling in embryonic development carried out in the Wellcome Trust Gurdon Institute and Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge. Following

his PhD he carried out research on the genetics of development at the Sanger Institute as a post-doctoral Research Associate and held a Research Fellowship at St Edmund's College, Cambridge. He is a fluent Welsh speaker and a keen birdwatcher.



#### **ALEX WOOD**

■ Alex Wood read Physics at Imperial College for 4 years, where he followed particular interests in laser and plasma science, and spent most of his final year staring at tiny flashes of light illuminating gases of atomic clusters. He then completed a PGCE at the Institute of Education before starting his teaching career at Westminster. He enjoys developing

new skills and has already had opportunity to try both Eton Fives and rock climbing. As a Christian in the world of science, he finds discussion and reading on the compatibility of the two realms engaging, and he is easily led into debate on the topic.

## **VALVETE**



#### **FRANCES RAMSEY**

■ Dr Frances Ramsey is leaving to take up the position of Principal of Queens' College, 43–49 Harley Street, London. A full appreciation of her time at Westminster as Master of the Queen's Scholars, as teacher and colleague will appear in the next edition of *The Elizabethan*.

#### **TONY MORRIS**

■ Westminster was Tony Morris's first teaching job and he was here as Mathematics teacher and House Master for fourteen years. He had an unusual background for a Westminster master: most of the staff has transferred pretty directly from school to University and back to school, but Tony joined the Navy as a young recruit, serving in the Falklands, and it was not until he was injured and had to spend a long period in hospital that he took A-levels, a degree and ultimately a PhD in Mathematics. He came to us from the University of Birmingham as our best-qualified mathematician and soon revealed that he was also a gifted teacher, not just of those pupils who might appreciate the high level of his mathemati-



## VALVETE CONTINUED



cal knowledge, but also of those more reluctant scholars, many of whom were firmly encouraged by Tony to take their studies more seriously. He was very generous with his time outside class, always happy to stop what he was doing and go over an idea or a prep, and determined that these students should succeed: it was not

always clear whether pupil or teacher was the more delighted when startlingly silken purses were revealed on results day.

It was no great surprise when Tony was soon asked to take over the running of Liddell's, and one could not have asked for a more devoted House Master. Tony was very protective of his pupils and always had their best interests at heart, even when he was most forcefully trying to persuade one to turn from the primrose path to the thornier way that leads to academic success, but especially when a boy or girl in his charge was in trouble and needed support, advice, or just somewhere to hide from TJ-P until the storm blew over. He believed in them unequivocally and, as with his teaching, was always most delighted when he was able to see some improvement in a recalcitrant youth, though he was of course also justifiably proud of the many remarkable achievements of Liddellites during his time in the House. He maintained Liddell's as a very orderly house, but did so by cheerful and good-humoured nudging rather than by rigid rules: above all he understood and sympathised with the inevitable shortcomings inherent in the adolescent condition.

Outside the classroom, Tony was one of a small group of teachers who have introduced hockey to the school in recent years: his enthusiastic coaching, and playing, of the game helped greatly in building up a group of keen and loyal players – and Tony was particularly pleased that these were not all obviously sporty students, but often pupils who were surprised to find that they could enjoy an energetic station and build their skills with his help.

Those who have worked alongside Tony appreciate and enjoy his irreverent humour. By nature a non-conformist, he was always willing to speak up in the Housemasters' Committee and point out if someone was taking themselves too seriously: his sharp intellect is capable of spotting when logical argument topples over into personal prejudice, but when highlighting inconsistencies he does so in a fashion that is both painless and funny.

Tony is a very scholarly man, who is deeply read in literature, theology and philosophy, amongst other areas, who delighted in discussions, the more vigorous the better, of controversial social, political or moral issues. Perhaps his greatest love is of music generally, opera especially, and Wagner in particular, a composer for whom Tony is an irrepressible and knowledgeable proselytiser.

Sadly, in his last two years at Westminster, Tony found himself suffering from bipolar disorder and the doctors treating him have not yet been able to ameliorate the effects of this: Tony has been very brave in struggling to cope with his illness and we all very much hope that he will soon be able to get himself back on an even keel. Our most heartfelt best wishes go to him, and to his family: they must feel even more keenly than we do the temporary absence of the robust

and lively individual who contributed so much to Westminster's unique atmosphere in the recent past.

Michael Davies



## TRACY MORRIS

■ It is rumoured that back in 1998 the then Head of English head-hunted potential members of the English Department in the taverns of Covent Garden. This is only partly true, as Tracy's first social introduction to the school was via a talented barmaid and former fellow UCL student who

went on to work in the Palace of

Westminster for The Times. Tracy had earlier crossed the road to Westminster School where she eventually rose to the dizzy heights of Head of English, a post that involved, amongst other tasks, keeping an eye on the three previous Heads of Department including the man she was eventually to marry, Gavin Griffiths OW.

Tracy's studies at UCL gave her an abiding interest in Gothic literature. Her Westminster students adapted themselves quickly to sharing lessons with such figures as Count Dracula, Frankenstein's monster, a certain 'Woman in White', Lady Audley and indeed her 'secret'. Tracy's teaching was sensitive and confident, guiding her pupils' responses with good humour and tremendous attention to detail. Tracy has also brought her experience as a nurse (no, her fellow members of the Department never gave her the nickname of 'Nurse Ratchett') and her work for The King's Fund – an independent NHS think-tank – to her administrative roles at Westminster, first as Assistant Director of Studies for seven years and then as Head of English for three. Unafraid of paperwork and a determined committee woman, Tracy got used to our ways very quickly, though given some of her earlier experiences here she must have thought us quite an odd lot at first. Before even arriving at the school she witnessed the famous Peter Ackroyd evening in which the guest speaker effectively kidnapped most of the Upper School. She was quickly recruited into the Expeditions programme and found herself doing a rigorous SAS course with Jenny Lambert; on her next trip she volunteered for a horse-riding adventure, only to find that one boy proved allergic to horses and subsequently caused a stampede. In these initiations she also got snowed in up at Alston with an Under Master, shared a cookery LSA with a Head Master and directed a production of Gluck's Orfeo without a supply of singers. Despite all this, she decided to stay.

Tracy has always been prepared to involve herself in the more hidden yet vital pastoral business of school life. A generation of Westminsters will associate her with Grant's, where she was able to give her House Master husband Gavin plenty of background support, teaching him such unusual skills as how to crack a boiled egg and how to log on to a computer. Along with the matron, Sue Balding, Tracy helped to keep the show (literally, for Grant's was a very thespian house at the turn of the century) on the road, skimming many a fiery pizza towards a grateful boarder and ensuring that her female tutees in particular could settle in on arrival at the school.

Her daughter Josephine was born in 2003 and became the delight of Yard as well as our first departmental baby. She is perhaps a little young as yet to succeed to the Head of Departmentship like her mother, but she has already shown a capacity to network and manage ancient, recalcitrant male company, so who knows!

Tracy leaves English teaching at Westminster with an important legacy in the switch from GCSE to IGCSE and from A Level to Pre-U in the Upper School. Both these reforms allow more literary scope for Westminsters and give the subject more independence from examination shibboleths. She is also responsible for introducing the highly popular 'reading weeks' in which whole year groups are required to power their way through a challenging novel. The introduction of a well-stocked fruit bowl in the Common Room is also as a result of Tracy's initiative.

It came as a terrible shock to the Westminster community when Tracy was diagnosed with a particularly virulent form of oesophageal cancer last year. She continued to run the department and teach until October whilst undergoing chemotherapy, only withdrawing to undergo major surgery in October. She made a good recovery from a cancer that only allows 2% of its sufferers to survive and it was something of a miracle when a slimmer Tracy returned to us earlier this year and gradually resumed her teaching commitments. We all salute her bravery during this difficult time.

During her recovery Tracy secured a post as Director of Studies at Stamford School in Lincolnshire where she will be much closer to her home and wider family in Norfolk. We lose Tracy, but we get to keep Gavin. We wish her the very best of success in this challenging post and we will keep an eye on GG on her behalf.

Richard Pyatt

#### **TUDOR ARTER (left 2007)**

■ Called out of retirement on several occasions by reason of sabbaticals or maternity leave in the Common Room, Tudor Arter brought to Westminster in general, and the Modern Languages Department in particular, a distinctive scholarly flair, marked by patience, precision and passion for his discipline, qualities honed to perfection at Magdalen under Dr Alan Raitt. Tudor clearly enjoyed the rough and tumble of the place, relishing above all the spark and fizz of his pupils, who readily and warmly accepted and respected him not only for his boundless knowledge, but also for his capacity to inspire them to realize their full potential. Our warmest thanks are due to him as he resumes what we trust will be a long and fulfilling retirement.

Maurice Lynn



#### **ADAM PERKINS**

■ Many Mathematicians in recent years have come here via the 'Childcatcher' route: one is hanging around in a medieval square in Cambridge, realising that one is about to graduate and has nothing else to do, when one hears the sound of an ice-cream cart and the whisk of a net, and the next thing one knows

one is facing the Westminster Fifth Form on a wet Friday period 5. Adam had two attributes which helped him to recover from the shock more quickly than most: a loud voice and a dry sense of humour. He has been vigorous in pressing his pupils to do their best, but with a light touch, so that they felt encouraged rather than oppressed and many of them have reason to be grateful for his thorough, clear teaching and for the time he has given them after school.

Outside the classroom, Adam has run Fives – though Squash would be a better name for the station, as the major problem with which the Master in Charge has to battle is the logistics of fitting a hundred pupils into three courts. He

has also been very concerned with encouraging pupils who want to make a difference to the world outside Westminster, leading in the best way by his own example, both by raising the profile of a number of causes and by more direct involvement, including helping run last summer's PHAB course – though perhaps his recent adoption of an elderly, blind, diabetic dog is taking 'setting an example' rather too far.

Adam has been both a dedicated and a sociable colleague, and sometimes both simultaneously: after sustaining a breakfast time 'rugby injury' after a Cambridge alumni dinner, he managed to teach all day, and then embark on an Expedition that evening. It is a great shame that Adam has to leave after so short a time and we shall miss him, but Sharon is taking their rabbit to Belgium and Adam quite reasonably feels that he has to accompany it, even though 'lapin' and 'ragout' are the only two French words he knows. We wish all three of them well in Brussels and hope that Adam will return to teaching soon, perhaps even at Westminster.

Michael Davies



#### **SHAUN HULLIS**

■ Shaun Hullis joined the Classics Department as a locum tenens for Katharine Radice, whose son Hugo was born just at the right moment for her maternity leave to coincide with the academic year. Shaun came with formidable experience, not only in Classics but also military strategy and combat techniques honed

through the Winchester College CCF (he taught at Winchester for some years) and the previous campaigning during his time as Head of Classics at Abingdon School. As all Latinists know, War and Love are related – two sides joined by a coin. Just before starting with us, Shaun married Gabrielle, a fellow classicist and teacher, and it is good to feel that his year at Westminster was marked by new personal happiness as well as professional fulfillment. His work with us has indeed been characterized by great professionalism – painstaking preparation for the classroom battlefield, firm control of material and personnel, high standards demanded in behaviour as well as scholarship, and a pleasant, if ironic, sense of humour which chimed as well in departmental meetings as in Sixth Form lessons on Roman satire. We wish him well in his future careers – a dedicated teacher, an increasingly expert military historian who is already much in public demand for his painstaking and meticulous research in personal and regimental matters, and above all a cheerful and dependable colleague who has left a distinctive mark with us.

Jonathan Katz



#### **FLORIAN SCHUPP**

■ I joined Westminster School in September 2008 to work in the German department as language assistant until June 2009. I am studying English and Politics in a teacher training programme at Frankfurt University and took a year off to go abroad. It did not take long until I felt like a real part of the school community. I have very much enjoyed living and working not only in one of the greatest cities in Europe but



## VALVETE CONTINUED

also at the best school in the UK. I will truly miss the friends and colleagues I have met and worked with here when I return to Germany in June. I believe that the experiences I have had here will be with me for the rest of my life. So in that spirit – *Floreat!*

## GRAHAM BARTLETT

[From the Archive (2008)]

## Farewell Drinks for Graham Bartlett

■ “We teachers read history – or at best write it – but our pupils make it” was Graham’s parting message to some 50 OWW who joined colleagues and well-wishers on 6th June 2008 to mark his retirement from Westminster School, reunited to celebrate the immeasurable contribution Graham has made to the Spanish and Russian departments over the past two decades. A truly inspirational teacher to generations of Westminsters – many of whom continue to build on the linguistic, cultural and literary knowledge acquired during his classes – Graham has indeed nurtured some of today’s most successful foreign correspondents, translators and academics.

Following an impressive career spanning almost 40 years, Graham finally decided to leave Modern Languages teaching in order to dedicate his time to Faith and Ministry work which has, for many years, driven his daily life.

On the eve of his 35th wedding anniversary, we toasted Graham’s 23 years of dedication to Westminster School, wishing him a happy and healthy retirement in the company of his wife Cecilia, his children and grandchildren. ¡Salud y suerte!

John Witney



## DR NICOLETTE DAVID

■ Nicolette David was a pupil at Westminster. Over many years she has variously taught German, French and Italian, mostly part-time given her duties as a lecturer in German at Birkbeck College. Some members of staff taught Nicolette as a girl, or were at school with her; many of us have worked with her over the years.

She has had multiple manifestations, working as the German assistant, as a full-time German teacher, a part-time Italian teacher, and even teaching French to the Fifth Form! She also speaks Spanish. Pupils in all years enjoyed her literature lessons immensely, benefitting from her expertise in the subject. We all appreciate her kindness and sense of fun, as well as her obvious intellectual abilities and teaching skills. She has brought a magnificent sense of sartorial style to an otherwise subdued Common Room, and we will be a dimmer, duller place without her.

Nicky has brought a warmth and intellectual rigour to staffroom and classroom alike that will be much missed. She leaves to pursue further her career as a research academic, and we wish her all the best for this. Indeed we look forward to reading her next book!

Fiona Sharp and Lynne MacMahon

## STANDING DOWN



## ANDY MYLNE

## Housemaster, Busby’s (1997–2009)

■ With only a few days to respond to a memo from Head Master David Summerscale, Andy Mylne was appointed Housemaster of Busby’s in October 1997. Never afraid of a challenge and ever the professional, Andy continued as Head of Classics and Master i/c Alston during his first term

in the House. A sudden and unexpected flurry of activity from the Works Department, however, meant that he, Rachel and 18 month-old Angus were unable to take up residence until the following January: Busby’s had become a building site but, with typical sang-froid, Andy simply took to running the House from a table on the ground floor corridor, while Rachel prepared his suppers from their flat above College, sending them down in Tupperware containers. A newly-refurbished House soon allowed Andy and Rachel to settle in properly and Busby’s subsequently became their family home: 1999 saw the birth of their second son, Louis, then in 2000, Ella was delivered on the drawing room floor! And not, as urban legend would have it, by Jaideep Barot. All the while, Rachel’s millinery business continued to grow – HM The Queen now being amongst her clients – and I know Andy is grateful for Rachel’s unfailing support during his Housemastership. Further structural changes to the House continued with the demolition of the ground floor study bedrooms and the creation of Busby’s own Yard; the basement – once a no-go zone for even the most intrepid of House Tutors – has been transformed and the pool room refurbished.

Over the past twelve years, Andy has cultivated a thoroughly happy and secure environment for some 200 boys and girls, ably assisted by Matron: for boarders it has been their home, for day pupils a meeting point during the school day but, for all Busbites, a truly welcoming base within Westminster, a House with a distinctive sense of identity and purpose, testimony to Andy’s willingness and determination to care for each and every one of his charges, unconditionally and generously on a daily basis; he knows his pupils inside-out and cares deeply for their well-being, at all times keen to reward achievement in public and admonish poor performance in private. Clearly, pupils only see the end result and are often unaware of what goes on behind the scenes but, all credit to Andy’s professionalism, Busby’s is a well-oiled machine: the encouraging words on the House notice board following musical or sporting activities, for example, support from the touchline, a quick phone call to a worried parent or an email to a tutor – things we might all reasonably expect, but they don’t happen automatically: Andy’s dedication and attention to detail have quite rightly earned him immense respect; he is proud of his pupils as they are of him.

It has been a privilege – and great fun – to work with Andy over the past eleven years and I remember, in particular, our 3.00am return coach journey from Oxford following a reunion with Old Busbites, the madness of midnight snowball fights with 5th Formers in Alston and the various summits with my recalcitrant tutees...and I always got them: “There’ll be someone joining your group” – Andy would say, quite unashamedly – “he does come with a histo-

ry, I'm afraid...anyway, one for you; I'll fill you in sometime, good luck!" But they were good times.

So, twelve glorious years of housemastering from Andy? Pretty much, yes, so long as one discounts the night two boarders decided to throw a couple of water bombs from a 3rd floor window of Busby's during their prep break. Harmless fun? Perhaps, except that their unsuspecting target was a wealthy benefactor, cheque book in hand, mid-tour of the school in the company of TJP. Suffice it to say that the conviction with which the subsequent interrogation of all boarding Busbites was conducted would have put even the most tenacious of Spanish Inquisitors to shame...

Good luck, Andy, and thank you from us all!

John Witney



### **RODNEY HARRIS**

**Housemaster, Purcell's (1994-2009)**

■ Rodney is stepping down from the Housemastership of Purcell's this summer after fifteen years at the helm. He and Debbie moved into what was then 'Barton Street' in September 1994 as a couple awaiting the imminent birth of their first child. They leave with two sons, the eldest of

which is now a teenager. This seems to be something the old girls find most difficult to fathom; the Harris offspring are not frozen in time at the age they were when each girl was at school!

Rodney was instrumental in turning 'Barton Street', with girls sleeping there but being attached to either College, Grant's or Rigaud's, into a fully-fledged House named Purcell's. To the surprise of many the new all-girl brand of House swiftly established a new and positive identity. The 'Barton Street' spirit had always been strong and the PP nomenclature served to strengthen this. Purcell's now fields a team in as many of the school events as it can. Winning without a boys' team can prove tricky but there have been two notable successes in the House Singing Competition. Two victories and at least eight robberies; a fine record for a House of a maximum of twenty-five.

Rodney has enjoyed fifteen glorious years as a Housemaster. The depth of talent amongst Westminster girls is astonishing and as the only male amongst a shifting population of over 150 females was a hardship he has borne with great fortitude! His efficiency, wisdom and wit are legendary, as also it seems is his ability to think in the style of a seventeen-year-old girl. The current members of Purcell's have suggested that Mr Harris not only knows what they are thinking but actually thinks it before they do! This has proved a very useful attribute when running a girls' House and certainly something which has defused many a situation in its infancy.

Rodney's efficiency and wisdom are legendary. His house reports are pithy and honest yet wholly supportive. His turn of phrase is good humoured with the occasional bite, arguably just as it should be to always encourage but never delude. His sense of humour is finely tuned and there have been many laughs up Purcell's. So many, that several TV companies have been interested in canning it for daytime TV.

Rodney has headed a fantastic team of tutors which has included Frances Ramsey, Fiona Sharp, Tracy Morris, Gavin Griffiths and most enduringly Amanda Jorgensen. He is very grateful to them for their time and expertise spent on the front line of the pastoral care of the girls. Rodney has also worked with four matrons: Jane Fitzmaurice, Carolyn

Mortimer-White, Ann Tucker, albeit briefly, and currently Georgina White. They too have been instrumental in making Purcell's the successful and happy community it is today. The glamorous assistant, Debbie, has done sterling service over the years. Her jokes and wit seem to be remembered by the old girls with an appreciation never quite evident at the time!

The Purcell's Society has been launched this term and for any old Purcellians reading this, there will be an annual event to which they are all warmly invited. Rodney and Debbie will return to these as although leaving Purcell's they remain at Westminster and will be living in Dean's Yard.

Rodney's energy has been legendary Up Purcell's and throughout this time he has remained Head of Geography. It is hard to imagine a better Housemaster. He and Team Harris will be very much missed.

Debbie Harris (relation)



### **GERAN JONES**

**Housemaster, Ashburnham (2000-2009)**

■ Behind a sardonic, sometimes brisk exterior, resides a Housemaster who cares deeply about the welfare and intellectual development of his charges. The first impression given might not be as cozy, or as overtly cheerful as that of some houses, but

a new pupil very quickly comes to know that s/he is in good hands.

In fact, the atmosphere in Ashburnham under Geran's guardianship is relaxed, genial, some might even say laid-back; and as the pupils progress through the school they develop a trust of and affection for him based on consistency – of knowing where they stand, and on coming to understand that he always has their best interests at heart. He also has the important quality of confidently standing firm when his insight into those best interests is more informed or sophisticated than their own!

In Ashburnham, pupils are encouraged to take responsibility for themselves and for each other; I suspect that Geran would take less satisfaction from the winning of a house trophy, say, than in the fact that the members of the house had volunteered, organized and managed their own participation in the event.

In an era in which much teaching is expected to be 'spoon-fed' to pupils, Geran stands up for the virtues of independent learning. During registration of a morning I have often watched with amusement as a little parade of lower school boys arrive to try and prove to him that they've now learned the vocab/grammatical structure that eluded them at the previous day's lesson. Frequently they are found wanting, and politely dispatched, to come and try again tomorrow. Geran genuinely wants them to learn the language; not simply to tick the boxes of assessment.

In nine years he has inevitably had all sorts of crises and pastoral difficulties to deal with in Ashburnham but the smooth running of things is never jeopardized, and most people would be unaware that he was shouldering challenging burdens. Then, just when many members of staff have nothing but holiday on their minds, he takes a large group of students on a fortnight's trip to St. Petersburg.

Remarkably, Geran has combined the roles of Housemaster and Head of Modern Languages with apparent ease, though the pressure must at times be enormous – not to mention his Senior Examiner duties for the Cambridge



## STANDING DOWN CONTINUED

Pre-U. In fact it is his distinguished academic experience and achievements which allow him to offer such top-flight advice on subject choices and university applications to pupils at the upper end of the house, most of whom depart for their gap years or university places with a sense of confidence and personal pride instilled in large part by their time spent with Geran in Ashburnham.

Chris Barton

### Joe Northover, in the Remove, adds:

Mr. Jones is stepping down as Housemaster of Ashburnham after almost a decade in charge in a job which is widely considered to be about the most difficult in the school. During my five-year experience in the House, my fellow Ashburnhamites and I have got to know the different sides of Mr. Jones' leadership style – from the iron hand of a dictator in regard to registration to the refreshing delegation of responsibility to us for sport and other House competitions. While the mild sporting ability of the house meant that we weren't exactly blowing the competition out of the water, I feel that we all benefited from being held responsible for everything from team selection to ensuring that everyone had more or less the appropriate kit. This meant that we had a real sense of shared leadership within the house, which I believe has led to a much healthier atmosphere as a result. Despite being masters of second place for many years, we finally managed to end our six-year-trophy drought with victory in the House Swimming competition.

However, Mr. Jones has also had an uncanny knack of coming into a room when some members of the house are standing on furniture or throwing food around or doing exactly what they probably should not at that moment. That said, he has not been an overbearing presence, as a Housemaster can easily become. He has taken a keen interest in the progress of every member of the house, so much so that we have been kept on our toes, yet we have also been fortunate enough to have a certain sense of freedom that some in other houses have at times envied. I think the others would agree with me when I say that there was rarely a feeling of injustice in the way disciplinary problems were dealt with, and furthermore, Mr. Jones always took it upon himself to intervene when members of Ashburnham were in trouble with other members of staff if he thought it fair to do so – which was certainly appreciated by those involved.

On behalf of myself and the rest of Ashburnham, I wish Mr. Jones the best of luck in continuing in his role as Head of Modern Languages in the future.



### MARK FELTHAM

Housemaster, Wren's (2004–2009)

■ Teaching is like farming; more or less the same things happen each year in the same fields, but the livestock is different. For the latter reason, teaching in its broadest sense is never boring, and the sorrows of partings are compensated by the sweetness of new opportunities. Among the many of these in September is Mark's

translation to be Master of the Queen's Scholars after a distinguished period as Housemaster in Wren's. I use the adjective deliberately; Mark has worked tirelessly for the House and for the good of the pupils (and tutors) that make it up. He inherited a happy ship from Keith Tompkins, and he has built on that and extended it so that no-one could be in any doubt that the welfare of Wrenites is very close to his heart.

As befits an Australian his enthusiasms are sporty as well as pastoral and academic; he came to Wren's after six years' tutoring in Dryden's with Mark Tocknell, as well as having been in charge of Cricket (until 2003) and U16a football (until 2007) and also Year Head of the Lower Shell in 2002–2003. All of these are invaluable experiences for Housemasters since they bring pupils and staff into contact in ways other than the purely academic. Mark has also ensured that the academic side of his work has been solidly maintained, and many times have I seen him giving Maths tutorials to individuals before School, never stinting on his time or concern for the progress of the individual in whatever sense was needed.

Happily this is not a Valet in the usual sense – he's only moving just a bit higher in the building, after all. I know that Mark will bring to his role as Master of the Queen's Scholars that sterling mix of qualities that makes him who he is and which will bring so much to those in College.

There is just one thing, in case this seems excessively hagiographical, that I need to mention to those in College. Mark says he is the worst singer on the staff. Having stood next to him in Abbey now and then, I say it is not so. He is the worst singer on any staff. Now he has graduated to the scarlet cassock this benefit will be felt only by those around the Altar! Our loss.

Wren's wishes you and Su-Yin and Freddie all possible happiness and fulfilment in College, Mark; and as we welcome Simon Wurr (can he sing?) we look back with pleasure and gratitude at everything you have done for and with us. *Floreat!*

Rod Beavon



### DR KEVIN WALSH

Housemaster, Milne's (2005–2009)

■ When Kevin Walsh took over Milne's he inherited the youngest House in the school, but one with firm traditions of its own. Any who thought the celebrated House walk, on the first Sunday of the term in September, might gently be dropped in favour of a lie-in were sadly mistaken. Kevin,

despite his mild manner, conceals a man of steel within. The walks continued, as did the charitable contributions for which it was designed to elicit sponsorship. Those new entrants who might not have heard of Milne's single-handed efforts to outdo all other Houses' combined contributions in raising funds for good causes are all well-inducted by the start of Week 2.

Kevin has been an unusually appealing Housemaster. When, in his first year in charge, Milne's failed to make the finals in the first year House Singing presented such an obstacle, Kevin appealed successfully and Milne's sang to a grateful school. When in 2007 there was a query as to which House had actually got most points in the collected track and field events, Kevin appealed bravely, given Hakluyt's lethal stranglehold on this event, but unsuccessfully. When the call went out to the troops Up House for volunteers to promote an earnest multicultural event offered by a gener-

ous parent, Kevin appealed nobly to the well-known better nature of Milnites, and almost the entire House turned out to support the special preview of *Borat, Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan*.

His range is wide, as is his hospitality: he has maintained excellent relations with the House Parents' Committee, arranged dinners with extraordinarily successful auctions, and organised high-quality singing of carols at Christmas. His management of the Leavers' Dinner at the Garrick Club is the envy of the Remove. In his odd spare moment he offered astronomy classes to GCSE, which were taken up by Milne's own space types and now by others.

For a physicist, there have been moments when the material world has turned against him, and yet somehow, miraculously, all turns out well. There is proof God and science can live together in mysterious ways. On one of his frequent trips with the Fifth Form to Alston, his tutorial colleague remarked that the minibus going to the station on the return home had developed a curiously wheezy, steamy character going up the first hill. When it became apparent that the under-maintained vehicle was completely dehydrated and on the point of complete seizure, the pupils were persuaded to part with their half litre bottles of water to make good the matter. While the radiator was slowly being filled and the seasonal rain and wind howled around the minibus, Kevin revealed that every journey he has ever taken to the station from Alston has gone wrong but never the same way twice and that it would be a miracle if they made it on time.

They didn't. But the train was later still, so all was well. Kevin too moves in mysterious ways. His next incarnation is to materialise back in Hooke, but this time as Head of Science, clearly an irresistible magnet for a man not just of steel, but of heart and brain. As Housemaster he has fulfilled his brief to the letter and more – patient, kind, and knowing every single member of the House by heart, their strengths encouraged and their weaknesses supportively forgiven. Milne's is sorry to lose him, but we're glad he won't get far.

David Hemsley-Brown and Sandy Crole

#### **Sam Burdell, Head of House, adds this heartfelt message:**

Doctor Walsh and I took our first steps as official Milnites on the same day and it is disappointing for me to say that we will take our last together as well. Doctor Walsh has been offered the position of Head of Science and has to leave as Housemaster in order to take it. It is a great loss to the House, because everyone will say that he has been a brilliant Housemaster. He has always been fair, and has never been too busy for a person with a problem, no matter how small it may seem. During my five years with him, he will admit that we were his 'troubled year: apparently we are the only year group to get barred from all four day rooms successively! Yet at the same time although there have been occasional disagreements between members of my year group and him we are all greatly saddened to see him leave Milne's: it is a big loss for what can only be described as the extended family that we have in the House. I am sure his successor, Doctor Hartley, will do a great job, but I hope he knows that the boots he has to fill are very big. Doctor Walsh, I hope you go from strength to strength as Head of Science but you will always be a Milnite to me and the rest of Milne's and your presence in the downstairs office will be sorely missed.

## **THE COMMON ROOM GROWS**

The President of the Common Room looks back on another momentous year.

■ The Common Room is undergoing refurbishment. The Common Room is always undergoing refurbishment. Thirty years ago there were one – and a bit – rooms that were dank, smoky and poky. Teachers enjoyed reading *The Times* by the light of a 40 watt bulb whilst chuffing on a pipe or wheezing on a fag. The atmosphere was prevailingly solemn. At a Common Room meeting one indigent member of staff suggested we discuss salaries. The President of the Common Room loftily informed him that we did not talk about money, because to teach at Westminster was self-evidently a privilege.

The Common Room grew. A back room turned up and a broom-cupboard was converted into a photo-copying department. The smokers were confined to the back room, which now became a centre of louche remarks and loucher behaviour: something like a Soho bar in the Fifties, but without the drink. Meantime the photocopyers clanked and steamed with the oppressive rigour of a nineteenth century mill. A 'lady's room' was battened on: it had a lilac door.

Further updates thundered on. Dim prints of Westminster Abbey were replaced by Abstract stuff representing (a) the psyche of the Teacher's Collective or (b) an accident at a battery farm. The lights

were modernized. Lamps were now discreet, so we flitted around, still in semi-darkness, like bug-eyed marsupials in the Regent's Park Small Mammal House. New leather armchairs squatted in an aggressively misogynistic fashion, daring anyone to accuse us of being in touch with our feminine side. Some thought the new decorations tasteful; others felt themselves in the ante-room to the Last Judgement. The smokers were banished forever.

The new refurbishment promises a new Heaven and a new Earth. Once more the Promised Land is at hand. Beautiful thoroughfares, leisurely working areas, light, love and a new photocopying department are all within our grasp. But I view the Common Room as Peter Ackroyd views London: a living thing with a concealed will of its own, possessed of forces, some of them bringing hope, but others plainly malevolent. Never forget when they dug beneath the flooring at the start of the most recent architectural renovations, it was discovered that the wooden piles had rotted and that the entire building was supported by sinking marshland. Also found was the oldest recorded example in British history of an ass's bone.

I look forward to updating this report next year.





## THE PHABTASTIC JOURNEY 2008

The theme for Phab 2008 was the Phabtastic Journey, writes one of the generous participants in Westminster's continuing festival.

■ Over the course of seven days, each of us experienced our own unique journey, emotional and physical. Let me take you on one of our own. We will, as with any journey, start at the beginning...

### Tuesday 8th July: 1100 hours

Camden Room: Thirty-six Westminster pupils wait nervously as they are briefed on the upcoming week and what it will entail. The meeting is informative and productive, albeit interrupted every other minute by a New Age jingle, denoting another congratulatory text for AJ on this, his birthday. After the first school lunch of the summer holidays, and some nervous preparatory work, the group disbands – some go to collect guests, some wait at school to meet and greet, while others go to Tesco's... to buy food. No memorable journey is without one or two interruptions, so let me interrupt this journey to share a matter of crucial importance. Phab was exhausting and sleep rarely went undisturbed – lucky for us, or else how were we to remember just how tired we were? It was essential that we had a never-ending supply of Twirls, Twixes, Mars bars, Quavers and the like.

### 1500 hours

Guests start to arrive. The welcome begins as hosts and guests begin to mingle. At first, guests are swamped by a mass of effusive and somewhat



"Conversation then becomes a trade-off between polite enquiry, filthy jokes and football talk."

awkward hosts. Conversation then becomes a trade-off between polite enquiry, filthy jokes and football talk – Phab hosts a wide range of visitors. As more guests begin to arrive, the realisation dawns that this is life for the next week; a daunting, but exciting, prospect. When meeting some of the guests for the first time there was a certain amount of shock.

Disabilities ranged from limited use of limbs, through Down's, all the way to complete physical incapacity. Looking back, I can see that my journey has been one of attitude. Whereas I was at first demure and nervous when meeting two of the most physically disabled guests, I now see through the obvious features which distinguish me from them.

## THE PHABTASTIC JOURNEY: A POST SCRIPT

B854WYO is a very special number plate. It belongs to the Phab Ambulance, more recently Phambulance, and even more recently just Lance, writes Andy Johnson.

### Wednesday 9th July: 0800 hours

Bed-bath. Much like Ronseal, it does exactly what it says on the tin. Three boys give Stu, who has no use of his limbs, and barely any speech, a bath, in bed. At first, the procedure is slightly awkward, but soon it becomes obvious that this is a completely normal aspect of everyday life for someone who is entirely physically dependent on others.

### Thursday 10th July

Musical night was one of our many ventures off site. It is with warmth that I recall the feeling of going somewhere public, and feeling a burning sense of loyalty to those I was with. It was with scorn that I viewed the condescension of a steward at the theatre, and with impatient bluster that I ushered people out of the way at Madame Tussaud's while pushing James along in his wheelchair – he himself wasn't averse to kicking people out of the way.

### Saturday 12th July

Disco night is upon us. Face paint – check. Smart attire – check. Outrageous shirt and tie combo – check. As dinner is hastily devoured, dancing partners are announced, to catcalls and wolf whistles. While classics such as Backstreet Boys' *I Want It That Way* blast late into ten o'clock, and DJ feels it time to take his clothes off, the disco is in full swing. Some images never leave us: David Tait flanked on both sides by blondes, as they waltz him and his chair deep into the night; Thomas Semken breakdancing to *Livin' La Vida Loca*; Paul's inexhaustible supply of revolutionary dance moves and Rebecca's boogying prowess.

Now, as we near our destination, as yet unknown, look around. The carriage is full with people you didn't know before with smiling faces that seem so familiar after only a week. We edge to a stop, and it is with bitter-sweet wistfulness that we part – though not before Neil has caught me in a perfect fireman's lift. Feel free to disembark now yourself. A hectic time it's been, from excitement, through uncertainty, perseverance and joy to a teary-eyed farewell. I don't know about AJ, but I couldn't think of a better way to spend a birthday.

■ Lance was built by Ford (some say by Henry himself) way back in the mists of time, and purchased for Phab second hand (at least) by David Hargreaves and Tim Francis at some point in the early 1990s. This year Phab had to part with Lance for Health and Safety reasons – he had become unlawful to use to transport wheelchairs in, which somewhat defeated the point of owning him. We could have given him to a garage for scrap, or sold him for the £100 David bought him for to the sort of person who likes converting 1980s ambulances into mobile homes, but no, this is Phab, so we did something a little different. We decided the art workshop on Phab should paint Lance as they saw fit, every member of Phab would add a palm print and several staff (AJ, AJS, AP, CJU, JMB, RAK) would, in the week after Phab, drive Lance as far into Europe as we could get before he collapsed, we were arrested, or we found a good cause to donate him to. This was the genesis of the Phabtastic journey theme for Phab 2008.

To cut a hilarious and censorship-worthy story very short, Lance visited Canterbury, Bruges, Amsterdam, Cologne, Hanover, and was then exchanged for a teddy bear in Berlin. Lance started to collapse, none of us

were arrested (just), and we did find a worthy cause. The new owner of our magic, multi-coloured bus uses it at a centre for Berlin youths who have fallen out of mainstream education. We thought this was an appropriate retirement, although why I asked for a teddy bear in return is quite beyond me. For those who

"Lance visited Canterbury, Bruges, Amsterdam, Cologne, Hanover, and was then exchanged for a teddy bear in Berlin."

remember Lance and may doubt that any of this is true, look at the picture of him, in all his painted glory, in front of the Brandenburg Gate!

As a final post-post script, this is the right place to publicise a twist in another Phab journey. I will write more about this after Phab 2009, but this year will be my last as Phab course leader. I am delighted to be able to pass stewardship of what is a truly beautiful family to Aidan Sproat from 2010. For all you old Phabbers out there who know just how much Phab means to me, it would be fantastic to share this year's Show on Sunday July 12th with as many of you as possible. The wonderful Phab journey continues.





## JOHN LOCKE

Every week the John Locke lecture is an opportunity to be exposed to stimulating and sometimes controversial ideas and opinions with which we might otherwise never come in contact, reports John O'Connor (BB).

■ It provides an opportunity for speakers to challenge our ideas, and equally, for us to challenge theirs. For this reason, John Locke this year has been an eclectic mix of writers, politicians, academics, scientists, religious figures, and diplomats. While each lecture has its strengths and weaknesses, the list below (by no means exhaustive) should give you some idea of quality of the talks we've had this year.

### Lewis Dartnell (Astrobiologist)

Talked about the exciting growth in the relatively new field of astrobiology, showing it to be an interesting example of the increasingly inter-disciplinary approach to Science. From the starting point that life elsewhere in the Universe is statistically highly probable, he elaborated on a number of cutting-edge scientific techniques being employed in the search for extra terrestrial life.

### John Le Carre (Author)

An exceptional speaker, he gave us an enchanting insight into what can only be described as a remarkable life. In a humorous fashion, he talked of his career in the intelligence services, first working as a spy, and then as a handler before turning to a career in writing. Full of wit and charm, he gave an animated performance which was well received by a packed house.

### Rodric Braithwaite (former Ambassador to Moscow)

He set the problem of our involvement in Afghanistan within the historical context of two failed British and Russian occupations. He argued that winning a conventional victory in Afghanistan is impossible, and that the best one could do was hold the fort while the Afghans found a solution to an Afghan problem.

### Dr Sajjad Rizvi (Lecturer in Islamic studies)

Argued that the British government was approaching the "Islamic problem" in the wrong manner, wasting millions on bodies like the Muslim Council of Britain which fail to represent the majority or even a significant minority of British Muslims. Rizvi sparked controversy by denying that the Muslim community overreacted to the Dutch

cartoons, claiming that the cartoons were actually racist.

### Shami Chakrabarti (Director of Liberty)

A passionate speaker, she talked about the urgent need to protect our Human rights, and argued in favour of non-governmental checks in order to prevent the state from abusing its position and undermining our civil liberties.

### Chantal Mouffe (Political Philosopher)

Mouffe argued for a non-rationalistic system of democracy. She said that our contemporary democracy stifled individuality within the political arena, leading to the convergence of views towards the political centre. She advocated an "agonistic" system, whereby people's individuality is expressed in the body-politic. She argued that only through aggressive debate, can we begin to remedy the increasingly prevalent problem of apathy within the electorate.

### Lord Lawson (former Chancellor of the Exchequer)

Lord Lawson argued that spending money on green technologies which are several times more expensive than their more polluting counterparts was economic madness, saying that they should only be purchased when their cost fell below that of conventional alternatives. He also argued that the Global Warming crisis has been blown out of all proportion, and that we would do better to commit our limited resources into tackling absolute poverty around the world.

### Professor Ricky Burdett (Architect)

Argued that City planning was of critical importance as the design of a city inevitably affects the interactions of the people who live inside it. He illustrated this point by showing pictures of enclosed communities of luxury apartments for affluent businessmen separated by only a thin wall from the depressed favelas that are the reality for the majority of the cities inhabitants. He argued that much of this social separation could have been remedied by smart city planning.







## SEPTEMBER SATURDAY

This year's fete took place on a sparkling day and seemed even more crowded than in previous years. Here are some highlights taken at random from a highly enjoyable day.

■ The CD stall was a hive of entertainment, records Tim Benger (HH). Adam Cigman-Mark got stuck in right at the beginning, hoovering up the pick of the classical selection, but it wasn't long before the more artistically appreciative members of the staffroom flocked to the most innovative and exciting stall in yard. The stall took £200 and was the glue that held September Saturday together.

Struggling to attract customers to the Hakluyt's ice-cream stall, Blaise Baquiche and Cyrus Mahloudji decided to chase helpless 'customers' around Yard with their basket of Magnums pitifully chilled by a sprinkling of ice cubes. Against all odds the pair vigorously employed the "hard-sell" tactic and after four hours of dedicated work had over £200 to show for their efforts.

The guessing games stall at September Saturday offered punters the chance to guess the number of sweets in two different jars or, for the more morbid, to estimate the number of cadavers in Westminster Abbey, relates stall holder Evie Prichard (RR). This question led to answers varying from 0 to 3000, with the occasional keen historian knowing the answer in advance and being disqualified for cheating. The majority, however, didn't need writing down because they were so wildly off the mark that we hadn't anticipated them on our list of possible answers. Thankfully, most people saw the comic side, although our light-hearted treatment of those illustrious corpses seemed to scandalise a few potential customers along the way.

A skeptical Bobak Saadat (AA) admits he arrived at the Ashburnham sweet stall for his shift expecting not much more than a tedious, uneventful half-hour surrounded by teachers unwilling to buy his wares. However, he started his shift obligingly, he claims, and by what

"He had become frantically obsessed with selling – even dancing publicly to raise attention."

should have been the end of his slot, had become frantically obsessed with selling – even dancing publicly to raise attention.

'As Dr Agyare-Kwabi was about to be Gunged, we went on a final crusade to sell our last Krispy Kremes. A very generous teacher paid us but only reluctantly took the doughnuts (why on earth wouldn't you?). Furthermore, we learnt that if you fumbled long enough for change people would say 'keep the change!' But the best moment was when we counted the money we had raised and realised we had raised more than all the other houses – almost £500!'





## CHARITIES 2008–09

Below are highlights of some of the articles to appear in the Charities Newsletter published this year. With thanks to Meg Trainor, Editor.

### Purcell's Carnation Sale Teenage Cancer Trust

■ Six teenagers are diagnosed with cancer every day. To put that into perspective, one teenager at every secondary school in the country will get cancer during their time at school. At Westminster this statistic has become something rather more tangible in the last year as I and a recent leaver developed similar teenage cancers, writes Iona Seligman (PP).

On a brighter note, this inspired Purcell's to donate the profits of their annual carnations sale to the Teenage Cancer Trust. Carnations Day is the one ritual at Westminster which, in the name of charity, warrants an exemption from the ban on public displays of affection. The number of carnations pupils receive is not to be taken lightly; rest assured you can always send anonymous ones to yourself. A flagrant display of popularity ramped up the spending and this year an excellent £1,145 was raised – and they said there was a recession!

Since only 0.5% of all cancers occur in young people there are few facilities for teenagers. Chances are that you will either be treated in a paediatric ward or in an adult ward. This means that young people, who tend to get rare cancers, have to face the trauma of cancer, its treatment, and isolation from their peers at a crucial stage of development. All this calls for special facilities that allow teenagers to face cancer as

teenagers, along with other young people being treated by specialists in rare teenage cancers. This is when the Teenage Cancer Trust steps in.

Entering a teenage cancer ward for the first time is a technicolour blur. I remember thinking that the combination of the mood lighting, notice-boards and games rooms made it not all that dissimilar to a boarding school on an acid trip but this removal from what is expected of a hospital induced an atmosphere that was far more accessible, youthful and relaxed. Teenage Cancer Trust units provide in-patient rooms or bays and open plan social and recreational areas that rival the most 'pimped' of bachelor pads. There are webcams, broadband and wireless keyboards. But most importantly there's a kitchen – which is totally invaluable if you are at all acquainted with hospital food, particularly for patients on prolonged stays or those on chemotherapy.

The Teenage Cancer Trust allows for schooling on site; with hospital teachers helping you to study. This is vital in keeping you from boredom-induced insanity and abreast with your studies so that valuable socializing time can be spent with friends rather than always catching up.

The Trust also provides a support and counselling network for patients. They undertake an extensive education and awareness programme, hold conferences for teenage cancer sufferers and produce information on the care of teenagers



with cancer, both for relatives and medical teams. I'm proud and humbled that Westminster is able to recognise and support this cause.

## Upper Shell Action Week Build Up Saint Anthony's

SEL's Upper Shell Geography class decided to embark on an action week to raise awareness about the importance of education to international development. The class carried out a variety of questionnaires around the School to find out what Westminster pupils think about the subject. They also interviewed three leading political figures – Baroness Garden of Frognal, Lord Falconer and Chris Huhne – to find out their views on the issue. The class also devised a strategy to raise funds for Build Up Saint Anthony's, an education charity in Malawi. They hope to raise £1,000 to provide a globe for the library and new literacy and numeracy textbooks for two year groups. To raise these vital contributions, the class organised a sponsored run and a Krispy Kreme stall.

## London Bridge Sheep Drive Orbis and Wellbeing of Women

In September, with the help of the School Jazz Band, Westminster supported an imaginative endeavour in the City which raised over £50,000 for The Lord Mayor's Appeal, which this year was supporting Orbis and Wellbeing of Women, two charities that tackle blindness prevention globally and female health issues nationally, writes Khushaal Ved (QSS).

The event grew from an idea during SEL's visit to Oman earlier in the year and involved 70 Livery Companies and 480 Freemen of the City of London enacting their ancient right to drive 20 Romney Ewes across London Bridge free from tax or toll. News of the event caught the imagination of the world's press, and involved over 120 volunteers and 40 students. To acclimatise them to traffic, the sheep were trained by farmer George Horne and his family who designed a six-week schedule of marching them on halters along busy roads whilst banging dustbin lids!

The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, escorted by the Honourable Artillery Company's Pikemen and Musketeers, officially opened the event which intended to be fun and to lighten the mood of those in the City concerned by the dismal financial climate.

## CHARITIES: OTHER EVENTS

### Library

Library fines and the sale of library bags have raised £245 In Deep and Phab. The Library's raffle of a chocolate chess set also raised over £70 for Help for Heroes, a charity providing support for wounded British soldiers

### Carol Concert, Westminster Abbey

The collection raised almost £4000 for the Young Peoples' Unit at University College Hospital London and a school established by an OW in Freetown, Sierra Leone.

### Music Examathon

Dr Savaskan was sponsored by members of the Common Room to take Grade 8 examinations in ten instruments in a single day. He successfully completed the task and raised over £1100, split between the National Autistic Society and Phab.

### Westminster House

A Krispy Kreme sale raised £560 for Westminster House. The youth club, which was established by the School in the nineteenth century, provides activities for young people in Peckham.

### Music Therapy Charity and Stepping Stones Nigeria

£1200 was raised for The Music Therapy Charity and Stepping Stones Nigeria at February's Shag Day. There was also a collection of old mobile phones and laptops to raise additional funds for the latter charity, which supports children accused of witchcraft in Nigeria.

### Anthony Nolan Trust

This term's second Krispy Kreme sale raised almost £300 for the Anthony Nolan Trust. The Trust carries out research to help improve the outcome of transplants for leukaemia patients.

### Rock Concert

The collection at the end of the Rock Concert raised £30 for Alone in London.

### Busby's House Play and Concert

Collections at the end of both Busby's Play and Concert raised over £540 for the Stroke Association.

### Liddell's and Rigaud's House Play

Almost £280 was raised for the Princess Royal Trust for Carers and the Royal National Lifeboats Institution in a collection after, *The Wave*.

### Milne's House Play and Dinner

*Alarms and Excursions* raised £130 for Trinity Hospice, while the Milne's dinner raised over £2000 for the Teenage Cancer Trust.

### Wren's and Dryden's House Concert

A collection held at the Wren's and Dryden's

House Concert raised £130 to be divided between the Shepherd's Bush Family Project and Walking on Air.

### Experiments in Paint

In December, GADH held a sale of his art, *Experiments in Paint*, up Ashburnham House, raising over £4500 for the Campaign for Education of Women in Africa.

### Christmas Hampers

54 Christmas hampers were sent to local old people through In Deep, a charity that the School has supported for many years.

### Westminster House

Meg Trainor was sponsored to run in the Grim Challenge and raised over £150 for the House and half of the money from the December Shag Day also goes to this cause; the other half goes to the St Claire's Orphanage in Kenya, which takes care of children with HIV-AIDS.

### The Upper School Play

Almost £500 was raised at the School play, *The Country Wife* for Alone in London, which the Drama Department regularly supports. The charity works with vulnerable young people who are in need of housing.

### Drama: The Ugly One

£110 was raised in collections at this production. The money has gone to the International HIV-AIDS Alliance, a charity which supports local community action on HIV-AIDS in developing countries.

### Drama: Two Short Plays

The production raised over £250 for Phab and Shelter, a housing and homelessness charity.

### Orchestral Concert

£660 was raised at Saint John's, Smith Square in November. This has gone to Right To Play, an international humanitarian organisation that uses sport and play as a tool for the development of young people, and Tom's Trust, a charity which seeks to tackle and prevent the root causes of violent gang culture.

### Rigaud's House Concert

£470 was raised for Alive and Kicking at the Rigaud's House Concert. Alive and Kicking was established by Jim Cogan, a former teacher, and makes footballs with messages about various diseases for Africa in Africa.

### Sir Christopher Wren's Birthday Party

£110 was raised for the Shepherd's Bush Family Centre at Wren's' annual event where new pupils perform in front of the House.

### Pink

In Play term, the sale of *Pink* raised £125 for Re-prieve, a charity that defends those on death row and in Guantánamo Bay.

## WESTMINSTER SCHOOL CHARITIES NEWSLETTER

For more details about PHAB, September Saturday, and further facts, figures photographs and stories about Westminster's charitable and fundraising activities through the year, go to [homepages.westminster.org.uk/charities](http://homepages.westminster.org.uk/charities)

There you will find details of House plays, *Pink* magazine, the Christmas hampers, music events and much more.





## FIFTH FORM EXPEDITIONS

Imagine a school in Snowdonia, requests John Curtis, School Registrar. A visitor looks up at the mountains and comments that the pupils must all be expert climbers.

'They never have time,' says the head teacher.  
'You know how it is with the pressure of exams.'  
'What? No time for anything outside the curriculum?'  
'Oh, we have an expeditions week. But they're country boys so we try to get them into the big city as often as possible. They go to London and they visit the Houses of Parliament.'

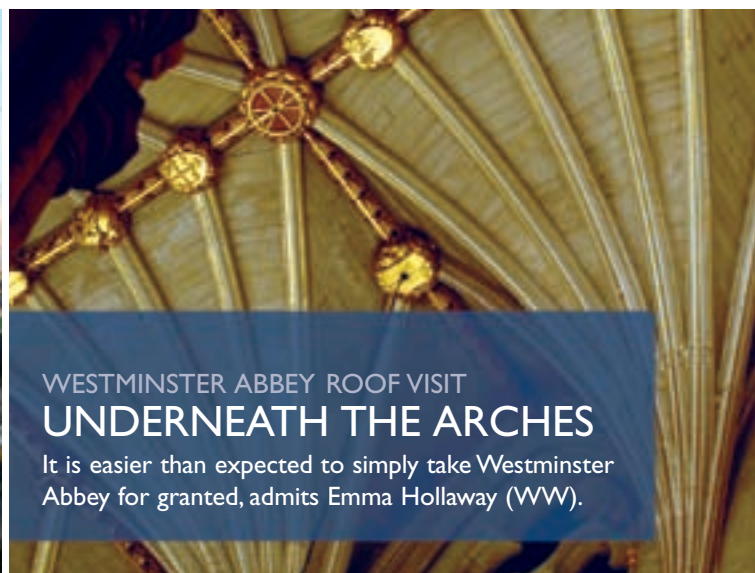
■ The initial inspiration for Fifth Form London expeditions was the realisation that, although the Victoria Tower looms over Little Dean's Yard, Westminster pupils were more likely to have climbed Snowdon than to have toured the Palace of Westminster. The idea was to get away from that curious notion that still persisted at Westminster that cities are bad places, and instead to celebrate the glorious, chaotic, energetic, diverse, exciting, beautiful place that is London. Dr Johnson never said that when a man is tired of Betws-y-Coed, he is tired of life.

London expeditions are of course also much greener – no polluting aeroplanes or mini-buses, no erosion of footpaths, and nature left undisturbed. It's the future!

And so the Fifth Form visited the Houses of Parliament, the London Eye, Tate Modern and 'Billy Elliot' and lots

"Dr Johnson never said that when a man is tired of Betws-y-Coed, he is tired of life."

more. But there was another dimension to the expeditions week. It was an opportunity to take account of the fact that, although all Westminsters go to Abbey, they are not all Anglicans. With the help of the Dean we arranged visits to various places of worship around London. We met some very inspiring people including Rabbi Mark Winer, Anna Roth from the Jewish Museum, Omar Saddique from the Regent's Park Mosque and Liz Griffiths from St Martin in the Fields. There was a lot to build on for the future and we're already looking ahead to September 09.



### WESTMINSTER ABBEY ROOF VISIT

## UNDERNEATH THE ARCHES

It is easier than expected to simply take Westminster Abbey for granted, admits Emma Hollaway (WW).

■ After all, for Westminster students, access is simple and the Abbey is hardly going to go anywhere. But a small group of sixth form history of art students were given the rare opportunity to look at the abbey in a different light, through a tour of the roof space.

The Surveyor of the Fabric, John Burton, took time out of his busy schedule to share with us the deserted abbey in the early evening. The tour began in the nave where John shared with us the 'five minute rule' used when the abbey was built: After the building was completed, the internal structural supports would be removed; the masons then believed they had about five anxious minutes to wait. If the structure remained after this time, then the building would stand forever. If not, it would be sure to collapse! The risk of the walls collapsing in on themselves from sheer pressure continues and it's possible even now to see the crossing piers bowing under the weight of the vaulting.

After a visit to the sacred shrine area, we began to climb the narrow winding staircase and finally stepped outside onto the tiny passage which runs around Westminster Abbey at the level of the flying buttresses.

"The risk of the walls collapsing in on themselves from sheer pressure continues and it's possible even now to see the crossing piers bowing under the weight of the vaulting."

All the art historians appreciated the dark, cold and drizzle, accepting that it added to the medieval atmosphere. The view was sensational as we looked out over the school and across to the Houses of Parliament.

Returning inside, we walked the length of the nave on top of the vault, gaining an "inside out" view of the Abbey. When we reached Henry VII's chapel, a couple of students were invited to reach their hands through a small hole in the floor; it was then that reality dawned. The area we were standing on – the incredible fan vault of Henry VII's chapel – was only about 4 inches thick and a fearful height from the ground!

John had, however, left the best until last. In the area high above the crossing are 2 small doors which open out directly over the altar, overlooking the inside of the abbey. These have been used by camera crews when filming events in the Abbey. Unfortunately the doors remain locked, unless in exceptional circumstances, but we managed to peer through the tiny keyholes to see the incredible view of the whole abbey interior way down below.

All in all we had a wonderful evening. Though it was not a trip for the faint hearted, the sixth form Art Historians had shown what they were made of.



## THE LYKE WAKE WALK

As the prospect of starting a 42 mile walk that, would take something like 18 hours at best to complete set in, 'Why on earth did I sign up for this?' became a familiar refrain, blurts out a weary John Owen (RR).

■ But as we set off from Osmotherley, fuelled by pies and cakes made by the locals, spirits were high. Throughout the next 19 hours and 52 minutes my group's spirits fluctuated quite massively, a low point being when one member of our group was forced to retire due to mild hypothermia.

Others included spending over an hour traipsing across a piece of moorland in the dark, with farcical fallings over, in a bid to cut one small corner. However, singing and dancing as well as a healthy array of jokes, which varied in both quality and tastefulness, brought the rest of us and sense of contentment and pride as we came back to eat delicious spaghetti bolognese, rustled up by the teachers during the walk, was palpable. After an extremely long night's sleep we set off for home again, some in considerable pain, but all glad we had signed up. Many thanks to the many staff who accompanied us and particularly to Mr Hooper who walked as well and kept us going with a wide array of word games, and to Mr Ullathorne for organising both the practice, the real thing and making us cups of tea and breakfast as we went.

## PUBLISHING THE DREAM: COMPELLING ILLUSIONS

Compelling Illusions started as a rebellion and ended as a social experiment, confesses founder and publisher, Ollie Rees (GG).



"Unlike other magazines, contributing to Compelling Illusions is completely anonymous."

■ The idea can be described in one comment left on the Compelling Illusions website: "it shows how everyone thinks in the same way, but acts differently," and each thematic issue is designed to explore an area of life which everyone knows about, but no one really talks about. Unlike other magazines, contributing to Compelling Illusions is completely anonymous, and encourages mass contribution from people who would never normally contribute to a magazine, through the use of chained confession boxes, internet surveys and self-addressed envelopes. What results is a mix of faux profundity, obscenity and, in some instances, such astute and perceptive comments that it is almost hard to believe they were submitted scrawled onto a torn piece of paper.



## TANGO!

Tango! was an evening in April that brought together both teachers and pupils for the common cause of dancing the night away – which of course led to the inevitable outcome of treading on your partner's feet one too many times, reveals Rachel Beaconsfield Press (HH).

■ The invited professional dancers performed a brief improvised tango that had us all eager to start, hoping that – by some miracle – we would be as smooth, elegant and passionate as them by the end of the evening. Once the basic steps had been practised, we partnered up, put on our dancing shoes and put our newly learnt skills to the test. A few dances later, and already two toes short (thank you K----!), refreshments and nibbles were served, accompanied by the satisfied conversation of those who believed they had perfected the moves and were ready to hit the big stage. Nevertheless, the jaw-droppingly good final performance by the professional dancers left us all in awe – perhaps the big stage will have to wait another year or two. A thoroughly enjoyable and successful evening, with many thanks to the Spanish Department – a shot at salsa for the coming year or paso doble, perhaps?



## MODEL UNITED NATIONS XVII

Lord Hannay, the Chair of the United Nations Association of the United Kingdom, gave the address to the General Assembly at the Opening Ceremony, declares Roxy Rezvany (AA), who was there to see politics, if not democracy, in action in this year's Model United Nations.

■ He outlined the programme, discussing the problem of sustainable development and the responsible use of resources in the international community, and acutely distinguishing the necessity for a global effort as opposed to countries seeking to make progress individually. This was to be the theme of the Westminster School Model United Nations XVII (WSMUN XVII).

The Secretary-General, Natalie Loh, borrowed the fine words of Daft Punk for her opening speech, proclaiming 'work it harder, make it better, do it faster, makes us stronger.' The line was rewarded with a flood of laughter, but humour aside, this year we at Westminster were certainly trying to follow that maxim. The new and improved WSMUN, planned and administered with amazing dedication by Mrs Cave-Bigley, had ten Committees, as opposed to last year's four, and we were sporting a brand new organ in addition to the usual General Assembly, Security Council and Secretariat: the International Court of Justice (ICJ). Being the first ICJ at an MUN in the country, and one of the first in the world, attention was focussed on it throughout the weekend. The ICJ's role is to resolve legal disputes presented to it by member states in accordance with international law and to give advice on the legal questions to which it is referred by other organs.

With well over four hundred participants from Westminster and other schools, debate was rife over the weekend, with topics ranging from youth crime to illicit torture. One of the advantageous things about the WSMUN, though, is that it does not merely flaunt the talents of our vociferous, globally-conscious speakers,

but gives way to our budding journalists and photographers, who headed our very own WSMUN press team and film crew. Our students also made good use of serving on the invaluable Secretariat who obediently carried out the command of our selection of Chairs, not to mention the Executive Secretariat Members, who worked behind the scenes to keep the event running smoothly.

It may be hard to believe that the prestige of the Westminster School Model United Nations is not limited to the confines of Dean's Yard, but the proceedings should have left no doubt in any student's mind as to the success and splendour of this event.



■ It wasn't so much the spectacle itself that I was interested in, but the idea of being in an environment that could embrace something so arcane and antiquated and treat it as the everyday. There seemed to be something wonderfully Hogwartsian about this ritual and everything it stood for in Westminster life.

Seeing the Greaze was no disappointment. I had a better view than most, so I was able to take in all the drama. There was blood, there was a disqualification, there were even T-shirts with death threats. I wondered how Westminsters could possibly maintain their endless interest in football when they had a sport this vicious to compare it with. The sense of pageantry to the Greaze was fabulous too. The boys dressed up in Rasta wigs, pajamas and snorkels, parading into the middle of School like heroes. This image soon dissipated, however, as they leapt on top of one another and scabbled frantically for fragments of pancake.



## SIGN LANGUAGE AT FRANK BARNES SCHOOL

It feels surreal to walk into a school and hear little more than footsteps and, perhaps, the odd scrape of a chair even at the busiest time of day, writes Jack Cook (HH).

■ As The Frank Barnes School for Deaf Children is one of the few remaining sign-bilingual schools in England, teaching its pupils through both British Sign Language (BSL) and English. For the four of us it was our first time at the small school in Swiss Cottage and none of us knew what to expect.

Since the start of the school year in September we had been hitting the language hard: twice-weekly sessions with two different Deaf<sup>1</sup> tutors ensured that we would not arrive at Frank Barnes completely “speechless”, which is just as well given that we were asked to introduce ourselves in BSL to the School at assembly.

Learning to sign feels like a labour of love. Nothing like this had ever been tried at Westminster before: four hearing teenagers trying to have a real insight into Deaf culture. The initial lessons felt hard: to concentrate for over an hour entirely through the visual mode is quite something. But the lessons are also great fun and there is lots of laughter as we play games in sign language including ‘Chinese Whispers’! We have come to understand something about Deaf culture: that Deaf people do not like to be thought of as having an ‘impairment’ or a ‘disability’ but see themselves as forming a positive cultural and linguistic minority with their own identity. We have become sensitised to the political nature of this language: hailed as the natural language by many Deaf people, British Sign Language has often been marginalised and dismissed in the past and was recognised by the Government as a language only in 2003.

Once we have sign language more fully under our belts we will be visiting the School on a weekly basis. I hope that learning BSL and volunteering at Frank Barnes becomes a fully fledged Westminster tradition. I feel our introduction to BSL and the Deaf Community represents something of a journey we have begun at Westminster which we might well continue later in our lives.

<sup>1</sup>Deaf writers tend to write Deaf with a capital letter to show their belonging to a linguistic and cultural community rather than indicating an audiological status.

## ABSURD? FLIPPANT? IT CAN ONLY BE THE GREAZE

It may seem an insignificant thing to care about, but the Greaze was one of the things which first attracted me to Westminster, confesses an observant Evie Prichard (RR).

I conducted a few interviews to find out the personal impact the Greaze has on the competitors, but despite its violence and competitiveness there were no reports of trauma. Although a few seemed secretly quite smug at having been chosen to represent their Houses, they apparently felt no particular changes to their school life either. One competitor claimed to be more popular with girls now, and another to have had his life changed by exactly the length of the Elizabethan. (? – Ed.) Apart from that, though, it seems to have been simply the opportunity to miss some lessons and get the chance to beat one another up in plain view of the Head Master.

The only two verdicts on the Greaze that were completely unanimous were about the visibility and the gender discrimination. Most of the audience members I asked to comment complained that they hadn’t seen

enough, especially once the scrum descended to floor level. Strangely, however, it seemed to be mainly the boys calling for more inclusion of girls in the Greaze. Although there were more than enough bloodthirsty girls to make up a second competition, we worried that perhaps the principal motivation of the boys calling for one was not, in fact, gender equality.

Although the Greaze was apparently not life-changing for those involved, I’d be happy to bet it is one of the experiences that very few Westminsterers will forget about their time here. Its absurdity, coupled with the flip-pant way in which it is treated by the competitors and audience alike, makes it something essential to the Westminster experience. And however jaded the boys may act, I’m convinced they too appreciate it far more than they’re prepared to admit.





## COLLEGE

■ The 2008/9 vintage was a good one for College. Leaving aside the various successes, most notably in the Bringsty and winning the runner-up spot in the Towpath and House cricket, the House had a great feeling about it this year. What struck the observer was how cohesive each election was and how well people got on between year groups. This seemed particularly true in the Play Term, when, despite an unsuccessful House Singing campaign and seemingly endless rehearsals for Big Commem, the House seemed really to pull together in the face of some potential strife. The new girls particularly have fitted in really well, and the Fifth Form has proved surprisingly tolerable.

That was not all. There was a pair of surprisingly competent performances in House football given our relatively small size. The performance in Athletic Sports was heroic, if eventually futile, and really quite lofty. The College Concert provided its usual contrast of modern and ancient and the House photo was taken in glorious weather and showed all the members resplendent in all their, ahem, glory. House spirit has never been better.

And finally, a sad goodbye to Dr Ramsey but a big welcome to Mr Feltham: a new era begins for College. Many thanks goes to Dr Ramsey for her contribution to College this year and for years past. May we build on our successes next year!



## GRANT'S

■ This past year has been an exciting time for Grant's. Our skill in House Singing did not quite enthrall the judges, despite the many hours of practicing under Thom Fairhead, our Head of Music. Happily our version of *Up Town Girls* did debut at the Grant's House Concert, which showcased the impressive musical talent that these hallways contain. However Grant's is not only talented in music, we can act too. Earlier in the year we put on another amusing House play in which all years participated. In sport, Grant's have outshone themselves. We managed to crawl our way into third place in the 6-a-side football tournament and we became the first team to win the Lower School Volleyball Cup. Our swimmers also performed bravely in the House swimming competition. Netball is not quite our forte but under the amazing captainship of Emily Robbins and Avalon Lee-Bacon we managed to score a few times. We can be confident of yet another win in House tennis, under the magical team of Chris Anguelov, our head of sport, and Alex "Big Bird" Labrom.

For the rest of the Remove this year has been very busy. Caught between UCAS applications, Oxbridge interviews and the wonders of coursework deadlines it has been great to have our Housemaster, Mr Hargreaves, supporting us all the way. Mr Wurr has filled those big shoes superbly this term after Mr Hargreaves fell ill. Unfortunately Mr Wurr is leaving the House at the end of this year to become Housemaster of Wrens. It is a testament to his popularity that this is not seen as first degree treachery by the Grantites. He will be missed. Mr Perkins is also sadly leaving the house; I'm not sure what the boarders will do without his mathematical aid. We have also acquired a new Tutor in the form of Dr Williams, a keen surfer/biology teacher and a new Matron, Mrs Shanta, who has gifted the House with her presence. All in all this academic year has been very exhilarating and I'm sure this year's remarkable, beautiful and charismatic Remove will miss the House greatly.

GRANT'S: "Mr Perkins is also sadly leaving the house; I'm not sure what the boarders will do without his mathematical aid."





RIGAUD'S: "The House Fives team are threatening to win the first piece of silverware of the year."

## RIGAUD'S

■ If last year was the year of great victories in Rigaud's, this year has been all about the trials and tribulations of coming second best. The year started less than auspiciously with a judging decision, which any Rigaudite will tell you was deeply unfair, that kept us out of the final of House Singing. On the sporting field we have had perhaps a wider range of success than previous years with excellent performances in the Bringsty Relay, the Towpath, House 11's (third), and House 6's (second). In a new competition, House Volleyball, our Lower School boys also achieved an impressive second and, as we go to press the House Fives team are threatening to win the first piece of silverware of the year. On the academic side, the debating team led by a member of the Lower Shell put in a decent performance, but, having lost the all-conquering Littlejohns-Barkhordar pairing, we were always going to be on the back foot. Valuable experience, nonetheless. Despite the lack of silverware that all the above results properly deserved, great praise is due, for it shows that Rigaud's is still very much a House of all-rounders. In the House Play for the first time we teamed up with Liddell's to put on a well-received production of Edward Bond's *The Sea*. With actors from every year in the House it was a true demonstration of the 'vertical system' that the house affords, and many thanks to Mr Baldock for his invaluable help in making it happen. So all in all, another great year for Rigaud's, establishing the platform from which we will, no doubt, spring back to winning ways in the near future. *Ipsu Razu*.

## BUSBY'S

■ Always set apart by its indomitable House spirit, Busby's managed to keep its head held high in the face of burglars and many an unjust defeat. Busby's was robbed of its trophy (not actually by burglars) and came a close second in October's House Singing competition, giving the most memorable performance of the night with a piece of underappreciated eighties rock. In the immortal (and oft-repeated) words of Andy Mylne, 'we woz robbed'. Our unity was unshaken, but our athletic performances since have not lived up to the high expectations created at the start of the year. Despite a sterling performance by our intermediates, Sport's Day didn't quite go our way, due to an unfortunate miscalculation in the senior pupils' strategy (learning to run before the race). The Busby's House Play was an unqualified success, as attested to by the swarms of people being turned away from a full house. The whole House helped to put a credit crunch spin on Victorian Cabaret, and many thanks go to Aidan Sproat for directing, writing and conducting the performance. Since then, things have looked up in Busby's – we all made it back in one piece from the vicious day that was House Paintballing, and are now on track to win both the House Fives and House Ergo competitions, true to Busby's sole philosophy of not peaking too soon. Evidently, Busby's will go from strength to strength in these final few weeks of term, remaining the bookies' favourite to win the House Cup, having been robbed by 'Gryffindor' last year. Finally, this year is marked by the end of Andy Mylne's epic time as housemaster: his devotion and dedication to each and every Busbite has been an inseparable part of what Westminster has meant to us. We cannot thank him enough.



LIDDELL'S: "Now we recline spaciously and graciously on abundant airport-quality soft furnishings to catch glimpses in glorious 40" plasma vision of, well, The Apprentice."



## LIDDELL'S

■ *Wein, Weiß und Gesang* – wine women and song, op. 333 is a waltz by Johann Strauss II and it sums up Liddell's this year. Wine? Well not wine actually. Women? This year brought the exciting news that from September 2009 Liddell's will have girls boarding in the Sixth Form and Remove and they will be in the new and wonderful penthouse floor. No oligarch could buy a better view; those of us who have lived there this year will never forget the experience. Indeed the redecoration of the house has made a huge difference. The tap room tan orange has been replaced by a Farrow and Ball shade of beige. Gone are the days of the whole House trying to cram on to a sordid sofa in front of the mark of the downwardly mobile – a 32" CRT television – to watch *The Apprentice*. Now we recline spaciously and graciously on abundant airport-quality soft furnishings to catch glimpses in glorious 40" plasma vision of, well, *The Apprentice*, whilst in our other huge state room, café society's witty banter can be heard. Or is it table tennis and table football? All that remains

from the old days is the kitchen and I hear English Heritage are coming to consider listing it as an example of post-war austerity furnishing.

That leaves Song. Mamma mia! We did of course win House Singing, in case you didn't know, having come from nowhere. They asked, 'Could Liddell's ever even qualify for the finals?' and the answer was, 'Yes we can'. They asked, 'Can Liddell's, with their peppy medley of catchy Abba tunes, capture the judges' imagination and get into the top three?' The answer was, 'Yes we can'. They asked, 'With the joyous choreographing and heart-warming, feel-good, credit-crunch-busting performance, pull off the best come-back since Lazarus?' Of course the answer was, 'YES WE CAN!'. If Manchester United can retain the premiership, then maybe next year we can too can dare to dream...

Naturally other things happen Up House too, like sport, which we do some of and music, and drama at which we also do pretty well. The key to Liddell's is of course understatement. We at Liddell's all sub-

scribe to Martin Luther King's famous sentiment that we dream of a day when "all our children will be judged neither by the content of their sports locker, nor by the size of their musical instrument case nor thespian credentials nor intellectual capacity nor academic achievements, nor quantity of parties attended, but by the content of their character".

While Mrs Thatcher taught us there is no such thing as 'Society', only groups of people working together with a common interest, (a very Westminster ideal I think) equally one might argue, there is no such thing as the self-determining entity 'Liddell's'. The House exists because of the people in it, students, staff, matron, cleaners and maintenance staff. We have been exceptionally fortunate this year to have had a most excellent mix and have enjoyed a most excellent year. It has been all our pleasure to be here and we have in the famous words of Mr Mars, 'worked, rested and played' very well indeed this year.



## WREN'S



■ This year Sir Christopher Wren would have been 376, and as the Wren's students celebrated his birthday back in October in the usual style – an effective talent display from the new pupils for the watching parents – little did the onlookers know that this was only the tentative beginning, the shaky first steps, of a Wren's year to surpass all others.

It started with junior house football – out of nowhere Wren's pulled out an inspiring performance, managing to reach the final before narrowly losing to the ostentatiously never-drug-tested Dryden's juniors. But this had got the ball rolling, the upper years began to flex their muscles in readiness for the terms ahead.

So it was just after a strong tow-path performance (top 10 I think it was...) that the house hit its straps – this was the year that Wren's burnt the wooden spoon collection that they have amassed over the centuries and from the ashes created a trophy cabinet.

House VI-a-sides drew closer, the "big one" as so many had termed it, and the Wren's upper echelons, who for so many years previously had waited in the shadows came out... and my how did they come out! Ten

games the six giants (for by this stage they were more than mere men) played and all ten they won. By the end I lost count of how many we had scored – my abacus ran out of beads – but I do know that we won the final. Victory at last! The five-strong crowd of spectators went into a frenzy at this incredible display of camaraderie and skill. The open-top bus ride through London is booked.

The rest of the House then went into over-drive – massive displays in rock-climbing, chess, the swimming pool and House XI-a-sides gave us all the momentum we could want for the one trophy that Wren's name was already on from the year before; to partake in the event every pupil in the school dreams of one day winning – the House netball tournament. So on the 24th March 2009, seven beautiful people led by their Head of House, who some have called perfect, assumed their positions on the pitch. And on his signal, they unleashed hell.

Details are not really necessary at this point; they are hard to remember anyway. Needless to say, Wren's crushed all that came before them, getting the ball into the net far more times than the ball went in to their

own net in every game. The final brought a tear to the eye as Wren's avenged the junior members of the house by defeating Dryden's in convincing fashion in the final. Spectators were heard to whisper that even the great Sir Christopher Wren, renowned for his abilities on the netball pitch would have struggled to break into a team of this quality – considering just how strong in all departments it truly was.

And I think the success epitomised the House's spirit – no one player carried the team, and like-

**WREN'S:** "By the end I lost count of how many we had scored – my abacus ran out of beads."

wise in the year so far every member of the House has played their part in some way.

However the end of the year will be tinged with sadness as Mark 'Feltz' Feltham has unfortunately been demoted from housemaster of Wren's to become the new Master of the Queen's Scholars. Still, everyone in Wren's wishes him the absolute best and thanks him for a fantastic five years.



## MILNE'S

■ Round about the time last year's *Elizabethan* graced your coffee table, the upper school members of the House assembled Up Garrick with several guests for another excellent Leaver's Dinner. As has become traditional, the new Head of House was introduced to the assembled party and Sam Burdell proved himself a fine appointment throughout a busy year. Our Sponsored Walk along the banks of the Thames brought us into central London this year as we zig-zagged our way across the great water in our own version of a "Ten Bridges" walk, starting at Tower Bridge and finishing at Vauxhall (attempted games of Pooh-sticks were, sadly, futile). As well as being an enjoyable venture, the walk raised more money for Trinity Hospice, which has been the beneficiary of this annual event for several years. An impressive gathering of the House's vocal talent combined forces with members of the Community Service station to lead some lusty carol singing when visitors from the Pullen Day Centre came for a Christmas Party in the Camden Room.

The House concert platform, shared with our good neighbours Ashburnham, was a showcase of the broader musical ability in the ranks and what a remarkable evening it proved to be, with broken limbs providing no barrier to rhythmic virtuosity. Meanwhile, our performances of Ayckbourn's *Alarms and Excursions* left the audience suitably exhilarated, sides aching from laughter and squirming.

The evening of the Parents' Dinner (in the Manoukian and College Hall) was another great success – extremely enjoyable and very well supported. Many thanks to Mrs Deborah Maconick and her team for their hard work with this. The proceeds for the evening were donated to the Teenage/Young People's Cancer trust at St Thomas's and Guy's, set up a few years ago by Dr Robert Carr, father of Dom (MM 2003–08), a charity we hope to continue supporting. Whilst we had to let go of one or two pieces of silverware gained last year, the Tocknell Cup (inter-House Rock Climbing) remains an imposing feature in the Housemaster's study and though we lose a couple of fine climbers in this year's Remove, there's more talent emerging from the lower years.

This year's recipient of the Lowy-Mitchell travel bursary was Hunter Farquhar-Thomson, who has a most amazing trip to Japan in the pipeline. We look forward to one day hearing about how it went and wish him and all our leavers this year, every success in the future. We say goodbye, also, to two of our tutors (GDWS and SH) and to our housemaster, Dr Walsh, wishing them all well in their lives after Milne's and thanking them for all they have done. Dr Hartley joins a most seaworthy vessel – welcome aboard!

## PURCELL'S

■ Before arriving in September, all of the new Sixth Form Purcell's girls were given a chance to have one final look round the House in the summer. Following this I think most of us felt we knew what to expect of our upcoming first term at Westminster. How wrong we all were!

Mere days after arriving our first House meeting was called to discuss the fast-approaching House Singing competition. With the song chosen, all of us set to work rehearsing – learning harmonies and dance routines and making costume arrangements – every evening after prep. Needless to say, we obviously qualified for the main competition with our not-too-discordant rendition of Britney Spears' "...Baby one more time". Then rehearsals became more frequent, and Purcell's life was already more hectic than any Sixth Former could have anticipated. Sadly we were robbed of the House Singing crown this year, but we did manage a solid third place. And the only way is, of course, up for next year...

With the Lent term came St. Valentine's Day, which means only one thing to Purcell's – carnations. This year we were supporting the Teenage Cancer Trust to which one of our Remove girls had a very strong connection. As soon as we announced to the school that carnations were on sale, it seemed that Love Fever gripped Westminster; even teachers were buying slips from us. And finally on the last Wednesday before Exeat, dressed in shocking red hoodies, we marched to Yard and handed out over a thousand flowers to pupils and teachers alike. It was a hugely successful day and we managed to raise £1,145 for our chosen charity.

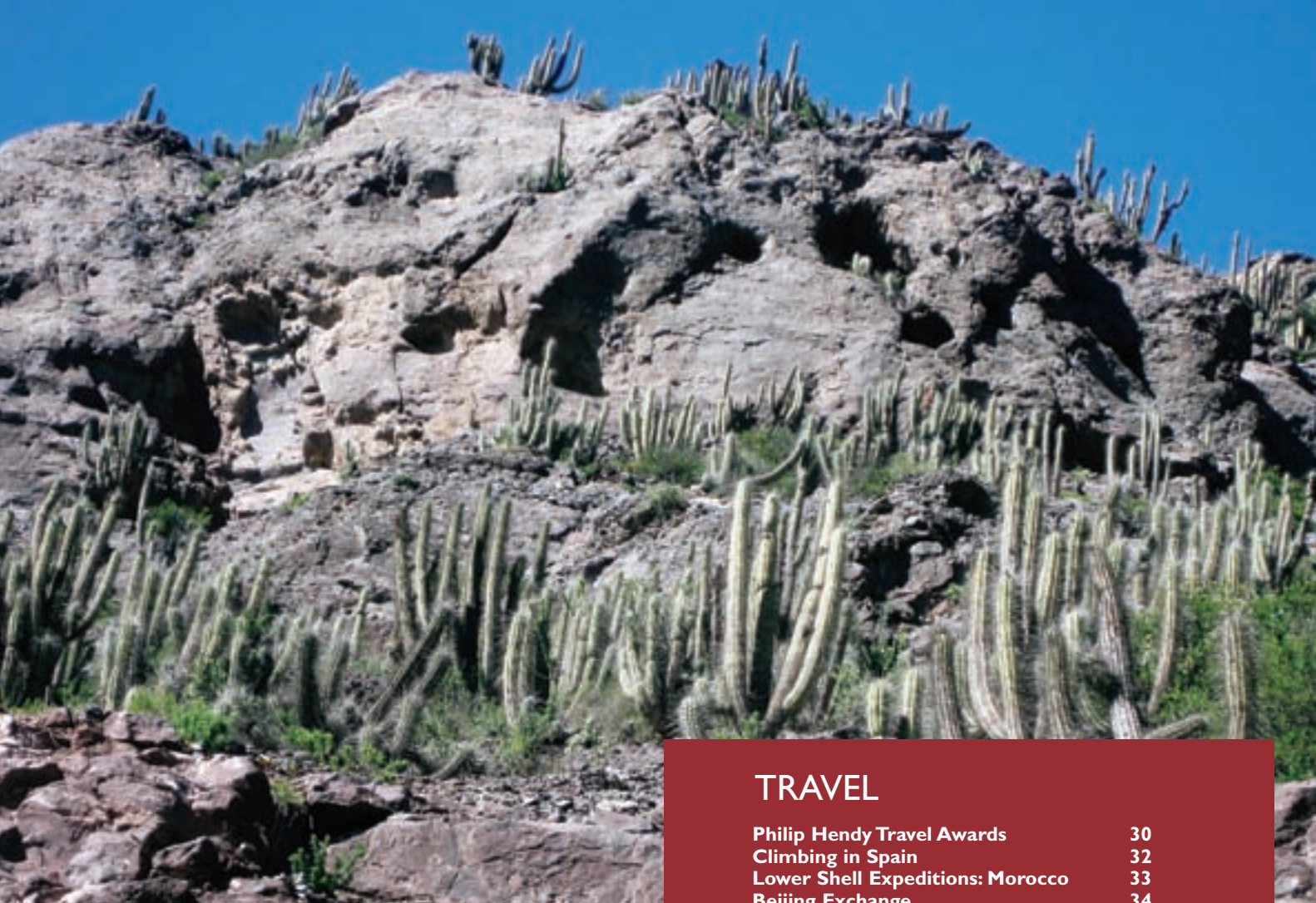
After Exeat we faced the House Netball competition, regarding the fact that we were the only all-girls team as a great advantage. Despite valiant efforts from all team members, we did not make it past the first round because of a shaky start against the reigning champions,

**PURCELL'S: "As soon as we announced to the school that carnations were on sale, it seemed that Love Fever gripped Westminster."**

Wren's (who beat us last year in the final). We were, however, reconciled in the fact that Purcell's (all-girls) did manage to beat the all-boys College team, so the day was by no means a disaster.

It would seem now that Purcell's needs a quiet Election Term in order to calm down after the excitement of the year so far. But of course not! We still have our Soirée – an evening of music and poetry – and Sports Day to keep us occupied. And sadly, we have to wave farewell to the cement that holds us all together. Mr Harris is leaving Purcell's after 15 years and we are all finding it hard to imagine life in the house without him. But as always, with an end comes a new beginning, and we are all very much looking forward to welcoming Dr Ward-Smith to the Purcell's family. Mind you, she might find the pace of Purcell's life a bit of a shock to the system at first: we certainly did!





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## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PHILIP HENDY AWARDS PHILIP HENDY TRAVEL AWARDS

The Philip Hendy Award makes travel and study abroad possible for selected Westminster Art Historians. Max Gill (BB) went to Rome, and Annabel James (PP) to Vienna. Extracts from their accounts are published below.

## SECESSION AND GOTHIC IN VIENNA

ANNABEL JAMES

■ I planned to visit Vienna and explore the lives and works of Klimt and other fin-de-siècle-era cultural figures. The city itself is beautiful, with buildings in cupcake-like pastels and tall trees winding down the middle of roads. It is very easy to turn off into a cobbled sidestreet and find yourself amidst antiquarian bookshops, or boutiques with names like 'Philosophy in the Boudoir.'

On the first morning I set off to the Belvedere and was soon seated within feet of Klimt's 'The Kiss' – an incredible experience, having studied the painting in detail for my Art GCSE and then again leading up to the trip. The painting itself looks very different in reality and elements of it that had not previously been very noticeable for me seemed to take on a much greater importance.

The Belvedere and the Leopold museum were the most relevant to my study of Klimt and Secession-period Vienna; I spent a long time wandering around mesmerised by such a strong concentration of paintings I loved. I realized that some of Klimt's most interesting work for me was not in fact his most famous, such as 'Portrait of Fritza Riedler'. The Leopold Museum in particular also taught me more about the work of Egon Schiele, Klimt's younger contemporary who I was not previously very familiar with. I came away from the trip convinced that he was a genius.

The Secession building, the purpose-built space where its founding members first exhibited their art,

was of course another essential port of call. While the main space of the gallery was dedicated to a rather uninspiring exhibition of modern Viennese installation art when I visited, the basement still has Klimt's famous 'Beethoven Frieze' in its original exhibition space along the upper walls. There was an almost reverential atmosphere of silence and stillness when I walked in, and the numerous seats positioned around encouraged visitors to stay and observe.

The Freud Museum, located to the West of the city centre in a neighbourhood of university apartment blocks and quirky shops, had one of the best bookshops I came across, with useful titles on Secession-era Vienna which I did not find elsewhere. I took it as an opportunity to also buy Freud's seminal work – 'The Interpretation of Dreams'.

One museum located right opposite my hotel was MAK (the Museum of Applied Arts), which contained a large collection of Wiener Werkstatte objects, exhibited with screens and spotlighting in creative ways. There were a handful of Klimt's preparatory drawings for the Stoclet frieze on display, but what I liked most about this museum was its Art Nouveau-style interior, especially the wide staircase with stained-glass windows filtering soft orange light onto a brown and white chequered floor.

The Albertina Collection was my favourite place in terms of the beauty of the museum itself, which struck me as a more beautiful version of London's Wallace Collection, with patterned silk wallpapers, chandeliers and ornate candlesticks everywhere and plush armchairs in corners. And then there were the drawings



## CLASSICISM AND FASCISM IN ROME

MAX GILL

■ ‘Buona sera! Sono il Signore Pistole!’ hollered a heavily accented voice from a nearby Mercedes. We’ve all been told to stay away from strangers, but when confronted with a smooth Italian clad in definitive Italian haute-couture, promising a tour round Rome in a convertible by night, it’s terribly hard to say no. So here I am, first night, my feet having barely touched the ground of the Eternal City, screeching round the Colosseum with a handful of acquaintances I had just met outside the language school.

From that moment on the pace only ever increased. Travelling alone, I quickly became acquainted with the chaotic Italian way of life. On this, my first night, I was introduced to the best-kept secret in Rome by my enigmatic driver. Along the riverbanks, under the luminous dome of St. Peter’s, the youth of Rome is greeted by makeshift restaurants, bars, fortune tellers, dancers and musicians. It certainly

wasn’t the welcome I expected, but from that hectic moment I had the confidence to explore every nook and cranny of this culture-drenched city in search of both modern and ancient artefacts.

Language school gave me the opportunity to meet other students hoping likewise to soak themselves in the city’s vibrant and illustrious culture. The study of Italian gave me the ability to socialise with the locals, as well to convince the elderly gossipers who reign over the galleries to let me take photos of priceless art.

I spent my afternoons roaming the historical centre in search of inspiration and adventure, once even being locked in a pagan labyrinth when the stewards decided to go home early.

With the main tourist attractions under my belt, I set out to discover the ambiguous history of modern Italy. Everywhere one goes in Rome there is a reminder of Italy’s Fascist past, and for the Art Historian these almost entirely overlooked sites are a fascinating opportunity to create new theories and interpretations. Whether it was running across ring roads for a closer look at a Fascist

obelisk or scaling the heights of Mussolini’s palace, what was so fantastic about the opportunity to study on my own was the independence I was able to apply to my studies, constrained only by my own energy! It was remarkable to be able to go into any church and discover masterpieces of Italian art by Bernini or Caravaggio. The Italian painting of the 1940s in the Villa Borghese, evidently influenced by De Chirico, also particularly inspired me. Most striking of all was the austere, soulless, yet harmonious EUR district, a Fascist outskirts rarely visited by tourists.

“Everywhere one goes in Rome there is a reminder of Italy’s Fascist past.”

The whole experience was utterly invaluable; not only did I prove that I could look after myself in one of the most bustling cities on earth, but I also managed to include enough art history to provide anyone with a lifetime of research and investigation. My warmest thanks go to the History of Art department, and of course, to the Philip Hendy fund for making it all wonderfully possible.

themselves – notably several studies of hands by Albrecht Dürer which I had transcribed for my Art AS Level, and the large number of Schiele sketches which are exhibited on rotation. The ones I saw were all fascinating from an artistic point of view, as I admire his sparing, fractured technique of line drawing.

On my last day I visited the Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna’s largest and grandest art gallery. The building has a highly decorative stone façade, and the interior is filled with ornate marble columns and wall and ceiling paintings collaborated on by Klimt while he was still painting in the classical tradition. The artworks on display are not themselves from the Secession period, but I saw many significant paintings by artists I had not expected – a highlight was Vermeer’s ‘The Art of Painting’ (1666–67), tucked away in a ridiculously inauspicious corner of the museum. The gallery rooms felt quite surreal to walk through – a combination of classical masterpieces of oil painting and Kubrick-esque dark velvet sofas from which to regard them.

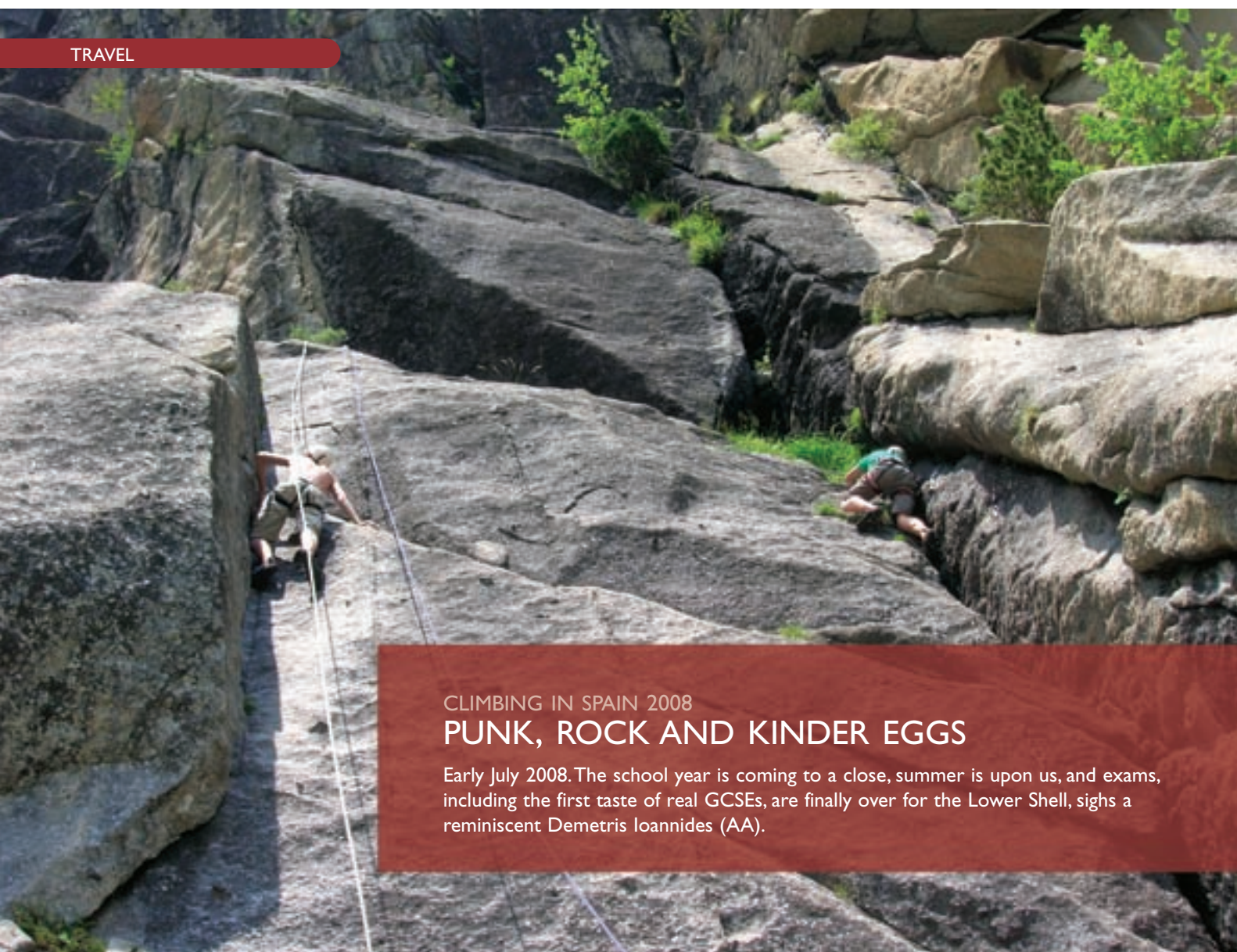
What I also loved about the trip was the unexpected: the large, domed Karlskirche with tall spires and an eerie lake in the foreground, or the Riesenrad ferris wheel that features in ‘The Third Man’. Furthermore, my distinctly limited map-reading ability meant that many times I got lost on the way to a gallery and ended up discovering somewhere completely new instead.

What surprised me about the trip was how much it related to my other AS-level subjects: making sketches from buildings and paintings I liked in my Art sketchbook, and reading Rilke’s poetry as well as a novel by Elfriede Jelinek. I spent time sketching and photographing the magnificent St. Stephen’s Cathedral, an imposing, dark, spindly building with crazy shadows everywhere that was a perfect visual realization of the Gothic novels I had been reading for English Literature. All in all, it was an extremely worthwhile venture and I am very grateful to the School Society for providing the funds, without which I would certainly not have been able to go.



“The gallery rooms felt quite surreal to walk through – a combination of classical masterpieces of oil painting and Kubrick-esque dark velvet sofas.”





## CLIMBING IN SPAIN 2008

## PUNK, ROCK AND KINDER EGGS

Early July 2008. The school year is coming to a close, summer is upon us, and exams, including the first taste of real GCSEs, are finally over for the Lower Shell, sighs a reminiscent Demetris Ioannides (AA).

■ Now at last was the time for relaxation, the time for sun, the time for leisure – the time for climbing. We set out from school on a Thursday and after some minor confusion at Gatwick airport, took flight for Catalunya.

Upon arrival, the smug hopes of Spanish students soon vanished, as we realised that the locals spoke a language of their own, and were hostile to Spanish speakers. After a bumpy ride in Gee, the instructor's 4x4, which included some truly spectacular views of valleys from the winding mountain roads, we arrived at our accommodation, a charming hostel-of-sorts deep in the valleys of the surrounding mountains. After a trip to the lake and a few games of cards, (not to mention indulgence Pokemon by certain individuals), we all went straight to sleep in heavy anticipation of our first day of climbing.

**"The smug hopes of Spanish students soon vanished, as we realised that the locals spoke a language of their own, and were hostile to Spanish speakers."**

The next day was fantastic. After a bumpy ride in the Gee's Land Rover, with the music of The Clash blaring out of the windows and reverberating in the valleys, we arrived at our starting climb. There was a chance to fill water bottles at a nearby spring, followed by a quick

safety demonstration by AK on harnesses and the like. Then, after squeezing into our climbing shoes, the pain of which can be compared to nothing else, we got going. The heat from the sun and the finger-shredding roughness of the rock was more than made up for by magnificent views and a true sense of achievement. If not, there was always chalk and finger tape.

Following an exhausting session, we wolfed down our lunches and made our way to a swimming pool nearby, where we all cooled off for a while. Some people took the opportunity to purchase huge quantities of Kinder eggs, the novelty of which, unfortunately, soon wore off.

Following a relaxing sunbathe with a book, we had a short afternoon session of climbing, after which we headed over to a lake for the evening. There were ice-creams aplenty. What followed over the next two days was more exhilarating climbing, jaw-dropping mountain scenery, and even a mammoth football match in 34 degree heat.

On the last evening, we all packed in to a local pizzeria to watch the final of Euro 2008. The place erupted as Torres sneaked the ball past the keeper, ensuring Spain's place in the history books.

The Catalunya trip was for all, a great trip, for some, a life-changing experience, and for a few, amazingly, a rest. I strongly recommend this trip to anyone, but particularly those who enjoy the unbeatable thrill of Climbing.





SEPTEMBER 2008

## LOWER SHELL EXPEDITIONS

Once again, September saw lower school parties fanning out across Europe and beyond for cultural and outdoor pursuits. Fragments of their experiences came back...

Harry Vos (LL) reports from Morocco

■ ...The warm light illuminated the room, after being woken up by the rooster cock-a-doodleing. I felt an insect up my t-shirt, so I smacked it and a spider about an inch wide fell onto the floor. Yes, I did scream. Sidy led us with the mules on an amazing trek which took us up to the highest peak in the area of Imlil. The Berber village we stayed the night in was beautiful. Our delicious dinner was served to us on plastic, flower-shaped plates.

...George was confused by heaps of white powder and jugs of water near the cereal. He had yet to learn the wonders of dehydrated milk. Later, we climbed up to the Pepsi Shack and my bones were shaken by the bumpy mule ride down. In the afternoon, we all slept on the minibus to Marrakech.

Our hotel in Marrakech was next to the most dangerous road. There were coaches reversing, taxis swerving round them, helmet-less people on mopeds weaving through the madness, and amongst all of it, pedestrians crossing; there weren't any traffic lights. Later, in the souks, I was shocked to find a monkey on my shoulder.

The next day, on horse and carriages, we got a feel for the madness on the roads. A guide showed us the medinas, where we visited a tannery, which smelled foul. In the souks there were snake-charmers and we tried out our haggling skills. 'Fish and chips, lubly jubley!' they all shout, 'You student, I give good price!'...

Luke Rix-Standing (BB) contemplates his experiences at the war cemeteries on the Battlefields trip

■ Walking between the graves, name after name flashing past, I felt my individuality slipping away from me. Name and death day was all each soldier was allowed, not a fragment of a life behind the name. Jean Merceau, William Lagat, Eugene Caurain, identities merging together into one single stereotype: A Soldier of the Great War.

Until the next seven graves. All seven of them had died

on my birthday. I stopped by the last one. The name read: Paul Latour. I said his name out loud. A name that might not have been said out loud for eighty years. I thought about what it might have meant to that soldier, among all the 73,000 dead of that cemetery, for me to be saying his name.

In the middle stood a small church. Inside was a tomb to represent all the unknown soldiers who had died but never had their bodies recovered. I couldn't help but think while looking at the tomb that really they are now all unknown soldiers. I walked to the end of the cemetery. It took several minutes. I stopped to turn and it struck me that it was completely silent.

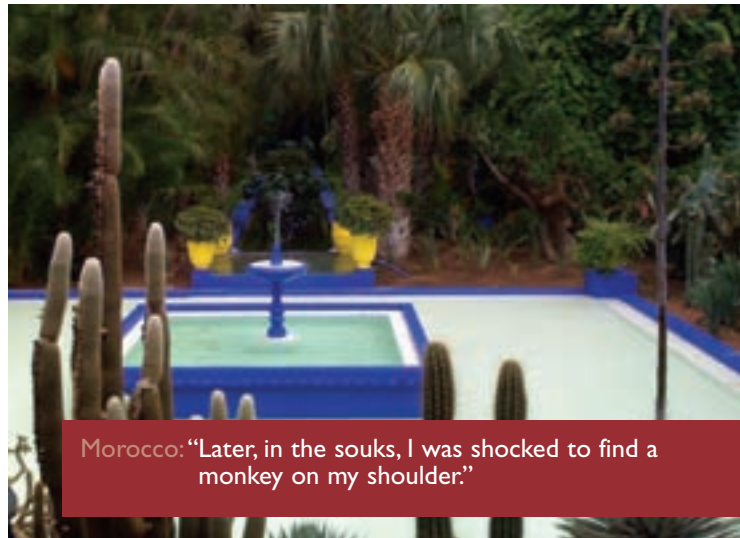
This was my second trip to the battlefields of the First World War (the last with my old school). I had not expected to be so moved second time round. You've read the books, you've seen the films. You think you can imagine at least a little of what the horrors of war must be like. But actually you have no idea.

Beautiful, mysterious, ancient and quasi-submerged, Venice held promise for every one of us as we clambered off the bus and into the dark square on our September Expedition, exhales William Peck (LL), succumbing to a fit of the artistic vapours.

■ Each lens-toting explorer was eager to go to town on this historic piece of flotsam, but darkness shrouded our view and that of our cameras as we were ushered on to one of the many vaporetti ('water buses') that carried us down the glittering waterway of the Grand Canal. The silent majesty of the city struck everyone.

Over the course of the next few days we were treated to a number of guided tours by Mr. Street and Mrs Jorgensen. Saint Mark's Square, the Doge's Palace, The Frari church, San Giorgio Maggiore, Torcello (the poetry reading was a particularly evocative moment) and the Rialto Bridge, to name but a few, bowed to our insatiable appreciation. Every corner held a new delight, every glimpse down a canal took your breath away, no one could get enough. Gastronomy was not the least of the attractions of the city, it must be said, as every evening was a treat to the palate, and every stop in any one of the hundreds of street *gelaterias* kindled anew our adoration of the city's frozen sweets. The dark chocolate was so rich it almost hurt...

Everyone came away with a new-found knowledge and perhaps even fondness for Tintoretto, Titian or, in my case, Bellini. We saw some of the greatest artistic works, both Renaissance and contemporary, we heard the poetry and the rhythm of a city whose lifeblood is the water it stands on, and tasted some of the best pizza we've ever had the pleasure of ingesting. Venice was more than an expedition, it was an experience.



Morocco: "Later, in the souks, I was shocked to find a monkey on my shoulder."



## BEIJING EXCHANGE 2008 SUNDAY SCHOOL TOO

It was with some trepidation that those embarking on Westminster's first Anglo-Sino exchange waited for their opposite numbers to arrive in Sanctuary on a Sunday morning early in the Play term, remembers a nervous Jocelyn Turton (QSS).

■ At this stage of the proceedings, virtually nothing was known about our exchanges so we were, not surprisingly, somewhat cautious. When the minibus finally drew up and ten excitable and friendly-looking Chinese boys emerged, it finally dawned upon us what a fascinating cultural experience this was going to be, both in London and on the return leg. The ensuing week gave us a unique insight into how some of Britain's social quirks are perceived by those living on the other side of the planet. The enthusiasm with which they greeted the idea of school meals and their amazement at the apparent lack of industriousness within the classroom both baffled and amused us, their hosts.

Much of this was explained on the return leg. When we arrived in Beijing, our awareness of the country and its customs extended to a brief tutorial in the technique we should employ when using the public conveniences out there. Armed with this knowledge, we bade farewell to the teachers and set off with our exchanges in search of our first taste of Chinese cuisine. This proved to be quite a startling experience for those who were not used to nibbling stewed jellyfish or jellied pig's knuckle for their Sunday lunches. There then followed a tour of the school during which we were able to draw comparisons with our own establishment some 5,000 miles away. Aside from the obvious architectural differences, one of the things which most struck us was how



"It transpired that many pupils regularly chose to come in over the whole weekend to take advantage of places such as the library in order to work."



populous the school and its facilities were, given that this was a Sunday morning. It transpired that many pupils regularly chose to come in over the whole weekend to take advantage of places such as the library in order to work. It was at this point that any of our complaints about Saturday school evaporated.

The rest of the weekend was spent at our exchange's households, which were dotted around all corners of the city. The lack of prior knowledge about their families and way of life added to the excitement as our trip felt increasingly like a journey into the unknown. On meeting 'my' exchange's parents, I discovered to my relief that they were enormously hospitable and made every effort to make the transition as smooth as possible. My first evening was spent learning how to hand-make traditional Chinese dumplings which inevitably turned out to be delicious. The remainder of the week was spent in accommodation provided by the school itself, where we co-habited with an exchange group





from Kazakhstan, thus broadening our well-stretched cultural horizons even further! A carefully planned programme meant that each day was spent exploring a different facet of the country's rich history. The highpoints were undoubtedly a walk along a section of the Great Wall as well as a guided tour of the Olympic Park, including the magnificent Bird's Nest stadium. For me, the time we spent in the school's classrooms was the most captivating part of the week. The most striking difference between a Westminster classroom and that of Beijing School Number 4 was the size of the class itself, with every lesson attended by at least 40 pupils. On top of this, the approach to teaching was almost unrecognisable to us, involving almost no interaction between the teacher and the students.

All in all, the exchange was of massive cultural benefit to us. We were able to participate in an education system parallel to our own, but so very different, as well as experiencing a multiplicity of intriguing aspects of China itself.

## SIXTH FORM GERMAN EXCHANGE TO MUNICH

On the 1st July 2008 the German Sixth Form group gathered at Heathrow Terminal 2, later than planned (as some tried to escape) claim John Owen (RR), Kempe Brydges (QSS) and Oattie Wilford (GG).



■ We landed in Munich several hours later and took the train to Puchheim to meet our exchanges. We already knew them from the London leg in February, which had been enjoyable and rewarding; we had learned a great deal from the experience of playing hosts to those unfamiliar with London for a month. Nevertheless, we approached the prospect of a month in Munich with some trepidation; we knew that our friends in London were breaking up for the summer while the German school system still had a month to go.

As soon as we arrived, however, our exchanges and their families did their utmost to make us feel welcome. Spending time with them was an interesting and enjoyable cultural experience on both sides, and undoubtedly greatly improved our linguistic skills. We started and ended the trip with gatherings in the *Englischer Garten* and made numerous visits to the ice cream parlours which made us feel immediately at home. First impressions of Munich were those of an historic, clean and culturally vibrant city. In addition, Herr Hennig and Dr Baughan worked tirelessly to organize a full programme to orientate us in

Munich and keep us busy, even dealing with the emergency afforded by Charlie's appendix (*der Blinddarm* was the German word for that day) with relish. They took us on almost daily trips throughout the month to places as varied as art galleries, the medieval town of Regensburg and to Dachau concentration camp. We also had daily lessons with our teachers and partook in our exchanges' lessons too; some of us had great fun teaching English to some 11 year-old beginners who impressed us with their grasp of the language. We immediately settled in to both Munich itself and the Bavarian culture, enjoying traditional food and drink. By the end of the exchange we had almost all become close friends with our exchanges, and all of us had greatly enjoyed our time in Munich. In our opinion, the exchange was such a success, and many of us intend to see our exchanges again in our own time. We would like to say a big thank you to Herr Hennig and Dr Baughan, who moved mountains daily on our behalf, including managing to persuade Lufthansa not to charge any of the huge excess baggage fees as the girls took their considerable shopping home.



## DUKE OF EDINBURGH SILVER AWARD

Patrick Beardmore (BB) finds the holy grail of Westminster Travel writing.

From Patrick Beardmore  
To the Editor,

*Sorry this is a bit late. I didn't have time to write my own piece about Duke of Edinburgh, but I've managed to find this template on the internet, and I'm sure you can adapt it.*

■ [3:30am/pm/the next day] saw all of us at the [rendez-vous/tube] [except x/y/x&y] for our Duke of Edinburgh [Gold/Silver/ Bronze] expedition. The whole gang was [raring to go/drunken/wishing they had chosen the [Paris/Finland/Pompeii] trip instead].

We made our way by [camel/boat/hover craft], under the [watchful/bloodshot/closed] [eye/eyes] of [Mr/Mrs/Ms/ Rt Hon/Rev/Dr] \_\_\_\_\_. Arriving at our [wigwam/ YMCA/bunker] we [unpacked/discovered we had lost] our [clothes/food/souls]. Unfortunately the [weather forecast/shipping forecast/pollen count] was [bad/worse/ unobtainable due to lack of [batteries/a radio/interest]].

By the next day we had [made detailed plans/only just realised that we should make detailed plans] for the next few [hours/days/months] in the [snow/rain/hail]. We were lucky enough to experience the worst conditions [in years/in 50 years/on record] for [the majority/all] of the trip. It was generally agreed that the lack of [compass/map/directions] had contributed to our [later than expected arrival/hospitalisation/eventual arrest]. Careful food preparation [paid off for/escaped] many of us. The [picturesque/strip mined/quarantined] landscape served as a reminder to many of us for the need to [protect our countryside/obtain vaccinations/never return].

[The whole/Practically the whole] team made it back eventually, but there's still no sign of [x/y/x&y]. The high spot was undoubtedly [the end/the ride in the police car], and none of us will ever forget [the team spirit/the trench foot/the sewage works]. Parts of our kit have been returned to us from as far away as [Didcot Parkway/Bristol Temple Meads/Edinburgh Waverley (our thanks to the Duke for this)]. Appreciation was shown to the [ambulance/police/ mountain rescue] service(s) that helped us along the way. We've all returned with [fond memories/nightmares/dysentery].

*With a bit of luck, that should fit.*

Yours, Patrick



## CLIMBING IN JOSHUA TREE, CALIFORNIA BY DAWN'S EARLY LIGHT

After a long journey by plane and bus to Joshua Tree National Park, we settled down quickly enough in the Californian dusk, reveals Kyle Thetford (BB).



■ We spent the evening sitting lazily around the campfire stargazing, an activity we found ourselves doing most evenings, along with enjoying a meal of tortillas, pastas and a barbeque on two evenings courtesy of Dr Boulton. A regular highlight of the nights was that whether sleeping in a tent or simply lying on the desert sand next to the crackling fire we could hear the howls of the coyotes mere feet away.

The next morning, we crawled out of our tents with the sun still a good hour away (helped by jetlag) and, equipped with a mug of hot tea, quickly scaled the nearest rock we could find to watch the sun rise up above the mountains in the park. We began most mornings at sunrise and with the nearest water source five miles away there was little in the way of hygiene aside from bi-weekly ventures to the nearest town!





“After two days of climbing one’s fingers would be wearing thin from gripping the granite.”



The climbing was fantastic, with everything from cracks to slabs to overhangs but while fun, the rock was certainly unkind to our hands and most days we would tape up heavily before venturing out in the hopes that our fingers would last the entire day. Perhaps the best spot we climbed was at Lost Horse Valley, a valley accessible only after a climb up a series of piled rocks, where the vegetation was protected enough to let less hardy plants grow.

After two days of climbing one’s fingers would be wearing thin from gripping the granite and we would take a rest day to venture into town for a shower and a burger, and on one of these days we took the opportunity to have a desert

horse-riding session. This was hot enough for the eight students but was truly excruciating for Dr Agyare-Kwabi who went out with three groups of two or three and thus had five hours of riding under his belt beneath the beating Mojave sun by the end!

Not to be forgotten were the flora and fauna that we experienced in Joshua Tree, including encountering a rattlesnake while bouldering near the dried up Barker Dam, and our cautious avoidance of the poisonous (though less lethal) Yucca plant which can leave an infection for months if one of its leaves pierces the skin.

Equally strange and exotic was Halloween, our last night in the camp where all the campers in Joshua Tree dressed up in what can only be described in interesting ways. My personal favourite was a man-fairy we found enjoying a burger at the restaurant in town. After extensive exploration we found large groups of climbers sitting around a select few different fires singing and drumming, in which our Captain of Stone, Jack Beanland, was keen to join and display his talents.

All-in-all it was a truly exciting and eye-opening experience that I’m sure everyone will agree one that will never be forgotten: a big thanks to Dr Agyare-Kwabi and Dr Boulton for putting up with us for eleven days and making it so memorable.



## UPPER SHELL RUSSIAN TRIP

## MOSCOW AND ST PETERSBURG

I don't know anyone in my Russian class who wasn't counting down to the first Sunday of October Exeat, recalls Il-Kweon Sir (HH).

■ We gathered at the airport wearing about four layers each (not at all necessary in fact).

We were in Moscow for the first three days. Nobody really had any firm expectations, but Moscow was somewhat different – composed of mostly concrete buildings of the mid-twentieth century with advertising hoardings (sometimes larger than the buildings themselves) and a few distinctive tourist attractions. However these few buildings were extraordinary: we visited Lenin's Mausoleum, watched by Russian "Militsia" at every corner; the Kremlin, where we saw a group of new conscripts as well as the impressive monuments within its walls; and the famous Novodevichy Cemetery where we saw the graves of Anton Chekhov, Dmitri Shostakovich and Boris Yeltsin. We experienced other parts of Muscovite life – the horrible traffic jam, the fast Moscow Metro, and lunch on Old Arbat Street, beautiful with its pink pavements (yet somehow ruined by the huge signs for "MacDonalds" and "Starbucks Coffee" in Cyrillic).

After an exciting three days, we left Moscow on a sleeper train for St Petersburg: a journey interesting to some and sleepless to most. We were welcomed by rain and our guide at the beautiful city. Here our tours were fascinating too: we visited the Hermitage museum, where our eyes were always occupied, we watched a ballet at the Mariinsky Theatre; and we went to a folk show where we listened to and watched traditional Russian songs and dances. On our last day we went to Pushkin (Tsarskoye Selo), and this to me was the highlight of the trip. In Pushkin, we visited the Catherine Palace, in which all of us were shocked by the sheer amount of gold that was used. I think I heard that several tonnes were used. I believe that it could cover all of our school buildings with a layer of gold. Of course gold wasn't everything and the palace contained a great collection of well-designed and styled rooms. Our culinary experience was different for everyone, with some trying new food every day, resulting in very interesting, unknown dishes being set in front of them, and others learning stock phrases to use at MacDonald's. Classics teachers would be proud.

The whole group would like to thank Dr Aplin for organizing, and Mr Jones and Dr Ward-Smith for taking us on, such a pleasant trip.

"I believe that it could cover all of our school buildings with a layer of gold."







UPPER SHELL VALLADOLID TRIP, OCTOBER 2008

## ‘LOOK THE DONK’

If you ever decide to visit the north-western Spanish city of Valladolid, be sure to find a tour guide whose English matches the region’s renowned purity of ‘King’s Spanish’, otherwise you may well find yourself hearing some amusing neologisms, advises Peter Huhne (GG).

■ “Look the donk” the guide explained, drawing our attention to an otherwise unidentifiable animal in the corner of a tapestry displayed in the Casa Consistorial, before ushering us into the next room with a striking imperative: “Came with me please”, his accent as sloppy as my botched attempt to turn out a respectable *tortilla de patatas* during our Spanish cookery class at the Casa del Español.

In the event, a faltering command of English among the Vallisoletanos was to our advantage and indeed encouraged us to practise our textbook Spanish with greater determination and to engage more purposefully in family life. We attended oral classes each morning and were soon able to identify the nuances and peculiarities of the Spanish spoken in Castilla y León, compared with that of Andalusia or South America, for example. The hospitality and warmth extended by the host family is certainly one aspect that remains in my mind, even if the elderly lady I was staying with had clearly been a hard-line Catholic Falangist sympathiser in her youth and was three stops east of Barking.

“The elderly lady I was staying with had clearly been a hard-line Catholic Falangist sympathiser in her youth and was three stops east of Barking.”

A somewhat tasteless monument in honour of Francisco Franco – the Valle de los Caídos – was our destination on the Wednesday afternoon, following a tour of the palace at San Lorenzo de El Escorial, once the political hub of Philip II’s empire. Situated some 30 miles northwest of Madrid, the tallest memorial cross in the world towers above a colossal Catholic basilica, shrine to Spain’s dictator of almost 40 years: commemorating the Nationalist cause, it was built primarily by Republican prisoners of war who are buried under the immense esplanade, without a single plaque by which to remember them, still a controversial subject in



Spanish politics today. Entering this brutalist concrete merging of Catholicism and totalitarianism was rather a sickening experience and indeed left some of the more radical among us positively distressed.

The architecture of Valladolid is equally striking: although the city dates back to the early Renaissance, there was a bold reconstruction programme at the turn of the 20th Century with many of its larger roads and avenues resembling London’s Bloomsbury, rebuilt around the same time; EU-financed construction programmes continue today but any change in the city’s infrastructure has certainly not detracted from its inhabitants’ pride in and understanding of the wealth of history associated with Spain’s former capital; on the contrary, one of the most intriguing visits we paid during our stay was to the house where Christopher Columbus died back in 1506.

I learnt a great deal about Spain and the history of Valladolid during the week; any time not spent quizzing Mr. Berg on the uses of the imperative subjunctive was whiled away in the sun on the terraces of the cafés in the Plaza Mayor. All of us returned to England having gained a greater awareness of the country’s culture, even if the so-called ‘Spanish film’ we chose to watch on our last night was an appallingly-dubbed version of High School Musical 3!



## UPPER SHELL GRANADA TRIP GORGING ON CULTURE

In the Autumn Exeat, a group of Upper Shell Spanish students set off for Granada in an attempt to learn the language before the Summer exams, explains Roland Waters (BB).

■ We were staying with locals who were forbidden to speak English to us, so understandably everyone was fairly nervous about not understanding anything going on around them. However in the end our fears proved unfounded and everyone was able to get by at first with some fairly stilted Spanish and a lot of gesticulation.

We had been warned that we weren't going to get much of a holiday but I don't think anyone was quite prepared for the onslaught of learning that faced us. Locked in a classroom for six hours a day, Spanish was drilled into us until we almost snapped, at which point we were released into Granada to cram as much food as possible before the next intensive session. And our taste of Spanish culture – mainly literal – was sensational: churros for breakfast, tortilla for lunch, and pancakes for supper. We gorged ourselves senseless on the delights the city proposed.

Sadly, I can't write authoritatively on the nightlife of the city because of a strict eight o'clock curfew, perhaps because of the danger of overindulgence in some of the less savoury things Granada has to offer, but we were shown around the stunning Alhambra palace, and had a very interesting guided tour of some of the city.

Though the regime seemed draconian – and we were force-fed and fattened up on vocabulary and syntax – the true worth of the trip became apparent when we realized our new confidence in what had felt like a very foreign language only a few days before. By the end of the trip, most could communicate far more easily and even joke with their host families. As a trip, it may not rank up there with the 'fact-finding tours' of certain depart-



"Our taste of Spanish culture – mainly literal – was sensational: churros for breakfast, tortilla for lunch, and pancakes for supper"

ments to sunny and exotic places – which no doubt the editor of this magazine has had much more fun reading – but as a language course, it was fantastically successful. I would highly recommend it for anyone doing Spanish in the future.



## LOWER SCHOOL CULTURAL TRIP TO ROME PALACES AND PRISONS

You can never see everything in Rome, agrees Daniel Marx (GG), but he gave it a try anyway during the October Exeat trip. This is an edited account of some of the things he and 22 other boys managed to cram into four intensive days.



■ We met Nicholas Ross, who was to be our guide along with Mr. Street and Mr. Tompkins, and arrived in the afternoon at our hotel, Hotel Abruzzi, right opposite the Pantheon. After lunch, we had a walk round Rome and were told about the city to give us some understanding of the history. During the afternoon, among other things, we saw the Victor Emmanuel Monument, and the Mamertine Prison, where St. Peter was imprisoned. That afternoon was also the first of our visits to the Pantheon, which used to be a temple containing a huge statue of the Emperor Hadrian. It has since been turned into a church, although it still feels more like a temple. It houses the body of Raphael.

The next day we split up into two groups. We saw Piazza Barberini and the Capucine cemetery with decorations made of bones and skulls. We also saw a Borromini church, one of the two completed wholly by him. It is based on equilateral triangles and is sort of oval in shape with a dome. The crypt was where Borromini wanted to be buried, but as he killed himself, this was not allowed by the church and he is instead buried in an unknown grave outside the city. Later we visited the Colosseum, the Roman bloodhouse. It is hard to remember that many people were forced to fight and died to entertain the crowd. While we were there, we learnt a lot about Christianity, then an illegal religion. The Christians were rubbish gladiators as many refused to fight.

We saw a shrine to the first, only and legendary female pope, Pope Joan. After that, we visited The Quattro Coronati. Here we visited the mysterious Chapel of St. Sylvester. To enter, you had to ring a bell, wait for a nun to appear behind a mysterious grate, leave a donation on a mysterious wooden turntable, and wait for the nun to unlock the door, mysteriously. Of interest were the frescoes on the wall. We then made our way into the church, and after pressing another

bell, were greeted by another nun at the door to the cloisters. She allowed us to pass after asking us to leave a donation. In contrast was the next church we saw, San Clemente. It was designed to take your breath away and it did. After seeing the church, we went down the stairs, back in time, to the original church upon which the present church now stands. Going down another flight of stairs, we saw the pagan temple upon which the original church was built.

On Wednesday we went to the Vatican, passing on our way Hadrian's Mausoleum. At lunch, we met Dr. Spurr, who just happened to be seated at the restaurant where we had already decided to have our lunch! Someone needs to explain that to me some day.

**"He showed us round 'his house', as he called it, or 'palace', as we called it, decked with paintings, ivory, coral..."**

In the evening, we were very lucky to visit Prince Jonathan Doria Pamphili, who studied with Nick. He is descended from Pope Innocent X. He showed us round 'his house', as he called it, or 'palace', as we called it, decked with paintings, ivory, coral... He explained how his family was the only aristocratic family openly to object to German occupation and had to go into hiding in Rome, spreading rumours that they had left.

On Thursday, our final day, we visited Keats' house where he died of tuberculosis. We learnt about his terrible childhood, his voyage to Rome and his friend, Joseph Severn, who nursed him until his death, aged only 25. Although it was a short trip, it was excellent, but nowhere near complete. There is so much to see and this trip proved merely a taster, giving me an insight into Rome, its culture, its art and so much else.



## INTELLIGENT DESIGN DESIGN TECHNOLOGY GOES ITALIAN

Prior to the Design and Technology trip to Italy, I had never gone on a trip where rigid adherence to timetable was not a prerequisite. This was a welcome relief – we learned you can always catch the next train, advises a relaxed Kristian Bagger (BB).



■ But when we arrived at Gatwick, we had a shock – three of us were flying somewhere else! However, Miss Veninata headed determinedly towards “enquiries” and, after what I can only assume was a severe reprimand, returned triumphantly with the correct tickets to Milan.

On our first full day, we set off to the Milano Design Museum. With unusually auspicious timing, we arrived before the museum opened. However, the cafe was open, where we found, to Miss Veninata’s delight, all the chairs were in fact famous designer chairs, so we amused ourselves by drawing (and sitting on) them. When the museum finally opened, we were greeted by a host of interesting events. Some of the best were the ‘stackable’ exhibits, which explored the concept of stackable furniture, and the exhibition of shoes on the floor below it. After several informative hours at the museum, we visited the studios of Castiglione, a famous Milanese designer who worked with the manufacturing company ‘Flos’ to produce works of art such as the ‘wire lamp’ and the arch lamp, both of which, I was pleased to find, I have seen in people’s houses. The last visit that day was to the ‘Valentina’ exhibition on the other side of Milan. This explored the cartoon of the often scantily-clothed Valentina,

who grew up with her artist, her depiction ageing as the artist herself did.

On the third day, we took a deafening train journey to Turin, World Design Capital for 2008, and headed to a car exhibition, *Dream*. This exhibition was amazing in that the cars there were so effective at conveying their message – *speed* – to us. We then visited the Natural History Museum having originally intended to visit the design exhibition, but on discovering how dull it was we went to see Turin’s collection of stuffed animals instead.

Our final stop in Turin was the museum of film which had many interesting and often amusing exhibits, in addition to a terrifying glass lift that carried us to the top of the dome. Given the swaying back and forth as we ascended, I was unspeakably glad to reach the top and get to the viewing tower. The views were magnificent, and despite not being able to throw objects through the railings it was still good fun. We returned to Milan, anticipating the next day’s trip to Venice.

After a visit to the cathedral in Milan we just made it to the Venice train. On arrival, we caught a *vaporetto* to St. Mark’s Square and walked to our hostel, a converted palazzo.

The next day, we went to the most important exhibition of the trip: the Venice Biennale, an annual exhibition which alternates between architecture and art, this year being architecture’s. There were twenty exhibits on display, my favourite being ‘sky cars’, which explored the changes that would occur in an everyday world if cars could fly. After lunch Miss Veninata managed, with her usual cry of “Fantastico!”, to secure a seat on the back of a golf buggy to ride to the entrance of the Biennale.

The pavilions are a group of buildings set in a park on the eastern edge of Venice. Each pavilion is dedicated to one country, showing several works from that country’s artists/architects. Finally, we spent some quality time mindlessly jumping on an ‘interactive exhibit’, a group of soft marshmallow-inspired objects.

On our eventual return I decided it had been really enjoyable: we had seen so much design, yet it was not the museum trawl I had expected. In the words of Miss Veninata, “Fantastico!”

## LAKE DISTRICT TRIP 2008

### DECEIVINGLY PLEASANT

Having endured an arduous journey filled with frequent bouts of appalling singing from the rear of the minibus, the teachers breathed a sigh of relief when we finally arrived, sighs Laura Ashforth (DD), with assistance from Dom Richards (RR).

■ On descending into the significantly quieter array of seemingly endless mountains it soon became clear that this would be a welcome break from the day-to-day chaos of London.

The hostel was completely secluded and surrounded by a stunning array of lakes and mountains for us to explore.

The weather was deceptively pleasant on the first morning, which gave us an entirely false sense of security before we found ourselves fighting our way through strong winds, horizontal rain and hail throughout the trip. However, this was not sufficient to dampen our mood and we battled against the elements to reach the summit of numerous mountains. Having exhausted ourselves on the ascent, we took solace in the fact that there was little point in trying to

stay clean and many of us took the simpler option of sliding down the hills on our bums.

Unfortunately, due to adverse weather conditions and gale force winds of 80 miles per hour, our hill walking was limited to the first couple of days. On the other days we enjoyed a shorter but dryer tour of the lake and waterfall behind the youth hostel. Even so, the group were always in high spirits when we returned to the youth hostel and relaxed with delicious meals made by our multi-talented teachers.

In spite of the appalling weather the Lake District Trip was a great success and was thoroughly enjoyable. As a new sixth former I found it was a fantastic opportunity to bond with my fellow peers and teachers whilst enjoying the beautiful scenery of the area around Keswick.



## MILTON ACADEMY VISIT AND KILLINGTON SKI TRIP DECEMBER 2008

### GO WEST

As Play term finished a group of twenty set off for the annual Ski trip to Killington, Vermont and a visit to our US exchange school; Milton Academy, writes CD in the official version.

■ After a considerable Milton breakfast, the lower school boys attended a variety of classes throughout the morning and were overwhelmed by a tour of the facilities. Meanwhile Mrs Jorgensen was comparing notes in the Art Department and Dr Boulton was on tour with the senior boys and girls around Harvard University led by recent OW, Ed Winters-Ronaldson. Later that day we relocated to the snowy summits

of Killington where we enjoyed the most fantastic conditions ever. Skiing was led by instructors Lee and Duffy who have looked after Westminster groups for many years and so good was the snow that we somehow ran out of time to go shopping. Time and time again we were told what a fantastic group of kids we had brought with us.

### Vermont Ski Trip

Shaneil Patel (WW) offers a worm's eye view of the same trip: At first there were a few wobbles and some particularly loud screams but we soon showed our true colours, proving to be a very able group on the slopes. Over the next few days as the snow fell thick and fast, the temperature plummeted to a mighty -20°C. Nevertheless we enjoyed the fresh powder and the different style of skiing it asked of us, but much more importantly the snow fights that ensued were tremendous fun. After skiing throughout the day with the instructors, those who wished could ski right until the lifts closed. The evenings were just as amusing, either taking a dip in the pool or relaxing in the sauna, followed by a quick dinner then back to the condos for some well-earned rest. The last day was chaos: the ferocious weather conditions with freezing rain caused havoc on the return drive to Boston, and cut our long-awaited shopping trip very short (which didn't go down too well). The same passport as on the outward leg managed to get lost, again, but eventually everyone got home safely in time for Christmas, after a very enjoyable trip indeed.





## UPPER SCHOOL GEOGRAPHY TRIP: MOROCCO NUTS TO THE LOT OF YOU

Perched in chilly North Africa, ten Westminsterers almost missed Christmas in search of some real Geography. Why? asks an incredulous Khushaal Ved (QSS) as he tries to remember that far back...

■ After a brief stay in Casablanca, we immersed ourselves into a Moroccan way of life; after, that is, we had eaten spaghetti for dinner. From our first base in labyrinthine Marrakesh, we were just a stone's throw away from the Djemma el Fena, the bubbling heart of the city. During the day, it was like most other squares we trotted past on our morning "kalesh" or horse drawn carriage ride. However at night it completed a transformation to a site fit for a meeting of the occult. Smoke billowed from stalls selling snacks to the passing tourists who in turn were distracted by snake charmers and spontaneous boxing matches. But after only one night, we headed off to the Atlas Mountains.

It being a Geography trip, I feel compelled to discuss the diurnal temperature ranges and valley floor formation, so whilst Marrakesh is often a winter retreat for tourists attempting to avoid the bitter British cold, the Atlas Mountains exhibit temperatures that are much colder than even this, as low as -10 degrees at times. This was demonstrated when one member of our group, whose virility was impugned during casual dinner banter, swapped his sleeping bag and mattress for a night under the stars on the roof of our mountain resort. Despite wearing every article he owned and some other people's too, he was content to admit that it had been quite chilly. The Kasbah du Toubkal, our hilltop palace, represented a set out of Lord of the Rings, complemented by fine food. But it was not just the regular courses of rabbit, soup and tagine that were responsible for making every supper a highlight.

So while the scenery, or topography, may have been great and the hospitality even better it was actually those stolen moments, haggling in icy Imlil or raving it up with the locals just to stay warm in a Berber village, plotting different ways of reaching England if our flight never left Casablanca, or even our countless efforts trying to beat Mr. Wurr in disgusting eating contests that really stand out.

On the other hand though, being lost in the souks wasn't that great, as one would then be swarmed over by vendors selling you the finest carpets money could possibly buy. How

anyone brings these huge rugs back home is beyond me, yet they press on determinedly; often they are bartering just with themselves, giving you no chance to get a word in, and more often than not you're not actually interested that it was made from very, very rare camel hair. Having said that, some large or risky souvenirs were considered, not for convenience or need, but just to elicit a response from Mr. Wurr. Seeing Francis fully clad in a djellaba, the reaction was priceless.

My thanks goes to our guides; to Siddi, who in addition to guiding us most eloquently, single-handedly roused and led the Nigerian passengers to a chant against our airline company on our delayed flight home, and of course to Dr. Prentice and Mr. Wurr, who most willingly organised and accompanied us on the trip and who persuaded us to study and present a report concerning the geopolitical and urban structures that make up our holiday destination. All that for a kilogram of nuts! One person won both the quiz and the presentation so the night before we left Morocco, poor Tim, not wanting to be wasteful, ate two kilograms of cashews.

Yes, almost worth missing Christmas for!

"More often than not you're not actually interested that it was made from very, very rare camel hair."







## CHILEAN EXCHANGE DESTINATION LONDON

Maureen Smith of The Grange School in Santiago reports on the first leg of the Chilean Exchange with Westminster School, January 2009.



■ The process wasn't easy: an initial meeting over lunch with our Headmaster and Mr. Witney in Santiago in August 2008, followed by a formal application and interviews with the Headmaster and Head of Spanish and then...the long wait for a decision. Finally, six of us were selected: Matías Lagos, Lucas and Tomás Rencoret, Patricia Ríos, Isadora Stockins and me. Choosing the classes we would follow at Westminster was the next step, as well as sports (or "Station") we had never even imagined practising. Fencing? Shooting? Rowing? Who does those sorts of things at school? Westminster School pupils do.

With the academic and sporting choices made, now came the difficult task of finding suitable winter clothes among all the bikinis and swimming costumes: long-sleeved shirts and formal shoes would replace summer dresses and colourful flip-flops but, hardest of all was accepting, for the first time, that January would not be a summer holiday for us: we were soon to swap Chile's sunny beaches for London's winter and, as it turned out, heaviest snowfall since 1991.

Friday 23rd January, 5.30am: Santiago Airport – desti-

nation London and no turning back! One of the toughest parts was still to come: meeting our exchange partners and their families; we were all a little bit nervous on arrival, but everything turned out all right – Lucas even got to attend a traditional Indian wedding with his partner's family that weekend, but one thing was sure, we were all exhausted!

Monday morning came, as did waking up early, getting ready for classes and, worst of all, we were back in our uniform, some seven thousand miles from school! But none of us had any regrets once we got involved in a wide variety of classes from Religious Studies to History of Art, subjects which we could never imagine being taught at school back home in Chile.

After classes and at weekends, we had the chance to see some of London's famous landmarks, an opportunity for some shopping, as well as visits to a number of the city's museums.

During our stay we learnt a lot, maybe not things which you'll ever find in a test or End of Year exam at school, but things – not wishing to resort to clichés – which are useful for life: the way people in other countries relate to each other and an understanding of a different

**"Fencing? Shooting? Rowing? Who does those sorts of things at school? Westminster School pupils do."**

school system, for example. Being away from home for a month is not an easy experience, but it is worth it and – speaking for myself (and I hope for all of us) – something I would certainly wish to repeat.

Sadly, time went flying by and it was soon time to return to a new school year at The Grange, but the British countdown now begins: our six exchange partners will shortly have to choose their classes and look for their winter clothes too! As for sports (or "Station"), there's still time to get to grips with the rules of Hockey and Rugby...

Looking forward to seeing you back in Chile!



## ART HISTORY TRIP FLORENCE

The Remove trip to Florence in half term really brought the subject to life, and thanks to Nick Ross, our teacher from Art History Abroad and Mr Street, we were given a superb insight into Florentine life, writes Theo Gordon (GG).

■ When we first arrived in Florence, we were all struck by the fact that the art and architecture we had been studying on slides for the year was in fact real, and that the artists had lived—something easily forgotten in the classroom. So the most wonderful thing about the trip was being surrounded and engrossed by so much artistic history and culture.

Every day we would go to different sites in the city: the Duomo, towering monument to the architect Brunelleschi's genius; Michelangelo's staggering David at the Academia, and a tiring but fantastic four-hour tour around the Uffizi. Of course all this was interspersed with well-timed lunch and coffee breaks, which were continued into the evenings where Nick and Mr Street showed us a different side to the city, eating out each night.

On our final night in Florence, Nick took us up to San Miniato al Monte, which overlooks the city, and we had the chance to both see where all the wonderful sites were in the city and also to attend a Catholic mass in the church which was highly atmospheric and deeply beautiful. Here we could reflect upon the great time that we had had looking at the unique art and architecture in the city, followed by an evening of dancing where the teachers had a chance to show us their moves on the dance floor!

We all had a fantastic time, and our thanks go to Mr Street and Nick Ross on the trip and to Dr Cockburn and Mrs Chappell on the home front.



"We had the chance to attend a Catholic mass in the church which was highly atmospheric and deeply beautiful."







FEBRUARY 2009

## WESTMINSTER-PUCHHEIM EXCHANGE

After arriving in London we finally met our exchange partners and were able to get an idea of the English group, who created a welcoming atmosphere by inviting the whole group to a local restaurant, write visiting Puchheim students Benjamin Dupslaff, Daniel Weiß and Konstatin Schuster.

■ Our first impression of the school and its surrounding areas was very impressive, and we were looking forward to spending the whole next month there. The next two days were supposed to be an introduction to daily school life, but ended up in snowball fights and building snowmen, because of the massive snowfall in London. Two days later than expected we started to experience the routine of a pupil 'Up Westminster'. Our school schedule ranged from lessons and having lunch at school to participating in various sporting activities such as Fives or Rowing.

During the first few days, wearing a suit felt quite unusual and as we were not accustomed to the language yet, it was hard to follow the lessons. But by the last week, thanks to the passionate and supportive teachers, we were able to express our ideas and make reasonable contributions in the classroom. Apart from that it was also interesting to feel the difference of smaller classes and the open and friendly relationship between students and teachers inside and outside the classroom. We were really impressed by the school's history and the number of famous people who studied here. We want to thank everyone involved for giving us the opportunity to watch and enjoy school concerts, plays, lectures and traditional events like the Greaze. Our special thanks goes to Busby's, Liddell's, Grant's and Purcell's Housemasters for accommodating us, to Mr. Smith for showing us around Westminster Abbey and the German teachers, Mr. Hennig and Dr. Baughan, who cared a lot about our welfare, encouraged us, and made it possible for us to have a wonderful month as pupils of Westminster School. Last but not least a few words about our host families, if words could be enough. During term-time as well as over Exeat they cared for us, took us on many amazing trips and made us feel welcome and comfortable. We will never forget our month in England and want to thank them from the bottom of our hearts.

## LIDDELL'S IN ALSTON

The journey north was long, and involved many different ways of sitting down, allows Kit Winder (LL). But eventually we arrived in snowy Alston, ate roast chicken, and went to bed.

■ Our first trip the next morning was to the Everest Experience. We tried on weighty backpacks, wielded pick-axes and watched an Imax film about a disastrous ascent of Everest in 1996, when 13 people were killed.

Our own first walk was a snowy trudge along the shore of Ullswater. We got lost, then found our track again. A quick pause for some tree climbing, and off again. Dr Kowenicki fell over hilariously, which brightened up the walk for everyone. But after some good navigation we were in sight of the bus. Our next stop was Morrison's: quality food at great prices. Back at Alston we made perfect fajitas. The Masterchef judges would have been impressed.

On Hadrian's Wall there were majestic views and huge ridges. We strode along like Roman centurions, past terrifying drops to harsh rocks and frozen lakes, to a Roman Fort. But the highlight was still to come: the lead mine! For this, we wore red waterproof suits and strap-on headlights. There were thousands of beautiful stalactites hanging from the ceiling, some with tinges of colour from different minerals. After a few wrong forks we ended up in a cavern, where we turned our lights off to experience what it was like for miners who had no torches. We made a poem and heard about the life of the miners, how hard it was, how demand rose during war so they had to work harder, and then demand fell and they lost their jobs.

Our last big walk was up Grisedale Pike. We were knackered after the first few minutes, a sharp climb up 45-degree slippery slate, on a ridge with steep drops on either side. But we made it. On the summit we had a snack, and a few people wrote their names on slate and added it to the cairn. We sheltered in the lee of a large rock formation as there were freezing, biting winds.

On the shady side of the mountain the snow was waist-deep. We slid, ran and skipped down till we fell. It started with small rolls down a snowy slope, escalated into dangerous stunts – front flips off mini cliffs and long forward rolls – and turned into a huge snowfight, with people rugby-tackling each other, hurling themselves around, flinging snow and having a great time.

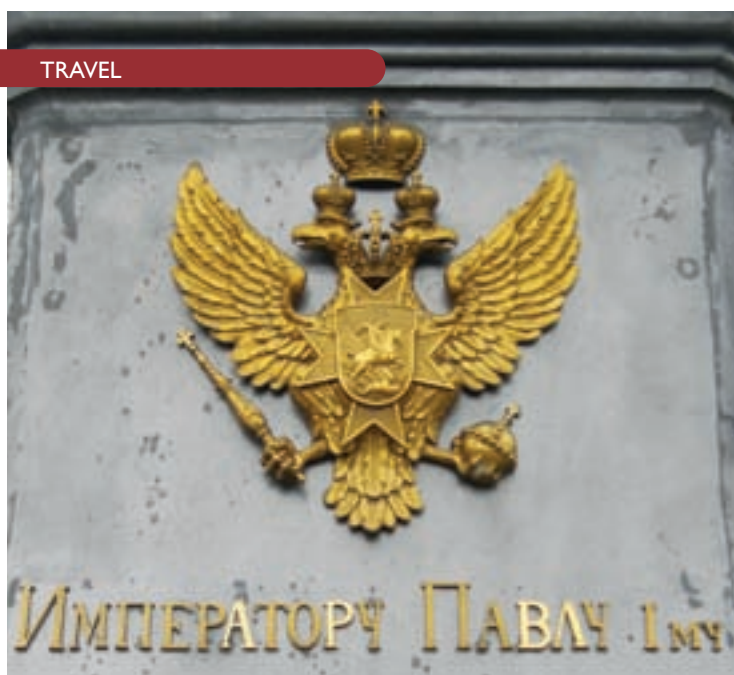
Back in Keswick we laughed at people stuck in school, and went into a nice café. I have to say I was shocked

**"It started with small rolls down a snowy slope, escalated into dangerous stunts – front flips off mini cliffs and long forward rolls – and turned into a huge snowfight."**

when Dr. Kov, perhaps mistaking it for a snowball, shoved a bowl of whipped cream in my face, completely unprovoked! Everyone in the café stared. Thanks Dr. Kov, nice one!

On the way home our train seats had been invaded by heavy drinkers – the tables were covered in bottles. They had obviously ripped out our Reserved cards and sat down. But we persuaded them to move, and eventually arrived back at Kings Cross. Our enchanting trip had finally ended.





## RUSSIAN EASTER TRIP

## SOUR CREAM GROWS ON YOU

When you ask most people what they associate with Russia, the first things that come to mind are fur hats, the women and vodka, asserts Max Glanz (RR). But during our two-week trip to St Petersburg, the Sixth Form Russianists were able to discover so much more.

■ Living like Russians with our *khoziakas* (housekeepers), we were able to experience a far fuller range of Russian life and culture. *Smetana* (sour cream), for example, is a must with just about every sort of food, and it really does grow on you. Although it took some getting used to, and was vastly different from life back at home, I think I can speak for everyone involved with the trip in saying that it was a memorable experience. We had the privilege of attending the best school in St Petersburg, arguably in the whole of Russia, immersing ourselves completely in the Russian language by attending real-life Russian classes and integrating with many of the Russian students.

Outside school time we still had plenty of things to keep us occupied: we visited the Hermitage and the Russian Museum and saw many wonderful pieces of art, by both Russian and non-Russian artists, as well as going to other museums such as the *Kunstkamera*, home to a wide array of creepy and monstrous-looking creatures in jars not be recommended for the squeamish!

**"The *Kunstkamera*, home to a wide array of creepy and monstrous-looking creatures in jars not be recommended for the squeamish!"**

But on almost every street in St Petersburg there is a grand, if slightly scary-looking building with an interesting story behind it, so we were really spoilt for choice. In the evenings we also went to see the ballet *Giselle*, a Russian production of *The Seagull* by Chekhov, and to a Russian jazz club.

A very well-rounded trip that improved everyone's Russian – and would even make some of us seriously consider living there!

## DUKE OF EDINBURGH GOLD AWARD

## PASTA VS JELLY TOTS

As we piled into the school mini-van with heaps of gear, clothes to last a holiday and a tonne of sweets to keep us going, we thought we were off for a jolly weekend of easy walking in the Black Mountains, fondly imagined Charlotte Skinner (DD) and Francesca Leibowitz (DD).

■ The first night was spent in a bunkhouse with running water, bathrooms and beds: luxury. Our group leaders, two Welsh students, Tom and Robbie, checked our bags and talked us through the weekend's plan. They were astonished to see the vast quantity of provisions we had brought for the space of three days. However, we assured them that every single jelly tot would be of use, and they were!

The next morning, maps and compasses in hand, we set off. Little did we know what was to come; the first hour of the day was a scramble up the mountain, leaving us breathless and exhausted. Luckily we discovered that this was to be the hardest ascent of the expedition. For the next couple of days we walked for a total of 20 hours, admiring the scenery, singing many a tune, learning to speak Welsh, navigating in the daylight and in

the dark and desperately trying to lighten our sixteen kilo backpacks to ease the pain. As we huddled around the Trangia, we reflected on the days' progress whilst guzzling down pasta-à-la-mud anticipating what would come next.

On the final day we were left to our own devices, and apart from a slight detour up a near vertical slope, we managed to reach our target in good time. We were all in high spirits as the weather was beautiful and we had managed to survive as well as successfully completing our goals for the weekend. As we reached the mini-van, we collapsed in a heap, still smiling; happy to be heading home, but sad to leave such a good weekend behind. We bid farewell to Robbie and Tom without whom we would not have learnt the essentials for our final expedition.

## HISTORY OF ART TRIP

## CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL

Despite the ungodly hour all but one of the Sixth Form History of Art students, along with Mrs. Chappell and Dr. Crossley, arrived promptly for our day trip to Canterbury Cathedral, and after deciding that the missing student was still in bed, we decided to set off, declares a determined James Crandall (DD).

■ After grabbing a second breakfast or coffee before beginning our tours, we gathered, all caffeined up, by the west end of the Cathedral and split into groups, each taking one of the three tours available. Our guides weren't as punctual as we were, however, so we spent our first half hour at the site of the old Monk's Dormitory. This proved to be an enlightening experience in itself though as, surrounded by the ancient arches and vaults, we were given an impromptu lesson in their construction.

Returning to the main Cathedral, the first tour was of the roof space. We were fortunate enough to be taken round by



“For some of us, the sight of Dr. Baughan without his tweed suit was a shock to the system.”

■ Having got to know my exchange partner in London, I knew that we would get on fine, and his very welcoming family put me at ease immediately. Sadly for us, our German counterparts were still at school, so Monday signalled the start of a week of painfully early starts. We attended the first couple of lessons each day, which ranged from surprisingly emotional Geography lessons, to very confusing English ones.

The city itself was fascinating and we gained a lot from Herr Hennig's guided tours, which came with a free Currywurst outside the Gedaechtniskirche. However for some of us, the sight of Dr. Baughan without his tweed suit was a shock to the system. We all got quickly into the German spirit watching Germany's World Cup qualifier against Wales and it took us a couple of days to recover afterwards.

We are all very grateful to Herr Hennig, Dr. Baughan and Herr Schupp for giving us both a helpful and unforgettable week in Berlin, by the end of which I could confidently hold conversations with the Germans. Above all though, we must thank them for kick-starting our love affair with curried sausages, which has continued in London since our return.

## UPPER SHELL BERLIN EXCHANGE 2009 EMOTIONAL GEOGRAPHY

I would be lying if I said that I was relishing the prospect of spending a week of the Easter holiday with a foreign family, as we came in to land at Tegel airport. But seven days later, to my surprise, I was sad to be leaving Berlin, confesses Edward Aldred (RR).



“When we did get on to architecture and design, we found ourselves correcting their terminology.”

John Burton, the Surveyor of the Fabric of Westminster Abbey and Canterbury Cathedral and probably the world's leading expert on these matters. The stairs were very steep but the effort was well worth it. Walking along beams resting half way between the roof and the top of the vaulting, we saw from a completely new and different perspective the way in which the top of the building supports itself, furthering everyone's understanding of the intricacies of weight distribution in a cathedral. After getting a brief peek out of the side doors of the roof space

which looked out over the buttressing of the building, we returned to the meeting place. Our groups swapped and I went off to the next activity, to visit the stonemason's yard. Donning our high-visibility jackets and helmets we went to meet the conservation team, led by Heather Newton, who are currently restoring the eastern 'Corona'. This involves surveying the building for faulty stones before measuring them, creating exact but stronger replicas and replacing them. After discussing the logistics of this with some of their stonemasons, we took a lift up the scaffolding erected around the east end of the Cathedral and saw how this restoration work was put into practice. The views were breathtaking and it was great to see how the enormous buildings which we've discussed so much in class are actually put together.

On returning to ground level, much to the relief of those suffering from vertigo, we embarked on our third and final activity. This was a tour of the interior of the Cathedral. Our guides didn't grasp the idea that we were all studying Gothic architecture and so much of our time was spent discussing the history of the building rather than the architecture. When we did get on to architecture and design, we found ourselves correcting their terminology rather more than they were correcting ours. All the same, it was fascinating to hear about Beckett's murder, the life of the monks there in past centuries and the stories depicted in the stained glass windows at the east end.

After a quick pizza we boarded our coach and drove back to a very welcome cuppa in Grant's dining room. All in all, a day well spent.





## ROCK CLIMBING IN SKYE EVADING THE VOID

My ears were full of smug voices announcing a dreadful weather forecast and my bag was laden with a very conspicuous ice axe, so I was a little nervous about the week which I was about to face on the isle of Skye. But when I woke up the next morning to an Inverness Station dusted with a layer of fresh snow, I knew that I was glad to be there, maintains Charles Holland (MM).



■ The first day set the tone for the whole trip, with a challenging hike up the side of a mountain to a small frozen lake, where a snowball fight promptly and unexpectedly broke out.

The real climbing took place when the Duke of Edinburgh group left for their camping. We eased ourselves in with some gentle routes on a beach near a small fishing village; and it was the relaxed atmosphere, coupled with a few interesting moves that made this day so enjoyable.

The second day was the real challenge though, and everyone was ready to try to reach the top of the large peak, visible from our bunkhouse in Sligachan, nan Gilleann. At 964 metres above sea level, this was no small matter, and to





“As we neared the knife-edged, wind-buffed ridge, we had no idea how far down the voids on either side of our rapidly-narrowing path fell.”



reach the top we would have to scramble, climb and traverse the craggy top, which had for days been shrouded in a thick top of cloud. The previous year's expedition had been forced to turn back only a few vertical metres from the top, and our group was determined to reach the summit. As we neared the knife-edged, wind-buffed ridge, we had no idea how far down the voids on either side of our rapidly-narrowing path fell, and we arrived at the cairn with little distress.

It was only as we turned to descend that a sudden break in the cloud opened up the panorama spread out before us. The wind and cold suddenly didn't matter as we basked in the sense of achievement afforded by the view in front of us. I know I won't forget the experience for quite some time.

On the final full day we wound down with some cliff-climbing in glorious sunshine at the northernmost tip of the island. With tricky and entertaining routes on offer it was one of the best days of outdoor climbing I have ever taken part in.

I would like to finish with thanks to all the teachers who give up their free time to make this expedition possible and also particularly to Dr Agyare-Kwabi and to André, who make the climbing side of this expedition possible. I'm already looking forward to next year and recommend the Isle of Skye rock climbing trip to everyone, even those who have never climbed before, as a wonderful experience.



## HISTORY OF ART TRIP TO NEW YORK TALLER, BIGGER, HEAVIER

The much-awaited trip to New York was, as they say, 'awesome', gasps Thomas Hjelm (DD).

■ We arrived on the Saturday and grabbed dinner in a traditional diner, eating as the Romans do ('Burgers and Fries') in order to reboot for our early start the next morning at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. This overwhelming experience was over only too soon as we rushed through in order to see as much as we could in a limited time. To see some of the greatest works of art in the flesh was an experience I hope never to forget. It would be more than pleasurable to get lost in the Met. for an afternoon, surrounded by the likes of Cezanne, Van Gogh, Rodin and more contemporary artists such as Pollock, Close and Hirst, with works that I have only seen before in a textbook.

After lunch we went to a nearby exhibition dedicated to German Expressionism which was more focused and although there were still many paintings of similar interest I did not feel quite the same level of chaotic excitement I had earlier that morning. That evening we took a ferry at sunset to Staten Island in order to pass the Statue of Liberty at a photogenic moment.

The next morning we visited The Museum of Modern Art, and once again we all left feeling over-stimulated and desiring to go back and spend more time there. The museum's phenomenal collection of photography seems obsolete when one is confronted with Picasso's *Les Femmes d'Alger*, a painting that arguably changed the face of modern art, broke all previous conventions and created its own new ones, which the term *avant-garde* doesn't quite sum up. After MoMA we visited The Guggenheim Museum which in itself is a work of genius. As one spirals up the stair-less corridors

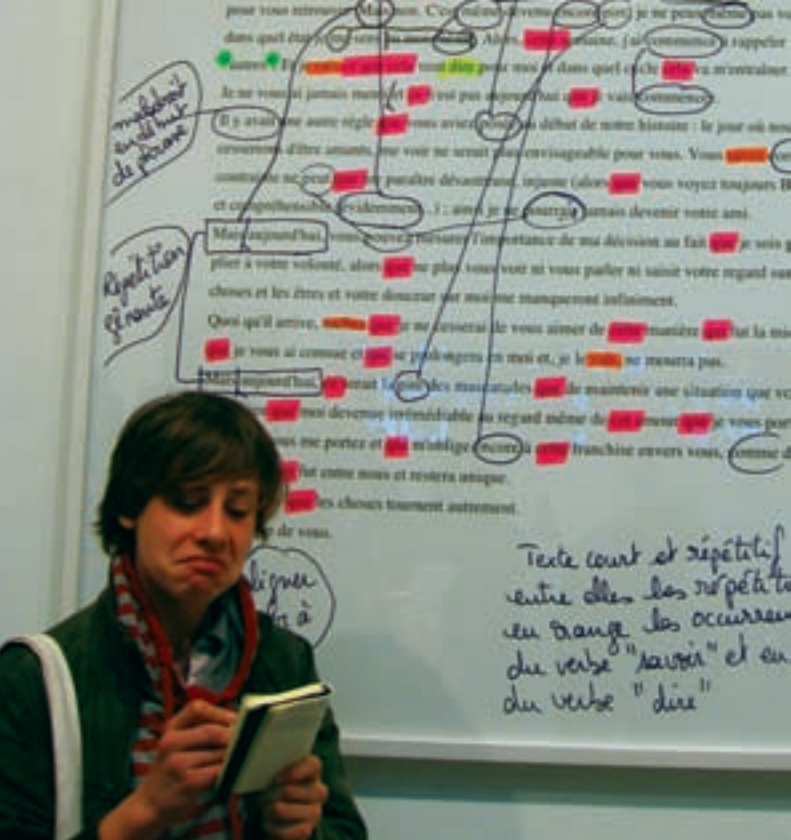


"Some noticed that colours changed and that senses blurred, others just noticed that their feet were smelly."

for six floors one is left bewildered by the works of art that pass you. This building is, I feel, the epitome of enlightenment, incomparable. Entering *Dream House*, an interactive work of art, without one's shoes, one finds a fluorescently-lit room and is supposed to lie down and focus on the shapes and noises that pass by you. It was a surreal experience. Some noticed that colours changed and that senses blurred, others just noticed that their feet were smelly.

On the penultimate day we were guided around the contemporary studios in Chelsea, where artists display their





works in miniature warehouses. In our free time we conquered the 'Big Apple' with the aid of numerous taxis and a plethora of maps. In the evening the group split in two; some went to the cinema whilst the rest took advantage of being in New York to see West Side Story, from which the girls returned rather teary-eyed.

On the last day we had enough time to visit the wonderful Frick museum which has a great collection, including Zurbaran's magnificent still life of lemons, oranges and rose. We left with our suitcases heavier, stomachs fuller and our knowledge of art greater. On behalf of everyone I would like to thank Dr Cockburn, Mr Street and Mr Johnson who made this definitely the most enjoyable school trip I have ever been on.

## SIXTH FORM SPANISH TRIP TO GRANADA PLUPERFECT LEARNING

As soon as we put on our sunglasses at Málaga airport, it was clear that we had made the wiser decision in coming on the Sixth Form Spanish trip than our counterparts back in rainy England, boasts Amedea Kelly-Taglianini (AA).

■ Sun, sea and sand – perfecto! Yet, it wasn't to be. As we made our way to Granada, the sun became rain, the sea the snow-topped Sierra Nevada and the sand, well, I suppose, the forever-winding olive groves. However, notwithstanding the fact that Granada didn't quite constitute the idyllic Costa del Sol setting, by the end of our nine-day stay, both the place and our host families had managed to touch our hearts.

Fusing our rather intense seven-hour-day lesson schedule with a myriad of cultural activities, we were not only able to improve our Spanish but also understand the Spanish mentality which seemed to be based on the idea of arriving late whenever and wherever possible – needless to say, we fully immersed ourselves into this new way of thinking!

"Lower down on the list of 'must sees,' however, was the nearby town of Piña; constituting one (closed) shop, one (unused) bus stop and one (abandoned) bar."

When we weren't studying the pluperfect subjunctive, our numerous visits took us to a pre-historic cave, an olive oil factory, the summerhouse of the Spanish dramatist, Federico García Lorca, the archaeological museum of Granada and of course, the Alhambra. Overlooking the entire city, the latter proved to be the undisputed favourite, highlighting the immense Arabic influence within Granada and indeed, the whole of Spain. Slightly lower down on the list of 'must sees,' however, was the nearby town of Piña; constituting one (closed) shop, one (unused) bus stop and one (abandoned) bar, Piña gave us the opportunity to completely forget the outside world (unfortunately, literally!).

Yet, luckily, what Piña lacked, Granada held in bountiful quantity and despite our early curfew, we still managed to make the most of both the local cafés and restaurants. In fact, our evenings were made all the more enjoyable with the occasional singing and flamenco dancing lesson, the result of which will shortly be found on Youtube!

Finally, we ended our last day in Granada watching, or rather getting lost in, the famous Semana Santa processions; a fitting end to a fantastic trip. It may not have been the Costa del Sol, but Granada left us feeling that we had experienced the 'real' Spain and what's more the sun was now shining!





SKI TRIP: MARCH 2009

## THE HOLY GRAIL, CHILLED

For the second year running the great mountain gods conspired to prevent us reaching Val d'Isère, offers TP by way of explanation.

■ This time the health and safety people decided the hotel 'Vieux Village' in Val was too grim even for schools and so we went instead to Les Menuires, a resort renowned for two things. Firstly, it's probably got the best doorstep skiing in the world, offering unrivalled ski-in, ski-out access to the largest and probably best ski area in the world, the Trois Vallées. Secondly, it looks like the Aylesbury Estate near the Elephant and Castle in Peckham, a place often cited as the prime example of urban decay in the country. Whilst the

"For quite a lot of the time, we skied with our friends, in fresh powder and bright sunshine, the holy grail of skiing."

architecture reminded us of SE17, thankfully the resemblance ended there. Our stay in Les Menuires was utterly wonderful. The vallées were already full of snow and more kept coming. We had a week's spring skiing as good as Mr Page could remember and although his memory is long and although now growing cloudy he muttered something about it not being as good as this since Sondre Norheim invented the Telemark turn in the middle of the nineteenth century.

It wasn't just the skiing that was good, the hotel too served food that was not only endurable but actually enjoyable and even the prices were bearable – just, and it was comfortable. The après-ski was good and few if any of us, of us will forget the joyous sight of the teachers dancing in the Yeti bar. There are many reasons why very few pedagogues appear on 'Strictly Come Dancing' and these reasons were all demonstrated expertly by our party organisers as they partied organisedly. But for all of us the real joy of the trip in skiing terms was this; for quite a lot of the time, we skied with our friends, in fresh powder and bright sunshine, the holy grail of skiing. You could ski for a decade and not get a week as good as this again.

However, what makes a good trip great was the interaction of the people on it, one with another and here again it was a marvellous experience, from the newest snow mole, keen to burrow into the white stuff to the most experienced of mountain men and women leaving perfect trails in the steep and deep, we all had a great time, with no injuries other than to our pride after a fall and the only passport-losing scares coming courtesy of the staff.

So I'm a convert to Les Menuires. Now, I find the mere 300 kms of pistes in the Espace Killy grossly inadequate. I want the full 600 that only the Trois Vallées can offer. I also prefer the honest 70's brutalism of the architecture to the pseudo-traditional pine cladding that the other place encourages. Vive Les Menuires and thank you.

AS FIELD TRIP TO SWANSEA

## THE ESSENCE OF GEOGRAPHY

I thought I would open with a witty introduction but unfortunately this was a Geography trip, sighs an exasperated George Fellows (RR).

■ At 9 o'clock, on the first day of the Easter 'holidays', the AS Geography group embarked on a journey along the M4 to Swansea University. Halfway, Ms Leonard allowed us a quick break from the cramped minibus at a service station, by which time our minds had already fallen into their natural Geographical state. Fortunately, this meant that upon reaching the university we were suitably prepared for immersing ourselves in a rigorous, intellectually-inspiring

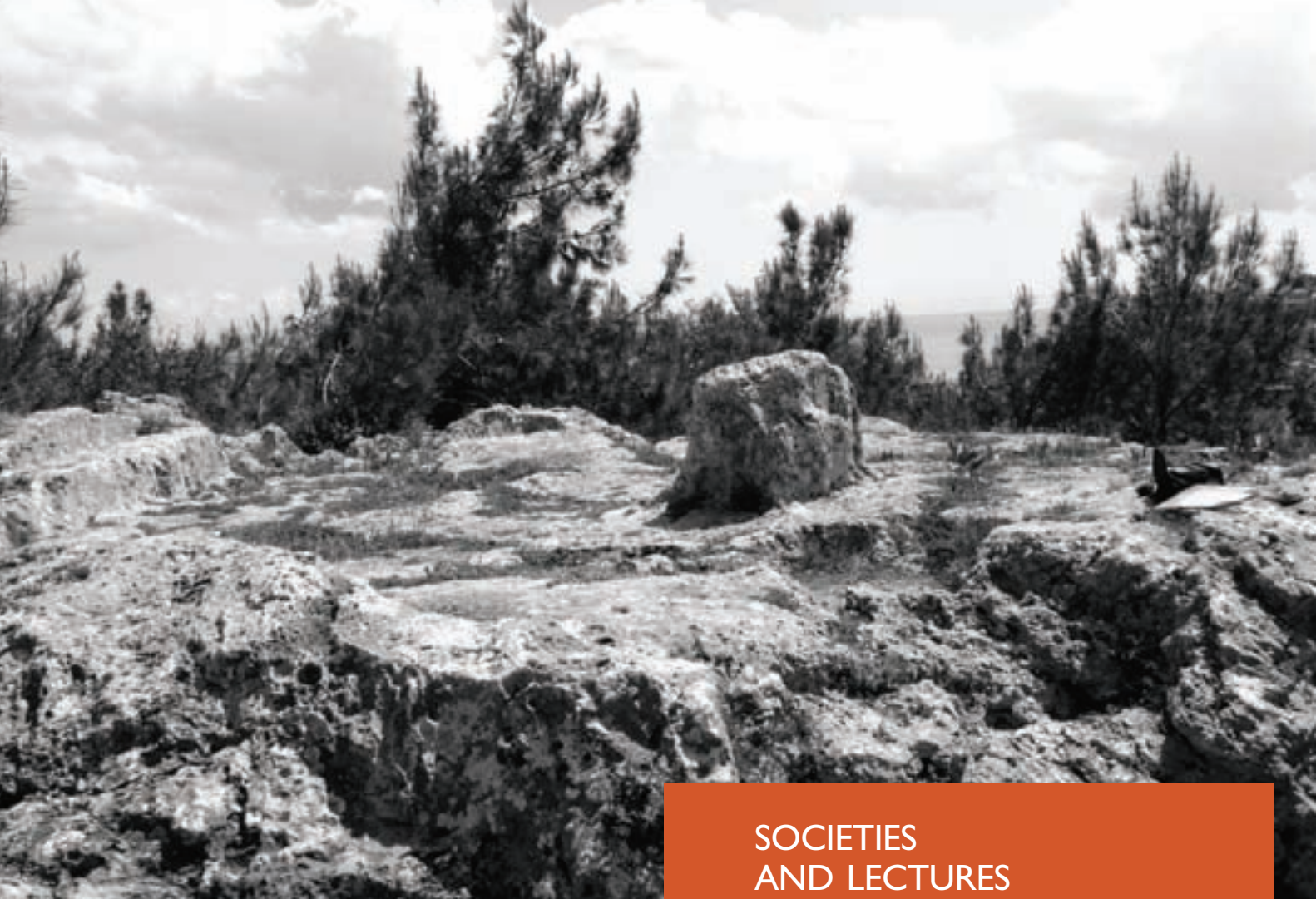
investigation of the dynamic human and physical features of Swansea and its surroundings: this opportunity taught us more than enough to be ready for the Mock which we would have to sit at the end of this epiphanic week.

Our first challenge sent us to The Gower Peninsula where we followed the journey of a water droplet from the River Ilston's source to its mouth. The evening involved a three-hour spot of light revision which, with Mr Wurr firing one-liners like bullets, flew by in no time at all.

Interestingly, while conducting fieldwork on Oxford Street (in Swansea), we got several very strange looks from passers by ... but that too is Geography, I guess. The final day of the trip sent us into the depths of South Gower, where we were free to explore the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and employ everyone's favourite Geographical technique: questionnaires!

All in all, the trip was a great success and passed in a flash.





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## THE GUMBLETON WRITING PRIZE

### MY NAME IS JANE

This year the theme for the Gumbleton Creative Writing Prize was 'Offence'. There were two joint prizewinners, Roxy Rezvany (AA) and Tom Craig (AA). The concluding part of Roxy Rezvany's short story, 'My Name is Jane' is published below.

■ Margaret Thatcher said in 1987, "I think we've been through a period where too many people have been given to understand that if they have a problem, it's the government's job to cope with it. 'I have a problem, I'll get a grant.' 'I'm homeless, the government must house me.' They're casting their problem on society. And, you know, there is no such thing as society". This quotation always irritated me. One time, someone compared me to Margaret Thatcher and I cried.

Life is a routine. It inevitably becomes one, unless you're a freelance actor or an erratically employed gardener, but even if you do have a job of that kind your routine merely develops to one of instability. Michael had become a part of my own routine. He was probably one of the first people I could bear seeing frequently over a continuous period of time. He rarely looked bored when I was talking, he always waited for me to finish a sentence. Talking to Michael had (what I would have to assume was) the effect of a spa weekend in the middle of your week, I'd feel completely relaxed and a lot less angry.

A few months passed though, and I hadn't been able to see Michael because he'd kept cancelling on me. Michael had left me a message before this lunch to say he had something to talk about in particular. I never knew that 'particular' meant he wanted my approval on asking out Francine.

"That's a ridiculous idea!"

"No need to ask you to be gentle –"

"Since when have you been her friend?"

"You're meant to be her friend Jane, but you always complain about Francine. You're not perfect either, you just assume you're superior to her because she has more money than –"

"What?"

"It's like a reverse snobbery. It's very you, Jane."

"What are you talking about?"

"Well, it's all very you. You know I think the world of you but –"

"She isn't right for you though, she dyes her hair blonde."

"There we go again. You're –"

"She basically thinks Thatcher deserves to be canonised! Do you know what Thatcher said about society? She said that –"

"Look, I don't care what Thatcher said. Your only friends are Hugh and Francine, Hugh who you work with but constantly belittle, and Francine who you give not nearly enough credit."

"Michael!"

"You know, Jane, sometimes it's not people's fault that they are not *perfect*. You of all people should know that."

Having thrown a tenner on the table and stood up, daylight apnoea (the physical manifestation of my embarrassment) kicked in, and I coughed and spluttered my way to the door trying to motion that I was late for work. I'd sensed a little myself that I was better than most at 'locating' people's flaws, and I'd been fine with it. Michael made it seem immature. As I'd remembered it, the reasons why initially I had thought it could never work between Michael and me, had been fuelled by a combination of the fact he thought taxes were a bad idea and he thought it was a waste of time to send flowers. When I returned to work and Hugh asked if I'd encountered any displeasing people on my lunch break, I didn't indulge myself by telling him about the man who had taken a seat on the bus, even though he was only travelling one stop.

That night I received a text from Michael telling me to check my emails. I turned on the computer and opened my account. The email was titled: 'Women's Own magazine, October 31 1987'. I started reading through it and realised he had found my Margaret Thatcher quotation in its original context. He had formatted a section in bold, starting at the sentence leading on directly from where my own quote cut off: "...There are individual men and women, and there are families. And no government can do anything except through people, and people must look to themselves first. It's our duty to look after ourselves and then *after this*, also to look after our neighbour."



"They're casting their problem on society. And, you know, there is no such thing as society". This quotation always irritated me. One time, someone compared me to Margaret Thatcher and I cried."

## THE JOHN HOUSE ART HISTORY PRIZE

# GAZE OR GLAZE? IDENTITY AND INTERIORITY IN THE WORK OF CINDY SHERMAN, 1975–2006

In his prize-winning essay, Theo Gordon (GG), discusses the work of Cindy Sherman, the American artist who uses photographs of herself to question the nature of looking and of identity. The following section is the conclusion to the essay.

■ Sherman's use of the tools of the photograph, the mirror and the gaze combine to divulge the secret of her character. The search to discover herself can be traced back to her first series *A Cindy Book*, 1964–75. In this series Sherman circles herself in a series of pictures labelling each one 'that's me' – this seems to be a continual questioning of herself as Sherman feels the need to accumulate selves as a method of self justification. Sherman dresses up in the *Untitled Film Stills* to 'transform in advance into an image' whilst at the same time her application of costume reveals more about herself, as it demonstrates her dissatisfaction with her normal self: 'As a kid I would always play 'dress-ups'...I just wanted to see how transformed I could look. It was like painting in a way: staring at my face in the mirror'. Sherman's use of a 'sliding scale' in her costume reveals her casual working method, particularly in the early *Untitled Film Stills* like *Untitled Film Still #2*. Whilst her former husband Robert Longo and her father took some of the images, predominantly Sherman would leave the camera on a timer and then pose in front of it, creating the images. Viewing *Untitled Film Still #2* in the light of this element of serendipity, the connections between her various tools results in a very disturbing photograph. The body is divided between the geometric shapes of the room, hinting at a lack of congruency between the subject and its surroundings. The body has also been abandoned by the 'perfect' face in the mirror as the subject searches for its meaning. The subject ultimately

becomes a site of chaos and undefined ideas as the viewer is able to realise that Sherman is questioning herself and that she is in personal crisis, but we are unable to understand what it is that Sherman thinks when she sees these photographs of herself and if they explain the questions that Sherman is asking of herself.

Cindy Sherman's photography is extremely ambiguous and difficult to understand, due to the inherent impossibility to understand a resemblance of reality. However, what is clear is that Sherman is trying to establish, to herself, who she really is – essentially she seems in an identity crisis, as she dissects herself from her exterior to her interior, mainly through the power of the gaze. The ambiguity of her work is heightened by the 'oscillation effect' of postmodernism – that is to say that many of her tools have an opposite effect to how they appear, for example her dressing up does not hide her body but merely reveals an anxiety to conceal and hence heightening her vulnerability. Sherman is at the same time both the signifier and signified in her images, meaning that in *Untitled Film Still #2* she points towards the meaning in the image and at the same time is the meaning. This means that the power of the photograph, the mirror and the gaze are heightened as Sherman is at the same time artist and model, voyeur and looked at, active and passive and the subject and object in all of her images. Therefore she is able to self-evaluate and answer the questions of herself that only she knows; whilst Sherman's images have many meanings, for example explorations of femininity and the images of women which postmodern society supply, the deepest meaning of her photographs is her own investigation of her interior. Despite leaving several clues in *Untitled Film Still #2* such as the face being split between the body and the mirror and the division of the body through shape, hinting at her self-examination, the meaning at the heart of her work is something only Sherman can truly understand. However, as viewers we can see that the eyes contain a gaze with a purpose, and not a merely glazed expression.



"Sherman is at the same time artist and model, voyeur and looked at, active and passive and the subject and object in all of her images."



## THE JEREMY BENTHAM ESSAY PRIZE

## TO WHAT EXTENT ARE FREUD'S VIEWS ON FEMALE SEXUALITY STILL RELEVANT?

Every year, Sixth Form Religious Studies students submit an extended essay in the hope of winning the Jeremy Bentham essay prize. Students can submit a piece of work on any topic related to Philosophy or Theology. The entrants for 2008 showed a great deal of imagination, writing on topics as diverse as the place of Judas in the gospels and Marxist views of religion.

This year, the first prize was jointly shared between Isabel Falkner (WW) and Richard Evans (RR). Isabel's essay asked the question of whether there is a future for Freud's conceptions of female sexuality. Of particular interest to Isabel was Freud's work on "infantile sexuality". It is here, she argued, that Freud's ideas deserve further analysis and development.



■ Sigmund Freud is renowned for the development of the therapeutic method of psychoanalysis. This is based on the idea that mental life functions on both a conscious and unconscious level and that childhood experiences retain a strong influence over adulthood. Particularly significant was Freud's introduction of the concept of 'infantile sexuality' where he believed the origins of human sexuality lay. Freud deduced such theories on human sexuality from his mentally ill patients who suffered from hysteria, often finding that the cause for their illnesses lay in the unsuccessful repression of infantile sexual desires in the unconscious.

However, as Marie Jahoda states: 'there is virtually no aspect of Freud's work that has escaped ... controversy', particularly his views on female sexuality. These remain less developed than those concerning male sexuality and are frequently criticised by feminists. Central to these issues are questions concerning whether Freud's methods were successful in identifying the unconscious thoughts of his patients and whether his views on female sexuality deduced from such patients managed to escape the bias of his surrounding culture.

"One cannot criticise Freud's views on female sexuality purely on the basis that they agree with the views of his contemporaries that saw women as inferiors."

...in his concluding comments in a lecture on femininity, despite making cautionary remarks against over-generalisation he gives a catalogue of undesirable characteristics which women develop as a result of penis-envy: 'more vain, compensating for their early discovered inferiority by overvaluing their beauty and externalities...have little sense of justice since their basic envy interferes, weaker in social interests...less sincere as well as intellectually inferior' (Freud equated sexual curiosity with knowledge, therefore the female repression of their own sex drive as a result of penis-envy, would lead to a reduced appetite for knowledge). Although this may appear sexist, it is important to note that Freud does not state that females are born as intellectual inferiors but their inferiority stems from external experiences.

One cannot say whether these qualities Freud

attributes to women as a result of penis-envy are incorrect or not, there being no statistical data to disprove or prove Freud's theory, but one can question whether Freud considered possibilities such as: 'men overcompensating for early castration fears, develop excessive vanity with regards to their maleness' or 'girls learning early in life one can exist/ has to exist without owning everything in sight, overcompensate ... by becoming generous'. These possibilities are as equally difficult to prove or disprove, but are also deductions from Freud's descriptions of the development of infantile sexuality, indicating that as Jahoda says: 'It is the correctness and the completeness of (Freud's) psychological reasoning process which is at question'.

...Some may argue that these ideas have only tenuous links, particularly in the case of females as Freud has few examples to demonstrate success. Freud admitted this: 'Nor have I succeeded in seeing my way through any case completely, and I shall therefore confine myself to reporting the most general findings and shall give only a few examples of the new ideas which I have arrived at' So it seems that Freud's views on females are less relevant when he has less to base his findings on. Jahoda asks: 'In view of the fact that unaided adult memory is as a rule, unaided to confirm these fascinating hypothesised events, which have obvious bearing on psychological sex differences... is one to believe all this, at least as a plausible construction?'

Perhaps Freud's views are to be considered less relevant with regard to female sexuality as they were not inferred from observation of children but retrospectively from adult patients whom he determined to be struggling from unresolved problems stemming from the 'phallic stage'.

However, one cannot criticise Freud's views on female sexuality purely on the basis that they agree with the views of his contemporaries that saw women as inferiors. Perhaps one can point out that there is room within his views for development and consideration of other possibilities. What do remain relevant are Freud's efforts to draw attention to 'infantile sexuality'; many modern psychologists agree that childhood experiences are extremely significant in a person's development in both males and females.

# PRIZE GIVING 2008

## Art REM

Hannah Chisholm (Hakluyt's)  
Isabel Perry (Rigaud's)

## Art VI

Rachel Beaconsfield Press (Hakluyt's)  
Theo Gordon (Grant's)

## Art US

Vittorio Boccanera (Milne's)  
Ewen MacArthur (Busby's)

## Art LS

Raffik Poole (Liddell's)  
Angus Whitehead (Hakluyt's)

## Art V

Cullum Stones (Rigaud's)  
Kolya Stubbs (Liddell's)

## Biology REM

Sebastian Bray (Dryden's)

## Biology VI

Timothy Lonsdale (Busby's)  
Olivia Prankerd Smith (Busby's)

## Biology US

Abbas Kazmi (Grant's)  
Theo Reynolds (Hakluyt's)

## Biology LS

Patrick Perryman Owens (College)

## Biology V

Kshitij Sabnis (College)

## Chemistry REM

Alexander Guttentplan (Busby's)  
Aleksandar Nikolic (Dryden's)

## Chemistry VI

Rohan Sakhrani (Ashburnham)  
Konrad Wågstyl (Hakluyt's)

## Chemistry US

Alexander Jones (College)  
Ben Stewart (Liddell's)

## Chemistry LS

Martin Chan (Wren's)  
Johnny Falconer (Liddell's)

## Chemistry V

Kshitij Sabnis (College)  
Nicholas Williams (Milne's)

## Drama REM

Josephine Starte (Dryden's)

## Drama VI

Catherine Brown (Liddell's)

## Drama US

James Ware (Milne's)  
Drama LS

William Peck (Liddell's)

## Economics REM

Dara Barkhordar (Rigaud's)  
Hannah Fitzwilliam (Rigaud's)

## Economics VI

Rohan Sakhrani (Ashburnham)  
Sabreen Shah (College)

## Electronics REM

Ralph Barton (Liddell's)

## Electronics VI

Michael McManus (Ashburnham)

## Electronics US

Alexander Jones (College)

## Electronics LS

Younus Porteous (Milne's)

## English REM

Maia Holtermann Entwistle (Hakluyt's)

## English VI

Vyvyan Almond (College)

Annabel James (Purcell's)

Meredith Kerr (College)

## English US

Oliver Curtis (Ashburnham)  
Harry McNeill Adams (College)

James Ware (Milne's)

## English LS

Patrick Beardmore (Busby's)  
Robert Natzler (Wren's)

## English V

Gabriel Cagan (Dryden's)

## French REM

Charlotte Seymour (Busby's)  
Charles Walker-Arnott (College)

## French VI

Maude Blake-Sanders (Purcell's)  
Amy Thompson (Busby's)

## French US

Harry McNeill Adams (College)  
Theo Reynolds (Hakluyt's)

## French LS

Alexander Diaz (Ashburnham)  
Richard Sisley (Ashburnham)

## French V

Tristan Jones (Wren's)  
Christopher Rowe (Hakluyt's)

## Geography REM

Hannah Fitzwilliam (Rigaud's)  
Samuel Littlejohns (Rigaud's)

## Geography VI

Rahimah Abdul Halim (Purcell's)

## Geography US

Robert Millar (Grant's)  
Cosmo Godfree (Grant's)

Richard Howell (Dryden's)

## Geography V

Jamie Cranston (Rigaud's)  
Kshitij Sabnis (College)

## German REM

Sam Buchdahl (Ashburnham)  
Charles Walker-Arnott (College)

## German VI

Emma-Victoria Farr (Ashburnham)  
John Owen (Rigaud's)

## German US

Brandon Dadarria (Wren's)  
Alexander Jones (College)

## German LS

Edward Aldred (Rigaud's)  
Sajan Patel (Hakluyt's)

## Greek REM

Alexander Guttentplan (Busby's)  
Charlotte Seymour (Busby's)

## Greek VI

Michael Aylmer (Grant's)  
Dipesh Mahtani (Liddell's)

## Greek US

Jamie Drey-Brown (Busby's)  
Arjun Jayaswal (College)

## Greek LS

Martin Chan (Wren's)  
Will Reid (Rigaud's)

## Greek V

Charles-Edward Sealy (Rigaud's)  
David Wong (College)

## History REM

Samuel Littlejohns (Rigaud's)  
Charlotte Seymour (Busby's)

## History VI

Hannah Bowen (Rigaud's)  
Meredith Kerr (College)

## History US

Adam Cigman Mark (Grant's)  
Abbas Kazmi (Grant's)

## History LS

Johnny Falconer (Liddell's)  
Hector Penny (Ashburnham)

## History V

Jack Boardman (Dryden's)  
Edward Carter (Ashburnham)

## History of Art REM

Rosa Sinclair-Wilson (Busby's)  
Leonie Taylor (Purcell's)

## History of Art VI

Max Gill (Busby's)  
Avalon Lee-Bacon (Grant's)

## Latin REM

Elizabeth Donger (Purcell's)  
Michael Taylor (Wren's)

## Latin VI

James Male (Wren's)  
James Manning (Dryden's)

## Latin US

Oliver Jones (College)  
Harry McNeill Adams (College)

## Latin LS

Il-Kweon Sir (Hakluyt's)  
Gabriel Trueblood (College)

## Latin V

Peter Hitchcock (College)  
Tristan Jones (Wren's)

## Mathematics REM

Ben Green (Milne's)  
Elita Lai (Purcell's)

## Mathematics VI

James Male (Wren's)

## Mathematics US

Frederick Blundun (College)

## Mathematics LS

Younus Porteous (Milne's)

## Mathematics V

Kshitij Sabnis (College)  
Nicholas Williams (Milne's)

## Music REM

Joshua Borin (Wren's)  
Ginny Horten-Middleton (Wren's)

## Music US

Adam Cigman Mark (Grant's)

## PE LS

Alex Stewart (Hakluyt's)

## PE V

Sammy Skipper (Dryden's)

## Physics REM

Ralph Barton (Liddell's)  
Aleksandar Nikolic (Dryden's)

## Physics VI

Michael McManus (Ashburnham)  
Rohan Sakhrani (Ashburnham)

## Physics US

Abbas Kazmi (Grant's)

## Physics LS

Patrick Perryman Owens (College)

## Physics V

Kshitij Sabnis (College)  
Religious Studies REM

Elizabeth Donger (Purcell's)  
Christopher Sykes (Milne's)

## Religious Studies VI

Isabel Falkner (Wren's)  
Flora Zackon (Wren's)

## Religious Studies US

Callum Brock (Busby's)  
Bobak Saadat (Ashburnham)

## Religious Studies LS

Benjamin Sales (Busby's)  
James Simpson (Grant's)

## Russian REM

Guy Arnold (Milne's)  
Russian VI

Max Gill (Busby's)

Jeremy Holt (College)

## Russian US

Frederick Blundun (College)  
Max Glanz (Rigaud's)

## Russian LS

Omar Peracha (Dryden's)  
Il-Kweon Sir (Hakluyt's)

## Spanish REM

Flora Easton (Hakluyt's)  
Yohan Sanmugam (College)

## Spanish VI

Joanna Kaba (Wren's)  
Alicia Queiro (Liddell's)

## Spanish US

Jamie Drey-Brown (Busby's)  
Yannis Sossidis (Dryden's)

## Spanish LS

Oliver Freedman (Liddell's)  
Hugo Schlesinger (Busby's)

## Technology US

Thomas Sutton (Milne's)

## Technology LS

Horace Keating (Rigaud's)  
Henry Tann (Dryden's)

## Adrian Whitelegge Award Music

Freddie James (Grant's)  
Cheyne Mathematics Sr

Joshua Borin (Wren's)

## Cheyne Mathematics Jr

Martin Chan (Wren's)  
Andrew Hyer (Ashburnham)

## Elizabethan Club Head Master's Prize

George Illingworth (Grant's)  
Lucy Maconick (Milne's)

Ezra Rubenstein (College)

## Elizabethan Magazine Photography: 1st Prize

Samuel Douek (Ashburnham)

## Elizabethan Magazine Photography: 2nd Prize

Jonathan Than (Dryden's)

## Elizabethan Magazine Photography: 3rd Prize

Edward Myung (Liddell's)

## Fred d'Arcy Prize English

Isabel Falkner (Wren's)

## Gibb French

Venetia Baden-Powell (Milne's)

## Harvard Book Prize

Dipesh Mahtani (Liddell's)

## Hugo Garten German

Ben Brock (Busby's)

## Martin Ball Piano Prize Music

July Verkade (Purcell's)

## Maundy

Francis Gene-Rowe (Dryden's)

Serge Isakov (Rigaud's)

Sam Littlejohns (Rigaud's)

Constance Mackworth-Young (Rigaud's)

Seth Pimlott (Busby's)

Molly Scott (Milne's)

Anna Sheinman (Busby's)

Benjamin Stevenson (Grant's)

Ross Wheeler (Busby's)

## Mitchell History

John Owen (Rigaud's)

Hannah Timmis (Milne's)

## Neale History

Avalon Lee-Bacon (Grant's)

Becca Tusa (Busby's)

## Oli Bennett Drama Award Drama

Oli Wessely (Rigaud's)

## Peer Supporter

Guy Arnold (Milne's)

Ralph Barton (Liddell's)

Matthew Benger (Hakluyt's)

Cesca Briscoe Wilson (Grant's)

Hannah Chisholm (Hakluyt's)

Hannah Cutmore-Scott (Ashburnham)

Adam Duchateau (College)

Nicholas Finerty (Rigaud's)

Hannah Fitzwilliam (Rigaud's)

Alexander Gilbert (Rigaud's)

Thomas Godfrey-Faussett (College)

George Illingworth (Grant's)

Serge Isakov (Rigaud's)

Samuel Johnston (Ashburnham)

Sahil Kanani (Wren's)

Zoe Lang (Busby's)

Christopher Leavitt (Dryden's)

Vanessa Macdougall (Purcell's)

Mrinal Mohanka (Busby's)

Majid Mostafavi (Liddell's)

Max Owens (Liddell's)

Zoe Scheuringer (Dryden's)

Leonie Taylor (Purcell's)

Michael Taylor (Wren's)

Nicole Taylor (Wren's)

Valerie Teh (College)

Danielle Tobin (Liddell's)

Frances Underhill (Milne's)

Ross Wheeler (Busby's)

## Philip Webb French

Alexander Labrom (Grant's)

## Solti Prize Music

Maya Amin-Smith (Hakluyt's)

## Special Drama Prize Drama

Alex Sutton (Busby's)

## Special Remove Classics Prize Classics

Laurie Brock (Busby's)

## Special VI Form Classics Prize Classics

Meredith Kerr (College)

## Stuart Leaf Modern Languages: French

July Verkade (Purcell's)

## Stuart Leaf Modern Languages: German

Charles Walker-Arn



## THE SECRETS BEHIND STUDY SKILLS CO-ORDINATION HIDDEN SUPPORT

As we all know, Westminster School educates a lot of extremely able and successful students; but there is a darker side to academic life at the school, writes Carla Stevens, Westminster's Study Skills Co-ordinator.

■ While most thrive in the high pressured, stimulating academic environment, others struggle, fall by the way side and can end up being demoralised even though they are very able: these are the people I mostly work with.

While recently setting up the Study Skills page of the WUS intranet, I encountered some frustrating technical difficulties and was reminded how easily one can lose confidence and feel utterly de-skilled. Challenged by an unfamiliar process, I found myself feeling anxious, over-apologetic and unable to do things I could normally do perfectly well. How often do pupils have similar experiences in the classroom? Confidence is lost so quickly, and in this fast-paced, competitive environment, it can be difficult to restore. My job is – where needed – to do just that.

In my opinion, concepts like 'Special Needs' and 'Specific Learning Difficulties' are inappropriate at Westminster. Many of the pupils I see show signs of having been formally educated, when still too young physiologically, in an environment which favours a logic/verbal dominant left brain function. They often have high intellectual ability which masks the problems that may crop up later in their careers. So I'm very pleased to be working both at the Under School and the Great School, giving me the opportu-

"They often have high intellectual ability which masks the problems that may crop up later in their careers."

nity to "catch them young"; and, with two left-handed sons of my own, I love working with left-handers, who pose a particularly interesting challenge!

One of the most rewarding parts of my job is getting to know a boy who may be under-achieving in Year 3, to help him cope with his academic difficulties at that stage, then watch him emerge into the big wide world with four A levels, often at Grade A. So how do I help these individuals? Having diagnosed their difficulties, I devise multi sensory strategies and techniques to help them organise themselves and tackle the learning problems they encounter. Laptops are a useful tool in this department; using two hands on the keyboard stimulates 'whole brain' activity, and



helps to overcome the feeling of overload which so often interferes with output. Apart from having a sound knowledge of most subjects up to GCSE level, I have to be a good listener, and allow pupils to see that they are able to help themselves.

Loss of self esteem because of academic under achievement can create all sorts of other problems; sadly, the detention & SAP lists are a fruitful recruiting ground for me! So I work hard to help students understand that although they may have been stigmatised, overcoming their processing problems is a challenge to which they can rise. I encourage my colleagues to help by identifying these sorts of problems as early as possible and referring





pupils to me, rather than labelling them as “stupid”, “disorganised” or “lazy”.

Success stories like Albert Einstein and Richard Branson, both of whom struggled at school, should be remembered as beacons of hope. They are very good examples of the sort of work I do. The point is that everyone needs to find their own individual learning style. “If a pupil does not learn the way you teach, can you teach the way in which a pupil learns?” Questions like this should be raised by all teachers once in a while. More flexible attitudes to learning would help to avoid individuals being alienated or getting into a cycle of stress, which can lead to more destructive feelings of hopelessness and failure.

The effects of my work are not always apparent. It sometimes feels like a Cinderella syndrome, working away behind closed doors while others are “off at the Ball”. I’m not sure about the fairy godmother, but I want to reassure everybody in the school that when the going gets tough in the classroom, I am here to provide behind-the-scenes support, and to help pupils back onto the pathway to academic success and, hopefully, happiness.

“Archaeologists can draw important conclusions about social and cultural history not only from the artifacts themselves but from the style and extent of damage done to them at different times.”

## CLASSICAL SOCIETY

The lecture programme of the Society continued this year with several excellent presentations by distinguished scholars, record JAI and JBK.

■ The best of these were clearly very well and painstakingly prepared at just the right level, with no unreasonable assumptions of prior knowledge and no condescension to a school audience.

Professor Tom Earle (St Peter’s College, Oxford) introduced *The Lusíads*, a Portuguese text few pupils had encountered previously. He showed the debt that Camões’ epic owed to the ‘Classical’ tradition. Focusing particularly on the parallel between Odysseus’ adventures with the Cicones in *Odyssey IX* and the grim experiences of Vasco da Gama’s heroes near the Cape of Good Hope, his observations stimulated lively discussion on how to read Epic poetry, on what to make of intertextual relations, and the extent to which readers should seek to relate texts to their literary background.

In the Play term we hosted a lecture on ‘Divine Justice in Greek Tragedy’ by Dr Bill Allan (University College, Oxford). His compelling argument suggested that the dramatists not only responded to common belief but to some extent actually shaped religion in Athens in the fifth century BC, and he chaired an animated question-and-answer exchange on vendetta justice, divine ruthlessness and human folly. In the discussion some of our ‘old chestnuts’ of classical Greek ethics and religion were illuminated from new angles.

One of our intentions is to venture beyond the Greek and Roman worlds and the criticism of classical authors alone. Professor Mark

Ronan, a mathematician and scholar of Mesopotamian studies on leave from Chicago, spoke on the epic of Gilgamesh and gave an introduction to early Semitic languages and writing as well as near-Eastern theology and philosophy.

Professor Bert Smith (Oxford University) led us through the latest developments in excavations at Aphrodisias in Asia Minor. His learned and amusing discussion of the divine statuary and its material state illustrated how archaeologists can draw important conclusions about social and cultural history not only from the artifacts themselves but from the style and extent of damage done to them at different times.

Dr Bob Cowan is a new Classics tutor at Balliol College Oxford. His beautifully paced and brilliantly illustrated lecture on ‘Sacrifice and Closure in *Aeneid*, Book 12’ was a *tour de force* of rhetoric and criticism and stimulated much discussion on the cultural context and the religious assumptions of the *Aeneid*. It was an inspiring taste of what splendid teaching the present generation of Balliol students may expect.

Charles Malton (USh) won a prize for Latin at the Classical Association contest, continuing in a tradition of successful Westminster competition in this tough discipline. Meanwhile numbers of senior pupils in both Latin and Greek seem set to swell to higher levels than we have seen for many years; the Society will be seeking ever larger rooms for its meetings.





## HOOKE LECTURES 2009

The following reports on the annual scientific lecture series have been presented by Ju Won Cha (WW), Sébastien Fivaz (WW) and Rohan Sakhrani (AA).

### The Ghost Universe

Dr Francisco Diego

(Department of Physics and Astronomy, University College, London)

■ We were lucky to have Dr Francisco Diego as the speaker for the first Hooke Lecture. Apart from being famous for his starring rôle in the Solar Eclipse video shown to eager Fifth Form physicists every year, he is a Senior Research Fellow at the Department of Physics and Astronomy of University College London. The subject of his talk was the Ghost Universe, which proved to be a great crowd-puller only matched by the subsequent lectures. He began his talk by giving a general background to the Universe, covering such subjects as the four Platonic Bodies and the Big Bang. Accompanied by his characteristic smile, cheerful demeanour and a rope stretched across the room as a representation of the timeline of the Universe, Dr Diego proceeded to explain why such a large part of the Universe is unaccounted for. He astounded the audience with the fact that we can only see about 4% of the entire Universe, something which goes against our common perceptions. The remainder is said to be made up of around 23% Dark Material, which produces gravity, and around 73% Dark Energy, which is said to provide the energy input to cause the expansion of the Universe. With the mention of things like quarks, gluons, string theory, and the Higgs Boson Dr Diego captivated pupils and members of staff alike.

### Knowing the Ropes: Mechanics and Materials in Ropes for Sailing and Rock Climbing

Dr Andrew J McLaren

(Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Strathclyde)

■ Dr McLaren's research interests are very closely related to his hobbies, sailing and rock climbing. For several years he has been investigating the mechanics and materials of climbing and sailing equipment, focusing in particular on ropes. His lecture explored how the different applications of ropes dictate their properties and materials. Irrespective of whether they are to be used for sailing or climbing, ropes must be strong, light, durable and water resistant; but sailing ropes have to be as stiff as possible whilst climbing ropes have to be as elastic as possible. The reason for this is that sailing ropes are needed to precisely control the shape of sails, usually with winches to provide more force, whereas climbing ropes are used to minimise the force exerted on the climber in the event of a fall, hopefully preventing injury or death. Dr McLaren looked at various rope structures and materials, as well as the mechanics of the different knots and splices used depending upon context. For example, a bowline is perfectly suitable in sailing, but a double figure of eight with a further safety knot is more appropriate when attaching a rope to a climbing harness. He also discussed rope degradation, both as a result of gradual factors, namely ultraviolet light degradation, water absorption, freezing and mineral contamination, and terminal factors, such as chemical and acid damage.

### Chemical Plants or Chemicals from Plants?

#### An Introduction to Green Chemistry

Dr Ed Marshall (Department of Chemistry, Imperial College, London)

■ As a result of several environmental disasters the chemical industry is commonly perceived as polluting and 'brown'. A notable example of such a disaster took place in Flixborough in 1974 when 28 people died, 36 people were injured and some 1,800 buildings were damaged because of a cyclohexane leak that led to an explosion and fire. Dr Marshall advocates that the industry can change and that it can adopt green chemistry, reducing or eliminating the use or generation of hazardous substances in the design, manufacture, and application of chemical products. He backed up his point with a whole host of examples, such as the syntheses of dimethyl carbonate and lactic acid. Decision-making can be difficult as the greener option which produces non-toxic materials may not always be the highest yielding or the most cost effective. For example, while the chemical synthesis of lactic acid is faster, generating products of high purity, the biochemical method is preferred as, despite having a lower atom economy, it uses non-hazardous materials. Dr Marshall ended the lecture by discussing his role in attempting to globalise green chemistry. He is carrying out research on poly(lactic acid), a polymer that could reduce our reliance on fossil fuels since it is made from corn, a renewable resource.

### Radiocarbon Dating: Interdisciplinary Research in Action

Professor Christopher Bronk Ramsey

(Director of the Oxford Radiocarbon Accelerator Unit and Professor of Archaeological Science, University of Oxford)

■ In what was arguably the broadest of the lectures in this series, Professor Ramsey spoke about his incredibly varied work on radiocarbon dating at the University of Oxford. The process was invented by Willard F Libby in 1949, but huge progress has been made since, notably by Professor Ramsey's team at Oxford, leading to much increased accuracy. What makes radiocarbon dating so interesting is that it requires knowledge of a number of disciplines. If, for example, a piece of human tissue is to be dated, the sample needs to undergo a number of chemical processes, notably ultrafiltration before being put through the accelerator that counts the ratio of carbon-14 atoms to other carbon atoms. Once this has been completed, the human's sources of food, and environmental factors such as ocean circulation must be taken into account. The cosmic rays that produce radiocarbon can also be modulated by solar winds and the Earth's magnetic field; this also needs to be considered. Furthermore, archaeological and chronological information is considered with the use of Bayesian statistics and other methods. Professor Ramsey covered several specific examples of dating, such as the eruption of Thera, and Salisbury Cathedral. It seems that this is a field that will see interesting developments in years to come, many of which will no doubt be pioneered by Professor Ramsey himself.

## 47TH HENRY TIZARD MEMORIAL LECTURE IS HUMAN EVOLUTION OVER?

'Yes'. The answer that Professor Steve Jones (University College, London) gave to his own question right at the start of his lecture was, fortunately, elaborated! writes JRGB.

■ 2009 is the bicentenary of the birth of Charles Darwin, and the 150th anniversary of the publication of 'On the Origin of Species'. Darwin is buried in the North Nave aisle of Westminster Abbey less than 100 metres from where our lecturer was standing. The Dean in 1882 when Darwin died was Dean Bradley, after whom the street where the Science Department is located is named. Bradley agreed with William Spottiswoode, President of the Royal Society, that 'this [burial] would be acceptable to a very large number of our fellow countrymen'. But not all; it would cause controversy even now. (Spottiswoode died in 1883, being buried in the South Transept.)

Professor Jones started by considering different fictional predictions of the future of mankind: Thomas More's 'Utopia'; HG Wells and 'The Time Machine' with a world which turned out to be distinctly dystopic; and finally 'Star Trek'. Jones's prediction from evolution, which is 'descent with modification' or 'genetics plus mutation plus time', is that Natural Selection for *Homo sapiens* has lost 90% of its power. He illustrated this thesis with many entertaining and some surprising examples, but it is based essentially on two ideas. Firstly, men are the principal source of mutations since they are continually producing sperm, whereas women are born with all the eggs they will ever have. Secondly, mutation increases rapidly with increasing age so that older fathers are more likely to produce offspring with disadvantageous mutations. In France (a typical Western country) men cease fathering children at a younger age than in Pakistan, though there the age is coming down. On average couples are also having fewer children. The result, when combined with considerably increased mobility of individuals and hence a greater assortment of genetic material, is that fecundity with mutation, through which natural selection operates, is becoming more restricted.

Professor Jones' views were presented with great vigour, and the audience showed their appreciation of his efforts in kind. His ideas are not accepted by all geneticists, but scientific enquiry is the continual testing of hypotheses against experimental data, the evidential activity fundamental to the development of a theory. A Theory, contrary to common usage, is a coherent body of ideas supported by an enormous amount of interlinked experimental data. We were certainly treated to a wide variety of such data which can only help to reinforce our understanding of Darwin's great Theory, that of Evolution by Natural Selection. A video of a shorter (25 minute) version of Professor Jones's lecture can be found at [www.the-monthly.com.au/node/1444](http://www.the-monthly.com.au/node/1444)

## PHYSICS OLYMPIAD

■ Once again the British Physics Olympiad was attempted by some of Westminster's finest physicists, reports CJRU. Battling tough questions, the candidates tackled some interesting and varied topics going beyond the A-level syllabus. Three Westminsters were awarded gold medals, signifying that they were in the top 50 in the country. This is an impressive feat for the school to boast, so very well done indeed to Michael McManus, Pascoe Foxell and Konrad Wagstyl. Let's hope that next year's Remove are equal to the challenge!

## THE BROCK LECTURE THE ICE MAN GOETH

In January the self-proclaimed 'Ice Man', Sean Chapple, gave a talk on his adventures in the polar ice cap, discloses William Higham (LL)

■ More specifically he talked about his most recent adventure during which he travelled to the South Pole and then back, a total of 1400 miles.

With an earlier career as an officer in the Royal Marines, Sean has had wide operational experience with military experiences across the globe. Sean has planned, managed and led over twenty high-risk polar expeditions with more than 700 days living

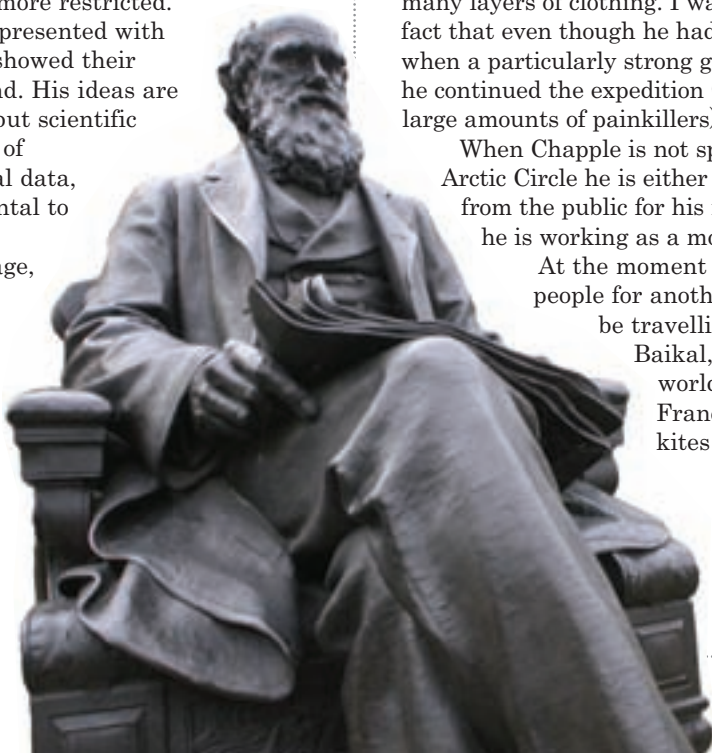
"The trip clearly took a huge amount of endurance, stamina and many layers of clothing."

beyond the Arctic and Antarctic Circles and skiing more than 6,500km, earning himself the nickname The Ice Man along the way.

It was an inspirational talk where the value of teamwork and honesty were magnified. The trip clearly took a huge amount of endurance, stamina and many layers of clothing. I was most impressed by the fact that even though he had dislocated his shoulder, when a particularly strong gust of wind struck a kite, he continued the expedition (the only reprieve being large amounts of painkillers) and finished.

When Chapple is not spending his time in the Arctic Circle he is either recruiting new candidates from the public for his next polar expedition or he is working as a motivational speaker.

At the moment he is actively recruiting people for another expedition. This will be travelling the length of the Lake Baikal, the biggest lake in the world, roughly the size of France. He will even be using kites again to speed things up.





## THE HISTORY OF ART SOCIETY FROM KATE MOSS TO RUBENS

This year, the Society decided to take an alternative approach, inviting guests from the contemporary art scene as well as the more usual art historians, describes Samuel Douek (AA).

■ The Play term saw practicing contemporary artists describe their work and their achievements, allowing the audience to question them directly.

The first lecture did not disappoint. One of the most compelling artists working today, Marc Quinn took the opportunity to speak at Westminster School days before the unveiling of his latest work, *Siren*, a solid gold sculpture of Kate Moss. The lecture took the form of an interview between the audience and the artist. This inspired many challenging questions and debates in subsequent talks. Alongside slides of his work, Quinn discussed his reasons for becoming an artist after having studied Art History at Cambridge from 1982–85, elucidated his history as part of the Young British Artists movement and described the progression of his occasionally shocking works from initial idea to final realisation.

The theme of contemporary artists for the Play term was to be developed in interesting ways by Simon Callery and Brian Sayers. Whilst Callery spoke about his involvement with the Laboratory at the Ruskin School of Fine Art and photographer Andrew Watson in achieving his ambitious Segsbury Project, Sayers pre-

"His explanation of the development of his work from ambition to presentation permitted us to see the way in which a contemporary artist thinks."

sented a more formal lecture in which he discussed his work as an artist through explanations about his contemporary works.

Callery allowed the audience an insight into his projects. Of particular interest, his Segsbury Project that surveyed and photographed an archaeological excavation was realised through rows of office-style drawers that brought to life his creative approach to the analysis of history. His explanation of the development of his work from ambition to presentation permitted us to see the way in which a contemporary artist thinks. Sayers, on the other hand, articulated the simplicity of his work and the fact that his paintings cannot be copied or recreated; a unique form of contemporary art in an art world that depends upon imitation and consumerism.

From Quinn to Callery to Sayers, each artist described their thought processes and influences in relation to their work in very different ways. Comparison reveals the great differences that exist between artists despite the fact that all of their work is contemporary.

The Lent term provided the opportunity for established art historians to talk about their fields of work or a particular topic of interest. Renowned art historian Andrew Graham-Dixon, OW, came to present the annual John House prizes before talking about Michelangelo and the Sistine Chapel, having just published a new book on the topic. He attempted to convey Michelangelo's ideas for a contemporary audience, exploring the meaning of each of the Sistine Chapel's features. His approach, however, was not 'simplified' at all. The meticulous detail and in-depth analysis of the painter's technique, subject and scheme choices reflected the depth of Graham-Dixon's understanding of Michelangelo and made it hugely enjoyable.

Following Graham-Dixon's innovative approach, Jennifer Scott from the Queen's Gallery also gave a very personal lecture. Having co-curated the exhibition 'From Brueghel to Rubens', Scott used the first half of the lecture as an opportunity to explain the exhibition. Being the first-ever presentation of Flemish paintings from the Queen's Collection, it was extremely interesting to hear about the accumulation of works over centuries, the tasks involved with curating an exhibition and the successful feedback that she had been hearing since October. The audience then took the opportunity to ask about the Queen's Gallery, discovering interesting answers about our monarch's personal taste and the sensitivity that she has towards the thousands of art works in her collection, "from Van Dycks to *macaroni* portraits".

All the lectures this year intrigued by articulating a passion for the speakers' subjects, and approach this year, in which contemporary artists were followed by art historians, the theme of each lecture changed dramatically from its predecessor. We eagerly await Caroline Brooke's lecture on Early Renaissance Florence this term. Thank you to all who attended, particularly to the Art History department and the History of Art Society.

## YOUNG ENGINEER FOR BRITAIN

■ In March Ralph Barton (OW) and George Illingworth (OW) (Remove 2008) won the Duke of York Rosebowl for the most creative use of Electronics in the National Young Engineer for Britain competition

with their CommunicAid project. This is a low cost communications device for the severely handicapped inspired by some of the guests they met during the Westminster PHAB week. Aimed at those who cannot

speak and who have limited muscular dexterity, the device uses wireless technology and has a custom-made tricolour LED display and two LCD screens, one for the user and one on the back of the unit for the observer.



## THE BEN JONSON SOCIETY BOSIE AND CHAUCER

Many were intrigued to hear in a Ben Jonson Society lecture the poetry and emotional biography of Lord Alfred Douglas, Oscar Wilde's lover, presented with immense sensitivity by his great nephew, Lord Gawain Douglas, discloses MLG.

■ “Your slim gilt soul walks between passion and poetry”, Wilde wrote to Lord Alfred once. Bosie began writing in his undergraduate days in Oxford before he met Wilde, and his first serious poem, *Autumn Days*, appeared in *The Oxford* magazine in 1890. His first collection, simply called *Poems*, was published in France in 1896 during Wilde's imprisonment, and in 1899 an anonymous English edition of his work was a huge success. His poetry remained in print for the rest of his life.

Poetry gleams like a silver thread through the dark history of the Douglas line, a curious distillation of beauty from bloodshed. From Gavin Douglas, the 16th-century bishop, one of Scotland's greatest poets, who translated Virgil's *Aeneid* from Latin to Gaelic, and William Douglas, who wrote the words to the song *Annie Lawrie*. Even Bosie's own brutish, thuggish father had poetry in his soul. His will stated that he should be buried “in any place where stars shall ever shed their light, and sun still gild each rising morn –” Lord Gawain himself writes and recites poetry as his father had done: “Bosie and I connect. He wrote one of his finest works, *In Excelsis*, in prison. His poetry ranges from lines of passion and intensity to delicate fancy and romance – *Alas that Time should war against distress And numb the sweet ache of remembered loss And give for sorrow's gold the indifferent dross Of calm regret or stark forgetfulness*

– this from a sonnet written about Wilde after his death...I felt I had to do something to re-establish his reputation, which is still completely dominated by his relationship with Oscar Wilde.”

“Even Bosie's own brutish, thuggish father had poetry in his soul.”

The Society was also entertained by a visit by Trevor Eaton, ‘The Chaucer Man’, who is well known for his lively recitations of Chaucer's *Tales*. He did, indeed, bound around the classroom as advertised while reciting his Tale, but some felt that his lengthy introduction and rather alarming athletics detracted from a perhaps more searching enjoyment of the text.

In May, Les Murray, the great Australian poet, addressed a keen audience. He impressed them immediately with his soft spoken wisdom and mesmerizing verbal directness, reading a selection of his shorter poems. Confessional, funny, aphoristic and humane, his was a voice, as he said himself, from a receding age, of growing up in a land from which he could see the unity of the whole world. His simple advice to would-be poets was to ‘keep at it’ and to let the truth emerge naturally. An inspiring end to the year's programme.

## YOUNG SCIENTISTS INSPIRING THE VOICE OF THE FUTURE

On the 10th of March, the Houses of Parliament opened their doors to young scientists from around London and further afield, notes Raza Habib (AA).

■ Engineers, physicists, climate scientists, chemists and even students queued patiently through security for an opportunity to discuss and question Members of Parliament on the scientific future of Britain. Among those invited to constitute the ‘voice of the future’ was a small group of Westminster sixth-formers, including myself.

“Their message, repeated by others throughout the day, was to emphasise the paucity of young people entering science and scientific teaching, a trend it would appear Westminster School has bucked.”

The event, organised by the Royal Society of Chemistry, was intended to provide an interface between government and young scientists and to allow young scientists both to question and raise issue with MP's, especially those in the *Select Committee on Innovation, Universities, Science and Skills*. Throughout the day, we were addressed by a number of different members of parliament and other senior figures, amongst whom were Lord Drayson, the minister for science and innovation, and Professor Dave Garner, the president of the Royal Society of Chemistry. Their message, repeated by others throughout the day, was to emphasise the paucity of young people entering science and scientific teaching, a trend it would appear Westminster School has bucked.

The day grew into a fascinating debate over modern scientific issues. Amongst the topics discussed was Gordon Brown's recent commitment to maintain scientific funding throughout the recession, the increasing danger from global warming and the possibility of a brain-drain to the funds-rich United States.

In the afternoon, we met Westminster's own MP, Mark Field. This gave us the opportunity to raise our own concerns more directly. We discussed the possibility of nuclear power, which he is against and of climate change, of which he's sceptical. Mr Field followed the Conservative Party lines on almost all issues raised but we were none the less grateful that he took the time to see us.

Whilst all the MP's spoke confidently, their differences of opinion on matters such as climate change defined the debate and demonstrated, at least to me, that we are yet to find solutions to many of the problems that face us today. What struck me particularly was the interdisciplinary nature of the vast majority of the problems discussed and the necessity for all the sciences to work together. Ultimately the impact of the event was inspiring and I hope that the ‘voice of the future will’ soon turn to action.



## DEBATING SOCIETY

In case it passed you by, the past two terms have been, for some of us, a dynamic debating season, proposes Matty Wnek (HH), defining the year's mood.

■ Summer, perhaps in order that certain pasty-faced debaters are encouraged to venture outside, sees very little in the way of debating tournaments, so it is all crammed into six short months, culminating in a flurry just before Easter. Westminster took teams to both Oxford and Cambridge finals days, came very close to the break at UCL tournament, went overnight to Durham, and progressed to the London Finals with our Mace team. All this as well as our junior team doing incredibly well at ICYD. Always a reflection of the excitement of the economic climate and international community, this season's motions were particularly tantalising, and especially demanding of philosophical analysis, something which all our debaters relish. My favourite motion was Cambridge's "This House Would give Poorer People More Votes." Westminster A were first proposition and spent a very tempered 5 minutes 'committing to our principle', before second

speaker had an equally enjoyable 5-minute stint at adding some reality to said principle. This was just one of the policies Westminster had a chance to implement: 'war-time rationing of alcohol according to government quotas' was a hard win, as was 'performance-related pay for teachers' based on student opinion'. Principle debates are generally preferred, and another enjoyable motion of this kind was Durham's "This House Would not allow companies' highest earners to make more than 10x their lowest earners", which, as we were last to speak, brought out some interesting economic analyses from the

ed and analysed, and judges expect you to be equally rigorous with their points. Watching the strong debaters also means one (subconsciously and consciously) absorbs the most effective stylistic traits, which is always amusing if you get the chance to watch your partner get up and suddenly make gestures they've never made before because the debaters in the previous room won that way. And if that fails, there's always the Westminster A patented strategy for stylistic development: Eliza Easton and I, too hysterical and too fast respectively, have taken to drawing a walrus and a tortoise on our hands to look at before each debate.

"You get the chance to watch your partner get up and suddenly make gestures they've never made before because the debaters in the previous room won that way."

Westminster team in Opposition, with varying degrees of accuracy.

Apart from the statistical successes of the teams, this season has offered all the debaters the chance to really improve. I found that I had reached a standard good enough to end up in really good debating rooms, and came up against England and Scottish National teams at least four times. This is invaluable training, as the better teams really don't let you get away with any assertion; every point must be totally support-

Richard Allnatt adds that, in addition to the consistently strong performances of the seniors, with Matty Wnek frequently in outstanding form, the junior debaters have had an excellent year. The main junior team, Barnaby Raine and Charles Malton, were placed third out of 52 teams at the National Schools' finals day in Cambridge and came eighth (out of 88) at the Senior finals day in Oxford. Both of these were exceptional achievements, which augur very well for the future.

## BIOLOGY SOCIETY

The Biology Society is a student-run group that meets every second Friday at lunch-time, where members of the Sixth Form and Remove give presentations on biological topics they have researched. Jamie Palmer (LL) and Kay Hann (PP) spill the beans on a challenging and entertaining series of presentations and excursions.

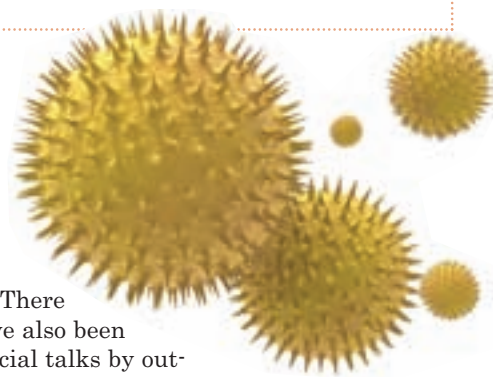
■ Since the summer term of last year, the Biology society has been administered in a new format whereby a smaller group of only four or five pupils led by a president are responsible for managing the club. Our supervisor, Dr Hartley, has been enthusiastic and supportive all the time.

Under this committee, led by Kay Hann, a dozen or so different presentations were given by members of the current Remove covering a wide range of topics, from designer babies to drugs for malaria. Particularly

impressive were those given by Rhea Clubb and Alex Hughes on stem cells, and Ilya Levantis on the origins of life. Tom Fieldman deserves special recognition for being the only student to have given two presentations. The lectures last for half an hour or so, with a friendly discussion at the end and none of the material copied-and-pasted from Wikipedia! Non-scientists also attend the lectures; we had a jam-packed Lecture Room for the lecture, 'Love Factually', with Fifth Formers also attending.

Leadership of the Biology Society committee passed to the Sixth Form towards the end of the Play term. Not to be outdone, this new team has had a number of very impressive presentations. Perhaps the best of these were those given by Isabel Reicher and Matty Wnek on allergies and racial development respectively. There are plans to have a special presentation on organ donation. Everybody is welcome to come and give the society a piece of their mind!

There have also been special talks by outside speakers. Dr. Douglas Harrison, a leading cosmetic surgeon in Europe, gave a fascinating and gratifyingly gruesome visual account of his work, while Dr. Eileen Cox, a senior research botanist and head of post-graduate studies at the Science Museum, delivered an enlightening and well-pitched presentation on diatoms (a class of plankton featuring silica-based shells) and their use in the monitoring of environmental conditions. The committee also organised an expedition to a lecture about Parkinson's Disease at the Royal Society; a highly enjoyable and educational event.



## BUSINESS SOCIETY RISKY BUSINESS

The Play Term of 2008 saw the birth of the Business Society, led by Johnny Harel-Cohen and Sophie Rosenheim, announces Abbas Kazmi (GG).

■ The Society kicked off with a well-attended and highly popular lecture by Sir Stelios Haji-Iannou, the Greek-born entrepreneur best known for setting up EasyJet. He spoke about how he rose to create his 'Easy empire' which includes EasyHotel, EasyCar, EasyMobile, Easy Internet Café and even EasyPizza. We were surprised to find that he was very down-to-earth and friendly, and even spent time at the end meeting students and signing autographs. He also gave lots of useful advice about being entrepreneurial and about how taking risks is so very important.

The next lecture was given by Charles Dunstone, the CEO and co-founder of The Carphone



"He also gave lots of useful advice about being entrepreneurial and about how taking risks is so very important."

Warehouse. He spoke of how he created his fortune from almost nothing. Dunstone put £6,000 into the company from his savings in 1989 and, with David Ross, embarked on their mission selling car phones, originally out of Dunstone's rented flat on the Marylebone Road, London. Four years later, the company had grown to 20 stores. In 2007 the company joined the FTSE 100 Index and is now Europe's largest independent mobile phone retailer.

I found attending the Friday lunchtime Business Society lectures to be very useful and informative. They provided an insight into how entrepreneurs make so much money, starting from almost nothing, and showed us that with a few risks along with hard work and determination it is actually very easy to make a lot of money! It is hoped that this new Society will go on to become a thriving component of Westminster life and will continue to grow.

## PHILOSOPHY SOCIETY

The Philosophy Society is a new organisation that meets once a week to discuss philosophical topics. It was founded as a starting point for anyone interested in reading philosophy at university, propounds Alex Darby (LL).

■ The format of the group is entirely dialectic – although there is normally an erudite teacher who will preside over the discussion and hand out further reading to those who so want. The logic to this decision is that it is a more accessible format for a beginner – no *a priori* knowledge is required except your opinions.

Furthermore, the best method of formulating your own opinions is to discuss them with others.

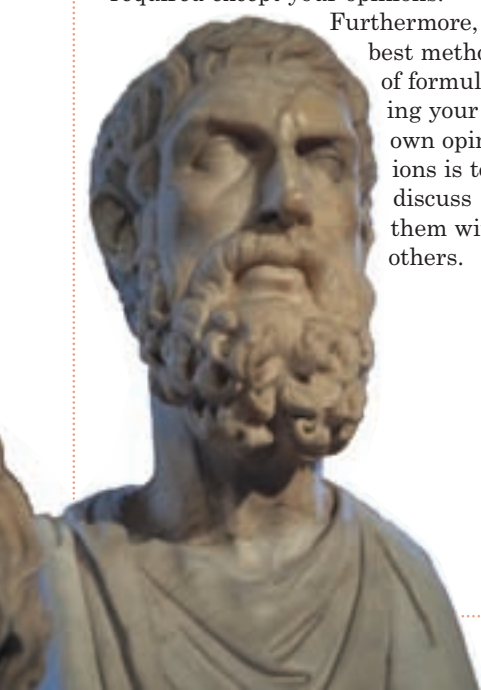
So far the topics that have been discussed are: existentialism, Plato, the FCUK brand, functionalism and sexual identity. These have all succeeded in stimulating diverse and thought-provoking discussions, which have in turn been met by various conclusions.

"The perspicacious can catch an instantaneous glimpse into the core of their peers' personalities."

Moreover, through the medium of the discussions, the perspicacious can catch an instantaneous glimpse into the core of their peers' personalities. These momentary illuminations are fascinating and serve as a very utilitarian way of building up your own beliefs.

The future holds well, promising talks on Wittgenstein and epistemology, as well as the elusive prospect of a talk from Brian O'Shaughnessy – a philosopher of the mind.

Perhaps there will be a new John Locke...



## ENGLISH SOCIETY

James Dean said that being a person was the loneliest thing in the world because 'you are all alone with your concentration and imagination, and that's all you have,' quotes Aliya Ram (AA) in her account of this new society.

■ But there are ways to find company in imagination which was why English Society was set up – to bring together lots of people with a genuine interest in literature so that they can have discussions with people who may not be in their English classes or who may not study English at all. Different people orchestrate the group each week and the subjects discussed have ranged from the Beat Generation and Dystopic novels to Russian short stories. It takes place for Sixth Formers every Friday at 12.40 in the Hastings Room and because of everyone's enthusiasm, a theatre trip to see *Entertaining Mr Sloane* is being organized. The best part of English Society is that it has proven that people are interested in academia outside the classroom: it gives people the opportunity to read things not on their curriculum and to really enjoy being interested and being interesting about literature.



## YOUNG ENTERPRISE

When we were told at the beginning of the Play Term that we had the chance to run our own businesses and to keep any profit we made without being responsible for any losses, many of us were excited about the Young Enterprise scheme (especially since the average YE company apparently makes £200 profit), reveals an eager Abbas Kazmi (GG).

There was the added bonus of mentioning it on UCAS forms. Young Enterprise is a business and enterprise education programme, which is supported by both the business community and by the government. It aims to give young people the opportunity to learn about and experience how business works, and what its role is in society. This is the first year that the school has offered the scheme and Ms Veninata was amazed to find more than 60 people in her Hooke classroom for the first meeting.

We had to get into teams and write up a business plan to be judged by Ms Veninata and by Dr. Spurr. As a result of this, four companies were formed. We were each assigned a link teacher from the school and an outside adviser. From November onwards we operated like real businesses, selling goods or services. The Westminster Regional Final took place at the end of March and two of our companies qualified for this. They were U-Design (Managing Director: Abbas Kazmi) and RAG (Managing Director: Meg Trainor). U-Design won the prize for the best overall company in the Westminster region out of companies from 22 other schools. We are now through to the Central London Final and if all goes well we are in for a long summer with potential National and European finals ahead. There are also other competitions such as website, IT, organisation and finance awards for which U-Design has submitted entries. U-Design, a promotional merchandise and advertising company, started off as a team of six but has since expanded to eleven members and is the largest company at

the school. We have so far made more than £2000 profit and have sold over 1000 goods.

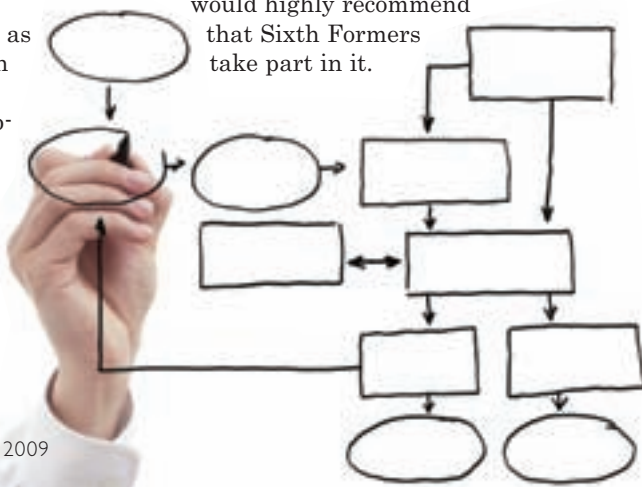
The Young Enterprise scheme has really given us an insight into and an understanding of exactly how businesses are set-up and then run in real life. It requires finding a strong and productive team, coming up with a solid business plan, and then putting the plan into action. A business has to be advertised, promoted and maintained through hard work, time and commitment. Above all a good business requires team-work and cooperation.

Young Enterprise has been an

“We have so far made more than £2000 profit and have sold over 1000 goods.”

extremely educational experience. In particular, I enjoyed competing against and working with real companies in the outside world. Our most exciting deal was probably with Cybersports, the makers of the critically-acclaimed massively multiplayer online game called Football Superstars, a game which the BBC has described as the ‘future of football’. We agreed to promote them within the school, for a fee of course, and ran an inter-house game competition.

Young Enterprise did take up a lot of extra time and it was very hard work. We had weekly meetings with our advisers and had to liaise with each other frequently to discuss business. I often had to take calls from suppliers and clients in between my lessons! However, with careful time-management we found that we were able to cope very well and the experience has helped us to become better organised. Overall, I have thoroughly enjoyed the Young Enterprise scheme (and I am looking forward to spending my share of the profit) and I would highly recommend that Sixth Formers take part in it.



## POLITICAL SOCIETY

Political Society this year has seen some excellent, and sometimes highly controversial debate, proclaims Jamie Kleinfeld (WW).

Under the auspices of co-Presidents Arjav Trivedi and Hannah Timmis, students from the Fifth Form to the Remove have discussed such wide-ranging topics as the situations in Pakistan and Northern Ireland, the election of Barack Obama and the reform of drug laws. In the Westminster spirit, politically-minded students have

“One opportunistic pupil saw advantages to the fast-food industry in the legalisation of cannabis.”

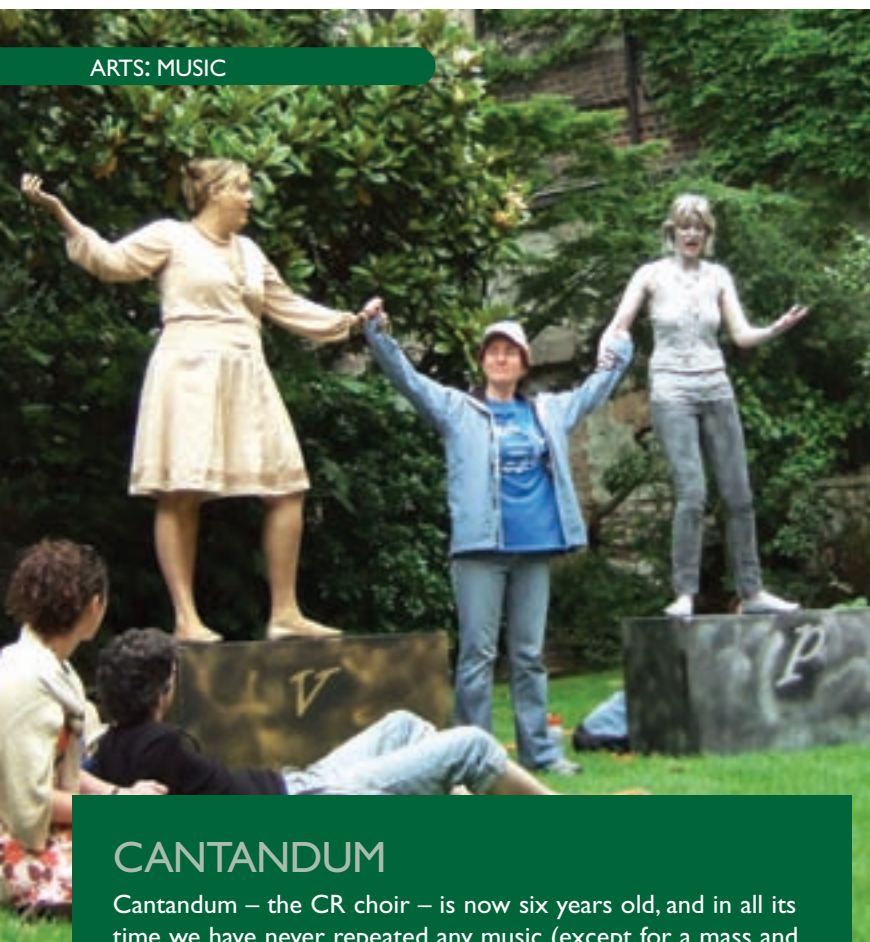
brought many insightful opinions to the discussion. One opportunistic pupil saw advantages to the fast-food industry in the legalisation of cannabis, and, in an exceptionally heated debate, some suggested the black-listing of civil servants whose political allegiances lie with the BNP. As part of the political work of the school, the school's first political magazine, *The Westminster Political Review*, will be launched during the Election Term, marking a leap forward in students' ability to express their views to a wider audience.



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## CANTANDUM

Cantandum – the CR choir – is now six years old, and in all its time we have never repeated any music (except for a mass and a set of evensong responses) – no bad feat in a choir that sings at least six times a year, writes GMF.

■ This season we have looked at music by Sheppard, Gibbons, Victoria, Palestrina, Legrenzi, Poulenc, Mendelssohn and Vaughan Williams, and are currently rehearsing Kodaly, more Palestrina and what might be the UK premiere of a mass by Vanhal. Vanhal is perhaps more famous for playing in a string quartet with Mozart, Haydn and Dittersdorf than he is for his compositions, but we are looking forward to recitifying this misconception with what is certainly the Westminster premiere of his *Missa Pastoralis*, a beautiful setting which is evocative of summer haze and the pastoral idyll.

Numbers vary: at the time of writing we have ten CR members and eight friends, making for a polished sound that is the result of singing together for a long time. We are down a couple for the summer concert but, thanks to the generosity of the Westminster School Society, we are able to call on professional singers to boost numbers when necessary. The Society's grant also covers the cost of orchestral musicians,

making it possible to put on concerts that would otherwise be well beyond our means. Our most ambitious project so far was last Election Term, where we gave a semi-staging in Ashburnham garden of Handel's glorious masque *The Choice of Hercules*. This required four soloists (Jessica Streeting, Fiona Sharp, Teehan Page and the visiting Jessica Gillingwater), an orchestra of 15 and a chorus who were prepared to act! John Arthur's clever updating made for a fresh perspective on the story, the rehearsals provided a diverting break from exam marking and the commitment of all involved, especially the soloists, was evident in the joy of the performance.

We also sing regular services, with our termly commitment to St John's Smith Square to look forward to – it's nice to see our name in the monthly diary alongside those of greater luminaries – and occasional Choral Evensongs at Westminster Abbey are always very special occasions.

## SIR ADRIAN BOULT MEMORIAL CONCERT

### STEPHEN HOUGH: PIANO

For the 22nd Sir Adrian Boult Memorial Concert in October the school was very pleased to welcome Stephen Hough to give a recital Up School, records GStJH.

■ Stephen Hough is a remarkable pianist, composer and musical commentator with a unique artistic voice in an age which may be said to encourage a certain homogeneity and conformity in terms of programming and musical personality. The programme he presented could be summed up, as he said in his accompanying notes, as "In Paris, not French"; furthermore the thread linking the works was Counterpoint, not just within the music but between the pieces which indeed had many important links and connections. One of the most important of these was that the whole repertoire with the exception of the Copland had strong personal connections with the great Swiss pianist, Alfred Cortot.

The evening opened with Bach's *Toccata and Fugue in D minor* arranged by Cortot/Hough. Part of the surprising effect of this work played nowadays is that audiences are so used to 'authentic' or historically "correct" performances of eighteenth century music that the context itself, thought of as old-fashioned until recently, now strikes the listener as startling, even 'new'. Hough settled down and conveyed a noble grandeur and drama in this iconic work. Next came a set of three salon pieces by Fauré – *Nocturne*, *Impromptu* and *Barcarolle*. These supremely elegant, crafted works evoke a complex poetic world of nonchalance which mask an intense emotion, and Hough played them with an appropriate and intriguing refinement. The first half of the programme closed with César Frank's magnificent *Prelude, Chorale and Fugue* which exploits the full range and sonorities of the piano, and achieves an almost transcendental conclusion.

After the interval, Hough opened with Copland's *Piano Variations*, which create a very different sound world; the "modernism where jazz and the legacy of the *ballets russes* cut along the boulevards" as Hough wrote. The angular clarity of this work was then effectively contrasted with the Romantic poetry of Chopin in the *Nocturne op 62* and the *Third Sonata in B minor op 44*. The sonata was truly remarkable, Hough demonstrating to us how this particular music comes alive in a new way in the hands of a great performer. In the *allegro maestoso* the range of colours and the ever shifting emotion temperature was remarkable while in the *largo* an intense *pianissimo* would be followed by an almost impossible yet heartfelt *ppp*.

Britain's finest living pianist? Quite possibly.





## CONTEMPORARY MUSIC CONCERT

This year's Contemporary Music Concert was dedicated to John E. Hare (1919–1941), an Old Westminster musician and composer who perished at sea during the Second World War, writes Emma-Victoria Farr (AA).



"The concert piece is one of a number of Hare's compositions that have been presented to the School by his family and have proved an exciting revelation to the Music Department."



■ It saw the first known performance of his *Concert Piece for Piano and Orchestra*, Op.2, which he composed while still a student at Westminster. His compositions were already then admired by Adrian Boult (OW) and fellow leading conductor/composer Constant Lambert.

Ian Tsui under the direction of Dr. Savaskan, played with conviction and virtuosity the piece that brims over with pastoral charm, very much in the English manner of the time, including some rather advanced chromatic harmonies. The lush orchestration gave full scope to the school orchestra. In his own note on the concert piece, written at the Royal Pier Hotel in Clevedon, Somerset, in 1939, Hare said: "The influence of folk music on my own composition has always been strong largely due to the teaching of AF" [Arnold Foster, Director of Music at Westminster at the time].

The concert piece is one of a number of Hare's compositions that have been presented to the School by his family and have proved an exciting revelation to the Music Department. All Hare's works in manuscript form have been given to the School Archives and it is hoped that they will be performed on future occasions.

Before the performance of Hare's *Concert Piece*, Mr. Hopkins recalled how Hare (AA 1933–1938) went on from Westminster to Imperial College to study Engineering, as his father did not think that music would provide a secure career, despite his acknowledged talent. While at Imperial, it is believed that he continued his musical studies across the road at the Royal College of Music.

As a result, following the outbreak of war, he joined the Merchant Navy as a Radio Officer. In 1941 his ship was torpedoed returning from South Africa and he found himself





with two other survivors, drifting on a small raft. He died nine days later from exposure to the blistering sun. One of his companions, however, was rescued and told of how Hare had sustained him and recounted his love of music. Hare's name is to be found on the Westminster School Roll of Honour on the so-called 'Purcell Organ', up School.

As usual, the Contemporary Music Concert provided a programme full of innovation, mixing the latest compositions of Westminsters with pieces by leading 20th century composers. Anthony Friend was especially industrious as a most promising composer with his *Winding up, unfurling, and returning to calm* for clarinet, violin, 'cello, and piano, and his atmospheric *Score for a Film* for full orchestra. He also was the clarinetist in Steve Reich's *New York Counterpoint* and first clarinet in the Symphony Orchestra.

Louisa Dawes was prominent, with her composition *About* played with feeling by Adam Cigman-Mark and in Adam's group of songs with a piano prelude *Where Hope Was* which Louisa sang poignantly. Accompanied effectively this time by Oscar Dub on the piano, Louisa played the violin with great intensity in a movement from Olivier Messiaen's wartime *Quatuor pour la fin du temps*, creating a sense of time standing still. Messiaen's 100th Birthday in 2008 has been celebrated around the world.

Other well-known contemporary composers whose works were performed included Arvo Pärt, with Konrad Wagstyl playing the violin in a very different work to Saint-Saëns' *Third Violin Concerto* which he had played with such virtuosity at the School Orchestral Concert at St. John's Smith Square in November. Konrad and Maya Amin-Smith went on to play Luciano Berio's virtuosic *Duets for Two Violins* with vigour, intended as tributes to the composer's friends, including Bartok and Stravinsky. July Verkade played with style Toru Takemitsu's piano tribute *In Memoriam Olivier Messiaen*. Freddie James then played authoritatively Sir Peter Maxwell Davies' *Three Organ Voluntaries*, following his recent FRCO organ diploma success. Frederick Young gave a typically spirited performance of Witold Lutoslawski's virtuoso '*Subito*' for violin with Mr. Law at the piano. Jack McNeill Adams, the evening's youngest solo performer, played with flair a guitar piece by Leo Brouwer.

Towards the end of an invigorating and revelatory evening, the full School Orchestra also gave a rousing performance of Benjamin Britten's *Paul Bunyan Overture* which gave it the opportunity to display its technical ability.

Earlier, Mr. Barton's '*infractum mobile*' for the Experimental Musical Theatre Group provided unusual entertainment as he directed a variety of mobile phone ring tones among his talented Remove drama students who alternated between declaiming, dancing and whistling down a half empty bottle.

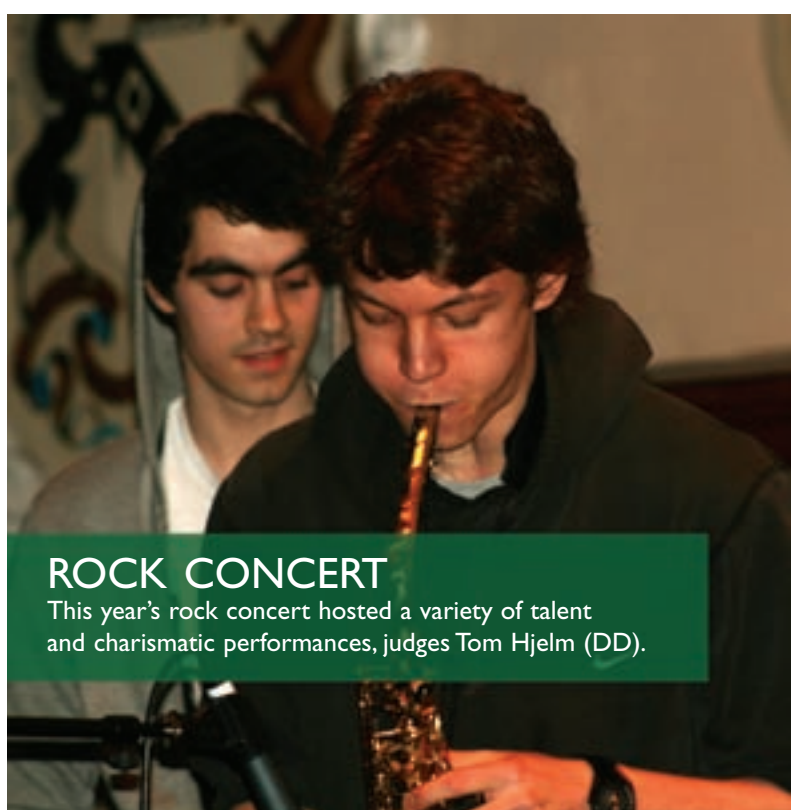


## WESTMINSTER ABBEY CONCERT

Put briefly, the concert was a self-evident success, decides GG of the annual concert Up Abbey.

Intelligently conceived, in the first half it contrasted Poulenc and Vaughan Williams, a mixture that sounds as appetizing as prawn and chocolate sandwiches. Surprisingly it worked.

Poulenc's *Concerto* is difficult to pull off with its particular brand of melodramatic solemnity undermined deliberately by playful frivolity. Freddie James had no difficulty negotiating the mock Bachian heroics or Offenbachian hedonism, and was



## ROCK CONCERT

This year's rock concert hosted a variety of talent and charismatic performances, judges Tom Hjelm (DD).





"I have seldom seen a chorus so engaged with their conductor. They sang with enthusiasm and joy."



capable of reining in the sentimental tunes before they curdled to quasi-religious goo. A striking and inspired performance.

The orchestral accompaniment remained accurate and acrobatic throughout.

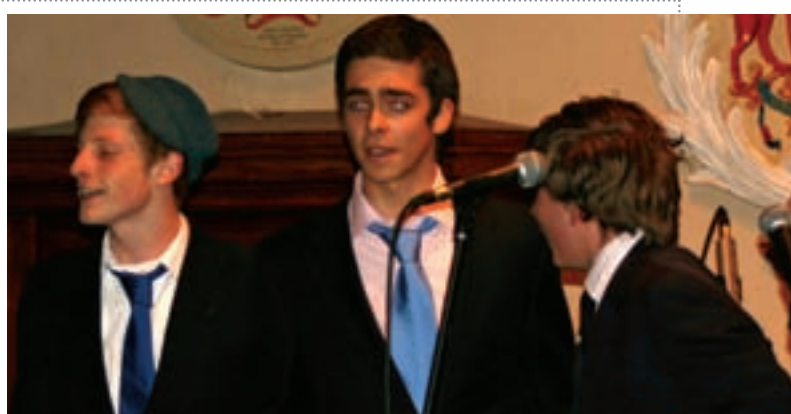
Vaughan William's *The Lark Ascending* suffers a little from over familiarity. On the telly it is used to evoke golden cornfields and ruddy-faced rustics all about to be doomed to destruction in the muddy trenches of Flanders. Frederick Young took the piece by the scruff of the neck playing the solo violin with virile confidence. He seemed without nerves, and as the solo line soared above the orchestra his tone seemed to expand – often, at this point, soloists can sound both febrile and uncertain. As the piece drew to a serene close, the concentration from the audience was palpable.

The second half of the concert was filled with Mozart's

*Requiem*. Although large-scale choral pieces can be effective in the Abbey, often enough the impressiveness is the result of a generalised wash of sound. Tim Johnson conducted with energy and focus so that the woodwind was both audible and made its point, even when the chorus was at full pelt, and the strings chugged remorselessly onward.

I have seldom seen a chorus so engaged with their conductor. They sang with enthusiasm and joy, watching all the time to ensure that they were following accurately. It is a tribute to Tim Johnson's charisma that he could lead proceedings without dominating and encourage a spirit of mutual support amongst a crowd of very disparate individuals.

A 'self-evident' success! Easier to write than achieve – everyone involved deserves an accolade, but especially Tim Johnson, whose Westminster premiere this was.



■ The first band to take the stage was an octet of awesomeness. Rachel Stott stole the show with her emphatic vocals in Janis Joplin's *Take another little piece of my heart*. Thomas Fitzsimons displayed his versatility as he performed on drums for the first two acts, demonstrating his skill in Rock, R&B and Jazz. The jazz band that came next gave a highly impressive rendition of *Get a Move On* by Moondog.

As always Frankie Meadows gave an exciting and invigorating performance; his intricate guitar work is always interesting. Fletcher, Sossidis, Fellows, Baquiche

and Ved had the crowd on their feet crying for an encore after the pomp and circumstance of their *a cappella* act! Their preppy uniform, side partings and strippergram trousers can only begin to paint a picture of the gravitas of their performance. Other acts included Louis Lunts paying tribute to The Strokes.

Sammy Talalay performed to two consummate acts, one of which was a song written by Gabe Broadhurst which showed tremendous talent and potential for the future. Dom McKinnon-Green fronted a truly impressive recital of The Killers and Red Hot Chili Peppers.



## RIGAUD'S / LIDDELL'S HOUSE PLAY THE SEA

Edward Bond is hardly a writer known for his comedy; this is after all the man who is most famous for writing a play in which a baby is stoned to death in its pram, maintains Adam Cigman-Mark (GG).

■ What's more, he did it in the 1960s when, unlike now, such extremes were hardly par for the course on the London stage. It may seem a little surprising then to find, from this enfant terrible of British theatre, a comedic, very English, almost traditional play. There is admittedly an air of poetic tragedy about it, admirably brought out in touching performances from Natango Von Thun-Hohenstein and Natasha Wigoder as the friend and fiancée of the dead man respectively. But in addition, there is a great deal of fantastically dark comedy, nowhere more so than in the funeral scene in the second half. From the hilariously inappropriate singing of Miss Tilehouse (Rosa Bennathan) to the unforgettable moment when the formidable Mrs Rafi (Louisa Ellis) showers the dead man's ashes over the disgraced Hatch (Hugh Pickering) while insisting on respect for the dead – Bond certainly does not shy away from making a mockery of English mores and customs.

"There is a great deal of fantastically dark comedy, nowhere more so than in the funeral scene in the second half."

This production certainly captured that distinctively subversive flavour. Fred Nathan's staging had great momentum, belying the apparently limited rehearsal time and contained a number of remarkable performances; Hugh Pickering brilliantly possessed as the shop-keeper obsessed by the idea that aliens are coming; Will Peck as his doggedly faithful lackey; Louisa Ellis, inimitably imperious as the terrifying Mrs Rafi; Rosa Bennathan, superbly bringing out Miss Tilehouse's latent sexuality, a dimension entirely absent from the West End revival last year. Yet what came across most strongly was the sense of the play as a hugely inventive, if imperfect, work, and one which has been unduly neglected since its premiere.







## MILNE'S HOUSE PLAY

### ALARMS AND EXCURSIONS

Farce is often seen as a somewhat outdated form of entertainment, feels Adam Cigman Mark (GG); it is of course intended to inspire embarrassment, but too often it fails to inspire very much else.

■ However, this is a charge that certainly can't be levelled against either Michael Frayn's three short plays or this production. Frayn exploits traditionally farcical misunderstanding to brilliant effect in an emphatically modern context; the noise of a couple launching a fervent attack on a mosquito being misinterpreted as rampant sex, for instance. This is certainly as good as farce gets. Yet in order to avoid seeming unduly ludicrous, it must be conveyed with absolute conviction.

Similarly, Chris Arnold both directed *Alarms*, doing an excellent job of pacing the play's gradual descent into total mania, and played the frustrated husband in *Immobiles*, in which a series of missed calls from public phone boxes leads to a series of hilariously awkward scenarios. If the play is perhaps made slightly less relevant by the advent of mobile phones, it was nonetheless pulled off with tremendous panache, and I was especially entertained by Ben Maconick's performance (and accent) as the

"Frayn exploits traditionally farcical misunderstanding to brilliant effect in an emphatically modern context."

This was managed remarkably successfully by the entire cast of the Milne's House play; an ideal balance was struck between inevitable artificiality and a ring of truth to bring out pathos in Frayn's depiction of a society more interested in gadgets than in real people. There were a number of memorable performances, notably from the ubiquitous James Ware, who managed to do a hilarious turn as the endlessly suffering host in *Alarms* and to direct both the

hapless German visitor. Finally, *Doubles* seemed to sum up Frayn's feelings about social distancing; two couples in adjacent hotel rooms, each entirely misguided as to the feelings of the other towards them, and yet far more similar to each other than they could ever have guessed. All four actors conveyed a sense of the almost-Chekhovian mundanity of the situation, making the play touching as well as hysterically funny in parts.



## TWO SHORT PLAYS

# TRAFALGAR SQUARE THE REAL INSPECTOR HOUND

These two starkly contrasted plays made diverse and entertaining watching, thinks Tim Benger (HH).



## Trafalgar Square

■ *Trafalgar Square*, an adaptation of Chapter Three of George Orwell's 1935 novel *A Clergyman's Daughter*, is the story of a group of tramps who spend a cold night in the streets. The play consists of bleak dialogue, capturing the desperation of London's poorest inhabitants. James Manning did a commendable job of expanding or condensing dialogue where necessary as well as giving more breadth to the range

of characters. It is hard to forget Adam Cigman-Mark's impassioned performance as the tramp Mr Tallboys, perfectly capturing the ex-curate's eccentricity, lechery and manic bitterness, and providing a stirring rendition of the Black Mass. Ben Bayley as Ginger, Dan Cornwell as a Policeman, and Sarah Cunningham as Dorothy, the "Clergyman's Daughter" were also impressive. Having said this, the whole cast was strong and did justice to a brave and well-worked adaptation.

## The Real Inspector Hound

■ From the desolate and thoughtful *Trafalgar Square* we moved to a ludicrous parody – *The Real Inspector Hound*, a one-act play by Tom Stoppard, directed by Joshua Harris-Kirkwood. Satirising theatre critics and Agatha Christie-style detective fiction, this was a country house murder mystery with a twist. With lots of twists actually. Beginning with a conversation between the two theatre critics, Birdboot and Moon, whose snobbishness was well presented by Gus Lewis and William Peck, the story progressed into a "play within a play", moving to the sitting room of Muldoon Manor – a lavish country house surrounded by "desolate marshes" and "treacherous swamps" – as the theatre-critics became interwoven with the storyline. Peter Huhne's performance as the melodramatic, womanising Simon Gascoyne was brilliantly exaggerated, with Eliza Easton and Izzy Reicher superbly portraying his hilariously haughty and bitter mistresses. Matty Wnek was fantastic as a saucy housekeeper and Johnny Faulkner had the audience in hysterics as Inspector Hound. The focus of a talented cast was however, George Fellows who, playing a dead man lying on stage throughout, did not so much as twitch.



#### BUSBY'S HOUSE PLAY

### DAME MILLY TAPP'S MUSIC HALL

"Never work with children or animals," advised WC Fields, but the Busby's House play did both, and with fantastic results, writes our modest Music Hall and Variety reporter.

■ The House presented two nights in Dame Milly Tapp's Music Hall, and an enormous cast – and fifteen-piece resident orchestra – presented 'credit-crunch-busting' comedy and music in the finest Edwardian tradition. The Millicent Fawcett Hall was almost unrecognisable; a new stage was accompanied by such vast quantities of crushed velvet and golden rope that the audience felt instantly transported to another age.

The spectacular Vaudeville show involved acts ranging from wonderful student-devised stand-up sketches to a comedy song about ASBOs; there was a magic show that

would have fitted seamlessly into any burlesque night and – in the true spirit of music hall – the night was rounded off with a bit of audience participation. Music for the evening was provided by a pit orchestra showcasing some of the House's finest musical talent who performed over-

**"Star of the show – stealing the heart of every audience member – was Daphne Mylne, the house dog."**

tures, accompaniments and interludes from an original score composed especially for the event by musical director and Busby's resident tutor, Aidan Sproat.

Amongst the show's many highlights were Alexia Millett's performance as Governor Sarah Palin, Patrick Beardmore's impersonations of the Mayor of London and Rachel Stott singing 'Do you think you will still love me...', an original barbershop number in which a newly married woman asks her husband whether he will stand by her as the various effects of aging take their toll. Not that the night was all singing: two melodramas highlighted some of the fine acting that the House offers. 'Murder in the Red Barn', starring Matt Jones-Parry and Polly Hatfield, produced raucous laughter from the audience and the evening's moral tale – 'The Drunkard's Dilemma' – featured strong performances from Max Gill as an evil villain and Jake Mellett as the eponymous drunkard. Of course, the true star of the show – stealing the heart of every audience member – was Daphne Mylne, the house dog, whose acrobatic feats had to be seen to be believed.

Charlie Critchley, who compèred the evening, opened the night by saying that the show was to blast away the doom and gloom of the recession; that we played to a full house each night (even after extra chairs were fitted in the sumptuously-decorated auditorium) is a testament to the fact that both parents and students alike found this evening of cabaret and comedy to be the ideal antidote to all their woes. Many even commented that it was the best House play they had ever seen.

#### GRANT'S HOUSE PLAY

### THE DINNER PARTY

The Dinner Party was performed in the Lecture Room to a capacity audience. In this experimental drama directed by Mr Hargreaves, each character was performed by four different actors, one for every scene, but it was relatively simple to work out which character was which, recalls a disconcerted but game Robert Natzler (WV).

■ When the lights dimmed an icy Avalon Lee Bacon transported us to the dining room of Lars and Paige, the former a nihilistic novelist, the latter his waspish wife. The minimal staging required a high degree of mimed control, portraying everything from wine glasses to plates of live lobsters.

The casting allowed the audience to see each character performed from a different perspective; the pretentious Lars of Theo Gordon became a frenetic Adam Cigman-Mark, whilst Alexander Read's jovial Mike, the

**"The minimal staging required a high degree of mimed control."**

van driver, evolved into a hostile Harry Winter. The production also saw Barnaby Raine make a polished debut appearance, and Peter Huhne deliver a poised performance as Paige.

The performance fluctuated between hilarious farce and earnest allegory. Some parts grew steadily as the play went on, whilst others diminished in significance. The part of journalist Sian came to life towards the end, with the character Kaspov suddenly announcing his pregnancy and suffering an on-stage breakdown.

The finale itself was no less cryptic; the waiter was revealed as a hired assassin, before declaring that he only took the wage "of a waiter", and subsequently left the remaining dinner guests trapped in an all-pervading fog – a metaphor for their inner desolation. A perplexing but thought-provoking evening of unusual drama.





## THE UPPER SCHOOL PLAY THE COUNTRY WIFE

Sex, intrigue and eunuchs – the perfect recipe for lifting the October blues and instilling mildly sordid pleasure into the hearts of one and all, reflect Adam Cigman Mark (GG) and Louisa Dawes (DD) on this classic Restoration romp.



■ The Upper School production of William Wycherley's *The Country Wife* was nothing short of a delight from start to finish, featuring a pantheon of unforgettably lewd and often grotesque characters. The story concerns Harry Horner, a man who feigns being a eunuch in order to appear innocuous; when the husbands dismiss him as entirely unthreatening, Horner takes the opportunity to seduce their profligate wives. Among these women is Mrs Margery Pinchwife (Jessie Norman in the title role) whose husband (a hilariously highly-strung George Rowell) is trying desperately to prevent her from being seduced by London's gentry. Meanwhile, his sister Alithea (Maude Blake-Saunders) is trying to decide whether to keep her promise to marry the astonishingly foppish Sparkish (Vyvyan Almond) or to elope with the considerably more ardent Harcourt (Theo Gordon).

The play categorically refutes any lingering notion that Westminster rejects amoral or sexually rampacious plays for its main productions. The cast seemed to revel in the subversive sexuality and perpetual stream of double-entendres. Indeed the ensemble-playing was enormously strong, making it impossible to single out everyone deserving of mention; Ben Davies was almost disturbingly convincing as the aptly named Horner; the scenes in which he seduced Lady Fidget (played with aplomb and a ravishingly upper-class accent by Flora Zackon) were among the evening's highlights. As her eternally oblivious husband, Sir Jasper Fidget, Sam Douek minced to hysterical effect. Jessie Norman as Margery Pinchwife managed to exude a wholly sympathetic innocence throughout, even as her character became increasingly wanton. George Rowell was her brute





"Nothing short of a delight from start to finish."



of a husband, and successfully maintained a fine line between absurdity and terror. The scene in which he forces his wife to write a letter of rejection to Horner sent a palpable chill down the audience's collective spine. Similarly, Vyvyan Almond brought out the sheer callousness of Sparkish in his brutish revelation of his true colours to Alithea; with a sudden alteration of his tone of voice he effectively conveyed the dark underbelly of his seemingly absurd character.

Chris Barton held a firm directorial hand over proceedings, and also designed the set, which was both evocative and versatile. No expense seemed to have been spared on Dee Shulman's magnificently authentic costumes and truly terrifying white make-up. An inspiring amoral evening.





## HAMLET — HOUSE OF HORROR

Producing the so-called bad quarto of 'Hamlet' in combination with several of Tom Waits's songs was certainly original, but under Mr. Barton's direction the performance became such a coherent display of the beautiful and macabre elements of Shakespeare's introspective play that these reviewers went to see it twice, pronounce an avid Annabel James (PP) and Sammy Talalay (HH).

■ Currently a work in progress, the final version will be performed in July at the Grahamstown Festival in South Africa and Waterford Kamhlaba School, Swaziland.

The story of Hamlet's delayed revenge on King Claudius for murdering his father unravels with a strong focus on Hamlet's own mentality. Louis Lunts as Hamlet suggested his bleak frustration with much turbulent energy, though perhaps not quite enough implication of Hamlet's supposed insanity. By contrast, Jessie Norman, as the dutiful daughter Ofelia, gave a vivid portrayal of madness after Hamlet's insulting outburst towards her. Her rendition of 'Innocent When You Dream' while alternately cradling and tearing apart a baby doll was simple and terrifying. Ofelia's death proved the performance's emotional catalyst, bringing out an impassioned performance by Theo Gordon as her brother Laertes. Vyvyan Almond brought flair and clarity to the ambiguous role of Claudius, and Flora Zackon was superb as Gertrude, playing Hamlet's loving, but increasingly alienated, mother with acute concentration and skilled vocal modulation.

The production had strong Gothic preoccupations in terms of both aesthetics and psychology. The sparsely-furnished set with props and instruments scattered in clear view around the periphery reinforced the suggestion of Elsinore's artificiality and moribund glamour. A piano positioned upstage was visually prominent throughout, played with panache by George Rowell. Costumes and makeup by Dee Shulman were a triumph, enhancing the black and scarlet colour scheme of the set: the actors's faces were deathly pale but for their colourfully bold eyes, forming expressions of exaggerated torment. Morbidity was tempered by humour



in parts, which the audience appreciated – like the play – within-a-play scene or James Ware's and Naomi Ishiguro's dry wit as gravediggers – but there were several moments of magnificent staging which underlined the dark tone of the piece. George Rowell as the Ghost appeared to Hamlet sur-



"Her rendition of 'Innocent When You Dream' while alternate cradling and tearing apart a baby doll was simple and terrifying."



rounded by the other characters who echoed his strained speech with disjointed whispers, as though he were a manifestation of their repressed mental chaos; and Hamlet and Ofelia's duet of 'Innocent When You Dream' was performed whilst isolated by separate spotlights, the impossibility of their love thus harshly illuminated. At the end of the play, a series of tableaux in reverse order re-emphasised its characters' descent into irrationality in a stunning piece of theatrical staging.



## THE UGLY ONE

The Ugly One was a short play about commerce and desire by Marius von Mayenburg, performed in November with a cast of four in the basement of the Millicent Fawcett to an appreciative audience. Maz Glanz, Peter Huhne, Genevieve Turner Moss and Louis Lunts all doubled their roles to portray the illusory and sometimes narcissistic nature of appearances in a short but lively piece directed by Sam Baldock.





## RARE SHAKESPEARE KING JOHN

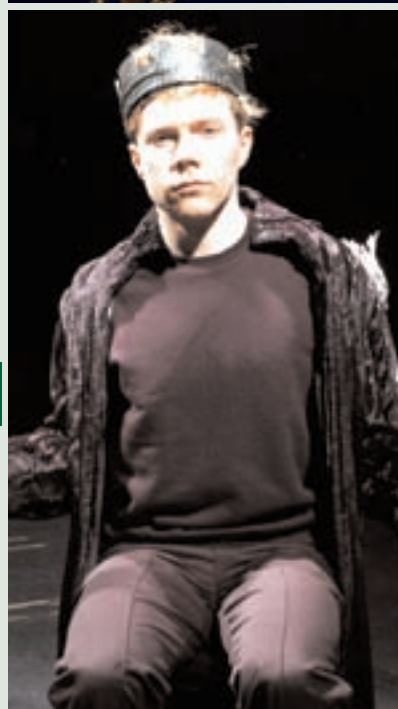
This production of *King John* was one hampered by nothing except perhaps a propensity on the part of the lionskin (from the Royal National Theatre) to dominate the part of the Duke of Austria, otherwise played with appropriate martial energy by Patrick Meade, declares Michael Aylmer (GG).

■ Mr Arthur directed the play in a minimalist manner which brought an intimacy to the play and made as little time as possible between scene changes. The stage was slightly raised on a large black quadrangle and set 'in the round', bare but for a few essential props such as the odd chair, and with male costumes for the most part black, while the dresses were more colourful but muted. (Additional props and costumes were provided by the Royal Shakespeare Company.) James Manning as the king emphasised his weakness of character by relatively quiet yet earnest speech, except when he decided to kill his nephew, the touching young Arthur (Hugo Leatt), at which point he showed a liveliness of spirit which was highly amusing, and his real anger afterwards with the good paternal Hubert (Edward Cherrie) was startling by comparison. Matty Wnek played Constance, the mother of Arthur, and at her separation from him the anxious

"It was at this point that the lionskin came into its own."

and outspoken mother made way for a woman distraught with grief, wandering slowly round the stage in circles, her moist eyes pitiable. Before this John was declared cursed and excommunicate by Cardinal Pandulph, played by Max Glanz with a lovely, mellifluous formality.

After this meeting, King Philip of France went to war with England (again) and Joshua Harris-Kirkwood (playing Philip) provided sufficient assured bluster to contrast nicely with John's lack of forcefulness. It was at this point that the lionskin came into its own when to the delight of the audience Philip the Bastard brought it in, accompanied by a very good replica head of the Duke of Austria and casually said 'Now, by my life, this day grows wondrous hot'. Tom Craig played the Bastard, son of Richard Lionheart, with a captivating aggressive



energy which made it natural that John should give to him the running of the kingdom. And as for John, from his rousing defiance to Pandulph, to the moment when half way through the play he looked around for his orb, picked it up and walked off cradling it like a baby, he was a king in whom we could be proud.





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SEASON: 2008/09

## FOOTBALL 1ST XI

Played: 22

Won: 3 Lost: 16 Drew: 3

Goals For: 19 Goals Against: 58

■ With a change of Master-in-Charge and the departure of the bulk of the side which enjoyed such success over the previous couple of years, this was likely to be a challenging season for all concerned – and so it proved.

Yet all began brightly in September sunshine Up Fields as the 1st XI took on City of London on the very first day of the Play term. In truth, the team was all at sea in the first half but through the combination of Tom Hjelm's goal, profligate opposition finishing and some wondrous saves by Yannis Sossidis they went in all-square at half-time in a match that could already have been lost. After some hasty re-organisation, Westminster dominated proceedings by storming into a 3–1 lead, courtesy of goals by Vittorio Boccanera and Hjelm. City pulled one back, but it was too little too late and we were off to a flier.

The squad for the ISFA Sixes at Winchester faced the prospect of forfeiting all their group matches because of a late train. In the end they had to forfeit only one game. However, St. Bede's Hailsham (who went on to win the ESFA Cup) gave us a lesson in how to play 6-a-side and there followed a disappointing performance against a neat Hampton side which went on to be runners-up in the Boodle's ISFA Cup. Following a gloomy lunch-break matters improved as Josh Benson's goal saw us deservedly upset Forest in the Plate first round. The team were improving all the time as they beat Ibstock Place on penalties and faced Aldenham in the Plate semi-final. A close contest came down to penalties but eventually Aldenham went through 9–8! (and then won the final).

Buoyed by this turnaround, the 1st XI entertained Ardingly next and out-

played them to run out 3–1 winners courtesy of goals from Benson, Noah Viner and a long-range effort from Mark Fellows.

Another excellent performance followed against a strong OW side where Viner slid in the opener only for the Old Boys to equalise having been stung into action. Both sides hit the woodwork before time ran out and a deserving draw was declared.

Confidence was at its zenith as the team travelled to Eton but here the dream of invulnerability was ended. We were outplayed during a comprehensive defeat.

Salt was rubbed into these wounds with an undeserved 1–0 defeat by John Lyon and it got tougher as we faced Manchester GS away in the first round of the Boodle's ISFA Cup. After ten minutes we were 3–0 down, our cup run was all but over and confidence had been ripped to shreds. An improved second half was not enough to stave off heavy defeat and a long trip home with much to ponder.

Defensive frailties were exposed once again away to Forest as they compounded our misery with three late strikes, and, the nadir was reached in the defeat by KES Witley in a game which even their Master i/c admitted that we deserved something from. A goal behind, we bombarded them without success until, in the last minute, they scored a breakaway second. Just to add insult to injury, from the kick-off we gave the ball away and Witley scored a third as the final whistle blew. This proved to be a very bitter pill indeed to swallow but, after a lot of hard work in training on defence, attack and set pieces, we bounced back with a creditable draw away to Alleyn's

courtesy of a long-range strike from Boccanera and an Alex Stewart header from a corner routine straight off the training ground.

There followed a goal drought in the next three matches as we lost narrowly to a strong Lancing (who won the Southern Independent Schools' League), less narrowly to Charterhouse and by the narrowest of margins away to Chigwell. Spirits lifted against Aldenham where Benson's strike ensured we did for once

"For management and players alike there were some tough lessons to learn."



get the draw our play warranted, and, in the tough trip away to Bradfield, the game hung in the balance deep into the second half. A thunderous Westminster effort from six yards out hit the underside of the bar and cannoned out before, almost immediately, a long ball downfield was allowed to bounce (for the only time in the match) and the opposition striker muscled his way through to score, and a breakaway second deep into stoppage time gave Bradfield the day.

The Play term ended with a trip to Highgate to play in fog on a pitch of sand and mud. Westminster was in festive mood as it gifted two early goals

### Leading Scorers

V. Boccanera (M) & T. Hjelm (D): 3

### House Competitions

Junior six-a-sides: DD  
Senior six-a-sides: WW  
Senior 11-a-side: HH

but thoughts of a comeback after William Miles' goal were extinguished by the physically stronger North London opposition.

The New Year began with the a narrow loss to a Corinthian Casuals side, complete with Strictly Come Dancing's Mark Ramprakash before another match followed in the shape of the London Independent Schools' Cup encounter with UCS. In the highlight of the term, the 1st XI claimed their place in the semi-final thanks to Boccanera's finish and kept their only clean sheet of the season following a missed opposition spot-kick near the death.

The team was brought down to earth with another footballing lesson from Hampton before putting in an excellent first half against St. Andrew's Boys Club including a 'goal-of-the-season' contender from Hjelm and a 'shinner' from Stewart. Unfortunately, the second half did not live up to the first and the opposition raised their game to claim victory.

The Cup Semi saw a re-match with a City side that strode into a two-goal lead. Westminster hit the woodwork and had two efforts unwittingly cleared off the line before conceding the familiar 'killer' breakaway goal. We deserved more than the consolation, a scrambled effort from George Fellows but this was symptomatic of the season.

The final two matches against St. Paul's and Dulwich followed a similar pattern with scores level at half-time before the opposition turned up the heat as Westminster faltered. The former was notable for a 'screamer' from Fellows and the latter for a well-deserved goal from Tom Surr.

In summary, confidence in sport is a precious but intangible commodity. In truth, the 1st XI were never really able to recover from their traumatic experiences from late September. Though they trained hard and battled gamely in matches thereafter they were missing two vital attributes – self-belief and a bit more quality. Special mentions though should go to the captain, Hugh Sultoon whose commitment and determination was unyielding throughout as well as to Benson, Boccanera, the Fellows brothers, Miles, Stewart, Orfeo Tagiuri and Viner (selected for the ISFA U16 South Rep side) who formed the nucleus of the side.

This was a very young team which promises much more for the future and which will have benefitted from a year

spent learning the harsh realities of the big jump from U16 to 1st XI football on an Independent Schools circuit where our fixture list boasts no easy pickings.

For management and players alike there were some tough lessons to learn but, to steal a quote from the previous Master i/c (who in turn stole it from Nietzsche, I believe):

"What doesn't kill you makes you stronger".

Finally, I would like to thank all the staff and coaches connected with football Station for their efforts throughout the year. As I write, our Groundsman, Ian Monk, has recently left Westminster

and I would like to pay special tribute and thanks to him for all his sterling work throughout his time at the School as well as wishing him every success and happiness for the future. Welcome to Ian's replacement, Franklin Barrett: we wish him every success in the role. Particular thanks to assistant groundsman, David Wicks, for his continuing hard work particularly during the interim between Ian's departure and Franklin's arrival. Thank you too, for their devoted support, to the many parents who were frequent and most welcome spectators at Vincent Square. **JDK**

SEASON: 2008/09

## FOOTBALL 2ND XI

Played: 13

Won: 5 Lost: 4 Draw: 4

■ Firstly, the manager takes no responsibility for the accuracy of the facts in this report. Due to the headaches caused by incessant yelling on the sideline, and a dubious memory, the actual details of most of the games blend into a sort of glorious montage. Most of the goals were probably scored by other people, most of the tackles probably made by another defender, most of the saves probably made by... (Bob Collis wasn't it?). There are few facts of which I am sure – but I will endeavour to relate some of them as best I can.

Tom Surr won it with a beautifully flighted finish against KES Witley, as the mighty second eleven puffed and panted against inferior opposition. Josh Harris-Kirkwood led the line and was overheard saying "I know Mr Hayter said we should go out there and enjoy ourselves, but...". Humphrey Thomas realized that he was a lot harder than he thought. Paddy Meade bossed it against somebody (Forest?) at home. Tom FitzSimons, the spiritual guide, scored a staggering volley against somebody beginning with A. Sam Fishwick played himself into the ground, ignored the pain against the same A, and was a stalwart in this team. Guy Nakamura scored four in one half, and looked as if he was going to explode. Rafe Fletcher ventured horribly out of position in an ill-advised offensive sally against the Common Room, having been solid as a rock in defence all season. Tom Hjelm caused all sorts of problems. Collis consistently caught countless cross-

es with consummate confidence. Huxley Ogilvy thought at one stage that he wasn't in the right place; turns out he was wrong. Will Barakat ran it against Hampton, and earned instant respect from the team. Jamie Drey-Brown took the hits and smashed hell out of the opposition nonetheless. Gabriel Broadhurst played the whole season



"Guy Nakamura scored four in one half, and looked as if he was going to explode."

in spirit. Khushaal Ved earned his place, and his contribution cannot be underestimated. Jackson Harris caused morbid fear in the opposition due to his wheezing, chuffing, "I'm going to get you" breathing. Joe Hassle was there. Dom Richards' work-rate was quite terrifying. Maxwell Dikkers led the line and never, ever, gave anything other than his total and complete all.

The votes for player of the season were spread between seven different people. We were unbeaten in our first four games. We came back from 2-0 down in the mud in Bradfield. The Hampton coach called our team 'heroic'. I think that says it all. **ADH**



SEASON: 2008/09

## FOOTBALL 3RD XI

Played: 10

Won: 3 Lost: 5 Draw: 2 Cancelled: 2

Goals For: 14 Goals Against: 20

■ This Third Eleven squad was fit, talented and very competitive. An excellent crop of Sixth Formers formed the backbone of the side, auguring well for next year. Their fighting qualities were evident from the outset as, thanks to a poacher's goal from Will Amherst, the boys thoroughly deserved to draw 1–1 at Eton after falling behind.

Alleyn's were next to feel the full force of the Westminster spirit. Two goals down at half-time, and casting chance to the wind, the boys saved another 'point' thanks to excellent goals from Will Barakat and Max Arevuo.

A third successive comeback at Ardingly proved to be a bridge too far. Defeated 3–0, concerns were expressed about a lack of service to the strikers. There was plenty of pace and endeavour, though, as there was against the Common Room. Here the boys found no way through Messrs. Kershen and Feltham in the heart of the CR defence. Barakat went close with good opportunities but Westminster were punished 2–0 by OW Ezra Rubenstein and poacher-supreme Mr. Ullathorne.

A well-organised Westminster held a strong Charterhouse to 0–0 at half-time and emerged with many plaudits but no points. Despite a thunderbolt from Arjun Jayaswal, which was miraculously saved, and two poachers' goals from Barakat, 'House' deserved their 4–2 victory.

Any frustration at recent results was taken out on Chigwell. Jonny Roberts, from the penalty spot, and Barakat (twice) contributed to a 4–0 drubbing. Arevuo also scored with a neat finish and then provided the coup de grâce with a great volley on the stroke of time. To his great dismay, Max soon realised the referee had blown when the ball was in mid-air. In the

year of the FA's Respect campaign, players were learning to bite their tongues. This decision was one that tested patience more than most.

An outstanding all-round display at Aldenham was rewarded with a 2–1 victory. After going a goal behind, Westminster ran the opposition ragged, with Jayaswal scoring his first of the season. Confidence was high going in to a big game at Bradfield, where the boys again played good football. Their slick passing game was very different from the physical and direct home side, who ruthlessly exposed Westminster's vulnerability to set-pieces. 2–0 down with 15 minutes to go, Barakat ran on to Jayaswal's through ball to begin an exciting siege in the last 15 minutes, but this was to no avail.

Barakat's goals had brought him to the notice of the Second XI scouts and allowed Roberts to return to the side, only for him to suffer a serious injury against St. Paul's. The boys seemed to be affected by this and lost 2–0. Dom McKinnon-Green, who had kept goal well earlier in the season, now found himself first-choice centre-forward. He was a real threat in the air and was involved in all three goals against Dulwich. James Ware scored the winner in a 3–2 victory, which was a sweet way to end the season.

The season's success was built on a solid defence of Alex Allen and Harry McNeill Adams. The midfield enforcers Chris Arnold and captain Olly Jones gave creative freedom to Olly Wood and wingers Arevuo and Joe Northover. This system should work well next year. Well done to all members of the Third Eleven squad and thanks to Dr. Williams and Paul Whittle for their coaching.

JAI

SEASON: 2008/09

## FOOTBALL U16A

Played: 10 Won: 4 Lost: 5 Draw: 1

■ This really was a story of two terms. From September through November we had won four and lost three. Defeats came against the usual suspects of Eton, Charterhouse and Bradfield. We weren't ready for the Eton fixture – it always comes too early in the season – and we were easily beaten 7–1. By the time we played Charterhouse we should have done better but we didn't perform in the first half and again we were convincingly beaten 0–6. However, our final fixture of the Play term against Bradfield at the end of November was a different story. We were narrowly defeated 1–2. But our best performance of the season was the fixture immediately before Bradfield against Aldenham which we won 0–4. Aldenham had beaten Charterhouse a couple of weeks earlier which made this victory even sweeter. The quality of the football that our U16's played that afternoon was excellent with superb movement off the ball which really supported our passing game. It was a good indication of how much the squad had grown in confidence over the term. Our other victories in the play term came against Alleyn' (3–1), Ardingly (4–3) and Chigwell (1–6). The standout players of the term were Hugo Schlesinger who often bossed the centre of midfield and Lawrence McNeill who scored eight times in seven matches.

In contrast, our Lent term was disappointing. We lost two and drew one. The poor weather and injuries (in the U16 squad and 1st XI) cost us dearly and by the time we played our first match in





**U16A:** "The quality of the football that our U16's played that afternoon was excellent with superb movement off the ball which really supported our passing game."



three months against St Paul's the momentum and confidence that we had gained in the Play term had evaporated. It also

proved impossible to sort out our problems in the three days between the St Paul's fixture and our next against Harrow. The 5-1 defeat was a low point in our season not least because a winning season was now beyond our reach. However, with some better weather and a little more football in our legs the squad had time to prepare thoroughly for our last fixture of the season against Dulwich College. Despite missing Hugo Schlesinger (through injury) and Richard Downey (who played for the 1st XI) the team put in a tremendous performance against an impressive Dulwich side to secure a well-earned goalless draw. Despite the fact that our goalkeeper Oliver Richards was injured for the first two fixtures of the Lent term, his outstanding performance against Dulwich easily makes him the standout player of the term.

Finally, I would like to thank the whole squad for helping to make this an enjoyable and at times a very exciting season. And of course I also want to thank Mark Feltham who generously passed the U16A team to me last September. I know that this couldn't have been an easy decision especially after many successful years as the U16A team coach. Thanks Mark. PAH

## SEASON: 2008/09 FOOTBALL U16B

**Played: 6 Won: 0 Lost: 6**

■ OK, so the stats make this look like a pretty awful season. Not a single point from the six matches played. However we would have thrashed Highgate and King's Canterbury if they hadn't chickened out (and, all right, the weather intervened).

Anyway, dear reader, I have no doubt you would rather hear those tales of the fine band of men who stuck together in adversity and persevered through thick and thin. Those heroic, even god-like figures who fought valiantly against outrageous fortune and dubious refereeing. Heroes like Bertie 'Basset' Aspinall, whose hat-trick against Ardingly was the attacking performance of the season; some who witnessed the feat likened it to St George slaying a yellow and blue dragon from a Sussex boarding school. (The dragon having scored five already, unfortunately).

There was also the (in no way) death-defying midfield play of the "Hard Man™" and Nick "Danny" Wilson. Not to be outdone, the "Duracell Bunny" Howell just didn't stop working, and on the flank Joe "Behind these 'Hazell' Eyes" created more runs than the Raj Tandoori.

The Goalkeeping of Jono "Jono" Linden was comparable to the great Stuart Naylor (look him up) and his shot-stopping was said by some to

be premiership quality. The defence in front of him took on many forms, but there were hearty contributions from Alex "Cameron" Diaz, "Wessers" Wessely, Aldred, Jerjian, Wong and the rest of those likely lads. The midfield was bolstered by top quality players like Freddy S, D Imrie, and Brodsky Beat. Up front the hit-men were accompanied well by the likes of Nick Morgan and Kourosh Asgari.

So, no wins this year. But some great team spirit and what was, on reflection, an enjoyable season with no end of improvements throughout the squad. You don't need to be an overpaid premiership star to understand what sport is all about – in



"Some who witnessed the feat likened it to St George slaying a yellow and blue dragon from a Sussex boarding school."

fact in many cases it's better if you are part of the Westminster School Under 16 B Academy of life. Just ask player of the year, the captain Oscar Hard. CJRU MMIX





SEASON: 2008/09

**FOOTBALL U15A****Played: 18 Won: 5 Lost: 8 Draw: 2**

■ Another year, another group of committed football players, showing a willingness to develop and challenge themselves. A notable difference between this team and previous U15 teams was the style with which they played. Rarely did they sit back, content to soak up pressure. Instead, they played an open game with an attacking mindset. The narrow 3–4 defeat against an excellent Dulwich side epitomized the exciting football played during the season. A couple of wonder-strikes from Clancy clawed the team back into the game, before conceding a forth in the dying seconds, when pushing forward for an elusive winner.... Competing in such a thrilling game with little concern for restraint was tactically naive, but we wouldn't have it any other way. The stats for the season were less impressive than the performances, but the team emerged with credit nonetheless. The outstanding result was a 1–1 draw against Hampton closely followed by the 4–3 victory against Forest. The greatest disappointment was a 2–3 defeat to John Lyon after extra time in the U15 ISFA cup, a game which neither team deserved to lose. Despite heavy defeats to Bradfield and Eton, there were excellent victories against John

Lyon (not in the cup), KES and Chigwell.

Aram Manoukian played Petr Cech style throughout the season behind a defence including Nick Jones, Anthony Pulsford and Johnny Church, superbly marshalled by Conor Meade and the outstanding Sammy Skipper. Despite breaking his collar-bone in the game against Aldenham, we were delighted to see Anthony return before the end of the season for the last few games. The central midfield trio of Forrest Clancy, Ben Cooke and Mylo Portas were excellent. Mylo performed the holding role with tenacity and discipline, Forrest showed moments of brilliance throughout the season, and Ben chipped in with crucial goals, reminding us that he is the best natural finisher in the school. Midfield width was provided by Olly Knox and latterly Alex Ho, who deservedly earned his place in the starting line up. Others who played included Dominic Sando, Lian Rose and Kieran Laidlay. Up front Seb Foster played with the languid style of Berbatov, showing touches of elegance that were sorely missed when he was absent through injury.

Well done to all and thank you to Mr Johnson, Matt and Paul for their expert input. PAB

SEASON: 2008/09

**FOOTBALL U15B****Played: 11 Won: 2 Lost: 9****Goals For: 11 Goals Against: 65**

■ We threw everything at our foes this season. A staggering 31 players made appearances for the U15B team. There wasn't a squad player who didn't represent the School at some point. There isn't a Premiership team who can claim that honour. It might have been that we were ravaged by injuries, it might have been that we were nurturing players for the A squad, or it might have been that the manager was indecisive – or it might not!

Much of this season was a question of what might have been, actually. What might have been if, at Eton, 2 nil down midway through the 1st half, Alex Ho had not been injured and he and I went to the plush Eton San? What might have been if, away at Bradfield, Fergus Brooman-White had not broken his collar bone and again forced me to the San? It was the second collar

SEASON: 2008/09

## FOOTBALL U14A

Played: 14 Won: 5 Lost: 5 Draw: 4  
Goals For: 29 Goals Against: 23

bone break of that week, leaving Anthony Pulsford feeling slightly less unique. What did I learn about this squad whilst drinking tea and eating biscuits in away team Sans? This was a squad prepared to get stuck in on the pitch, to commit even when frequently outclassed, and credit goes especially to the defensive stalwarts and their able deputies, David Phippard, Alex Rafter, Kiran Laidlay, Keenan Burgess, Ben Senn, Nick Williams, Dan de Lisle, Lorenzo Marolda, and Ashaab Islam. It was also a squad prepared to battle adversity, a characteristic no better demonstrated than by the heroics of Cyprien Brochard, Harry Henderson, and Connor Taylor in goal after stopper-supreme Alex Ballard's ankle collapsed, and reserve keeper Evan Kountouris broke his finger. It was also a team with mid-field grit and guile – epitomized by the efforts of Alessandro Venerandi, Ben Wetherfield, Oscar Satchell-Baeza, Lian Rose (1 goal), Leo Lang, and Liam Biser. We also posed (some might say occasionally) a goal threat up front from Milo Constable (4 goals), Henry Johnson King (3 goals), and Kolya Stubbs (1 goal).

Overall, we played 11, won 2 and lost 9, scoring 11 and conceding 65. The stats for the season are not too pretty, but the atti-

**“What did I learn about this squad whilst drinking tea and eating biscuits in away team Sans?”**

tude was superb, and especially against the teams not artificially enhanced by rural public school growth hormones, we also played some very good football. Well done to everybody, and many thanks to the other coaches, Mr Botton, Matt, Paul, and special guest coach Mr Sproat. Like Guus I'm off to manage Russia next season, but have greatly enjoyed my time with this club.

AJ

■ Turning up to the trials for the '08/09 U14 football squad made me feel like a new manager of Brazil – I clearly had a talented group of players to work with and the squad showed signs of being a “golden generation”.

Ten minutes into the first game of the season against Eton, it looked as if this season was going to be like many another for a Westminster side. We were 1–0 down. At that moment a three – or four-goal defeat looked the likely result. But this side showed a fighting spirit and physical prowess that we rarely witness at Vincent Square. Johnson and Obiekwe worked hard in Midfield, pushing forward wherever possible; Peterson bravely defended at the back; Bustin and Schwarz terrorised the opposition defence. The result was a 4–1 victory to Westminster, a real testament to the attitude of the players on the pitch.

The season continued with good wins against KES Witley (including a hat-trick for Bustin), Chigwell, Latymer, and Highgate and well-fought draws against John Lyon, Alleyns, Aldenham and Dulwich. We had a disappointing loss against Forest, which at home we would have probably won. Our other losses were to big football schools like Bradfield, Charterhouse, Hampton and Harrow. In all of these games we looked competitive: we were never outclassed.

Our record overall is a successful season, particularly considering the quality of our opposition. The entire squad performed exceptionally well over the entire season and I want to thank all 17 boys who played for the team. While we operated a core squad of 12 players for most of the season, it is a testament to the strength in depth that the 5 players who played for only a few games slotted easily into the squad and never looked out of place. The U14B record further demonstrates the quality and commitment that exists in the year group.

The successes that we enjoyed this year really were a team effort; everyone in the squad played an important role. I am sure that this group of players will go on to great things. I would like to thank Milo Johnson for leading so effectively on the pitch and congratulations to George Bustin for winning the “Golden Boot” with 8 goals. Thanks also to Messrs. Kemball, Robinson and Kowenicki for all their support, hard work and making it such an enjoyable and rewarding year.

JRG

SEASON: 2008/09

## FOOTBALL U14B

Played: 11 Won: 7 Lost: 4  
Goals For: 35 Goals Against: 29

■ With over 30 boys trialing for places in the two U14 teams it was difficult, almost impossible, to get the selection right first time, but the high tempo with which the original eleven players in the U14B's started their season showed they meant business. They gelled almost immediately and in the first match outplayed a strong Eton team, winning 3–1, with each player adapting to their respective roles very quickly.

The next big test was against Alleyn's. After scoring in the first minute and then going 3–1 ahead early in the second half, thanks to a wonder strike from Louis Ariss, we needed to hold our nerve as the Alleyn's forwards camped out in our half. Central defenders Toby Goodman and Dominic Drey-Brown repelled everything that came their way, both on the ground and in the air, and we came out in high spirits, worthy 3–2 victors.

After a slightly disappointing loss away to Charterhouse we re-found our form and won the next four matches against traditionally strong opposition. Vikram Mashru led the attack, punishing bad defending against Aldenham, coolly slotting home two goals, and not forgetting Ed Sellers who came on as a second half substitute against Latymer and scored three! The industry of James Kerr and Bharat Batra in central midfield was also instrumental to our victories as were Vikram Jayaswal, with his trusty left foot, and George Warren, running up and down the right flank, both skillfully accomplishing their roles at full back.

This golden patch was the ideal preparation for arguably the toughest match of the season against Hampton. With a larger pool of players to choose from, they have always been strong and apart from a magnificent top corner strike from Will Ariss, there were few positives from this fixture and we were soundly beaten by a better side. With the dent in confidence from this loss and the injury to skipper Toby Goodman, we were destined not to win again. That said, we still played with ability and dedication, and our overall record for the season was overwhelmingly positive; winning more than losing and scoring more than conceding, a fine platform to build upon next season.

RK





SEASON: 2008

**CRICKET 1ST XI****Played: 19   Won: 8   Lost: 7   Draw: 4**

Leading into the 2008 cricket season both 1st XI coach Jonathan Hall and I were in agreement that this squad of players was (arguably) the most talented we had worked with at Westminster School. It is a pleasure to report that they were able to live up to that potential and achieved indeed a unique double by winning the London Schools' U19 Cup Competition for the first time in Westminster's history, to add to the London Schools' U15 Cup Competition which the nucleus of the same group had won for the first time in the School's history three years previously.

The seeds for this year's success were sown at the now familiar venue of Alfas Del Pi in the School's third pre-season tour to this Spanish cricket hotbed. The tour offered the ideal combination of net and middle practice aplenty as well as a few competitive but not overly-challenging fixtures. It began with a comfortable victory in a friendly 20/20 match against a very young Sporting Alfas Academy and was followed by a declaration match against the XL Club of Spain. Alex Rankine (89) and Alex Fiskén (65) signalled their intent for the season with a 158 run opening stand although the game petered out to a 'bore draw'. Another friendly 20/20 was followed by the final tour match against Sporting Alfas. Westminster posted 270-4 (Keval Patel 55, Rankine 54, Jeremy Holt 41) Alfas' openers put on a century stand but Ross Wheeler (2-21) dismissed them

and captain Alex Scott (3-13) took advantage to lead the School to an 101 run victory.

Returning home, the 1st XI hit the ground running against the Lords & Commons and none more so than Rankine who struck a magnificent 157. This was a fantastic effort, the highest individual score by a Westminster 1st XI cricketer since 1933 and the fourth highest since 1895!! The 1st XI reached 244-8 (Hugo Hadcock 32) which proved too daunting for the Parliamentarians who played out for the draw despite the best efforts of the spin twins Scott (2-53) and Patel (4-14).

These highs were followed by the season's low point with a run of four consecutive defeats although three of them were very hard-fought with the School emerging from them with great credit. Firstly, and most disappointingly, against the Butterflies, Westminster collapsed to 125 all-out (Patel 50, Fiskén 25) and the opposition cruised to an 8 wicket victory. The tough test of Merchant Taylor's away followed but Westminster acquitted themselves to restrict the opposition to 196-9 (Patel 5-60, Wheeler 2-44). In reply, against an England Youth spinner, Westminster took the game into the last over before the opposition clinched a thrilling victory with just 4 balls to spare.

The challenge didn't get any easier with the MCC in the next match. However, disciplined bowling and fielding restricted them to 196-3 and set up

a possible victory. These chances increased with an excellent partnership between Rankine (51) and Patel (47) which forced the MCC to dig deep. Alas, the innings was derailed by very hostile, intimidatory (and some may say unsportsmanlike) bowling from the opposition's left-armer and the School were bowled out for 160 (Ollie Wood 21) but with heads held high.

Next came Aldenham where batting frailties resurfaced as the School only made 130-9 (Wood 31). In reply, the opposition made steady progress although Westminster made them fight for every run but in a nerve-wracking finish, Aldenham fell over the line with 8 wickets down.

Alley's produced another nailbiting finish where an excellent Westminster effort saw the opposition bowled out for 169 (Scott 4-23, Fred Johnson 2-29) with special mention for Ian Clancy's wicketkeeping performance of 3 stumpings, 2 catches and 1 run-out. In reply, Westminster were reeling at 18-4 before Patel (50) and Wood (25) rebuilt the innings but with 11 overs to go 80 runs were still required. Enter Tom Fitzsimons who bludgeoned 42 that enabled Johnson (15\*) and Clancy to clinch a thrilling 3 wicket victory with 4 balls to spare.

With renewed confidence, Caterham High School were clinically dispatched for 55 all-out (Rankine 4-12, Patel 3-6, Scott 3-7) in the Cup and, Rankine (35\*) completed the job for a quickfire 7

wicket victory. The good form continued against the Old Westminster as the School batted very well to post 224-3 (Patel 68\*, Wood 67, Fiskin 47) but narrowly failed to clinch victory as the old boys batted out time to finish on 142-8 (Fiskin 3-27).

Alas, the 1st XI were brought back down to earth with the 6 wicket defeat against Chigwell despite the efforts of Scott (31) and Fiskin (3-10). Nevertheless, the School showed their 'bouncebackability' in the Cup 1/4 Final against a Coopers Coborn side that had been unbeaten for 3 years. A top notch effort restricted the opposition to 91-6 off their 20 overs (Fiskin 2-8, Scott 2-26) and Westminster were cruising to victory at 64-1 (Scott 30) with 9 overs to go. Time has taught that nothing is ever straightforward with Westminster sides and the obligatory batting wobble ensued as Coopers showed their winning spirit. It all boiled down to the last over with 6 runs required and then 3 needed off 2 balls before Fiskin stroked a majestic four through the covers to secure victory and a semi-final place.

Buoyed by this, the 1st XI bowled out John Lyon School for 114 (Fiskin 3-14, Scott 3-27) and at 95-3 (Rankine 50, Scott 37) looked once again on course for victory. However, history repeated itself and a combination of complacency, lack of focus and good opposition play saw the innings slide to 109-9 and defeat a real prospect. With 3 runs required Clancy drove hard but in the air. Mid-on leapt up, the ball grazed his fingertips but did not stick and it ran through to the boundary to give Westminster a nerve-jangling 1 wicket win.

St. Dunstan's were the next visitors and they too were dismissed cheaply for 74 (Patel 5-26, Scott 2-7). Wary of batting history from recent matches, Rankine (32\*) and Fiskin (24\*) showed the opposition no mercy to complete a clinical ten wicket victory.

Confidence could not have been higher going into what we knew would be the toughest test of the season away to Charterhouse who eased to 240-5. In reply, the opposition's quality and pressure started to tell and the innings subsided to 107 all-out (Wood 33, Clancy 23, Fiskin 22).

Undaunted, the 1st XI travelled to City of London for the London Schools' Cup Semi-Final. Rankine (55) and Fiskin (46) again provided an ideal platform with a 114 run opening stand out of 161-6. In reply, tight bowling and fielding kept the City batsmen shackled as Westminster were able to cruise to a 29 run win (Wheeler 2-12, Scott 2-35) and a place in the Final against Dulwich College.

In the meantime, Kingston GS were the next opponents and it looked as if

Westminster's minds were on the Final as they struggled to 138-9 (Fiskin 37, Rankine 21) off their 30 overs. At 121-4, Kingston were on course for comfortable victory until a hat-trick from Johnson (4-24) threatened to turn the game but it was too little too late as the opposition won by 3 wickets with 7 balls remaining.

There was little time for reflection as the next day was the London Schools' Cup Final at Shenley. Westminster, somewhat surprisingly, were inserted by the opposition on a cracking wicket. The Rankine-Fiskin opening partnership did the trick once

again as they put on 106 before Fiskin (39) departed. Rankine (62) soon followed but a very respectable 176-6 (Patel 24) was posted off the allotted 35 overs. In reply, Dulwich, just as City had done, struggled against tight bowling and fielding which kept the batsmen shackled. Wheeler (2-16) picked up two of the top order before Scott (6-26) produced a captain's spell helped by 4 catches from the sub fielder, Holt. The last batsman was run out off the last ball to give Westminster a thoroughly deserved 33 run victory and the LSCA U19 Cup trophy. This was a consummate team performance that was the culmination of several years' hard work and which was produced with exquisite timing on the big occasion.

The final match the next day away to Highgate seemed anti-climactic by comparison to the Final. So it proved as rain intervened with the game poised after Westminster had posted 144-6 (Fiskin 60, Stewart 20\*).

In summary, ten players made it into the Wisden Schools Averages with Fiskin, Patel and Scott doing 'the double' for both batting and bowling. Rankine was the leading runscorer with a 671 run aggregate which was the joint 3rd highest since 1895 as well as giving him well over 1000 career 1st XI runs in total! His opening partner Fiskin had an excellent with bat and ball as did Patel and they will be hoping for greater things next year as will Wood



#### LEADING BATSMEN

A. Rankine: 671 runs at 39.47  
A. Fiskin: 437 runs at 27.31  
K. Patel: 367 runs at 28.23  
O. Wood: 261 runs at 20.07  
A. Scott: 230 runs at 13.52

#### LEADING BOWLERS

A. Scott: 31 wickets at 14.38  
K. Patel: 21 wickets at 20.23  
A. Fiskin: 16 wickets at 15.31  
R. Wheeler: 16 wickets at 19.06  
F. Johnson: 12 wickets at 28.08

"Achieved indeed a unique double by winning the London Schools' U19 Cup Competition for the first time in Westminster's history."

who impressed with the bat. Although the spinners dominated, Johnson and Wheeler put in stirring work with their seamers with the former making Wisden for the 3rd year running. Special mention must go to the captain, Scott who led the side with increasing authority and expertise as the season progressed as well as topping the bowling averages with a creditable 31 wickets, contributing over 200 runs with the bat, and delivering a matchwinning bowling performance in the LSCA Final.

However, one should not forget that there were many other players in the squad who all played their part during the course of the season and helped formulate a team which was capable on a few precious occasions of delivering a 'whole which was something greater than the sum of its parts'.

I would like to thank all the staff and coaches connected with cricket Station for their efforts throughout the year, and especially, Jonathan Hall for his knowledgeable input and good humour in running the 1st XI with myself. Also, Tony Japhet is owed an immeasurable debt for continuing to score for us as is the assistant groundsman David Wicks for all his unceasing hard work. Thank you too for their devoted support to the many parents who were frequent and most welcome spectators at Vincent Square.

JDK





SEASON: 2008

## CRICKET 2ND XI



■ The rarity of a century in afternoon cricket highlights how great David Nordlinger's 126 against Alleyn's was. Together with Jeremy Holt's significant 57, it paved the way for a 148-run win. Another victory by a huge margin – by 9 wickets – was achieved against Aldenham, aided by 50 runs from Thomas Fitzsimons. A rare draw was managed against Merchant Taylors' (Oliver Wood 58). Arjun Jayaswal, who hits the ball with tremendous force, scored 59 not out against John Lyon. Happily, he has two more Westminster seasons ahead of him.

Laurie Brock was our well-respected Captain for the second year running. As usual, we tried to give as many as possible of the very large senior cricket squad of 47 the chance to participate in at least one match. All were ably encouraged by Mark Mason and the other of our outstanding coaches.

The Captain and Vice-captain for the 2009 season are Ben Collis and Khushaal Ved, respectively.  
SCH & MHF

## CRICKET U15

Played: 9 Won: 4 Lost: 5

■ This was, by Westminster's standards, a talented U15 team which played 'result' cricket: sadly, on balance, it didn't quite fulfil its undoubted potential.

In the London Schools' U15 Cup, they enjoyed a resounding win over Bishop Thomas Grant School thanks to Fred Spoliar's 75 but slipped to a 5 wicket defeat to City of London having failed to put enough runs on the board.

However, the game against Alleyn's saw an excellent all-round team performance with runs from Spoliar (94\*) and Alex Stewart (44) as well as wickets for Richard Downey (4–18) in a conclusive 104 run victory. This was followed by a thrilling win over Chigwell in a low-scoring affair. Having been bowled out for only 86 (Spoliar 31) the spin twins, Jack Burdell (4–14) and Jonno Linden (4–16) combined to skittle Chigwell for only 50.

The final win of the season came against St. Dunstan's where Lawrence McNeill (4–14) took a break from Tennis to show his bowling skills and in reply, there were contributions throughout the order with Spoliar (38) and Dominic Williams (30) instrumental in guiding Westminster to a 6 wicket victory.

Elsewhere, there were convincing defeats to Aldenham, Merchant Taylor's (despite Downey's 40) and St. Paul's (in spite of William's hard-hitting 82\*).

The most exciting finish of the season came against John Lyon where Stewart (41) was the main contributor in a total of 117. In reply, opposition wickets fell regularly but the last pair managed to squeeze to a 1 wicket win.

Unfortunately, at the end of the year, both U15 cricket staff (Dr. Milner & Mr. Barot) left the School for pastures new. I would like to thank them for all their hard work and support during their time at Westminster and wish them every success in their new posts. I would also like to thank the U15 coach, Mark Mason, for all his efforts as well as the many parents who were most welcome supporters.

JDK

## CRICKET U14A

Played: 7 Won: 1 Lost: 4 Draw: 2



■ The Under Fourteens enjoyed their cricket and developed an excellent team spirit. Initially under Forrest Clancy's captaincy, and then led by Kshitij Sabnis, they all played for each other and competition for places in the side was very keen.

After losing three games to the rain, the boys were caught cold by Merchant Taylor's. Although Westminster had to follow on, and Clancy unfortunately suffered a King Pair, they survived in the second innings (which means that technically the game was drawn; sportingly, the fixture was indeed conceded to Taylor's). The bowling has been the boys' best suit. Arthur Henderson's aggressive spell of short-pitched bowling roughed up Aldenham in the next game (in which his figures were 2 for 13 off 6 overs), but the School lost by 78 runs. Captain Sabnis top-scored with 31 not out for Westminster.

The team fought very hard to draw against Alleyn's. Alessandro Venerandi and Tristan Jones shared six wickets and forced Alleyn's to bat for longer than they wanted to. Despite a wobble at the end, the batsmen were successful in their rearguard action and showed the backbone that was sadly missing in defeats to St. Paul's and Chigwell.

Chasing a target was not the boys' strong suit and this was proved again in the next game. After conceding 207-4 to John Lyon, whose captain struck a beautiful century, Westminster were pleased to save the game at 70-8. The opportunity to bowl first against St. Dunstan's was ideal; wickets from Henderson and Clancy applied pressure to the much-vaunted London Schools players in the opposition. Excellent bowling from Venerandi (5-0-6-2) and some tight maidens from Conor Meade slowed the run rate, while spinners Jones and Ed Dobell also bowled well. Excellent fielding restricted Dunstan's to 109-6 off their 25 overs.

The Westminster innings got off to a difficult start against their very quick opener, who bruised and battered his way through the top order. Sabnis dealt manfully with this onslaught, whilst Clancy hit out with Conor Taylor, whose six was a mighty strike. The middle order chipped in with a few runs, before the heroic partnership of Meade and Venerandi swung the game back in Westminster's favour. Arthur Henderson and Meade saw the side home on the last ball, to the delight of the crowd, and finished off the season with a deserved win showing real character.

Thanks to all who played for the School and to Dr. Walsh, Mr. Ullathorne and Simon Massey for their coaching.

JAI

## CRICKET U14B

Played: 3 Won: 0 Lost: 3

■ The U14B side played three competitive games against Aldenham, St. Paul's and John Lyon School. Ed Dobell and Alex Male have starred with the ball and batsmen Harry Henderson and Sachin Gupta have also impressed. The margins of defeat have been small and the boys have played good cricket. The side was strengthened by the contribution of several U15B players. Vir Bannerjee-Bulchandani took 4-20 against Aldenham and Jack Davies' 30 not out ensured a respectable total in a losing cause. Ben Ainsworth-Taylor and George Kambouroglou showed good all-round skills and both captained the side well throughout the season.

JAI

## PINK ELEPHANTS

Played: 6 Abandoned: 1 Won: 4 Lost: 2

■ This was the most successful Pink Elephants season in recent memory. It began with an excellent bowling performance to restrict the Charlatans to only 98-9 off 30 overs. Simon Massey's boundary-studded 63 not out made the visitors' score look inadequate as the Elephants marched home. A sterner test was to follow against The Latymer Blue Blades, but there too the Elephants prevailed. James Kershen, reborn as an all-rounder, took 4 wickets to restrict Latymer to 129. Kershen's 38 runs laid the foundations for Joe Ireland and Jai Barot to see the side home in the final over.

The highlight of the game against the Nomads was a partnership of 140 between the adhesive Simon James and the flashing blade of guest Nick Warde, which allowed the Elephants to declare at 216-7 off only 40 overs. The Nomads were undaunted, however, and despite wily bowling from Ireland (5-60), reached their total in 46.3 overs. The Dulwich Dusters fixture was as competitive as ever but Dulwich maintained their unbeaten record in it. A target of 136 seemed within the Elephants' range but, despite 49 from Ireland and some big swings of the trunk from Charles Ullathorne and guest Hamish Jones, they fell 14 short.

Silverware, in the form of The Elephant Tales Cup, then followed. The School's Alex Scott made the Long Tales' tail look as long as their name suggests when he took three wickets with his leg spin and googlies. 74 from guest Babs Oduwole was the backbone of a successful 6-wicket chase. Victory was also won in the return fixture with the Charlatans, a.k.a. 'The Curry Match'. The Pinks posted 143-3, thanks to partnerships of 53 between Ireland and guest Sam MacDonald and 84 between the School's Jeremy Holt and Haroun Hickman. Equally disciplined bowling and fielding closed the game out, but guest Charles Fellows-Smith's figures of 4-1-6-3 deserve special mention. The Elephants won by 46 runs to crown a successful and very enjoyable season.

JAI





"The most stunning result was yet to come when Bill Mason's confident top quad won the Junior prize in the Fours Head of the river in November by a country mile... the only crews to beat Westminster being made up of Beijing Olympians!"

## WATER

■ The summer regatta season for 2008 opened with some very strong crews arriving well-prepared in Nottingham for The National Schools Regatta. On J14 Friday the first J14 quad just missed out on the final but the second crew raced spectacularly to snatch a silver medal. In Saturday's storm-force winds, the J15 four went out and blitzed the first Gold medal, but the regatta was abandoned shortly after amid sinking crews. Most events were reconvened two weeks later at Eton where, with Dan Rix-Standing unwell, the first eight had to settle for silver in the first VIII's event behind Kingston GS. The J15 eight continued the silver theme, narrowly losing to an impressive Hampton crew.

The first eight proved itself at Reading regatta by winning Senior Three and recording the fastest time of the day and then again at Marlow, picking up another Senior three win in front of KGS. All was set for a strong performance at Henley; the eight defeated Canford in the first round, to draw top seed, Schools' Head and National schools' winners; Shrewsbury in round two. After an early lead Westminster fell back but never stop fighting, forcing Shrewsbury to push all the way to the finish. One Shrewsbury crew member later commented: "they didn't know when to quit!"

Post-Henley, Pierre Thomas and Josh Orpen-Palmer were selected for the Great Britain junior eight at the Coupe de Jeunesse in Cork and added gold to



their impressive haul, while Dan Rix-Standing was selected to row in the British eight at the World Junior Championships in Lintz, where the crew finished in an impressive fifth place.

All the top squad headed back into single sculls for the Play term where no one can hide!

The term started well with wins at Isis sculls for Tom Fielder and Pierre Thomas. At the pairs head on Tideway these two finished second in junior doubles with Wilf Kimberley and Jo Lines sixth. A top J16 pairing of Jack Bannenberg and Roland Walters then stole the thunder by beating every Eton first eight pair to finish second just behind Shrewsbury in the J18 pair event. The wins kept rolling in, with each squad trying to best the others.



The J15s won in quads and doubles at Teddington and Dorney Head races but the J16s took wins in fours, pairs and an unlikely single.

The most stunning result was yet to come when Bill Mason's confident top quad won the Junior prize in the Fours Head of the river in November by a country mile and rose to sixth overall out of 500, the only crews to beat Westminster being made up of Beijing Olympians! This was the best-ever result by a junior crew in this International event.

The rest of the boat club did its best to snatch back the limelight with wins for the new J14s in their first ever races against other Tideway schools.

At Cambridge Head, the J16 eight beat most Cambridge colleges in winning Senior 4 class, and the J15 eights



finished first and third in the freshman eights!

The Top squad were well in control by the end of the year with Tom and Wilf doing well at GB trials and Tom and Pierre winning Walton head overall.

The Top squad decided to continue with the sculling theme into 2009 and proceeded to win at Thames Valley, Hampton, Hammersmith and Henley Heads before racing the National Junior Sculling head, relocated to Dorney.

The NJSH event suffered severe wind disruption and the organizers struggled to produce any meaningful realistic times. Westminster were declared winners and a week later the times were changed to put the crew an improbable second! The second quad got silver.

After good results at Quintin and Hampton the J15s jumped into fours for the Schools Head finishing first and second, with a J15 Octuple second at Dorney. The J16 eight were disappointed with a sixth place. After wins for both the first (coxed by Pierre Thomas!) and second J14 octuples at Reading Head, the vast J14 contingent kept up the metal count at the NJSH with the J14 second and third octuples both getting bronze while the first crew seethed with fourth place overall.

Again, the term finished with a stunning top squad performance, this time with the top scullers joining up with some old friends to win the Senior 3 pennant in the International Tideway Head and finish 46th overall. The J16 eight proved they were back on form by finishing 185th /420 within seconds of the Schools Head J16 winners.

All squads went continental for Easter training camps, with the top squad spending a week in Mequinenza in Spain before racing at the Flemish International Championships in Ghent on the way back. The Start to the regatta season continued these winning ways, with mighty impressive wins in Under 23 and Open Quads for Thomas, Kimberley, Rix-Standing and Fielder and for Burdell and Lines in under 23 doubles.

The rest of the Boat club spent four days in sunny Ghent to prepare for the coming season.

Many thanks to chief coach Bill Mason and the other coaches: Iain Pritchard, Nick Wilde, Josh Raymond OW, Josh Butler, Kieran West, Julia MacDonald and Peter Sharp.



## ETON FIVES

As summer faded into winter, which in turn bled into spring, Ashburnham garden has remained in a state of unflinching serenity, just as Fives has remained a stable fixture in the almanack. A few changes have occurred since the previous season; last year's Remove moved onto pastures new – taking with them the National Schools' Ladies Champions, Hannah Cutmore-Scott & Lizzie Donger, Reverend Williams passed on the position of Master in Charge to Mr Perkins and goggles arrived on the courts.

Throughout the season we have dealt out our fair share of upsets to old rivals – our U15s and Ladies got the better of Eton and Highgate in games during Lent Term – and also forged new relationships: the newly established Fives team of Cheltenham Ladies College visited Westminster during Play Term and we visited them in Lent whist in summer we will play against the fledgling Westway team to further strengthen our bonds with the centre.

The last weeks of Lent saw swarms of Westminsters descend on Eton for the 2009 Schools' National Championships and a fair few pairs walked away successful. Two Westminster pairs were in the final of the Men's Open Plate where Callum Brock and Sam Williams beat Miheer Chanrai and Tom Hierons. Two of our Ladies pairs (Olivia Pranker-Smith and Natalie Loh, and Iona Seligman and Frances Sinden) reached the quarter-finals of the Ladies' Open, while Jack Wilson and Sacha Mehta did the same in the U15s competition.



All in all, it's been a good Fives season. Plenty of matches have been played and a lot of them won.

As this year's Remove progress to the next stage of their lives, I hope that they continue to take a keen interest in the sport and can look at the Pinks around their necks and think fondly of playing for their school. Those moving up to take their place, I urge to nurture the talent progressing through the school and swarming into both the Fifth and Sixth Form next year. It will only be through cooperation between players across the years that Westminster can hope to develop the Plates and quarter-finals of this year into the cups and trophies of the future.

ARPP





## NETBALL



■ Being the first netball team in Westminster School's history to win a netball tournament, it could be said that this season has been rather successful. At the Emanuel School Netball Tournament, the 1st VII came out in full force from the very first whistle and returned home – deservedly, we thought! – with the shield. During our regular matches against other London schools, the team has had its fair share of victories, draws and, no doubt, a few disappointments, often lost by mere couple of points. The 2nd VII have also had a busy season with their games, including their impressive 13–3 win against Highgate School. Throughout the season, both teams have trained hard, played harder and managed to maintain a smile – most of the time!

Many thanks to both teams for their commitment, dedication, and for showing everyone that netball is so much more than just throwing balls into hoops.

Natalie Loh

**1st VII:** Natalie Loh [C], Hannah Hauer-King [VC], Catherine Tillson, Venetia Baden-Powell, Natalie Fiennes, Kirsten Gilbert, Hayley Chapman, Sophie Ladbroke

**2nd VII:** Christianna Coltart, Ellie Weir, India Dowley, Francesca Leibowitz, Rebekah Harper, Laura Ashforth, Camilla Turner, Maria Rioumine, Charlotte Skinner







## CROSS COUNTRY

■ At the start of the season hopes were far from high: a very strong Remove year group had recently departed and it was more than likely that Westminster would struggle; the year was going to be tough with victories few and far between. Given this, the results of the 2008–09 season have been astonishing. Established members of the team have improved beyond all recognition and set an example for others to lead, whilst a host of new faces have emerged and created strength in depth that few other schools can match.

The season commenced, as ever, with the Inter-House Long Distance Races along the towpath between Barnes and Putney. Dryden's (200 pts) emerged victorious by the smallest of margins from College (202 pts) and Ashburnham (212pts) with Jeremy Holt, Meg Trainor, Mylo Portas and Eden Fung winning the Senior, Girls, Intermediate and Junior races respectively. Jeremy Holt repeated his victory in the Towpath Cup against the Old Westminsters and Common Room with Tom Fielder showing strong early season form in 6th and Sammy Skipper an impressive 7th, but with the team title going to an Old Westminster's team featuring three of last year's Remove, expectations were low heading into the King's Trophy, traditionally the first big test of the season. Initially, the team seemed to be struggling but every member of the team gained crucial places: Jeremy Holt (14th) was quickly followed in 19th by Konrad Wagstyl with Tom Fielder, Oscar Hard, Pierre Thomas and Oliver Jones hard on their heels to close the team in an unexpected 4th place. As if that wasn't good enough, in the next minute a further six Westminsterers crossed the line enabling the B team to retain their team title.

The RGS Guildford Relays gave an opportunity for some new faces to make their mark over a shorter and more benign course and with eleven Westminsterers finishing within 30s of each other and three out of the four members of the A team aged 15 or under, the team's strength in depth was

becoming apparent. Westminster teams finished 7th, 12th and 13th out of 26 with strong individual performances from Oliver Jones, Sammy Skipper, captain Richard Evans and Ben Bayley. An away match at Harrow in late November brought a landslide victory before the older members of the squad took on the all together tougher challenge of 'The Grim'. This 8-mile multi terrain event, held on an MoD tank-testing site near Aldershot, has already become part of Westminster sporting folklore and with testing water (or in some cases, ice) hazards and gruelling cargo nets to negotiate, it is definitely not for the faint-hearted. Yet again Westminster athletes rose to the challenge, claiming the first ever 1-2-3 in the team competition and thirteen runners finishing inside the top 150 out of 1900. In particular, Jeremy Holt's 4th position was sensational and it was great to see new teaching recruit Dr Kowenicki in 11th and Old Westminster Sebastian Bray in 14th.

The New Year brings a string of high quality races with the ultra-demanding Knole Run the first major challenge. The A team finished 8th out of 40 schools and in a field of 300, Jeremy Holt was our first finisher in 23rd with strong back up from Konrad Wagstyl (41st), Oliver Jones (68th), Oscar Hard (72nd), Philip Cohen (84th), Robert Millar (94th) and Jonathon Hazell (95th). With double team victory for the Senior & Inter teams away at Winchester (including a stunning win for Oscar Hard in the Inters race) the team were full of confidence heading into the London Schools Championships and for a sixth year in a row Westminster emerged as the strongest school in the capital. Jeremy Holt (4th) and Konrad Wagstyl (8th) both gained automatic selection for the London team to compete at the prestigious English Schools Championships in late March and with Oliver Jones (11th) and Richard Evans (15th) close behind. The Senior team event was a formality. The Inters were no less impressive: Oscar Hard led the way in 10th (which also ensured his selection to compete for London in the English Schools) and

with three other finishers in the top 15 they swept the competition aside. The Juniors found the going a little harder in 7th but the Girls rounded off the afternoon with a highly encouraging 3rd with determined runs from Flora Moujaes and Meg Trainor.

With heavy snowfall and icy winds continuing into February it was a welcome relief to be able to focus on shorter relay distances: at the Radley Relays Jeremy Holt ran the fastest time overall out of 100+ competitors whilst Max Arevuo made a mockery of team selection with a storming leg for the B team. The Bringsty Relays yet again provided some fantastic racing: College cruised to victory, Jeremy Holt was only 3 seconds shy of Tom Jelly's school record with an outstanding 4:57 and Dr Williams epitomised the spirit of the event with a lung-bursting lunge for the line on the very final leg!

Even with the team at half strength through illness and unavailability Westminster finished 3rd out of 13 teams in the Ranelagh Schools Cup with Su-Min Lee and Satya Gunput showing late-season form, whilst at the South East Schools Championships, hosted by Harrow, our highly-depleted Senior team finished a very creditable 5th out of 17.

The season's statistics speak for themselves: of the 54 schools that we have raced against this season we have beaten 49 placing Westminster amongst the top few schools in the South of England, a feat that has been achieved with only three Remove pupils from a squad of over twenty. With a very strong Lower and Upper Shell year group moving through the school, a committed core of Sixth Formers, increased Station numbers and regular attendance at the Friday after school sessions, the future looks bright for some time to come. My thanks go to all the runners who have been a part of another superb year, to Mr Hargreaves who has been responsible for bringing on so many of the school's runners with his Thursday afternoon Station sessions and my colleagues for being so understanding in releasing pupils from their usual Station to compete for the School.

SDW





## GOLF

■ It has often been said that the game of Golf consists of a 5-mile hike intermittently interrupted by disappointments, but this year's Golf station has been anything but disappointing! We began the station back in the Play term and playing on a theme throughout this year, managed to dodge most of the bad weather that came our way, affording the team some fantastic opportunities to improve their game on the course rather than just in the driving range.

Our Coach, Gary Clements, was truly marvellous throughout the season, constantly providing the better players in the side the opportunity to iron out swing flaws and short game problems whilst at the same time encouraging the less experienced members of the side in their efforts and helping them to bring

together a basic swing and game plan. Though more bad weather came our way in the Lent term, it wasn't resented by anyone as it gave us the opportunity to make use of the wonderful facilities available to us in the form of a state-of-the-art driving range.

Our singular match this year was played away against Highgate School at Highgate Golf Club which is a truly awesome setting. Unfortunately we were narrowly beaten, due to some errant driving on the part of the first pair and a mysterious case of a broken putter, but it was a privilege to play there and I am glad to say that despite the result, it was a real success story for Golf station this year. We salute James Male, our Captain for the last three years.

Kit Gallagher



## CLIMBING

■ It has been a very good year for climbing station. Not only has there been an increase in the number of participants being drawn in by this challenging, extremely invigorating and rewarding Station, but we've also adopted a new member of staff, Alex Wood, who has taken to the wall like a duck to water, as it were. Our climbers have also managed to win the inter-school climbing trophy, not only for the individual bouldering and lead climbing challenges but also the team challenge. Congratulations to Jack Beanland (captain), Charles Holland, James Skinner, Kyle Thetford, Demetris Ioannides, Dominic Smith, Marshall Bradley and Tristan Jones. And on the topic of trophies, this year's inter-house climbing competition took place in all its glory, culminating in a victory for Milne's who were able to retain the Tocknell Cup, with Dominic Smith (Dryden's) winning the individual competition. Full Pinks were duly awarded, for only the second time in the Station's history, to Jack Beanland for his great performance in the Southern Indoor Bouldering league, finishing 14th out of 80 competitors.

Many expeditions, including Joshua Tree (California) and Skye, saw climbers brave the mountain face in formidable fashion, overcoming obstacles, putting themselves to the test and, without a doubt, coming out on top. A great year for climbing, that finally concluded with the return of the founder of the station, Eddie Smith.

RAK

## HOCKEY 1ST XI

Played: 8 Won: 5 Lost: 1 Drew: 2

■ The hockey term has been most successful this year. A relatively young 1st XI squad featuring only four Remove players, three Sixth Form and nine Upper Shells overcame inexperience to produce an almost unbeaten season. Our opening game was against long-term rivals Latymer Upper. The team seemed unfazed as the pressure mounted. However hitting them on the break, Westminster took the lead. Pushing forward, we found three more goals before conceding in a rare lapse of concentration. A 4–1 win was a fine start to the campaign.

The next match against the Common Room saw aggressive attack. Laboyrie hit two finely taken goals. The Common Room pulled one back and tension was high. However, with five minutes left, Robertson bagged a brilliant goal from a hit right on the edge of the D. Westminster saw out the last few minutes of pressure to cap another good win.

The Old Boys match was evenly contested, and the team, playing without their captain, gave a more experienced side a good fight, with an exceptional performance from Burdell. Westminster took the lead only to concede to a short corner in the last five minutes.

After a long break, and a speedy return to action, the team was overcome by UCS. A lack of intensity, sharpness and fitness due to a long break meant a below-par Westminster ended up being overrun without reply by an in-form UCS team.

Westminster took some time to recover from this little bump, playing the Latymer team again and conceding first. However, after a motivational team talk from Mr. Simpson, the team came out storming with the defence of Choraria, Falconer and Kelly pushing up more to give the attack an added edge, providing

enough support to overcome the deficit and win the game.

Trinity was a tough fixture. The U16s having beaten them 6–0, Westminster had something to live up to. A good performance from Hughes and Keating meant that playing through the wings Westminster were able to break a deadlock after half time. Despite added insurance from a second goal, sweeper Davies and keeper Ainsworth-Taylor stayed strong to keep another clean sheet in a good win.

The Common Room was looking for revenge while the 1st XI was looking for a more comprehensive win. Common Room provided some early pressure but having withstood that, the 1st XI were able to control the tempo of the game in almost one-sided second half, getting four goals though it could have been more.

Westminster lost the corresponding fixture last year against Alleyn's 3–0. So a 1st XI with a good record to keep intact was keen to end the season on a high. However, it seemed as if luck was against us as we hit both posts and saw another chance cleared off the line. Despite missing a player, the midfield kept up the pressure and the defence maintained another clean sheet. The match ended 0–0 in what felt like a loss; maybe it should have ended in a win for Westminster.

Overall the 1st XI has had a very strong season. The team worked well together with solid team performances from each player. One can only hope the trend continues next year as the core of the team stays intact and gains experience with age.

Kunal Choraria (HH)

**SQUAD:** Choraria (c), Puddicombe, Hughes, Kelly, Robertson, Lassados, Calf, Falconer, Keating, Davies, Ainsworth-Taylor (Batman), Laboyrie, Burdell, Trueblood, Cherrie, Peck.

## HOCKEY U16

Played: 2 Won: 1 Lost: 1

■ The game against UCS was tightly contested but the U16s were unable to avoid defeat.

However against Trinity the result was much more comprehensive. The match started with the Westminster team controlling most of the play but unable to convert any of their chances. The defence kept strong, repelling several attacks. However, the first half ended 0–0. Burdell then moved up in the second half and opened the scoring. Morgan went on to score an impressive four goals with Negus capping a great performance with a final goal. U16s had two good games and look promising for the future.

Kunal Choraria (HH)

**SQUAD:** Ainsworth-Taylor, Naylor-Marlow, Hutton, Jones, Davies, Trueblood, Cranston, Peck, Negus, Burdell, Morgan.

## BODYSTEP

■ Bodystep is a unique, fun and invigorating Station that has the added bonus of being girls-only, (apart from the infamous annual 'Bring a Boy to Bodystep Day'!). Over the course of the last two years, Bodysteppers have watched their fitness levels steadily increase. Our fabulous instructor Bryony has really pushed us all this year to make us conquer harder routines and more complex tracks. While Bodystep is often challenging, it is always rewarding, with the tough workouts made bearable by the camaraderie and tight-knit friendships that develop between us. Also the knowledge that in a good session a 'stepper' may burn 800 calories helps motivate us because when the stepping gets tough, the tough get stepping! While our interschool fixture diary has been rather empty this year, the lack of a competitive element is what makes the station so unequivocally enjoyable. Bryony takes care to change the routines and music regularly, although our old favourites of 'Candyman' and 'Vogue' are always brought back by popular demand! Bodystep is recommended for anyone who wants to enjoy a fun, convenient and sociable station.

Nathalie Puddicombe





## SHOOTING

■ The last academic year has been one of great progress for Shooting. We shot five times more matches than last year, competing at home and away against the likes of Epsom College, the Royal Grammar School, Guildford, Tonbridge School and Wellington College. There were some excellent scores from pupils throughout the School, most impressively Brett Capewell's 93/95 in a Country Life Format match against Epsom, which involved a variety of target shooting: deliberates, rapid fires and snap targets. This score was comparable to those achieved by the top Epsom team members, many of whom are in the national squad. A number of trips to the National Shooting Centre at Bisley allowed us to try different types of shooting, including outdoors and over longer distances. Up Range, scores continue to improve and new end-of-term fun shoots have been introduced, including ones where we shoot at polo mints. We still go on our regular runs around Saint James' Park to ensure that our breathing is up to scratch. The inter-house competitive spirit is

being fostered through a House ladder system and House Shooting Competition in the Summer.

The green and purple shooting jackets that had been described as fashion crimes in the past have now been fully replaced by a black, purple, and white model; although work on optimising the hanger system is ongoing. On the fashion front, this year has also seen the introduction of the new Westminster School Shooting Gilets. Our rifles have been renamed after some of Westminster's great Head Masters to make them easier to store—sadly there have been more Head Masters than there are rifles. The acquisition of higher-grade ammunition at the start of the year seems to have helped boost scores too.

Improvements in performance are largely down to our Coach, Derek Robinson, however, whose many years of experience as a competitor, notably in the Olympic Games, and coach of the GB national team allow him to provide helpful

**"Sadly there have been more Head Masters than there are rifles."**

and much appreciated advice. Dr Prentice continues in her capacity as Mistress in Charge of Shooting, continually striving to improve the Station with unflagging enthusiasm and energy; as does Mr Sproat, whose ammunition-box and bullet-case structures that decorate more and more of the Range continue to increase in complexity. Mr Hullis joined the Station as soon as he arrived at Westminster and is now running Shooting as a Lower School Activity, which was restarted at the start of the Lent Term.

Sebastien Fivaz

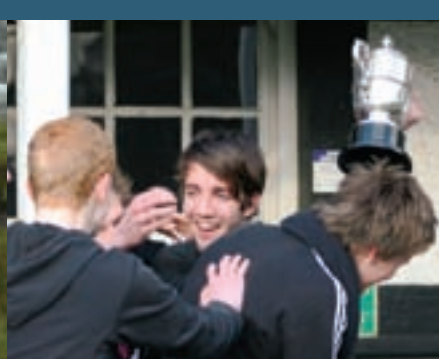
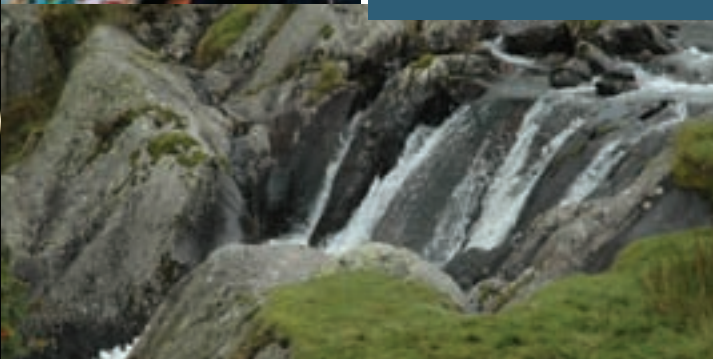
## WAKEBOARDING

■ Wakeboarding, the fastest growing extreme sport in the world, is a new and popular Station at Westminster combining relaxation, fun and stimulating exercise. Every Thursday we head to Princes Club, Europe's largest Waterski and Wakeboard facility, where Sixth Form and Remove alike can learn the graceful art of wakeboarding. Thanks to helpful instructors, first timers can easily get to grips with the skill and technique that is required. It is also a perfect setting to take a break from the water and relax in the sun perhaps with a book or some revision after the session. At the end of the term, participants are given the opportunity to enjoy banana-boating and a lakeside barbecue. It is a thoroughly enjoyable Station and should be considered by any student wishing to experience something different at Westminster.

Charlie Critchley







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# LEAVERS 2008

Rashid Ajami	HH	Dushyant Gupta	DD	Benjamin Bourne	MM	Michael Haggard	DD
Christopher Baker-Munton	GG	Eda He	BB	Sebastian Bray	DD	Thomas Harrison	MM
Edward Rich	BB	Jackson Lu	GG	Jonathan Cave	MM	Rene Hartikka	MM
Huey Robson	AA	Pike Li	GG	Ian Clancy	HH	Joshua Heath	AA
Harry Rose	LL	Hannah Kirklin	GG	Francis Gene-Rowe	DD	Frederick Herbert	GG
Joshua Rothschild	WW	Elita Lai	PP	Clarrie Wakeling	CC	Rufus Hone	WW
George Royde	GG	Zoe Lang	BB	Maya Caspari	AA	Charles Howell	BB
Oliver Rubens	QSS	Michael Lau	GG	Isobel Cave	PP	Stephen Howell	DD
Ezra Rubenstein	QSS	Maisie Lawrence	CC	Hannah Chisholm	HH	George Illingworth	GG
Yohan Sanmugam	QSS	Ice Min	PP	Laurie Brock	BB	Edward Imrie	HH
Sam Sasaki-Nasseri	LL	Louise Long	PP	Justin Bronk	DD	Serge Isakov	RR
Alexander Scott	LL	Vanessa Macdougall	PP	Samuel Buchdahl	AA	Alfred Jackson	QSS
Louis Shadwick	WW	Constance Mackworth-Young	RR	Joseph Bucknor	HH	Harry Jeffrey	BB
Alexander Shashoua	BB	Lucy Maconick	MM	Anna Clifford	GG	Stephen Jeffrey	GG
Benjamin Shashoua	BB	Elena Marinich	PP	Hannah Cutmore-Scott	AA	Frederick Johnson	AA
Jo Shuttleworth	RR	Christabel McKinley	DD	Zannis Cambanis	AA	George Johnston	RR
Edgar Smith	BB	Chelsea McLain	MM	Richard Cameron-Holford	GG	Samuel Johnston	AA
Yusif Start	HH	Ginny Horten-Middleton	WW	Guy Arnold	MM	Sahil Kanani	WW
Benjamin Stevenson	GG	Mrinal Mohanka	BB	Francis Athill	MM	James Keith	AA
Alexander Sutton	BB	Evie Monnington-Taylor	WW	William Aldred	RR	Rameez Khan	LL
Christopher Sykes	MM	Sophie O'Mahony	BB	Dara Barkhordar	RR	Benjamin Laker	WW
Chris Sykes	RR	Jae Park	GG	Ralph Barton	LL	Johnny Langton	MM
Michael Taylor	WW	Paul Park	DD	Matthew Benger	HH	Christopher Leavitt	DD
Beso Tchigladze	LL	Isabel Perry	RR	Dominic Carr	MM	Samuel Littlejohns	RR
Thomas Trevor-Roberts	BB	Tarini Ratneswaren	WW	Joshua Borin	WW	Thomas Lloyd	HH
Sobhan Vakilian	HH	Olivia Richards	HH	Peter Brescia	HH	Andrew Lloyd-Harris	MM
Benedict Vanderspar	GG	Jessie Roche	AA	Benjamin Brock	BB	Andrew Mason	DD
Mark Wainwright	WW	Shyam Sakhrani	WW	Sam Clarke	GG	Nicholas McKinley	DD
Charles Walker-Arnott	QSS	Zoe Scheuringer	DD	Tyrone Cummins	AA	Marcus Mepstead	LL
Alexander Wessely	RR	Charlotte Schroder	LL	Nicholas Day	RR	Bertie Milward	WW
George Weston	LL	Molly Scott	MM	William Denton	LL	Edward Moseley	MM
Ross Wheeler	BB	Isabel Seligman	DD	Nicholas Drake	AA	Majid Mostafavi	LL
Benjamin Wigoder	LL	Charlotte Seymour	BB	Adam Duchateau	QSS	Serguei Mouratov	AA
Alasdair Wilkins	WW	Anna Sheinman	BB	Thomas Dunning	HH	Austin Nicolaidis	GG
Justin Woolf	LL	Rosa Sinclair-Wilson	BB	William Dunning	HH	Aleksandar Nikolic	DD
Joseph Capildeo	RR	Josephine Starte	DD	Robert Ellard	HH	Ikenna Obiekwe	HH
Jenny Bacon	LL	Lindsey Noakes	AA	Nicholas Finerty	RR	Joshua Orpen-Palmer	WW
Rocky Bamford	LL	Katie Taffler	AA	Oliver Flynn	RR	Max Owens	LL
Gabriella Bathgate	LL	Leonie Taylor	PP	Christian Foss	RR	Joseph Passmore	GG
Isabella Bird	WW	Nicole Taylor	WW	Gabriel Gettman	MM	Maatin Patel	LL
Cesca Briscoe Wilson	GG	Valerie Teh	CC	Alexander Gilbert	RR	Seth Pimlott	BB
Jack Dong	WW	Danielle Tobin	LL	Thomas Godfrey-Faussett	QSS	William Pote	AA
Elizabeth Donger	PP	Frances Underhill	MM	Kostya Gorev	QSS	Karan Rangarajan	GG
Louise Drayton	RR	Qian Wang	DD	Benjamin Green	MM	Alexander Rankine	RR
Flora Easton	HH	Lucy Du	GG	George Griffiths	BB	Nicholas Reynolds	RR
Maia Holtermann Entwistle	HH	Akay Behchet	GG	Joseph Gross	DD		
Milly Derbyshire	CC	Joshua Benson	DD	Alexander Guttenplan	BB		
Hannah Fitzwilliam	RR	Ian Bott	GG	Hugo Hadcock	GG		

