

**Fullerian 2013-14**







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Thank you very much to all those who helped with the production of this year's Fullerian.

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**T**his has been another really successful year for the School, but also one which will permanently remain in the memory as a terribly sad one.

Just before our Prizegiving in January, we remembered, with a plaque in our Memorial Garden, Brian Rafferty, our much-loved once Head of Economics and subsequently Assistant Head, who died in July after the bravest of fights against the cruel disease of Amyloidosis.

After a highly successful business career and having established his teaching credentials at Herschel Grammar School, Brian joined the School as Head of Economics, taking over from Martin Green, whom I'd thought irreplaceable. Brian proved me wrong and turned our already superb Economics Department into the best one in the Country, mainly, it seemed, by revelling in the Banking Crisis, which had obviously, to his mind, been engineered to further Economics as a subject.

"Every day, I have new and unbelievable lesson content," he told me once as the financial system trembled, "there's never been a better time to be an economist".

I think I speak for all of his students when I say that, under Brian's teaching, there has never been a better time to be an Economics student. He was one of those outstanding teachers that the School has been blessed with in abundance through the years and we were privileged to have worked with him. He even added to our stock of wonderful staff by bringing his soon-to-be wife, Linda, to join our English Department.

Brian left us many legacies: a Science Block, the rebuilding of which he managed and which looks like a Liquorice Allsort dropped into the school from the sky. He couldn't do anything

mundane. He left us a superb catering set-up much of which he negotiated. He was a formidable negotiator to work with, someone you wanted on your side. I was always the Good Cop when he was on the case....

Brian was also an outstanding school Governor on an outstanding Governing Body. In summary, he left us a legacy of commitment and friendship that all of us who knew him cherish. He was young enough to have had many years of senior leadership in schools in front of him. He is still so sorely missed.

Sadly, also this year, we mourned the passing of Ron Armstrong, who died suddenly in the Autumn. Ron had been a fervent supporter of the School, a Governor and a Trustee for several decades as well as a distinguished member of the Old Fullarians Association, all those roles crucial to, but not always appreciated by, the wider School community. His was a huge contribution for which we are all grateful.

The injustice and randomness of Brian's illness in particular made many of us think about what we were doing with our working lives. For some, it may have made them take decisions they'd been putting off, conscious that none of us know how long we have. For others, it reminded us how lucky we are to be working in a School with wonderful and expert colleagues and to be involved every day with students of such high calibre.

The rest of this Magazine is a tribute to what can be achieved by that teamwork between staff and students. My thanks are due to Mrs Aitken and her outstanding student team who have worked so hard to bring this project to fruition. I hope you enjoy it as much as I will.

## Brian Rafferty

### A tribute



**O**n behalf of all Brian's colleagues, I would like to suggest that we will remember one main thing about him - that he was great fun to work with. He was one of those colleagues who simply make work a more enjoyable and stimulating place to be; someone who found life interesting and enjoyable and invoked those feelings in others.

It is important to record that Brian was a very professional, astute and efficient colleague and he achieved many things in his years here, including outstanding exam results, successful arrangements with the Scouts and the refurbished science block. But I suspect we will remember him more for his infectious interest in things - not just in his subject, Economics, but in sport, politics, culture - and his incisive, deadpan sense of the humour to be found in the everyday moments of worklife.

We will remember the pithy comments he would make while standing in the playground on a duty, whilst patrolling the edge of a restless 6th Form at a Friday afternoon lecture, in the staffroom or the Economics office and, dare I say it, in meetings and in work emails.

Those of us fortunate enough to have spent a bit more time with him will remember his ability to flog a humorous thought to the very edge of extinction, his sense of outrage (mock-outrage) at the tiniest of life's injustices, or his scorn (mock-scorn) at the mistakes of his friend-colleagues. The minutest slip up, the slightest flaw, the faintest inconvenience were all, in his words: 'absolutely unforgiveable'. We will remember his flights of fancy, his comic diatribes, his ridiculous exaggeration. He was scurrilous and satirical but warm and sympathetic.

Brian was a man who highly valued education, who highly valued the quality of this school, the quality of the work done here and the quality of his colleagues, retaining a keen sense of how these contrasted with his own experiences of school as a boy himself in Glasgow. So, we remember someone who saw some joy in the world around him and shared it so expressively with others in the colourful, idiomatic language of the city of his birth. Brian was someone who made work somewhere nicer to be.

**Jim Macleod**



# The Story of a Minibus

At the start of the year, the Headmaster asked if the Friends of WBGS could make a donation towards the purchase of a second hand minibus to replace an old Leyland which had seen better days. The Friends Committee could have responded by simply donating £10,000 or even £20,000 towards this but, with the bit of lateral thinking, they decided to put in a bid for a brand new minibus to the West Herts Charity Trust – an organisation which donates vehicles to local charities and schools. In December 2013, the West Herts Charity Trust donated a brand new 15 seater minibus (pictured) to the School worth £35,000 and the Friends contributed £7,500 towards the total cost.

The moral of the story is surely that parental giving to the School both in terms of money and innovative support is an essential part of what makes WBGS excellent. Apart from the minibus, the Friends were also able to fund other projects around the School during the 2012-13 academic year, including



the purchase of 30 laptops and a laptop trolley to support whole-class learning across all year groups; a new floor in the weights area of the fitness suite; additional laptops for the School's nationally renowned Programming Club; equipment to establish a new Futsal Club, in-kind donations for raffles and events; sponsorship and advertising, company match-funding; the list of support is long and very impressive. In fact, in the last 5 years alone, parental support has helped the Friends of WBGS to raise at least £200,000 for the education of every boy here at the School.

But that's not all, just over 60% of parents have committed to making a regular monthly contribution to the School. Every

£36 parental donation the School receives each month means that every boy at the school benefits from an extra £232 per annum on top of the Government allocation of about £3,000 to each state school student. Of course we all know that a privately educated student has at least £8,000 per annum allocated to their education, but that does not itself guarantee excellence. I recently visited a local private school with annual fees of £10,000 per student. They have 14 acres of land compared to our 7 acres and they have a student body of just over 1,000 students compared to 1,300 boys at WBGS. Last summer, they sent 3 of their students to Oxbridge and the rest left to attend a mixed-bag of higher educational establishments. At WBGS, last summer's student cohort secured 16 places at Oxbridge and the vast majority of the rest have gone to elite Russell Group universities.

And yet, despite all this, I must admit to feeling a touch envious at the ease with which a private school can fund the punishing annual gas bill to heat a state-of-the-art swimming pool, or easily access funding for new computers or mini-buses, sports air domes or observatories, new builds, refurbishments of old buildings and so on. A good education isn't just about facilities, right? But wouldn't it be great if we could have ongoing, reliable sources of funding that don't sway with global downturns or unexpected inflation and interest rate rises. Annually, the School needs an extra £450,000 a year to continue to deliver good outcomes for each student and to provide some stability to fluctuating budgets. The continued support of our parents cannot be underestimated; it is an essential part of each boy's success here.

So I would like to thank all parents who make a monthly contribution of £36 to the school; the parents who attend the annual Quiz Night or buy their Xmas goodies from the Friends of WBGS; the parents who sponsor events or secure company match-funding for the School; the parents who buy the second hand uniform or Monopoly game; the parents who donate lump sums to the school or who leave a legacy; the parents who join The Gym or hire out the school's facilities. Finally, I would like to thank the parents who make up the Friends Committee who give up their time and share their ideas to make sure each fundraising year is better than the last. As I step down as Chair of the Friends Committee I reflect on the dedication and overwhelming commitment of this small group of parents and I look forward to continue working with them and the entire parent community to find more ways of providing financial support to the School to help each and every boy succeed.

**Effie Stevenson Chair,  
Friends of WBGS 2009-13**

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# Fullerians of WWI and WWII

100 years ago, a war begun that consumed the humanity of our planet. Millions of the people living or fighting in the theatres of Europe and the rest of the world died, and many millions more were permanently scarred. Among the horrific figures were 645 distinguished members and ex-members of our school, teacher and students alike, 97 of whom paid the ultimate price for their country. They all served decisive roles in the war effort and no doubt greatly assisted it.

Now, the 97 war dead, along with more than 500 other soldiers from WWI are nestled in the very soul of our school. And deservedly so, for they gave their lives to protect not only their families, friends, community and country, but to assure the security of the future of their country. This article is a tribute to the 97 fallen Fullerians that will undoubtedly be woven into the fabric of our school and hearts forever.

At least 10 of these men are known to have fought and died in the infamous battle of the Somme, spread across the front line. William Millar Bird was a private in the Loyal North Lancos unit. He fought in one of the first battles of the Somme, Mametz Wood, and fell in the offensive. His body lies in Mametz cemetery. Sergeant John Cameron Heather gave his life for the 13th London Regiment in the battle of Ginchy. Both Rifleman Frank Brach Nash and Private Peter Frederic Parkes went missing in the Somme offensive, both presumed dead, their names immortalised on the huge Thiepval memorial.

Of the hundreds of other men that fought in WWI, Europe was not the only continent they fought in.

Alan Keith Adkins fought in Egypt and Palestine. Percival Lionel Andrews in Palestine and Gaza. Ralph Beeson, one of the 4 Beeson brothers, but the only to die, fought in the theatres of India. He was felled not by the enemy, but instead by drowning. Archibald Cruickshank was part of the Chinese expeditionary force, where he served for four years.

Needless to say, many men from Watford Grammar School for Boys were rewarded after the war. 16 men were awarded Military Crosses for their services, Thomas Charles Chamberlain won an Air Force Cross, 4 men received Distinguished Conduct Medals for their service, Edward Farley received a 'Medaille Militaire', a French award, 9 received a Military Medal, Thomas William Heather received a Military Cross and bar, 3 were awarded Silver medals, and Alan Rice Oxley received a Distinguished Flying Medal.

However, it was not only the men that fought in WWI that will be remembered this year. The Fullerians that fought in WWII are just as important. One of the most extraordinary war stories I have heard to this day is that of Robert Bateson, a former student and senior member of the RAF in WWII.

Picture the scene; it is 11th April 1944, and hundreds of people have started queuing outside a bakery in The Hague, Holland. Across the street, the Gestapo's Headquarters in Holland. To the locals, and most others throughout Holland, it was the most hated building in the country. That morning, the men, women and children heard a gentle hum over the city; the humming was that of aircraft engines. Six mosquito bombers approached the headquarters and released their payload of explosives and firebombs over the building. The attack was an outstanding success; the building was instantly ablaze, and more importantly so, the sensitive records held inside. The bombs were so accurate in fact that it has been reported two

of them bounced through the front door. Amazingly, no civilians were injured in the raid and no other buildings were damaged. It was one of the many great successes of the RAF in WWII, and it was planned by an old Fullerian in around 10 hours.

However, the most important thing to remember 100 years after the breakout of the First World War and 75 years after the Second is that there is always 'light at the end of the tunnel.' War did not only breakdown families and friendships but forged stronger ties than ever, and not only just among the country men who spent their last years together, but also demonstrated extraordinary acts of friendship between foes. On Christmas day 1914, allies and enemies emerged from the trenches to play games of football and spend the Holy Day at peace. In the Second World War, Fullerian Peter Cowell was shot down after destroying 54 V-1 rockets bound for England. But the really inspirational part about this is that after the war, he met the German pilot who had shot him down, and they became great friends. Now, our job, 100 years on from the beginning of the First World War and 75 years on from the Second, is to pay our respects to the fallen Fullerians, and honour their sacrifices. No matter what the cost, they did their job, and what better footsteps to follow in than the heroic Fullerians who have passed.

Henry Anderson 10P



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# The Great War Centenary

Throughout our school's history there have been many moments that have defined it. No more so than the 645 men and boys who risked their lives to protect others during the First World War. Known as the 'Great War' it ravaged a nation, tearing families apart. This had a direct impact on our school as, when the war had ended, it had taken 97 of our school's finest with it. All 645 brave soldiers who fought in it are remembered, but a special honour is reserved for the 97 Fullerians who died as their ultimate sacrifice is remembered. 100 years have passed but the touching tributes come in stronger every year. No matter what, we will remember.

Many boys died in the blood bath that was trench warfare and others served in unbearable heat. Some were mere hours from coming home, the rest were still thousands of miles away. Whether they were in Gallipoli or the trenches of the Somme they all endured the hardest of struggles which we are proud to commemorate. Some didn't die of injuries but disease such as Cyril Ansley who died of malaria, far from home and his family. To lose a life is bad enough but to do it while away from your loved ones worsens the pain.

Many families lost more than one member as brothers died together. For example, the Grays and Lofts brothers went to war together. Two of the former would die but all of the latter would survive. They had been brought up together, played together and fought together. For them to lose one another on the battlefield was as much a tragedy then as it is now. On the flip side they must have been reassured knowing they had their best friend alongside them during the course of the ordeal.

Not all of the Fullerians lie in the far reaches of the world. In fact James Rae and Gordon Adamson both rest in the local Vicarage Road Cemetery. However, they both died through very different circumstances. Gordon was wounded and sent back to England where he died of his wounds; James was killed in a motorcycle accident in Windsor and though very different they are no less important than the other.

However the bitterest of stories lie with the men and boys who died just days shy of important milestones. Sidney Dawes and Robert Hodgson suffered these fates as they were killed just days prior to Armistice. Imagine the bitter sting their families had to endure as their loved ones were snatched away

just before their safety appeared to be guaranteed. One can only imagine the numbness their parents felt as they received the news that they had died so close to the war itself ending.

The names of these Fullerians can be found in many different places, from the local Vicarage Road cemetery to the Thiepval Memorial and all around the world. Whether they fell at Vimy Ridge or Gallipoli, their names can found carved in stone somewhere; memorials like these were made to commemorate the sacrifices they made in the most permanent way possible.

Although names are recorded on various memorials, men's bodies may not be where their names are. Many Fullerians who died of battle wounds may be in mass graves as opposed to near their marked graves. But visiting their graves is no less important despite a body not necessarily being there. The most important thing is that the graves symbolise the men and should often be visited to remember those lost.

Often understated is how they died, often it will say 'died of wounds' but that is only half the story. These three commonly said words cannot begin to describe or measure the suffering of the men who were suffocated by gas or drowned by muddy waters as trenches were flooded. Those three words can't even describe a sliver of the ordeal men suffered.

It is a bittersweet reunion as all these names have been brought together for this project and article. Although it would be preferred that they were brought together in more positive terms it feels fitting that these names should all be joined. Although we will never see their faces together again, we must frequently see their names. And we must remember those who gave up their right to grow old, or die peacefully for King and country and for us.

We have sought to find all those who lost their lives during this War we hope to ensure that their sacrifices are never forgotten – ever. For the ultimate act of disrespect is to forget these men and their stories.

Daniel Booth 9T



John Cameron Heather



Leslie Herbert Routledge



John Gray Woolman



Lewis Roland Tippen



Harold John Barber Bly

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# The Fallen of Watford Grammar School for Boys 1914-1918

**Rifleman Gordon Victor Adamson**  
Date of Birth: 13/6/1897  
Entered/Left WBGS: 1907/1913  
Died: 3/5/1915, in Cambridge Military Hospital, age 17  
Burial: Watford Cemetery

**George Aish**  
Date of Birth: 8/5/1888  
Entered/Left WBGS: 1900/1902  
Died: 15/9/1916, age 28  
Unit: Civil Service Rifles  
Burial: Thiepval Memorial

**Ralph Beeson**  
Date of Birth: 10/1/1889  
Entered/Left WBGS: 1899/1905  
Died: 15/2/1918  
Drowned at Roorkee, age 29  
Burial/Memorial: Madras Memorial

**William Millar Bird**  
Date of Birth: 23/9/1889  
Entered/Left WBGS: 1903/1905  
Died: 20/7/1916, age 18  
Unit: Loyal North Lancs  
Burial: Flat Iron Cemetery, Mametz

**Harold John Barber Bly**  
Date of Birth: 2/9/1900  
Entered/Left WBGS: 1909/1918  
Died: 13/1/1918, pneumonia, age 18  
Burial/Memorial: Brentwood Cemetery

**Private Arthur William Bull**  
Date of Birth: 1/8/1890  
Entered/Left WBGS: 1903/1907  
Died: 25/12/1916, age 26  
Burial: Le Touret Military Cemetery

**Acting Captain Robert Bulloch**  
Date of Birth: 8/6/1895  
Entered/Left WBGS: 1907/1910  
Died: 20/9/1917, near Hollbeke, age 22  
Burial/Memorial: Tyne Cot Memorial

**Henry (Hal) James Capern**  
Date of Birth: 17/1/1895  
Entered/Left WBGS: 1905/1912  
Died: 23/3/1918, in the final German offensive, age 23  
Burial/Memorial: Pozieres Memorial

**Noel Montagu Charles**  
Date of Birth: 26/12/1896  
Entered/Left WBGS: 1906/1911  
Died: 11/10/1916, from wounds at Highwood, age 19  
Burial/Memorial: Etaples Military Cemetery

**Henry Herbert Culverhouse**  
Date of Birth: 20/10/1898  
Entered/Left WBGS: 1910/1912  
Died: 16/10/1916, age 19  
Unit: 1st Hertfordshire Regiment  
Burial: Lonsdale Cemetery, Authuile

**Sidney Francis Dawes**  
Date of Birth: 4/4/1896  
Entered/Left WBGS: 1903/1908  
Died: 9/10/1918, Cambrai final British offensive, age 22  
Burial/memorial: Busigny Cem. Extension

**George Thomas Deayton**  
Date of Birth: 1/4/1887  
Entered/Left WBGS: 1899/1902  
Died: 10/8/1917, from wounds in Ypres, age 30  
Burial/Memorial: Aeroplane Cemetery

**Reginald Charles Francis Dolley**  
Date of Birth: 17/7/1887  
Entered/Left WBGS: 1901/1905  
Died: 1/7/1917, missing, presumed killed in action, age 29  
Burial/Memorial: Arras Memorial

**Benjamin East**  
Date of Birth: 21/6/1889  
Entered/Left WBGS: 1904/1905  
Died: 31/10/1914, in German hospital, age 25  
Unit: 1st Grenadier Guards  
Burial/Memorial: Larchwood Cemetery, Leper

**Sidney Fayers**  
Date of Birth: 25/2/1897  
Entered/Left WBGS: 1908/1913  
Died: 25/3/1918  
Awarded the Military Medal for distinguished service, age 21  
Burial/Memorial: Arras Memorial

**Private Douglas Arthur Flatt**  
Date of Birth: 31/7/1892  
Entered/Left WBGS: 1906/1908  
Died: 2/3/1917, aged 24  
Burial: Boulogne Cemetery

**John Clifton Goadby**  
Date of Birth: 5/1/1898  
Entered/Left WBGS: 1906/1911  
Died: 28/8/1918, age 20  
Recommended for Military Cross.  
Burial/Memorial: Ecoust-St. Mein Memorial

**Edward Oliver Goss**  
Date of Birth: 15/5/1893  
Entered/Left WBGS: 1905/1909  
Died: 14/10/1918, from wounds, age 25  
Burial/Memorial: Hooge Crater Cemetery

**Private Lionel Smart Grove**  
Date of Birth: 7/12/1896  
Entered/Left WBGS: 1909/1912  
Died: 8/5/1916, at Fromelles, age 19  
Memorial: Loos Memorial

**Second Lieutenant Eric Charles Halsey**  
Date of Birth: 8/2/1896  
Entered/Left WBGS: 1908/1913  
Died: 19/6/1917, age 21  
Burial: Croisilles Cemetery

**Private Eustace Cecil Harris**  
Date of Birth: 14/10/1895  
Entered/Left WBGS: 1907/1911  
Died: 4/11/1917, Passchendaele, age 22  
Memorial: Tyne Cot Memorial

**Stuart William Hart**  
Date of Birth: 3/3/1890  
Entered/Left WBGS: 1900/1905  
Died: 23/5/1916, age 26  
Burial/Memorial: Arras Memorial

**John Cameron Heather**  
Date of Birth: 20/8/1896  
Entered/Left WBGS: 1907/1913  
Died: 9/9/1916, age 20  
Unit: 13th London Regiment  
Burial: Delville Wood Cemetery

**Lance-Corporal Stanley Hemming**  
Date of Birth: 12/4/1896  
Entered/Left WBGS: 1908/1914  
Died: 19/4/1917, age 21  
Recommended for Commission  
Memorial: Loos Memorial

**Private Arthur Rowland Hill**  
Date of Birth: 11/11/1892  
Entered/Left WBGS: 1904/1909  
Died: 13/5/1915, from wounds in Aubers Ridge, age 22  
Burial: Merville Cemetery Nord

**Machine Gunner Charles Neville Holmes**  
Date of Birth: 24/11/1887  
Entered/Left WBGS: 1900/1903  
Died: 24/2/1917, age 29  
Burial: Villers-Au-Bois

**Second Lieutenant Ernest Scott Household**  
Date of Birth: 8/6/1893  
Entered/Left WBGS: 1908/1910  
Died: 21/7/1917, of wounds, age 24  
Burial: Duisans British Cemetery

**Acting Lance-Corporal Alleyne Ibbotson**  
Date of Birth: 28/6/1887  
Entered/Left WBGS: 1896/1903  
Died: 28/4/1917, at Vimy Ridge, age 29  
Memorial: Vimy Memorial

**Walter Samuel Inwood**  
Date of Birth: 3/10/1892  
Entered/Left WBGS: 1903/1909  
Died: 13/11/1916, age 27  
Unit: 31st Royal Fusiliers  
Burial: Sevre Road Cemetery

**Lance-Corporal Herbert Arthur James**  
Date of Birth: 29/4/1897  
Entered/Left WBGS: 1907/1908  
Died: 21/2/1918, age 20  
(Wounded in July and November 1916)  
Memorial: Loos Memorial

**Corporal Harry James King**  
Date of Birth: 2/3/1892  
Entered/Left WBGS: 1905/1906  
Died: 9/4/1917, at Arras, age 25  
Burial: Neuville-Vitasse Cemetery

**Private Bernard Lofts**  
Date of Birth: 20/4/1891  
Entered/Left WBGS: 1900/1903  
Died: 16/5/1915, shot in the trenches, age 24  
Memorial: Le Touret Memorial

**John Leeson Moffet**  
Date of Birth: 17/5/1888  
Entered/Left WBGS: 1896/1903  
Died: 10/3/1915, age 26  
Unit: 2nd Royal Scots Fusiliers  
Burial/Memorial: Guards Cemetery Cuinchy

**Harold Ewart Morse**  
Date of Birth: 24/12/1892  
Entered/Left WBGS: 1902/1909  
Died: 18/11/1916, age 23  
Burial/Memorial: Thiepval Memorial

**Frank Branch Nash**  
Date of Birth: 14/8/1895  
Entered/Left WBGS: 1907/1910  
Died: 1/7/1916, Battle of Somme age 20  
Burial/Memorial: Thiepval Memorial

**Cecil Henry Osborne**  
Date of Birth: 9/11/1895  
Entered/Left WBGS: 1904/1911  
Died: 9/4/1918, age 22  
Burial/Memorial: Senlis Cemetery

**Private Peter Frederick Parkes**  
Date of Birth: 8/2/1896  
Entered/Left WBGS: 1904/1912  
Died: 15/9/1916, age 20  
Missing presumed killed in action  
Burial/Memorial: Thiepval Memorial

**Leigh Pemberton**  
Date of Birth: 15/4/1897  
Entered/Left WBGS: 1907/1914  
Died: 25/9/1915, in a charge at Loos, age 18  
Burial/Memorial: Menin Gate Memorial

**2nd Lieutenant Philip Ernest Posner**  
Date of Birth: 30/1/1898  
Entered/Left WBGS: 1909/1914  
Died: 27/4/1917, of wounds, aged 19  
recommended for a Military Cross  
Memorial: Arras Memorial

**Bertram Prewett**  
Date of Birth: 12/10/1878  
Entered/Left WBGS: 1886/1894  
Died: 31/8/1918, at end of last German offensive, age 39  
Burial/Memorial: Sailly-Saillisel Cemetery

**Ralph Stanley Ridgeway**  
Date of Birth: 26/2/1895  
Entered/Left WBGS: 1908/1910  
Died: 27/2/1915, Wulverghem, Belgium, age 20

Unit: Queen Victoria's Rifles  
Burial/Memorial: Heuvelland Military Cemetery

**Leslie Herbert Routledge**  
Date of Birth: 15/7/1893  
Entered/Left WBGS: 1909/1909  
Died: 8/5/1915, age 21  
(also wounded December 1914)  
Burial/Memorial: Menin Gate Memorial

**Frank Russell**  
Date of Birth: 3/12/1892  
Entered WBGS: 1905  
Died: 16/9/1916, age 23  
Unit: 7th Middlesex Regiment  
Burial/Memorial: Thiepval Memorial

**Rifleman George Boreham Smith**  
Date of Birth: 30/4/1896  
Entered/Left WBGS: 1908/1908  
Died: 24/6/1917, age 21  
Burial: Wancourt Cemetery

**Reginald Frederick Smith**  
Date of Birth: 8/2/1898  
Entered/Left WBGS: 1909/1915  
Died: 14/5/1917, age 19  
Memorial: Arras Memorial

**Private Daniel Thomas Josiah Snare**  
Date of Birth: 27/9/1873  
Entered/Left WBGS: 1884/1888  
Died: 18/4/1916, age 42  
Memorial: Menin Gate Memorial

**Leonard Percy Squire**  
Date of Birth: 10/12/1898  
Entered/Left WBGS: 1911/1916  
Died: 23/8/1918, age 19  
Air training accident, engine trouble  
Burial/Memorial: Lincoln Cemetery

**Second Lieutenant Alfred Charles Strugnell**  
Date of Birth: 9/3/1889  
Entered/Left WBGS: 1903/1906  
Died: 1/7/1916, age 27  
Memorial: Thiepval Memorial

**Lewis Roland Tippen**  
Date of Birth: 29/8/1890  
Entered/Left WBGS: 1898/1899  
Died: 31/5/1916, drowned during the loss of the HMS Invincible, age 25  
Memorial: Portsmouth Memorial

**Cecil John Tracy**  
Date of Birth: 29/2/1884  
Entered/Left WBGS: 1891/1897  
Died: 21/5/1916, drowned in France, age 32  
Burial: Loungueness Cemetery

**Cyril Sidney M. Vale**  
Date of Birth: 13/6/1899  
Entered/Left WBGS: 1907/1914  
Died: 27/8/1918, age 19  
Burial/Memorial: Terlinctum Cemetery

**Frank Fulcher Warren**  
Date of Birth: 4/1/1894  
Entered/Left WBGS: 1906/1909  
Died: 15/9/1916  
Killed at Highwood, age 22  
Burial/Memorial: Flatiron Copse Memorial

**Rifleman Arnold Middleton Waterhouse**  
Date of Birth: 28/7/1891  
Entered/Left WBGS: 1900/1907  
Died: 25/5/1915, in trenches at Givenchy, age 23  
Memorial: Le Touret Memorial

**William Neville Watson**  
Brother of Clement Spencer Watson  
Date of Birth: 22/6/1899  
Entered/Left WBGS: 1911/1915  
Died: 26/8/1918, of wounds, age 19  
Burial/Memorial: Daours Cemetery

**Sergeant Clement Spencer Watson**  
Brother of William Neville Watson  
Date of Birth: 22/6/1899  
Entered/Left WBGS: 1907/1912  
Died: 18/5/1917, age 21  
Burial: Achiet-le-Grand Cemetery

**Private James Wilfred**  
Date of Birth: 5/5/1895  
Entered/Left WBGS: 1907/1910  
Died: 20/4/1915, in the trenches, age 19  
Memorial: First D.C.L.I Cemetry

**Arthur Wilson**  
Date of Birth: 13/10/1892  
Entered/Left WBGS: 1899/1909  
Died: 1/7/1916, age 23  
Burial/Memorial: Ovivlers Mil.Cemetery

**John Gray Woolman**  
Date of Birth: 7/1/1897  
Entered/Left WBGS: 1904/1909  
Died: 2/11/1918, before Armistice, at Valenciennes, age 21  
Burial/Memorial: Auberchicourt Cemetery

**Albert Franklin Young**  
Date of Birth: 15/8/1899  
Entered/Left WBGS: 1913/1915  
Died: 9/6/1918, age 18  
Burial/Memorial: Cuckfield Cemetery

**For this centenary year, a group of students from 9T: Ameya Joshi, Callum Crockford and Srivatsa Garg have worked extremely hard to produce a set of photos and biographies of 59 of the 97 Old Boys and staff who gave their lives in WWI.**  
**We are very grateful for the work that our students have done, through their research and writing of articles, for this commemoration section.**



John Clifton Goadby



Arthur Rowland Hill



Henry James Capern



Albert Franklin Young



Alfred Charles Strugnell



Alleyne Ibbotson



Arnold Middleton Waterhouse



Eustace Cecil Harris



Benjamin East



Leonard Percy Squire



# Ypres and Somme Trip

**The significance of the Year 10 trip this year was increased by the fact that it is the centenary of WWI.**

## Day 1

We departed for Ypres, travelled by coach to the port of Dover and from there caught a ferry to Dunkirk. Our first stop in Belgium was Tyne Cot Cemetery: a Commonwealth War Graves Commission burial ground to the fallen of the First World War in the Ypres Salient on the Western Front. It is a memorial to those who died near Passchendaele in 1917. It contains the graves of 12,000 men (roughly) and has a wall of names (about 35,000) in memory of the soldiers whose bodies could not be found. When we went there the sheer number of names and graves was overwhelming and we found it a humbling experience.

Our next stop was an interesting museum telling us about conditions for soldiers in war; for example: what the different gases smelt like; what weapons were used; what equipment a usual soldier used and the weight of it. The

museum also had a series of replica trenches that we could go through.

We went to attend a service at the Menin Gate for the dead and missing of the World War Battles of the Ypres Salient. Every night at 20:00 the local fire brigade shuts the gate and sounds the 'Last Post' in memory of the soldiers. It was a very sombre setting and actually gave us an opportunity to reflect upon what these soldiers did for us and how they protected a life for us. Our very own Mr Ponte and two students took part in the ceremony of commemoration.

## Day 2

On our second day we travelled to Northern France for our first stop where we visited the Wellington Quarries: a series of tunnels 20m under the ground which forces of the British and Commonwealth Empire used in The First World War. These tunnels were built by a combination of British and New Zealand soldiers (hence the name Wellington Quarries, capital of New Zealand). They were built to be a means of shelter for

the troops from the incessant German shelling and as a means of conveying and transporting the soldiers to the battlefield with secrecy and safety. We were lucky enough to have a tour through the actual tunnels which, in my opinion, was an amazing experience. We were able to see the cramped conditions of the soldiers and the things they had left like little drawings on the walls of rock. It was incredible to see how well preserved the tunnels had been kept.

We then went to Beaumont Hamel, Newfoundland Memorial Park which is a commemoration site given to the Canadians after WWI to remember those soldiers of the Newfoundland Regiment who made an unsuccessful assault on the Germans, on the 1st July 1916 during the first day of the Battle of the Somme. The Battle of the Somme was an assault made on the Germans by the British and its allies. It was done to take pressure of the French at Verdun who were enduring huge casualties. The Somme was a complete failure resulting in huge casualties and only an advance of a miniscule amount.

We were able to go through the path that the trenches had cut up to the petrified tree which is a historic symbol marking No Man's Land. We could see the damage that the shells and mines had left upon the land, leaving craters and dips everywhere. After exploring the site we left for Thiépval, a monument dedicated to the missing soldiers of the Somme. Its sheer size astounded me showing us that a vast number of soldiers were never found after the battle emphasising its failure. On it are the names of 76,000 missing soldiers. We performed a short service in their memory laying a wreath in the process.

Our next stop would be a place called Langemark which was the site of an extremely deep crater. This was where some of the Germans had been positioned in The Battle of the Somme. The Allied Forces had previously tunnelled deep into the ground and laid 18 tons of explosives. On the day it exploded it created a huge crater which we were able to see. Vimy Ridge was another one of our destinations, it was again a Memorial, this time to the Canadian Expeditionary Force and any Canadian soldiers who died in the war and have no grave.

## Day 3

On the final day Mr McDermott gave a speech about our trip and then we were allowed to explore the church and we found different plaques from schools commemorating fallen pupils and staff including our very own. After exploring we went to the Flanders Field Museum. We were then allowed to explore the town itself which was extremely beautiful because the Allies rebuilt it after the World War. Next, we visited the Flanders Field Cemetery, the place where the medic John McCrae (the poet who wrote 'In Flanders Fields') was stationed. This cemetery also had the youngest casualty of the war, Rifleman Valentine Joe Strudwick, aged 15 years of age. Finally, we went to Hill 62/ Sanctuary Wood Museum which is a series of preserved trenches. This was an unforgettable experience in that we actually went through conditions the soldiers would have as well. Overall, the trip was an amazing and insightful experience to some of the events and sacrifices that took place in the First World War. I thoroughly enjoyed this trip along with all the other students (I am sure) and thought it was a great way to learn history first hand. All the students are especially grateful to Mr Panter, Miss Griffin, Mr Ponte and Mr McDermott for arranging and accompanying us on this marvellous trip.

**By Kumael Bilgrami 10G**

## Remembrance Day 2013

**T**he 11th minute, of the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month is a time that brings a nation together in remembrance. Up and down the country all conscious action ceases, the daily routine is forgotten and we as members of the British public, in the short space of 2 minutes, are given the chance to reflect on those who have fought and have been lost in the defence of their country. At Watford Grammar School for Boys this is no different and, every year, students and teachers alike come together to remember the fallen and pay our respects to those brave and courageous young men and women who selflessly gave and still give their lives so that we may continue to live in a free and fair society.

Every year a guest speaker is invited to come and speak to the students and teachers before the two-minute silence commences and this year, the school was fortunate enough to welcome Captain Tom Villa to talk about his experiences with conflict. Having been a previous student of the school who had then moved on to take up a position in the British military, Tom could remember sitting in the exact position that we were sitting during his time at the school, not knowing what to think or how to react to the events that take place during Remembrance Day. He spoke of how in the early stages of his school life, he would think about his family members who had fought during the 1st and 2nd world wars. As Remembrance Day has long been an event associated with these two global conflicts that took place during the early stages of the 20th century, he spoke of how often, that is the only thing the majority of us do think about during those two 2 minutes. In our childhood, we are taught to think about the soldiers who fought and died and how we should be grateful to them for their courageous service, which indeed we should.

However Captain Villa spoke of how in 2001 he had a revelation. That year's Remembrance Day service was preceded just 2 months earlier by the events of 9/11 in which 2996 innocent people lost their lives. As these attacks were shocking events that led to a tremendous amount of loss, he felt there was no reason why they couldn't be a part of his thoughts during the two-minute silence that year, which brought him to his startling realisation. In truth, Remembrance Day is not only a day about wars and about those lost in defence of our country, but also about all those who have lost and still lose their lives as a result of world conflict, whether they be soldier or civilian and regardless of whether they are directly or indirectly involved in fighting.

It was then that Tom described his experiences whilst serving with the British Expeditionary Force, which were in my opinion equally harrowing. He spoke of the time that he first lost a man under his command, his attempts to come to terms with this loss and the moments that he spent with the soldier's family explaining to them the circumstances of their son's death. This was not only a time of great difficulty and contemplation for Captain Villa but also emphasised to him the fact that soldiers are not the only ones that suffer as a consequence of conflict. One must also remember the many loved ones that are left behind. Tom's message was clear therefore; it really doesn't matter what you think about during those two minutes of silence, as for most of us it is personal. However, the two minutes are short. Hence, one must never waste the opportunity to remember those who have suffered and died in any form of conflict throughout the world. War is something that affects so many people and Remembrance Day is a time to pay our respects to them all.

**Jonathan Waller U6NAI**





# THE PROBLEM



**On a global level: "Fossil fuels currently meet 80% of global energy demand. Even if countries made good on all current policy commitments to tackle climate change and other energy-related challenges, global energy demand in 2035 is projected to rise by 40% – with fossil fuels still contributing 75%"**

(www.iea.org, 2013)

**Taking the UK into consideration - Carbon dioxide emissions accounted for 83.3% of total greenhouse gas emissions in 2011, making carbon dioxide the most important greenhouse gas emitted by the UK.**

(www.gov.uk, 2013)

The main sources of carbon dioxide emissions are fuel combustion in power stations, road transport and in the residential, industrial, commercial, educational and institutional sectors of the UK economy.

Our natural resources are depleting and it doesn't take the smartest person to realise the importance of reducing our reliance on fossil fuel based energy.

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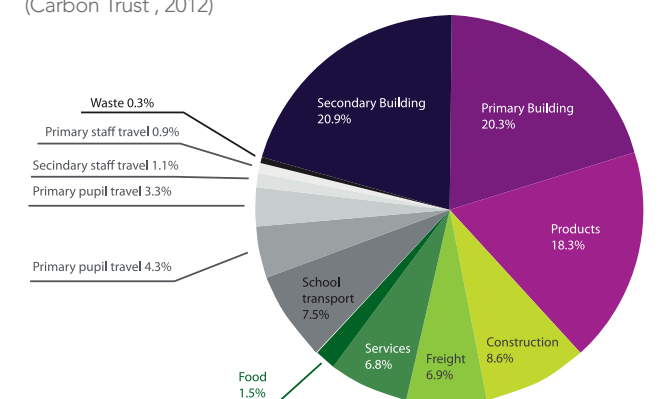
## SYMBIO ENERGY & SCHOOLS...

For UK schools the idea is to adopt energy reduction measures like installing LEDs, PIR lighting systems, power saving plugs and to switch to renewable energy without hampering the comfort and performance of their staff and students.

**UK schools could reduce energy costs by around £44 million per year which would prevent 625,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> from entering the atmosphere by adopting energy efficient technologies.**

(Carbon Trust, 2012)

Being an integrated generator and supplier of renewable energy, Symbio Energy equips schools with solar and wind technology. Besides powering the school, these technologies also present students with a source of first hand information on how they work and the many benefits of harnessing their energy. Become a school of change! A change that will ensure the next generation of students are the leaders of tomorrow.



(Schools Carbon Strategy, SD commission 2008)

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# SCHOOL LIFE

## Year 8

# First Aid Training

Several members of staff were given training last November by Lisa Pascoulis from St. John's Ambulance for the HeartStart programme. The aim was for us to be able to teach Emergency First Aid to the students in school. This was trialled in the recent PSHE day in March and the boys were able to take part in 3 different sessions during the day: Cardiac Arrest, Conscious and Unconscious Casualty, suspected Heart Attacks, Bleeding and Choking. The sessions ran smoothly thanks to the equipment that we were given by St. John's Ambulance. The boys were able to learn CPR and rescue breaths and practised on the 'Little Annies' that had been donated to the school. They also put one another into the recovery position, learnt abdominal thrusts and held their 'bleeding' limbs above their hearts!

The boys were very positive after the day. They commented on the life skills that they had learnt and they felt that they would now be able to react quickly and effectively in a life threatening situation. They also found a new LOL – life over limbs – which they found rather amusing!

The sessions will be repeated in the Summer term for the remaining form groups in year 8.

CC



# What You Looking At Films

'What You Looking At Films' is a youth film group run by students from both Watford Boys and Girls Grammar Schools, aged 12 to 16. Our most recent short film 'The Plague: A Chronicle' was shown at the British Film Institute in central London. It tells the tale of a plague coming to Watford.

The production process begins with the creation of a script. We then move on to producing a storyboard (drawing out each of the different shots to be used in each scene) as, unlike a theatrical script, the visual element is of very high importance. Whilst on a shoot, we require a camera operator, director, and sound operator in addition to the actors required for the scene. After all the shooting is finished, the tape is uploaded to a computer and the editing begins, something which can take up to a month!

All of this means that making films is a very time-consuming process. Therefore, we chose to stick to making sub six minute films in order to produce as many separate shorts as possible. In this vein, we have, over the course of several years made: a silent comedy featuring a life size Gingerbread man; a WWI

drama based on real letters written by a soldier on the Western Front; and of course our most recent effort, 'The Plague...' which took inspiration from the 1920s gothic horror film 'Nosferatu'. All these have all been submitted to, and screened at several major children's film festivals across the country.

There has never been a better time to be a filmmaker. Current technology allows us to create films on our mobile phones. Even if the quality is not quite up to professional standards, the creative talent of the actors and director will always shine through. So why not? The motion picture industry is a big part of Britain's economy, and without new blood coming through, it will die out. And you wouldn't want that on your conscience would you?

For more details on film festivals please email [whatyoulookingatfilmgroup@gmail.com](mailto:whatyoulookingatfilmgroup@gmail.com)

Tim and Nick Bush 11T and 8T

# Psychology

## Extended Project Qualification

### Heavy Metal and aggression

The aim of this study was to investigate, to what extent, if any, does Slipknot's heavy metal songs increase self-reported attitude to aggression.

The study consisted of 2 groups of 10 Watford Grammar School for Boys students, drawn from the Sixth Form with their ages ranging from 17-18 years old.

The participants in each group were pre-matched on aggression levels. I did this by rating each participant on three 5-point Likert scale, this made it then possible for me to match my participants evenly on their aggression levels. My three Likert scales were on;

- Physical aggression
- Verbal aggression
- Aggression towards inanimate objects

The experiment was conducted in an empty room, with no posters or possible

influences. The participants were set the Buss-Perry Aggression Questionnaire. It is a 29 item questionnaire where participants rank certain statements along a 5 point continuum from "extremely uncharacteristic of me" to "extremely characteristic of me." The scores were totalled, with reverse scoring on questions 7 and 18, as these show less aggressive traits as a characteristic of the participant. The questionnaire returns scores for 4 dimensions of aggression; Physical aggression, Verbal aggression, Anger and Hostility.

During this questionnaire the participants would be played music. The two groups would be played different genres of music with one group listening to Heavy Metal music, and the other to Classical music. For the Heavy Metal category I played Slipknot's – "Psychosocial" and for the classical category I played Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's – "Eine Kleine Nachtmusik". Therefore the independent variable in my experiment was the music played whilst the participants completed the questionnaire. And the dependent variable was how they responded to the questions.

Results/Findings			
Heavy metal participant	Score on Buss-Perry aggression questionnaire	Score on Buss-Perry aggression questionnaire	Classical
1	119	107	1
2	108	92	2
3	110	75	3
4	93	82	4
5	87	69	5
6	84	77	6
7	78	66	7
8	76	66	8
9	67	50	9
10	37	36	10
Average score	85.9	72.0	

As I predicted, participants who were played Slipknot's – "Psychosocial" whilst performing the Buss-Perry aggression questionnaire appeared slightly more aggressive than participants who were played Mozart's – "Eine Kleine Nachtmusik". On average participants who listened to the heavy metal had a higher self reported attitude towards aggression.

My results indicated that listening to heavy metal had an effect (increase) on the aggression level of the listener.

Raphael Debnath 6TBg

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# Workshop

**F**or me, this year has been one all about Workshop. Starting as a Workshop prefect back in November, for two mornings a week I mentored my year 8 buddy in both Maths and English. This is essentially the core of Workshop – forming a learning relationship with a boy in the lower school. And I can tell you, it's rewarding both for the pupil and the prefect.

It took a while to get used to, but for me the best part of Workshop is the feeling of actually helping a younger boy with their school life. In many respects I was a teacher, just younger and more charming. But since I wasn't really a teacher, I could talk to my buddy about football, friends and any other aspects of a teenage boy's life. This wasn't all though, and of course we made progress on the academic front. Working on both English and Maths skills made my role more challenging – especially since I no longer study Maths – but both of us benefited from the system. Being able to see my buddy's confidence and assuredness slowly improve was a privilege, which I know many Lower Sixth prefects will get to enjoy in the coming year. As the months passed, it became a lot easier to gauge how best my buddy would learn, and we both came to enjoy the sessions. The immense variety of resources used in workshops – worksheets, exercise books, videos, computer games – meant

that there was never a dull moment. If we didn't make workshop interesting, the pupils would stop turning up. At the end of the day it isn't totally about drilling formulae and equations and key terms into the boys – it's about helping them to make the most of their time at the school.

Given how much I enjoyed this experience, it was a great honour to be made a Head of Workshop in June. This will allow me to oversee how all of the pupils and prefects get on next year, and do my bit to make Workshop even better. Because the programme is expanding and being tweaked all the time, over the next few months we can only improve the experience for all who take part. All of this means that we can further help all boys in reaching their full potential – be it in the mentor role, or the learner role. This year we also have a newly created position of Head of Science, allowing us to expand our teaching capability across the curriculum. Within a couple of years I'm certain that boys will be able to receive extra support in all subjects, under the watchful eyes of Dr Gunton and Mrs Stokes.

The only way from here is up, and there is talk of spreading the scheme to other schools in the country. Workshop is a testament to how dedicated Watford Boys is at striving to support all members of its community, and is continually raising the bar in educational provision. Even once I've vacated my post and left the school, I am confident that younger boys will still be forming relationships with their Workshop prefects, learning and growing alongside the system.

Michael Holohan 6Wg



# Alan Senitt Memorial Trust

**T**here are many parts to this specific charity and one of them is to educate children on community. The charity teamed up with another called 'Streetwise' and they work together to educate children into believing in the power of community and how it brings people together.

I found out about this charity last year when they were collecting bottles for a greenhouse to be built in a garden for the homeless, and then I got the chance to apply this year when a representative of the charity came in and gave my year an assembly. We had to get two references and fill in a long form on ourselves, and found out whether or not we had a place on the scheme two weeks later.

Every two months or so, we go on

seminars to various different schools, our first being at the Jewish Free School. We played many icebreakers and were split into mixed school groups with the six other schools attending. We spent time getting to know each other and also discussing communities. We then built a model on communities and made a small speech about it. Finally we went back into our school groups and discussed a project that we could do to assist our community.

Back at school, we decided that we were to grow a garden for the homeless as it would be a great idea to help the community and would last for years to come.

Our second seminar was at Nower Hill School and there we were sent off

to workshops on finance, marketing and branding. We also did a presentation on our idea to all of the schools.

We have currently gone to our second last seminar at Immanuel College where we had to make a game relating to our project, ours being, Guess the Vegetable.

In June we will be going to our graduation ceremony where will be presenting our projects and then having a party afterwards. The venue is to be confirmed.

So if you want to help the community and visit other schools, the Alan Senitt community project is for you.

Tej Dhrona 10G

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# Young Enterprise

## Year 8 Business Day

**Y**oung Enterprise is an organisation which comes into schools to teach students about business and marketing. They understand that to learn, you have to do – and that is exactly what the day was about. The day was a fun day where we got to step into the boots of a young person who wants to set up their own business.

We started off the memorable day with eight students coming to the front of the classroom to do an ‘elevator pitch’, which is a very short sales pitch that is only around 30 seconds long, about a product that they’d never heard of before. These products were all very creative and silly to say the least, ranging from noodle coolers to butter sticks - a glue stick where the glue is actually butter!

For the next hour or so, we learned about the key qualities you should have to be enterprising. Most of them were relatively obvious, however some, like, for an example, being a risk-taker, were less so.

For the rest of the day, we were put into groups of five where we had to design a company and product. Our group were told that our company should be a kitchen hardware store with our product being aimed at young working couples and in the price range of £30-£50. None of us were too pleased about the business sector as other groups got to work in the toy or pets industry which most of us have an interest in. Despite this, the task completely won us over and we were engrossed in designing logos,

catchy slogans, posters and making a prototype out of old cereal boxes and bottles.

Following lunch, we had to do another elevator pitch to the audience for the product we made. Our product was a high tech lamp shade and we gave important information like how much profit we made and how many sales we made in the past year. It was judged by the people from Young Enterprise. Unfortunately for us, we were not voted the best group in the year but that certainly did not prevent the day from being an interesting and informative experience.

**Nathan Horbury 8P**

## Year 10 Young Enterprise

**O**n Thursday 17th October 2013, Year 10 had a day with Young Enterprise – a national education charity – to see whether they could inspire us teenagers to learn and succeed. We were split up into two different main groups where one would work in the Sixth Form Centre and the other in the Economics Block. When we reached our destinations, we were placed in groups of six and introduced to the Young Enterprise people and some of the GE volunteers who would help us throughout the day. The first task was to define the word ‘stakeholder’ and discuss who might be a stakeholder when talking about businesses.

The next task demanded a volunteer from a few of the groups to come to the front and do a pitch about a product they had never seen before. For example, the first product was the Butter Stick and the volunteers had one minute to try and convince people how amazing it was. This part was my favourite as the speeches were very amusing especially when it came to the toilet paper roll that you wore on your head! We then had to produce a futuristic product that the company given to you might produce in the future. There were many weird and wonderful ideas including the Flying Crisp and ours: Google Earth Zombies.

The last part of the day, after we had

finished lunch, required groups to invest money in different companies depending on three details given. An example would be in the second year; weather was very bad and cold and we had to decide on what to invest in from a range of companies: Snack Shop, Games Locker, Holiday Company etc. This game ended very well for my group and we ended up third out of around fifteen groups. Overall the day was enjoyable and we also learned about businesses, how they run and how people can invest in them.

**Gilles Cherrill 10B**

## The WBGS Lightning Strike

Another match for Watford Boys, this time against Parmiters. It was looking a lovely day for rugby on a Monday afternoon and then the clouds came shadowing above us waiting for action to strike. We were warming up when the rain came; not many of us were bothered by it.

The match had started, drenched coaches, subs and the players, trying to keep as warm as possible. Parmiters 5-0 up, the fly half eager to take the kick and Watford Boys huddled around the posts listening to instructions from the captain. The rain was now pouring into our soaked faces as we prepared to chase down the kick. The kick felt like a slowed down replay as it skimmed under the dripping posts. That was when it all happened.

Alongside the ball, a tremendous strike of light hit the fence behind the posts. It looked like a firework but white, and sounded like a hockey ball being whacked as hard as a human body could do it, into a hard based hockey goal. Being one of the players, it was at first a peculiar sight and then a horrifying sight when I realised I was about three metres away from lightning. After that, boys were a bit more wary of how bad this downpour actually was. I predicted there would be thunder shortly after the strike of lightning but not thunder like today as it crackled its way through the dark cloud-filled sky, scaring the life out of everyone by its terrifying and painfully loud sound.

From then on, all of the coaches knew we had to go inside, not just for warmth but for our safety and the sake of the waterlogged pitches. Without a single word we all ran in. By

that time it was getting worse; Ali and I were covering our heads and eyes from the hail that was pelting us. There were a few “ouches” and “owwwws” as the hail felt like it was stinging us.

Inside, there was buzz of excitement as we told each other about how close we were to lightning. After a few minutes, there was blue in the sky and the rain had almost stopped; people were begging the coaches to get back out, but the coaches stayed stubborn saying, “We can’t play the whole match now.”

Then sir, with a big loud voice shouted, “The game is called off,” some faces smiling, others frowning.

We were all dismissed as a beautiful rainbow appeared.

I thought - what a bizarre day!

**Robert Curwen 7F**

### Science Block

I was in physics when the lightning struck just outside of the room I was in. The flash was so bright that despite facing the opposite direction all I could see was white, and the thunderclap was deafening. Yet it was over in an instant and a strange calm fell over the room. Soon we learnt that the strike had fried some of the computers; it was an unusual end to an otherwise unremarkable day.

**Matthew Bishop L6 NAI**

member of the chartered society of physiotherapy  
registered member of the health professions council  
member of the association of chartered physiotherapists in  
occupational health and ergonomics



### The Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation Clinic (Rickmansworth) Ltd.

The Lodge, Old Chorleywood Road, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire WD3 4EH

**01923 897 514    [anya@physio-rehab.co.uk](mailto:anya@physio-rehab.co.uk)**



# ROBOTICS

It was a grey Monday afternoon and as we were queuing up for the computing class outside T4, we were informed by Mr Thurgood of a robot programming activity run by UEA (University of East Anglia). Robotics is widely used, from manufacturing, to situations which are too dangerous for human life, and even in space. We went in, expecting a boring lecture on robots, and how important they are, and thought that if we were lucky we'd get to watch a video of one in action. We couldn't have been more wrong.

In pairs, we got our very own robot, which we could program to do anything we wanted, for an entire double period. The robot was equipped with lasers and pressure sensors and cameras and all sorts of cool tech. The session gave the class an opportunity to see what high level programming could do; in this case, make Lego robots move (the language was called NXC). Even though the coding was very complex, we were given sheets to help us understand the coding these amazing robots use.

After fiddling around with the robot for a while, and understanding basic functions, we were presented with a task: to get it around an obstacle course as fast as possible, when we didn't know what the course would look like. But a quick read through the hand-outs we were given, and we realised we could use the touch sensors to detect an obstacle and move around it. This was a very fun activity, which made us use our brains. We



we were also told that in programming the only thing stopping us from creating amazing things was our imagination.

At the end of the session we were given a chance to line up our robots and race other classmates' robots around an obstacle course which required a little complex programming. It was amusing to see the cheering and enthusiasm of both the pupils and teachers. Everyone had a very enjoyable time. It has really made us more passionate about programming and has increased our overall interest in programming. It was also an amazing start to the new half term!

**Shaheer Hasan 11B & Soham Garg 11F**



## Broadwater Sailing Club welcomes new families

[www.broadwatersc.org.uk](http://www.broadwatersc.org.uk)

Junior Sailing on Saturday afternoons  
run by parents and volunteers  
(see website for dates, times)

Cruising – anytime

Racing – Sunday mornings

Social events throughout the year

See the website for membership details  
[www.broadwatersc.org.uk](http://www.broadwatersc.org.uk)



# Rotary Young Chef Competition 2013

**T**he Rotary Young Chef competition for Watford district which took place on the 23rd of November was a fun but stressful, eye opening experience.

Firstly, we had a class competition, where the winners of the best 2 course meal would go through to the Rotary competition. Bhushan Bali and I won this, very narrowly, therefore progressed to the next stage.

We planned our dishes carefully and arrived at West-Herts College on the Saturday morning, to meet Andy Wakeford,

chef lecturer at West Herts College. We were shown round the professional training kitchen, which seemed alien to begin with.

We had 45 minutes to familiarise ourselves with the kitchen, organise our utensils and ingredients and to lay our serving tables.

At 10:00am, cooking commenced; this was a nerve racking, but exciting and new experience. We had 2 hours to prepare our main courses and desserts.

## My Menu

Haddock with cheese and parsley sauce  
topped with a poached egg  
Butternut squash mash and rocket  
Chocolate Fondant with a  
Raspberry coulis



## Bhushan's menu

Cod Rendang served with  
white rice and vegetables  
Raspberry Meringue Roulade



We served two plates of our main course and two plates of our dessert at midday, which was tasted and judged by Russell Bateman (the Head chef at Colette's at the Grove), Andy Wakeford, Graham Rusling and Andy Wainwright, all experienced chefs. Our food was also tasted by Richard Harrington, (Member of Parliament for Watford); Councillor George Derbyshire and Mrs Elaine Derbyshire (Vice Chairman); Roger Gagan (Chief Executive).

We washed and tidied up the kitchens, then waited nervously for the results at 1 o'clock. Bhushan came 5th out of 12, and I came close at 6th. First place went to Rebekah Armistead, Hertswood School. The prize for 1st place was a meal for four in the Colette's Restaurant at The Grove.

We both thought that the experience was challenging but fun and rewarding and we would love to take part in a similar experience. We were given valuable feedback on our methods of cooking and

final dishes, so we have gained valuable knowledge.

Many thanks to Richard Wheeler of the Rotary Club and all the organisers of the event, West Herts College, Ms Beveridge and our parents!

**Rohit Mitra 10P**

# Open Day

**The new academic year hardly seems to have begun: the new year 7s are still losing their way between the Muse and the Canteen; the new Upper Sixth are in a tizz about personal statements and university applications; Year 11 have just realised that this is THE year that they will be taking their GCSEs... and then here we go again; the beginning of the preparations for the following academic year – Open Day.**



Why bother – who wouldn't want their son at WBG? The school generally looks pretty good – the beautiful traditional main building, many excellent newer facilities, the Muse, the Liquorice Allsort Science Block etc. And then there are the excellent results, the phenomenal standard of extra-curricular activities, be it Music, Sport, or Drama. Do we really have to come in for an extra day – a Saturday?

Well yes, it's part of the deal. Schools have to have an Open Day.

But what is really impressive each year is the number of boys who willingly give up their Saturday morning to come in and help out – and carry out those duties so impressively.

I do begin to wonder if there is a training course for school prefects in car-parking-directing duties; our prefects are remarkably authoritative when given a high-vis jacket and put in charge of cars coming in and out of the school grounds – and there are an awful lot of cars on Open Day.

Then, when our visitors have finally parked their cars, they will be guided round by either a very capable sixth former (who seem to be able to deal with anything from someone on crutches, to someone visually impaired and ensure that they have full access to everything) or a remarkably courteous year 8 student who by their uncharacteristic enthusiasm will convince any parents that a boys' school is an absolute must.

## And what else do our visitors find?

- There is plenty of refreshment available: the canteen, Modern Foreign Languages and R.S are all worth a try.
- There's plenty of sport available to watch too – on the playing field, in the sports hall, on the climbing tower and the usual Gladiatorial combat in Classics.
- Dr Purcell's fiery displays in Chemistry are always worth a visit and, in general, the labs are very popular with parents.
- The Maths department usually have some practical educational games out.
- There may well be a drama rehearsal taking place in the James Theatre.
- The Art department is always worth a visit too because of the ingenuity shown in fitting so many displays and equipment so effectively into such a small space.
- And of course Music in the Muse.

I could go on – but the best thing to do is to come and park your car, find a Year 8 and take a guided tour.

**GA**





# Michael Rosen Sixth Form Lecture



As a person, Michael Rosen appears like an eccentric uncle. As an academic, he is passionate and charismatic, using past experiences to try to point out some of the stranger parts of the English language (such as the difference between red and read and read and reed). A former student of WBGS, he was born in Pinner and went to Oxford, first studying anatomy (“chopping up bodies is an experience I’ve never forgotten”) before moving on to English.

During the lecture he talked of the origin of language in general, the progression from symbols meaning objects to symbols meaning sounds to letters. He explored the hidden secrets of language, showing that the most common sound in English has no letter (the schwa, the “uh” sound at the end of sofa). He also talked a little about himself, how he ate his own thyroid gland due to auto-immune disease, how MI5 decided he was not suitable for employment at the BBC and how he has worked there ever since. He even exposed secrets uncovered during his research into this topic, such as how Roy Hodgson pronounces “r” in 3 different ways, and how the name of the ice cream company Häagen-Dazs is a complete guess at a Danish sounding name (the ä doesn’t even occur in Danish). All of this was interwoven into the story of a book signing he once did, where the names he had to sign were Shirilene and Tariq, two names that in historical terms are completely made-up, just like Häagen-Dazs. Above all he gave a sense of passion, as though he was reading one of his books out at a school: that mad enthusiasm, the over-emphasis of his actions. If someone compared the reactions of the audience at WBGS and at a primary school, I doubt there would be a big difference.

Charles Staines 6GWG

Michael Rosen is a man of many talents: children’s writer, lecturer, columnist and a powerfully gripping speaker; his work has landed widespread praise. He has, in many respects, become a household name for his work as a children’s writer – deservedly taking up the title of Children’s Laureate from 2007 to 2009. An Old Boy of the school, Mr Rosen arrived on Friday lunchtime with recollections of the past and a wealth of fascinating anecdotes, opinions, and interests. Over lunch, the conversation tunnelled through a brilliant variety of topics and interests – from Glaswegian Bus Drivers, to the exceptional former headmaster Harry Rée.

When the time came, Mr Rosen arrived at The Muse, to a hall brimming with curious sixth formers. The audience quietened and the announcements were made. The room was enveloped with a dazzling and unpredictable hour of language, history, phonetics and literature. Mr Rosen spoke to the sixth form with a conversational and entertaining tone– centring his talk around the alphabet, and his investigation into all things alphabetical in ‘Alphabetical: How Every Letter Tells a Story’. From the start, Rosen went straight into explaining a bit about his background and what he does. The startling fact of an MI5 officer advising the BBC not to employ Mr Rosen created a spark of interest from the lecture’s opening. In a stylistic flare – characteristic of Mr Rosen – the speaker started his musings on the alphabet with a memorable anecdote. He presented the room with a situation in which he was signing a book for a little girl: called ‘Charlene’. The room smirked with amusement, but the wry looks of many a sixth former became fixed with interest as Rosen explored his anecdotal starting point. His question, I paraphrase, was “how do you spell ‘Charlene’?” My very choice of spelling, for this article, reflects an intrinsic linguistic decision. Should the ‘sh’ sound be spelt ‘sh’, or ‘ch’? Is the ‘ar’ a long ‘a’ like the ‘a’ in ‘father’? And how do we spell ‘ene’? ‘ine’, ‘ene’, ‘ien’, or ‘een’? Or some other? Rosen pointed to the English language’s phonetics; the alphabet is our toolbox for far more than 26 sounds. The joy and pain is in the wonderful fickleness of the English language’s alphabet, and the peculiarities of our spellings.

‘Our’, is a homophone of ‘hour’ – but the ‘h’ is silent. Rosen detailed the way in which ‘aitch’ (or shall I say ‘haitch’?) has been dropped and kept in curious ways over the years. We say ‘hour’ but we also say ‘horrible’ – yet a Victorian child would be beaten for adding the ‘h’ to both. ‘horrible’ Rosen speaks out to a bemused audience. With the room fully taken in by his oratory prowess, he moved into the realms of provenance. Where did the alphabet come from? Rosen explored how a pictogram of an Ox (– used to depict the word for an Ox ‘älep’), used in Proto-Sinaitic, was used in the Phoenician alphabet, subsequently adapted into Greek ‘α’ (α), and then into the Latin alphabet which we use today ‘A’ (a). He rounded off his talk about the alphabet with a summary of how Christianisation brought the Latin alphabet to the British isles, and displaced Anglo-Saxon runes.

Rosen brought the lecture to an end by answering some questions. His brief performance of ‘We’re Going On A Bear Hunt’ drew out a chorus of hearty post-lunch laughter from the room. Mr Rosen’s exploration of the origin of his own name brought up historical intrigue and raised questions about the relationship between our names and our pasts. His ability to captivate an audience, and to speak with effortless charisma, made the lecture a pleasure and a memorable experience. Throughout the lecture, one couldn’t help but feel his personality permeate through; anecdotes and personal-experience were spoken about with a thorough academic knowledge. The end result was a lecture that informed, stimulated, and entertained – although nothing less was expected from the former Children’s Laureate, and Old Boy.

Christian Amos U6GWg

## Mr Allchorn, Mr Carr and La Marmotte

Covering a distance of 174.4 km (108.4 mi) and with 5,180 m (16,990 ft) of climbing, the route is considered to be one of the hardest of any cyclo sportive and comparable to any of the most challenging high mountain stages of the Tour de France. Several famous Tour de France mountains feature; the Col du Glandon, Col du Telegraphe, Col du Galibier and the final ascent of the legendary Alpe d’Huez.

On the night of Friday 29th November, I was amongst several thousand mostly male amateur riders trying to get on line entry to the world’s oldest and still probably hardest one day sportive. Around 3am on Saturday morning, I had succeeded, the site having been overwhelmed with riders trying to do the same thing. Texts then exchanged with others who were trying to do the same. In the early winter, the summer of the following year seems a very long time away and so, apart from booking hotel, flights and seeking Mr Post’s permission to leave early from sports day at school to get our flights, it can be forgotten. Maybe. As readers of this column know, I like a challenge and am easily flattered into thinking I can do something on two wheels. As a cyclist, I’m used to suffering and burying myself all too easily in the pain of training or riding to my (all too obvious) limits. There’s the anticipation and nerves of planning and getting yourself in one piece to an event, usually travelling just the day before, arriving at hotels late and getting up well before dawn to ride all day, then fly or drive back as soon as possible afterwards. In the middle there’s the excitement of doing the ride, of being part of the group, of feeling invincible and fast and being so close to capitulation that if the broom wagon’s behind you, you’ll take the lift, thank you.

Then when it’s over, there is sense of achievement, the warm glow of endorphins when I’d happily grant most requests to my family, as well as the anti-climax of knowing the job’s done, I need to get home and back to reality and, of course, what’s the next one? All this in a round about way is relevant to why the Marmotte was now on the radar as the big challenge for summer 2013. Training continued over the winter and I was pleased to put in 500km between Christmas and New Year in England and France. New Year dawned and the miles could be added on and some of the early season reliability rides went well. Easter weekend saw me completing the amateur Tour of Flanders with bone jarring tooth filling shaking cobbles, 20% steep climbs but in atmosphere of respect and enjoyment of cycling that I’d not experienced before. After that, the weather warmed up a bit and, just before the Marmotte at the start of July, quite a lot of training on both sides of the Channel. So, escaping sports day around 12pm, Mr Carr and I were on our way to Stansted to catch a flight to Lyons.

We’re both nervous travellers when it comes to taking our travelling companions – our bikes. They have to arrive in one piece and on the same flight. Horror stories abound and the nearer you get to flying, the more you have nightmares. Will the baggage handlers run out of space for your bike? Will they stamp on it? Will the cardboard box I’d put my five grand bike in protect it enough? Fortunately, several hours later, Friday evening saw us on a strip of grass outside Decathlon in Grenoble putting our bikes together to check all was well. We shouldn’t have worried and there was no excuse for not riding the next morning.

Hotel found, bikes taken to bedrooms. It’s not safe to leave them in the car, you see. 5am alarm, work out how to plug in Mrs Ranford’s travel kettle to make enough porridge to start



the day and then off in the car to the start at the alpine town of Bourg d’Oisans. Realise on the drive there through dawn that this really is spectacular mountain scenery. Realise, too that there are over 6000 riders and hangers-on descending on this small town for the start. Park up just outside someone’s drive. Assemble bikes for last time. Witness spectacular slow speed ripping off of Renault Captur’s front wheel in collision with a van and hear the Swiss equivalent of several oaths. Good job it wasn’t his bike, we thought. Then wait in the cold shadow of awesome mountains to be let loose on the roads to the high mountains. 8 am we pass the timing control point and it’s a good fast

few kilometres to the first climb of the day. See other riders we know and see the last of Mr Carr’s back wheel that day until the finish.

So the route: the first bit of suffering is up the Col du Glandon at 1924 metres, a scarily fast descent off this to the Maurienne valley. That descent isn’t timed, but I still saw one bad crash which made me even more wary of letting go too much on the descents. It’s a bit of a slog on the level to the foot of the next big climb, the Col du Telegraphe at 1570 metres and then down a bit before ascending the 2645 metres Col du Galibier. At that point, the roads were still surrounded by the remains of the unseasonal May snowdrifts. The Galibier was my ‘calvaire’ as the French would put it. In spite of drinking litres of water and electrolytic drinks, on the way up the Galibier, my legs suffered cramp like never before. However, I made it to the top knowing that there was a 40 km descent to get back to Bourg d’Oisans before the final ascent of the day to Alpe d’Huez. Again, phased by seeing a rider being hauled back onto the road after disappearing over the edge on the 20% descent of the Galibier, confidence returned and it was a pleasure to barrel down hill for the equivalent of having ground up hill. The only party spoilers were the snow tunnels, which were poorly surfaced, and the equivalent of going into a darkened room from the bright sunshine outside.

Soon enough, I was back in Bourg d’Oisans and the foot of the final climb to Alpe d’Huez. The good news was I’d already done 160 km and there was only 14km to go to the finish. Unfortunately, there was another batch of climbing up the 21 sharp bends of road, which lead to the ski station. At the foot of the Alpe you just have to dig in and, in my case, try not to count until you get near the top. There is distraction by reading the Tour de France graffiti and reading count down markers. Eventually I reached the finish and my medal. 11 hours after starting, nearly 5km of vertical climbing and 174km travelled. Massive sense of achievement, text family to say I’ve survived (again), wolf end of ride meal and then, well, try to get down the mountain to our car. Easier said than done and need to be talked

down the mountain like a scared cat in a tree by Mr Carr in 21 steps. That evening, we treated ourselves to a very tasty steak, knowing we’d both done what we came to do and had, by the way, raised £4000 for the School. There might be easier ways, but none so satisfying!

MA





# Young Engineers

## Selex ES

This year, I was part of a team of 5 lower sixth students working with Selex ES (a Finmeccanica Company, and a major engineering firm specializing in aircraft defence systems). We were tasked with creating an Acoustic Targeting and Tracking system. In layman terms, we were creating a software program that could track the movement of a vehicle in a given area through measurements of the sound emitted by the vehicle.

The project was to be split into 4 parts:

Simulating a vehicle entering the controlled zone to creating the data that the sensors would receive

Calculating the distances from the sensors to where the vehicle is and using these to find the co-ordinates of the vehicle

Transmitting the co-ordinates to a remote location

Displaying the co-ordinates on an android app

When we started the project, we had one simple problem: no one knew how to code in Java. To truly appreciate the problem, you have to remember this project was to take us 6 months and we were to have a fully operational prototype at the end.

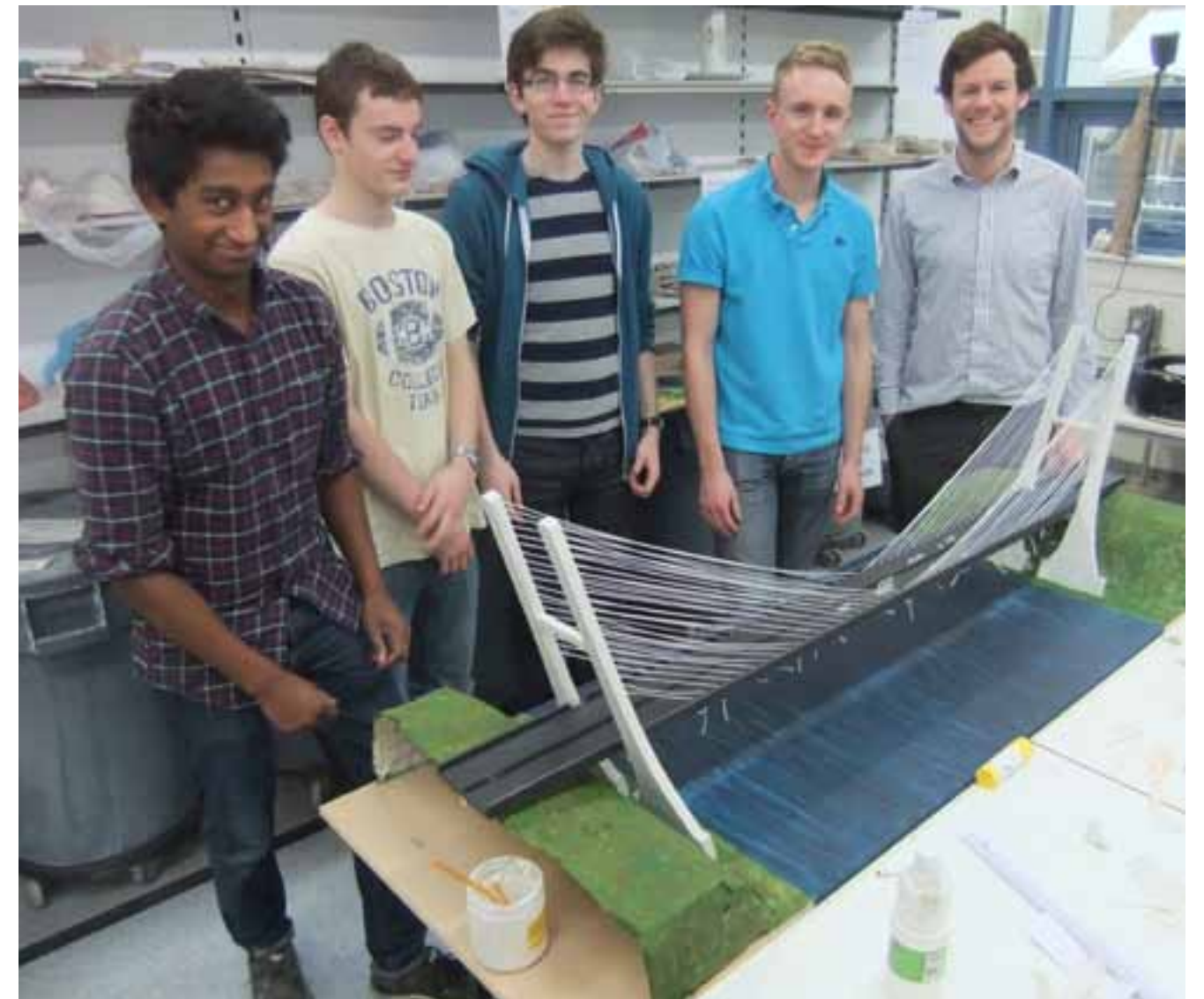
Although feeling a little bit out of our depth, we got down to learning how to code and designing the systems that we would then use as a template for our prototype.

Meeting up each week at Wednesday lunchtime we slowly got the project moving forward and over the Christmas holidays we went to Hertfordshire University for 3 days with our engineer and programmer who gave us invaluable assistance in both designing the prototype and coding the software in a language none of us had used until three months before.

At the end of the project we attended a celebration and assessment day at the University of Hertfordshire where we had to justify our project and explain the decisions we had taken throughout the last 6 months. For all our hard work we were each awarded a Gold Crest certificate for the quality of the project.

Overall the project was enjoyable and we learnt several key skills as well as now having a working understanding of the programming language Java. We also, as a team, obtained a better understanding of what an engineer does as a profession.

Ben Keenlyside 6CPu



## Hyder Consulting

Last year I was part of the Young Engineers team partnered with Hyder Consulting - a global civil engineering firm. We were tasked with coming up with a proposal to reduce congestion across the Menai Straits, a 25km stretch of water separating Anglesey from mainland Wales. As part of the project we had to pay attention to certain factors, particularly the proposal's environmental, social, economic and aesthetic impacts. These factors meant that we were limited to only a few options - a tunnel, widening the existing bridges or constructing a new bridge altogether. In the end we felt that a new cable-stayed bridge would be the most worthwhile option, as well as the more interesting one.

As well as writing a report on our proposal we also had to build a model of our bridge. A three-day residential at the University of Hertfordshire provided the perfect opportunity for this. After having to work out how to use a laser cutter, trying to remember how to make papier-mâché and asking the Textiles department how best to sew our mock-cables to our bridge, we were done. Tying the 2m model to some seats in the mini-bus, we drove back to school and decided to stop putting off writing our report - or at very least not leave it to the last month.

In that last month we wrote quite a lot of our report; its seventy pages containing evaluations of materials, discussions on how it would affect residents, and a lot of maths to convince people it wouldn't collapse and wasn't that dangerous to drivers. In April we returned to UoH to present our report alongside other schools, each with their own projects. Here we gave a presentation to some actual engineers on our proposal and faced some questions from the general public. Separate judges also awarded each of us a with the Gold Crest award for our contributions.

Deciding that not enough people had seen our giant model we then took our project to the Big Bang Science Fair Eastern. Here we faced more questions from judges and then spent the rest of the day lounging about RAF Duxford avoiding a talk on maths puzzles. At the end of the day we walked away with the prize for best use of maths as well as best overall project, narrowly beating contenders such as "Which batteries last longest" and "Which chocolate melts fastest". It was the collective best moment of our lives. Ever.

Felix Thompson 6THn



## Young Engineers

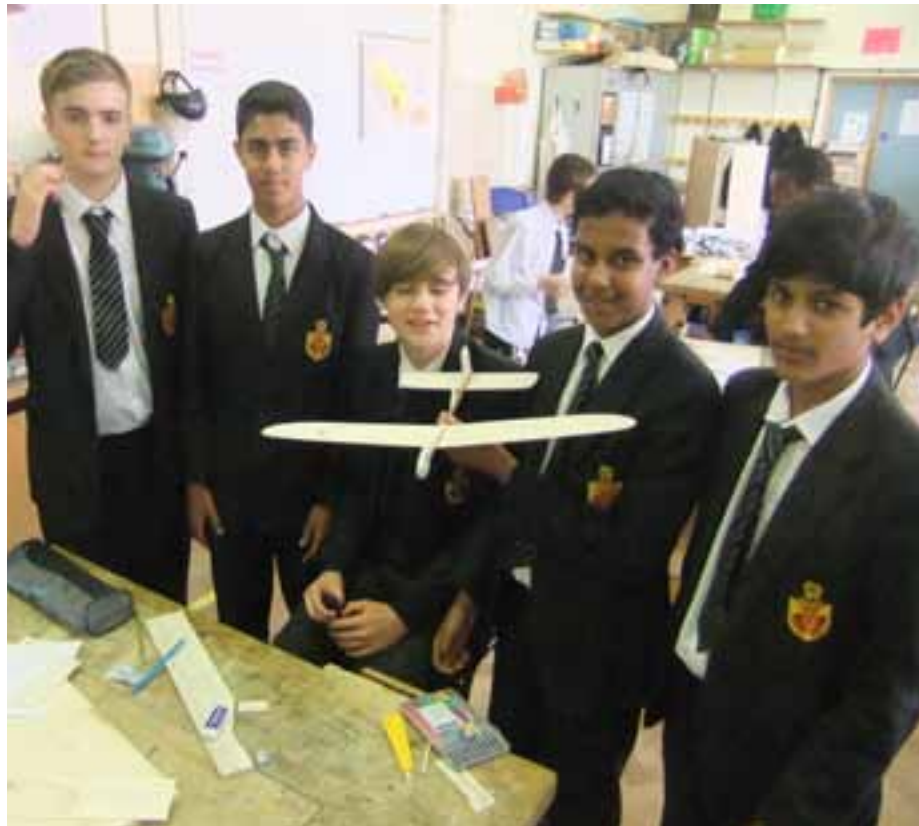
### Year 9 STEM Day

Last year, I took part in an exciting competition run by STEM lab. The competition involved splitting into groups and then we had to design and construct our own gliders. The materials we were given were a selection of ply woods and the use of a glue gun. We also had sheets of paper for designing our gliders.

After constructing them, we had to test our gliders and see whose could go the furthest. They were marked on both style and how well they glided. It took a lot of perseverance to finally achieve a working model but, by the end, each group had a reasonably successful glider ready to be tested.

Our glider managed to steal first prize with a very successful design. We hope to participate in future STEM lab competitions and actively encourage lower years to do so.

**Dimithra Bodara 10G**



## Visit to the University of Hertfordshire

The Young Engineers scheme entails meeting a given brief, involving the application of engineering skills. This year, the task is to design a bridge to replace one which collapsed over the Grand Union Canal in Slough.

On the 17th and 18th of December, the team of six boys visited the University of Hertfordshire. The time was largely spent working on our model bridge, utilising the extensive facilities offered by the School of Engineering and Technology. Whilst most of the woodworking had already been completed at school, the bridge was lacking in aesthetics and so we made constructive use of the time, fashioning embankments out of paper mache, giving the bridge a fresh lick of spray paint and painting the more fiddly components by hand. Preoccupied with such details, we failed to make use of the wind tunnel on offer, but still benefited from the advantageous working environment.

Having arrived at the College Lane Campus, we enjoyed tea, coffee and biscuits whilst being introduced to the itinerary for the two day visit. We then took part in two workshop sessions, separated by a lunch break. Leaving the paint and PVA to dry, we attended a talk exploring the breadth of engineering, led by one of the lecturers at the university. The corridors of the university were lined with exhibits of student work, all of which was great inspiration for designing our bridge.

Finished for the day, we departed for Queenswood School, our accommodation for the night. After having our rooms allocated, we relished our roast dinner and dessert(s) before taking part in the team building exercise that was scheduled for the evening. The mission was to build a rollercoaster ride, with a marble as the passenger, using budgeted card and sellotape. Credit would be awarded for the originality of the name, the thrill factor of the design, and the time taken to complete the ride, starting from a given height. Having spent the first five minutes of our limited time brainstorming and completing calculations, we agreed on the design. A series of shallow slopes built onto a larger shallow slope would ensure the marble progressed downwards slowly enough to meet the third objective of the brief. Every time it changed direction, the marble was decelerated to stationary, further lengthening the time taken to complete the ride. We then turned our attention to the other two points: giving the card a thick coating of felt-tip pen and racking our brains for a pun to use for the name. We eventually opted for 'Take It Sloughly', in consideration of the slow intent of the ride and its location in Slough, which had been revealed in the brief.

In the judging stage, we received top marks in all categories and so earned ourselves a packet of chocolate fingers.

After a good night's sleep at the school, we had our full English breakfast and set off back to University of Hertfordshire. Whilst one of us attended a meeting on presentational skills, we continued work on the bridge. Sadly, the bridge suffered some irreparable damage on the minibus journey home and hence endured some surgery in the following weeks, involving the removal of the embankments and a new paint job.

**Josh Shemtob 6NGv**

## Go4set

Last year, two teams were selected from Watford Boys to represent the school in the Go4set engineering project. During the course of the year, both teams had to embark on a six month project which could have been: to create an ideal eco sports stadium; to find out about the water use in your school or to create an eco-classroom. We decided to design our own eco-classroom. Throughout the year we had four trips to meet with our mentors and find out more about engineering. Our first trip was to a university where the project was officially launched. There we participated in lots of team building exercises and began to understand what exactly it was that we needed to do. On our second trip we were fortunate enough to visit a building site where they were creating the houses of the future. This gave us a better understanding of what kind of environmentally friendly ideas were already out there that we could maybe use in our project. By this time most of our hard work was coming together; we had almost completed a model of our ideal classroom and we had written most of our report on this project.

Another trip was to Selex Galileo, a company who design and create defence systems on board planes and helicopters. This trip was really fun and, as well as learning about presentational skills and building on our project, we really got to understand what you can do if you become an engineer in the future. After this project, we met with our mentor who was an engineer from Selex and we built a solar panel which connected to lights. On our final trip, we had to pitch our project to two groups of people, one who would decide where we would come in the competition and the other to decide if our project was good enough to get a Crest Award. I am pleased to say that our project was a success and we managed to get a Silver Crest Award. This was an amazing achievement and we also had so much fun throughout the project. I would definitely recommend this project to anyone in the lower years.

**Samir Patel 10B**



**Science club**



# The Very Technical Challenge

Contrary to popular belief, Design and Technology is not all drawing, model-making and colouring in. We also shoot rockets across the playground. Yes, bizarre as it may sound, this task is a part of the sixth form Design and Technology course, being one of the few 'technical challenges' set throughout the school year by Mr Crozier, Mr Brookes and Mr Franklin in order to test our creativity and resourcefulness in the workshop. Each technical challenge takes place over a single week, before which we are given no hint as to what our test could be. This particular challenge began on the 14th of October, when Mr Brookes arrived at our lesson with a simple brief: propel this empty 2 litre coke bottle as far as you can across the playground, using only compressed water.

We now knew our guidelines, but this did not make our task any less daunting. In fact, if anything, it made it more so, as we now realised the enormity of the task we had to complete in just four lessons before Friday's break time deadline. But our two teams of three both quickly settled on a basic concept: give the bottle wheels.

Of our two groups, Group One consisted of Lavan Sivaharan, Matt McDougall and Chunfei Cheung, whilst Group Two was made up of Simon Guest, Jamie Humberstone and myself. After a few concept sketches we got to work, both groups drawing out designs for frames on the computer to be cut on the laser cutter; Group One opting for a PVC base whilst Group Two chose plywood. We then spent each of our next three lessons working on the vehicles with woods, plastics and Styrofoam, crafting what became our 'rockets' to both visual and technical perfection, trying to create enough downforce whilst still reducing drag and, of course, ensuring our vehicle travelled straight and far.

Finally, with our rockets intact (and looking beautiful) on Friday morning, we each carried our models proudly down to the quad, the spitting image of the McLaren and Mercedes F1 teams walking down to the pits in Monaco. It was Group One's green and yellow bullet against Group Two's yellow and black missile. A safety area was cordoned off, and a pressure pump

attached to the bottles, each half full with water. After excessive pumping from Mr Brookes, Group One's first attempt was off, travelling half the length of the safety area before spinning to a halt; an underwhelming start for the hundreds of fans who had gathered around the safety tape to watch. Group Two's effort was hardly any better. But after that things improved, and before the end of break, each team could look upon their rocket with pride in what was a hard fought, tight contest for furthest distance. However, for Group Two, the day was to end on a sour note, as the inevitable "one last go" had dire consequences. After being pumped harder than any rocket had been before, the yellow and black missile gained a mind of its own, charging out of the safety area and making a beeline straight for the metal stairs which lead up to the old M2 classroom. I'm afraid that it looks like this particular rocket may never live to race again, but that did not put too much of a dampener on what was an educational, rewarding and of course, extremely entertaining week of design and technology. Oh, and I think it's fair to say, with no bias, that Group Two probably won.

By David Anderson, 6GCr



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# Literary Festival

## Year 10 Poetry Recitation

Reciter	Poem	Poet
Tuhin Ahmed	Harlem Shadow	C. McKay
Toby Brown	The Shout	S. Armitage
Jack Butler	The Way Through the Woods	R. Kipling
Ravi Chauhan	The Solitary Reaper	W. Wordsworth
Joel Landschaft-Singe	The Solitary Reaper	W. Wordsworth
Ben Lester	The Way We Live Now	K. Jamie
Brian Littler	Ozymandias	P. Shelley
Maisam Merali	Bread	E. Kamau Braithwaite
Michael Noakes	The Shout	S. Armitage
Richard Raineri	Sonnet 130	W. Shakespeare
Christian Whitfield	My Papa's Waltz	T. Roethke

## Poetry by Heart

Poetry reciting was a-verse to me

Reciting poetry?

By heart?

That was a concept that was completely alien to us all...

The whole process started when Secretary of State for Education, Michael Gove decided to create a nationwide competition entitled 'Poetry by Heart', in which teenagers from up and down the country would have to memorise a poem and recite it from memory. And, to be honest, when we found out that we were one of those teenagers that had to memorise a poem and recite it from memory, most of us emitted a deep, long and heavy sigh of utter despair. Some of us may have even cheered sarcastically, before joining in with the deep, long and heavy sighs. I, along with many of my peers, failed to get excited about reciting a collection of words and punctuation that some bloke wrote about hundreds of years ago. Questions were asked. What's the point of it? Is it compulsory? Will the prize be edible/money? Or even edible money?

Having realised that our fate had been sealed, we knew we had to grit our teeth, buckle down and learn... wait for it... a whole

poem! We were faced with a rather extensive list of poems written by some of the best poets in English literature. From Lewis Carroll to Emily Brontë. From Carol Ann Duffy to William Shakespeare. This list had them all and then one more. But then we had to confront a problem that actually turned out to be just as hard as the procedure of actually learning the poem. We had to carefully decide which poem was best suited for us; we felt that we should take into consideration whether we could put enough emotion into the poem, whether we could make a personal connection to it and, most importantly, whether it was the shortest poem we could find in the whole list.

Having said that, after looking at the list, I realised that the procedure of memorising the poem would not be as life-ruiningly boring as I first assumed. In fact, I would go as far to say that I actually enjoyed reading the poems. A wild claim, I grant you, but I suddenly found myself choosing a poem based

on how interesting I found it, not on how short it was.

It's a strange feeling, poetry appreciation. But I knew it wasn't going to go away any time soon, because now I had a poem to learn.

The next step was to perform our poems to the class, which was surprisingly harder than it looks. I was one of the lucky ones; I somehow managed to get through the whole thing without any hesitation, deviation or repetition. I did feel like I shot myself in the foot. With a cannon. Twice. Similarly to when I found out that I had to perform a poem in the first place, I felt rather pessimistic about the concept of having to do it again. But, just like the first time, it did seem quite exciting.

Because I (un)fortunately remembered my poem, I was one of the three from our class who went through to the grand final in front of the whole year and a large number of staff and a large number of 6th form experts and Mr Post. So as you can imagine, there was absolutely no pressure whatsoever.

And, after a sneaky training session from Miss Brogan along with the 2 other chosen pupils from our class in which she told us to speak as slowly as a snail on crutches, the day was here. The day I, along with many of my peers, had to perform our poem to the entire year. And it was extremely nerve-racking. As you stand on stage, there's nothing to hide behind; it's just you and a spotlight. It was hard to concentrate on speaking to the audience when you can constantly see the judges staring at you from the corner of your eye, occasionally scribbling down notes.

But in the blink of an eye, it was all over. The top 5 had been decided, with Miracle Okereke winning the grand prize and taking the top spot; a worthy winner. And so, that concludes our adventurous and roller-coaster of a story.

Or was it? In a dramatic plot twist, it turns out that our poetry reciting days were not over, and we had another chance to strut our speaking stuff. This was because a handful of us were asked to perform our poems once again at the WBGs Arts and Literary Festival. But this time we would be performing our poems not to our colleagues, but to complete strangers. I wasn't sure if I was more or less nervous. Either way, we knew we had to do it, and do it well. Plus, instead of judges staring at us in the corner of our eye, we had the up-and-coming author Victor L Moore staring at us in the corner of our eye. As well as our poetry recitals, we also had a talk from Victor L Moore about tips on writing novels, which included listening to extracts from his new book called 'The Pentacle of Northumbria'. Finally, there were extracts read and prizes awarded to the winners and runners-up of the school writing competition, which I'm sure you will read about in this magazine.

Michael Gove once said, "To know a poem by heart is to own a great work of art forever." For once, he said something that couldn't be truer. Whenever I tell anyone about my experience, they can't resist recalling their younger years and spontaneously performing their favourite poems to me. Our very own Mr Post is no exception, with one of his proudest achievements being a poetry recitation competition which he entered when he was 5. Will our generation reminisce about 'Poetry by Heart'? Only time will tell. But it seems that poems no longer seem like a collection of words and punctuation that some bloke wrote about hundreds of years ago. They're actually interesting!

Jack Butler 11T

When our English set was told to start learning a poem for the Poetry by Heart competition, a lot of us started talking about how boring it was and they couldn't be bothered. Personally, I felt slightly inclined to putting little effort into it until I convinced myself to try it. Why not? So, for the next week, I started to learn a poem from the on-line anthology on the Poetry by Heart website, as we were told to, and I chose 'How to Kill' by a WWII Soldier called Keith Douglas.

But, I didn't really put as much effort as I could have done when it came to being selected for the school finals and I forgot some of the poem. Fortunately the bit that I did remember was very strong and got me onto the shortlist of 3 or 4 individuals from my class to go through.

This time I was properly prepared and after 8 performances, the teacher chose 4 of us, including me.

Fast forward to about 2 weeks later: we had the school finals between about 30 candidates for the trophy. This time, I wanted to win and put in much more effort into preparation. I was to perform second to last, which wasn't exactly ideal for me, because I'm not calm under pressure and in the build up to my turn, my hands were sweating and I was thinking of all the ways I could completely mess up. I read the poem flawlessly, after which I was hoping this was good enough. As Mr Post (one of the judges) read out the list of top 5, I was starting to get pretty tensed right up until the moment he called out my name ....in 4th place!

It was a pretty good feeling, firstly because it lifted a lot of pressure off my shoulders and secondly simply the fact I won a prize. The prizes were also pretty nice. A £20 Intu voucher and a load of chocolate aren't exactly boring gifts. I'd recommend anyone to have a go at the competition, because it's good fun and it allows you to try something new.

Tej Dhrona 10G



# Writing Competition

## ‘Truth or Illusion’

Poetry		Prose		Prizes for Highly Commended Writing
1st Prize	Sam Finkelstein	1st Prize	Luke Ashford	Mervin Arulsothy
2nd Prize	Daniel Griffith	2nd Prize	Matthew Hives	Adam Berbic
3rd Prize	Thomas Bartlett	3rd Prize	Ethan Lester	Rufus Brookes
				Martin Hudson
				Peter Noren

# Harlequin

A face behind a mask, a mask behind the face,  
Charade behind charade, an ace behind an ace,  
Harlequin wakes up at four and kisses his wife goodbye,  
When at work, he works as a liar,  
When at home, he lives in a lie.  
A slip of the hand, a flick of the wrist,  
One move caught, and one move missed,  
He plays his tricks on a dark grey street,  
People to see, but none to meet.  
A tick of a clock, a fall of a sun,  
Harlequin goes home; his work here is done.  
He opens the door and no-one is home,  
Tired Harlequin, all alone.  
His children arrive, they drop their bags,  
They run to their father, but he merely sags,  
He sits on an armchair, as they sit and play,  
He clowns not at home, as at home it doesn’t pay.  
His wife lies beside him as Harlequin goes to bed,  
Sometimes he wishes he were sleeping,  
Sometimes he wishes he was dead.  
He closes his eyes and closes his mouth and slowly falls asleep,  
If he breathed, would anyone smile? If not, would anyone weep?  
At his desk in town, he entertains a boy  
And his mother, with a glint in his eye,  
With card tricks and smiles  
And scarves, all the while,  
Wishing- no, longing!- to die.  
The paint cracks on his face,  
As if in a race,

With his wig, which would soon fall away,  
The boy stared hard  
At the sad eyes, but not the cards,  
And they leave, leaving meagre pay.  
Harlequin puts his mask on his dresser,  
Harlequin puts his nose in his drawer,  
Harlequin kicks his shoes off,  
Harlequin can take little more.  
He cries the paint off, into his pillow,  
He licks the red from his lip,  
He ignores the calls from his children,  
He lies there, watching the ceiling drip.  
He wakes once more, too early,  
His wife is still in bed,  
He paints his face,  
And quickens his pace,  
But his feet are made of lead.  
Harlequin does a card trick,  
Harlequin puts on a show,  
Harlequin pulls a rabbit from a hat,  
But Harlequin is feeling low.  
He gets home, he sits in a chair,  
Then Harlequin gets up.  
He pours himself a gin into his dusty wooden cup.  
A rope on the floor, a beam on the ceiling,  
One jolly clown, one dull, sad feeling.  
Harlequin stares at the window, and reaches his conclusion.  
That he can live neither  
The truth, nor the illusion.

Sam Finkelstein 8G (now 9G)

# The Verdict

Sitting in the dock, alone, the Sergeant was worried. Butterflies didn’t really cut it, more a swarm of very angry bees flying around inside him. He was innocent, he hadn’t given the order to shell the village, but, who would believe him. His own men had testified that they had received an order of the radio from Sergeant Clark. He had no defence, no alibi, no witness; even the character witnesses hadn’t portrayed him well. It was wrong, the whole ordeal was wrong. And now General McKenzie entered the room to give his verdict.

It was like dream. After the general had delivered his verdict, guards entered the dock to remove Jonathon Clark from the dock. Not a sergeant anymore. Not even a private.

“Therefore Mr Clark will be convicted of four counts of abusing power, and two counts of attacking non-combatants. He will be discharged from the army, with minimal payments. You have failed your country.” His precise words rung inside his head like unceasing church bells.

You didn’t come back from dishonest discharge. You’d had your chance and you’d wasted it. Nothing left for him now; he’d have to see if he could retrain, maybe as a plumber.

Well, that’s what he’d thought as he trudged away from the court martial in London. The rain lashed down but he didn’t seek shelter. He didn’t deserve shelter.

The weeks turned into months as the now unshaven Jonathon Clark turned increasingly towards alcohol, even cocaine. The drugs didn’t help him though, just made him more and more depressed. Drinks though, drinks helped. Drinks were still helping when two men knocked on his door, seeking to talk to a ‘Sergeant Clark’.

“I ain’t a sergeant no more,”

“That may be in the eyes of the law, but we are here to change that. You deserve far more than you got. You never sent that order. That order came from the top. Your men acted out an order from General McKenzie himself, in your name. It is no coincidence that you were tried by him. Many arms were twisted to get the general to try you. Anyway, may we continue this discussion inside?”

“Come in, although don’t get your hopes up.” His apartment had fallen in standards, once the model of a perfect home it was now a mess, with empty cans of Budweiser strewn across the floor.

“General McKenzie is an evil man,” the second figure said, as he perched himself on the edge of the sofa. They were both about forty, and were clothed in tailor-made suits. Lawyers, if ever he’d seen them. “He cares not for his men; he cares even less for civilians. There was a target in that village, and through the shelling he could get both the target and keep his name clear. Nobody knows who he was after, nor why the order was sent to your squad.”

“Get to the point. I don’t have all day.” The first man nodded quickly.

“As you wish. We wish to, say, ‘enlighten’ the public to the true nature of General McKenzie. We have friends who have also been wronged by this man, and we are here to help both our friend, and you get justice.”

“We need you, and you need us,”

“Well, I wish you the very best of luck but I’m sorry, no. I know you—“ Clark began

“How!? Jonathon this is no joke, we can get you justice, compensation for the miscarriage of justice. You must help us help you.” Both men were now clearly agitated. Jonathon began to relent.

“Very well. How may I help you?”

\* \* \*

Standing now in the witness box, all too familiar to that fateful day nearly 11 months ago, Jonathon Clark prepared to reveal his evidence to the court.

“The order that my platoon carried out never passed through me. I never signed any paper with that order upon it. The charges against me leading to my discharge were false in every aspect. The blame lies elsewhere, for my story has not changed.” He spoke eloquently, carefully but firmly laying out his story. He began right from the beginning of the whole affair, right through to the court martial hearing. He had nothing to hide, and thus hid nothing. His burden had been lifted.

“I am innocent.” His closing line that headline writers everywhere took to like a vice. The Mail, the Guardian, the Telegraph, all of them had those 3 words on their front page.

And with the end of his rather lengthy presentation, the court closed for the week. The defence would open its case on Monday. The prosecution was, or so they thought, home and dry. Evidence irrefutable, nobody foresaw any conclusion other than that which favoured Jonathon Clark.

Monday came and Clark, now seated in the audience, was preparing for a defence peppered with holes. All the journalists were clutching their stories, just waiting to fill in the final details. But of what was to come, not a single person in that room could’ve predicted.

To be continued.....

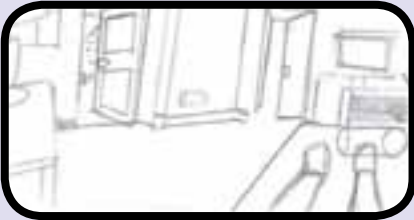
Luke Ashford (Now 9C)



(Graphic short story)



Richard Blake lay unconscious in the small space shuttle floating above the rough waters of the Pacific Ocean. The shuttle was drifting above the uneven waters when its doors were forced open. A diver was gripping on to the edge of the shuttle for dear life as the weights that were buckled to his belt were pulling him down. Richard woke up just in time to see the diver trying to shift him out. Richard felt the frigid waters surrounding his body up to his neck. Slowly, he made his way onto a speed boat heading towards land.



Richard woke up to find himself in a king-sized bed with puffy cushions at his side. The marbled floor was reflecting the rays of light that had shone through the substantial windows. Richard did not know who he was and where he was. He could not remember anything. Not a single shred of evidence to show how he had developed loads of scars and bruises all over his body. He was in distress, his head throbbing. He stood himself up feeling the cold surface of the tiles. Just as he opened a door to his left he heard a deafening holler.



Before Richard knew it a masked figure barged through the door with a machine gun held tight in his hand with his target fixed on Richard...

Richard heard the trigger of the gun click as he had realised he had been shot! He passed out from the shot in his arm.

Richard managed to pull himself together. He wasn't dead. But he could feel his body being pulled on the floor. After that he was falling, falling and falling. He was falling. Was this really happening or not.....



Mervin Arulsothy (Now 8B)

Prisoner of War  
(Extract)

He woke up; an electrifying pain ricocheted through his body. He pulled away his uniform to reveal gaping bloody wounds over his body. On a particularly painful one the skin had started to peel away showing of his raw flesh. Just looking at it made him gag. He held it in as he replaced his uniform. Everything made him sick. The disgusting walls covered in patches of dirt and mould in the corners, the constant pain he was in and the gun draped on the floor. He screamed in a mad fit, flailing his limbs uncontrollably. He knew he was going mad but he couldn't help it. He leaped up and charged towards the door. Banging at it without end in some chance it would open to freedom. But that wouldn't happen and he knew it. Suddenly a metal slit slid away and he could see a pair of eyes, staring at him with an enraged look. The eyes yelled something in a language he did not understand. But he knew the eyes were telling him to stop. He spat at the eyes. They withdrew and the metal slit slid back into place. Then the door opened revealing a man in a smart army uniform. Different from his but still smart.

Martin Hudson (Now 9C)

The Anaconda  
(Extract)

In the depths of the Amazon  
Was an angelic, elegant beast  
A lethal assassin armed with nothing but itself  
Was looking for a feast

\*

It pounced, it bit, it startled,  
A rushed feel of adrenalin  
And there stood a twirl of strangulation  
It had found a win.  
It slowly sucked the life of the prey  
And took it down in one  
The scales and the slither  
Always, always won.

Thomas Bartlett (Now 8N)

Paranoia  
(Extract)

Just as he left the shop, he was sure he saw something behind him. He turned round, however, it appeared there was nothing there. James was usually a very confident guy, but at that moment he found himself sweating profusely. Something hot then touched his foot; he looked down then and found that he had spilt half his freshly-made coffee because his hands were shaking so much. He stopped and took deep breaths in an effort to calm himself down. 'Nobody's following you; it's just a trick of the light; get yourself home and have a good night's sleep, it'll do you good,' he thought – but a nagging doubt remained in his mind.

Matthew Hives (Now 9B)

Good Cop, Bad Cop  
(Extract)

There was some sort of contagion to the anxiety in the courtroom, but the devoted jury embraced it. For the past eighteen months, they had bee hanging on every word that they received from the notoriously evil Judge Schraider. Judge Schraider invariably felt intimidated by the watchful hawk-eyes of the jury, but he perceived that to be a part of his job. The following court procedure in every court hearing was always gruelling for Schraider, and he hated the controversy it rendered.....The procedure was that he now needed to decide the fate of a handcuffed, twenty-something year old man, Saul Williams, who stood only three feet away from him....

Ethan Lester (Now 9F)

Black Eyes of Magic  
(Extract)

The counting started and the magician started to crouch but still counted to ten. However at '2', I noticed that she had disappeared but I could still filter out her voice, but it was distant. The countdown had ended and I heard a voice calling from up above me, and there she was at the top of the building. Aghast by her brilliance, there was an eerie moment of silence before one man a couple of metres away exclaimed his great appreciation for her by kicking off the applause with a loud shout. Everyone followed suit, including me.

Peter Noren (Now 9B)

Thematic Jumble  
(Extract)

I wouldn't want to befoul this important document with the admittedly vulgar first line of 'The Shining,' but it would have been a graceful way to open it, given it's the one piece of decidedly great writing that sticks in my mind. Of course, in the intellectual stakes, 'decidedly great writing' beats the Xbox – I remember buying the book, second-hand, sixty pence, while my friend was talking about his expensive potential Xbox One. Me with my tattered book, in my tattered bag....

Adem Berbic (Now 9F)

A Kiss of Poison  
(Extract)

When marooned in a desert  
Sand your only company  
A glimmer of hope in your eyes:  
Water – your illusion of hope.

\*

A scorpion scuttles towards you  
Its stinger, dripping with poison, curling slowly  
The tail flickers, piercing your flesh,  
Water – your illusion of hope.

\*

Your life flashes before your eyes  
Your past is your present  
You are no more, lifeless,  
Water was your illusion of hope

Daniel Griffiths (Now 9P)



# TRIPS & EXCHANGES

## Vienna Trip

The excitement and anticipation had been building up to the very first trip by the school to Vienna. Early on Friday morning around 4.00 a.m., the group assembled at school. Incredibly, everyone was on time, but some were quite asleep! We made our way to London – Stansted Airport. There was a rush for boarding the flight as we were held up at security checks by a couple of bags. The flight took off at 6.30 a.m. on Ryan Air, to Bratislava. We arrived at Bratislava about 9.50 a.m. (local time). Happily, there were no delays at Passport Control and we boarded our coach taking us to Vienna.

The coach trip was about 2 hours and we passed through beautiful countryside, dotted with small villages and towns. It was interesting to note many wind turbines along the way. En

route to Vienna city centre, we had a brief stop at Vienna International Airport and McDonalds (it was very clean). Following our 'pit stop', we took the U-Bahn (U1) to Keplerplatz, where our hostel was located.

Once our rooms had been allocated, we went on a walking tour of Vienna city centre which is a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site. The architecture was very impressive. We visited the *Stephansdom* (St. Stephan's Cathedral – the tallest in Vienna; no other building built was to surpass the height of the spire), the *Hofburg* (where Hitler made a famous speech), the *Parlament* (Parliament) and the *Rathaus* (the City Hall). Preparation was taking place for the Life Ball (an event supporting people with HIV and AIDS) and there was a

festival atmosphere. We then visited *Judenplatz* (a Jewish Holocaust memorial site) where there was a memorial with books where the spine was inward; designed by a British architect called Rachel Whiteread. In the evening, we had dinner at a local restaurant near the hostel. We had Wiener Schnitzel – a famous Viennese dish. It had been a long, interesting and eventful first day of the trip.

After a hearty breakfast on Saturday, we went to the *Schloß Schönbrunn* (Schönbrunn Palace). This is a famous 1,441 roomed palace where Marie-Antoinette grew up; about 1,000 people lived there in its heyday. It has the world's oldest zoo (established in 1753), which we visited. Amongst the animals we observed, were lions, elephants, giant pandas and



penguins. However, most were asleep, perhaps after a busy week. We climbed to the *Gloriette*, a building on the top of a hill at Schönbrunn, which provided us with a picturesque and panoramic view of the city. After an exceptional time at Schönbrunn (Vienna's version of Versailles), we visited the *Naschmarkt*, a famous food market in Vienna. And then returned to the hostel where we watched the Champions League Final which was taking place at Wembley. It was surprising to watch two German teams in the final playing in England, while watching it live in Austria with German commentary.

Another hearty breakfast on Sunday got us all fuelled up and energetic. It was noticeable how quiet the city seemed. We took the U-Bahn to Prater amusement park and saw the famous Ferris wheel (*the Riesenrad*). There were many dodgems, stalls of funfair games and a go-kart track which was very popular and competitive. We had lots of fun at the dodgems trying to 'crash' against each other and 'bump' the teachers' car.

On the Monday, following another super breakfast, we went to an Austrian school (*die Freie Waldorfschule in West Wien*). The pupils and school staff

were very welcoming. We took part in a dancing lesson, which showcased and improved our co-ordination skills! We had a tour of the school and we had a question and answer session in English and German with them. After having lunch at the school canteen (very clean and vegetarian only), we had discussions with the Austrian students about their school life. This was followed by a 'dodge ball' England vs. Austria match. At the beginning, they were dominant, but in typical English 'never-say-die' attitude, we managed to salvage a draw. Following this school visit, we went to the *Naschmarkt* again where we bought souvenirs before walking to *Mariahilferstraße*, a very long shopping street. Back at the hostel, there was a quiz about Vienna organised by the teachers, which my team won!

The day of our departure seemed to arrive quicker than expected because of all the fun we had. We went around the city centre on a tram. Then, we took the 'Twin City Liner' catamaran along the River Danube to Bratislava. This boat gave the opportunity to take fun and funny photographs of the group. Upon arrival at Bratislava, we visited

the *Bratislavsky Hrad* (Bratislava Castle; the landmark of the city). We had a race around the city centre to locate 13 places, similar to a treasure hunt. We caught a 'bendi-bus' local service to the airport. This time, there were no delays at security. We departed for London – Stansted at 9:10pm local time and landed at 10:35pm (BST). We arrived at the school at twenty-five minutes past midnight, where parents were relieved to see us arrive safely.

What a great trip! It had been educational, fun, an opportunity to learn German and to appreciate a different culture, especially the importance of Vienna in European history. It is my sincere wish that it becomes a regular trip for the school. I have no doubt that many of my fellow students will find it an enjoyable experience also. This trip was memorable for me as it had been my very first trip abroad alone without my family. Vielen Dank Frau Webster und Doktor Taylor für diese wunderbare Reise.

Deven Voralia 8N





# Classics Trip to the Bay of Naples

Our journey started on Friday, 3 May as all the boys met in the cold at two o'clock in the morning. We packed our luggage onto the coach and set off to Gatwick Airport. Whilst there, we were able to rest for a while and get some breakfast. Next we boarded the plane for the short journey to Italy and Naples airport. As soon as we had landed, we were greeted by the warm Italian sun and got on board a coach that took us through the densely packed streets of Naples and out to our first destination in the Bay of Naples, Pozzuoli Roman Amphitheatre. There we ventured around the site and explored the various underground tunnels and rooms of the

very well-preserved amphitheatre. Next we headed to the National Archaeological museum to see its enormous collection of statues, mosaics, paintings and all things Roman. One of these included a giant and beautiful mosaic of Alexander the Great that was so detailed it almost appeared to be a painting. Finally, after a hot and busy day we checked in at the Hotel Tourist in Sorrento. There we relaxed for the rest of the day and enjoyed some traditional Italian cuisine for dinner. After this, we headed up to our rooms and were strongly encouraged by Mr Pegler to have lights out by nine o'clock (or die).

In the morning, we had another early start as we enjoyed a continental

breakfast and then departed from the hotel to visit the ruins of Pompeii. We were shown around and guided by the brilliant expertise of Mr Pegler and Mr Davies. We all enjoyed learning about how the Romans lived, such as how their dead were buried on the outside of the city for respect (and because they smelled), and the intelligent planning of the city revealing the ingenuity of people that lived thousands of years ago. We learnt how the city was destroyed by ash and how people were smothered slowly by the ash until they suffocated and died, or crushed under the enormous weight of pumice. We looked on sorrowfully at the many plaster casts, which depicted the victims in their

last moments as they were killed suddenly by pyroclastic flow from the volcano. The whole day was spent exploring the great ruins of the city, stopping only to have lunch and eat ice cream. One of the most exciting events of the day was a confrontation between Mr Pegler and a small, irate Italian tour guide. Whilst Mr P was explaining to us about the Roman baths, the tour guide told us to be quiet so he could talk. It led to a not so civilised discussion and the tour guide's angry antics became common topic of conversation for the rest of the day. After our fantastic day at we returned to the hotel where we all collapsed with exhaustion.

On the Sunday, we excitedly anticipated another action packed day. This time we set out to climb Mount Vesuvius. After a casual race to the top of the volcano, we were able to capture a breathtaking view of all of the bay of Naples. We were then given a guided tour of the mountain and learnt about how the blast in AD 79 had



exquisitely preserved mosaics and beautiful houses. We were given freedom to explore the many shops and sights that the city offered. Back in Sorrento we indulged at the world famous Italian ice cream shop (which the pope and other famous people had visited) and purchased souvenirs to remember our visit and finally enjoyed a quick stop at a pleasant little beach.

The next morning, we reluctantly rose from our deep sleep to depart from the hotel at six o'clock in the morning. We were soon checked in at the Naples airport and were ready to leave. We boarded the plane once more and arrived back at Stansted. After a short coach journey back to the school, we arrived home and thanks to Mr Pegler, Mr Davies and Miss Williams the trip had been a wonderful success and everyone who went had come back more knowledgeable and happily exhausted.

Jesse Rist 10T







## Year 7 Trip to

# Kentwell

**W**aiting to board the coach, I looked around to see that all of us had changed into our costumes. Everyone was very critical of each other's outfits. Even the teachers were dressed up! But you could tell we were all very excited. Finally, the coach arrived; we rushed on board and we were off!

After two hours of good conversation, games and snacks, we arrived at Kentwell's gates. We jumped out, quickly wolfed down our lunches and followed a guide to a Tudor currency exchange. Pounds and pennies became groats, half groats and more pennies. Having changed our money, we walked into Tudor England.....

We were led to a gate, where we met a fearsome gatekeeper (he would make

a good teacher!). After an interrogation and teaching us on appropriate etiquette (bowing and greeting with Good Morrow), we were finally allowed to pass.

Once inside the huge and pretty grounds, we met Tudor people all going about their daily jobs on a large Tudor manor estate. We headed down to the woodlands where we found two men chopping rapidly away. They said that wood is the most important thing throughout the whole village. It is used for cooking and heating so this job was pretty vital. The two men asked for two volunteers to help cut down a part of a tree and fortunately Zac O'Malley and I were able to help. All I can say is that it wasn't an easy job!

The next stop was the archer's tent, where the archer proceeded to show us the

difference between hunting arrows and war arrows. The fletcher then demonstrated how he could shoot a person from 12m away, but there is nothing to worry about as it was only a stuffed bag. Amazing!

After this, we proceeded to the garden beside the manor's moat which was filled with flowers, plants and amazing carved bushes. The gardener told us which plants were used to treat the villagers, for example lavender, which would help with hay fever.

Next our sense of smell brought us to a tent with some ladies cooking. I was hoping the food was going to be spectacular but in the end, I am glad they did not offer us any. They were cooking a food named "pottage" which looked a bit gruesome!

Next was a room of Tudor games such

as Noughts and Crosses, Fox and Geese and many more. Some games were made of clay and were available to buy at the end of the trip. I wondered how did young people manage without the technology we have today?

The manor house was where all the grand people lived, feasting on grand meals and playing instruments amongst

opulent surroundings. There was clearly a big difference between these grand people and the poor working folk who worked in the grounds and lived in hovels.

A quick visit to a Tudor gift shop, where we purchased some of the games and toys we had played with earlier in the day, and we left Tudor Britain and journeyed back to reality.

It was a brilliant experience, and a fascinating way to learn about the past. It was great to see how self sufficient a grand house and its grounds were. I would recommend this trip to anyone. A truly unexpected journey.

**Matteo Ponzini 7B**

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*Taking a Broader View*



# German Exchange

**B**eer, history, architecture and cars; that's what Germany is famous for! However, being in the sixth form at Watford Boys meant that our trip to Mainz, Germany, last February wasn't just going to be a simple holiday with sightseeing. The school had given us a wonderful opportunity to actually do work experience in a foreign country. Before setting off we all had to choose a specific field in which we wanted to work for 5 days. Personally I wanted to do some teaching. So I was assigned a primary school in the heart of Mainz called 'Feldberg Grundschule'.

I spent 5 days in the school, teaching Maths and German grammar to the children and although I was a little nervous at first, it became great fun to work with all the students. They were very excited to have a visitor all the way from England and frequently asked questions. Having conversations with the staff and students of the school really improved my German.

In a similar way to the lower year students who went on the trip, we sixth formers were given a German exchange student (or 'Austauschpartner'). My exchange was a girl called Lucia, who lived in a tiny village called Gustavberg, on the outskirts of the city. These exchanges became almost like our guides to the German way of life. They spoke German with us, and led us around to explore the city during our free time.

On our second day, Lucia and her lovely family took me to the carnival celebrations of Rosenmontag. This annual event took place along the streets of Mainz. Thousands watched huge floats meander through the streets and, like most German festivities, it involved dressing up and eating lots of food.

When I wasn't entertaining the primary school students with my less than-perfect German grammar, we did a couple of other activities; on the Thursday night the sixth form met up with the teachers and headed to the Eisgrub Restaurant. We tucked into awesome Schnitzel, and sharing the exchange with the teachers. Dr Taylor and Ms Webster felt more like colleagues or friends that evening.

After an epic ten days in Germany, it was time to head home. Thinking back to my stay there made me grateful for how friendly the Germans were! My exchange's family treated me as one of their own, and all the staff at Feldberg Grundschule were so welcoming. This being my second exchange organised by Ms Webster and Mr Pegler, I thought I knew what to expect, but I was pleasantly surprised with a variety of new experiences around every corner. I had an awesome time there, and definitely would highly recommend the trip to any German enthusiasts.

Raphael Debnath 6TBg



## Lower Sixth Houses of Parliament Trip

**O**n our visit to Westminster, we were privileged enough to enter the Supreme Court, which is the final court of appeal in the UK for civil cases, and for criminal cases from England, Wales and Northern Ireland. It hears cases of the greatest public or constitutional importance affecting the whole population. We were told about the many different types of case that it has seen over the years. One which was particularly interesting was a divorce case involving an unnamed footballer where the husband was protesting at the amount that the wife had been awarded. There are 12 judges that serve in the court and they are based on the other side of Parliament Square, opposite Westminster Palace. This is due to recent legislation which has attempted to make the separation of powers between the Executive, Legislature and Judiciary clearer.

Later in the day we saw both the House of Lords and House of Commons, and on entering we were amazed at two things, the size of the Palace and the efficiency

of the security which took the best part of five minutes to get through. All the walls in the Palace were covered in magnificent paintings which had been given as gifts by foreign presidents or monarchs. One which stood out however was a painting which had been painted directly onto the wall and was beginning to fade, and the scientists who were trying to restore it were struggling as they couldn't figure out the type of paint used, so it has just been left there to fade away.

At the time of our visit, a defence bill was being debated in the House of Commons which we found particularly enthralling, as it was like seeing what we had studied jump out of the page and helped further our understanding of politics and how the UK's bicameral system works in practice rather than in theory. This was also very useful for us as well as it gave us a relevant case study that we could use in our exam. We also learnt some different techniques on how to argue your point in a debate and how useful it is to have statistics to back up everything you say and counter

arguments from the opposition.

We were also given a tour of the Lords and this included seeing the ceremonial throne of the Monarch and hearing about the long history of the Palace of Westminster and its involvement with the Monarchy. As well as this, we went through the voting chambers. Apparently the reason the voting system has not been updated to something electronic is to ensure attendance by the members of the house!

One thing which impressed us throughout the day was the fact that we were standing where some of the most important decisions in history had been made and had seen famous politicians speak, like Churchill, Attlee and Thatcher. But it was only when we saw the live debate in the House of Lords that we really grasped the significance of the place that we were in as we knew from our studies how important the Lords were in holding the Commons to account, so to see this live really amazed us.

Manoj Mistry U6NAi





# Humanities Club Trip to Greenwich

Thirty boys from the Humanities Club went on a trip to Greenwich. We were going to the Cutty Sark, the Greenwich Meridian line, and the Planetarium – all in one day! Everyone was buzzing with excitement.

After a traffic-free(ish) journey, we went first to the Cutty Sark, the amazing ship that transported tea from Shanghai to London and whose captain navigated what is still the quickest route by a sailing ship from Australia to London. It took him 73 days. This might sound like quite a long time, but others have tried and the quickest person still took round 90 days! And they had the advantage of technology as well. So this was an amazing feat. We had just over an hour to explore all three

decks of the ship, including the captain's cabin and cabins of his crew. We were able to experience a simulation of what it is like at sea, and learn all about the history of this incredible ship.

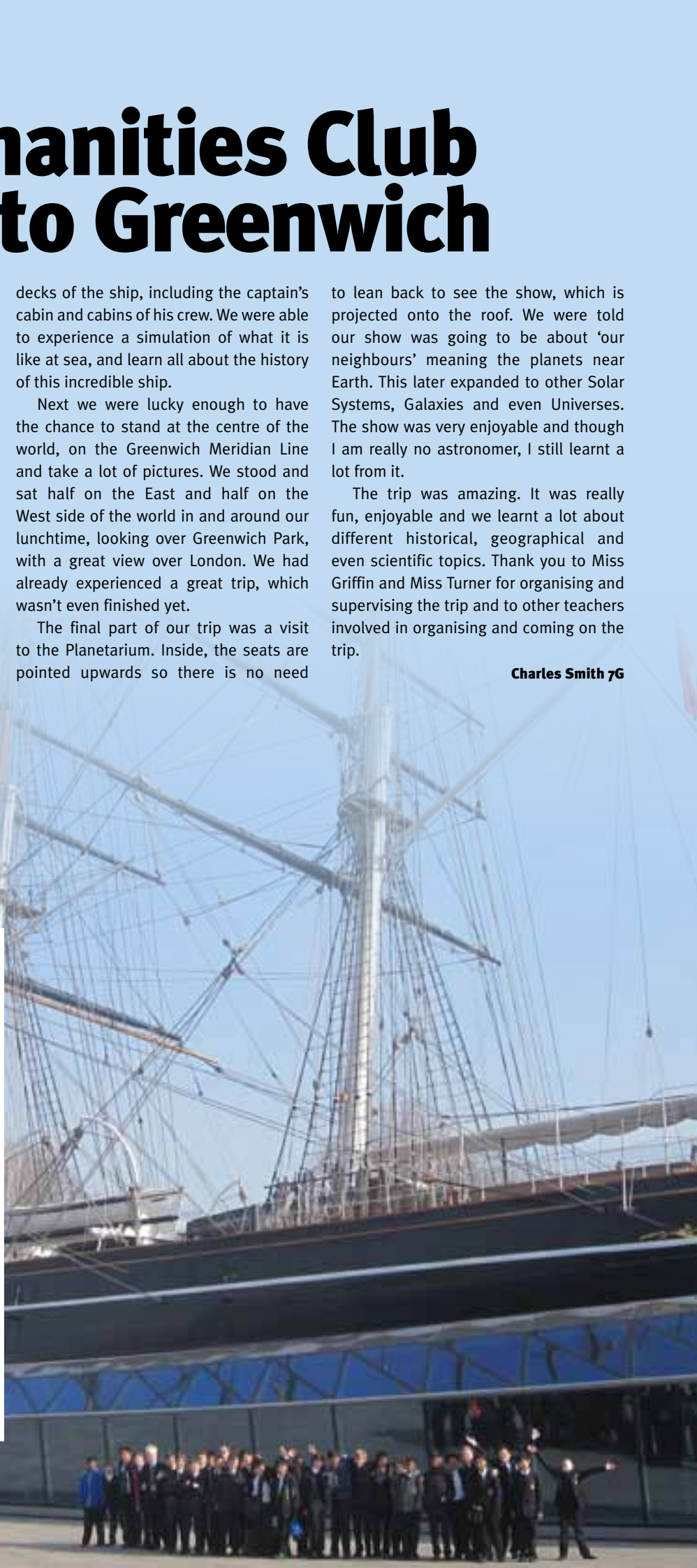
Next we were lucky enough to have the chance to stand at the centre of the world, on the Greenwich Meridian Line and take a lot of pictures. We stood and sat half on the East and half on the West side of the world in and around our lunchtime, looking over Greenwich Park, with a great view over London. We had already experienced a great trip, which wasn't even finished yet.

The final part of our trip was a visit to the Planetarium. Inside, the seats are pointed upwards so there is no need

to lean back to see the show, which is projected onto the roof. We were told our show was going to be about 'our neighbours' meaning the planets near Earth. This later expanded to other Solar Systems, Galaxies and even Universes. The show was very enjoyable and though I am really no astronomer, I still learnt a lot from it.

The trip was amazing. It was really fun, enjoyable and we learnt a lot about different historical, geographical and even scientific topics. Thank you to Miss Griffin and Miss Turner for organising and supervising the trip and to other teachers involved in organising and coming on the trip.

**Charles Smith 7G**



# Diamond Light Particle Accelerator Trip

Last October, on a cold Wednesday morning, a small group of physics students from the Upper 6th form gathered at the school gates, waiting to be taken to a particle accelerator situated in one of Britain's largest scientific sites.

The Diamond Light Accelerator is the UK's national synchrotron accelerator, meaning it is designed to accelerate electrons around a ring, causing them to emit light as their path is bent, which can then be used to perform experiments or probe the nature of the particles themselves. It was built in 2007 in the Harwell Science Campus (a site which contains a number of other very significant facilities, such as a wing of the European Space Agency and part of the UK's research group focused on fusion energy research), but continues to be upgraded to this day, having expanded to almost triple the experimental capacity it had when opened.

Upon arrival, we were ushered into a small lecture theatre, where the workings and purpose of the accelerator were explained briefly. Rather than trying to make discoveries on the fundamental particle level, as famous accelerators like the Large Hadron Collider do, the accelerator here was more of a tool than an end in itself, with the near-lightspeed electrons producing light to be used in an array of "beamlines". These are experimental stations where the light (X-rays in this case) is focused towards a "target" - the object of interest, which could be anything from a biological protein we have yet to discover the structure of, or a jet engine design to be probed for potential faults and flaws. One of the most interesting things about this set-up is that the scientists working at Diamond Light, or using their facilities, are much more varied than you would expect, with there being as many biologists and chemists as physicists (indeed the talk was given by a biologist).

After this, we split up into a few small groups and were given tours by a number of staff from the site. Our "tour guide" was an engineer, so was particularly interested in explaining and discussing how the accelerator and beam chambers presented some interesting engineering challenges to build and keep running. The thing that surprised me the most was the way the radiation was contained, as during its running cycle the ring housing the accelerator is irradiated to the point it would be dangerous to go near. Luckily the cycle was not running while we were there!



Rather than what I had expected - some big lead door to be sealed - the radiation was kept in entirely via a "maze lock", where the entrance doubled back on itself a couple of times, meaning the chance of any radiation (which follows straight line paths until it collides) reaching the exit was so low the dosage would be safe.

The accelerator itself was a great series of straight segments of tubing, composed of alternating sets of different magnets, some to accelerate the beam, others to keep its cross section small. Finally, at the end of each straight segment, there was a huge device which would "wiggle" the electrons (it was this process that produced the X-rays, as the electrons would be constantly changing direction), and then curve them on to the next segment. The scale was stunning, with the whole ring forming a nearly 800m loop, allowing a beam with a power of more than 2 Megawatts to be produced. To put this in perspective, that's all the power that nearly 2000 homes use on average - creating a series of X-ray beams that, if you could see them, would each be 10,000 times brighter than the sun.

For me, however, the final segment of the tour was the most interesting, where we visited a couple of the beamlines, and had a chance to talk to the researchers there. We learnt that they were very varied, with each one set up for either an individual very specific purpose, or a range of purposes. Indeed not all of them used the beam to produce X-rays - some were configured to produce high intensity beams of other electromagnetic radiation, including visible light. As a result, some were run permanently by a single research team, while others allowed outside groups to apply for "beam time" - the opportunity to use the accelerators facilities either for free, if the results were to be made public, or for a cost in the case of private companies' research.

The beamline we spent the most time in was a permanent installation to use a process called X-ray crystallography (the process that discovered the structure of DNA) to map the structure of new proteins. Here they took samples of various proteins in a crystalline form - something that made some of them considerably more valuable than diamond by weight, due to the difficulty to get them to this stage - and placed them in front of a carefully focused beam, at which point, a computer would record the diffraction pattern, allowing a great deal of information on its structure to be discovered in a very short time, speeding up the development of new materials or medical treatments considerably.

Overall, I felt that it was a great window into the realities of the world of research. In particular, the way in which the boundaries between the sciences, the (way they are segmented from before secondary school all the way to degree choices), can begin to break down at this level, with interdisciplinary work producing some of the most fascinating discoveries and important breakthroughs. It was an experience I would recommend as well worth it to anyone interested.

**Ben Keenlyside 6CPu**





## Year 7 Trip to the BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir

The whole of year 7 travelled by coach to the stunning Hindu Temple in Neasden which is in fact the largest traditional Mandir outside of India. During the course of this half term we have been studying the Hindu faith and I'm sure that the trip furthered our understanding of Hinduism.

The definition of a traditional Mandir is that it follows the Hindu scripture of architecture. One of these rules is that no metal is to be used in the building so the BAPS Mandir is mainly made of Italian Marble and Bulgarian Stone; no steel was used in the structure.

The first Hindu experience we had at the temple was the Aarti ceremony in the Mandir. This was when the monks offered a puja tray with burning wicks to

the statues of the deities (Gods) to the Hindu songs and the sound of Aum. Aarti can also be spelt arathi; these words originate from a Sanskrit word with the same meaning. Everyone had to observe silence during the ritual and the women were to sit separately from the men. When they took the puja tray round, all the Hindu worshippers put money in the tray and put their hands over the flame and then touched their forehead.

Once the Aarti ceremony had finished, we split into groups to complete the activity booklet. We had to find the information in the vast temple. Within the temple there was also a Hindu exhibition which explained all we needed to know about the Hindu religion and we were amazed how much we could learn in the set of rooms that we saw. One of

the rooms was particularly interesting and challenged us all to stand on one leg in a yoga position for as long as possible. Most of us only managed about 20 seconds, which was pretty shameful.

After we had completed the booklet we gathered in a hall to watch a video about how they made the perplexing building. It was interesting finding out the long journey all the materials made before they finally arrived in the site. First they had to be shipped to India where they were carved into intricate designs and then they were shipped over to England to be put together.

Overall, we think that the trip was a success and was a great way to learn more about Hinduism.

**By Aron Finkelstein, Matty Doulton and Muhammad Yahya 7T**



## Year 7 Camping

At the end of the academic year, Year 7 were promised a week of adventurous activities and camping with their friends. It was the only topic of discussion in the final few days before the adventure began. We had just completed a strenuous week of exams, giving us a taster of what was going to come in the next few years. But that didn't matter. All we could think about was telling ghost stories, illuminated by a single beam of torchlight or the zip-lining of a two storey platform. It couldn't arrive sooner. After a weekend of last minute packing, we all arrived at school, in our own clothes, our luggage on our backs. A sense of joy with a hint of dread permeated the air as we sat down in the hall. After a brief speech about the importance of good behaviour and how to represent the school, we were told our activity groups and who we would be sharing a tent with. For the most parts, each tent contained the members from the same form, but there was the occasional mixed form. I considered myself lucky as my tent was filled with all of my best friends. There were two centres we would be visiting, Phasels Wood and Tolmers Scout Groups. The first half of the forms went to Tolmers and the other half went to the latter. Unfortunately, some of the coaches were delayed, which resulted in three-quarters of the year going, leaving the remaining quarter stranded, including my group.

After a 40 minute wait, the coaches finally arrived to escort the rest of us, to the Phasels Wood Centre. When we arrived, a brief walk was taken to the campsite. By the time we had arrived, we saw - to our horror - that all the others had already pitched their tents. This meant that we were forced to pitch our tent in the worst possible area - the dreaded Rockies. By the time we had finished the problematic task of pitching our tent, we all joined the rest of the campers at Phasels for a short tour, highlighting the main and important features of the site, including the most visited part of the site - the Tuck Shop! By this time, we were all hungry and needed a short rest, so we were permitted an hour of time to relax and have a quick packed lunch. Then it was time for the best part. The first activity!

We all lined up, eager to kick off our time here, awaiting the arrival of our group leader. Once directions were given and activities were assigned, we were off. The activity to begin was shelter building. We were given very limited supplies including: tarps, ropes and thin wooden logs. Despite the deliberation beforehand, we had formulated

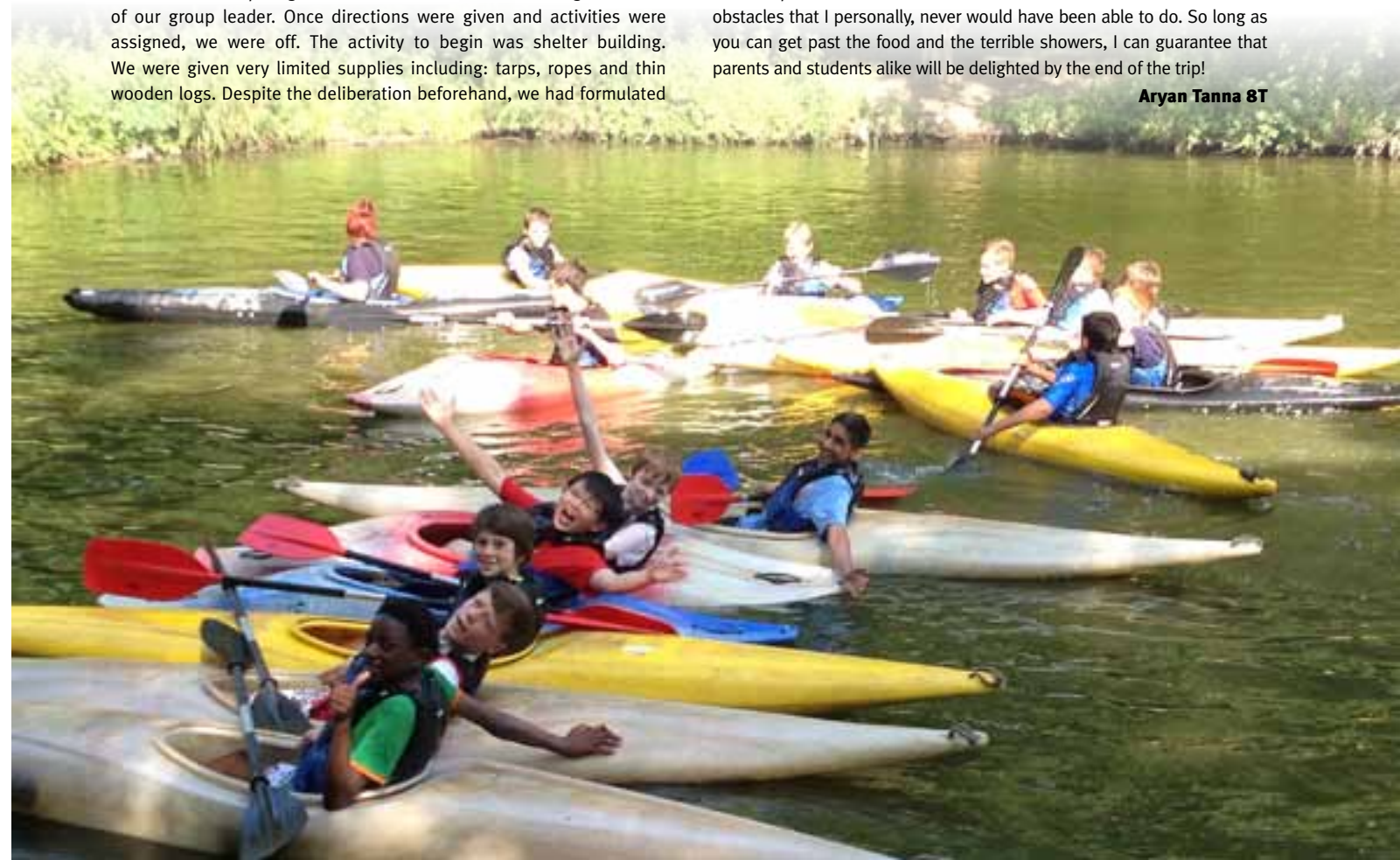
a plan. We were going to tie multiple ropes between 2 trees and place logs on top. The finishing touch, to achieve the challenge to keep it waterproof, was the placement of a large tarp above. However, it was not as easy as that. The ropes drooped, the tarp curved round every possible nook and cranny and the logs refused to hold. By the time the time was up, we had produced a horrible mesh of rope, a tarp and logs. However, the funny thing was, it was better than our estimation of the shelter. During our 3-day stay we took part in numerous activities. They included: zip-lining, orienteering, aero-ball and pedal-carting.

However, the most memorable activity that took place was not one of the ones that belonged to Phasels. It was the infamous water fight. Little did we know that the teachers had snuck in water guns and they were planning a secret attack. We were taken by surprise, instinctively taking our water bottles ready to retaliate. We charged at the teachers and by the time 5 minutes of this legendary battle was over, it had turned into a free-for-all. Friend turned on friend. Foes were given an opportunity to battle out in the noblest of ways: cold water poured down their back. By the time the battle was over, no-one was left dry. It was perhaps, one the most fun activities in my whole life.

After a week of fun, it was time to say goodbye to Phasels to go to Tolmers. After a quick last minute activity - The High Ropes Course - we were shuffled onto a coach and driven off to Tolmers. Once we arrived, we had a quick 'Hello!' to our friend there and were assigned a tent. To our delight, the tents were already set up, although slightly worse for the wear. In my opinion, Tolmers was better, due to the fact that the activities were much better, the staff were much friendlier and of course the vending machines and tuck shop had much better supplies! Some of the activities which I found the best were: raft-building, shooting, archery and water wars! They were all more fun and, combined with the enthusiasm of the staff, made me forget about the slight homesickness I was a victim of.

Overall, the trip was amazing and definitely something I will never forget. All I can hope is that every new generation of Year 7, that takes part in this trip, will have as much fun as I had. For me, it made me overcome obstacles that I personally, never would have been able to do. So long as you can get past the food and the terrible showers, I can guarantee that parents and students alike will be delighted by the end of the trip!

**Aryan Tanna 8T**





# Big Bang Science Fair 2013

**O**ur visit to the BIG BANG SCIENCE FAIR (their capitals, not mine) began at 7:30am on a cold Thursday morning. Slightly questioning our sanity for agreeing to such an enterprise, we stumbled bleary eyed...

You don't really want to hear about all that rubbish – the coach journey, who we sat next to on the coach and what we had for lunch (a cheese sandwich, if you're interested). You want to hear about science! So here goes...

Basically, the BIG BANG SCIENCE FAIR (I'm dropping the capitals now) is a yearly event, which features an exhibition centre's worth of stalls set out by the country's leading manufacturers, engineers and research universities. With interactive activities ranging from remote controlled robo-football to a huge planetarium which appeared to be screening scenes from a particularly bad hallucinogenic experience, there was certainly plenty to keep everyone amused.

The opportunity to witness some genuinely knowledgeable people, with a fascination for their chosen subject was certainly inspiring (even for someone like me, who wasn't quite sure why I was asked on the trip).

Whether talking to a guy whose specialism was nuclear fusion (or was it fission?), or some students from a secondary school in Yorkshire who'd come down to show off their Young Enterprise products, there was a sense of passion that many don't expect to find around this sort of subject.

**Tim Bush 11T**



# The Big Bang Science Fair 2014

The Big Bang Science Fair this year took place at the NEC in Birmingham. As we walked into the main building, we saw a bustle of people eager to see what was on offer and there were about 200 mini stalls full of Science, Maths and Engineering activities.

My group consisted of seven people and the first thing we saw was a stall that would do a 3D print of your face. There was a large queue and even a waiting list so we couldn't have it done. However, we did visit a workshop on snakes and their bites where we learnt how to cure them, and we then played a game of snakes and ladders with facts on snakes.

We went to a stall that demonstrated

the crystal structure of sugar and we were then able to make it. We watched how rockets were made and launched and how to test the efficiency of a solar panel. We saw a hand sanitizer that when rubbed into your hands smelt like cinnamon. It was inspiring to discover that some of the presenters were Year 10 students and had Crest awards which you can get by doing Go4Set with Dr Buckley.

We had a demonstration, (using a hand cream which was ultraviolet) on how viruses spread and also we saw my cheek cells under a microscope. There was even an eagle flying around in a demonstration at one point. For robotics

you were able to make a robot in the workshop which we all participated in, and we also made a lie detector which we were able to take home.

Finally, we sat down to watch a show on machinery that mimics superpowers, like X ray transmissions of sound in a laser and then after the show I went to another workshop where I made a paper DNA helix.

We had an excellent time learning and actively getting involved in the workshops. It is an enjoyable day out which I recommend going on because it could also inspire you into a career in Maths, Science or Engineering.

**Tej Dhrona 10G**

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# Classics Trip to Greece

It was 4am, you could hear the rolling of the suitcase wheels on the tarmac, and we were all waiting, impatiently, outside the Muse for the coach to arrive and for us to finally begin the journey that we had all been waiting for Greece! The coach arrived and we all boarded, we headed for the airport. After a typically squashed and uncomfortable flight, we arrived. The Greek air was stifling and the sun was beaming down on us and at this point we knew that that week was going to be the best school trip of our lives.

We found our coach driver and the coach and headed to our first hotel destination. When we got there we entered the hotel and then someone shouted "There's FREE WIFI!" and we all rushed to try and get the password. After we had all freshened up we headed into the Plaka district via the metro. Upon arrival all most of us could think about were our empty stomachs so we all went exploring around the area to find something Greek to eat, and many of us discovered Gyros, the Greek kebab, - a food that would become a favourite for the duration of the trip. When we all rendezvoused, we went to 'The new Acropolis museum' to find out a little

more about the place we were actually in. From here we caught our first proper glimpse of the magnificent Parthenon atop the staggering Acropolis.

The next day, we again all headed to the Plaka district to 'The Greek Agora' where we saw the ancient Athenian market place, a quiet and picturesque park of ruins but the heart of ancient Athens. Here we visited the Temple of Hephaistos, one of the most complete surviving ancient temples. Here, a few sixth formers donned a banana costume, and posed for a picture. Unfortunately, the warden lady blew her whistle and came running over screaming "NO BANANA!" This marked the first of many awkward encounters with the wardens. Next we went up to the 'The Acropolis and Parthenon World Heritage Site'. The Parthenon is one of Athens' great spectacles; it was dedicated to the maiden goddess Athena, who the people of Athens regarded as their patron, and is one of the wonders of the world. After exploring it in the dazzling sunshine we visited the 'The Theatre of Dionysus'. However just before we entered the Theatre we encountered a couple of tortoises, apparently engaging in something politely described as mating.

At this point we were so engrossed at the sheer possibility of seeing such a thing that we almost completely forgot about the Theatre of Dionysus. Teenagers.... Next we went to the colossal 'Temple of Olympian Zeus' - this was also the site where Mr Pegler tricked us all into thinking that it was the first site of our WBGS races. Little did we know that it was seen as disrespectful to have a race at a Temple of Zeus and a very angry woman started blowing her whistle shouting "no race!".

Thereafter we did go the site of our first WBGS race 'The Olympic Stadium', we all lined up at the starting line, all taking it very seriously, Mr Pegler shouted "GO!" and all 30 of us ran as fast as we could to get to the finish; the winner of the first WBGS race was Luke O'Mahony 11N followed closely, in second, by Richard McCarthy 11P and George Noakes U6F in third. After an eventful two days in Athens, on the final night, most of us just relaxed in the "hot" tub sized swimming pool till the night grew old.

The next day, after breakfast, we headed for the Delphi site where we had a guided tour of the museum by Mr Pegler, next we started our journey to

the sanctuary where every 20m or so Mr Pegler would stop us and tell us a little bit about what was so important about the sanctuary and some great stories about people who travelled there.

After one of the longest drives so far, we finally arrived at Olympia, 'exhausted' is the first word that comes to mind. We had a "pool" in Athens, but it paled in comparison to the beauty we had here. 8-10 metres long and cool, really nice and cool. By cool I mean absolutely freezing, the kind of cold that makes you go all numb after a quick dip. Anyway, Olympia was especially relevant to us Year 11s, as our Controlled Assessment was on the Ancient Olympic games, something we, naturally, were "always" thinking about throughout the following day. First, we headed to the site, and went to the museum. It was small, but was full of artefacts of athletes and vases with paintings of races, but also armour, and shields, weapons, and odd little statues of things like horses. Later, we went to the site itself; the place where the Olympic Games started. We spent a while looking around the training facilities for the athletes, saw a grand hotel (now just ruins) and a workshop, where the statue of Zeus was said to have been made. Eventually, we made it to the stadium. It was blisteringly hot as we all lined up

to run the original 200m Olympic race. Everyone, including Mr Samarasinghe took up his place. The "sports expert" was beaten. Well done again to the same three who have been winning all of the races: Luke O'Mahony 11N who took 1st place, Richard McCarthy 11P and George Noakes U6F who took 3rd. Mr Pegler continued to guide us round on an expert tour, full of everything we could possibly need to know, including some fantastic and bloody myths and legends.

Tolon was another long drive away, but it was definitely well worth it. The hotel had a proper pool, still freezing but nice and big, and was a short walk away from the sandy beach. On the first day in Tolon, we went into the town, and headed up to the ancient ruins of Mycenae, home of King Agamemnon from the Trojan War fame. The fort was massive, covering huge expanses of ground, and the views were absolutely stunning. At Epidauros we visited a perfectly preserved Ancient Greek theatre, one of the few remaining. It was massive and frankly staggering. We listened to an oration by Harry Dinsdale which was in Latin. Even from the very top we could hear what was being said - it was remarkable. Finally we headed into the town of Nauplion and climbed up some 2000 steps to reach a huge Venetian fortress with some of the

best views I have seen in my life. Even from half way up we could see for miles in every direction. The climb was tiring, but it was definitely worth it not just for the views but for the massive fortress we could explore.

On the penultimate day, we headed to Corinth, where we saw the famous canal, which was really, really deep, and also looked around the ruins of a small Roman theatre/amphitheatre crossover. Here we found lots of artefacts lying around, including bits of an oil lamp, and a ton of bones in a wall, which was definitely something odd to say the least. The final day we spent relaxing at the beach, went for a swim, and then headed back to Athens to get our flight back home.

It goes without saying that it was one amazing week. We escaped the horrible British weather, and spent time in 28 degree heat, looking at some of the most ancient, famous and beautiful ruins on the planet. It was definitely an experience that nobody will forget in a hurry, and we all thank Ms Webster, Mr Samarasinghe and Mrs Pegler who accompanied us on the trip and a really big thanks to Mr Pegler who made all of it possible and put so much effort into it.

By Pranav Patel 11T  
and Danayan Luxmanan 11G



## Lower 6th Geography Field Trip

In late March 2012 the sun was out and everyone added suntan lotion to their packing list but in 2013 something changed – the weather. And not for the better. Sunscreen was replaced by hats, gloves, fleeces and any number of layers to help keep the cold and snow at bay. Still, never daunted, all 30 Lower 6th students went along well prepared, kept company by Mr Grinham and Mrs Lloyd.

Day 1 involved an investigation into the changes in Swansea's principal shopping districts, interrupted by the chants of Croatian football supporters there for that evening's international match. They were a scary bunch at first sight, not one seemingly less than 7 feet tall, but they turned out to be harmless, much like the 6th form!

On the 2nd day we spent the time investigating a river, the Ogmore, from source to its mouth at the sea. The source revealed little information, mainly because it was mostly frozen solid. This led to everyone having some fun trying to climb up the very steep and icy valley to reach the actual source to take photos of the amazing icicle formations. Further downstream there was more water but, although not actually frozen, it was absolutely freezing and at first sight not much fun to get into, but pretty much everyone did and without

complaint. Some people even volunteered to be the ones in the water – we breed them tough in Watford, it seems.

Mrs Lloyd and Mr Grinham would like to thank this hardy group of boys for uncomplainingly throwing themselves – literally and figuratively – into all the activities on offer and for their hard work and good humour. Let's hope 2014 is just as good but hopefully not as cold!

JL



## Ski Italy

As we all said our goodbyes to family and friends, we were off on our amazing journey to be. All of us were tired but very excited so that many of us were not able to get to sleep on the way there. The teachers told us that we had a very long night and morning ahead of us because there were very long delays at Dover as a result of the strong winds but that still didn't stop us.

We were on the ferry and it was not a pleasant ride with the ferry shaking all over the place. We were all very tired when we landed in France and climbed back onto the warm and cosy coach and within seconds we were all fast asleep. On the way, there were many stops as the coach drivers had to be changed as they could only drive a certain amount of time.

Most of us were awake by 7:00 am and were ready for breakfast. And the next stop was for lunch. And finally after a big mountain climb, the sun shone and we reached our magnificent accommodation on the snowy mountain hill.

We unloaded the coach, found our rooms and unpacked and then went off to bed after our long tiring trip to Italy.

Next morning, we were off and on our way to the ski place where we would get all our ski equipment such as skis, poles and boots. We went up to the top of the mountain in large cable car (which could carry eight people) where we met our ski instructor who helped us throughout the week with various things from finding gloves to helping us up when we fell down. Our teachers had put us into groups based on our recent ski performance with two beginner groups, one intermediate group and an advanced group.

We all skied with great sense and maturity and by the end of the week we all looked like we could ski. All of us were very pleased with ourselves and the teachers must have been too as they decided to take us to town and buy us all an ice cream! After the ice cream, we

were allowed to visit the high street. The main reason was to get a present for our instructor, but we also bought souvenirs for ourselves and after that we had a pizza night with the other schools.

We did many evening activities like: bum boarding, ice-skating and we also had a fun disco night with the other schools. We all had an amazing time with friends and I hope the teachers had a great time as well. Before we left, we were given a test on our skiing ability and everyone was given a rating.

The last day was very weird because we still went skiing even though there was so much to be done. The journey back was a great and relaxed one because the journey only felt like 5 hours because it was night. As we came off the ferry all our phones started to buzz and ring because we had got a signal once again. As we pulled up outside the school we were all delighted to be back and reunited with our parents. But we had a great time. Thank you to the teachers who came with us.

Paarth Patel 8T



# Year 10 Geography Field Trip

**W**hat images do the words ‘field trip’ conjure in your mind? A dull, dreary walk through a forest? An even duller walk through a village with (what seems) technology dating to Tudor times? Well, I can tell you that was exactly what I thought. The stereotypical, even worse, compulsory trip, which would have us writing until our noses grated the muddy clipboards we would inevitably be holding throughout the day. And Wales? I think the idea of being outdoors, in Britain – in what can only be described as a pathetic year in terms of weather – didn’t entirely put our hopes up.

But on that Wednesday, that fateful Wednesday, we made it to the coach before 8:00, half asleep, dragging our bodies onto a coach, which would be our place of stay for God knows how many hours. The weather was however surprisingly sunny, and to our delight, there was air conditioning aboard the coach. And in this manner we set off. At first time was passed with idle chat, some attempting to sleep (like that would happen). And then the phones came out, and the consoles. Maybe the trip wouldn’t be so bad after all.

After a brief, uneventful stop at a (very expensive) service station, we passed into Wales. The country is of course renowned for its scenery, and straight from the Severn Bridge we understood the reason behind this. The view was spectacular; one of the many occasions in which that thought crossed my mind. After passing countryside that differed to England only in the steep hills and valleys, we went straight into Cardiff Bay.

Cardiff Bay was to be our case study of a derelict area which had been redeveloped. Cardiff was the world’s largest coal exporter in the 19th and early 20th Centuries, and fell into disrepair after the Second World War. So we were very surprised to see huge, modern structures, like the Millennium Centre, in contrast with the older, iconic buildings like the Pierhead Building. But it worked. The Bay itself was fantastic, surrounded by Quays and tourist structures and crowds of people. So we set off on our first task, which was to find the purposes and facilities of certain (well known) buildings like those mentioned above. We had a quick bite, and explored the Bay with Duke of Edinburgh-ish expertise. The weather did nothing to hinder our progress, and we found ourselves really enjoying the area; we understood what brought 4 million people here each year.

But we finished our task in a few hours, and set off to what was to be our home for the next 2 nights. A brief coach journey later, and we were in Aberdare, in a parking lot, outside what looked like two small houses. An alley in the middle revealed itself, leading to a courtyard in which we were surrounded by small rooms. And while the rooms were not 5-star-hotel, they were nice, not over the top, and equipped with a small TV each. What was the first thing I did? Watch live Wimbledon of course.

Dinner was better than I expected (a LOT better), and we were all in good spirits. Until we found there was a classroom, and we were to make up for our missed Geography lessons there. But that wouldn’t bother us; we just had to make the most of our free time. So we played football on a nearby field.

This started a gruelling competition. We were representing the teachers of our respective sets. And it was Mr Grinham (debatably) whose set proved the victors in the end.

Day two was more natural, as we were visiting the Brecon Beacons National Park, an awarded and protected area of conservation. There we began our hike. I and others around me dreaded a walk similar to the Duke of Edinburgh, but it was very short, and took us to a place which made the earlier scenery fade from our minds. It was... Cwm Cerrig Gleisiad. Easier spelt than said. But we didn’t mind, as it was breath-taking - in more ways than one. We spent some time filling an Environmental Quality Survey (EQS) and a conflict grid (I won’t bore you with the geographical material). Then we trudged back to the coach, for what would be our second of three points of visit.

Llangorse Lake (with the ‘kh’ sound, don’t forget) was our second destination, and it was a quiet area with activity centres, a lake with watersports, a café, dog walkers and duck feeders. A brief trip to the café and the EQS and conflict grid ended our stay, as we moved on to a footpath at the base of Pen y Fan, the highest peak in the Brecon Beacons. This was man made, and an eyesore. There were forests with trees planted in scarily unnatural rows, solely for logging. The footpaths were worn and the rain, which had inevitably begun to fall, albeit lightly, didn’t improve the view. We quickly completed the survey and grid, as well as a practical in which we measured the footpath erosion, whilst being attacked by swarms of midges. The midges, oh those midges, they got to us. They were EVERYWHERE. I could have sworn I swallowed a couple. And so we hastily returned to the coach, and returned home.

As soon as we returned, about to play football/rugby, it was found that there was a lounge on site, with a large screen TV, sofas, and a Nintendo Wii. Not surprisingly, it was soon packed, and even the shouts of Djokovic as he thrashed his opponent were hard to hear over the mass of Year 10s playing Wii Sports Golf.

The third (and last) day took us to the small but lovely town of Brecon, which is a popular tourist destination. Here we were to study honeypot site issues. We surveyed the locals on their opinions, and mapped out each building in the town (my group mapped the High St) to see which ones catered for tourists and locals. After a brief stop at Greggs’, my group realised, that we were finished, about to go home. But we weren’t entirely correct.

At 12 we played football, while waiting for the coach which would turn up at 1. It was a great game, in a local park, with proper goalposts! 2 hours into the match, one or two of us noticed the lack of a coach. We found that in an unfortunate turn of events one of our very own had been injured, and we had to wait until he had been treated. So, we played more football. I don’t think I’ve ever played a two and a half hour long match, but it was brilliant. Thankfully, the problem was sorted and we got onto the coach at around 3pm. The coach journey again wasn’t particularly eventful, with each man to his own phone or console.

So, the trip. It was fantastic. Loads of laughs, valuable work done, and amazing scenery – we couldn’t complain. And so I have to (pardon the clichéd nature of it all) thank all four Geography teachers, for both cohorts of the trip, for being not only efficient but making the trip enjoyable, the opposite to our expectations. Thank you. And I think this, if nothing else, should convince anyone to take Geography as a GCSE.

Ali Manji 11G

## The Natural History Museum Trip

**T**he trip started off like any old school trip, a long coach journey with nothing to do but sit and be bored. We all know what it’s like and we try and pass the time by doing some pretty mundane tasks.

I had already been to the Natural History Museum numerous times with my family, so I felt I would make a good tour guide for everyone else in my group. We had planned to see both the Ecology and the Human Biology exhibitions. As luck would have it, these were the couple I do not remember seeing, so it was a new experience for me. The simple matter was that there was so much to see that we had so little time to go around these exhibitions and see everything, that we constantly felt restricted by time which doesn’t help with going round the museum.

The first section we entered was the Ecology section, consisting of an optical illusion mirror system, which created the illusion of a full sphere. It also had a twisting balcony overlooking the shop, yet we actually managed to learn things from this; about the differing types of land, and how they are formed.

Next we saw the Human Biology part of the museum which was full of some really fascinating optical illusions, which highlighted some interesting facts about our mind and how it behaves. For example, when we look at a distorted shape that looks impossible, our mind cannot register what the shape should look like. As usual, with most trips there is no time to actually enjoy what you see, because you are given a deadly worksheet to complete. Yet surprisingly, the sheet was really interesting and explained some of the aspects of the trip that were unclear or just hard to understand. I felt that after I came away from the trip I had learnt a great deal, and that is when you know a trip wasn’t a waste of time!

After seeing all the exhibits we needed to see, and after having lunch, we were so efficient at seeing it all we had time to go around the animal area which had a life sized 30 metre long blue whale. After discovering that whales have 3 metre long genitalia, the mood was set for our group for the rest of the day.

Jonathan King 9N





## Computer Science visit to Middlesex University

On Friday 10th January, Mr Thurgood took 10 Lower 6th students on a trip to Middlesex University to visit the Computer Science and Robotics department.

Upon arrival Dr Rui gave us a lecture about haptic technology which he teaches to his students. We were each given a Novint Falcon force feedback device to use and some software which simulated lifting a virtual rubber duck that was floating in water. When using the device, you could actually feel the force of water as you

moved the object through it. We were then shown how this could be used in the real world such as a doctor performing remote surgery on patient who could be on the other side of the world. Using some trusty duct tape we attached some percussion instruments to the feedback devices and generated some program code that would move them when we waved our hands in front of an Xbox Kinect sensor. Our musical masterpiece was made without any of us actually playing an instrument!

The equipment we got to use was amazing, and we were also given a tour of the campus to see a real tennis court, huge gym and even huger lecture theatres and libraries. The university term hadn't yet started as it was still the Christmas holiday; even so the university was quite crowded. During term time it must be even busier.

**James Jackson 6PWh**



## Raspberry Pi STEM day

Ten intrepid pupils from Year 9 attended a Raspberry Pi STEM day at North Herts College in Stevenage accompanied by Mr Thurgood. The day organised by SetPoint Herts is part of a nationwide scheme to encourage more pupils into Science, Engineering and Maths subjects at A-Level and university. The boys attending are already accomplished coders in Pascal and Python, thanks to Dr Morrison's lunch time programming clubs every Wednesday and Thursday in TCL (computer lab) The day involved using a breadboard wired up to a Pi interface to control a series of LEDs, as well as networking 2 Pi's together to understand the concept of Sub Net Masks and data packets in sending messages around the internet.

**ST**

## Year 10 Computing Trip to UCL

Year 10 GCSE Computing students had the opportunity to visit the department of computer science and engineering at UCL and take a tour of their campus. UCL is a world renowned university and home to much ground breaking scientific research. During their visit all the boys used the Engduino board, a new integrated circuit board that has been developed by UCL lecturers to teach coding skills to their undergraduates. Very much like an Arduino board, the Engduino is an open source tool which allows an army of bedroom programmers to develop code to operate physical computing components. The Engduino comes with a series of built in LEDs, a thermistor, capable of sensing temperature, a 3D accelerometer which measures accelerations, light sensor and a magnetometer. The ARM chip on the board is similar to the one inside your smart phone. UCL were kind enough to let all the 35 boys on the trip take home an Engduino board for their own use. You can find out more about the innovative new tool which Watford Boys is helping to promote at [www.engduino.org](http://www.engduino.org)

**ST**



## Year 10 Biology Trip to Whipsnade Zoo

I went on the first amazing trip to Whipsnade Zoo in Dunstable. Half of the entire group went on the interesting talk and experience about Chimpanzee Intelligence and the other half of us went to explore the animals. I was lucky enough to go on the Chimpanzee Intelligence Presentation. Firstly, we were talked through about what intelligence was and came up with many different definitions. Some liked the capacity to problem solve, survive, cope with daily life and to kill. We also found out, interestingly enough, that some animals such as the common pigeon which are thought not to be intelligent, have actually shown to be so. Apparently they are capable of finding their way back home from anywhere. When they fly around, they take mental pictures and are therefore able to track their way back.

As hard as it may seem, chimps are much smarter than we give them credit for. We were told that chimps had been trained to use American Sign Language and lexigrams and have excellent problem solving skills. Afterwards we saw real chimps being fed and saw

their crafty ways of obtaining food like out of the water and from each other! We saw their behaviour of grooming. We also learnt that there are actually styles of hierarchy within this group of monkeys and specifically the alpha male established power by friendship. This was an amazing and interesting start to our visit.

But we were horrified to learn that, in Europe, the meat of 600 chimpanzees (in a failed attempt) was smuggled through. If we buy toilet roll with the FSC logo on it, this helps stop illegal smuggling of chimpanzee meat. It costs the same as any other brand and is found in all supermarkets.

Later, my group went off exploring and saw red pandas, ostriches and some free roaming peacocks. The sea lion show was amazing. They told a story using the sea lions as actors e.g. playing dead, diving, clapping, shouting and jumping etc. It was an amazing show and very impressive to see how intelligent they were and well trained.

We then had a lunch break for about 45 minutes around some amazing birds, pelicans specifically.

Afterwards my group and one other went around simply to explore and view different animals. We saw flamingos; on our way we learned some very interesting facts like they only happen to be pink because of the food they eat. We also had the pleasure to see cheetahs, though they weren't in a very active mood! Lions were our next stop. They were asleep but nevertheless large when we saw them. Surprisingly, lions sleep for 21 hours a day. We saw many females but only one male. We went on to the meerkats and afterwards strolled along to see the giraffes. Apparently, the heart of a giraffe weighs roughly 10kg! Lastly we went to the discovery centre to learn more about insects and reptiles etc.

Overall it was an amazing trip, I learnt a lot that I did not know and I enjoyed visiting such a wide variety of animals. I am so glad that we had this chance to see such marvels. I (along with the rest of Year 10) am very grateful to all the teachers who accompanied us on this trip and a special thanks to Mr Parry who organised it all.

**Kumael Bilgrami 10G**







## Henry Moore Foundation trip

**H**enry Moore was an artist, mainly an abstract sculptor working in bronze. He was, and still is, known for his use of negative space (holes in the sculptures which lead the eye through) and the way he blurred the boundaries between landscape and portrait art.

Moore was born in Castleton, Yorkshire on 30th July 1898. He grew up there, but later moved to London. In September 1940, Moore's house was damaged by bomb shrapnel, which also damaged some of his sculptures. Moore and his family moved to Perry Green, in Hertfordshire, renting and later buying a farmhouse called Hoglands. Here he worked until his death on 31st August 1986. Today, Henry Moore's house and its grounds are maintained by the Henry Moore Foundation, a charity set up by Moore in 1977, which now aims to safeguard his work, teach people about it, and make it available to study.

Nearly 30 years after Moore's death, on 23rd October 2013, I was privileged to be able to visit the Henry Moore Foundation on an Art trip. As well as my class (Year 10) Year 11 and Sixth Form art students also took part in the visit. We travelled by coach to Perry Green, which is close to Ware. To begin with, we were shown around the grounds, where many of Moore's sculptures are now displayed. Some of these are 'copy o'. The sculptures were cast from giant moulds, and 3 or 4 copies were often produced. Moore's own copy would be given a number ending in o. We learnt about each sculpture, how Moore worked, and the techniques he used.

We were also shown the room where Moore actually worked, making small maquettes (small versions of sculptures made from plaster or clay), which were then translated into full-size sculptures. These were displayed, as well as the things that inspired Moore – small pieces of bone and flint, and an elephant's skull given to

him by keepers at London Zoo. It was almost as if he had been working there the previous day. Sculptures by Rodin, a French artist, were also displayed in the grounds. These seemed to be more figurative than Moore's, which were more abstract.

It was interesting to learn how Moore's sculptures were affected by the environment around them. For example, a sculpture called Sheep piece, showing a sheep and her lamb, is now in a field of sheep, whose wool has polished the sculpture where they have rubbed against it.

After lunch, we were given more time to look at the sculptures, as well as photograph and sketch from them. I decided to focus on a big sculpture called The Arch, made by Moore and inspired by a piece of bone. I did a quick sketch and took photographs from various angles to get an idea of the very naturalistic and quite complex shape and texture of the sculpture.

A small group of us then decided that, with only ten minutes before we were due to leave, we would walk across a large and slightly wet field to see a sculpture which was displayed on a hill. Because it was made from lots of bronze sections, the sculpture looked very different if viewed from the 'wrong' angle. Sadly, there was not time to view it for very long though, as we were already late. About five minutes later, after running part of the way back to the car park and climbing over a gate, we were pleased to find that the coach had waited for us, and that we hadn't annoyed everyone else too much!

I would like to thank the Art Department for organising the trip and the Henry Moore Foundation for allowing us to visit. Hopefully we weren't too irritating and they will allow other groups from Watford Boys to visit in the future!

**By Danny Figg 10P**



## Art Trip to London

**O**n the 29th of November 2013, the art students of Year 11 and Sixth form travelled to London to view various art pieces by Thomas Heatherwick, designer of the London Olympic Cauldron, and to take inspiration for our own studies.

The first exhibition we visited was one of Heatherwick's earliest pieces: 'Bleigiessen'. The piece resembles the dynamic shape of falling liquid frozen in time, and consists of 142,000 glass spheres suspended on 27,000 steel wires. Inspired by the German New Year's tradition of pouring molten wax into water and telling different fortunes based on the range of shapes produced. Heatherwick used this process to form the idea for his sculpture, but used lead not wax as he experimented with the intricate shapes until he found one he liked, and then refined. The true inimitability of the piece comes from the spherical beads of glass used, as each bead contains a sheet of light reflecting material through its diameter. This means that each angle the piece is viewed from bears a completely different colour scheme. At six storeys tall, the sheer enormity of structure can only fully be experienced when witnessing it first-hand.

After some more travelling to an area near Paddington, we also visited the rolling bridge, a prototype of an ordinary-looking bridge closing off a wharf able to fold into a circle by a series of pneumatics. This clever design, as well as being aesthetically pleasing, provides functionality as it allows docked boats to leave the wharf.



Later on we visited a very special news kiosk, designed by Heatherwick. The challenge for him was to design a news kiosk which was practically impossible to open without the key, whilst retaining an attractive look. This was in response to a theft problem occurring in news kiosks around London. He definitely succeeded, as the kiosk he produced is completely secure when shut as a result of a curved, inwardly folding design which, similarly to the rolling bridge, is beautifully designed as well as providing improved functionality.

The trip back home allowed us to travel via one of Heatherwick's designs, the new routemaster bus, which has recently been introduced to standard bus routes across London.

All in all, the trip allowed us to see the influence that Thomas Heatherwick has had on London, as well as some of his great designs. The popularity of his work is a true testament to his skill as a designer.

**By Dylan Jumar 11G and Nathaniel Oshunniyi 11T**





Year 11 Artists



Nathaniel Oshunniyi



Dylan Jumar



Kirisun Sivanathan



John ibabao



Mujtaba Shah



Andrew Layton



John Magadia



Josh Butt



# MUSIC



## 2012 Autumn Concerts

The Music season opened with the Autumn concerts: two evenings of musical entertainment beginning with the Brass Ensemble's performance of Juanear and Los Canarios, new pieces discovered on a collection of music from Spain produced by the group of professionals known as Superbrass. The virtuoso pieces really engaged the students during the autumn term, no more so than in the solo trumpet part played by Rhys Haberfield in Juanear. The ensemble met the challenges most admirably and completed their programme with a traditional Christmas rendition of Santa Baby, with Jamie Wall playing the solo line on the Flugelhorn with real panache. The Fuller Sound performed next, with a

varied programme that included Michael Haydn's Canon Gloria, Emeli Sande's Read All About It and Freddie Mercury's Don't Stop Me Now. The next item was a departure from the norm. Coached by Russell Barnett, the newly-formed Folk Group gave an energetic performance of Ho-Hey by the Lumineers, which was received very well indeed. The first half ended with the Senior Wind Band performing Bruce Fraser's Firepower, the traditional Shepherd's Song from the Auvergne, and an arrangement of Bach's famous D minor Toccata. The playing was well-controlled and particularly exciting in the Toccata. Crescendo Strings performed two movements from Handel's Rinaldo Suite most effectively, and the

concert was brought to a close with four pieces from the Big Band: Count Basie's Aces and Faces and I Left My Heart in San Francisco, Neal Hefti's Cute and Glenn Miller's St. Louis Blues. The performances were excellent, especially as both the saxophone and rhythm section were composed almost entirely of new recruits. There were some fine solos from Jonathan Pamplin on kit and Owen Nicolaou on double bass in Cute, Jonathan Shapiro and Jacob Hartley on trumpet, Rohan Zakharia on lead alto in Aces and Faces and Jamie Wall on trumpet in St. Louis Blues and the audience really showed their appreciation of the musical talents of the students.

On the following evening, the Brass

Band opened with Philip Sparke's A Tameside Overture, followed by Breezin' Down Broadway by Goff Richards and then Peter Graham's Cossack Wedding Dance. The challenging programme was superbly executed by the talented ensemble. The next item was provided by Patrick Kennedy, Gokulan Kannan, James Hamilton and Kazu Sair, the members of the Chilcott String Quartet, who gave an accomplished account of Michael Maclean's Czardas. It was great to see many Year 7 performers taking

to the stage for the Friday Band's slot and the group entertained with their versions of We Will Rock You, Another One Bites the Dust, both arranged by Paul Mertha, and A Tribute to Rogers and Hammerstein arranged by Calvin Cluster. The sixty-strong Senior Choir sang Ben Parry's arrangement of Gaudete, David Fanshawe's Lord's Prayer from his African Sanctus and Mark Brymer's Tribute to Queen, providing a rousing finale to the first half. The second half was devoted to orchestral music and started with

## 2012 The Carol Service

The Brass Ensemble started the Carol service with Giovanni Gabrieli's Canzon Duodecimi a 10 No.3, with the two choirs of five instruments placed either side of the aisle, the ensemble giving a very vivid account of this 16th century composition. This led into the familiar opening carol Once in Royal David's City, with Thomas Bartlett singing the treble solo for the first verse with an excellent sound and fine intonation. The other congregational Carols were the traditional Hark! The

Herald Angels Sing, O Come all ye Faithful and Unto us is Born a Son. The Senior Choir and Fuller Sound presented Gaudete, Canon Gloria, The Colours of Christmas, Noel Nouvelet, Christmas Lullaby, Child in a Manger, Star Carol and Torches. The musical interlude was provided by a small group of players from the Senior String ensemble, performing the first movement of the Bach Double Concerto, Danny Lewis and Robert Carpenter taking the solo violin parts

## Prizegiving

Prizegiving took place on the very day that we returned to school, so there was the inevitable rushing around to have everything ready, but on the evening, there were magnificent performances

from all the musicians involved. For a change, the Fuller Piano Quintet started the proceedings this year with a wonderful performance of the first movement of the Brahms Piano Quintet in F minor with



the Senior Strings performing Bach's Double Violin Concerto, with Danny Lewis and Robert Carpenter taking the solo violin lines, and finished with the Senior Orchestra playing part of Matthias' Serenade and Kander's Chicago Medley. The soloists and groups performed superbly and provided a very fitting climax to all the work that our committed and talented students had put in during the term, witnessed by nearly six hundred people over the two evenings.

once again, whilst Jamie Wall and Rhys Haberfield on piccolo trumpets provided the finale from the organ loft in the form of the Vivaldi Double Concerto, adding a new dimension to the evening. Once again I must say a massive thank you to all those who came to support the traditional celebration and all the singers and instrumentalists who made the evening a very memorable one.

Danny Lewis and Ros Groves on violin, Joe Watts on viola, Shivaik Shah on 'cello and Gregory Page on piano. The musical interludes were provided by the gifted jazz pianist, Matthew Jacobs, who performed an impressive improvisation on Here's that Rainy Day. This was followed by three of our top trumpet players, Jamie Wall, Jonathan Shapiro and Rhys Haberfield, performing a superb rendition of Leroy Anderson's comical Bugler's Holiday. The musical finale following all the evening's celebrations of success was given by the Brass Quintet: Jonathan Shapiro, Jamie Wall, Robert Carpenter, Bill Foster and John Malcolm performing Buster Keaton Blues. The lively rendition of music brought the evening to a triumphant conclusion and allowed Mr Malcolm some of the limelight in his final term with us at Watford Boys. Many thanks and congratulations to our musicians for giving a very professional account of themselves during the evening.





Due to the shorter Spring Term, the Lower Sixth Chamber Concert took place before half term on February 14th, but it was nonetheless an entertaining and enjoyable evening for all concerned, providing some excellent performances for the students' examination components. The concert started with Joshua Harper playing two comical pieces, Greenwood's The Acrobat and Jim Parker's Bone Shaker, with a great sense of style. Matthew Rist performed three pieces for solo guitar, Senhorinha by Guinga, Etudes Simples XI by Leo Brouwer and Petronica by Antonio

Lauro, each effectively crafted and most enjoyable. Two movements from Poulenc's wonderful woodwind sonatas were on the programme for the evening: the first of these, for flute, was played by Seb Walker, who captured the serenity of the slow movement particularly well. He then performed Conchita reve by Joaquin Turina on the piano. James Layton gave an evocative performance of Remembrances from the soundtrack written for the film Schindler's List by John Williams. Chopin's Waltz in Ab major featured next, performed accurately by Aaron Zolnai-

Lucas on the piano. Following the second of the two Poulenc movements, this time the first movement of the oboe sonata, played effectively by Jake Harvey, Robert Carpenter brought the evening to a close with the Allegro from Mozart's second horn concerto, a very complicated work that was made to sound quite effortless.

Once again it was a delight to see the progress that the students had made in the Sixth Form and how well they managed to perform in front of a familiar audience!

## Superbrass

From time to time, we look at the possibility of bringing professional musicians into the Muse to inspire and provide live music and so it was a real delight to welcome the ten-piece brass ensemble known as 'Superbrass' to the Muse on the first Sunday of half term. It was a great move, as everyone involved in both the masterclass in the afternoon and the concert in the evening was in for a real treat. Students from the school's Brass Ensemble, Brass Band and brass players from the County started the day by listening to the group in rehearsal, which was most enjoyable, and then all

musicians took to the stage to prepare the large scale pieces as one unit. What was particularly exciting for all the musicians was the fact that every one of the professionals was a high-profile player in a major orchestra who spread themselves out amongst the students not only to play but to give advice. Led by Mr Malcolm, the Brass Band prepared Blue Rondo a la Turk whilst the Brass Ensemble, under the direction of the Director of Music, prepared Singing in the Rain and the Londonderry Air, featuring Bill Foster as the solo trombonist. Both Brass Ensembles then rehearsed

Malaguena and a special surprise encore for Mr Malcolm, Solving the Riddle by Billy May. There was a real atmosphere of excitement and enjoyment during the day that spilled over into the evening and some of the highlights included the Superbrass performances of Junaear and Los Canarios with some jaw-dropping playing by Mike Lovatt, principal trumpet of the BBC Big Band and John Wilson Orchestra. It was an evening to remember, one of those moments that will probably not be repeated for a long time. Many thanks to all those students who took part in the event.

## 2013 Spring Concerts

The first of our two Spring Concerts took place on Wednesday 20th March to a packed audience of enthusiastic parents and friends. The Brass Ensemble began with a lively Gershwin selection entitled Got a Little Rhythm, followed by John Iveson's iconic arrangement for solo trombone of the traditional Londonderry Air. The soloist was Bill Foster, who gave an exciting rendition of the piece with the usual elongated cadenza at the start. The Beatles' Penny Lane was superbly played with fine solos all around the group, but a special mention must go to Rhys Haberfield for his solo, just as in the original on the piccolo trumpet. Fuller Sound contributed Abba's The Winner Takes it All along with Jim Steinman's Bat out of Hell with great support from James Kennedy on the piano and James Dutton on guitar. The Senior Windband completed the first half under the baton of Mr Malcolm with some fine playing of Ron Goodwin's 633 Squadron, Faure's Pavane and Classic Duke, an arrangement of some of the best Ellington tunes. Crescendo Strings, led by Justin Ho, started the second half with some spirited playing of Carl Orff's O Fortuna followed by a well-crafted performance of the Waltz from Masquerade. The first concert ended with four pieces from the Big Band: Basie's 920 Special, with some fine solo playing from Matthew Jacobs on piano, Jamie Wall on trumpet and Bill Foster on trombone. Xavier Cougat's One Mint Julep featuring

our pianist Matthew Jacobs and kit player Jonathan Pamplin, whilst Ellington's In a Mellow Tone provided an opportunity for Jonathan Shapiro and Jacob Hartley on trumpet to feature in the middle section, leaving the final high screaming trumpet finale to Rhys Haberfield. The final piece was another Basie number, April in Paris, largely a full Band affair, save for the trumpet sounds of Jonathan Shapiro and the vocal interjection from Matthew Jacobs to restart the final section, catching the audience by surprise. The second concert on the following day started with the Senior Orchestra in fine form, performing the lively Thunderbirds March, serving as a kind of overture. This was followed by the highly topical selections from Les Miserables, the film of which had just recently been released. The Senior Strings performed their finale from Tchaikovsky's Serenade for Strings and the players managed to circumnavigate the difficulties encountered in this piece most effectively. The Friday Band played three pieces, When I'm 64, With a Little Help from my Friends and Lassus Trombone, which featured the eight trombonists in the band playing out of their skin. The Senior Choir sang two pieces: the famous Paul Mealor song written for the Military Wives, Wherever You Are, which was full of emotion and the lively arrangement Best of the Beach Boys, which took us up to the interval. The recently-formed folk band were then

given the opportunity to perform two pieces, Waiting for my Chance to Come by Noah and the Whale and This is the Life by Amy MacDonald. The performances were very assured and enjoyed immensely by the audience. The final musical items were provided by the Brass Band, who would normally feature at the start of the concert, but as Mr Malcolm was due to leave at the end of term, it was decided that he should finish the concert and with Blue Rondo a la Turk, Bugler's Holiday and Sweet Georgia Brown, he did it in style. The Brass Band was in fine form and the solo trumpeters, Jonathan Shapiro, Rhys Haberfield and Jamie Wall in Bugler's Holiday really did reveal what exceptional talent we have in our brass players. The audience cheered and clapped furiously and the Director of Music thanked Mr Malcolm for his brilliant efforts with students and ensembles alike over the past thirteen years. He was to be given a further send-off in the form of a surprise concert the following Sunday when many former pupils, a number of whom were at University, Music College and in the profession, turned up to form a double ten-piece brass ensemble and Big Band playing an exciting selection of pieces, culminating in My Way as performed by Frank Sinatra, but on this occasion sung brilliantly by Edward Parks. It was a fantastic evening and hopefully one that Mr Malcolm will remember for years to come.



The Upper Sixth Chamber Concert took place at the start of the Spring Term, on Thursday 18th April, and gave the opportunity for seven accomplished musicians to present their prepared programmes to their families and friends. Rhys Haberfield opened the evening with three movements from three different trumpet works: Haydn's Allegro from the concerto was followed by the middle movement of the Neruda concerto and then the Spiritual from Hubeau's sonata. The pieces were played extremely musically, with a clear tone and excellent accuracy. The first of our pianists, Matthew Jacobs, had prepared a jazz-influenced Gershwin programme with Prelude 2 followed by improvisations on Summertime and Embraceable you. The Prelude was very sensitively played with some musical rubato and careful chord placement. For Summertime, Matthew had engaged the services of Owen Nicolaou on bass, Jonathan Pamplin on

## Upper Sixth Chamber Concert

kit and Bill Foster on bongos, and the performance was electric and swung effortly, with many masterful touches in Matthew's solo line. Embraceable you also sparkled. Tarik, the first of our violinists, performed the middle movement of the Grieg sonata very effectively and this was followed by a typical Vaughan Williams slow movement, entitled Ballad for viola, in which Tarik captured the style of the solemn melody very well. Two movements of the Telemann concerto completed Tarik's recital. Our second pianist, James Kennedy, had chosen three famous romantic works for his recital. Starting with the Liebstraume by Liszt, James managed to capture the mysterious quality of the work. Chopin's Waltz in B minor was very stylish and forceful, where it needed to be and the Schubert Impromptu in Eb was played effortlessly. The right-hand part is in triplets almost all the way through and James managed to keep this sounding energetic and

even through the whole piece. Bill Foster performed two movements of the Larsson concerto for his recital and he managed to accomplish the technical demands of the piece with real ease, whilst still maintaining a beautifully rounded sound for the lyrical sections of the work, ably assisted by Winnie Wu, his accompanist. Our second violinist Jay-Russell Dennis, had chosen to play the same opener as Tarik, the Grieg sonata, and then followed this with a well-managed account of the rondo finale from Beethoven's Spring sonata. The finale was left to Jamie Wall, who had decided to perform the ambitious Arutunian concerto. The performance was excellent and made a fitting end piece to the concert. The Director of Music thanked the parents and friends for their support, the boys for their accomplishments and all the tutors for their hard work in preparing the students for their performance examination.

The instrumental forces of WGGs and WBGs combined on Mayday to present the traditional Joint Orchestral Concert at the Muse. The programme was a very varied one, with a mixture of concerti movements and orchestral pieces and a string quartet movement included for good measure. The standard was excellent and a real credit to our older students, especially when the demands of revision and coursework were undoubtedly uppermost in their minds. The concert commenced with the first of Eric Coates' programmed works for the evening, the final movement from the Three Elizabeths Suite, the portrait of Queen Elizabeth II, also known as the Youth of Britain March. Full of catchy melodies and enriching harmonies, the piece provided a wonderful start to the proceedings. The

## Joint Orchestral Concert

first movement of Mozart's G major flute concerto performed by Suzanna Grealley was next on the programme and this was played with great musical expression and dexterity. Four of our most talented musicians from the two schools, Danny Lewis, Charis Sykesud, Joe Watts and Kate Watts then provided us with a wonderful rendition of the first movement of Schubert's introspective quartet known as Death and the Maiden. The full orchestra returned to complete the first half with Holst's Jupiter from the Planets Suite. The second half commenced with Vivaldi's Double Trumpet Concerto featuring Jamie Wall and Rhys Haberfield as the soloists. The three movements, which require great control and dexterity in the high register of the instruments, were expertly played by the duo and

sensitively accompanied, especially in the middle movement, by the combined strings of the orchestra. The next piece featured Danny Lewis on violin and Joe Watts on the viola in arguably one of Mozart's finest compositions, the Sinfonia Concertante. The solo playing was outstanding, with a great sense of rapport between the two students. Eric Coates provided the music for the final items on the programme, Westminster and Kensington from the London Suite. The orchestral playing was outstanding with a great feeling for the style of this wonderful music and left the audience with plenty of great tunes to hum on their way out of the concert hall. Many thanks to all those students who spent the extra time rehearsing and preparing for such a successful evening of music-making.

The traditional Founder's Day Service took place the day after our Joint Concert at St. Mary's Church in the High Street. The service started with a Gabrieli Canzona with the brass players of the ensemble split on both sides of the isle to maximise the exploitation of the church's acoustics, as had originally been intended when Gabrieli composed the piece. The Senior Choir sang the evocative Lord's Prayer

## Founder's Day

in a setting from the African Sanctus. The Brass Ensemble performed a musical interlude Maria Thereis featuring a beautiful rendition of the solo by Robert Carpenter on French horn. The final item was Bach's sunny setting of Nun Danket Alle Gott scored for the ten-piece brass ensemble, which provided a lively end to the afternoon service of celebration. The alternative service also ran smoothly

back at school with notable contributions from Lavandan Jegatheeswaran L6, Thinejan Jegatheeswaran 8, Deven Voralia 8N, Brandon Kato 10C, Adam Rickayzen 8G, Kumaal Bilgrami 9G, Antony Lo 7T, James Hamilton 10F, Kazu Sair 9T and Danayan Luxmanan 10G. Well done to all our performers.



## Big Band At The Canal Festival

Once again we had been invited to come down to the Aquadrome and perform at the end of the Canal Festival. The weather held firm and the Big Band performed superbly to a large and enthusiastic crowd. Stephen Restarick sang a selection of vocal numbers alongside our special guest singer from the Girls' School,

Sarah Hunt. This year's set included 920 Special, One Note Samba, All of Me, Wave, Duet, In a Mellow Tone, April in Paris, One Mint Julep, I Get a Kick Out of You and I've Got You Under my Skin. It was a joy to direct such a talented group of players, many of whom we have had to say goodbye to this year, including

## 2013 Summer Concert

Our summer concert took place on Thursday 4th July, as part of the Arts and Literary Festival week. It was our traditional concert to celebrate many of the Prizewinners from the Competition held in April and also featured some of the groups that were still in operation towards the end of term. The concert started with the Friday Band performing three pieces, Final Countdown, Psalm 42 and Men in Black. This was our new Head of Brass, Stuart Quinlan's first concert with the group and it was a most impressive performance from this large ensemble. Our first prizewinner, Alex Page, then moved to the Steinway to give an evocative rendition of the Sarabande by Debussy. Eddie Cummins gave an impressive account of an arrangement of Fly me to the Moon on

the clarinet and Tom Watts followed with a beautifully-crafted rendition of the Shepherd's Song on the trumpet. Hamish McGregor-Smith performed a Messiaen prelude full of different colours and shadings and then Chris Weatherill played the theme tune to The House of Elliott with great skill. James Wheeler and Matthew Gibson then took to the stage to perform on the taiko; the performance was extremely well choreographed and it was quite a spectacle with plenty of varied and interesting rhythms to keep the audience's attention. With many of our older students on study leave, a new ten-piece brass ensemble had been formed and the results were revealed next with the group performing two pieces, A Nightingale sang in Berkeley Square and I'm Getting Married in the

the majority of the trumpet and rhythm sections, but I am sure that there are others who will rise to the occasion and now relish the opportunity to perform some of the great repertoire written for this outfit. Many thanks to you all as well as your individual teams of supporters!

Morning. The playing was excellent and much appreciated by the audience. Our final soloist of the first half was Russell Barnett, who sang This is the Moment from the musical Jekyll and Hyde, a powerful song performed with great skill and control. The first half was brought to an effective close by the Senior Choir under the direction of Kevin Thorold, performing Adiemus by Karl Jenkins and Money, Money, Money by Abba. The second half started with our Crescendo Strings Group, who entertained with three movements from Purcell's Suite to The Old Bachelor. Bill Foster then took centre stage and performed the last two movements of Larsson's trombone concerto with great skill and dexterity, a worthy joint winner of the Rosebowl. The leader of our Crescendo Strings group



delivered a very musical performance of Elgar's evocative Chanson de Matin, followed by Po de Mico, played most ably by Alex Waygood on the guitar. Our second violinist, Anthony Lo, then performed Meditation from Thais, a real musical account of this very familiar piece. As this was Mrs Groves' last concert as Head of Strings, the Director of Music thanked her profusely for her dedicated service to the string players in the school and the many groups that she had coached over the last fifteen years. She was presented with a large bouquet of flowers in honour of her sterling work, especially with the Fuller Quintet. The players of this group then gave a superb performance of the first movement of Schubert's Trout Quintet. Earlier in the year, we were delighted to welcome the Piano Trio Society to the

Muse for a day. In order for our students to engage in the day, we had created two Piano Trio groups and it was the Junior Group, with Alex Page on piano, Justin Ho on violin and Reuben Gluck on 'cello, that later triumphed in the Music Competition. They gave an excellent rendition of the Allegro movement from Haydn's Piano Trio No.21 in C. The final item on the programme was probably one which no-one in the audience will ever forget. We have been wowed by the sheer technical brilliance of Danny Lewis ever since he entered the school seven years ago, but actually to perform the Carmen Fantasy by Sarasate with such flair, technical security, musicality and a maturity that belies his age was absolutely incredible and rightly deserved the standing ovation that it received. The Headmaster then

presented the Rosebowl to both Danny and Bill, the Kienitz award to Jamie Wall for his unwavering commitment to at least six school music groups in the last seven years and the Nigel Compton Award to Matthew Rist for the most progress in instrumental lessons in the last year. The concert was a very fitting way to celebrate the brilliant musical talent in the school during Arts Week.

Many congratulations and thanks to all those boys who have spared their time to be part of an ensemble; I do hope that you have enjoyed all your music making. Once again, many thanks for all the encouragement that parents give to their children and of course for the magnificent attendances at our concerts and other functions again this year.

2013 Autumn Concerts

At our first Autumn Concert on Wednesday 27th November the first to perform was the Brass Ensemble, with half of the group consisting of new personnel in critical positions, presenting a lively rendition of Irving Berlin's Cheek to Cheek. Two of our more experienced players, Joshua Harper and Jez Swanwick, then took centre stage with the solo parts in Christopher Mowat's Bone Idyll and Cab Calloway's Minnie the Moocher. Both trombonists captured the two different styles of the pieces, Joshua producing a beautifully shaped melodic line with great lyricism and Jez bringing to life the famous scat call at both ends of the trombone's register. The performances were a real credit to the players in this group. The large Senior Choir performed their diverse programme of three songs which consisted of Bob Dylan's Make you Feel my Love, Handel's Since by Man Came Death and a Lennon and McCartney Medley, all of which were sung most effectively and well received. To end the first half it was the turn of the Big Band, again with many new students in key positions, to play the great Latin number, Tito Puente's That Old Devil Moon, and Duke Ellington's Perdido, with great solo work from Christian Balderstone on baritone saxophone, Christopher Weatherilt and Jacob Hartley on trumpet and Christian Amos on clarinet. The

final number featured the vocal skills of Russell Barnett in the guise of Sinatra, singing one of his most famous charts, Fly me to the Moon. The audience was rather mystified as to the location of the singer, who made a grand entrance from the top of the auditorium, losing his fedora on route to join the band at the front. The performance received rapturous applause. The second half of the concert featured the Crescendo Strings in a performance of the Space Stringpops Suite by Peter Wilson, a most effective work written in different styles to suit a different part of a space journey. The pieces were extremely well performed by the young musicians. The final item saw the Senior Wind Band perform W. C. Handy's St. Louis Blues, Jack Bullock's Four of a Kind and Stevie Wonder's Songs in the Key of Life. The middle item saw some fine solo playing from Jacob Hartley, Christopher Weatherilt, Tom Watts and Tom Gwynne-Evans, whilst the final item featured some wonderful moments, none more than the horn solo from Robert Carpenter in Isn't She Lovely. On the following evening the Friday Band, with many new year seven recruits, performed three pieces: I heard it through the Grapevine, Quincy Jones's lively Soul Bossa Nova and Stravinsky's Finale from the Firebird Suite. The

playing was excellent, committed and enthusiastic. Next to perform were the Junior Brass Ensemble with two pieces, On the Sunnyside of the Street and Gordon Gatecrasher. These pieces were played very effectively by the young ensemble that is going from strength to strength. The Brass Band completed the first half on top form with Manuel de Falla's Ritual Fire Dance, John Barry's You only Live Twice and John Miles' Music. The second half was devoted to performances from the Senior Strings and the Senior Orchestra, the former performing three movements from Holst's famous St. Paul's Suite whilst the latter started their programme with the main theme from the Mastersingers to join in the year of celebrations of two hundred years since the birth of Richard Wagner. Following Robert Smith's lively and rhythmic Rites of Tamburo, which gave the percussion section plenty to keep them on their toes, the evening finished with John Williams's iconic suite to his blockbuster movie, Jurassic Park. The challenges of the complex score were met most effectively by the talented group of musicians and the performance provided a very fitting end to what had been two very memorable days of music making to capacity audiences.

2013 The Carol Service

The Festival of Lessons and Carols took place on December 17th at St. Michael's Church. This year we were very fortunate that one of our new Year 7 musicians, Paul Greally, is a talented organist and the lead-up to the service gave him an opportunity to play two pieces before the Brass Introit. This year, the music was provided by Samuel Scheidt in the form of his Echo Fantasia and the Brass Ensemble gave a most effective

account of this piece. The treble solo to Once in Royal David's City was sung most effectively by Charlie Smith. The other congregational Carols were the traditional Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, O Come all ye Faithful and O Little Town of Bethlehem. The Senior Choir and Fuller Sound presented Since by Man Came Death, the Coventry Carol, A Clare Benediction, Sir Christemas, Ah! Dearest Jesu, When a Child is Born, Tonight! and

Torches! The Brass Ensemble performed Final Flourish following the final hymn and then Paul Greally returned to the organ loft to perform a most appropriate recessional by William Mathias. Once again, the church was full and it was wonderful to involve over 100 musicians to celebrate in the traditional way and bring the term's musical endeavours to a fitting conclusion.

# Music Competition Winners 2013

**Lower School Piano**  
Tom Watts: Mignon by Schumann.

**Middle School Piano**  
Alex Page: Sarabande by Debussy.

**Upper School Piano**  
Hamish McGregor-Smith: a prelude by Messiaen.

**Lower School Strings**  
Justin Ho: Chanson de Matin by Elgar on the violin.

**Middle School Strings**  
Anthony Lo: Meditation from Thais by Massenet on the violin.

**Upper School Strings**  
Danny Lewis: Carmen Fantasy by Sarasate on the violin. Danny was also joint winner of the Rosebowl.

**Lower School Woodwind**  
Eddie Cummins: Fly Me to the Moon by Bart Howard on the clarinet.

**Middle School Woodwind**  
Patrick Noren: music from Pirates by Klaus Badelt and Star Wars by John Williams on the bassoon.

**Upper School Woodwind**  
Rohan Zakharia: First movement of the Phil Woods sonata on the alto saxophone.

**Lower School Brass**  
Tom Watts: The Shepherd's Song on the trumpet.

**Middle School Brass**  
Chris Weatherilt: The House of Eliott by Jim Parker on the trumpet.

**Upper School Brass**  
Bill Foster: Second and third movements of the Concertino by Larsson on the trombone. Bill was also joint winner of the Rosebowl.

**Percussion**  
James Wheeler and Matthew Gibson: Languages Around the World on the taiko.

**Lower School Vocal**  
This was shared between Reuben Gluck singing Let it Be by the Beatles and Arthur Garvey singing The Ashgrove by Thomas Oliphant.

**Middle And Upper School Vocal**  
Ben Lester: I Dreamed a Dream from Les Miserables.

**Acoustic Guitars**  
Neil Sayers: Estudios Sencillos XI by Leo Brouwer

**Electric And Bass Guitars**  
Tim Bush: X-Blues III by Deidre Cartwright.

**Lower School Ensembles**  
The Lower School Piano Trio, Alex Page, Justin Ho and Reuben Gluck: 1st movement of the Trio No.21 in C by Haydn.

**Middle And Upper School Ensembles**  
The Fuller Piano Quintet, Danny Lewis, Joe Watts, Shivaik Shah, Gregory Page and Owen Nicolaou: 1st movement of the Piano Quintet in A (The Trout) by Schubert

**Lower School Bands**  
This was shared by two bands, the first consisting of Tom Watts, Dhillon Dodhia and James Farnsworth playing Sails by Nikki Iles and the second consisting of Solomon Linington, Ashvin Kapilan and Joseph Longstaff playing their own composition.

**Middle And Upper School Bands**  
Jamie Wall and the #Lad Bus: Oasis's Live Forever.



# Dr Tasmin Little's Masterclass

**D**r Tasmin Little visited the school on Monday 24th March 2014 to give a Masterclass. The morning was a bit chilly but because of the sun it turned out quite lovely. The Masterclass started in The Muse at 10.30 am.

I was very happy to be one of the five violin soloists to play in front of Dr Little. At the same time I was really scared and nervous because this was my first time ever in a violin Masterclass with a world famous violinist.

Every time someone finished playing, Dr Little would ask questions about the background of the composer. She always mentioned all the good points about the playing and commended the soloist on them. She would also point out how the player could improve the playing – maybe the intonation, the dynamics, the character within the music etc.

Sitting there, enjoying the good music played by my fellow schoolmates, listening to Dr. Little's words of wisdom and, most of all, the beautiful sound played by her from her antique violin, I felt extremely contented. I just wanted it to go on and on and on...

When it came to the short break, I was pulled back to the real world. Suddenly I remembered that I was the next one to play.

I was still feeling very scared and nervous when I played my piece. I tried my best to keep calm but unfortunately there were some notes I did not play as well as I should have done. At that moment, I wish I had practised a bit more.

**O**n Monday 24th March, Dr Tasmin Little visited the school to give a Masterclass for string players. A select few of us took turns performing short solo pieces that we had been working on. The Masterclass allowed us to receive constructive criticism to improve our playing both technically and stylistically. I performed Elegie by Glazunov on Viola and was given pointers to improve my tone quality which would help the overall performance. This was especially useful as the following Monday I had my Grade 8 Viola exam in which the tips that Tasmin Little gave me were helpful in giving a well-rounded performance. I also performed in the Fuller Quartet playing the final movement of Dvořák's American Quartet in order to help my ensemble playing as well as my solo playing. She helped us work on our dynamic contrast in some of the quieter sections which allowed us to build suspense to the climax of the piece creating more excitement and a better performance. This was similar with Senior Strings as she helped us to listen more to one another and helped us improve our pizzicato technique.

It was a great experience to, firstly, play for a world class violinist and hear her views on how I could improve and, secondly, to hear her play the Gavotte en Rondeau from Bach's Partita No.3 in E major. The structure of the Masterclass allowed me to pick up advice from the playing of others as well as my own. All in all, the day was a great success and invaluable to all the string players that attended.

**James Layton, 6NGv**

After I had finished playing, Dr Little gave me some advice about, for instance, the speed of some passages in the music and how I could improve. She also told me what she liked about my playing.

There is one special reason I especially enjoyed the Masterclass. When Dr Little gave me advice, showed me how to play better and corrected my playing, it was very similar to my first violin teacher. Everything was so warm and natural. I felt it was easy to follow her advice and did exactly what she asked me to do.

Dr. Little is a really inspiring character to me. Being an internationally famous musician, she must be very busy, but she still took time to come and give a Masterclass to us. She was very honest in showing us how we could improve our playing. She gave us advice on many areas such as intonation, dynamics, speed, beat, posture and even the bow hold. After listening to her, all the soloists would be asked to play a part of the music again and every one of us played better, simply because we followed Dr Little's advice! Last but not least, she also connected with the audience by answering interesting questions about music. Everybody in The Muse had a fantastic time.

**Anthony Lo 8T**



# DRAWA

## Lower School Play Ernie and his Incredible Illucinations

**E**rnie's Incredible Illucinations. Makes you wonder – doesn't it? How can hallucinations be so incredible? I suspect that is one of the elements that draws you in.

Maybe one of the other elements that drew people in was the design of the posters that were put up for it which explained the content of the play without giving the story away. The play was performed on the 3rd and 5th July 2013 in the James Theatre and was incredibly popular; it therefore complemented the Arts and Literary Festival that was taking place during that week.

The play is about a boy named Ernie who has been suffering from hallucinations and is therefore visiting the doctor with his parents. During the play, Ernie and his parents describe experiences to the doctor – including German soldiers visiting their home, champion-boxer aunts and some 'shifty' action at the library. Throughout the play, Ernie and his family attempt to prove to the doctor that the hallucinations become reality while the doctor is certain it's just group hallucinations. Although the play is much shorter than last year's, it was just as popular.

The play has been a whirlpool of contrasts, from helping each other to having disagreements – but everyone put their best efforts into the play. Every rehearsal was different; things got more serious and problems arose; but all was countered by teamwork and friendship, even though there were moments when we thought... 'Mad doctor? Comedy Soldiers? Dresses? Makeup?'... but we got on with everything. In fact, we enjoyed it as much as the audience did – and probably the director (Mr Roy).

Who can imagine what the Lower School Play will be like next year?

**Callum Crockford 9T**

## Theatre in Education at Nascot Wood School

**O**n Monday the 10th of February 2014, members of 10G and Mr Roy's drama set were invited to go to Nascot Wood Infant School and deliver a presentation regarding Road Safety and Stranger Danger. We were very fortunate to be able to visit Nascot Wood School as it was a very enjoyable experience with a great atmosphere. All the pupils were willing to learn and they were confident enough to talk about their safety experiences.

Before the visit we had time to prepare. Mr Roy had suggested to us to work in groups and prepare a presentation which we had to perform in front of our classmates and also to other classes in our school. This was a good idea as it built up our confidence when presenting to larger groups. A few weeks earlier, Mr Roy had promoted the idea of visiting Nascot Wood Infant School, and he had asked if anyone would be interested. There was a positive response as he had lots of volunteers. Mr Roy had selected some of the boys and of course I was happy to go along.

I was put together in a group with Lewis Taylor, Batsirai Mlambo and Arjun Vanza and we were assigned to deliver a workshop on Road Safety and we also created a little sketch to entertain the children. The other groups consisted of Keir

Allan, Karl Tiemann, Matthew Huszczo, Tej Dhrona and Jonathan Williams, who presented on Stranger Danger.

On the day, when we walked into the primary school, we were overwhelmed by how small everything was and it brought back memories to every one of us of our infant school days. As a group we were made very welcome by the Nascot Wood team. They took us around the school and were very helpful, offering us refreshments and just generally being hospitable. The different groups all took care of different classes and we took turns and swapped classes when we were finished with the pupils. In our group we opened the workshop with a poem, which got the children interested and ready to learn. Quite frankly, I was impressed at how well behaved the children were and how thoughtful they were when answering questions. We got the children to interact, by asking them to join in on the educational games and we even had the children putting on hi-vis jackets and giving us a Road Safety fashion show. All throughout the presentation, there was a continual display of hands; the children were all eager to participate in answering the questions. Overall, the day turned out to be a success - my peers and I really enjoyed it too.

**Thomas Mohan 10G**



During the 2012 production of 'A Few Good Men' the idea of performing 'Of Mice and Men' was mooted amongst the cast. A year onwards the Upper School was given the opportunity by Mr Roy to perform this play. Having taken part in the aforementioned 'A Few Good Men', I had no hesitation in auditioning for a part in the next upper school play. Being lucky enough to be handed the role of George, I was able to watch most of the development of the play from start to finish alongside Jack Wagman, a seasoned Watford Boys performer, as Lennie. In the space of two months, the production was ready for performance in front of a sell-out audience at the James Theatre. This was not without countless hours of hard work crammed in by the cast, the tech and stage crews and most importantly Mr Roy. This made it all the more satisfying when the hard work paid off on stage, with all three nights being a great success.

One particular hurdle along the way was the featuring of a dog during the play. After considering a fake toy dog or even the use of mime, Mr Roy decided to risk going for the real thing. As a result, we had a new cast member, Billy, who was possibly the first living dog to feature in a Watford Boys play. Billy adapted quickly to life on the stage, and soon became a popular member of the cast.

Being part of this production took dedication from the cast as a whole, with over twenty hours of rehearsals in the week leading up to the performance. Nevertheless this bonded the whole crew as a team and made for an experience we shall never forget. The Upper School play is a fantastic opportunity for actors and stage crew alike to contribute to the school, which can hopefully continue to achieve similar success in years to come.

Jacob Hartley 6BBu

# Of Mice and Men



## Posters for Productions

Over the past months I have had the privilege of being able to design and create the posters, flyers and programmes for the school productions. These include plays such as 'Ernie's Incredible Illucinations', 'Of Mice and Men' and most recently 'Sherlock Holmes and the Hound of the Baskervilles'. The intention of each poster has been to advertise the production, taking into account audience and theme, under somewhat loose guidelines from the members of the English Department, allowing a great deal of creative freedom whilst designing each poster.

The first poster brief came as quite a surprise, as a few members of my class had actually recommended me to the English Department, without my knowledge. This led to me being asked by Mr Roy in the canteen about doing the first poster. He told me what he wanted to be included in the poster. This involved the dates, times and the image on the poster itself. I scribbled the brief frenetically into my planner, striving to understand the strange concept of Ernie's Incredible Illucinations. I then set to work on my first poster for the school. All my posters thus far have been created using Photoshop. This enables me to draw the designs into the program with a graphics tablet, then colour them and add lettering.

This first poster was difficult, as the play seemed to have a number of individual elements contributing to the story, miniature tales within the play. These included a boxing granny, a murder in a library and an orchestral

scene. To incorporate each of these ideas I decided to give each one their own bubble, Ernie's dream bubbles. I continued this dreaming theme with the background. Here I drew snow-capped mountains under a starry sky, the idea being this was the place Ernie went during his 'Illucinations'. Additionally, the world was encased in Ernie's thought bubble (which doubled as a nice white border!).

The second poster I was tasked to design was for the play 'Of Mice and Men'. Having studied the text previously in my English lessons, I had a head start because I had an understanding of the book. This helped me when it came to creating the poster. Knowing the book was published in 1937, I decided to go for a slight art deco style, to relate to the period. This resulted in silhouetted figures for George and Lennie (with Lennie being larger of course); a red barn accompanied by golden fields and a wood mouse in the foreground, clinging to the grain. I added textures such as hemp for the wheat, giving some visual interest and to convey the rustic nature of the story's setting.

The most recent poster has been for the production of 'Sherlock Holmes and the Hound of the Baskervilles'. For this particular production, I had been asked to include two posters, one for the audition and one for the final play. The first poster depicted a silhouette of Sherlock, which begged a simple question, 'Who will be Sherlock Holmes?' aiming to attract people into auditioning for the role. The next poster was my personal favourite, simply because of the content. Here I was

able to draw a hound in the moonlight with ghostly red eyes and large teeth. The main aim of any poster is to attract people to the event and I hope that this poster in particular was interesting enough to persuade people to attend.

I have greatly enjoyed creating these posters and hope I will be able to make many more for the school in the future.

Jesse Rist 10T





# SPORT

# Rugby

## 1st XV

The season this year for most of the boys began with greatly anticipated summer tour to Canada, where we faced four Canadian sides. The tour was very successful, and we were able to return home to England with four great wins. Within the tour itself we travelled around Canada, visiting cities like Toronto, Ottawa and St. John's. For the rest of the boys who were unfortunate enough to not be able to join us in Canada, the season started with a home fixture against Richard Hale School and resulted in a convincing win of 26-7 which put us in a great position for a promising season.

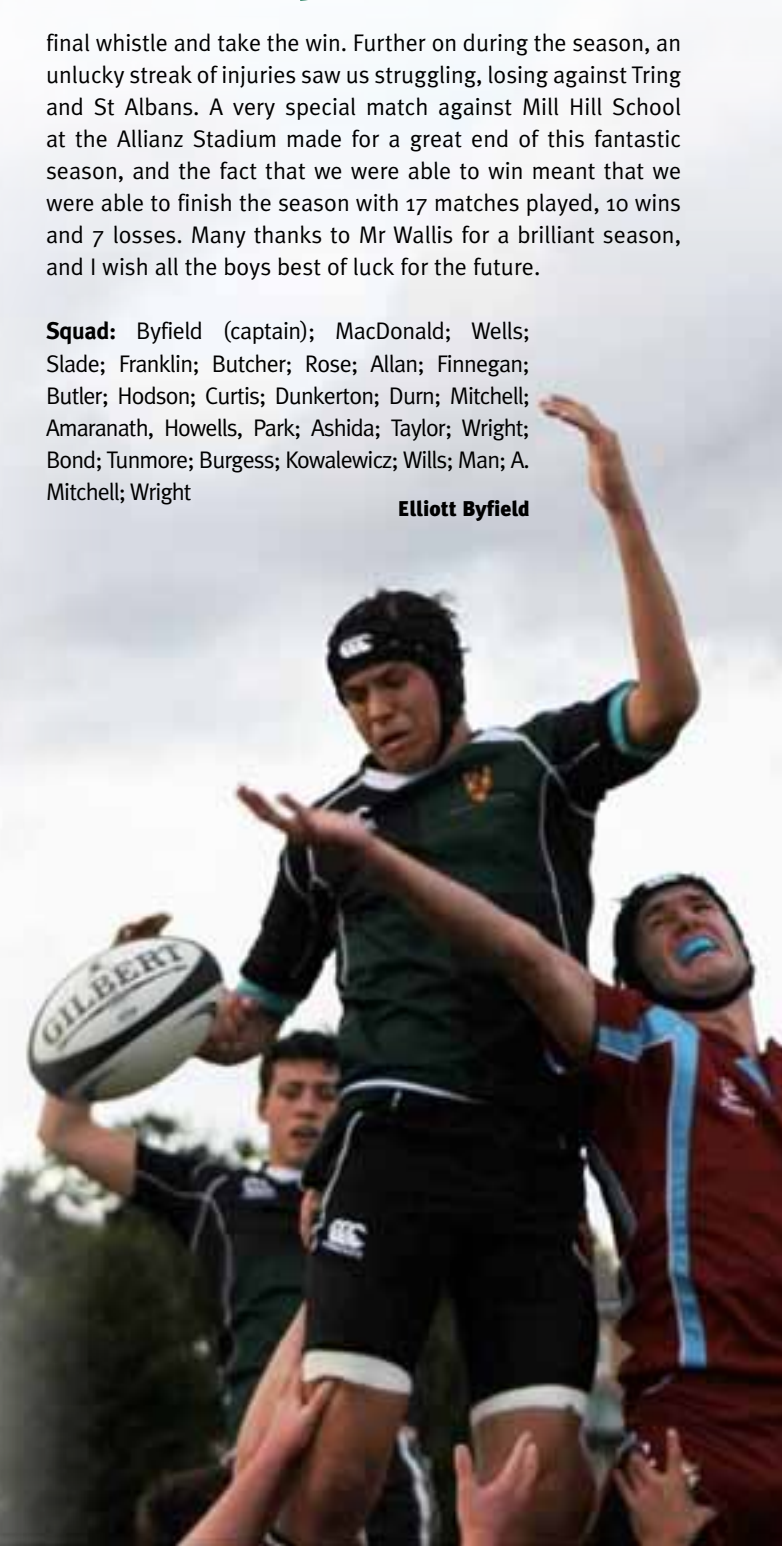
Having won our first game, we went on to beat St. Ignatius by an even more convincing 30-0. Our next game saw us come up against St. Columba's school. This was unfortunately our first loss of the season, although when we faced them again a few weeks later in the Daily Mail Cup, we were able to clinch the victory. We were unfortunate enough to only make it to the second round of the Daily Mail Cup this year, but I'm sure the boys will take us further next year.

Probably the biggest highlight of the season was the eagerly anticipated local derby match against Merchant Taylors'. Having lost narrowly last year, many of the boys wanted revenge. From the atmosphere in the changing room you could sense the importance of this match to the boys. Having said that, we had one of the best first half performances of the season, and went into the second half 31-3 up. Some outrageous decisions in the second half saw us at one point go down to 12 men. Within this time, Merchant Taylors' were able to bring the game back to almost level. We were lucky enough to just hold on till the

final whistle and take the win. Further on during the season, an unlucky streak of injuries saw us struggling, losing against Tring and St Albans. A very special match against Mill Hill School at the Allianz Stadium made for a great end of this fantastic season, and the fact that we were able to win meant that we were able to finish the season with 17 matches played, 10 wins and 7 losses. Many thanks to Mr Wallis for a brilliant season, and I wish all the boys best of luck for the future.

**Squad:** Byfield (captain); MacDonald; Wells; Slade; Franklin; Butcher; Rose; Allan; Finnegan; Butler; Hodson; Curtis; Dunkerton; Durn; Mitchell; Amaranath, Howells, Park; Ashida; Taylor; Wright; Bond; Tunmore; Burgess; Kowalewicz; Wills; Man; A. Mitchell; Wright

**Elliott Byfield**



## 2nd XV

Despite the record books recording season statistics of: Played 12, Won 4, Drawn 1 and Lost 7 the season was far from a poor one for the boys involved. Indeed two of the 'losses' accredited to the 2nds were against other 1st XV sides and so this evens up the final figures a great deal!

With a very good start to the season, gaining 3 wins and a draw in the first four games, including a brilliant 10-0 victory against our local rivals Merchant Taylors', the boys had every right to feel confident. However, a tough annual trip to a very strong Berkhamsted side saw us brought back down to Earth with a big bump and a 0-68 loss. You would be forgiven in thinking that this would be enough to dampen the spirits but in typical 2nd XV fashion, bonded by a very close knit group of boys, they bounced back admirably with a fantastic victory against St George's the following week. From here on, it proved to be a tough second half of the season. The 1st XV were hit particularly hard by injuries and so the ranks of the 2nds were thinned quite considerably. As

always, there was a great turnaround of players and this upset the team play that Mr Jelski had been able to implement so brilliantly at the start of the season. Despite this, the boys fought until the final whistle every week and this is backed up by the scores against St Albans, Haberdashers' and Queens Elizabeth Barnet which were only lost by two scores or less.

The 2nd XV should be very proud of their season and I would like to send my thanks to Mr Jelski for his efforts.

**Squad:** L.Reynolds; T.Marsh; P.Sivaharan; A.Woolfe (Capt); R.Angel; J.Obiora; J.Wagman; Z.Banson; M.Scozzafava; C.Callanan; B.Mitchell; T.Dunkerton; S.Beeston; M.Wright; L.Davies; S.Gordon; R.Woods; J.Todd; H.Dinsdale; N.Sharma; A.Pierce; O.Tanner; N.Horsley; P.Pickford; J.Waller (Capt); S.Hassanali; H.Rawbone; J.Wood, D; Wills; T.Durn; G.Noakes; M.Goldsmith; V.Ratnarajah; N.Lawrence; J.Hayes; D.Park; A.Sharkey; A.Eliad.

**GW**

## U16

Everyone set off with high hopes and aspirations to develop as a team and as individual players, knowing that for some of us this would be our final season at the school.

The season kicked off with what we all knew would be a high intensity match against St Ignatius College as previously we had won against them quite convincingly. They were out for vengeance and we may have been complacent so found ourselves losing the first half. We pulled ourselves together and managed to find ourselves again but unfortunately we left it too late and they managed to scrape a victory.

St Columba's College was our next game and we were determined to carry on the form we had displayed in the second half of our last game. We did just that; our opposition scored the first try, we huddled by the posts and we managed to come back in the game to dominate both halves and win 36-5. Tries were scored from forwards and backs alike and this would be our largest margin for victory in the season. (Tries: Aldersley, Sharkey (2), Banson, Todd, Ratnarajah)

Some of the more memorable games are not always the ones you win but the ones that are the most terribly close. Haberdashers' Aske's school always seem to be a reasonably even match in terms of ability, however this match was definitely weighted on our side but our team had been made slightly weaker with injuries and we lacked in some positions. Nonetheless we took them on and I've never played a more one sided match; we were in their half, on their 10 metre line for the whole game and ended up losing 5-0.

Dr Challoner's was another enjoyable game as we played with flair and imagination trying different and new set plays in the backs. We managed to score a variety of different style tries, however so did they making for a well played game.

What made it even better is that we won 19-17 putting a good start to our weekend.

Reflecting on the season, I can say that as a team we managed to progress over the year into what is now a hardened bunch of lads who always display great teamwork and determination never giving up until the whistle blows. It's great to captain such a side and I hope we go on to make further progress as we play rugby throughout the school.

**Squad:** Oliver Tanner; James Todd; Lewis Reynolds; Jake Obiora; Nathan Foster; Sam Oguz; Cian O'Malley; Nicholas Aldersley; Robert Kennedy; Austin Bailey; Luke Davies; Aaron Sharkey; Sam Oguz; Marcus Bragg; Charles Staines; Peter Pickford; Jack Wagman; Robert Angel

**Zac Banson 6CLd**





## U15

We played a total of 15 games in both normal games and the Daily Mail Cup and Vase competitions, winning 8, losing 7, scoring 508 points and conceding only 228. Whilst coping with injuries we also had to manage with extra games in the extra competitions. In the 8 games that we won we managed to overcome some tough opposition as well as inflicting many points against the opposition, with our biggest win being a 98-0, demolishing Slough Grammar.

Other big wins came when beating Verulam 72-0, St George's 66-0, Richard Hale 60-17, Hitchin 52-12 and overcoming an ever-strong St Albans side 47-10. One of the highlights of the season was our long run in the Daily Mail Vase, reaching Round 6 and along the way beating teams such as Mill Hill as well as Queen Elizabeth Boys (who had knocked us out of the Cup competition). Our defeat in the competition was extremely controversial after the referee, we believe, had miscounted

the score, which in doing so led us to a painful 16-17 defeat to Emmanuel School, eventual semi-finalists. Overall the Under 15s had a great season with lots of great rugby being played. We'd like to thank Mr Williams for coaching us this season and for giving up his time to take the team to matches.

**Squad:** Douglas McGregor Smith; Toby Brown; Jonas Kitadi; Onyekachi Onyekuru; James Hayes; Atharva Abhyankar; Thomas Lees; Christopher Butcher; Zakary Flesch; Jaxon Lloyd; Christopher Joseph; Julian Manieson; Christian Edwards; Adam Muscat; Angus Ball; Vyshnave Amaranath; Matthew Lally; Matthew Hodson; Tom Fawsett; Daniel Kowalewicz; Youssef Kamel; Harry Baker; Luke O'Mahoney; Haroon Aziz; Max Whittaker; Miracle Okereke; Peter Shears; Timothy Edwards; Brandon Kato; Adebola Oyekanmi

**Zak Flesch 11N**

## U14

This season was a brilliant example of what the under 14 side was capable of. Our season started off with a bang with a fantastic win over Richard Hale, the end score being 53-24. Now that we were in year 9 and playing as a team, we scored a bag load of tries. Over 13 games we managed to score 413 points whilst only letting in 153, averaging 31 points a game. Our season continued to flourish, winning against the likes of Bishop Stortford High School, Berkhamsted School and St Albans.

We maintained our winning streak making it 12 from 12 and had made our way to the County Cup final against a strong St Albans side. We arrived on the bitterly cold 17th of December

at the ground and with hopes high of going an unbeaten season. However we started very slowly and soon St Albans had the lead and we looked beaten already. It was almost a relief when the half time whistle went and we had time to compose ourselves. We struck back in the second half with an early try but that was not enough as St Albans went on to win 26-5.

Although our unbeaten streak was over, we still wanted to do well in the South East England competition. Even with some of the best state schools in the country we still managed to win our group, and to our delight reached the knock out stages. With every player putting in a perfect performance it started to look like we would go all the way. Progressing through to

the final, it suddenly hit us that we could become champions of South East England. We made a good start with an early try, but soon we let in 2 soft tries. With the final minutes drawing to a close, we were given a life line through Luke Benton catching a loopy pass and running half the pitch to secure the win and indeed the competition. With a fantastic end to a brilliant season, we can't wait to start playing rugby in year 10 and hope to go one better.

**Squad:** Harry Pettit; Shahan Shah; Jay Thanki; Robert Russo; Keir Allan; Thomas Cooney; Patrick Addison; Harry Devon; Jonathan Kennedy; Ashley Charles; Jake Wall; Luke Benton; Hashim Jamal; Jacob Brunert; Rohan Finnegan(Capt); Keegan Scholtz; James Rich; Moses Mutalaga; Raphael Thompson; Anthony Tryfonos; Morgan Osunsedo

**Rohan Finnegan 10F**

## U13

This season was very impressive, fulfilling and surprisingly successful (judging by a shaky start in year 7). The team seemed to click both in the pack and the backline; basics went very well and we finished off opportunities which were set up by our creative play. Finishing with a respectable 70% win we managed to score 163 more points than the opposition over the course of the season, including immense wins against Cokethorpe (41-0), Dr Challoner's (45-12), St George's (52-14), Haberdashers' Aske's(42-0) and Bishop's Stortford (40-10). The backs chased kicks well, executed moves nicely, passed accurately and made threatening lines. Not to be outdone, the forwards also scrummaged solidly and rucked and mauled powerfully which consequently gave easy ball for the team to work with.

During the season, I think every player managed to get their name on the score sheet, just showing how much of a team effort it was. Probably the most rewarding thing was that our heads never went down, whereas we generally managed to make sure their heads did! In my opinion, the highlight of the year was beating St Albans School 24-22. We had gone into

the game knowing they were one of our toughest oppositions, following an embarrassing thrashing from them the year before. However I had a feeling of excitement before the match. Early on I could see how much effort the boys were putting in and this showed by our lead. We then had the remainder of the match to seal the win, and we seized on all opportunities and continued our monumental defence. Although they had considerably larger players we fought above our weight and hung on to clinch a great win that day. This win completely defined how the season went, we battled very well and won unexpected games against tough schools.

**Squad:** Aidan Sharkey; Jake Lees; Chibuike Onyekuru; Thomas Stock; Ronaldo Joslyn; Samuel Boyce; Alex Foley; Olutobi Odanye; Robert Vangucci; Matthew Hives; Liam Green; Euan Wiley; Thomas Milford; Daniel Russo; Nathan Kelion; Craig Beeston(Captain); Haaris Malik; Benjamin Plunkett; Harry Clements; Jamie Ivory; George Wright

**Craig Beeston 9P**

## U12

This was our first year of rugby at Watford Grammar School for Boys and we didn't know quite what to expect. On 17th November we went to Haberdasher's School but unfortunately were overpowered by a stronger team, and lost 12-15. The week after, we played UCS (University College School) and played really well winning 37-0. This winning streak continued, with wins against Queen Elizabeth's School, Bishops Stortford High School twice and Richard Hale but when we came up against Aylesbury Grammar School, we lost to a very well drilled team, the score was 10-43. Coming out of this disappointed, we trained hard and improved on the things that we didn't do in our previous match and played Berkhamsted School, winning 19-10.

We went to the Broxbourne tournament and went on to win both of our pool games: 7-0 v Verulam, 10-0 v Enfield Grammar School. We progressed to the semi-finals where we met Goffs School. Goffs side were no match for our defence and some solid attacking play allowed for a 10-0 victory.

We went on to meet Richard Hale School in the final. RHS are a strong team but one that we had beaten twice already this season. RHS scored quickly but missed the conversion and, seeing the opportunity to get in front, we came back at them with a good try and this gave them team spirit. M.Baker converted to make the scores 7-5 and half time was up. We looked strong in the second half and the win was in sight, but a great team try from RHS in the last play of the game made the score 12-7, but we left the pitch with our heads held high.

Feeling confident, we played Verulam and although they were a good side, they were no match for us and we won 12-7. However, away at St George's School, Harpenden it was a different story, as conditions were poor, but they were just a better more physical side and we lost 7-27. We worked hard after school in training for the final match of the season for us against St. Albans. Watching them train, we could see that they had some strong players on their side, but we had played and beaten teams like this before so why could we not do it again? At half time there was a tie at 5-5. It started to rain, which made the ball harder to pass with, but a brilliant individual effort from C. Finnegan and we gained the lead. After that we scored a great team try, making the score 17-10 to WBGS.

This was a great season for us with only 3 losses and 8 wins, making it highly successful, but without our coaches Mr Wallis, Mr Williams and Mr Dawson, we would not have been able to do what we have done. Thank you. They have now given us great opportunities to go on to represent the school more and more in the future.

**Squad:** Festus Mensah; Nathan Tyson; Paarth Patel; Matteo Ponzini; Thomas Walsh; Lucas Dyson-Diaz; Ethan Meller; Max Brown(Capt); Colm Finnegan; Zachary O'Malley; Antuan Saravanan; Kailum Patel; Max Baker; Jack Aitchison; Angus Finnegan(Vice-Capt); Louis Harris; Joseph Hancock; Paul Field; Owen Rackham; Thomas Wright; Sam Netscher; Jonathan Mearns; David Ali Lauzzana; Waleed Malik; Ishaan Khiroya; Aaron Manu; Charles Manieson

**Max Brown 8P**





# Watford Grammar School for Boys at Allianz Park

**H**alf way through our Autumn term rugby season I received a very welcome phone call from the community department at Saracens. I was asked if Watford Boys would be willing to play 'the first match' on the first ever 4G professional rugby pitch that was being developed for Saracens at Cophall in Barnet.

Saracens were due to play Cardiff Blues the following week and they wanted to test not only the revolutionary pitch but everything else that a professional stadium needs to test such as the public announcement system and the turnstiles. Despite it being out of our season I jumped at the chance and on Saturday 19th January the 1st XV (after some inspirational pictures and a voiceover by Al Pacino from 'Any Given Sunday') we boarded the bus to a very snowy 'Allianz' Park. The country had seen the worst winter weather for years and we had lost many block fixtures throughout the Autumn.

As if in a script written for the C.E.O of Saracens, Nigel Wray, to answer his critics of rugby being played on an artificial surface, ours was the only game in the London area played that weekend! The boys were hesitant whilst warming up, probably distracted by the hoards of family, friends and Watford Boys staff pouring through the turnstiles eager to show their support and this showed in the first half. Both sides were obviously

taking time to adapt to the surface and the freezing cold. Penalties were missed and balls dropped aplenty. 0-0 at half time and into the Saracens 1st XV changing room for a needed debrief. It worked and almost immediately after the break, and with some very strong forward running by the skipper Elliot Byfield, a chance was brilliantly taken by the blindside flanker and eventual Man of the Match Matthew Rose, the conversion was added by Josh Hodson and Watford were 7-0 up. Some slack defence from Watford coupled with some powerful play from Mill Hill midway through the half and it was all level at 7-7. With 10 minutes to go it looked like extra time would be on the cards, but cometh the hour and cometh the man and Tim Dunkerton turned his awesome defence into elusive attack and skipped to the line to put us in the lead. 14-7 with minutes to go, the Watford supporters hanging on with their fingertips to a victory that was in sight ... and Watford Boys had won the first ever match at the Allianz Park!

A well deserved win, a fantastic team effort and a memory that all of those who were involved in the day will remember and cherish forever. A special thanks must go to Saracens for offering us this opportunity and to Mill Hill for hosting us after the game.

GW



# Hosting 'The Rock' from Canada

In July 2012 the senior rugby boys had toured Canada and were shown some excellent hospitality in Newfoundland by 'The Rock' RUFC. The results went our way in 2012 with WBGS winning both the U17 game 23-15 and the U18 game 14-8. So last year when the president of 'The Rock' rang me, and asked if we would be able to host them for a couple of days I was keen to repeat the fixtures and uphold our winning record. The Rock had other ideas however!

The Canadian boys arrived late in a school day at the end of term and I quickly let them loose in the sports hall. They were very much at home with the Softball equipment and ran rings around us with a basketball in hand, so we soon recommended chancing their arm with the willow and leather of a cricket ball. The Canadians were lost!

The tourists were being hosted and billeted by our team families and despite some last minute illness and change of plans, the boys were soon sent to the homes for a good dinner and a night of socialising. My sincere thanks must especially go to the Finnegan and Franklin families who seemed to have endless bedrooms and floor space!

The match was played the next day on our 'Field of Dreams' up at school and despite some very choice

refereeing from our man in pink, Mr Williams, the tourists proved to be far too strong this time around and came out on top 25-13. It was an excellent match played in a typically friendly fashion that seems to always happen when tour matches are played.

After the game we hosted the boys with a fantastic curry in the canteen with presentations and awards also exchanged. The tourists were then sent for one more night with the hosting families and then delivered down to Fullerians RFC the next day for their second match in Watford before they set off to Cardiff. The Canadians were a joy to host and we look forward to having many years of Rugby camaraderie in the future.

GW



# Rugby 1st Team Yoga

It's a sight that requires a second glance. Picture 15 of our Senior Rugby squad, 6ft plus, hours of strength training in the fitness suite, each sprawled across his own yoga mat to the sound of calming music and Mrs Rafferty's relaxing commands. With pre-season training in

the summer term well under way, the squad took part in a few sessions in the sports hall dance studio to help with their core strength, flexibility and focusing. With a light hearted attitude, the boys responded to Mrs Rafferty's expert guidance with Down Dog, the Warrior

and the Cobra to name just a few. It was a fantastic opportunity for the students to experience an alternative type of training and broaden their horizons with the benefits of yoga alongside rugby and weight training. A big thank you to Mrs Rafferty for taking the sessions.

APB





# Hockey

## 1st XI

Having played school hockey together for 6 years, it felt strange to be in our final season. A few members of the team had played in the 1st XI since year 10, and the majority for at least two years; it was set to be a very successful and enjoyable final season. Out of the regular school fixtures, we played 9, won 8 scoring 44 goals along the way, and lost only 1 game (that was against Kingston GS, at the time the National U.18 Champions). A mention must go to Aaron Mitchell who scored 7 goals in our first two games of the season. Throughout my time at school, I learnt that it was most important to beat Haberdashers' Aske's, Merchant Taylors' and St Albans Schools and, of course, we managed the treble (5-1, 4-1 and 5-0!). Alongside these fixtures, was another very impressive cup run. In the East Preliminary Tournament, we beat Chigwell, Woodbridge, Stamford and The Perse Schools with some ease, scoring 17 goals and conceding just 1 in all games. This had to be one of the most successful

days of hockey that I played in for WBGS, especially against such calibre of opposition.

The East Final Tournament against old foes, Ipswich School and Thomas Deacon Academy, was not as straightforward, despite being the best team on the day, we drew both games, leading to a play off match against Ermysted's Grammar School from Skipton in North Yorkshire – away! After a long minibus journey we went 2-0 down in the first 5 minutes and things did not look good; however resilience and experience showed as WBGS staged a mighty come back to win 6-4, with Bill Gage scoring 4 on the day. This meant that we had reached the National Finals for the third year running: an exceptional achievement. Although we weren't successful at the finals, we managed a point in a thrilling 3-3 draw against Canford, and it is always a great experience to play the likes of Whitgift and Repton with all their England players, at Cannock HC.

The Hockey on tour was not up to our usual standards, although

we did play four strong teams including two from South Africa, Krugersdorp (4-2 win) and Clifton College, Durban (2-3 defeat). Bath, however, whilst always hilly, provides a great weekend and an even better curry! One of the highlights of the season came at the St George's 6s Tournament, when we beat Whitgift 2-0, which is the most successful hockey school in the country; Stephen Causbrook scored both goals.

A special thank you to both Mr Welch and Mr Dyson, for driving hundreds of miles, putting up with copious amounts of poor banter and many annoying requests for a quick stop off at the nearest McDonalds. Without their time and effort WBGS hockey would not be as successful as it is.

**Squad:** George Tunmore, Mark Walker, Bill Gage, Stephen Causbrook, James Hardwidge, Miles Brown, Alisdair Sargen, Alistair James, Aaron Mitchell, Callum Till, Jeremy Swanwick, Simon Walker, Michael Burgess, Sam Groves, Jake Harvey, Russell Barnett.

Bill Gage

## 2nd XI

The 2nd XI season got off to an impressive start in January with victory over the strong outfit of Windsor Boys. Although margin of victory was only slight as demonstrated by the 1-0 score line, the team showed promise and a great deal of perseverance to dig deep and produce a result, which gave us a great deal of confidence going into the next few games.

However, we were unfortunately unable to carry this momentum forward as the appalling weather that many parts of Hertfordshire received during the latter stages of January led to the cancellation of the next 3 of our fixtures. St George's College, UCS and Magdalen College (all fixtures that the 2nds would have had a measurable chance of winning) fell foul to the weather giving us a few weeks of virtually no playing time as a team, which was extremely frustrating considering the promise that had been shown in preseason.

Fortunately, by the end of January the snow had cleared and the team finally got the chance to play again, facing Dr Challoner's Grammar School at the New Field. In a fixture that we would usually have lost in previous years, the 2nds produced another outstanding performance, grinding out another impressive 1-0 win. Challoner's had put us on the back foot for much of the game but dogged defending and a continuation of the perseverance shown in the first game, gave us the win we most vitally needed.

Next came one of the highlights of the season. A win against St Albans is always an impressive feat but to play away in damp and cold conditions and come away with a victory by a margin of 3 goals to 1 was a fantastic achievement and meant that we had a 100% win record going into February.

Our winning streak wasn't to last however, as just before half term, we faced Hitchin Boys' school in the cup. Having fallen out of the competition to the same team in the previous year, we were determined not to succumb to the same fate. Yet it was not to be. Despite an impressive individual goal from Manoj Mistry late on to level the game at 1-1, Hitchin hit us with a sucker punch, scoring in the last minute of normal time to win the tie.

After half term, the 2nds played 4 games, narrowly losing to both Merchant Taylors' and Berkhamsted but beating Habs 3-1, in a game which saw arguably some of the best hockey played all season. The season ended with a bit of an anti climax however, with a 0-0 draw against local rivals, Aldenham, despite a few "was it or wasn't it a goal" moments.

All in all though, it was a solid season from the 2nd XI in which a valiant effort was shown by each and every individual member of the team. Previous 2nd's Captain George Gaffney referred to his side as "styling themselves on the likes of Barcelona." I would describe this year's squad more as a Bradford City; ever the underdogs, positioned in the shadows of more skilful teams but with wins against the so called big guns, deserved of the title, "Giant Killers".

Thanks must go to Mr Welch and Mr Dyson for their excellent coaching efforts throughout the season. Bring on the new season!

**Squad:** Mark Walker (Captain), Jonny Waller (Captain), Robert Gaffney, Matthew Rose, Jamie Brenner, Jon Luke Summerfield, Dominic Wills, Timothy Dunkerton, Timothy Chau, Thomas Durn, Manoj Mistry, Akhil Parekh, Dev Darbar, James McBride-Wilson, Liam Hall, Benedict Cross, James Scott, Hamish Rawbone

Jonny Waller U6NAI



## U16

Another year under the guidance of Mr Moore and another successful season for our team. Having won a total of 8 out of 10 games with a goal difference of +17, we have become a solid team unit and this was obvious throughout performances this year. We were able to easily dispatch rival teams such as Merchant Taylors' and Haberdashers' Aske's with fantastic team displays that well deserved the most attractive part of away games – the hot meal provided by the unfortunate teams. Thanks to the great deal of hockey talent within our school, non-regular players who were available to replace those injured quickly proved their worth on the pitch and further strengthen our team unit.

In our fifth year of hockey at school, we had seen the mind-sets of many players develop to allow for organisation to seep its way into training, which allowed for well-rehearsed performances on the pitch - with help from Mr Moore's wealth of experience in playing hockey beyond the halfway line. Player of the Season was awarded to Gokulan Kannan, who had run to the point of exhaustion and collapse in our cup run, and Most

Improved went to Janahan Manivannan who had performed consistently throughout the year.

Despite some disappointment in our Outdoors Cup run, we won all Indoors County matches but were declined the opportunity to reach Nationals on goal difference. Thanks to a consistent team performance, we were able to reach second in the country on the school hockey ratings at the end of the season. Although the new season will see the departure of certain memorable key players from our school, we are all hugely looking forward to a new and exciting season, with the opportunity to pinch a few first team places off the upper sixth.

**Squad:** Andrew Tunwell (GK), Nikhil Chandarana, Zakaria Khan, Andy Cull, Simon Walker, Joshua Hodson, Simon Guest, Robert Kennedy, Gokulan Kannan, Janahan Manivannan, Aaron Sharkey, Alex Crawford, Alex Pierce, Austin Bailey, Josh Taylor, Matt Chapman, Oliver Tanner (GK), James Todd, Tom Abraham

**Andrew Tunwell 6PWh**

## U15

Last year was an excellent year for the under 15 hockey team. We played 10, won 8, and lost only 2. with 33 goals for, and 13 against. Our top goal scorer was Luke Withell with a third of our goals, followed behind by Jaxon Lloyd with 7 goals. We started off the season with a fantastic 7-1 win over Windsor Boys' School.

It was an unfortunate season in some respects, because it was just so wet and cold. This meant that our next two matches were postponed. It was after this two week break that we continued our winning streak by beating RGS High Wycombe, UCS and St Albans. After winning our first four games we hit a bit of a wall, in the shape of Kingston Grammar School and St George's College who both beat us. We had to beat Merchant Taylors' in order to bounce back from these two defeats, which we did, with a resounding 4-0 win. In the closing five matches of our season we only managed to get a game on three occasions because the weather was not permitting. In spite of the bad weather, we succeeded in winning all of those games. A special mention must go to Matthew Sears because, in the

Haberdashers' match, he managed to wriggle his way through, and past about 5 of their defenders to score an excellent goal, which gave us the edge in a nail biting 3-2 win. Thanks must go to Charlie Armitage, Sharan Sanjay, Daniel Kowalewicz and Arnav Rawat who were always solid in defence. Thanks are also due to James Yallop, Peter Shears, Chris Butcher, Lewis Giffits-Walker, Matthew Sears and Arthur Cross who, be it defence or attack, were always there. And finally to our two top goal scorers, Luke Withell and Jaxon Lloyd; without them, wins would have been next to impossible. And of course, to Mr Shafe, whose advice, skill and time was always appreciated both in games sessions and after school practices.

**Squad:** Zakary Flesch, Charles Armitage, Toby Brown, Jaxon Lloyd, Arnav Rawat, Sharan Sanjay, Daniel Kowalewicz, Matthew Sears, Chris Butcher, Peter Shears, Luke Withell, James Yallop, Lewis Giffits-Walker, Harry Baker, Brandon Kato, Arthur Cross

**Toby Brown 11P**

## U14

It was a very successful season for the U14 hockey team, losing only 3 matches, scoring 51 goals and only conceding 13!

We went into our first game off the back of a great season last year and were hoping to repeat that this year under the guidance of new coach, Mr Samarasinghe. We started with a great 7-0 victory over Windsor with Jonny Kennedy grabbing a hat-trick. Then, as a result of the weather, it was a month before we were back on the pitch. The next few games went by with narrow defeats to RGS High Wycombe and Kingston Grammar School but also a 2-1 victory over St Albans.

This was then the start of a commanding period of matches for the team. The first of this amazing run of form came against decent opponents of St George's College, the match ending

with a comfortable win of 6-2. Then came our closest game of the season against Merchant Taylors'. They scored early on but our team woke up after that and were threatening for a goal constantly throughout the match. However, some great saves from their keeper ended the match 1-0. We then travelled to Hitchin winning 6-2 and then off to UCS where we recorded our biggest win of the season: 14-1! Large scores of 9-1 and 5-0 followed.

A very solid defence with Lewis Foley and Oliver Cox stopped anything that came through the almost unbreakable defensive wall of Rahul Patel, James Martin, Kazu Sair and James Weston. In midfield was very compact with great passing and on the ball work from Samir Patel, Luke Jones, Jonny Kennedy and Hashim

Jamal. Jonny finished as the top scorer despite breaking his ankle half-way through the season. Dawid Cedro, Luke Benton and Ashley Charles did superb work up front.

Player of the Season went to Samir Patel and Most Improved Player to James Weston. Thanks must go to Mr Samarasinghe for coaching us extremely well. We thank him and everyone who made this season a great success.

**Squad:** Lewis Foley, Oliver Cox, Rahul Patel, James Weston, Hao-Lam Chan, James Martin, Kazu Sair, Scott Jackson, Samir Patel, Jonathan Kennedy, Luke Jones, Thomas Gwynne-Evans, Gabriel Fagan, Ashley Charles, Dawid Cedro, Hashim Jamal, Luke Benton

**Tom Gwynne-Evans 10C**

## U13

Many would agree that the U13's season is always the hardest. We returned to school in January and played our first match that weekend. Our coach Mr Beere, who was also our rugby coach, was put in a difficult position when he had to choose our squad after watching us train for only the best part of an hour. With a little help from Mr Welch, the ten men squad was decided for the seven a-side match against Haberdashers'. We found that Mr Beere had a great eye for hockey players because the boys chosen remained in either the A or B team for the rest of the season. The result of the first game was disappointing but we discovered that the team had a great attacking force as was reflected in our response to Haberdashers' 4 – 6 win.

Our first 11 a-side match came up against the strong side of RGS High Wycombe. This ended with a loss but it could have been far worse without the great defence of Aushan Gosrani, Aidan Sharkey, Craig Beeston and Thomas Milford, not to mention the super saves of our 6 foot goal keeper Michael Onyekuru who kept the score down to only 1-0. After two losses we ended our losing streak against St Albans with a 1-0 win – the winning goal from the captain. We then lost 3-1 to a very strong Kingston Grammar school but later found out to our surprise that we had played their U14's team and not the U13's. Next we drew to Aldenham School 0-0 and went on to lose 0-1 against Hitchin. In our penultimate match we played Aldenham which resulted in yet another draw 0-0. The final result for the season of the A team was 1 won, 2 drawn, 5 lost. We scored 10 goals overall.

The B team had better results by winning 3 matches against Haberdashers', St Albans and Haberdashers' again. They only lost one match to Aldenham 1-2 and drew against Kingston Grammar School 0-0.

Although our first season was not the greatest, as a team we have a lot of potential and if we continue putting the hard work into our training, we will grow into great players. Our goal is to win a lot more matches and trophies for the school.

**Squad:** Chibuike (Michael) Onyekuru, Aushan Gosrani, Aidan Sharkey, Haaris Malik (Captain) Thomas Milford, Mustafa Khairullah, Branavan Navaneethan, Harry Clements, Nathan Horbury, Craig Beeston, Nathan Kelion, Olutobi Odanye, Ralph Curwen, Tom Watts, Euan Wiley, James Wheeler, Robert Troude, Benjamin Plunkett, Romario Ranabahu, Jamie Ivory, Peter Noren, Matthew Gibson

**Haaris Malik 9G**

# Year 8 Hockey Squad trip to PGL Boreatton Park

After a successful first Hockey season for the Year 8 squad, a trip to PGL was organised to solidify that team spirit built up throughout the year and to let off some steam having some fun. We loaded up the school minibuses in May half term, Mr Welch taking the wheel of one, Mr Beere the other and set off for Shropshire with the prospect of wild adventure, team building, being soaked and getting covered in mud! PGL did not disappoint. From the moment we arrived, our group leader singled us out with no issue due to our tour shirts which a few boys managed to wear for the whole weekend we were there! We had our own log cabin with bunked bedded rooms, which saw many a sweet fuelled late night and dumping site of smelly, wet clothes.

Canoeing, raft building, zip wire, archery, trapeze, giant swing, flag wars, basketball, football, rounders and cricket kept us very busy for the whole weekend with Mr Welch, Beere and Dawson getting stuck as well. The food was a definite highlight. 3 hot meals a day, 2-3 courses and a self-service salad bar catered for all needs and no one went hungry. Coupled with a tuck shop to buy presents and snacks, bribing the teachers and instructors proved to be no problem when negotiating an extra 10 minutes of cricket or delay for lights out. A truly amazing long weekend that will be remembered forever by all.

**APB**



# Cricket

## 1st XI

Following a wash-out season in 2012, with lots of cricket cancelled due to rain, we were glad to see plenty of sunshine in 2013. The first game of the season for the 1st XI was against Merchant Taylors' School, which is always difficult, as neither team had found any rhythm. Having said this, Simon Walker started the season exceptionally well, christening his brand new bat with a century. Despite some good bowling from the WBGS attack, the slightly dubious form of the game MTs chose to play meant that they managed to hold out for the draw. Next we beat Bishops Stortford School and Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Barnet comfortably.

Unfortunately, our next three games were all losses, two of which were to strong sides from Dr Challoner's and Aylesbury Grammar Schools. After this, we found our form and won the majority of fixtures.

A draw against the MCC is usually seen as a success, with a strong 80 from Michael Burgess with the bat, and senior bowlers Mark Walker and Bill Gage bowling well, picking up the wicket of Mr Samarasinghe along the way. The famous Cotswold's tour was a success yet again, as we retained the T10 trophy for another year. Overall, the stats for this very successful season were: played 15, won 9, lost 4 and drew 2. Our side this year was a very young one, with lots of potential, which bodes well for the coming years. Many thanks to Mr Shafe and Mr Needham who organised and coached us throughout the season and helped to make WBGS cricket very enjoyable.

**Squad:** B. Gage; M. Burgess; S. Walker; C. Callanan; M. Walker; M. Rose; D. Solanki; H. Rawbone; A. Ball; G. Sumpter; T. Stock; J. Scott; J. Hodson; T. Durn; R. Gaffney

Bill Gage



## 2nd XI

Confidence was high going into our first game against a strong Merchant Taylors' side, but despite a good batting performance scoring 154 from 25 overs, it was not quite enough to start the season off with a win. A comfortable 71 run win against Bishops Stortford followed (Tom Durn top scored with 36), before an eventful low scoring affair against RGS High Wycombe. Batting first, we were going along comfortably before losing 6 wickets for 9 runs ending up all out for 90. Our chances were slim, although a great fielding performance and an incredible 4 wickets in 4 balls from Vikesh Patel took the game to the penultimate over. Our batting collapses were sadly not finished there as the following game we were all out for 70 (Robert Kennedy scoring 30) ... then again playing with 10 men and some horrendous trigger umpiring from Mr Winchester didn't help our cause.

We bounced back with a convincing 6 wicket victory away at Aylesbury, notably Akhil Parekh with a great opening spell with the ball and Tom Durn yet again scoring important runs. Our last

game was away at Dr Challoner's. Accurate bowling and sharp fielding restricted them to just 100 from 20 overs; however losing a wicket on the first ball of our innings was not the ideal way to start a run chase. At 40-5 a win was looking doubtful but some quick fire hitting and a one bounce four with 5 balls remaining was enough to end the season on a high. Thanks must go to Mr Winchester for his dedication and helping me in my search for available players often the day before a match. Overall, it was a frustrating yet eventful season winning 3 out of our 6 fixtures.

Player of the season: Tom Durn

**Squad:** Robert Gaffney (captain); Tom Durn; Robert Kennedy; Vikesh Patel; Luke Davies (Keeper); Akhil Parekh, Will Nehra; James Scott; Jake Harvey; Arbaz Mansoor; Arjun Riyait; Aaron Mitchell; Mudit Talder

Robert Gaffney

## U15

The first game of the season was a comfortable win away at Bishops Stortford. We bowled and fielded well and this enabled us to comfortably put away the game with 6 wickets in hand. The next fixture was home to Queen Elizabeth's School on a cold and wet Saturday morning. We let ourselves down here with some poor bowling and despite a late attempt to take the win (A.Abhyankar : 56 and T.Brown: 30) we fell short by 5 runs. The next game we played was a County Cup game against one of the stronger teams in the county, Haberdashers' Aske's. We set a competitive total of 124 (A.Ball: 75), but this was just slightly too few as Haberdashers' won the game on the final ball. We bounced back from this disappointment with a good win against Aldenham. The next game we played was against Berkhamsted, and a combination of poor pitch, poor batting and tight bowling meant we never got going and were bowled out for less than 100 and lost the game quite comprehensively. However, despite these disappointments in the first half of the season, we came back after half term and performed far better as a team. We comfortably beat UCS by 34 runs (A.Ball scoring a 50) then went on to beat RGS High Wycombe by 45 runs, possibly our best performance of the season with a good team batting performance with everyone chipping in to make a solid 140 off 25 overs winning by 45 runs. We continued this good form against Latymer Upper School, winning by 70 runs (L. Withell top scoring here with P.Patel taking 5 wickets.)

This streak of 3 victories meant we were confident of performing in the Berkhamsted 7s, however the English summer meant that the tournament and the subsequent game vs Hitchin Boys were called off due to poor weather. This meant we had 2 weeks without cricket going into a game with one of the strongest teams in Bucks- Aylesbury Grammar. We batted first and set a massive score of 195 off 25 overs. (A.Ball 70\* A.Abhyankar 60\*). However, extremely disappointingly, this score proved to be inadequate as our bowling was picked off and they took the game in the final over with 7 wickets in hand. However, we finished the season on a high with a 65 run win against Enfield Grammar School (M.Hodson taking 4). This left us with a season of 10 games played with 6 wins and 4 losses, with 4 fixtures



cancelled due to inclement weather. Of these 4 losses, 3 were definitely winnable had we applied ourselves for the full length of both innings – an important lesson to learn before we start senior cricket. Mention to Angus Ball for winning Player of the Season for his impressive batting and bowling stats, and thanks to Mr Welch for coaching us.

U14

The U14s had a good season winning 9 out of a possible 14 fixtures, beating sides such as St George's, Bishop's Stortford, University College School and Aylesbury Grammar. Greg Sumpter, Ashan De Silva, Deil Patel and Harry Pettit all contributed well with the bat, while Ashley Charles, Luke Jones, Conrad Pinn, Samir Patel and Luke Benton bowled very consistently with the ball. The U14s had a few comfortable victories but our most satisfying victory was against UCS winning by 9 wickets.

The U14s County Cup run was a bit disappointing this year. After winning against Tring in a close game in round one, we

**Squad:** Atharva Abhyankar(Capt); Sulaymaan Ahmed; Ruan Telfer; Matthew Hodson; Toby Brown; Matthew Sears; Humza Asad; Jaxon Lloyd; Shilpa Muthukumarana; Pranav Patel; Luke Withell; Mohammedkazim Kanji; Angus Ball

Atharva Abhyankar 11F

faced a strong St Albans side in round two, where we sadly lost on the last ball to get knocked out of the cup. Overall it was an enjoyable season and we would like to thank Mr Dyson for all his hard work and support.

**Squad:** Ashan De Silva; Mohammed Zarin; Sebastian Plunkett(Capt); Greg Sumpter; Ashley Charles; Thomas Gwynne-Evans; Deil Patel; Harry Pettit; Luke Benton; Luke Jones(Vice-Capt); Rahul Patel; Conrad Pinn; Thomas Mohan; Samir Patel.

Sebastian Plunkett 10C

U13

The season began in early January with early morning nets sessions beginning at 7:30. The team, despite the early start showed great commitment in turning up every week. Our first match was played against Bishop Stortford. We set 198 with great partnerships from Thomas Stock (42), Ben Plunkett (reaching 50), Romario (36) and Haaris (24). To finish off this great performance we bowled them out for 77. The great batting continued into the next match with Romario reaching 71 not out and Tom Stock reaching 50. Our first and only loss of the season came at the hands of New Hall (one of the best sides in the country), where we lost by 40 runs.

After breezing past Parmiters in the 1st round of the County Cup we faced a strong St Albans side, containing 2 quality county players. We bowled well, restricting them to 114 with one of their county players making 75 off 35 balls. However we chased it down quite comfortably with yet another half century from Tom Stock. In the next match we faced Haberdashers', our greatest rivals. We bowled exceptionally well, restricting them to a moderate total of 106. Unfortunately after a strong start, our batting collapsed leaving us 11 to win off the last over. It came down to four off the last two balls with Aushan Gosrani on strike. The bowler bowled a pie and Aushan, played the shot of his life (a pull shot for 4), to give us the victory. In the County Cup final we posted a respectable 121 in wet conditions. In reply Richard Hale's captain propelled them towards our total.

U12

Watford U12s started their summer season with a convincing win against Bishops Stortford by 6 wickets. We followed this up with another two wins, including a 123 run win against University College School. We then narrowly lost against Berkhamsted by 3 wickets, but impressively recovered with a further 9 wins on the trot. The best of these was against Latymer Upper, Haberdashers' and St.Columba's, all being 9 wicket wins and the quarter and semi finals of the County Cup.

In the County Cup final, we bowled first and restricted Heathmount to only 117 in 20 overs which was a great effort from our bowlers and fielders. We then went about chasing the 118 required, and did this in 17 overs, only losing 3 wickets. The stand out performers in that match came in the batting with Jack Aitchison scoring 35 and Kailum

Patel scoring 42, with a partnership of just over 60 runs. The job was finished by Paarth Patel and Jonathan Napier.

In our next 2 games we beat Hitchin Boys by 7 wickets but then lost to Dr. Challoner's by 6 wickets. We rounded off a great season with a win against Enfield Grammar by 66 runs. We can only thank Mr. Wallis very much for a great season and making us all better cricketers.

**Squad:** Kailum Patel (Capt.);Ethan Meller; Jacob Culshaw; Jack Aitchison; Zaki Ausat; Paarth Patel; Ali Shah; Jonathan Napier; Max Brown; Ishaan Khiroya; Ebrahim Raja; Varun Dodhia; Waleed Malik; Sam Netscher; Jack McRae; Devang Arya; Dishal Parmar.

Kailum Patel 8C



# Raymond Barkway

## Old Fullerian Olympian



In the previous edition of the Fullerian, I chronicled the life of former pupil Don Anthony who represented Great Britain in the 1956 Melbourne Olympic games. But what of the other known Old Fullerian Olympian? Raymond Barkway ran the 110m high hurdles for Team GB in the 1948 London Olympics. What were dubbed the “make-do-and-mend” games, were certainly a far cry from the lavish pomp and ceremony we witnessed in 2012 and the level of austerity experienced during a post-war ravaged Britain is difficult to comprehend for us, even during this current economic downturn. Like Anthony, Barkway is another example of the sporting halcyon era which our school exemplifies, and his achievements are just as impressive.

Barkway was born in 1924 in Croxley Green and began his athletics career at Harrow County High school. After his father got the job of station master

on the Watford Metropolitan line the family moved into the station house on Cassiobury Park Avenue and the young Barkway arrived at Watford Boys in 1937. He was a stellar pupil with all his masters reporting excellent conduct and progress, and quickly became a prefect as well as playing in the back line of the First XV, before winning a place at Exeter College, Oxford to read Chemistry.

He put his sprinting and jumping ability to good effect and became one of the country's top high hurdlers. He recorded his lifetime best of 14.9s in 1950, a time that would have ranked him 42nd in the UK in 2013. This was done in the days of boggy cinder tracks and hand held trowels to dig out make shift starting blocks. There was none of the high performance training facilities or techniques available now. A fine victory in the South of England championships in the same year saw him take the victory by less than a foot between all 3 medallists.

Barkway went out in the heats in London 1948, placing 4th in a time of 15.3s although he did go on to win a medal on the world stage when in 1951 he took the bronze medal in the Summer International University Sports Week held in Luxemburg. An event now referred to as the World Student Games, he finished in a time of 15.5s.

During his time at Exeter college he befriended and trained alongside Roger Bannister, and on the famous day of 6th May 1954, Barkway was the official starter for the record breaking mile race where Bannister dropped under the magic 4 minute barrier. The silver Smith & Wesson revolver used by Barkway is now on display at Clifton College in Bristol, where Barkway worked as Chemistry teacher upon finishing his studies at Oxford.

ST.

# Onwards and Upwards

Talking with a friend recently, I realised it must have been four years since she first bullied me into rock-climbing. I say bullied: it was really more of a repeated comment (nearly every time we met) about how much she enjoyed it. But her meaning was clear. Eventually – reluctantly – I yielded. Now, I rarely miss it.

When you think of a climber, you tend to think of a well-built, confident, reckless adrenaline-junky. Needless to say – despite my best efforts – I never really fit this image. Yet rock-climbing is now a highlight of my week – and if there's one thing I've found, it's that climbing really is a sport for everyone. The people you'll find in a climbing session are as varied a group as you'll find anywhere.

Over the last six months however, Watford's Central Leisure Centre wall has been under threat. Around April, my fellow climbers and I found a questionnaire lying on the desk of reception. The centre, we were informed, was planning to remove the wall and replace it with more 'accessible' facilities – in reality, little more than exercise machines.

It started with a letter to the leisure centre, but before I knew it I was spearheading Watford's save-the-climbing wall campaign. Seventy emails, a petition, and a Watford Observer article later, the council has now forced the centre to look into ways the wall can be made profitable, at least until March 2014. My motivations? Firstly, it's simply exceptionally rewarding doing something for the wider community. The majority of people in Watford who climb are under sixteen. They wouldn't be able to go to other 'local' walls, and so would have to give up what is, for many, a cherished hobby.

There's also the huge number of assets the Watford wall has – a superb staff, routes catering for all abilities and (at least in comparison with other walls) a cheap pricing rate. It is the best in the area for feature climbing, and I genuinely believe – due to the successes of other local walls, such as Amersham and St Albans – that it could be made profitable. Its major problem is simply awareness – extraordinary numbers of people I talk to don't even know of its existence.

Climbing and campaigning are really surprisingly similar. Both require perseverance; both are physically draining. Both are time-consuming if you want to do well in them; both begin with a 'c'. Both give you a massive adrenaline rush. Both are absolutely awesome – and, if you want to be cynical about things, both look great on your personal statement.

So, job done? Well, not quite – the crusade continues, albeit in a different vein to before: the focus is now on promotion of the wall, rather than rallying to save it. As of writing, I'm trying to combine my roles of House Prefect and climbing wall-campaigner: in the coming months there will hopefully be a 'sponsored rock-climb' within WGSB, jointly serving to raise charity money and promote the wall.

Climbing, nationally, has never been more popular; it was recently involved in a bid to become an Olympic sport, in which it narrowly lost out. It's a highly-regarded, skilled sport that can be used for GCSE PE or DofE (skill or physical section). I'd thoroughly encourage anybody who can, to give it a go.

Alex Waygood (6PWh)



# Athletics

**2013** has been a successful year for the Senior Athletics Squad, consisting of strong and dedicated athletes who were rewarded with 1st place in the Plate Final, despite many absences of athletes due to exams and work experience. The team performed well throughout the season and everyone used their individual skills to gain points and come together as a team. Julian Manieson (100m), Chris Joseph (Hurdles) and Matt Lally (High Jump) were unbeaten all season, with Julian running a very impressive time of 11.05 in the 100m sprint, making him the fastest athlete to ever attend WBS. I was also very lucky to be selected for the Hertfordshire team and compete in the English Schools Track and Field Championships, in which I jumped 1.96m. We have also seen Adam Muscat excel in the 400m and Kachi Onyekuru in the 200m, whilst Luke O'Mahony performed exceptionally well in the triple jump.

The year 9s in the athletics team achieved remarkable placings in all their events, next year looks as if it will be extremely strong! Rohan Finnegan performed well in the 1500m and long jump. Harry Petit performed extremely respectably in

the field throwing the javelin, and was also awarded "Find of the Season" at the Athletics Supper in Jimmy's World Bar and Grill, whilst Julian Manieson gained the "Most Valuable Athlete" award due to his dominance in the 100m. In the triple jump, Ben Wolfin jumped very well, whilst Luke Benton ran and threw well in various sprints and in the shot put.

The relay team (Chris Joseph, Adam Muscat, Matt Lally and Julian Manieson) competed consistently well throughout the season, with many 1st place finishes.

Overall, the season has been extremely successful, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the PE department and other staff that took the time to come to the events, especially Mr Beere for arranging the events and giving us the opportunity to compete. Many of my school memories will consist of athletics events, and my last year of athletics out of the four I have been competing in for the school has been very enjoyable, and a pleasure to captain. I wish the future athletics team success and enjoyment over the years.

**Matt Lally 10G**

## Sports Day

It was Friday the 5th of July; Woodside track and leisure centre was host to 500 boys and 100 teachers for one reason: the annual event of Sports Day! All years up to 10 take part to try and set school records, run the fastest time, throw the furthest distance, jump as high as physically possible, bringing unexpected students to have a chance to surprise the staff and audience with the stuff they are made of.

### Year 7

In Year 7, many capable and future athletes took to the track. Field events are probably the toughest to master not just for Year 7s, but all years throughout the school. However some displays of brilliance from the youngest year group made it look as if some of them had been practising these skills for years. One of the stand out events for the Year 7 field events was javelin, which was won by Max Brown of Platt, who broke the school record with an incredible 27.08m throw beating not only his year group but also many of those in the years above as well. In long jump, David Ali Lauzzana from Platt jumped 4.13m, narrowly beating the 2nd place by 13cm. In shot put,



Amaan Hamid, who represented Cassio, managed to throw 8.65m which was the winning throw by 46 cm.

Not only were field events a great success, running as well was displayed to the highest level. Rufus Brooks set a school record time of 49 seconds for the Year 7 300m and in the 200m, two strong athletes lined up. Lucas Dyson-Diaz and Jack Aitchison from Bushey and Cassio lit up the track but it ended with Jack Aitchison clinching it from Lucas.

The much anticipated event of Year 7 is always the 100m. Many strong runners lined up but Colm Finnegan, of Cassio could not be stopped and came through in first place in a blistering time of 12.5 seconds beating the previous school record and almost challenging the Year 8 time. Paul Field, of Bushey managed second place, in a time of 13.6, and also broke the record for the hurdles at a school meeting.

The relays rounded off what had been a successful sports day for Year 7. The top three relay teams were Cassio in first place: Ayodele Andrews, Tom King-Cline, Jack Aitchison and Colm Finnegan ran a time of 56.1 seconds, Bushey in second: Lucas Dyson-Diaz, Paul Field, Ebrahim Raja and Rufus Brooks set a time of 58.9 seconds and Groves were in third place: Connor O'Donnell, Max Baker, Waleed Malik and Louis Harris came through in 59.2 seconds.

### Year 8

In Year 8, many strong athletes who have improved and developed since Year 7 were now great runners, jumpers and throwers. 800m is a difficult event for anyone to run at any age but Alex

Foley from New House demonstrated no difficulty in dominating the event by 15 seconds and was just 8 seconds off the Year 8 all time record! The 300m is a very demanding race, not knowing whether or not to try and do a slow sprint or a fast jog. Either way, Thomas Stock from Bushey equalled the record of 44.9 seconds set by Haaris Malik in 8G just beating Craig Beeston by 1.9 seconds. In the prestigious Boyt Mile event, witnessed by Arthur Boyt himself, Euan Wiley who is in Platt needed to impress which he did emphatically. He did this by beating the previous school record by 3 seconds and beating the next competitor in the mile by 34 seconds to Kit Gilman who set an excellent time, but Euan beat them all including the record holder. The 100m being the most anticipated event in Year 7, is no different in Year 8: the A team competitors finished the race with just 2.4 seconds separating first from seventh and the winner was Haaris Malik from Groves who ran a rapid time of 13.1 seconds.

In the field events, numerous excellent throws and jumps were demonstrated. The performance of the day in the jumping area, undoubtedly was from Tobi Odanye representing Cassio who, in triple jump, was the only person in Year 7 and 8 to jump 10m. Ben Plunkett, also representing Cassio, threw javelin. He did a huge throw of 25.03m beating the next competitor Dhillon Dhodia by 4.71m. Discus requires skill, strength and determination, which Michael Onyekuru from Platt showed by managing 23.14m. To round off a great day, the relays brought speed, determination and controversy. In first place was Groves which comfortably won with: Gavin Lee, Haaris Malik, Sam Boyce and Aidan Sharkey. Second and third places were extremely close with

Bushey: Josh Cooney, Robert Vangucci, Peter Norén and Romario Ranabahu and Cassio consisted of: Tobi Odanye, George Wright, Ben Plunkett and Francis Appiah-Danquah. Both forms were tied on 55.3 seconds but the timers came to the conclusion that Bushey were second place. Platt were disqualified from the relay but would have finished 4th.

### Year 9

Many big school names have been made in the later years so Year 9 had some pressure to prove that they were as good as the previous year. One well-established name in Year 9 is Rohan Finnegan, representing Fuller House, who achieved a relatively routine win, by his standards, in the 300m with a time of 40.5 seconds. The Boyt Mile was a thrilling race for the ages 14 and 15. For the front runners Samir Patel and Thomas Gwynne-Evans, we knew from the beginning that it would be them from start to finish. Thomas took the lead and stayed there until the last 100m when Samir sprinted away and won by just two seconds. In the 100m, Roi Ibaboa from Fuller did a great time of 12.4 seconds which was 0.5 of a second quicker than the next runner.

Harry Pettit, who threw the javelin for Turner, reached 28.19m which only just beat Rohan Dronsfield from Platt. In the triple jump, Ben Wolfin jumped 10.15m which sealed the win for New House. In the relay for the Year 9s, Fuller took an expected first place with: Rohan Finnegan, Roi Ibaboa, Hasham Jamal and Moses Mutalaga in their team. Second place was claimed by Turner consisting of: Luke Benton, Adam Syed, Khaleed Sair and Harry Pettit in their team. Finally, third place was taken by Groves with:

Karl Tiemann, Matthew Huszczo, Lewis Taylor and Keir Allan in their team.

One of the most anticipated events of the entire day was the prestigious staff 100m race. New teachers took up the challenge: Mr Winchester and Mr Samarasinghe, among other new faces to the race. Mr Shafe, reigning champion stepped up to the marks as well. The crowds gathered to witness the race and predict the winners. As the gun went, Mr Samarasinghe took a good lead but Mr Winchester was pushing him all the way. It was going to be close, however, the lead Mr Samarasinghe took at the beginning was enough for him to clinch victory. The reigning champion was beaten, not only by the two young guns but by Mr Beere and the surprise 4th place was taken by Mr Costi! He looked as if he had sold the butter and lost the money, he was distraught.

### Year 10

Year 10 is the most exciting year with the fastest sprinters and runners, strongest throwers and jumpers, and this year was no different. 100m again is the best event, from my point of view, with the likes of Julian Manieson and Jaxon Lloyd posting blistering times. Julian from Platt, certainly put on a show with an unbelievable time of 11.2 seconds beating not just people in his group but Mr Samarasinghe by one whole second. Jaxon Lloyd who was running for New House, came second, also beating Mr Samarasinghe by 0.6 of a second. The 400m is the most demanding event in running so many brave people had to step up to the task. Tom Fawcett was one of the competitors and finished first in a solid time of 58.1 seconds.

As field events went by, some familiar





faces who had featured in the running came again to the field events to prove that they were not only good at track but also at throwing and jumping. In the triple jump, Luke O'Mahony, who had come second in the zoom, came to the pit knowing he was the favourite. He won easily by 1.42m even though he was roughly a metre off his personal best which is a school record. Patryk Jozefczak was doing high jump for 10G and did not break a sweat beating the next opponent by 15cm. Finally, the year 10 relay in

particular is the most exciting of them all. Winning by just half a second, Platt with: Connor Legg, Tom Fawssett, Youssef Kamel and Julian Manieson beat Turner House with their team consisting of: Kachi Onyekuru, Nathaniel Oshunniyi, Jonathan Davies and Ruan Telfer. Turner just beat New House by 0.1 second with New's team having in it: Luke O'Mahony, Andrew Layton, Matthew Sears and Jonas Kitadi.

At the end of the day, a very enthusiastic Mr Wallis, who had been commenting on

the teachers' hats all day, finally had something to talk about: the results. Year 7: 1st Cassio; 2nd Bushey; 3rd Platt Year 8: 1st Platt; 2nd Groves; 3rd Cassio Year 9: 1st Fuller; 2nd Bushey; 3rd New The overall results were: Turner in 7th, Groves in 6th, Fuller in 5th, Platt in 4th, Bushey in 3rd, Cassio in 2nd place and finally 2013 winners: New House

**Peter Norén 9B**

## Sports Day Keeping the score

Friday 5th of July 2013 started as a hot morning with most of the boys at school waiting for transport to take them to the stadium for sports day. This resulted in Mr Monks making three excessively long trips driving pupils to the stadium from the school and a privately hired bus making two trips. Once everyone was there, the events commenced. The field events were first in the order: Discus, Shot-Put, Javelin, Triple-Jump and Long-Jump.

Whilst there were many athletes in these events working up endless sweats, the hard work of Mr Wallis, Mr Corbridge and Dr Buckley actually allowed the whole day to function. For the bulk of the morning events, when I wasn't competing, I was assisting the staff in the score-box: passing files around and sticking sheets up on the window using the adhesive Blu-Tack. Continuously after each event the same loop process, I ran and collected the statistics sheet, handed it to Mr Corbridge to type it up onto the computer, then handed it to a 6th former who did some certificates (the certificates ran out very quickly so this didn't last for a very long time), gave the sheet to Mr Wallis for the announcements and then stuck the sheet up on the window. On the field events, it took more running from me as there was more than one place to be running to and from. During the break, Mr Corbridge's computer system Excel file partially crashed which meant that the time wouldn't be recorded as minutes, seconds, points of seconds and data wouldn't enter. During this period, Dr Buckley came into the score box and helped Mr Corbridge fix the computer error and thankfully no data was lost.

During the track events there was an organised system; Mr Welch started the race by firing the starting gun, which has only gunpowder pellets and no bullet, then the race was run. During the first session of the track events, Mr Winchester was the chief timekeeper and he measured all the times for each person to come past. There were 8 other timekeepers to measure each of the individual runners' times for each event. In the second session of the track events Mr Samarasinghe was the chief timekeeper, and again, there were 8 other timekeepers.

After the race was completed, the participants sat in order of their positions of the race. This made it extremely easy for Mr Beere to write the names of the participants in the order. After this was completed, Mr Beere walked over to the stand where the timekeepers sat and took the times for each pupil who had participated in each event. After this I ran immediately to Mr Beere and then took the piece of paper from him to run to Mr Corbridge to run the procedure to add all the necessary data into the computer. After this I gave it to Mr Wallis and he announced the score. Then I stuck the sheet up on the window. On one occurrence, when there was an accident, and Mr Wallis's time was occupied dealing with the emergency and I had to read out the score on the microphone. After this, there were many queues again to take the minibuses back to school. Most people would agree that this was a long and tiring day and that it wouldn't have worked without Mr Wallis and Mr Corbridge and the other staff who made the day and event possible.

**Anand Mistry 10C**



# Cross Country

Cross Country continued to grow from strength to strength this season with even more students committing to practice and showing great fortitude in competitive fixtures. The seniors have once again pitted themselves against the Independent Schools with great resilience and as one of the only competing comprehensives, their team placings have bettered the likes of Whitgift, Hampton and even the St Albans D team! The highlights of the season saw the Year 11 team crowned District Champions and the top runners from across the school travel to King Henry VIII School in Coventry for the National competition. On a very cold and wet February afternoon, the team of 6 battled the conditions but sadly only managed a mid-table placing from the 46 teams competing. 16th runner Tom Durn, 6F, was awarded the Roy Sadgrove Trophy for services to Cross Country.

In the younger years, the continued emergence of Euan Wiley 8P and Rohan Finnegan 9F has given the older runners something to think about. Both led their year group teams to 2nd and 4th in both the Harrow AC championships and the District competition. Rohan also made the jump this year to the senior races and held his own against the 6th formers. He was also awarded the junior "Most Valuable Runner" award at our informal team trip to Nandos. Practice was well attended by the keen younger students eager to see the sights of Cassiobury Park in all weather conditions.

**Squad:** E Smith, G Smith, T Durn, S Haria, R Gaffney, A Cull, S Walker, G Kannan, E Harris, A Sharkey, Z Flesch, R Finnegan, E Wiley, D Figg, B Wilson, N Shah, C Fern

**APB**



# Tennis

This year's tennis season was again very successful in the Aegon School's competition, albeit not quite as high achieving as the 2012 season. The Under 13 "A" team was again the most successful team, winning three out of their four fixtures, beating Parmiters, Haberdashers' and Aldenham. The team lost narrowly against St Clement Danes in the final match of the season. St Clement Danes, as the winner of that match, went through to the regional semi-finals. The Under 13 "A" team comprised of the same two players who did so well in the 2012 season where they reached the last 16 schools in the country. So congratulations must go to Tom Watts, who remains unbeaten this season, and Dhillon Dodhia. Congratulations must also go to the two newcomers to the team: Toby Wilkinson and Samuel Pullen-Merriman who played as numbers 3 and 4 respectively. Sam will, as a year 7 pupil, get the chance to play in the Under 13

team again next year.

The Under 13 B team also had a good win against Kings Langley school, but lost to Aldenham and narrowly to Haberdashers'. The two new Year 7s, Jacob Culshaw and Reza Ahmad made a significant impact on the team and may have a chance to play in the Under 13 A team next season. Other key team members are: James Wheeler, Ralph Curwen, Thomas Milford, Alborz Modaresi Fard and Jamie Ivory.

The Under 15 "A" team suffered from various injuries and operations this season which inevitably had an impact on the results. However, despite this weakened team, they did squeak out a win against Aldenham with Jed Gaffin, Christopher Tynemouth, Nick Hatcher and Chris Butcher. Both Jacob Brunert and Greg Wood, numbers 2 and 3 respectively, were sidelined by injuries. Losses to Habs boys and Parmiters meant, however, that they came 3<sup>rd</sup> in the group overall.

The Under 15 B team beat Kings Langley and Aldenham, but then lost to Haberdashers', who went through to the county semi finals. The highlight of this match was Danial Shah's debut, which was interesting for both teams.

Other significant team members were: Amar Budhdeo, Alex Sofroniou, Christopher Weatherilt, who also made his debut for the team, Fabio Verducci, Matthew Roig and Tharsikan Seralathan.

If all team players are healthy and keep on playing regularly, then all the Under 13 teams and Under 15 teams should be able to go through to the regional semi-finals next season.

Well done to all those players who came to West Herts tennis club on a regular basis to train. A place in the team next year, beckons for Nathan Burstow who has been working really hard to improve his tennis.

**DR**



# Badminton

The idea of the Cross School Badminton Tournament was to give regular members of the badminton club, who haven't played for the school, a chance to play in a tournament. However, the main difference was instead of schools competing against each other the boys were put into teams of 4 consisting of two boys from Haberdashers' Aske's school and two WBSG boys. The main aim of the tournament was to end the badminton session with a friendly match and also to challenge the boys' teamwork skills, as they didn't know who they would be playing and they had just five minutes to rank the players in their team.

**SW**

A group of U14's and U16's represented WBSG against Haberdashers' Boys. I say 'against' but we were in fact 'mixed' – Habs and WBSG playing together!

Our excitement had been building for months – we had been informed in the autumn term that we may potentially participate in a tournament later on in this academic year. So you can imagine how much effort we all put in, regularly turning up every week to practise.

The day finally came upon us and all our preparations had come to a head; ready and raring to go. Upon our arrival, we were greeted by the Habs team and were quickly paired up with one of their players.

Their sports hall was surprisingly larger than I expected – six courts as opposed to our four. I had for some reason, envisaged a smaller setting. We commenced with 'doubles' and moved swiftly onto 'singles'. The atmosphere was competitive yet friendly, with keen and eager players all round; there was no time for breaks or slacking!

The tournament lasted approximately one and a half hours and by the end of it, over 30 boys had played to the best of their ability despite the countless knocks and falls! It was, however, an experience to remember for all those involved.

A huge thanks to Ms Webster, for not only arranging an incredible tournament but also for supporting us - week in, week out.

**Nayen Vallabh 10C**

Until the 17th of March, the Badminton tournament players were preparing hard for this huge event, which took place at Haberdashers' school. Members from each year were selected to represent the school in the tournament. The students had to play with and against members from Haberdashers', with a friendly but competitive spirit. In each team there were two Habs boys and two WBSG boys.

On the day we left for Haberdashers' after school in a minibus, accompanied by Ms Webster. We were divided in teams and the competition began. Each team had a set number of matches to play against each other. We played 3 singles and 2 doubles matches and our team managed to secure quite a few wins. Some of the games did not turn out as expected; there were quite a few ups and downs, although the team showed a lot of persistence and enthusiasm throughout the tournament.

Overall the performance of our team was excellent and our team won the U16 tournament. It was a great experience for all of us and we would all like to take part in an event like this again.

**Aditya Chand – 9F**



# Sailing

**It could have been worse.**

Saturday 5th October: open day. Mr Post's clarion call summons the zealous team of prefects, sixth-formers, and other people who just feel like being nice. The atmosphere buzzes with helpfulness and loyalty to the school. Pupils either support the school, or stay as far away as possible.

Yet several hours earlier, you would have met a different crowd. At 7am, the infamous WBSB sailing team arrived, there to take part in the National Schools Sailing Association's yearly topper races. Enthusiasm, much like at the open day, was at a premium; yet we, unlike them, had extensive quantities of biscuits...

The weekend, as always, was fantastic. It's hard to describe the euphoria of coming resoundingly last; just about everyone conceded that we were truly superior at losing nearly every race. There was a glorious moment when my team, the B team, was beaten by our own C team. But the highlight of the weekend? When we glanced at the results table and found, at one point, that we were losing out to a team that hadn't even turned up. Curse our school for being so far down the alphabet...



In all seriousness though, I doubt anybody in the team would have missed the weekend for the world. The winds were consistently mediocre, but relative to last year – when nearly half of the races had to be cancelled – they were gale-force. The weekend was organised to a tee, and it is a real credit to Mrs Parks that, once again, we felt confident enough to put forward three teams, in a national event that in total included only twenty-four.

I'm never quite sure why I enjoy these events quite so much. It's partly because of how much I love sailing; it's partly because of the competitive spirit; and it's partly because of how great it is to spend 2 days in the company of the awesome people who make up the sailing squad. Even if it does take you half an hour to persuade them to join you in the karaoke (which was not mentioned in the trip information...).

My team only won one race out of the eleven in which we competed. Yet I feel we won it the right way. It was the last race of the weekend, and ten failures in a row were starting to get to us. But the wind was picking up. We were determined to give it one last shot – until disaster struck: a sudden gust and a mangled response caused me to capsize twice, a minute before the starting gun. Our prospects looked so bad, I considered retiring: I only passed the start line ten seconds within the time limit. Yet, we won. In the last leg of the race, I somehow managed to claw my way up to second place, with my teammates in first and fifth (out of six). It was a resounding victory, and one I doubt I'll forget for while.

Once again, I can't say how grateful I am to Mrs Parks and the other teachers who made the weekend happen.

**Alex Waygood 6PWh**





# Life as a Sixth Former and Boxer

**B**oxing is a sport which is admired by many, often being referred to as an art form, because of the precision and detail needed to perfect techniques and punching styles. This is shown through both professional and amateur boxing. Many of you may now think of someone like Mike Tyson and be questioning what I just said but people like him also have to perfect their fighting style in order to be successful.

The differences between professional boxing and amateur boxing is, in the latter, you don't get paid; you have to wear head protection and vests and your fights are much shorter. The main difference is that in amateur boxing you're training for around 10 months constantly, in order to maintain and improve your fitness and techniques, because you can be offered a fight any time during the season.

What most people don't see in boxing is the preparation for fights, and the way an amateur boxer has to live. You need to maintain your weight, which means you have to cut down on junk food massively, so no snacking or fizzy drinks; you can only have these once in a blue moon and you should eat healthily. You need to maintain fitness, so it is a must that rather than sitting on the games consoles, you're out running, cycling or doing sprints. Rest is another important factor, your muscles need time to recover and getting a good amount of sleep is a necessity. And no smoking or use of intoxicants, as these can affect your body in a negative way. These are the fundamentals for an amateur boxer.

As a Sixth Former, and Heavyweight amateur boxer, who does all essay based subjects, I have a big workload and my school work has to be the priority, but also as a boxer, so is my training. I need to have a good work ethic to be



able to do any homework to hand in on deadlines and also go training and as well as maintaining my weight and fitness.

I train at and box for St Albans Amateur Boxing Club; I've been to a few boxing clubs over the past few years, and this club is the best. The coaches have everyone's best interests at heart, and they coach for the love of the sport, not for pay – as they don't get any!

At the club, the training time is split in half, half of the time dedicated to cardio, and the other half for boxing – pad work, hitting the bags, and sparring. But we also are privileged enough to have been invited down to other clubs for sparring and training, which also helps us to gain vital knowledge and experience to help us as boxers to progress to fight at the highest level.

For some people, the thought of hitting someone and getting hit back isn't that attractive. For me, growing up in a family which admired the sport, who urged me to try boxing, and another factor, was that I would have the means of defending myself in any situation. I started training at St Albans

ABC in February 2012, just before my GCSE exams. At boxing shows, the changing and weigh in areas are communal, with separate areas only for women. After weighing in, you tend to look around trying to figure out which person you could be fighting, and as time nears to your bout and when you've narrowed down your possible opposition, that bit of doubt creeps into your mind, and you start to question yourself.

I had my first fight in December 2012 and my first experience of a boxing show felt intimidating. However, I went on to win that fight. Since then, I have had 4 more fights - winning 2, and losing 2; both of which were on tight margins. One of the losses was in the final of the Haringey Box Cup, which is an annual international tournament, held at Alexandra Palace. After my first seven months as a boxer, I'm proud of myself; I have had 5 fights and won 3 of them. I've ended the season with a positive record and a Silver Medal in my weight class and experience class at an International boxing event.

**Anees Taj 6NAI**

## Lucy Glennie

Lucy joined the school eleven years ago and quickly established herself as an excellent teacher. "Frau Glennie" had her own unique teaching style and her classroom was always a whirlwind of activity. She had a devoted following of students, and it should not go unnoticed that her perseverance with students who found academic commitment more of a struggle, frequently paid off. Indeed, many former students have said how Frau Glennie had managed to ignite their love of language learning and it is thanks to the start that she gave them in the lower school that they continued with the study of German at GCSE and Advanced Level, where they achieved excellent results.

Lucy was the Key Stage 3 co-ordinator and took great pride in her work. She was extremely hard working and ensured that lower school German ran like clockwork. She knew the Year 7, 8 and 9 textbooks inside out and was always seeking to improve the pupils' experience at Key Stage 3. It is clear that Lucy's work within the German teaching team has contributed to the subject's popularity at WGSB, which stands in contrast to other schools where the popularity of German has unfortunately been in decline.

It is a tribute to Lucy's enthusiasm for the school and commitment to bringing language learning to life that she gave so much to extra-curricular activities, mostly notably the German Exchange for many years and more recently the German Christmas Market trip and Arsenal Double Club trip. Lucy was keen to take on new challenges and over the last few years had been learning Spanish and taught it very successfully to lower school pupils.

Lucy leaves us after long service to pursue other interests and we wish her all the best for the future.

**MT**

## Val Kempster

Val joined us in January 2007 on a temporary basis to begin with, teaching half the week here and on her other days enjoying the contrast of Stanborough School in Welwyn. Naturally we were pleased when she soon agreed to switch her entire time to us here on a permanent basis – her expertise had been clear to Robert and Martin at interview.

Val had been a student at Rickmansworth back in the days when it was a selective grammar school. She went on to study at Southampton University and was a head of department in the many years she lived in New Zealand.

We have really valued Val's input to the Maths department in her time here and we will really miss her. She is one of those teachers

who take on anything that is asked of them without hesitation and who always offers help if needed. Whilst here, she has taught across all key stages and all abilities and has shown endless patience with students. Indeed, Val was popular, amongst those students who find Maths challenging, for her ability to explain new concepts, and for being helpful.

As well as her teaching, Val has involved herself in school life, being a regular attendee at school concerts and school plays, for example, when she often enjoyed seeing a different side to the students she taught in class. Val had many other talents too, Sudoku being one of them and, as we discovered recently, tennis.

We wish Val a very happy retirement.

**CG**

## Karl Magdeburg

Karl Magdeburg joined the Modern Languages Department four years ago as a fresh-faced NQT. From the off Karl was a breath of fresh air for the French department, with his innovative teaching ideas and wonderful resources that he was always more than happy to share.

The boys responded really well to Karl's teaching and he quickly became a popular member of staff thanks to his enthusiasm and excellent relationship with them. Karl has a real love of everything to do with French language and culture which he transmitted to pupils successfully. Karl also has a love of French cinema and again this is something that he used to his advantage to enthuse future French learners. I'm sure that (what were to become legendary) Mr Magdeburg's French breakfasts also helped to get pupils on board with the promise of French food.

Karl is always keen to improve his practice and he has worked tirelessly to improve his knowledge of Spanish, which he has taught very successfully at Key Stage 3 during his time at WGSB. Karl has now in fact made the ultimate commitment to improving his Spanish by deciding to live in Mexico next year.

Further testament to Karl's love of travel is that he got involved in all aspects of school life while here at WGSB. From joining the history department on the Berlin trip where he showed boys some key historical monuments, to taking boys to the Europa Language Centre in Essex to help boys practise their transactional French surrounded by plastic fruit and vegetables, Karl has always demonstrated enthusiasm and ensured that boys have had a good experience. Without doubt, one of Karl's biggest achievements here at WGSB was resurrecting the French Exchange, which prior to his arrival had not been running for a number of years. Karl successfully ran the trip every year of his time with us, and built up excellent relationships with our French partner school. The boys always

returned from the exchange raving about what a fantastic time that they had had and how they were planning to take French for GCSE. Thanks to Karl's hard work, we're able to build on this in the coming years and hopefully strengthen the foundations that he has laid.

Karl is off to teach in the British School in Mexico City where he is going to be Head of French. I'm sure you'd all like to join me in wishing him the best of luck for the next chapter of his life in warmer climes.

**MT**

## Caroline Williams

Caroline Williams joined the Modern Languages Department as teacher of French and Spanish and quickly demonstrated her willingness to help colleagues by sharing her resources and innovative teaching ideas. Caroline quickly progressed and became Teacher in charge of Spanish during her first year. She quickly rejuvenated the Spanish department, with her meticulous organisation. Caroline is rightly proud of the Spanish department and results have improved dramatically under her reign.

One reason for the improved results has to be the fact that Caroline has an excellent relationship with pupils and is extremely popular thanks to her exciting lessons and boundless enthusiasm and energy. Under Caroline's leadership, Spanish has gone from strength to strength, with large numbers of boys opting for the subject at GCSE and A Level. Caroline also managed to collaborate successfully with Watford Girls on delivering the Spanish A Level course.

We were very pleased that despite Caroline saying that she missed life back home and intended to move back "up north" as soon as possible, she has stayed with us for years and in that time she has become a very popular member of the Modern Languages Department and the school.

Caroline has always been really committed to her job and has got involved in all aspects of school life. She has run and participated on many trips including, the Italy trip, the French Exchange, the Lille day trip and the Spanish Europa Language Centre trip in exotic Essex - same plastic fruit and vegetables but they change the signs so they're in Spanish.

As fantastic as Caroline is at her job, Caroline will not only be missed for her professional attributes, but also for her effervescent personality, and we're definitely going to miss her professional level baking next year, as many of her cakes have got us through to the end of a term.

We wish Caroline the very best as she takes up the position of Head of Modern Languages at Abbey Gate School in Cheshire from September.

**MT**



# CLUBS & SOCIETIES

## Fathers' Book Club

I didn't even join the Fathers' Book Club. My wife enrolled me after finding a flyer in my son's Welcome Pack ... and five years later I am still turning up on a Tuesday evening at the beginning of each half term.

What's the attraction? Well, most people read a book from time to time... but most of us tend to go for a "safe" choice – an author we know, or a topic we're already interested in. Which of these subjects would have made your list? Love, war, sex, death, growing up, fundamentalists, Tibetan lamas, Hungarian noblemen, Nigerian revolutionaries, volcanoes, the Titanic, North Korea... they've all been chosen by the Father's Book Club in the last five years. Of the 30 or so books I've read with the Club, I probably wouldn't have picked more than a handful of them if I'd seen them in a bookshop, but for me that's one of the best things about the Fathers' Book Club – it's got me reading and enjoying all these books

which are completely different to the writing I was used to and comfortable with. Each meeting we choose the books for the next session – picking one or occasionally two novels of a manageable length. Sometimes we suggest our own favourite book, to see what the others think of it; sometimes we pick a recent successful novel from a Booker prize shortlist or similar; sometimes we choose a novel because we haven't read anything from that period / country (it's not just English novelists, we also read translations from other languages); and very occasionally we pick something that the boys at school might come across in their lessons.

Sometimes we choose a rotten egg. That novel by a well-known author based on the Titanic was a genuine dud. Unusually, we all agreed on this and competed to describe in detail why we thought the book was so badly written. Often, though, we are very divided, and a book which some of us think is fantastic,

deep, meaningful, life-changing ... is dismissed by others as pretentious, depressing, tedious, and facile. Even when we all like a book, there are often very different viewpoints about the characters, the style, the structure or the author's intentions.

Has it actually got my son reading more though? This is supposed to be the founding principle of the Book Club! Well... he has read one or two of the books that we have chosen, and argued with me about them afterwards; and he was furious when we happened to choose a book he loved and I wouldn't let him come along; but he was reading so much to start with anyway, that he probably didn't even notice I was reading more myself!

NB New members are always welcome – see the link on the school home page for details of the next book and meeting date.

**Daniel Waygood (father of Alex Waygood)**

## Chess Club

Chess Club takes place Thursday and Friday lunchtimes in room 106. In usual circumstance anyone can come along, find a board and an opponent to play against. Sometimes finding a board can be hard because Chess Club is so incredibly popular that occasionally it runs short of boards, (by occasionally I mean pretty much always). Luckily, we have recently obtained some new boards and pieces. The best bit is that you can eat lunch in there too; this way you can distract your opponent with very loud eating. There is a good atmosphere, as most people tend to be pretty calm.

In February, a group of 6th Formers hosted a charity event which was a tournament in which players faced each other to see who the best player was. Almost everyone in Chess Club was involved and then it went back to normal when anyone and everyone could just come along and play non-competitively (providing they are in this school).

**Aaron Durn 9F**



## Jewish Awareness Society

The Jewish Awareness Society (known by most as J-Soc), run by John-Luke Summerfield of the Upper Sixth is held every Tuesday in the Religious Studies Department.

Every week, another interesting character from outside of school takes a turn at giving a lecture or opening a debate that we all discuss. More recently, sessions have been run by the charity Tzedek, Liberal Jewish Youth Movement, Friends of Israel and many more, thanks to our connections with UJIA (United Jewish Israel Appeal) and J-Link. J-Soc provides a spectrum of views including both Orthodox and Reform opinions, reflected in the choice of the speakers. The Jewish Society sees boys from all Year groups, from Year 7 to Year 13 sharing ideas together helping to create a small school community which gathers every week.

At the start of the new term, the unthinkable and traumatic news arose that the J-Soc had been banned from the consumption of food. Defying the common myth that many visits to 101 on Tuesday lunchtimes are merely food related, the numbers attending the Jewish Society were undiminished.

The Jewish Society is not exclusive to boys of the Jewish Faith, with boys identifying with atheistic views or other religions attending; this helps prevent bias or one-sidedness in debates, making them all the more interesting.

The society is perhaps one of the most lively and well-attended lunchtime clubs in the school and presents an exciting opportunity to look at the Jewish Faith, Arab-Israeli Conflict and to broaden one's horizons.

**Daniel Benson L6PWm**

## Ignite

The Christian Union, now known as "Ignite", has changed since I first became aware of it in September 2012. It is run by Christian members of staff who help us understand the Bible and our relationship with God. We learn about how God works and that he is always there, looking after us.

Mrs Kerr was a friendly, kind person who helped out last year and always brought us delicious cakes and biscuits to enjoy. Sadly she left the school at the end of last year so could not continue to help but we remember her great generosity.

During our meetings, we have looked at stories from the Bible, reflected upon them and thought about how they could affect our everyday lives. These stories have ranged from the time of Adam and Eve to after Jesus's death on the cross. We have discussed topics in the Bible as a group, and visiting speakers have come to talk to us about God.

This year at "Ignite" has been amazing so far. "Ignite" is run from 1.15pm-1.45pm every Thursday in M3 by Mr Brookes, Mr Matthews and Mr Trundle. The atmosphere at "Ignite" is kind and welcoming. God is always the main focus point of "Ignite", although we play fun games and eat delicious food. We always have weekly teaching which is very good.

**James Monument 8G**

## Philosophy Society

To be, or not to be? That, sadly, is the question – yet, unlike most you'd find echoing around the RS classrooms, this one has a definite answer. This year's version of Philosophy Society has not yet met once, making this one of the weirdest articles that I've ever written for Fullerian magazine.

But when I think about it, whatever was Philosophy Society after all? The word 'philosophy' originates from the Greek: 'philo' (love) and 'sophia' (knowledge). So, philosophy society is where you go if you love learning. Which sounds rather similar to a lot of the other academic societies the school has to offer...

There's a famous problem in philosophy called the 'Ship of Theseus'. The idea rests on Theseus, a mythical Greek hero, who sails to Crete to battle with a Minotaur. The trip takes quite a while, so that, once Theseus has returned home, every plank of wood making up the ship has been replaced at some point in time. The question is: is it still the same ship?

The question could equally apply to Philosophy Society. The style, character and members of philosophy society have varied wildly over the years, making it difficult to predict just what kind of a beast it will be this year. Yet the spirit – the founding ideals – remains the same.

Philosophy Society is where you will find argument and discussion in their purest forms. In Philosophy Society, we probe fundamental issues like meaning, existence, morality, knowledge, happiness and God. We're people who'll ask uncomfortable questions for their own sake. We're happy to hear any opinion; the more controversial your viewpoint is, the more interesting it is to us. Anything goes – providing you back it up with an argument, and providing you're prepared to have others argue against you.

Philosophy Society will hopefully be re-starting after October half term. Free food may be provided, but we refuse to take responsibility for ANY moral implications thereof...

**Alex Waygood 6PWm**

## Indian Language and Cultural Society

We meet on Tuesdays in Room 102 at lunchtime. It is great fun.

We celebrated Republic Day by watching a clip of the Delhi parade and celebrated the Kite Flight Festival in Gujarat. We are going to celebrate Holi, festival of colours and Baisakhi, the Sikh festival with Bhangra music and food.

We also bring games: Karan board, marbles and listen to Indian music and classical songs. We watch Indian films and recently saw 'Three Idiots'.

**Kartigan Navaneethan and Inesh Ahuja 7F**



# Maths Club

Maths club is an amazing opportunity. It can be put on your CV as an achievement, so even if you're in lower school it's still a good idea. Apart from the obvious you get to challenge your mind with fun maths etc. There is a lot more on offer. There are many group and individual competitions you will have the chance to go to, which are fun days out as well as filled with competitive spirit. There is also a lot of competition in the club itself, whether it's against others in your year or by doing sixth form questions before a sixth former.

Maths club allows you to take your learning out of the classroom. You get to learn a lot more interesting and complicated ideas and topics. It is extremely good for practice too. Maths club is an unmissable opportunity and I would strongly recommend it to anyone with a love of maths or challenges and puzzles. It is a brilliant thing to do and occurs on a Monday lunchtime. We look forward to seeing you there!

**Ethan Honey 9G**

# Maths Challenge

Sixty students in the sixth form took part in the UKMT Senior Mathematics Challenge in November 2013. This challenge encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency to solve interesting problems. In recent years there have been over 90,000 entries from around 2000 schools and colleges. Certificates are awarded to the highest scoring 60% of candidates and 21 of our students received Gold awards, 23 Silver and 10 Bronze. In addition Gokul Ramesh, Alex Eliad and Adam Woolf were amongst the 1500 from 90,000 who qualified for the

British Mathematics Olympiad.

Also in February 2014 our top sets in Years 9, 10 and 11 took part in the UKMT Intermediate Mathematics Challenge involving around 3000 schools and 250,000 entries. There were 39 Gold awards, 34 Silver and 13 Bronze for our students. In Year 11 Muhammad Manji, Oliver Lee, Matthew Shaw and in Year 9 Jeremy Zolnai-Lucas, Jonathan Aizlewood and Luke Ashford all came in the top 550 entries for their Year group and qualified for the Intermediate Mathematics Olympiad.

**Aaron Zolnai-Lucas 6CLd**

# Maths by Numbers

Maths is fundamental to life at Watford Boys, yet often sees its coverage overlooked in the Fullarian, but what is there to say about this somewhat elusive subject at the school?

Compulsory in the lower years and a necessity at GCSE, Maths often appears to be the subject of complaint. With seemingly exponential quantities of algebraic fractions and textbooks of apparently immeasurable dimensions, it comes as little surprise that, as a nation, our Maths skills are deteriorating. Nowadays, every other piece of kit appears to have a built in calculator and a worrying proportion of Channel 4 documentaries are telling us that our arithmetic is becoming a considerable cause for concern.

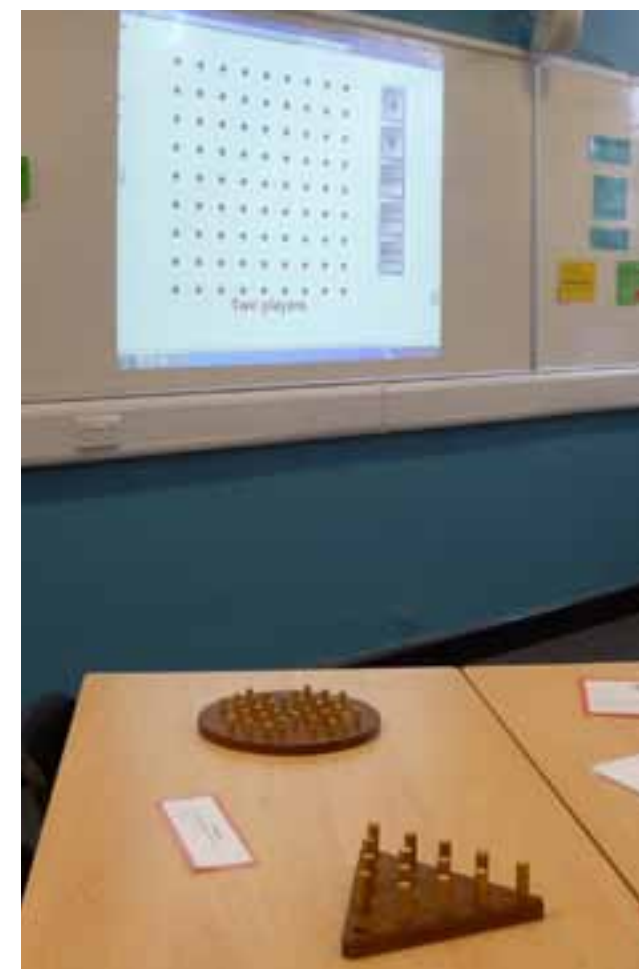
Fortunately for students at Watford Boys, the sterling work of the Maths department is helping to buck this downward trend. Having completed their GCSEs, boys are given the option to discontinue their study of the subject. However, 107 chose to study Maths as an A level option during the 2013-2014 period, and more recently, 158 students in the current lower sixth have opted to continue with Maths. This truly is a credit to the

methods and results of the growing Maths department at the school, which has succeeded in securing an astonishing A\* rate of over 50% at GCSE through their effective collaboration with the student body. It is therefore unsurprising that an unusual number of boys take an especial interest in Maths, beyond the obligatory bounds of their secondary education and many include it as an additional subject to complement their selection of A level choices.

In addition to the above, a huge number of boys are taking two A levels in maths. This number has also increased almost twofold over the past two years, as the Further Maths tally nearly doubled from an impressive 35 to a staggering 65. Further mathematicians will study twice as many modules, bettering their knowledge of Pure Maths as well as many of its applications. Formerly, the Further Maths system saw boys complete their Maths A2 in the lower sixth, and in 2013 every student taking this set of exams achieved an A\*. These remarkable results commend students and teachers alike, proving a tremendous interest and talent in Maths, contrary to national figures.

In congruence with the fantastic results of late, a recent renovation has seen the Maths department revamped. Newer, brighter classrooms are now host to daily lessons, titivating the formerly dilapidated décor for a more modern approach, with sharper corners that would meet Pythagorean standards. It is only appropriate that the success of the Maths department has been rewarded with a renewed operational environment, which we can hope will help to continue the good work.

**Josh Shemtob 6NGv**





Leavers List 2013

Name	Course	University
Heshawa Abayatilaka	Earth Sciences	University College London
Tarik Abbas	Science	University of East Anglia
Junior Adeboye	Accounting, Auditing & Finance	Lancaster University
Ali Ahmad	Law	Coventry University
Sami Al-Balasmeh	Medicine	Imperial College London
Gregor Allan	Geology	University of Leicester
Senna Ashida	Mechanical Engineering	University of Newcastle
Jonathan Ashton	International Relations & Politics	University of Portsmouth
Aniket Athalye	English	University of Southampton
Syed Ausat	Accounting and Finance	De Montfort University
Ross Bailey	Real Estate	University of Reading
Christopher Ballard	Mechanical Engineering	University of Portsmouth
Matthew Beach	Teaching Assistant	
Cormack Bett	Engineering	University of Manchester
Armaan Bhatti	Accounting & Finance for Contemporary China	University of Nottingham
Suraj Bhudia	Physics	University of Bristol
Jack Bodell	International Relations & History	University of Leicester
Timothy Bond	Mathematics	Pembroke College, Cambridge
Alex Bowles	Environmental Geoscience	University of Bristol
David Braham	Medicine	University of Nottingham
Miles Brown	Geography	University of Leeds
Michael Burgess	Geography	Loughborough University
David Burke	History	University of Southampton
Alexander Butcher	Medicine	Trinity College, Cambridge
Alexander Butler	Employment	
Elliot Byfield	Sports Marketing	Leeds Metropolitan University
Oliver Capper	Philosophy and Politics	University of Southampton
William Case-Toussaint	Accounting and Finance	Bournemouth University
Stephen Causbrook	Mathematics	University of Bath
Jai Chadha	Biochemistry, Medical	University of Birmingham
Nathan Daley	Chemical Engineering	Loughborough University
Louis Davies	Engineering	Pembroke College, Cambridge
Ali-Reza Daya	Management	London School of Economics
Andrew Delaney	History	University of Southampton
Jay-Russell Dennis	Computer Science with Games Technology	City University
Sachin Dholakia	Economics and Econometrics	University of Bristol
David Duke	Physics	University of Durham
William Duke	Natural Sciences	Gonville & Caius, Cambridge
Gregory Edmund	Ancient History & Classical Archaeology	University of Warwick
Thomas Faherty	Psychology	University of Birmingham
Callum Farnsworth	Natural Sciences	Emmanuel College, Cambridge
Behzad Fassihi-Tash	Economics	University of Warwick
Ihsan Fazal	Medicine	Brighton & Sussex Medical School
Luis Fos	Computer Visualisation & Animation	Bournemouth University
William Foster	Music	Oriel College, Oxford
Joseph Franklin	English and American Studies	University of Leicester
Samuel Fribbins	History	University of Southampton
William Gage	Industrial Economics	University of Nottingham
Adam Galtrey	Mechanical Engineering	University of Southampton
Alistair Gempf	Natural Sciences	Clare College, Cambridge
Ahmed Gokal	Business & International Relations	Aston University
Christopher Griffin	Applying 2014	
Adam Groves	History	University of Southampton
Sam Groves	Mathematics with Economics	University of Exeter

Name	Course
Gaurav Gupta	Actuarial Science
Alexander Gutierrez	Economics
Rhys Haberfield	Music and Music Technology
James Hardwidge	Business Management
Jian Hong He	Applying 2014
Gavin Herbertson	English Language & Literature
Milan Hirani	Economics
Ravi Hlrani	Economics
Jake Howells	Chemical Engineering
Sadeqat Hussain	Law
Syed Hussain	Dentistry
Ussama Hussain	Applying 2014
Hassan Imtiaz	Engineering and Technology
Matthew Jacobs	Natural Sciences
Alasdair James	Physics
Alastair Jones	Natural Sciences
Abhishek Joshi	Management
Joshua Josiah	Chemical Engineering
Leo Jurascheck	Medicine
Saawan Kachela	Economics and Management
Nkisu Kaindama	Law
Ashan Kandiah	Medicine
Vishal Kaneria	Applying 2014
Suhayl Kassam	Medicine
James Kennedy	Music
Huzaifa Khairullah	Dental Surgery
Humza Khan	Economics
Brynmor Lansdown	Philosophy
William Leahy	Geography
Andrew Leddington	Creative Writing & Journalism
Jacob Leighton	Applying 2014
Daniel Lewis	Physics
Jonathan Line	Psychology
George Lynch	Business Economics
Patrick Man	Medicine
Anand Maniar	Economics
Divesh Mayaramani	Architecture
Hamish McGregor-Smith	Civil Engineering
Samuel Mortimer	Sport and Leisure Management
Ben Munster	Modern Language
Omar Naji	Medicine
Alexander Napier	Economics
James Nash	Advertising
Nikhil Navare	Chemical Engineering
Matthew Niblett	History
Robert Noakes	General Engineering
Jordan Olney	Computer Science
Rahil Pabari	Film Studies
Gregory Page	Physics with study in Continental Europe
Jay Parekh	Medicine
Robert Parkinson	Archaeology
Akaash Patel	Mathematics
Akshay Patel	Chemical Engineering

University
London School of Economics
University of Warwick
Keele University
University of Surrey
Jesus College, Oxford
University of Bath
University of Warwick
University of Bath
University of Birmingham
Cardiff University
University of Portsmouth
University of Durham
University of Birmingham
University of Durham
City University
University of Birmingham
Emmanuel College, Cambridge
Aston University
Queen’s College, Oxford
Imperial College, London
Imperial College, London
University of Southampton
University of Liverpool
University of Birmingham
University of Bristol
Queen Mary, University of London
De Montfort University
Balliol College, Oxford
University of Sussex
University of Exeter
University College London
University of Birmingham
University College London
Imperial College, London
University of Brighton
University College London
Queen Mary, University of London
London School of Economics
Bournemouth University
University of Sheffield
Gonville & Caius, Cambridge
University of Durham
University of Warwick
De Montfort University
University of Bristol
Robinson College, Cambridge
University College London
University College London
University of Manchester

Name	Course	University
Ankit Patel	Chemical Engineering	University of Nottingham
Devak Patel	Chemical Engineering	University of Birmingham
Jay Patel	Mathematical Economics & Statistics	University of Birmingham
Minesh Patel	Architecture	University College London
Rikil Patel	Accounting for Management	Aston University
Stuart Patrick	Accounting and Finance	University of Exeter
Kunal Pattni	Computing Science	Aston University
Akshay Pau	Business Management & Public Policy	Aston University
Kishan Paun	Investment & Financial Risk M'ment	City University
Lawrence Pinn	Chemical Engineering	Imperial College London
Zuhair Pirmohamed	Mathematics and Economics	London School of Economics
Michael Pitan	German Studies and Politics	Lancaster University
Alexander Pope	Applying 2014	
Oliver Price	Physics	University of Hertfordshire
Indriyesha Puri	Applying 2014	
Charles Quail	Dentistry	University of Manchester
Aaron Ramharacksingh	Mathematics	Brunel University
Thymoty Ratnasingham	Biomedical Sciences	University of Manchester
James Redfearn	Geography	University of Birmingham
Stephen Restarick	Psychology	University of Sussex
Jonathan Roden	Aeronautical Engineering	University of Brighton
Senthan Rudrakumar	Medicine	University of Liverpool
William Ryan	Criminology	University of Essex
James Sackey	Politics and International Relations	University of Bristol
Alistair Sargen	General Engineering	University of Durham
Arujin Selvanathan	Mathematics and Economics	University of Nottingham
Hasan Shaikhali	Applying 2014	
Jonathan Shapiro	Mechanical Engineering	University of Southampton
Natish Sharma	Mathematics and Economics	London School of Economics
Zain Sheikh	Economics	University of Birmingham
Kaushal Shukla	Civil Engineering	University of Plymouth
Elliott Smith	Politics and International Relations	University of Southampton
Dhiren Solanki	Computer Science	Cardiff University
Rajiv Solanki	Applying 2014	
Bhavesh Tailor	Medicine	Christ's College, Cambridge
Dharmesh Tailor	Mathematics and Computer Science	Imperial College London
James Taylor	History	Trinity College, Cambridge
Christopher Theaker	Earth Sciences	St. Anne's, Oxford
Sahishna Thirunathan	Biomedical Science	University of Warwick
George Thomas	Physical Education	University of St Mark & St John (Plymouth)
Floyd Thompson	Population and Geography	University of Southampton
Callum Till	Applying 2014	
Jake Tommey	Physics	University of Bristol
Dominic Toon	Fine Art	University of Plymouth
Tomer Tsur	Biochemistry & Biological Chemistry	University of Nottingham
George Tunmore	Industrial Economics	University of Nottingham
Peter Tunwell	Biomedical Sciences	University of Southampton
Ayush Varma	Economics	University of Bath
Charlie Vos	English Language	University of Newcastle
Mark Walker	Mechanical Engineering	Loughborough University
James Wall	Music	University of Southampton
Samuel Wallas	Psychology	University of Kent
Conor Walsh	Sport & Exercise Science	University of Portsmouth
Joe Watts	Physics	King's College London
Samuel Whiteman	Applying 2014	
James Wong	Economics	School of Oriental & African Studies
Atsuro Zhai	Geography	London School of Economics



Academic achievement

Former Year 7

7B	Matteo Ponzini
7C	Thomas King-Cline
7F	Teeren Mistry
7G	Joseph Pilny
7N	James Cox
7P	Devang Arya
7T	Nicholas Bush

Former Year 8

8B	Keshav Kudasama
8C	Jeremy Zolnai-Lucas
8F	Adem Berbic
8G	Zac Clementson
8N	Deven Voralia
8P	Euan Wiley
8T	Dhillon Dodhia

Former Year 9

9B	Samir Patel
9C	Nayen Vallabh
9F	Himesh Mehta
9G	Kishan Mistry
9N	Kalim Conrad Pinn
9P	Gregory Wood
9T	Jesse Rist

Former Year 10

10B	Maisam Merali
10C	Dominic Jones
10F	James Hamilton
10G	Danayan Luxmanan
10N	Nimrod Kasper
10P	Sharan Sanjay
10T	Oliver Lee

Contribution to the form

Solomon Linington
Colm Finnegan
Angus Finnegan
Connor O'Donnell
Reese Patel
Max Brown
Jonathan Conquest

Ali-Imran Shah
Joshua Pickard
Matthew Gibson
Gavin Lee
Jamie Ivory
Nathan Horbury
Srivatsa Garg

James Weston
Thomas Gwynne-Evans
Rohan Finnegan
Haider Raja
Kalim Akhtar
James Mullim
Scott Jackson

Luke McGee
Jaxon Lloyd
Atharva Abhyankar
Mohammed Abul-Hassan
Arnav Rawat
Toby Brown
Jack Butler

Former Year 11

Art	William Ning
Biology	Zohaib Arain
Chemistry	Charan Muraleedharan
Classical Civilisation	Joshua Shemtob
English Language	Zohaib Arain
English Literature	Joshua Shemtob
French	Darius Tehrani-Vahid
Games	Rugby
	Hockey
	Cricket
	Athletics

Geography	Kenzo Motohashi
German	Sam Beeston
History	Andrew Tunwell
ICT	Joshua Blake
Latin	Zohaib Arain
Mathematics	Janahan Manivannan
Music	Alexander Waygood
P.E.	Andrew Tunwell
Physics	Riaz Masters
Religious Studies	Janahan Manivannan
Science (double)	Karan Radia
Spanish	Darius Tehrani-Vahid
All-round GCSE excellence	Zohaib Arain

	Sam Beeston, Daniel Blake
	Janahan Manivannan, Kenso Motohashi
	Lavan Muraleedharan, William Ning
	Havish Samudrala, Joshua Shemtob
	Sriram Shriananda
Tomlinson Prize	Mohammed Arbaz Manzoor
Exceptional Performance	Zarif Khan

Former Lower Sixth

Art	James Layton
Biology	Kishan Katwa
Chemistry	Dylan Patel-Vathvali
Classical Civilisation	Daniel Bugler
Computing	Nathan Horsley
Economics	Kiran Kotecha
English Language	
and Literature	Anojan Ratnarajah
English Literature	Christopher Haines
French	Rishi Patel
Games	Rugby
	Hockey
	Cricket
	Athletics

Geography	Giorgio De Lucia
German	Jeremy Swanwick
History	Alasdair De Costa
I.C.T.	Vamsi Akinepally
Mathematics	James Foulger
Music	Joshua Harper
Physics	Benjamin Keenlyside
Politics	Daniel Bugler
Psychology	Elliot Freer
Religious Studies	Elliot Freer
Spanish	Krister Noren
Sport and PE	Elias Taylor
Young Engineers	Felix Thompson

Former Upper Sixth For excellence, effort and progress during the Upper Sixth course.

Applied Economics	Armaan Bhatti
Applied Science	Louis Davies
Art J R Smith/Southern Prize	Charlie Vos
Biological Science E J Slinn Prize	Alexander Butcher
Biology	Christopher Theaker
Chemistry W R Carter Prize	Jay Parekh
Classical Civilisation	Robert Parkinson
Computing	Felix Thompson
Debating	Callum Farnsworth

	Alastair Jones
Economics Myers Clark Prize	Kishan Paun
English Lang & Lit F H Vince Prize	Nksu Kaindama
English Literature F H Vince Prize	Gavin Herbertson
French R F Smith Prize	Gavin Herbertson
Geography P E Posner Prize	Atsuro Zhai
German R F Smith Prize	Ali-Reza Daya
History Sir Fredk. Pedler Prize	Matthew Niblett

IT	Dhiren Solanki
Latin	James Kennedy
Mathematics Loydell Prizes	Timothy Bond
	William Foster
Music F W Thomas Prize	William Foster
Physics	Callum Farnsworth
Physical Science Philip Proffit Prize	Nathan Daley
Politics Brierley Prize	Elliott Smith
Psychology	Jonathan Line
Religious Studies	Suhayl Kassam

Sport Sir Stanley Rous Prizes:	
	Rugby
	Hockey
F H Openshaw Prize:	All round
Tommy Thompson Prize:	Cricket
	Athletics
Sport and PE	

Neil Hart Prizes:	Discovery Club	Alistair Gempf
	Workshop	Junior Adeboye
	School Council	Samuel Whiteman
		Matthew Beach
		Jack Bodell

Rabi Martin Community Prize

Services to the School Governors' Prizes:

Timothy Bond, Alexander Butcher

Tomas Greene, Suhayl Kassam, Matthew Niblett

The Woollams Prizes

awarded annually for excellence in the A Level examinations:

Stephen Causbrook, Louis Davies, William Duke

Callum Farnsworth, Behzad Fassihi-Tash

Leo Jurascheck, Daniel Lewis

Hamish McGregor-Smith, Jay Parekh

Christopher Theaker

Exceptional performance at A level Elliott Smith

# Air Vice-Marshal Edward Stringer

## CBE MA BEng RAF

Edward attended Watford Grammar School for Boys from 1980 - 1982 before joining the Royal Air Force via an engineering degree from Liverpool University. After Officer and flying training he became a Qualified Weapon Instructor.

He has completed many operational tours including the Gulf war of 1991, the 'No Fly Zones' over Iraq and Bosnia between 1991 and 2003, and the recent counter-insurgency operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Edward's command tours include: OC54(F) Squadron, when he was also the Jaguar Force Commander for Operation TELIC in Iraq in 2003; Station Commander RAF Leeming and, concurrently, Tornado F3 Force

Commander; CO 904 Expeditionary Air Wing based at Kandahar, Afghanistan in 2008; Commandant Air Warfare Centre, from 2009 to 2011, during which he was also the UK's first Air Contingent Commander for Op UNIFIED PROTECTOR, the NATO Operation in Libya.

He has completed staff tours in the Air Warfare Centre, the Directorate of Operational Capability in the MOD, and as Assistant Director (Operations) in the Air Staff, also within the MOD. Edward was Head of Joint Capability in the Security Policy and Operations area of the MOD until his appointment to Washington as the UK Chief of Defence Staff's Liaison Officer to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs in Oct 2012. His military education

includes advanced staff college in Canada in 1999, the Higher Command and Staff Course in the UK in 2006, the USAF's CFACC course at Maxwell AFB, and the Royal College of Defence Studies in 2009. He completed an MA in International Relations at Kings College London in 2010 and undertook a Slessor Fellowship at Oxford University, researching Pol/Mil relations and strategy-making. Edward was appointed as the Assistant Chief of the Air Staff in April 2013.

Awards include the MBE in 2000, the OBE in 2003 and the CBE in 2009. Edward is married to Louise, a GP in Yorkshire, where the family of two children are at school.

# Prize Giving Evening Address

Air Vice-Marshall Edward Stringer took 'tradition' as the theme of his speech for Prize Giving evening, explaining that it seemed appropriate for a school with a heritage dating from 1704 and which still venerated its founder, Dame Elizabeth Fuller.

A V-M Stringer then went on to talk about the more profound traditions, that are found in Watford Boys Grammar School – those of tolerance and the individual. He said that whilst it is right to celebrate excellence at the school we should not forget those who have not had the opportunity to benefit from such an education. Very often the most worthy recipients of awards in the New Year's Honours lists were those who were finally being rewarded for decades of quiet, previously unheralded, sacrifice. Often the people that are happiest in life are those that help others, regardless of personal circumstance.

But AV-M Stringer stressed the importance of maintaining an intellectual curiosity; not letting our horizons shrink so much that we lose perspective and the ability to think

differently. It is important to be prepared to change and to call for change where it would be beneficial.

It is important not to be afraid to try, question and even fail in the short term.

He talked about one tradition that did deserve to perish and that is the one that claims that things are always getting worse – including young people. There are a good many positive developments in the world, and many of them can be seen in countries such as India, China and Korea. Air V-M Stringer urged students to take advantage of opportunities to work or live abroad; it is a good way to learn about one's own society – looking at it through the eyes of others.

Air Vice-Marshall Stringer finished with the suggestion that 'life's bedrock should be a broad intellectual curiosity' but then posited the thought that life would be better if we were simply more deliberately courteous to each other.

GA



**THANK YOU**

The Governors, Headmaster and Staff of Watford Grammar School for Boys wish to thank parents, Old Boys and friends who have donated to the school throughout the year.

Thanks are also extended to the advertisers who have bought space in The Fullerian and to businesses, individuals and organisations who have supported the school in many ways in the past year.

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**Matthew Arnold Baldwin**

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