



Editorial

*he Meteor today looks very different from how it did when it was first published in 1867, and this edition - with its new design looks different still from last year's. But The Meteor has always been the same kind of magazine. Its founding editors described it as "a short chronicle of what is daily passing around us", and that is what it remains now. So the following pages record the life of the School in all its busy diversity over this academic year, from society meetings to music to drama to games. We have tried to document a fair representation of what has happened over the last three terms, but doubtless there are omissions – no school magazine can be a comprehensive account of everything a school does.

are now studying at top universities or have gone on to successful careers in a variety of professions, including the law, medicine and journalism. Full reports on both these events may be found on page 26 and page 11 respectively.

This year also saw the opening of the new Modern Languages building and the acquisition of the site of the former Bishop Wulstan School opposite Kilbracken, which will be redeveloped and turned into classrooms and a sixth form centre for the beginning of the new academic year in September. These two projects are a very visible sign of the School's commitment both to providing the best facilities for teaching and learning and to sustainability – nearly all of

"a short chronicle of what is daily passing around us..."

2013 saw two significant anniversaries: the 175th anniversary of the Crick Run and the 10th anniversary of the Arnold Foundation for Rugby School. 88 pupils ran this year's Crick, along with more than 80 ORs, staff and parents. After a morning of heavy rain, the course was wet and muddy, but the poor conditions did not stop Ben Sutherland (W) shaving three minutes off the previous course record to win the race in 64 minutes 12 seconds. Congratulations to him! The work of the Arnold Foundation was celebrated with a lecture by Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson, Britain's most successful Paralympian, and with a picnic lunch on the Close on Speech Day. Since 2003, over £14 million has been raised to support the work of the Arnold Foundation, which has helped a total of 73 pupils to date, many of whom

the waste materials produced during the construction of the Modern Languages building, for example, were recycled instead of being sent to landfill. You can read about the opening of the Modern Languages building on page 25.

We would like to thank the many staff and pupils who have sent us articles and reports over the course of the year and whose artwork we have used; Amanda Hunter and the staff at Gillman and Soame for supplying us with all the photographs; Rusty MacLean for finding out so much for us from the archives; and everyone at Neil Terry Printing for their expertise, time and patience.

ACL and RJS Summer, 2013

Contents

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Editorial	1
Chaplain's Notes	2
From the Heads of School	3
Valete & Salvete	4
Service & Public Benefit	10
PSHEe	16
Activities	18
Gap Year Report	28
Societies	32
Trips & Visits	38
Drama & Music	46
Arts Festival	54
Pupils' Work	64
Sports Reviews	70

Chaplain's Notes

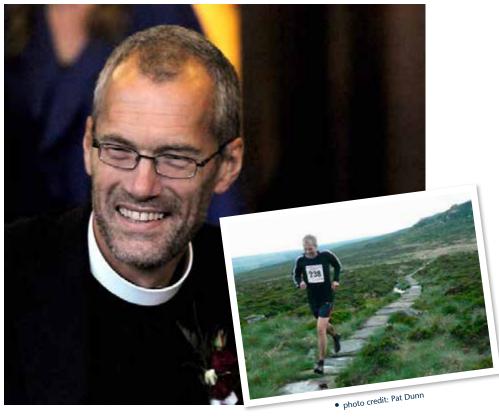
he year 2013 brought great excitement to Rugby's running community with the 175th anniversary of the Crick Run. My aim for this event, from the back of the pack, was to break the 90-minute barrier. A recent memory inspired me.

2012 had been a particularly good year for Jonathan Brownlee, the triathlete. He had already won the World Triathlon Championship, and followed it up with his brilliant bronze medal under the eyes of the world at the London Olympics. For most sportsmen that would have been enough, but young Brownlee is a natural competitor. Not for him the holiday sofa, the James Bond movie, the chocolate orange, the second beer and the fourth mince pie.

No, on 31 December, the very last day of the year, Jonny Brownlee lined up at the start of the Auld Lang Syne Fell Race on the Yorkshire Moors above Haworth. In weather that could reasonably be described as atrocious, he stormed round to end the year as he had begun it, with one more victory. It was an impressive performance – and I know because I was there.

You'll realise that I'm not in any way saying this to show off when I tell you that the margin of 27 minutes by which Brownlee finished in front of me was enough not just to edge me narrowly into 230th place but for him to be changed and sitting in the pub before I even crossed the line.

But that's not the point. Being part of the same event as a champion of such outstanding talent, I was half expecting to be depressed at the reminder of just what a very average competitor I am. But the effect was the opposite – it is one of the best sports memories of my life. To have run in the same race as a world champion and an Olympic



medallist, never mind that he was half an hour in front of me, was an absolute inspiration. At the prizegiving afterwards I was so close to him I could have reached out and touched him. That would have been a bit weird, though.

I've run plenty of races in my life, usually at the back of the field, but what made that one really special was life is special, this world is hallowed, sanctified by the one who has gone before and in whose footsteps we follow. The leader of the race has passed this way before, so this is holy ground on which we run.

I want to carry this thought through 2013 and beyond. I want to be just as excited and inspired about

"The last shall be first."

the knowledge of who was leading the field. Struggling up the hills, plodding through the swamps, striding out on the downhills, you knew that you were following, literally, in the footsteps of a champion. So, like many of the Chaplain's running experiences, it's a parable too; because the Christian message of the incarnation is that God has become a man, to set foot upon the earth, to make our life special with the knowledge of who is leading the way. Whether our daily course is struggling uphill, plodding through swamps or striding out downhill, this

following Jesus through life as I was about following a runner in a race. I want to be able to say, "I ran with a champion"; to rejoice in the truth of that mysterious saying of Jesus, "The last shall be first"; to say with the Apostle Paul, "I have run the race; I have kept the faith." Weakened by time and fate, but strong in will; to strive, to seek, to find and not to yield. And so what if I took 96 minutes for the Crick? There's plenty of time to train for the 200th anniversary.

• RMH

From the Heads of School

ou may have heard that some houses have created time capsules - collections of objects that capture the spirit of the house – to be buried for a later generation to discover. We took that idea and applied it to the 180 girls and boys with whom we have shared our lives for the last five years. The objects were carefully chosen to reflect our experience at Rugby as a year group, which we hope will shed light on our ups and downs, our highs and lows and the lessons we have learnt over the last five years. In the end we whittled our time capsule down to these five items:

- a used train ticket
- a potato
- a battery torch
- a picture of a pig
- a house tie

First, the used train ticket. For many of us, our first experience of Rugby School will have included a train journey from Euston to Rugby. This journey, and our first few weeks at the School, is probably the hardest and most stressful period of our life. Without our housemasters, housemistresses, tutors and matrons, those first few weeks would not have been nearly as enjoyable.

Second, the potato. This unattractive root vegetable is something usually associated more with gluttonous Christmas dinners than with academic success. But whilst walking round Horton Crescent on my way to French once I was approached by a member of staff who thrust a withered potato into my hands. It was related to a discussion we had been having in class about the brutality of the Irish Potato famine in the 19th century. Although we will never be experts on the ins and outs of Irish nationalism, this potato represents the extraordinary lengths to which the teachers at Rugby are prepared to go for us. To an outsider it seems odd to think that the same teacher could wake you up for breakfast, take you for Maths in period 3, shout at you from the sidelines of the hockey pitch and still have the energy to tell you to do some work when 7 o'clock comes. For the staff at Rugby, this is a normal day's work. The extent to which teachers go to help their pupils never ceases to amaze us.

Third, the torch. Although this particular torch's main significance is as a reminder of late nights in the F block dorm, it represents much more than that. One of our first experiences as Heads of School last year was when the Olympic torch came to Rugby on a typically cold and rainy June day. At Rugby, no matter what kind of sportsman or sportswoman you are, you are always encouraged to have a go; and you often discover that you don't hate badminton as much as you thought you did or that 10.5 miles really isn't that far. Most of us will not leave Rugby to become professional sportsmen or -women, but the importance of team work, perseverance and drive will stay with us forever. And for this we again owe our thanks to all the staff at Rugby who have dragged us out onto the games fields, however freezing, frosty and wet it has been.

Fourth, a picture of a pig. It was given to me by a young girl from Brooke School, the special needs school where I am lucky enough to do my community service every Thursday afternoon. Ever since my first day there I have looked forward to my Thursday afternoons. They have become a time where exam stress and the ever-present shadow of UCAS cease to matter as you witness first-hand the things that are really important in life and meet some of the amazing people who dedicate their lives to helping children with special needs. Rugby offers a diverse range of ways in which we can give back to the community what we have been so lucky to receive. Whether it is working in a charity shop, teaching Latin to primary school children, or the infamously named "granny bashing", the School stresses the importance of taking nothing that we have for granted.

Finally, the tie. In our boarding houses, in the classroom and on the games field we have found some of our greatest and longest-lasting friends, who have become like an extended family to us over the last five years. We know that each and every member of the XX will keep in touch with their friends from Rugby for the rest of their lives. We have both been lucky to have been surrounded by a group of such incredible and talented people who have supported and helped us. It is not the bricks and mortar which make a house, it is the people in it, and during our five years at Rugby we have met our best friends, who have seen us at our best and our worst, and who have made our time here so much fun, and for that we are so grateful.

• Connie Krarup (B) & Jamie Dujardin (M)



Michael Martin

o many outside the Music Department the range of Michael's talents may be largely unknown. Michael himself is so innately modest, he is unlikely ever to mention them, but his contribution to the life of the School over the last thirty years has been considerable. Above all things, Michael is an expert cellist. Before coming to Rugby, he won a Scholarship in 1979 to the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music in Milwaukee, having been at the International Cello Centre in Scotland. Whilst studying in the USA, he taught Cello on the Conservatory Faculty – along with some session and TV work - before returning in 1982, first to France and then to London where, almost penniless, he lived for a couple of months just behind Harrods.

Michael joined Rugby mid-term in November 1982, and since then has taught every cello pupil in the School. Not even he has counted exactly how many that is, but in itself it is a remarkable achievement. During his time here, Michael has enormously enriched the life of the Music Department. With his typical dedication, he has organised innumerable musical events. Among the more memorable of these was when he took a group of chamber musicians to Florence in January 1997 as part of a joint Music and History of Art trip, and in the same year he enjoyed accompanying the Rugby Sinfonia to the Norfolk Broads. Then in May 2003 – with the whole School famously being bussed to the Birmingham Symphony Hall – Michael conducted a performance of Villa Lobos' Bachianas Brasileiras No 5 for the Arnold Foundation Inaugural Concert. He also set up a series of Cello Masterclasses, inviting the likes of Steven Isserlis, Steve Doane, Louise Hopkins and John Todd to share their

expertise with pupils. For many years Michael ran Social Services music, the Friday Concerts and more recently the Junior Strings and Ripieno orchestras.

On the academic side, Michael will be remembered for launching Music Technology at Rugby. Since 1997 he has pioneered both the AS and A2 courses, introducing Macs (and with the help of Clive Burton, the first Mac server) in 2004. Michael also had the vision and skill to develop the use of multi-media software such as Sibelius and Logic Pro within the F block Music option. As early as 1993, Michael was pushing for GCSE Music to be part of the curriculum here, and by 2004 the AQA syllabus was adopted with film music as one of its exciting areas of study. Michael became the School's assessor for the Performance paper whilst later teaching OCR's A-level Performance Investigation.

With his patience and commitment, Michael has over the years been an outstanding tutor. Initially, he was both in Bradley (then a boys' house) and Whitelaw, where as a fellow tutor I first got to know him. Michael became a full-time tutor in Whitelaw in 1996, ably contributing inter alia to the varied musical entertainment at Christmas suppers and House plays under Malcolm Burns. I was delighted when Michael agreed to join the pastoral team in Marshall House, when I took over there in 2003, and he has been an unfailing support since. Not only has Michael organised all the musical items for "Pudsey" - the Children in Need event each November – but at our other concerts, he has often skilfully accompanied



performers, sometimes at very short notice. His flexibility is extraordinary, especially when pupils forget to bring in their music or instrument – or both! Michael's chief concern is to bring out the best in each pupil and, whatever their ability, to encourage them to find their confidence. Michael is also an able photographer, keeping an invaluable record of many an Activities Day.

Few would envy Michael the task of organising Chapel seating, a role he has meticulously carried out since 1997. The fact it happens so seamlessly is further testimony to his thoroughness. On the games field, Michael helped out with tennis as a keen player at the start of his career, though more recently he ran the table tennis option. In 2005, Michael took over the Rifle Range, revitalising it with professional coaching sessions on weekly club nights and internal competitions and by introducing the latest Scatt software as used and developed by Russia's Olympic

shooting team. Unlikely to be thought dangerous, I was amused when Michael asked me if I would endorse his re-application for a firearms licence. Michael's notable good sense has made him a valued representative on the Housing Committee and before that the SCR Committee.

No tribute to Michael would be complete without mention of Persephoni. They met in 1998 whilst he was visiting the island of Skyros (Rupert Brooke's final resting place) and were married two years later in Alexandroupolis. To this day Michael still has no idea what he agreed to at the service: quite literally, it was all Greek to him! They remain extremely happy as a couple and Persephoni is, as ever, a dynamic support to him. They will be much missed, both as friends and colleagues, and we wish them well as they move more permanently to their home in France.

JBCB

Nichola Cannock

ichola Cannock joined Rugby in 2002, teaching a combination of Physics, Biology and Systems Technology. Subsequently she taught Physics only; and she will go down in the School's history as its first ever full-time female Physics teacher. Of course, Nichola was already very familiar with the School before her appointment: her twin sons, Jonathan and Matthew, had joined in the F block as music scholars and were in the XX when she started the job. Jonathan was joint Head of House of Whitelaw and Matthew was Deputy Head of House of Sheriff.

Nichola started her teaching career relatively late in life after completing an Articled Teaching Scheme based at Leeds University. Her first teaching position was at Hills Road Sixth Form College in Cambridge, one of the country's leading sixth form colleges. After a brief stint living in Rome (where she became fluent in Italian), Nichola worked as a Physics teacher at the local Ashlawn School before being recruited by Rugby. Prior to teaching, and after completing her Engineering with French degree at Bath University, Nichola had a successful career as an Engineering Officer in the RAF. Her work saw her in active combat operations during the Falklands War, where she worked with tornado aircraft at RAF Honington and led the Engineering Detachment on the Ascension Islands. Nichola put her military training into good use during her time at Rugby as a Flight Lieutenant in the RAF section of the School CCF.

During her ten years at Rugby, Nichola has taken on numerous varied roles. She was Assistant Housemistress in Dean from 2002 to 2005 and has been a tutor in Marshall House and



more recently in Town House. Many grateful tutees give testament to the care and support Nichola has provided in these pastoral roles. For nearly seven years Nichola was also the School's Examination Officer, balancing this onerous and very responsible position with a very full teaching timetable. Her meticulous attention to detail and tireless dedication to the job was greatly admired, although I am sure that she will not miss the inroads the results season made on her summer vacations!

Nichola is looking forward to spending more time with her husband Paul, who has worked for the European Space Agency since leaving the RAF, based in Holland but recently relocated to Paris. Paul has commuted every weekend over the last ten years, although Nichola has also built up a considerable number of air miles visiting him. Although I am certain that it will not be long before Nichola throws herself fully into a new role full of responsibilities, we will jealously think of her leisurely drinking coffee in a Parisian café whilst we rush to teach another E block lesson. We wish her and Paul every happiness for the future.

• AGD

Chris Douglas

hris arrived at Rugby in 2006 and was immediately welcomed into a Biology Department full of other Northern Irish Professional People Living in England – or NIPPLEs, as John Winchester mischievously termed them. Chris settled in quickly and soon the air was thick with the friendly banter that would characterise his relationships with his colleagues over the next seven years.

Chris is a very accomplished biologist and he is an outstanding teacher - his pupils and colleagues are universally positive about his input. High standards and a caring approach have enabled him to help his pupils achieve their potential and he has enjoyed nothing more than pushing the brightest and best. Chris has an impressive range of teaching styles to suit the age group and subject material, ranging from traditional straight lines facing the front to cosy discussions over coffee (with IKEA lamps adding extra ambience!). The only chink in Chris's armour might be his lack of enthusiasm for the great outdoors: I am convinced that his happiest moment was when Maurice Monteith told him that he did not have to go on the Biology Field Trip!

Chris developed an enthusiasm for PSHEe during his time at Rugby, teaching several LXX groups. He recognises what a hugely relevant and important part PSHE education has to play in helping the pupils develop positive skills and values for the challenges they face in life. His delivery of the syllabus was aided by an excellent rapport with the pupils: he could always find original and interesting ways to engage and challenge them during their sessions.



Outside the classroom, Chris served as Assistant Housemaster in Whitelaw before becoming a tutor in Town House. He has taken his pastoral role at least as seriously as his role in the classroom and he has a very caring and compassionate manner. He balances a firm stance with a metaphorical arm around the shoulder and has the fine judgment to know when each is needed and in what measure. Chris has graced the basketball court with his presence and has been an immensely popular Master in Charge.

Chris leaves Rugby to take on further study in Birmingham and I wish him every happiness and great success. I hope that he will not forget to visit us frequently. Rugby is losing an excellent and highly professional schoolmaster and his colleagues – myself included – are going to miss a valuable friend.

• NGH

Laura Dixon

aura arrived at Rugby in 2007, following a PGCE at Bath University and a career as a website developer. Her excellent subject knowledge and love for all things "techie" enabled her to progress effortlessly to Head of Department after little over a year of teaching. Under her guidance, the Department guickly grew to include A level Computer Science and ICT programmes in the F and D blocks. These changes were well-received by both pupils and staff; and senior pupils will certainly fondly remember her Domino's-fuelled Sunday revision sessions. Laura is a hugely organised, thorough and conscientious classroom teacher and the Department is very lucky to have been led by her.

Alongside her involvement in the Arts Festival, Christmas Concert and Sports Day, and her appearances in the Staff Blue Note, Laura has been a dedicated tutor in Dean, latterly also as Assistant Housemistress. Her calm and caring manner and her genuine interest in the lives of the girls have endeared her to the House, and her ready and happy contribution to House events will make her a hard act to follow. Laura's tutees regularly comment on her kindness, her willingness to help and her clear and helpful advice – we know how much all the girls will miss her.



Laura has worked hard in the wider computing community to encourage more women to take up Computer Science, starting a group called #include to encourage diversity in Computing and which is supported by the British Computing Society. Because of her work in other areas the BCS has also recognised Laura as a Master Teacher of Computer Science – a thoroughly deserved award.

Laura's skills and abilities were immediately recognised by the leadership at The Royal High School, Bath, who jumped at the opportunity to appoint her as Head of ICT and Computer Science. Although she will be greatly missed by everyone here at Rugby, Laura will undoubtedly be an inspiration to all the girls at her new school. We wish her well for the future.

• AKF & TER

Rosie Coombs

osie Coombs arrived three years ago straight from Cambridge and immediately threw herself into every aspect of life here. Her student ways have not left her completely, though – she had to buy four different alarm clocks to be sure to be up on time for lessons, and her frequent attendance at supper in Michell may have more to do with her lack of culinary skills than her interest in pastoral care. It is also lucky we gave her the only classroom in Old Quad with a code, given how often she loses her keys - and passport, and wallet, and hockey mask, and suitcase in Rome airport...

Rosie brought some much needed glamour to the Classics Department, straightaway gaining a huge fan base amongst the boys in particular. Her hard work, intelligence and caring nature meant that she quickly became very popular with all pupils and staff. She has now taught all three subjects – Latin, Greek and Classical Civilization - and all year groups. We will especially miss her teaching of A level Classical Civilisation: no one else knows anything about the Myceneans! Rosie has given up a lot of her own time for the Department, teaching offtimetable Greek, giving revision lessons and organizing trips, both locally and abroad. We are very thankful for all she has done in her short time here.



And it is not just in the Department where Rosie has made her mark. In Tudor, she has been a fantastic house tutor, always readily going the extra mile for her tutees. Rosie is also highly valued as an honorary tutor in Michell. Rosie has coached all major girls' games and her loud voice meant it was only a matter of time before she joined the CCF, which she did with great enthusiasm.

Rosie is still young but she is no longer inexperienced. She is an excellent teacher and colleague and a good friend. We will miss her very much indeed – and we wish her the best of luck for her new job at Dulwich.

• CLH

Rachael Ashworth

djusting to the vagaries of life in "the South", Rachael has immersed herself in all aspects of life at Rugby this year as one of our one-year graduate teaching assistants. Rachael is an excellent organiser and her skills have been put to use in nearly every sphere: she has run tournaments, overseen games option lists and helped with the administration for the Duke of Edinburgh Award. Rachael has also helped in Griffin, where her energy and enthusiasm have been much appreciated by both girls and staff alike. She has spent time with all the girls on her duty nights – chatting away to each one, she has often taken the full two hours of prep time just to do a circuit of the rooms.

Rachael loves netball and will remember her coaching of the U14A VII as a real highlight of her year – indeed, with some great wins the girls involved will surely remember it as a real highlight of their time, too. Rachael moves on now to Norwich School, where she will coach games whilst working towards qualified teacher status. She leaves with our every best wish for the future.

• LMH

Dani Black

ani joined the School as one of this year's graduate teaching assistants following her graduation from Bath University. With a passion for sport – and in particular hockey – she has been a huge asset to the Games Department and we are very grateful for all her hard work both on and off the pitches. Dani has been a real inspiration to our best hockey players, showing them what it is to play at the elite level, and all the teams she has coached speak very warmly of her skills, patience and helpfulness. Dani has also taught in the Biology Department and helped in Tudor, where the girls have enjoyed her cheerfulness and enthusiasm and appreciated all her good advice.

Dani has decided that teaching is the career for her and now takes up a post at nearby Princethorpe College. We know what a success she will be there and look forward to seeing her again at some point – and not just as the opposite umpire in a School match! We wish her well for the future.

• LMH

Will Brock

e have always been fortunate in the quality of the graduate teaching assistants we attract at Rugby but never more so than this year with Will Brock. Coming to us via Australia Sevens and the Rugby Lions RFC, Will brought with him a huge wealth of sports knowledge and experience which he has happily passed on to teams across

the School and which has certainly helped raise the level of achievement in the top teams. Will has also worked hard to create individual fitness and conditioning programmes for a number of senior pupils – and I know how much the pupils have appreciated these. Will has been a popular addition to Kilbracken, where the boys have found him very approachable and valued his honest and helpful advice.

I know that Will has enjoyed his year here and everyone in the Games Department has enjoyed working with him. He is itching to get back to playing rugby again, and whether that is back home in Australia or in Europe I am sure that he has a very bright sporting career ahead of him. We wish him well for the future.

SJB

Jemima Scott

hen the need arose for someone to step in for a year during Lisa Greatwood's study leave, we were lucky to find in Jemima not just a very able graduate of Cambridge University, but an Old Rugbeian who could hit the ground running. Within her first week Jemima found herself teaching the GCSE course which she had been taught just a few years earlier. She has run Christian Forum and the several midweek Bible study groups with cheerful efficiency; helped with the leading of Chapel services; been a popular tutor in Marshall House; and generally thrown herself (back) in to School life in all its richness.

Christian faith is the root that nourishes Jemima's life; Christian service its fruit and flower. Wherever she goes from here, it is certain that her guiding principle will be the desire to become ever more faithful as a Christian disciple. She has helped boys and girls here on that journey, and she goes with our thanks for all that is past, and with our love and prayers for all that is to come.

• RMH

Leonie Randolf, Aurélie Poinard, Dimitri Delmas (Laurène Eymere, Mariá Elena)

he Modern Languages Department is very grateful to the language assistants this year for all the help they have given our pupils with their language learning. Leonie (from Germany) has in addition been an excellent help in Bradley. We shall be sorry to lose her. Dimitri's help in the Advent term was much appreciated and after he took up his new job in Japan we were delighted to welcome back from last year Aurélie Poinard who took over his pupils so competently. We are all delighted that Laurène and María will be staying with us for another year.

• JMJ



2012 welcomed the following pupils to the School...

Bradley

Bowen Georgia • Byrne Hattie • Carver Poppy • Clarkson Katya • Cockman Ella • Doherty Lucy • Kurguzova Anastasiia • Manson Theodora • Nyirenda Zengani • Rees Alice • Sherpa-Blaiklock Charlotte • Leung Frances • Kurguzova Anna • Low Eleanor

Cotton

Awosika Bennie • Coward Alfie • Geary Robert • Maeter Jack • Reynolds Felix • Sadarov Marat • Sharma Vigyat • Skailes Benedict • Sultanli Huseyn • Usman Hassan • Bradfield Oli • Hammond Oscar • Jamchen Jamchen

De La Rue May • Goodall Róisín • Ho Jasmine • Holland Victoria • Marcus Rosie • McLaughlin Esther • Raynsford Elizabeth • Steward Alissa • Stone Lucy • Hughes Freya • Carvill Cat • Mackenzie Lauren • Yam Margaret

Griffin

Bibby Harriet • Bouchier Maia • Gibson Anna • Hammond Molly • Kerner Cordelia • Thomas Emma • White Kate • Wood Henri • Benson Sophie • Lowther Ishbel • Ward Taylor • Firth lean

Kilbracken

Allen Felix • Jacob Adam • Kayama Yui • Lovegrove Tom • Myers Henry • Shirokiy Vlad • Suddaby Michael • Tailby-Faulkes Hugo • Weiss Jonathan • Weston James • Goryanyy Alexander • MacNee Nikita • Okuboyejo Ope • Zephar Malique

Michell

Beard Ed • Choudhary Saqlain • Edmondson Brett • Hatton Wills • Marti Shahandeh Arian • Olliver James • Pond Rory • Sibley James • Yoho Niklas • Zhevago Ivan • Bird Freddie • Fagbemi Bomi • Shah Neel

Rupert Brooke

Barnes Rosie • Bathurst Hermione • Fraser Georgia • Johns Katherine • Killick Sophie • Kirsch Elsa • Mansell Holly • Richards Bee • Stoddart Amelia • De Cardes Philippine • **Denisova** Nelli

School Field

Harwood Jack • Hess Charlie • Loder Ned • Lord Thomas • Robinson Ed • Stevens Mark • Strauss Peter • Swaby Hugo • Venters Hamish • Walker Freddie

School House

Banks Freddie • Grandage Christopher • Fagan Jonnie • Hardman Thomas • Johnson-Hill Hugo • Lindsay Theo • Manners Will • Sillett Ned • Somervail Seb • Teo Martin • Weir Theo

Sheriff

Candlish Alex • Feather Billy • Gimlette Alistair • Harvey Jamie • Kwan Tommy • Rigby Jake • Shimada Toranosuke • Stone Henry • Waterhouse Simon • Wrigley Benji

Southfield

Baker Olivia • Bell Emily • Brown Sara • Cook Naomi • Deery Maria • Gower Emily • Mehta Kirti • Selby Jasmin • Stuart Megan • Sturley Ella • Summers Zoe • Sumpter-Reynolds Harriet • Thompson Isobel • Warwick Emily • Cook Lucy • **Drennan** Ailidh • **Ghosh** Ishita • **Young** Saffie

Stanley

Bain Cecily • Barnes-Batty Alex • Beach Ellie • Bestwick Lottie • Cameron Nat • Creed Polly • Dennis Charley • Fadina Lexi • Francis La Toya • Gorbanenko Jenny • Hutchings Eleanor • Labuzova Kate • May Olivia • Morgan Georgie • Osborn Emily • Pillman Flo • Puri Menaka • Randall Alice • Rollason Tertia • Stobart Tallulah • Van Amerongen Rosie • Wong Daphne

Town

Beal Tom • Johnson Angus • Jones Rian • Leng William • McGuirk Aiden • Mourant Charlie • Ralston Fraser • Rogerson Oliver • Thomas Christopher • Williams Nicholas

Tudor

Cameron Josie • **Corrigan** Victoria • **Harbottle** Lottie • **Houlston** Natalie • Inglis Luella • Kember Miranda • Martle Sky • Mostyn-Owen Bea • Smith Juliet • Unwin Olivia

Whitelaw

Amanuel Berhan • Astley Jones Tris • Carrington Finn • Chang Jeehoon • Drachko-Yermolenko Taymour • Fuxman Michael • Hawksworth Edward • Houlker Freddie • Kendell Edward • Kendell Harry • Kesterton Harry • McGuinness Callum • Ng Julian • Shelton Griffin • Adu Kori • Balfour Alex • Islam Rejaul • Jarada Amir • Marshall Jamie

Marshall

Capewell-Salisbury Tom • Dewis Brenden • Griffin-Smith Ellie • Haines Joel • Mistry Arun • Odell Rory • Thomson Oliver • Wylie Angharad • Tanner James

... and the following new staff:

Rachael Ashworth, as Graduate Teaching Assistant James Bendall, to teach Chemistry Dani Black, as Graduate Teaching Assistant Will Brock, as Graduate Teaching Assistant Andrew Chessell, as Director of Drama Andrew Davey, as Head of Woodwind Rebecca Lambert, to teach Physics Libby Orchard, to teach Mathematics Jonathan Pitt, to teach Geography Lawrence Rao, to teach Mathematics Liz Sale, as Housemistress of Bradley and to teach Biology Jemima Scott, as Assistant Chaplain Louise Stevenson, as Head of Learning Support Richard Tanner, as Director of Music Jamie Walker, as Head of Economics Paula Warford, as Head of Art



The Arnold Foundation for Rugby School 10th **Anniversary**

t is now ten years since the creation of the Arnold Foundation for Rugby School, and with 34 pupils in School today, 73 pupils who have been supported to date and £14.5 million raised from 1,500 generous donors, there is a great deal to celebrate. In 2003 Rugby established the Arnold Foundation to offer fully funded places to a number of young people who have the ability to gain from boarding but are unable to afford the fees. The aim is for 40 pupils to benefit from Arnold Foundation places each year, changing their own lives and the lives of those around them.

A highlight of the celebrations was a powerful and uplifting lecture, "Seize the Day", given by Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson DBE, Britain's most successful Paralympian. Paralysed from the age of 7 and using a wheelchair, Baroness Grey-Thompson has always been hugely ("annoyingly") competitive. Having become hooked on wheelchair athletics at the age of 12, she excelled in her chosen sport and achieved 11 gold, four silver and one bronze medals (in just 19.5 minutes of competition!), retiring in 2007 after 25 years on the track. Her nomination to the House

Most recently the Arnold Foundation's special milestone was celebrated with the whole Rugby School community on Speech Day. In glorious sunshine, pupils, their parents and staff enjoyed a fabulous concert from the Concert Band and Jazz Orchestra, cricket against the Meteors from the XI and XXII, an exhibition tennis match, a delicious picnic lunch and two golden characters on stilts. It was a memorable day and marks only the beginning of a longer journey; we are looking forward to the next ten years.

Development Director



The Rugby Portobello Trust and the Bradby Youth Club

his year has been another busy and purposeful one for both the Rugby Portobello Trust in London and for the Bradby Youth Club in Rugby.

The Rugby Portobello Trust, based in North Kensington, is a youth, education and housing charity originally founded by Rugby School over a century ago, which works with young people aged 5 to 25 to help them learn how to help themselves. RPT and P3 are going from strength to strength, branching out their education, sport and other services into seven boroughs and offering after school support to 17 primary schools. RPT focuses on building basic abilities, improving attitudes, increasing confidence and showing young people that they can turn their lives around by gaining skills that promote employment. Their services include the RPT New Education Project, which works with 14-16 year olds who find themselves outside of mainstream education, and supports them into employment by helping them improve their literacy and numeracy skills and finding work placements and apprenticeships. The RPT Hub is a centre that provides offenders with key support services that will help them break the cycle of their offending behaviour. The RPT Sports Academy is founded on the principle of "traditional sports to bring back traditional values", while the awardwinning "Seriously Sexy Project" provides an unthreatening clinic for those with sexual health concerns and problems. There is also a hugely popular homework and activity club for primary school children; parenting classes for young parents with children under 10; and a scheme that provides baby equipment and clothes for those on low incomes. The Youth Club provides focused intervention with youngsters with complex needs. In addition to the above, the RPT Housing Project provides housing and support for 80 young people and helps them get into training and work while teaching

them how to maintain their homes and live independently.

RPT has a long and fruitful relationship with Rugby School, with many Rugbeians providing financial support for the charity through fundraising events and various acts of sponsorship. On 29 June the School hosted the annual visit to School

House and Rugby town of the Club Mums. Information leaflets are available in the Careers Centre for any pupils interested in volunteering during a holiday or gap year to work with RPT; and more information for anyone who wishes to get involved or offer financial support is available on the RPT website at www.rugbyportobellotrust.org.uk.

The Bradby
Youth Club
on East Union
Street in
Rugby has a
strong tradition of



providing activities and a safe environment for young people. Open four nights a week from Monday to Thursday after school during term-time, the Club offers educational, social, cultural and recreational programmes of opportunities, challenges and experiences for its members, such as boxing, cooking, music, kick boxing, table tennis, canoeing, pool, art, trips, drama, internet café and more. Other services include Outward Bound and residential opportunities, partnership support for primary and secondary schools and a highly successful substance misuse project. This year, as 25% of new members are girls, specialised sessions have been offered which deal with issues such as staying healthy and safe in relationships, body image and self-esteem. Members can also access support services to assist with training, work or further education, as well as confidence building and guidance for young parents. More information about the Club's services and activities, in addition to details about how to get involved or offer financial support, can be found on Bradby's website at www.bradby.co.uk.

Rugby School regularly hosts successful fundraising events to support the Club, most notably the Leavers' Ball raffle and quiz nights in the Sports Centre Café, which this year raised over £1,300. Visiting Bradby is part of the School's Community Action programme on Monday to Thursday evenings, and this year the Club has seen regular visits by 15 members of the XX and LXX. Many of these pupils, along with a new cohort, will continue their visits next year. Matt

Conibere, the Club's Youth Leader, reports that the pupils have done an excellent job engaging with the members and he is as always extremely grateful for all their help and enthusiasm during their evening visits. Matt has expressed his wish that Rugby pupils will continue to visit the Club and possibly also become involved in some of the



• ACL



Pudsey Bear Café

n 15 November, Marshall House once again hosted the Pudsey Bear Café for Children In Need in OBS. It was a great day and I thoroughly enjoyed it. It wasn't easy, though! First, we chose our stall and partner; my partener was Joel. Next we wrote letters to members of staff, inviting them to come to the event. After that, we had to get our stall ready (for some, this involved making it!) and buy the prizes. Then, on the day before the event, we went out into town to persuade some members of the public to come to the Café. We managed to collect some money from the public, too: nearly £300 between G1 and G2, with the assistance of Pudsey!



On the day of the event we had to get everything ready in the G1 classroom and then take what we could to OBS. Then we set up the stalls and got ready. The event was amazing! There was a brilliant selection of stalls and some of the parents were very kind and helped us. There was also a wonderful atmosphere, with lovely background music played by members of Marshall House, as well as some outstanding performances from members of the main School. The biggest highlight, though, had to be the sumo wrestling - it is a rare occasion that you see your Head Master, Latin teacher, German teacher, Maths teacher, and

multiple P.E. teachers wrestle, all on the same day!

In the end we raised over £3,000 for Children in Need! I already can't wait to do it again next year!

• Tom Capewell-Salisbury (Ma)







n 9 September 2012 the whole of Rugby School pupils and staff - descended on Draycote Water in Dunchurch to do a sponsored walk to raise money for two charities, Hope4 and Future Hope.

Hope4 is a Rugby-based charity that aims to relieve the plight of homeless and badly-housed people in the town and to prevent homelessness. Future Hope is a charity based in Kolkata that supports street children who would otherwise have little or no ability to change their lives. It provides them with an education and, most importantly, a loving home.

Everyone had to complete two laps of the five mile circuit as a minimum, and some people went on to do many more than that. It was quite a spectacle to see the mass of students and staff, all wearing the same white t-shirt, walking or running the five mile loop around Draycote Water. As you can imagine, a long walk is not every teenager's dream; a couple of laps of the Close is sometimes more than enough for most! However, it was fascinating to see how much people enjoyed it once they got going: everyone was high-spirited and really enjoyed the last of the summer sun.

This was just the climax of what had been months of organising and fundraising. For a motley crew of senior students who had been put forward as house representatives in charge of fundraising in our houses, it was extremely satisfying to see what we had achieved as a group. Each



house created its own 'Just Giving' web page where donations could be made and took slightly different approaches to collecting money elsewhere, with some organising events such as cake sales whilst others went for the more traditional pleas to family and friends for sponsorship. In School House we raised over £6,000, which equates to around £120 per boy.

In total, 785 laps of Draycote Water were completed, a distance of 8,095 miles. £67,000 was raised for the two charities, which is tremendous.

> Representatives from both charities – Pete Wayman from Hope4 and Tim Grandage from Future Hope - spoke to the School at the end of term assembly in December to thank the community for the money raised and to give us an idea of how the money is to be spent.

> > • Zach Chadwick (SH)



Personal, Social, Health & Economic Education

A school committed to excellence in PSHE education PSHE

PSHEe at Rugby

he PSHE Education Department at Rugby School continues to flourish and is an important part of the pupils' overall educational experience. In addition to regular PSHEe sessions with experienced tutors (for pupils

in Marshall House, the F and E blocks and the LXX), all year groups from F block through to the XX benefit from whole year-group presentations and workshops at different times

"Valuable skills for life in a safe environment"

during the school year, all of which provide opportunities for them to learn valuable skills for life in a safe environment and to understand and learn from the experiences of others.

In addition to our regular programme of speakers, this year we welcomed some new speakers who were all very well–received by their respective audiences. The E block, LXX and XX were privileged to hear Karl Hopwood, international e-safety expert, speak to them about online safety and online reputation; and Karl will return to Rugby in 2013-14 to speak to parents as well as pupils.

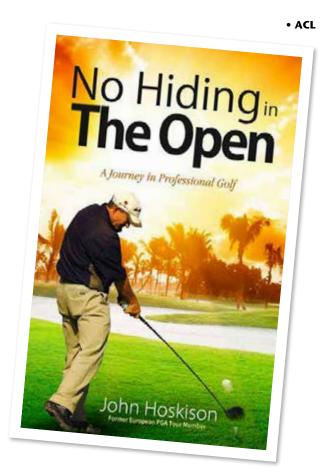
Dr Aric Sigman gave the E block an entertaining and informative presentation on the effects of alcohol on young people; Peter Hall spoke again to the D block about his personal experiences with drug and alcohol addiction in

his talk called "Wasted Youth"; and professional golfer and former member of the European PGA Golf Tour, John Hoskison, was invited back to deliver his inspirational talk entitled "From

Prizes to Prison" to the XX. Alex Corkran delivered a sensitive and effective talk to the E block on the subject of self-esteem, drawing on her personal experiences with eating disorders.

The E block also enjoyed an afternoon of cookery with a highly successful interactive workshop entitled "On Your Marks, Get Set, Cook!" organised by Chartwells, the School caterers. Next year Chartwells will run a similar workshop for the F block, in addition to workshops for the LXX and XX on Activities Day.





16 www.rugbyschool.net METEOR 2013

Pupils appreciate and enjoy these talks very much, as some of their reviews from this year testify.

Bill Pirie's talk on safe driving will live long in the memory. The words that he does not want anyone knocking on our parents' doors with bad news will ring in my ears as long as I am on the roads. He wasn't aggressive, but he was a very forceful speaker who clearly had a lot of experience in his field and a lot of important advice. Talks such as this are never a bundle of laughs, but they are necessary and it was particularly apt for me as I had just had my first driving lesson that very day!

• Ben Kew (W)

I found John Hoskison a really good speaker. What I particularly liked about him was his sharp precision in explaining how he reacted to situations he encountered. There is the risk for talks like this to become rather self-indulgent, but I thought that John was really focused on us and what we could take from his experience. He connected well with us, partly due to his un-patronising tone but also thanks to his confidence as a speaker. He was comfortable discussing his emotions, which I think we appreciated, and which hardened the message he wanted us to hear.

• Ethan Smith (T)

I really enjoyed the talk given by Peter Hall. I felt that he spoke in a way that we could really understand. Personally I gained a lot from the talk, most of all an appreciation of how things we do now will affect us in the future. It has made me more concerned about drugs and alcohol use from a young age and about peer pressure, as he said most people first try drugs/alcohol/cigarettes because of friends or siblings. It also reminded me that what happened to Peter could happen to anyone who takes drugs and who excessively drinks.

• Alice Berwick (G)

The talk on binge drinking was really interesting because it really emphasized the effects that drinking too much can have. The speaker talked about her own past experiences and mistakes, which really



made everyone think about what can happen if you don't think about your actions. The speaker not only talked about the physical risks of binge drinking but also the social risks – of driving all your friends away, or of completely embarrassing yourself and gaining a bad reputation. I was particularly affected by just how much drinking had altered her life and her future, and her talk really drove home the importance of being sensible and knowing your limits when it comes to drinking.

• Sophie Tennant (RB)

As a whole Rupert Brooke found the talk by Alex Fryer on relationships to be one of the most interesting talks we have attended in our time at Rugby School. It was easy to connect with her and to understand what she was talking about. It was interesting to know that you can go and talk to someone like her in a family planning clinic and it would be confidential. It became clear to us just how easily people can be convicted as a sex offender and how easily an abortion or a mistake pregnancy can ruin your life. Overall this talk really opened our eyes to how a relationship and all the things that go with it can affect your life and how careful you need to be.

• Susie Calvert (RB)

I participated in a cooking workshop organised by Chartwells. The man presenting it talked to us about healthy eating and the five food groups then swiftly moved on to some cooking. When he asked for volunteer cooks I firmly stuck my hand in the air. Imy Wheeler and I were lucky enough to join Mr Christie in the red team against Mr Rennoldson and two other students. Each team was helped by a member of Chartwells. We were asked to make mini meatballs and chow mein which sounded great and we were eager to start. The 15 minute timer was set and we raced to our station, and with comical chef's hats on we started. Time went by and we briskly finished with an exciting two seconds to go. I found the experience thoroughly enjoyable and would definitely do it again.

• George Tuckwell (K)



ACTIVITIES







his year, nine of Rugby School's Royal Marine cadets took part in the Sir Steuart Pringle Trophy Competition. The weekend started with a five-hour minibus journey to the Royal Marine training centre at Lympstone. Once there, we unloaded the minibus and sorted out our kit for the busy weekend ahead.

The first day involved navigating between a whole range of military activities, with stances such as Camouflage & Concealment, Leadership, Military Skills, First Aid and Observation. The day ended at around 17:30 when finally, after our last stance (Map Reading), we headed back to prepare our kit for drill the next day.

We were one of the first schools to be assessed on our drill, where we were marked on how neat our kit was and the sharpness of our drill movements under the critical eye of a Royal Marines drill instructor. Once drill was complete we answered questions on the history of the Royal Marines and then headed back to get ready to take part in the assault course on the infamous bottom field.

The assault course consists of many things, such as a scramble net, monkey bars over a pit of water and tunnels. It really tested everyone's fitness and team-working abilities. However, the assault course was not the final challenge. The "Regain Tank" involved crawling across a rope several meters above a tank of icy water, and hanging off the rope mid-way at full arms' stretch before "regaining" the rope to complete the crossing, with the crossing done above, not hanging under, the rope. This was a struggle for all but two of our section, who successfully made it to the other side; the others succumbed to gravity and plummeted to the icy water below. Cold and wet, we got our kit packed away, then enjoyed a curry before attending the awards presentation.

This year we managed to win two of the stances: First Aid and Leadership. Overall we were placed a respectable eleventh and returned to Rugby with pride in our achievements, elated yet exhausted.

Nina Whatmough (D)

Gold Duke of Edinburgh Expedition

n 6 July 30 members of the XX and 34 members of the LXX set off to the Peak District in order to complete the Expedition section of the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award. For the LXX, the challenge included four days' walking and three nights camping in which they practised and improved their navigation, camp craft and team-working skills. Having completed their practice expedition in July 2012, the XX were under assessment and walked for four days and camped four nights. After the completion of their expedition, the XX reflected on the adventure. The following are extracts from some of the expedition reports.

Approaching the Gold Duke of Edinburgh expedition I was dubious since I wasn't sure whether I was going to manage the relatively extreme nature of the four days. In completing the expedition I learnt various things about myself as well as about the other three people in my group. The first obstacle was the quantity of walking we did each day and the weight of the pack that we had to carry. Not being an avid hiker, the fact that I managed to keep up and survive the expedition was something of a surprise to me. I discovered that my role in the team was often more of a motivator than a leader; all of us developed a system of working together which ensured harmony and productivity. One of the more important aspects of the Duke of Edinburgh expedition was learning how to coexist, cooperate and collaborate with the rest of my team. Originally I thought of myself as more of a solo worker but after being in close contact with my group for the four days, I really enjoyed working in a group. Overall I am most impressed by my ability to endure the long days and distances as well as maintaining a good relationship with my team mates.

After the Gold Duke of Edinburgh practice expedition, I knew that the assessed expedition was going to be challenging. That said, it gives a great opportunity to learn about yourself and how you deal with difficult situations. Having the motivation of a group was something I really enjoyed and it meant that I was more driven to face the tasks ahead. For example, when we were doing a particularly difficult climb, it was comforting and motivating to be there with my group as we all proved to be good examples for each other and would encourage each other to achieve our goals. I learnt that when things are tough you just have to push through, whether it be breaking through low spirits or through physically challenging terrain. I also learnt that goals or physical checkpoints can prove to be very useful, and it's nice to break down what may seem like a difficult day into more manageable sections. Overall, despite the occasional moments on our expedition when it was tough mentally and physically, I am so glad that I went on the expedition, and I'm proud to say that I did it.

Throughout my Gold Duke of Edinburgh expedition I acquired many skills and learnt a lot about myself. I realised that I had greater endurance than I previously thought by the fact that I was able to carry on going, despite the tough challenges that were thrown at us. I also managed to prove that I have the ability to work well in a team. This was shown when we shared out the jobs between us and took it in turns to map read. (In our group, we equally shared out the job of map reading which meant that everyone had the chance to improve this skill and I now feel much more confident about reading and understanding a map). The skills that I had already gained from completing the Bronze and Silver awards were hugely improved. Organisation and time keeping were key elements needed in order to be successful during this expedition and I felt that we stuck firmly to the timings on our route cards and we regularly checked that we always had all the equipment necessary.



First Schools Day

n 7 March the School welcomed 270 Year 4 primary pupils from seven local schools. The dank weather failed to dampen spirits and the visitors were soon engaged in completing a quiz that required them to visit a range of sites in around the New and Old Quads, the Chapel, the TSR, the Green Pavilion and the Close. Activity sessions for the rest of the morning engaged the youngsters in Drama, Science, Fun Sports, Puzzles, IT, Art, Music, Media and Modern Languages. After lunch the TSR clapped along to the School's social service musicians, who entertained the visitors and Rugby pupils for half an hour. Following prizegiving for the best answers to the morning's quiz, the entire assembly were shepherded across the Barby Road to complete a fun run the length of the 1st XV pitch. The sight of nearly 300 primary pupils running at high speed towards the Doctor's Wall is one that will live long in the memory. As he climbed back on the coach that returned him to his own school, one young man's exuberance prompted him to utter, "That was the best day of my life!"

AJN

The Three Peaks Challenge

n the last leave-out of the summer term, seven members of the World Challenge team, and Mr Trelinski, Mr Dhanda and Miss Le Hur, set out from Rugby to climb the tallest peaks in England, Scotland and Wales. After a tiring nine-hour journey, we arrived at Fort William ready for sleep. Fortunately the path up to Ben Nevis was outside the door of our youth hostel so the next morning it was merely a matter of crossing the road and beginning the long hike up the mountain. The weather looked promising at first, however it all changed at around 500m when we started to walk above the clouds. In seconds we went from seeing the beautiful view of the valley below to being able to see only a few metres ahead. These conditions persisted till we reached the top. After a windy climb over rocks and then snow nearer the top we reached the ruin of the old observation station at the top of the mountain. Flushed with our achievement we sat down in the shell of one of the ruined buildings to eat a well-deserved lunch and take pictures as evidence that we had made it.

The trip down to Scafell Pike was mercifully shorter than the one up to Ben Nevis. We arrived at our second youth hostel and were welcomed with a hot dinner. However the sleeping arrangements here were less pleasing. Crammed into a room with twelve other people and with only one plug socket to charge our many phones and iPods, things did not seem very appealing. Tired from the day's climb, however, these things mattered little. The next morning we packed our bags and set off. At the base of Scafell Pike conditions looked as though they would be similar to those on Ben Nevis, and we were not wrong. After a shorter time than on Ben Nevis we entered the cloud layer, and were plunged into a rainy, grey world. Before long our spirits were raised as, led by Mr Dhanda and Miss Le Hur, we began to sing any song that popped into our heads, from Disney numbers to Eminem. In no time at all we were at the summit and the highest people in England. By the time we reached the bottom we all were beginning to feel the burn in our legs, having now completed two mountains. Still, we were eager to start the next one.

The third day dawned cloudy and rainy, but fortunately for much of the ascent up Snowdon we were shielded from the wind. Within a few hundred feet from the top, however, we crossed a ridge and were immediately sent scuttling back by the weather to find cover. We adapted to form a human chain, linking to the backpack of the person in front, and awkwardly shuffled our way up the last few hundred feet. At the top I was surprised to find a fully-functioning café. There we were able to warm up and scornfully look down on those who had taken the train to the top. After we had taken the usual pictures and made a dash to see the real peak, we started our descent for the final time. As we neared the car park, emotions ran high. There were many cheers of joy as we got back on the bus, content in the knowledge that we

did not have to climb another mountain. All in all, it was a very successful trip, with all the World Challengers raising a good amount of money for our expedition to Africa in the summer. And personally I was happy to have finally been to Scotland and Wales!

• Harrison Anton (Sh)







Model United **Nations** Conference

n the last Friday of the Lent term, Rugby School's delegates left for Haileybury

School's Model United Nations Conference. Denis Kostyan, Charlotte Dennis and Neel Shah represented Cyprus, whilst Amaar Esufally, Ellie Olcott, Menaka Puri and I represented Libya. The conference was officially opened with speeches from Haileybury's Headmaster and the local MP. Afterwards, the delegates immediately began lobbying to pass their resolutions by seeking the ten signatures necessary to have them considered for debate by the relevant committees. Despite the presence of seasoned MUN veterans Denis and Amaar it proved hard to get these signatures, although our resolutions eventually received the necessary approval. The next day, debating was in full swing and the day ended with a lively disco. The following day, after a full session of debating issues such as human rights, ecology, economics and disarmament, all the delegates gathered for the General Assembly. Each delegation had an opportunity to vote in



favour of or against the resolutions passed through the committees, which were followed by closing speeches, some excellent music from the School's band, and a prize giving ceremony during which Amaar received a "Distinguished Delegate" award. The delegation parted having had a thoroughly enjoyable and interesting weekend, where we had not only learnt a lot, but also made friends amongst the other delegates.

• Hugo Lebus (M)

Ten Years of Girls in Tudor

t was a great pleasure in September to welcome back ten years of girls from Tudor for a nostalgic lunch. As always, our catering team produced a fabulous spread, and the atmosphere was full of excitement. It was interesting for both the current and past members of the House to exchange anecdotes and to see how the House has developed and changed in the last few years. After hearing from the Head Master, Mrs Rosser and current Housemistress Mrs Horner, we all reminisced and laughed about previous experiences. The youngest members of the House in particular were able to gain an insight into how things have evolved over time. A highlight for many former members of Tudor was to see their old rooms and meet the new occupants.



• Georgia Miles (Tu) & Poppy Mostyn-Owen (Tu)



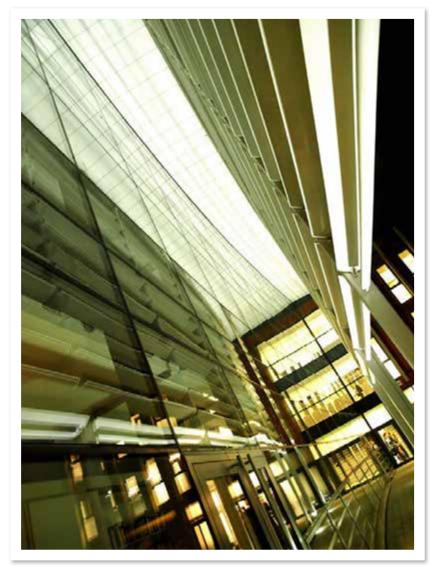
tanley House has been running as a girls' house since 1992 and it was a boys' house for 164 years before that. Thus, as you might imagine, there was a fantastic turnout to the Stanley House Reunion on 6 October. Almost 150 Stanley ORs, both men and women, returned for an occasion that was memorably atmospheric. The event must have seemed all rather overwhelming to the new LXX girls who had entered Stanley only a matter of weeks before, but each girl took it very much in her stride and wore the house flower - a red and blue carnation - with pride. The afternoon began with house tours given by the current Stanley XX and LXX, which allowed the ORs to muse over how the house had changed since their own times there. Exclamations of delight were heard as friendly faces from old sporting and house photographs were recognised; and startled faces were seen, particularly from the men, as they were informed that, yes, the dormitory is now shared by only two girls. Following all this excitement was a drinks reception, at which the ORs relished the opportunity to catch up with old friends. The oldest Stanley boy left the house in 1936 and the first ever girl to be admitted into Stanley in 1975 was present. Among our other guests were former tutors, matrons, house mistresses and housemasters who all seemed delighted to be

back. Once seated for a resplendent lunch, engaging speeches were given by the Head Master, Head of House Alicia Taylor and Housemistress Mrs Shelley. The afternoon closed with a roaring rendition of the Floreat. As always, many thanks must be given to the kitchen staff and organisers for ensuring the afternoon was a huge success and one enjoyed by everyone who attended.

• Annie Conway (St)

The New Modern **Languages Building**

he new Modern Language Building has been an instant hit with staff and students alike. It features eleven classrooms, two language labs and a sixth form linguists' common room with European television (in 3D!). The language teachers are delighted with their common room and resource area, and we couldn't have hoped for better teaching accommodation. Our classrooms are spacious and light, thanks to the 500m² of glass in the building. The sound insulation in each room is fantastic, with the building designed specifically for language teaching. There are also four interview rooms for work with the foreign language assistants. We can't wait for the summer to exploit one of the most attractive areas, the courtyard, which will soon be home to some exciting art work. The landscaping in the courtyard was completed by students and we are lucky to have such a versatile outside space. We plan to become a central venue during the annual Arts Festival and to offer open-air film screenings when the sun is out. Our language labs are state of the art and include software that allows students to join sessions from any networked School computer.



As well as providing the perfect atmosphere for learning, the building also offers great environmental benefits. It's 69% more efficient than buildings at a typical school and was designed to have the least environmental impact possible. BREEAM is the world's foremost environmental assessment method and rating system for buildings and the new Modern Language Building is likely to be one of the UK's few buildings to achieve an "excellent" rating. The Building's impressive green technologies include air source heat pumps to provide heating energy; a green roof planted with native species; breathable building technology to control ventilation; solar shading to control heat gain from the sun; and extremely high levels of insulation.

We were very grateful to Robert Swannell, Chairman of the Governors, for opening the Building. The Governors were given guided tours and were very impressed by the range of activities and languages offered.

On 27 November, the School Governors visited the newly built Modern Languages Building for its official opening. It was a very exciting occasion for everybody involved after all the hard work and immense effort put into the intricate planning and construction of the building.

I had two roles during the evening. First, in my capacity as one of the writers of the Modern Languages Magazine, I presented the latest edition of Page Polyglotte to the Governors and the Head Master, as well as to members of the SMT and teaching staff. We received excellent feedback, which will really help us when we come to working on future editions! My other task was to talk to the Governors about what being a LXX Germanist entails. I discussed the course with the help of our brilliant language assistants. It was fun to explain what we do every day to people who are not language specialists.

Overall, the evening went extremely well. All those of us who were involved felt that it was a great opportunity to showcase our new building.

• Emily Kerner (G)

• DCG

The 175th Crick Run

his year's Crick Run was always destined to be one of the most significant events in Rugby School's sporting calendar. This indeed was the case with numerous runners in both the Crick and Barby events. Many other members of the School community turned out on the Close which helped create a carnival atmosphere at the finish. The School's cross-country team had a strong season earlier in the Lent term, and there was every chance that this would be a record breaking year in both the boys' and girls' races.

In the Head Master's words, "This is one of the most exciting days in the history of cross-country at Rugby School. Formal running began at Rugby by the early nineteenth century and the first Crick Run was held in 1838, so we are gathered

on this day to commemorate the 175th anniversary of what *The Boy's Own Paper* said in 1908 is the most celebrated school run in the world." In addition to the history surrounding this 175th anniversary of the Crick, many modern-day special features, including race numbers and "chip-timing", were included in the event this year.

Despite the morning's heavy snow, the weather cleared just in time for the race start at 2pm. There were 170 runners of which 88 were students. (Coincidentally there were also 170 runners in the 150th Crick in 1988).

If any of the competitors were hoping to keep their feet dry they were out of luck right from the beginning, as they had to plough through a large puddle only metres beyond the start line. The runners continued over muddy fields for the first two miles before winding their way through the village of Crick. Ben Sutherland was already well ahead and looking strong. He continued to stretch his lead out all the way to the finish, smashing the course record by over three minutes in a winning time of 64 minutes 12 seconds. Charlie Bruce came in seven minutes later, shortly followed by Harrison Anton. Last year's winner, Peter Style, finished fourth.



Last year's runner up, Charli Sweet, was the first girl to finish; her time was 80 minutes 3 seconds, with a terrific lead of over eleven minutes on the girls' runner up, Caroline Cieslewicz. Caroline was closely followed in third place by Emma Matthews.

There were a number of staff running the course, with Dr

Bendall leading the way to finish in 74 minutes. Mike Shervington (M 85-90) was the first Old Rugbeian across the line.

Everyone can be pleased with their achievement, completing the course in challenging conditions which arguably made this year's run the slowest in recent years. It was a similar story a month earlier in the House Running Cup, on a day which also saw wintery showers. It was pleasing that most houses put out the maximum number of runners for this competition, despite the inclement weather.

The crowds on the Close, which included many parents and ORs, welcomed the mud-spattered runners home. Spirits were high for this special anniversary year of the world's oldest cross-country race. The spectators eagerly looked on as Mr Rao announced each runner's approach to the finish, their times clear to see on a race clock as they passed under the finish gantry.



Winners of anniversary Crick Runs

25 th anniversary (1863)	C. J. Arnold (SH) and W. H. Lyon (SH)	1.21.55	
50 th anniversary (1888)	E. B. Steel (Morice's / C)	1.19.25	
75 th anniversary (1913)	P. M. Chaworth-Musters (Bradby's / K)	1.15.55	2
100 th anniversary (1938)	H. B. Hunter (W)	1.06.30	
125 th anniversary (1963)	C. M. Pearson (W)	1.06.14	
150th anniversary (1988)	M. P. Firmin (SH)	1.03.13	
175th anniversary (2013)	B. M. Sutherland (W)	1.04.12	







Dewar-Pilkington Gap Year Report



Volunteering at Dreamyard, New York

Dewar Pilkington
Ward

VOLUNTEERING
AT DREAMYARD

"One belongs to New York instantly, one belongs to it as much in five minutes as five years."

hen Tom Wolfe said, "One belongs to New York instantly, one belongs to it as much in five minutes as in five years", he was right. New York is part of me now after three months of complete euphoria. I moved to New York to work for Dreamyard in August 2012, and immediately fell madly in love with my new life as I drove up to my Brooklyn apartment where I then spent the first night bathing in the light of the city from the roof. With minimal prior connections, my roommate (a lovely Swiss art student) and I lived on a tight budget and made friends with a wide range of people, from male ballet dancers to eccentric Italian cooks, from talented designers and photographers to fellow European students. These people enriched my experience as I lived amongst them. Our lives entwined, following chance meetings at galleries, music events and work, which eventually progressed to loft gatherings following the 2012 presidential election, dinner parties in the East Village or theatrical gatherings in the West Village.

It may sound like a hedonistic dream, but in reality I was also working hard from Monday to Friday. Each day I would commute north on the subway and by bus from Manhattan to the Dreamyard Arts Centre in the South

Bronx. As the largest arts education provider in the Bronx, Dreamyard reaches out to 8,500 young people each year. Professional dancers, poets, artists, actors and creative writers teach weekly classes in Dreamyard-affiliated schools, enriching the lives of all those they meet. I worked predominantly as a theatre teaching assistant in Marble Hill High School. I very quickly had to adjust from a school experience where a traditional uniform was the biggest inconvenience to a life where metal detectors, liquids restrictions and police escorts were the norm – and I loved it. It felt incredible being challenged as I focussed my acting skills on teaching young people whom I really connected with, to help them express themselves not through violence but through the creative arts.

Before my departure many considered my choice to take a charity work placement in the wealthy United States to be a controversial one. However, I feel very strongly that it was the right place to be, a place in

real need of help, especially in the area of education. This year the South Bronx was found to be the poorest district within the United States by the US Census Bureau. This statistic is news to most people who consider New York to be an affluent city, the second capital of the world's biggest super power. A shocking 256,544 people, 38% of its residents, live below the poverty line, with the figure being even worse amongst children (49%). In the knowledge that just under half



REPORT

of the children in this district are living in poverty, I was highly motivated to work for Dreamyard and help to improve these children's quality of life through arts education.

The Dreamyard Arts Centre is a wonderful creative space where 15 of us worked together to run the charity. Not only is this space the charity's headquarters, but it

is also the hub of activity in terms of their creative work. The Centre houses dance and theatre rehearsal rooms and art classrooms. It also houses their most recent addition: a digital learning centre, which features high-tech equipment that allows the children to experiment with film making and sound. The Centre also acts as a community gathering place. I was proud of Dreamyeard's wonderful promise that any students involved in the after school programmes at the Centre are allowed to use the building as a safe place to socialise or even do their homework throughout the rest of the week. There are sofas and a dining room as well as the rehearsal rooms and classrooms. This aspect of the charity is crucial for many of the pupils, whose domestic situation or poor standard of living can prevent them from doing their best with their schoolwork or developing friendships amongst their peers.

The running of the Dreamyard Arts Centre is divided into out of school programmes (OSP) and in-school programmes (ISP). I worked as the ISP intern, which meant that as well as helping with planning and administration I visited schools and was a teaching assistant in many of the theatre classes at Marble Hill High School. This gave me the opportunity to extend my understanding of the Bronx because I was exposed to many different areas of the district. I really enjoyed being part of this team because there was such a strong sense of community. We would gather every lunchtime to discuss what we'd achieved so far in the day and to share stories. This was a wonderful time for me because I had the opportunity to learn what life is like in a completely different culture, as many of my colleagues had come from all over America and had roots worldwide.

When I worked in the Centre my daily tasks varied, but I often created art installations such as the "South Bronx Timeline" to decorate the Centre and to educate the children about the history of the Bronx. I especially enjoyed using my artistic skills to make a lasting aesthetic impact upon the Centre. "The South Bronx Timeline" was designed to map out the history of the Bronx in a visual way that would appeal to the students and the teaching artists who viewed it. The visual arts department coach, Moriah, helped me and we made it interactive, offering people the opportunity to place sticky notes with their questions along it. This provoked the teaching artists to incorporate aspects of Bronx history into their curriculum to encourage the children to be proud of



At the beginning of my time at Dreamyard I was involved in the planning of a three day "retreat" for the teaching artists. I learnt so much during this event as I met fascinating people who were joining Dreamyard to share their talent. The central message of the retreat was achieving social justice through arts education. We were asked to mull over the question, "What is social justice?" Activities involved all areas of the arts that Dreamyard incorporate into their work. It was exciting to watch the artists discover talents in themselves that they had not previously explored. As well as voyages of personal discovery, we took part in workshops involving the theme of repression in African American history.

During the retreat our guest speaker was the esteemed inspirational teacher Linda Christianson who gave an insightful workshop on alternative ways to deal with students' behaviour. She encouraged role reversal as the teaching artists were forced to put themselves in the position of their pupils though improvisation exercises. I found this particularly interesting, only recently having left school, because I was able to compare my own experiences to the stories she told us. We were also forced to ask ourselves, "Why do I create?", "What are my creative elements?" and "Who inspired me to be an artist?". These questions provoked us to think about what we could bring to the programme. I enjoyed being part of the retreat and also photographed some of the workshops and gathered quotations, which I eventually used to create a collage up the stairwell of the Centre to inspire the teaching artists and children.

After a couple of weeks I was given the task of helping to organise fundraising events, such as Dreamyard's annual community movie night. We brought 350 members of the community into the beautifully painted Dreamyard parking lot, which we transformed into a carnival. A brilliant film of the event was made which can be viewed on Dreamyard's website. A wonderful combination of students of all ages and their families and friends gathered to share food, take part

in a hula hoop competition, dance in a Zumba class, play around in a photo booth and a enter a raffle competition, all as volunteer DJs helped to create a buzzing atmosphere. The main excitement of the evening was the showing of Toy Story 3. It was wonderfully atmospheric as we projected the movie onto the outside of the building and all of our guests sat in silence on hundreds of plastic chairs enjoying the film with their family and friends. This event was also a recruitment drive, bringing many new families into the Dreamyard family as parents signed their children up for our programmes.

The other half of my week was spent visiting classes or teaching in one of the 30 schools that Dreamyard work with in the Bronx. At Marble Hill High School we began the academic year with a number of icebreakers, designed to build bonds between the children who would be working together to convert a book into a play. We also worked on improvisation and developing the ability to communicate one's feelings and opinions effectively and eloquently. I planned and executed two-hour lessons alongside the teaching artist, actress Mariana. She has been heavily involved in Dreamyard for many years, and is the most wonderful teacher with the ability to connect with even the most reluctant pupil. We had been inspired by a small study of "living newspapers" carried out during the teaching artists' retreat at the beginning of the school year. 'Living newspapers' were created during President Roosevelt's New Deal as a method of getting actors and actresses back to work. Following the Great Depression, Roosevelt commissioned these actors to perform the news in towns around America as an alternative to people reading the newspapers. We decided to offer the children in our class four different contemporary news stories and asked them to perform their interpretation of them in groups. Listening to their group discussions about their opinions

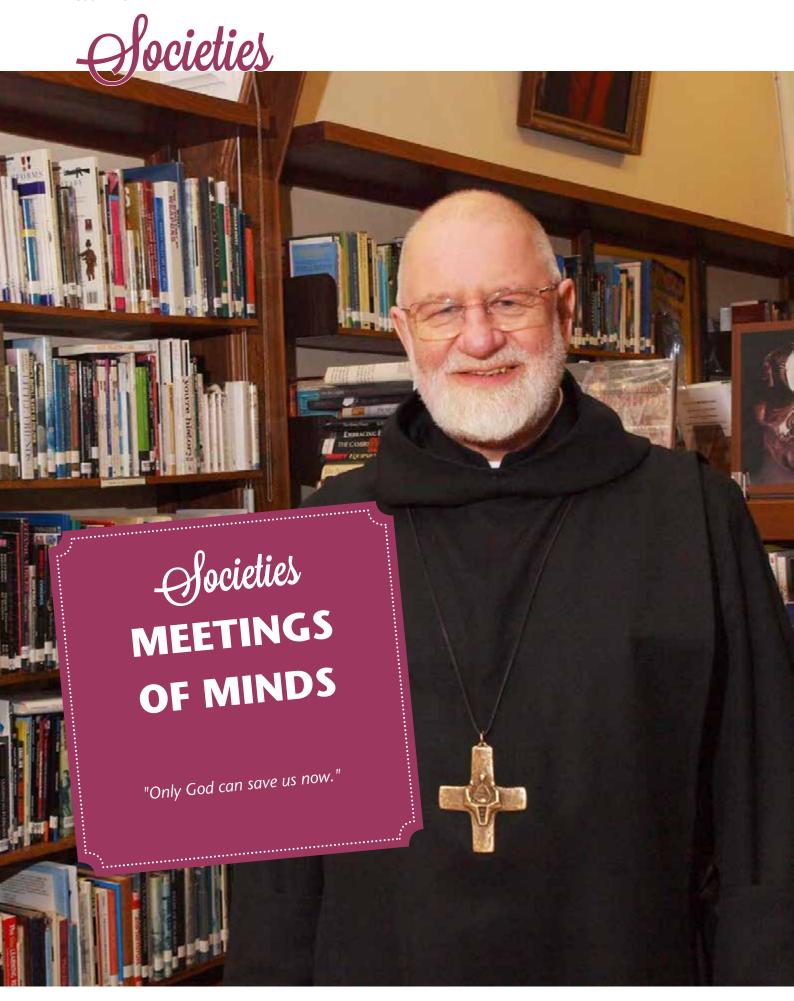
on serious topics such as gun crime and the role of the police in their everyday lives exposed the issues that had affected them as young people in the Bronx. Their performances were raw and allowed them to express their opinions and frustration surrounding these issues through theatre rather than negative behaviour. Most of the pupils I taught were 15 or 16 years old and enthusiastic as a result of the positive impact Dreamyard has had on their education. The students I worked with were mostly of Hispanic or African-American ethnicity and were dumbfounded by my English accent: none of them had been to Europe.

During the weekends and evenings I involved myself in all of New York's eclectic cultures. I visited Chelsea's independent galleries, watched friends perform live music in Brooklyn and combed through the Williamsburg Sunday flea market after a weekly Mexican brunch. I took advantage of exciting events such as the annual Labour Day West Indian and African American Parade in Brooklyn, where thousands of spectators gather to dance and sample delicacies along the route. The experiences I had with my close-knit circle of friends were really magical. If I wasn't working in the Bronx, I was meeting inspiring photographers, watching intimate musical performances, watching projected films on rooftops, being part of independent theatre and, of course, exploring as I ran around the city each day. In New York, every day was an adventure and I met people I now call some of my closest friends. We were brought together by the city to do something we are truly passionate about. For me, that is working with Dreamyard and I am grateful to have had this life-changing experience that has taught me so much.

• Flora Ogilvy (St, 10-12)



SOCIETIES





Temple Society

he Temple Society welcomed the usual variety of distinguished speakers, on topics ranging from sport and love to liberalism and God.

Mike Proudfoot of the University of Reading began the year with his thoughts on "The Philosophy of Sport and the Rules of Life". Prof. Proudfoot doesn't just have his 'foot' in philosophy: he was a former international British competitor at Modern Pentathlon in Bratislava in 1966, and later became manager of the GB Modern Pentathlon Team from 1973-1983. His engaging talk focused on the pivotal role the body plays not just in sport, but in life; why body philosophy should not be neglected; the taxonomy of sport; and the role of luck. The highlight was his link between the body and artificial intelligence. All in all, a fantastically informative talk, thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Lisa Appignanesi spoke about her latest book, All About Love: Anatomy of an Unruly Emotion. Gripping the audience with her lively personality, she described the links that love shares with philosophy, ancient history and ethical thinking and its roots in many forms of art, including literature, music and painting. Inspired by the research she undertook for her previous book (which examined the order and disorder of the mind over the 200-year period from 1800), she identified love as the common theme during the last two centuries. It is a theme that cannot be reduced to chemistry, but is apparent – and excessive - from childhood to old age. She touched upon the difference between passionate love and the more sustaining form of constant love found in relationships with family and friends. Linking love to the conflict between satisfaction and desire, she argued that satisfaction would always be less in a culture inclined to instant gratification. She also covered the psychological aspect of love, the way it affects the mind and human behaviour in both families and sexual relationships, and the tension that exists within these. A lively discussion concluded this fascinating and informative evening, leaving us all contemplating the sheer complexity of this unruly emotion!

Our Lent Address visitor, Abbot Stuart Burns of Mucknell Abbey, spoke on the intriguing question, "How Big is God?" He gripped the audience with the basic problem that we as humans cannot articulate what cannot be articulated. He emphasized that we can only use figures of speech, metaphors, to explain, understand and refer to God. The danger is that we then take our metaphors literally and consequently diminish God. He highlighted that, as unique individuals with different minds and experiences, our interpretation of God varies and therefore we

should look at God more broadly, as part of a larger perspective. He encouraged us to consider awe-inspiring aspects of everyday life, from the complexities of nature, such as spiders' webs, to the mind-blowing concept of Skype, making us wonder whether it is all just accident or whether there is a creator. Abbot Burns made us look beyond the physicality of existence to the spiritual development open to us. This was no better epitomized than by his memorable reference to Adam and God in the creation story, as he put it, "playing" together. To me, this highlighted that Christianity is not what many think – a religion just defined by conduct and rules - but rather an informal relationship with a loving God. The evening drew to a close with an insightful question-and-answer session where Abbott Burns shed light on the compatibility of science and religion. This compatibility is demonstrated by some of the monks in his monastery who, having completed advanced degrees in science, were stronger Christians for it. Finally, the question was asked, from a monk's perspective, what is Rugby School missing? He didn't surprise us when he said silence in the mornings! On that peaceful note, we were left reflecting on his wisdom and insight and realizing that perhaps God is a lot bigger than we thought.

Finally, the Christian theologian, Prof. John Milbank, talked about "Why Liberalism is bad for you". The main focus of his talk was the battle between economic liberals on the right and cultural liberals on the left. He spoke of the difference between the generic definition of liberalism, as concerning generosity and freedom, and the political definition, which involves the promotion of the freedom of the individual. He argued that the celebration of freedom for its own sake seems to have no future. Liberalism ends up as a form of utilitarianism, creating a kind of order where agreement is based solely on self-interest. Whereas liberalism undermines trust and, because based on arbitrary values, ultimately undermines itself, social bonding is created not by egoism or altruism, but by gift-exchange. Otherwise, he said, it obeys the law of diminishing returns and becomes a race to keep growth going by producing new objects of ever-decreasing value. With the concluding words from Heidegger – "Only God can save us now" – Prof. Milbank finished a gripping talk which held the audience captivated. Even those with little knowledge or interest in economics or political liberalism were fascinated by his stance as (in his own words) "a philosophically romantic pessimist".

• Francesca Davie (St) & Eleanor Robertson (G)

Bliss Society

he Bliss Society started the year with a party of 32 going to see the popular musical Chicago. Everyone was impressed by the simply spectacular dancing and musical performances - especially those numbers the women sang and danced in gravity-defying high heels. With its stream of classic songs ("All That Jazz", "When You're Good to Mama") it is difficult not to like Chicago and all of us were enchanted by this particular show.

The Society next went to see Evgeny Kissin at Birmingham Symphony Hall. He opened with a delicate and beautifully understated Haydn Sonata. It was a rather modest piece to open a concert in such a grand setting, but Kissin expressed the wit and charm of Haydn's music with a light and elegant touch, showing a perfect understanding of the balance between restraint and emotional warmth which so many fail to achieve when playing this music. Kissin then played Beethoven's Piano Sonata No. 32, Beethoven's last sonata for piano, in which he compiles both his great genius and creativity and his experience of writing for this instrument. Kissin expressed every passionate outburst effortlessly and every moment of tenderness with genuine feeling. After a quick interval, Kissin then plunged into a set of three Schubert Impromptus before closing with the pianistic pyrotechnics of Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsody. It was an excellent performance, with Kissin fully worthy of the two encores the audience gave him.

The Society also went to see Mozart's Cosi fan Tutte and Agatha Christie's The Mousetrap. Mozart's opera surpassed mere entertainment. As the fickleness of the characters' emotions was laid before us, we could only laugh as Mozart's delicate touch and humour made us accept rather than condemn human frailty. The cast from the British Touring Opera seemed to relish their roles, giving dramatic performances that captivated and amused. A very different plot is relayed in Agatha Christie's masterwork, The Mousetrap, but this production was just as absorbing: at the interval all of us had a different theory as to who the murderer was. The cast allowed the drama to come alive before our very eyes, racking up the intensity towards the climax. Needless to say, Christie's twist took us all by surprise.

• Rob Smith (SF)

English Society

he English Society has had a busy year. In the Advent term, Prof. Adam Piette from Sheffield University delivered this year's Clough Lecture on the Second World War poetry of Keith Douglas and F. T. Prince. Prof. Piette began by talking about the experience of writing poetry in the Second World War before looking in detail at Douglas' poem "Vergissmeinnicht" and Prince's "Soldiers Bathing". Second World War poetry is often overlooked in favour of the more visceral poetry of the First World War, but as Prof. Piette showed it can have just as great a resonance and an equally powerful message about the horror of war.

A few weeks later the Society heard from eminent Cambridge academic Peter Raby on the theme of doubleness in the works of Oscar Wilde. Dr Raby also staked a claim for Oscar Wilde as the first modern writer, suggesting that, with his belief in the necessity of individual freedom and his cynicism about those in positions of power, Wilde's view of society was not very different from our own. Dr Raby's talk was of particular interest to members of the LXX, who were writing about Wilde's The Picture of Dorian Gray for the Draper Essay Prize – the Prize was won by Nathaniel Hess; Sarah Lord's and Tom Sainty's essays were highly commended.

In the Lent term, the Society heard from the award-winning playwright and OR Polly Stenham (St, 02-04) on her career as a writer and on her latest play, No Quarter, which had just premiered at the Royal Court. Stenham talked about the many influences on her work and about the process of adapting her first two plays for the screen. The Society also hosted its now annual classes on James Joyce's Ulysses. These classes – open to the school and the wider community - hope to guide readers through this notoriously difficult but majorly important novel and a number of pupils really impressed with their understanding of the text.

Towards the end of the Trinity term, various members of the Society took part in an exciting public project to mark the 50th anniversary of the publication of Sylvia Plath's novel The Bell Jar. A group of pupils met each week to read and discuss the novel before uploading their thoughts to a blog run by the national charity The Reading Agency. The Society hopes to continue blogging about the novel over the course of the summer and beyond.

RJS

F Block Latin Reading Competition

fter fiercely-fought heats in lessons, 12 F block Latinists met in the final of this year's F Block Latin Reading Competition to read a passage from Book II of Virgil's Aeneid. All the finalists tackled the difficult piece with confidence, sensitivity and drama. It was clear that a lot of hard work had been put in by all on translating

and understanding the passage, and the judges were very impressed by the overall quality of the delivery. The judges awarded Olivia Unwin and Molly Hammond highly commended and first prize to Jonnie Fagan.

CLH

Drama Club & Whose Line is it Anyway?

rama Club is held once a week, for an hour, and is open to all. We have regular and fiercely loyal members from every year group, creatively led by Upper School students.

The best feature of Drama Club is that no-one ever knows what is going to take place within that hour. Regular "warmup" games are extremely popular and produce highly energetic responses and much hilarity. Within a whole range of improvisational activities that follow on from the games, inventive and often surreal new worlds can be created in moments. I am forever amazed by the students' talent and imagination and by the range of drama skills they so capably display.

Some observations from Drama Club members:

After being at Rugby for five years, I can happily say that Drama Club was the best part of every week. It was a place I could be myself and have fun with the most amazing, like-minded people. Being able to lead Drama Club was one of those cheesy "dreams come true". It gave me the practice, confidence and drive to audition for the top acting schools in the country.

Drama Club is a fantastic way to make people more confident in the world of drama.

When I first joined Drama Club I was scared to stand out and make a fool of myself, determined to remain in the world of normality. Yet now, all I can say without a shadow of a doubt is this: normal is boring! Drama Club is the highlight of the week!

Following on from our successful shows in past years, we decided to resurrect Rugby School's version of the Whose Line Is It Anyway?, with a series of nine games in which the contestants, with no clue as to the themes and no chance to prepare, have to improvise their responses in such a



fashion as to be hilarious and entertain a discerning audience. Despite the suspicions of some cynical members of our School population who are convinced the show is rehearsed, it is not! I am the only person who knows the contents of the games until the moment they are performed. We performed the show in the Macready Theatre at the start of the Trinity term, the cast being made up entirely of Drama Club members who had to audition. Having written the show I had to rely on the talent of the cast to deliver and make it a success but not once did I doubt their ability to shine in interpreting all the instructions so entertainingly. The show was, once more, a huge success, thanks to the courage and ingenuity of the performers. Some of their thoughts:

After seeing "Whose Line" in F block, getting up on that stage was all I'd wanted to do for five years.

...one of the hardest things I have ever done, but the hardest part was trying not to fall off my chair with laughter.

After seeing my brother perform "Whose Line" in F block, I made it one of my goals to be able to perform like that some day with such amazing confidence and wit. And now... I have to admit there probably won't be a more memorable moment and feeling as the one I felt on stage during that performance.

Drama Club will be entering its seventh year in September and it is self-perpetuating, with the very best publicity being word of mouth from enthusiastic members. They can't all be wrong!

• HL



Engineering Society

he Engineering society is open to D block and above who are interested in finding out more about the wide range of engineering opportunities at university and beyond. It is usually based around a number of talks by professional engineers from industry and university backgrounds.

This year we had talks by Brychan Watkins and Morgan Sindall. We also had a very interesting trip to the Advanced Manufacturing Centre near Coventry, where a range of highly automated and specialised manufacturing systems are being developed.

With between 20 and 30 pupils regularly attending each event, the society continues to flourish, and thanks go to Richard Watkins and Joy Au for organising and hosting the events this year.

In addition to the Society, once again a team of LXX science pupils participated in the Engineering Education Scheme with local cement company CEMEX. This nationwide scheme involves the partner company setting a real task for the pupils, who then investigate, research and develop a solution over six months, producing a report and a working prototype to demonstrate to the company. This solution is also shown at the presentation day in Solihull, alongside 60 other schools and their projects.

The school team of Monty Alexander, Sophie Sillman-McNeish, Carys Rice and Boris van den Belt was challenged by the company to come up with a solution to an engineering problem involving the packing plant at the Rugby cement works.

Currently, 25kg filled cement bags on two different automated packing lines have to travel round bends on conveyors. The powered bends are complex pieces of machinery subject to heavy wear and requiring regular repair, costing several thousand pounds for refurbishment or replacement.





The challenge

was to design an alternative

that allowed the bags to be conveyed through 90 degrees without changing their orientation. The bags pass along the lines at about one bag per second, and any stoppage on the lines results in a significant loss of production.

Visits to the plant during the six month project helped to inform the design work, with the team drawing on advice from engineers Tony Duffy and Paul Quinney as well as from teacher Peter Richard. They investigated various possible solutions, arriving at a simple but effective working prototype, which incorporated recycled components and manufactured elements in a half-scale model to show the feasibility of the solution. Their work scored 96 out of a possible 102 marks and compared very favourably with work from schools from all over the West Midlands. It was also assessed as "exceptional" by CEMEX's Engineering and Maintenance Manager and Deputy Plant Director, Brian Southam.

• PDR

Senior House Debating Competition

Town, Tudor and Whitelaw go through to the final of this year's Senior House Debating Competition. The motion – "This House Does Not Trust the Police" – was an especially topical one in the aftermath of the Andrew Mitchell "Plebgate" row and each of the teams drew on an impressive number of recent news stories in their arguments. Harry Penfold and Michael Varley put in a bravura performance to win the competition for Town House – indeed Penfold in full flow is quite something to witness. Town House are glad to have the Competition trophy returned to them after losing their almost exclusive grip on it in 2011, although without Penfold or Varley next year it will be interesting to see if they can retain it.

Thanks go to all the participants in this year's Competition and to Bertie Bennett-Jones, Elissa Foord, Kit Goodfellow, Will Seymour and Harry Umbers who chaired it (complete with velvet jacket).

• RJS



TRIDS & VISITS



Politics Trip to the US

s we flew over Washington, we were greeted by a beautiful array of autumn colours, as if the whole city was illuminated in a glowing amber haze. The

gentle beauty of the landscape, however,

was not reflected in the ruthless political mood. For most of the group, this was our first trip to the States and here we were in the eye of the political campaigning storm. We had seen some of the booming, apocalyptic, negative political ads over the summer: a culture shock compared to quainter UK campaigning.



Trips & Cyisits
OUT
& ABOUT "beauty, history and classical culture" On the first day we encountered the constitutional dignity of Washington as we looked round Congress, the Supreme Court, and finally the White House. The majesty of these buildings made them seem more like temples than offices, and we realized how serious politics is taken in the US. This impression deepened during a cycle ride round the major monuments as we found our British cynicism melting away before the inspiring inscriptions in the Jefferson, Roosevelt and Lincoln memorials. It was particularly poignant to see the new Martin Luther King Memorial, having learnt about the American civil rights struggle.

The buzz and hype of the upcoming election was palpable, and we were lucky to be able to get a real feel for what it is like to be involved in this political microcosm. Thanks to Mr Trelinski's impressive contacts, we looked round the office of Senator Mary Landrieu and talked to her staff, met a lobbyist, and heard from the political whizz-kid Bradley Beychok. Our envy of US politics only increased as we talked to the young, ambitious, intelligent and laid-back Democrats on the campaign.

We rounded off Washington with some political action of our own when we were accepted into an Obama campaign office in the state of Virginia. Our role was what is known as "phonebanking", which consists of calling up registered voters, finding out who they'll vote for and encouraging them to switch to Obama. The Americans on the other end of the line were a little surprised by our strong British accents, as were we by the occasional discourteous reply. Considering it was a tight campaign election, I can only conclude that Rugby School's intervention was the clincher for Obama.

We set off north, stopping briefly in Philadelphia to see the Liberty Bell, before making it to New York. Besides the infectious rhythm of this famous city and, of course, the many shopping opportunities, the highlights included a tour around the UN and around the Bloomberg Building. Being told about the various projects of the UN was very moving. Everyone knows the name, but it was interesting to find out about what the UN actually does and how it works. The Bloomberg Building is probably the most stylish office in the world, and we were all both jealous and impressed by its glamorous inhabitants. There was also a wonderful view at the top, rivaling that from the Empire State Building.

We were all very sad to leave the US behind, though felt thoroughly enlightened by its political culture and allure. We are all grateful to Mr Trelinski, Mr Teeton and Mrs Naylor for making it such a special trip.

• Tilly Fletcher (RB)

Vienna Exchange

he partnership between Theresianische Akademie in Vienna and Rugby School has now been going for over thirty years, swapping students between Vienna and Rugby for what is always a fantastic twelve-day opportunity to gain greater understanding of each other's languages. The 2013 exchange was no different, with some extraordinary and exciting experiences for the students of both the Theresianum and Rugby School, including a visit to the famous Vienna Opera House to witness the superb Placido Domingo in Verdi's Simon Boccanegra; a look at the beautiful Rathaus; and skating at the magical

Vienna Eistraum. We also visited Schoenbrunn, one of the magnificent former homes of the Habsburg emperors. Walking along the corridors of this palace, it is difficult to take in all the many splendours of old imperial Vienna.

Alongside its beautiful buildings, Vienna also has a selection of fantastic places in which to taste the specialities of the region. It would be a crime to visit Vienna and not try some Wienerschnitzel, but there is also a whole range of other delicacies on offer, including the mouth-wateringly sweet Sachertorte and Apfelstrudel with a rum and hot chocolate. During our stay, we were

invited to a delicious curry lunch by OR Richard King (M 00-05). After lunch, he and one of the Theresianum professors were kind enough to give us a tour of the Academy and spoke about some of its famous alumni, including Kurt Waldheim, former Secretary-General of the United Nations.

This year's exchange was a real success. New friendships were formed between the groups and it was sad to say goodbye to our exchange partners. Hopefully this exchange will continue for another thirty years, with many more pupils having as good a time as we did.

•Hugo Lebus (M)

F Block Trip to Paris

aving left Rugby at 10.30am on 23 March, we began our epic ten-hour journey by ferry and coach to Paris and our hotel. We dropped off the large amounts of luggage (mostly Mr Dhanda's) at the hotel and went to eat in a traditional French restaurant where we all had chicken and chips. We got back to the hotel and, after a long day, went soundly to sleep.

After a buffet breakfast the following morning we walked the 100 metres to the Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie, where there were displays on futuristic applications of new technology, on genetics, on maths and on Leonardo da Vinci, amongst other things. We then attempted to tour the streets of Paris but the whole city centre and the Champs Elysées were closed due to demonstrations against gay marriage, which everyone (except the teachers) found really exciting. We did manage to walk up to the Jardin des Tuileries and into the Louvre courtyard, however. In the evening we went to a restaurant across from the hotel and had an Italian meal of pasta and pizza.

The third day was really busy as we went straight to the Eiffel Tower, followed by Notre Dame and the Sacré Coeur. Later we went to the Natural History Museum where we saw life-size whales, stingrays, and even goats. Madame Jordan then safely gathered us all together for our boat ride along the Seine, from which we saw many interesting sights.

The next day the whole group woke up buzzing for Disneyland. The journey was particularly rowdy, and we were running around the rides like excited two year-olds. Even Dr Bendall enjoyed his time, especially on the spinning teacups. We met Mickey and Minnie Mouse before heading back to our hotel.

A long journey in the coach brought us to the Space Museum. There were many exhibits for us to see, including lots of interesting space shuttles and flying contraptions.

Thank you to all the staff for accompanying us on the trip. It was thoroughly enjoyed by us all.

• Natalie Houlston (Tu) & Miranda Kember (Tu)

E Block Classics Trip

orty E block classicists travelled to Italy during the Easter holidays to visit some of the famous sites we had learned about in class. The journey began in Rome, first at the Coliseum and then in the Forum and on the Palatine Hill. Looking around, it was easy to see why such monuments are still revered thousands of years after their construction. Our last stop was the Pantheon, where we gazed in awe at its perfectly domed roof. A quick pizza by the Trevi Fountain and we were off to the Bay of Naples.

In Naples, we visited the ancient town of Pompeii. Free to wander up and down the wide stone streets we were able to explore every nook and cranny of this remarkable town. Pompeii is rare in that it preserves the houses and businesses of ordinary citizens and thus the town is a fascinating insight into everyday Roman life. In the evening, we enjoyed a visit to the town of Sorrento.

On our final day we visited the Villa Oplontis just outside Naples. Nero gifted this villa to his mistress Poppaea, and many of its beautiful wall paintings still survive, as does its huge swimming



pool. Finally we visited the town of Herculaneum which, like Pompeii, was destroyed in the eruption of AD 79. Under a warm sun we meandered through the streets and into the temples and houses. The buildings here are better preserved than in Pompeii and we could really see how the Romans – rich and poor – used to live.

The trip was a good way to experience something of the Roman life and culture we had learned about in class. When it comes to understanding the Roman world there is no substitute for visiting Italy. We would like to thank Mr Christie, Miss Le Hur, Miss Nicoll and Mr Smith for accompanying us and for teaching us so much about the Classical world.

• Eamon MacDonald (T)



Bright Young Things: Filming at Stanford Hall

he Tuesday after half term saw a party of 15 LXX pupils head to Stanford Hall to experience a day's filming as extras for a television production company pitching a commercial concept in both China and the USA that seeks to capitalise on the international appreciation of British period dramas like ITV's Downton Abbey.

The internal casting process took place two weeks prior to the event, with director Ric Hawkes and producer Jo Scrase overseeing the difficult task of whittling down the forty hopefuls. I was chosen to feature as an army officer and, as such, had to be on set from 9am. After twenty minutes of wrestling with unforgiving army boots, I was fully costumed as a member of the Yorkshire Regiment and went for make-up and hair, before taking part in the five-second afternoon tea party scene in the

Hall itself – which took over an hour to shoot due to issues with the steadicam's path through the room. After a couple of still shots with the Dowager, the rest of the Rugby contingent arrived at lunchtime. Rosie van Amerongen was immediately whisked away to be made up as a bride (to a mysterious "Callum") while the rest had a short wait before being summoned for costumes: boys attired in full white tie and girls sporting '20s-style dresses and hairstyles. The first scene showed guests arriving at the Hall and three of our number were used, descending from one of the classic cars that had been hired for the day.

In the next scene, I was given the responsibility of opening the gates to the driveway alongside a Nepalese Ghurkha a manoeuvre that was delayed for around half an hour after a lawn mower got stuck in a boggy meadow in the background and had to be pulled to safety by a passing Renault Clio.

The final scene was labelled the "Bright Young Things' Cocktail Party". Everyone present descended upon the drawing room for glasses of Appletiser (apparently a good substitute for champagne) and delicious looking nibbles we weren't actually allowed to eat because of the number of retakes needed. Rosie and mysterious Callum took centre stage as the host proposed a toast to the "newly married couple".

The day was a real eye-opener in terms of offering an insight into the sheer volume and complexity of equipment required on set to achieve professional results, together with the production team's attention to detail where lighting, angles and colour are concerned.

• Guy Lough (SF)



Ludi Scaenici

arshall House's G1 travelled to the Perse School, Cambridge, in May in order to compete in the 35th annual Ludi Scaenici festival of Latin drama. The cast acquitted themselves very well against some older students of the language, earning favourable comments from the judges. Their play, Cena Calamitosa, was largely written by the pupils themselves. The cliché-heavy plot is as follows: Caecilius (Oliver Thomson) is hosting a dinner party. His chef, Grumio (Arun Mistry), tries in futile fashion to manage his kitchen and his worthless slaves (Angharad Wylie and Rory Odell). Eventually, disgusting food is served; luckily it is washed down by copious quantities of good quality Pompeian wine. The

guests (Tom Capewell-Salisbury and Joel Haines) tell rather implausible stories about gladiators (Brenden Dewis and Ellie Griffin-Smith) for their own entertainment, while one of the guests amuses himself stealing napkins. The rather unfortunate symptoms of indigestion in one of the guests are trumped somewhat by the eruption of Vesuvius. Only



Grumio seems to end the play on a happy note as he is able to consume the remains of the food and wine after the host and his guests have fled.

• TID

LXX Spanish Exchange

he nine of us on this year's Spanish exchange didn't know what to expect as we touched down in Madrid. What if the host family was horrible? What if we suddenly forgot how to speak Spanish? But our worries very quickly disappeared as each of us met our exchanges. I have never encountered such kind hospitality as there is in Spain. That said, I appreciated some of the hospitality more than the rest as I was served my first meal – cow stomach! I was definitely seeing the real Spain!

Weekends consisted of lie-ins, sightseeing and, of course, watching the football. Empty spaces in the day were filled in cafés just watching the world go by – a favourite Spanish pastime. Weekdays were spent at school with our exchanges – for some of us at the Colégio Base and, for others, at the Europeo Almazan. Both schools are very different from Rugby. But, like at Rugby, the pupils and the teachers were very welcoming and patient, which made it all the easier for us to take on board more and more Spanish each day.

Whether we were wandering round the art galleries or visiting the beautiful medieval town of Toledo or just spending time with our host families, Spain never failed to impress and all of us enjoyed every minute we were there ... and we improved our Spanish as well!

• Henry Holmes (SH)



Art History Trip

n a wet November day Rugby's Art Historians set off for London to see upclose the First World War memorials at Hyde Park Corner, Bronze at the Royal Academy, All Saints Church on Margaret Street, and Pre-Raphaelites: Victorian Avant-Garde at Tate Britain.

The war memorials at Hyde Park Corner are a wonderful testimony to the way in which Britain respects those soldiers who gave their lives for their country. We examined how Jagger's Royal Artillery Monument was an honest depiction of the realities of war, with its reliefs, the life-size Howitzer and the Resting Soldier. The Royal Artillery Monument proved controversial when it was first unveiled because of its honesty, especially when contrasted with the more heroic display of Frances Derwent Wood's Machine Gun Corps Memorial of the same year nearby, with its classical, idealised, heroic figure.

At the Royal Academy it was fascinating to see how much variety different cultures and movements through history could achieve with bronze. Seeing the works in reality (as opposed to simply as pictures in books) was helpful as it enabled us to appreciate the different ways in which the artists created their desired effects. The shimmering smoothness of the Western works from the last 200 years was beautiful, as were the blue tones created from the weathering on the older Eastern works. Cellini's Perseus and Medusa was almost lifelike with its attention to anatomical detail.

In the afternoon we visited All Saints Church on Margaret Street, just off Oxford Street. The church was designed by architect William Butterfield, who also designed many buildings at School. A Gothic Revival church, All Saints has a red brick exterior and Gothic features, such as the stone banding on the spire, which is said to be the second tallest church spire in London. However, what was most interesting to experience was the church's richly patterned interior. The highly decorated ceiling was particularly amazing.

Finally, we visited the Pre-Raphaelite exhibition at Tate Britain. This exhibition of Britain's first "Modern Art" movement held 150 works, including painting, sculpture and photography. It was exciting to see so many famous Pre-Raphaelite works in one place, as well as to have the opportunity to chart the progression and ideals of these revolutionary painters. We all thoroughly enjoyed experiencing this excellent collection of pieces that represented beauty, history and classical culture, which were highly groundbreaking and controversial in their day.

• Emily Osborn (St) & Rosie Martin (B)



Art History Trip: Manet

n the Lent term, the XX and LXX Pre-U Art Historians took a trip to the Royal Academy in London to see Manet: Portraying Life. On display was work from the beginning of Manet's career in the 1850s all the way through to his death in 1883. The aspects of his career that were highlighted were portraits and the way that he could use particular portraits to turn the sitters into actors in modern day life. All of the artwork that we saw depicted just how much of an incredible artist Manet was and his brilliance at conveying his view of life. I enjoyed having a further insight into Manet's life offered by the paintings of his friends and of Parisian society in the mid-nineteenth century.

• Millie Howard (RB)

Scholars' Outing

s the shadows of night dissipated, scholarly pursuits once again beckoned us Londonwards. Our excursion stook us first to the Museum of London. Here we met Charles Dickens. But, you may protest, Old Dickens is as dead as a door-nail; and you would be correct, for an actor played the great man, and a very fine actor at that. Indeed, it was a far, far better impression of Dickens than I have ever done, and a far, far better likeness than I have ever known. We learnt much, not only from this man but also from the surrounding exhibition, which celebrated the highs and lows of the Victorian metropolis - its splendour and poverty, its depravity and virtue.

After lunch, we passed through the Regency façade of the Theatre Royal to watch One Man, Two Guvnors. This effortlessly combined the seedy world of 1960s Brighton with the reverend tradition of commedia dell'arte, anointing our era with ancient chrismal satire - sublime, ageless comedies of base desires and pretentions crowned a parody in its realism so vivacious, so bizarre in its farce, that the brilliance of its comedic flame burnt hard and gemlike in our hearts and lit the long dark road to Rugby.

• Nathaniel Hess (SF)

LXX Geography Field Trip to Barcelona

t the start of the Easter holidays, 36 pupils went to exotic Barcelona on the annual Geography field trip. The aim of the trip was to learn key skills ahead of our exams, and to investigate other aspects of the syllabus in greater detail. Barcelona

and the surrounding area of Cataluña present the perfect opportunity to learn about everything from rivers to urban environments. Sitges, a pretty coastal town and the gay capital of the Mediterranean, was our base due to its ideal location between Barcelona and the source of the River Tordera. A typical day involved fieldwork in the morning and early afternoon, followed by free time to sample some local culture, before a write up in the classroom, supper and an hour or so in the town centre before bed.

Our first day involved a visit to Park Well, a beautiful panoramic viewpoint set in public gardens on a hill. The spectacular views here gave us a sight of all that Barcelona has to offer. We also drove past several global landmarks, such as the world-famous Camp Nou, home of Barcelona's illustrious football team. Then we began our investigation into whether or not the River Tordera fits the Bradshaw Model, a prediction of the change in characteristics of a river channel downstream. Split into groups of four, we spent the day in and out of the Tordera, taking measurements and readings. Luckily the weather held up all day, and we were able to collect our data successfully. The second full day



brought the sunniest weather and we spent the morning on the beach evaluating the successes of the coastal defence systems. Barcelona city centre was the location of day three. Our surveys of the area looked into living conditions, whilst our exploration of the Olympic area demonstrated to us both the positive and negative impacts on the city of the 1992 Olympic Games. Our final day involved a visit to the area of El Raval, the old region of Barcelona. Split into groups once more, we conducted several environmental quality surveys and looked into the area, analysing land use and the state of the buildings. El Raval was a fascinating area, mixing culture and tourism, and it was interesting to see how the area sustains itself.

The Barcelona trip was a unique opportunity to learn about the geography and the culture of an exciting foreign city. I am sure that everyone who went on the trip would agree that it was highly useful for our studies as well as being fundamentally enjoyable. I would like to thank the staff who gave up their time to organise the trip. I am sure that many of us will be visiting the area again in the future.

• Charlie Beere (Sh)

E Block Geography Trip to the Peak District

n the second weekend in June, the E block Geographers went to the Peak District to collect some data for our coursework. After a hot and sweaty bus journey we arrived in Hartington, a picturesque village in Derbyshire. After a quick meal we decided who was doing what on the next day's trip. Although the purpose of our trip was to decide how reliant Matlock Bath was upon tourism, most of us came to the conclusion that Matlock is generally an interesting place.

On our first day we found a normally quiet High Street transformed by the rumbling of what seemed like 30,000 motor bikes. The bikers roared in en masse to show off their extravagant machines, expensive leathers and insatiable appetites. The High Street was also dominated by fish and chip shops, a few convenience stores, some sweet shops, several bike shops and a number of tattoo parlours. Throughout the day we did our surveys and assessed the

town. We found that most people visited Matlock rather than lived there and that it really did seem to be reliant on tourism, even if that tourism was mainly bikers wearing bandanas and riding Harleys. In the evening, we had to work on our methods and criticise them to see if we could have made our results more accurate.

The next day we woke up early and were driven to the Blue John Mines. This was a particularly enjoyable part of the trip. The caves were cold and wet, with water dripping down onto our heads. We learned that the rock was discovered by a man called William Adam who was looking for lead but stumbled upon a different type of rock. After this, we travelled to the nearby town of Castleton where we dined in an American burger restaurant before returning to School.

Ed Cattermole (M)

DRAMA & MIISTO





& MUSIC

"...Wait a second,

who's the director again...?"



his year's School play was Michael Frayn's classic "farce from behind" Noises Off. The thing was a huge success but that's not to say it didn't take its toll on the cast. Indeed, as we reached the latter stages of rehearsal, and the levels of stress overflowed into a torrent of insanity, the border between life and art began to blur completely. Charlotte Coombs, playing glamorous actress Brooke Ashton, became infatuated by her own hair and developed something of an attention deficit disorder; Olivia Annan, playing Dotty, lived up to her character's name by being unable to remember her lines; and Luke Stafford, playing worry-weary Freddy, started to ask increasingly obscure questions about the finer details of the plot. To be frank, it's a miracle that Cosmo Wellings (playing dipsomaniac Selsdon) wasn't found drunk in the stalls and I - as passionate director Lloyd Dallas - didn't start sleeping with every female member of the cast! It also soon became evident that the set would be put up late and the logistics of managing the doors would be of nightmarish proportions - and don't even get me started on those bloody sardines! As opening night waltzed around the corner and tempers tempested, it began to look as though the play was going to be performed by just a single member of the cast, a sole survivor of the

rehearsal process. But – and such is the miracle of theatre – we accomplished three outstanding performances. Thanks must go to the brilliant set management of Nathan Clamp

and the superb direction of Mr Chessell. Wait a second, who's the director again...?

• Rob Smith (SF)





Bradley House Play

REVIEW radley's house play and music evening this year saw a production of Roald Dahl's classic Fantastic Mr Fox and a selection of solo musical performances. Despite only two weeks of rehearsal time, lines were well learnt by a cast of varying ages, from the F block to the LXX. The whole cast put a huge effort into making this production a success but special mention must be given to our leading lady, Olivia Annan, who played Mr Fox. She not only gave helpful and encouraging acting tips to the younger members of the cast but was also able to lift all of our spirits on stage, getting many laughs for her thick Glaswegian accent. With every fantastic Mr Fox, is found an equally fantastic Mrs Fox who, in our production, was played by the talented Bella Campbell. This pair led the production with great enthusiasm and really encouraged the rest of the cast to be animated on stage. Rowan Thomas not only did all the face painting and costumes but also built and beautifully painted all of the props used on stage, which added a great deal to the production. Particular mention must be given to our head director, Rosie Martin, the driving force of the entire evening. She overcame early script photocopying issues to pull the cast together with great success and it was clear to see how much effort she and her deputy director, Zara Thornton, put in. Not to be forgotten is the music element of the evening: there were seven performers in total, ranging from singing and piano to a rendition of the Family Guy theme tune on the euphonium. Bradley's wide range of musical talent was showcased with great enthusiasm from all involved. All of this was followed by a delicious dinner, where the parents and members of the House sat together to celebrate what a success the evening had been.

• Annie Murphy (B)



Griffin Variety Show

aughter, one of the great gifts of life, is what Griffin House certainly gave their audience on a cold and damp February evening. The theme, the Best of British, was certainly a tough one with many of the sketches being so famous and popular, but it was pulled off spectacularly by the House, often bringing the audience to hysterics. Who knew one's spirits could be lifted so much by hearing Taylor Ward talk about drinking sulphuric acid, living in a cardboard box or being killed by her parents? The XX's song, ABBA's "Money Money Money", brought much joy to the audience and mention here must go to Ella Dodd who showed rather a lot of enthusiasm for gambling. The House song, the Spice Girls' "Wannabe", at the end of the sketches really showed the strength of friendship within the House and helped make the evening very special. Thanks must go to Mrs Naylor and the musical performers who played so beautifully; to Manon Steyaert for putting together some fabulous art work; to Miss Perkins for keeping an eye on the rehearsals; and to Mr Naylor for his help in directing. Special thanks, however, go to Anna Wirth and Jess Bibby for putting so much time and effort into a spectacular evening that surely made everyone very proud to be British.

• Emma Carrington (G)

REVIEW



Michell House Play

eraint Owen directed a superb Michell adaptation of the popular West End comedy One Man, Two Guvnors. The lead character was played with a tremendous sense of comic timing by Alex Lawson-May; he managed to engage the audience in an original and entertaining fashion, even persuading two Michell fathers onto the stage at one point for a set-piece clowning scene. Doug Ponsonby demonstrated a very convincing stage presence and gained some good laughs. Strong support came from Ed Hutchinson, William Church, Charlie Appell and Matthew Karslake. There were also some amusing cross-dressing performances from Miles Wheatland, Jacob Adorsu and, in particular, Theo Gough. The cast and crew were made up of half the house, which was good to see. Geraint himself deserves enormous credit for his energy and vision in bringing the production from his initial plans back in the autumn to performance in the spring. The audience rewarded Geraint with hearty applause and rewarded themselves with a hearty Michell lunch.

• TJD

REVIEW

Stanley House Play

REVIEW n February, Stanley was plunged into the psychedelic world of the 1960s, as we took on the bold project of performing the smash hit musical Hairspray. The whole play was directed, adapted and choreographed by Zoe Rudin - something most would consider a mammoth and unenviable task. Zoe, however, succeeded with great skill, enthusiasm, patience and creative flair. The play perfectly captured the spirit of the 1960s and OBS was a riot of fabulous costumes (including some very

impressive beehives), sensational musical numbers and hilarious comic moments. One such comic moment, was when Edna Turnblad (played by Lottie Bestwick) suddenly whipped off her fluffy dressing gown to reveal a rather fetching pink sparkly dress underneath. None of us had realised that Lottie was planning to do this, so we found it tremendously funny and several members of the audience were actually in tears of laughter. As with all good house plays, our production of Hairspray was littered with farcical moments, but this simply added to the enjoyment of the audience and actors alike. In fact, members of the audience commented on not only the adroitness with which the actors handled their roles, but also the friendly and relaxed atmosphere created by all involved.

The role of Tracy Turnblad was played by Hebe Watts, who brought great warmth and wit and her stellar singing voice to the part. This charm and charisma was matched by Tracy's romantic interest, Link Larkin, played by Annie Duncan. Annie captured Link's character from the raising of an eyebrow to the execution of all his dance moves with superb authenticity and energy. The technical crew also did a very professional job and all the scene changes, sound and lighting went remarkably well, especially for such an ambitious production.

The Stanley reinvention of Hairspray was original, funny and an unmitigated triumph. In theatre, however, there is no such thing as success without many hours of hard work, determination and creative vision, so well done to all those involved, as well as a big thanks to Zoe Rudin, Miss Tilley and Mrs Shelley for all their support, effort and encouragement. I'm sure that we all will have very fond memories of Hairspray for years to come.

• Polly Creed (St)

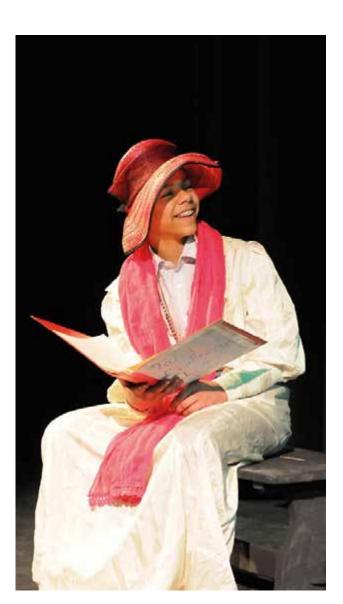


Town House Play

n 8 February 2013 the world changed forever as the acting prowess of several of the Town House F block was revealed to an audience of adoring parents in the Macready Theatre in a production of Richard Coleman's The Affairs at Meddler's Top. Chief amongst this talent were Will Leng and Charlie Mourant, but even their skills were eclipsed by the dramatic genius of Nick Williams. The LXX also shone, most notably Toby Bell as the dashing Bouffant Éclair. Tom Mourant and Harry Mallinder also impressed: both are surprisingly seductive in drag. The play was held together by the directorial rock that is Harry Badwan. Despite the mishaps of the rehearsals, the play itself was a triumph and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

• Rory Molloy (T)

REVIEW



Tudor House Entertainment Evening



n February, Tudor hosted a wonderful evening of entertainment, which was attended by supportive parents, grandparents and friends. The programme consisted of a variety of talented acts. Natalie Houlston opened with an energetic rendition of "I Feel Pretty", followed by a superb duet by Immy White and India Harris-Stuart and an outstanding solo by Charlotte Coombs accompanied by Jess Mason on the ukulele. Later in the evening, Jess Mason joined her ukulele ensemble for a performance of "Five Years' Time". A first-class addition to the evening was the Vicar of Dibley sketch performed by Issy Mansell and India Jackson.

The musicians continued to elevate the mood of the evening with magical piano performances by Juliet Smith and Sky Martle. The house choir then performed their beautiful cover of "Shake It Out" which had won them the third place in the House Singing Competition earlier this year. The penultimate act was an unexpected one, an energetic, yet elegant, ballet duet choreographed and performed by Odette Moncur and Lauren Carter.

The evening drew to an end when the whole house came together on stage to sing the heavily practised "Hey Soul Sister". Once again Tudor displayed its many talents. As one parent said, "There is such a diversity of talents in such a small house".

• Ella Bardsley (Tu) & Odette Moncur (Tu)



School House Drama and Musical Evening

chool House's **REVIEW** "Evening of Drama and Music" was a huge success. Masterminded by Mr Smith, with the help of Seb Jenks and Oli Rowlands, nearly the whole house got involved in

some way by acting in one of the hilarious sketches, playing a musical instrument or helping backstage. The evening began with the famous "Four Yorkshiremen" sketch by Monty Python. Rufus Holt donned a skirt and a wig to play Hermione Granger in a scene taken from Harry Potter, which drew the largest laugh of the night. Ptolemy Jenkins was also well-received as he played Chairman Mao in "The Communist Quiz," also taken from Monty Python. Boris van den Belt and Charles McQuilkin had the difficult task of playing the Two Ronnies in their most famous sketch "Four Candles" but pulled it off superbly. The final sketch, "Your Name Please, Sir", involved Ned Sillet and Richard Coombs, who showcased some of the best acting of the night. Musical performances came from Charles McQuilkin and Henry Don, who played "Knockin' on Heavens Door", and from Oli Rowlands on the saxophone, Ewan Rowlands on the trombone, Richard Watkins on the cello, Ptolemy on the piano, and Marcus Hunter, who sang "The Hardest Part" by Coldplay. All the musicians excelled themselves and provided the perfect platform for Dr Morse to round off the evening with a brilliant song that really was the perfect way to end the show. Including technical bloopers (which enhanced the comedy), the night was certainly a highlight of the School House calendar.





• Charlie Austin (SH)





Music 2012-13

ith around eighty performances, 2012-13 was a busy year for musicians at Rugby School. It was also the year in which we said farewell to Michael Martin, who retired after 31 years of teaching in the Music Department. There's so much to be grateful to Michael for, but amongst his greatest initiatives is the Chamber Concert Series, in which music scholars perform recitals throughout the year to showcase their talent. This year's eight Chamber Concerts, given by twenty music scholars from all year groups except F block, attracted supportive audiences who were treated to many first-rate performances. Opportunities for solo performances did not stop there. Six informal concerts gave pupils of all abilities the chance to present pieces that they had been working on in lessons. D block and E block musicians were able to perform in concerts that had been arranged for their parents in February and May. The Blue Note and Junior Blue Note 'jam-sessions', where people drop in to listen, play and sing as the spirit moves them, were as successful as ever. The twice-termly lunchtime concerts in St Andrew's Church proved popular with soloists who enjoy the opportunity of performing to an appreciative audience from the local community. Mr Colley accompanied the majority of these performances on the piano and I know that pupils are always very grateful not only for his reliable support but more importantly for his musical performances that inspire them to new levels.

Thanks to Mr Beavan's enthusiasm, the year saw major developments in singing competitions. The Cleaver Beresford Solo Singing Competition and House Singing Competition, previously held on the same evening, had both become so popular that it was necessary this year to hold them on different evenings. We were treated to some marvellous solo performances followed by some insightful adjudication from Jeanette Ager. Doug Mcllwraith returned to Rugby to judge the House singing, awarding the prize to School Field (some said controversially!) for a fine rendition of 'John Williams is the Man'. A third event, the Musical Theatre Singing Competition, was introduced in the Lent term as a collaboration with the Drama Department to give singers the opportunity of performing on stage using radio microphones. Jenny Saunders was given the difficult task of selecting winners on that occasion. At the end of January, we held our first Prep School Musician of the Year event at which pupils from various prep schools were able to take part in choral and orchestral ensembles as well as performing solos in workshops under the leadership of our own music staff. They were treated to a concert from Rugby School pupils before a grand finale, in which soloists from prep schools took part in a competition that was adjudicated by Paul Harris.

The usual diet of annual concerts involving the larger ensembles took place as expected. The Christmas Concert, masterminded by Mr Bentham and with music ranging from classical to pop, rock to jazz, demonstrated why this



has developed into one of the most popular events in the School calendar. The Concert Band, Jazz Orchestra and Symphony Orchestra were all on excellent form at the Spring Concert. The Concert Band and Jazz Orchestra ventured into new territory this year, performing their Speech Day Concert from a specially constructed tent on the Close. The Choral Society gave a terrific performance of Haydn's Creation with professional soloists and orchestra on the final Wednesday of the Lent term. Three days earlier an entirely new event took place in the TSR. The inaugural Concerto Concert, described by the Head Master in a letter to parents as "without doubt the finest concert in my twelve years at Rugby". Ten soloists (some of whom had already run the Crick earlier that day!) and the Arnold Singers were given the opportunity to perform alongside a professional orchestra, skilfully lead by Miss Brogaard, in repertoire ranging from Mozart's Clarinet Concerto to Rachmaninoff's Second Piano Concerto. Extensive research resulted in tracking down a new edition of the nineteenth-century Trumpet Concerto by Oskar Böhme from a musicologist in America and so we think that Kaitlin Wild may have given the first UK performance of the orchestrated version of this popular work for trumpet at this event. Perhaps the highlight of the evening was hearing a professional symphony orchestra give premieres of outstanding compositions by Matt Gallagher and Rob Smith.

The different sections within the Music Department were also given the opportunity to show the variety of work that goes on from week to week as pupils involve themselves in ensembles. These were the Strings and Guitar Concert in November, the Woodwind and Brass Concert in January and the Chamber Music Concert in February. The Marshall House Concert in March, masterminded by Michael Martin, was also a great success.

With around thirty services with choral music in Chapel, the choirs were kept busy, as was Mr Williams, their accompanist. A challenging and eclectic repertoire, much of which was entirely new to the singers, helped to increase levels of sight singing. Matt Gallagher's moving anthem In Paradisum, sung on Remembrance Sunday earned him a Copy. To equip pupils more effectively for university choral scholarships in the future, several extra chapel services were introduced (Compline, Advent and Ash Wednesday liturgies), placing a more concentrated emphasis on choral singing than is possible in our regular worship. In April, the Arnold Singers travelled to Manchester where they appeared as guest choir live on BBC Radio 4's Daily Service. The singing of the entire School was impressive throughout the year, proving that at Rugby School we love to sing! Musical items continued to be performed in Chapel on Wednesday mornings and on occasion the School moved to the TSR in order to hear

a larger ensemble, such as the Concert Band or a pianist perform on the School's fine concert grand Steinway.

A donation of paintings of jazz musicians and a prize fund for a jazz musician, The St Phillip Street Traditional New Orleans Jazz Prize, inspired Graham Roberts, Head of Guitar, to give a lecture introducing repertoire from many famous early jazz pioneers such as Jelly Roll Morton, King Oliver, Louis Armstrong, Bix Beiderbecke and Benny Goodman, amongst others. The recordings played in the lecture demonstrated the development of jazz in New Orleans, New York and Chicago from the first jazz record in 1917 to the peak of swing in the mid 1940s. This, in turn resulted in a jazz workshop with Mr Roberts, Mr Coleman, Mr Davey and Mr Colley at which pupils were encouraged to bring their instruments and join in. A fascinating composition workshop by Stephen Crowe in October introduced pupils to avant garde methods of writing music. A new series of regular workshops and clinics throughout the year have enabled pupils to make the most of the outstanding resource of over 40 professional musicians who work in the Music Department.

The year culminated in style with eleven musical events at the Arts Festival. As part of Rugby School's partnership with the Coventry Diocesan Board of Education, a number of our own pupils joined 150 children from local primary schools for a Big Sing in Chapel. There was just enough time to make it from Chapel to the Macready Theatre for "West End to Broadway", at which singers presented music theatre scenes directed by Mr Chessell. In addition, the Arts Festival not only gave some the opportunity to learn traditional West African drum rhythms in an African drumming workshop, but also, in a collaboration with the Media Department, gave others the chance to watch music videos produced by E block

students following the Rock & Pop Competition held earlier in the year. The Symphony Orchestra gave a full programme in the style of Last Night of the Proms, incorporating Mozart's Paris Symphony, the first movement of Schubert's Unfinished Symphony, Vaughan Williams's English Folk Song Suite, Elgar's Pomp and Circumstance no 1 (with audience participation at "Land of Hope and Glory"), Parry's "Jerusalem" and Mr Colley's newly orchestrated version of the Floreat. Festal Evensong, sung by various members of staff, followed in Chapel, before a come-and-sing performance of movements from Handel's Messiah with professional orchestra and soloists. As the Arts Festival came to a close, audiences had to choose between two fine solo recitals: Philippa Hyde gave a song recital, incorporating music by Benjamin Britten (whose centenary of birth is celebrated in 2013), whilst Guy Lough's piano recital focused on the late Romantics, including Liszt, Shostakovich and Scriabin. Four pupils took part in "Rugby School's Got Vocal Talent" - a master-class given by opera singer Martyn Hill – and there was a music competition held in the Science School's atrium, "Live at the Atrium".

A number of pupils have been successful in their musical paths as they move on from Rugby School. Kaitlin Wild gained a scholarship to study trumpet at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama; Matt Gallagher went on to study composition at the Royal College of Music; Fabia Carney went on to read music at Manchester University; and Noel Newman gained a Choral Scholarship to Oriel College, Oxford. It's with much pride that I congratulate them, as I also congratulate the large number of committed pupils and teaching staff who collectively were responsible for ensuring that 2012-13 was a successful year for music making at Rugby School.

• RJT





The Hound of the Baskervilles

brilliant take on Sir Arthur Conan-Doyle's classic story, The Hound of the Baskervilles, directed by Guy Lough, had the audience engaged from the start. The cast of Rob Smith, Guy Lough and Oli Turner brought the play alive as they portrayed the wellknown figures of Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson. More impressive still was the seamless way in which they catered for the several other roles in the play, changing character from one to the other as if it was not just the three of them doing it. As well as retracing the traditional story line (albeit in a comical way) they introduced their own twist to the well-known story by redoing the first act, at twice the speed on the second go, before continuing into the second act at normal pace but with the same enthusiasm. Finishing with a happy ending, the play was definitely one of the best events that I saw at this year's Arts Festival as it transformed the classic detective story from one of fear and darkness into comedy whilst keeping the original sense of mystery and adventure.

• Harrison Anton (Sh)



utterfly face painting with Mrs Phillips was a very enjoyable forty minutes of art. Paired up, we painted a variety of things on each other's faces and armsbutterflies were just the start! LXX master painter Johnty Robinson Stanier painted Spiderman onto Ollie Geary, and there was a huge variety of insects and animals to be seen at the end.

• Tom Sainty (Sh)

REVIEW



pride and received many thank yous following the event. The parents thoroughly enjoyed seeing all the children sing and thought the whole performance was excellent. On a personal level, I very much enjoyed teaching the children the songs and know they greatly benefited from the experience. I look forward to next year's concert!

Big Sing

hank you for inviting Dunchurch Junior School to be a part of the Big Sing. I have had parents brimming with

• Mrs Leslie Blezard, Music Co-**Ordinator, Dunchurch Boughton CofE** (VA) Junior School







Music Videos: Rock & Pop

t was a fantastic surprise to be able this year to watch videos of each performance in the Rock & Pop competition as produced by ten different members of the E block. Before we saw these we were presented with another welcome surprise in the form of two short films: the first by James Day; the second by

Ollie and Hugo Inglis. The two films both had a distinct style: the first was very old-fashioned and mysterious; the second was more modern and funny. A personal favourite amongst the Rock & Pop videos was "Lovin' You", sung by Luke Stafford and Guy Lough, interpreted by Rufus Hall into a very thought-provoking music video.

• Laura Sainty (Tu)

REVIEW

Rock of Ages

REVIEW compilation of the very best in rock music made a wild night full of entertainment. With a full house in the Atrium, lead singer Dr Smith set the tone with a tribute to Elvis that was followed by a tour through the history of rock music. Mrs Fleming assisted him with the majority of songs, creating an unbeatable harmony that especially shone through in their Eagles and Fleetwood Mac numbers. The three guitarists - Mr Bradbury, Mr Richards and Mr Hibberd - created great sounds, their dexterous fingers playing as if it was still the summer of '69. Mr John and Mr Orton completed the group's impressive line-up. A half-way break for the band introduced the upcoming duo of Mr Dhanda and Mr Rennoldson. It was an event to remember and I'm sure both bands will go a considerably long way...

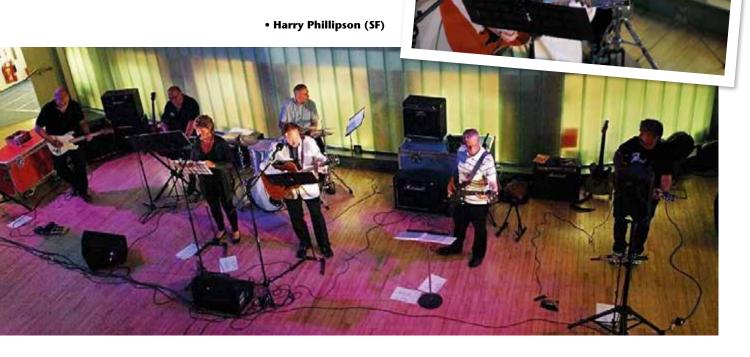


African Drumming



Prumming Workshop to find drums set up in a semi-circle ready for picking up. The early birds were given the opportunity to have a play on the drums until everyone had arrived. We were taught simple but fun beats which everyone caught onto very quickly. The organisers of the workshop were cheerful and fun and needless to say very good at drumming. They got people involved with the whole performance and everyone had a good time.

• Ben Wirth (Sh) & Tom Sainty (Sh)





Belly Dancing Workshop

o begin my first ever Arts Festival I chose Belly Dancing. On arrival, I was confronted by a wave of colourful sarongs. After everyone had wrapped themselves in their new cloth, which jingled with every turn, we started. A relaxing warm up with music playing in the background allowed us to learn some basic belly dancing moves. After this we continued to wiggle our bodies in new and adventurous ways, making a (sort of) structured dance routine. The cool down gave us opportunity to stretch and

"dewiggle" ourselves to round off a new experience.

• Fraser Ralston (T)

REVIEW

REVIEW

West End to Broadway

his show was an enthralling collection of famous songs from musicals from the 1930s to the present day. No need to pay for a flight to New York or fight through Leicester Square; you merely had to attend the Macready Theatre on a damp Tuesday afternoon to be swept into the wonderful world of musicals. The performances were astounding and received great applause from the audience. I felt compelled to tap my feet along to the music and praise the singers for their obvious talent. A great deal of effort was put into this show and it was certainly appreciated in the positive reaction that it received from the audience.

• Saqlain Choudhary (M)





Midsummer Murders

REVIEW

idsummer Murders was three scenes from three different early modern tragedies directed by three different teachers. Each scene involved a death or multiple deaths. Tom Harwood and Polly Creed were impressive as Othello and Desdemona in Mrs Beesley's Othello, with Polly's suffocated scream certainly chilling the blood. Immy White gave a stellar performance as the Duchess in Mr Naylor's The Duchess of Malfi, standing defiant against the creepy Machiavellianism of Nathaniel Hess as Bosola. Guts and gore were splattered all over Mr Smith's 'Tis Pity She's a Whore, with Oli Tennant as Giovanni running on stage dripping in blood and brandishing a human heart (well, a chicken breast) on the end of his dagger. Each play captured the audience's imagination although I was still wondering at the end what had become of John Nettles...

Zenga Nyirenda (B)





The History Boys

his shortened version of the renowned play (directed by Charlie Beere) did not lose any of the wit or brilliance of the original. In fact, this performance captivated the sold-out venue. Performed in OBS, the classroom-style set really added to the performance, helping the audience to be further mesmerised by the fabulous actors. Enhancing the play were the shocking statements uttered by the characters of Dakin (Luke Stafford) and Irwin (Fergus Ashby). All in all this superb play was a fantastic opener to the Arts Festival.

• Ollie Geary (Sh)

Tie-Dye Workshop

he Tie-Dye Workshop was run by Mrs Warriner on the Close. It was a short but thoroughly enjoyable activity, which included either dip-dying or tie-dying a t-shirt or bag. No experience was needed for this, just the ability to tie elastic bands tightly and the skill of not letting dye run down your clothes – a skill that certain people seemed to possess more than others! I had a fun time in creating my tie-dye t-shirt and if the fashions of the 1980s ever do come hurtling back around then I may even wear it at some point.

Arabian Food Workshop

he Arabian Food Workshop was quite an experience. The food appeared simple, but the flavours had remarkable depth. The organisers had a vast amount of experience, having catered for both Princess Anne and the Olympics, and they wasted no time in giving us an insight into the flavours of Arabian food. We enjoyed helping cook baked salmon, biscuits, almond sesame balls and mini croissants with hummus. I would thoroughly recommend Arabian biscuits to anyone with a sweet tooth!

• Anna Zhukova (D)

Arabian Nights

his was a highly entertaining production **REVIEW** that transformed the Macready Theatre with a set that would not have looked out of place in the West End. Directed by Mr Chessell, this play intrigued the audience and allowed those watching to be dragged via the excellent cast through a whole spectrum of emotions. Within the play were many short stories, all involving different characters, creating a snappy and dynamic piece than helped the audience to be enthralled

throughout. Special congratulations to the costume designer and to the back stage crew who created a superb set which boosted the Arabian feel of the play. An amazing performance from all



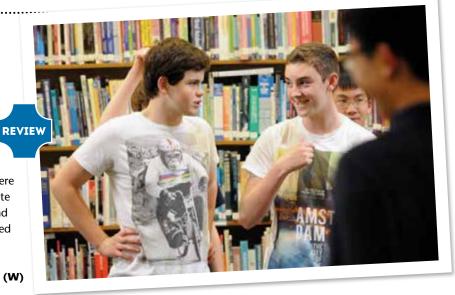


Drama Workshop

he Drama Workshop enabled people of all different abilities and levels of confidence to take part. Participants took part in games where it is crucial that everyone works together to complete each game's goal. These games help you understand the different attitudes and dialogues that can be used when acting.

• Julian Ng (W)

REVIEW



A Short Course in Managing a Flamingo

erhaps one of Rugby's best known former pupils, Charles Dodgson (Lewis Carroll) is famous for his creation of Alice in Wonderland and many other children's stories as well as being an esteemed mathematician. "A Short Course in Managing a Flamingo" looked at the maths behind the madness of Carroll's famous stories. With the help of Mr Rigg, the audience were able to understand what we may have previously thought of as only incomprehensible ramblings. A highly interactive talk, "A Short Course in Managing a Flamingo" had at least half the audience volunteering at some point or other, either trying to figure out patterns of numbers taken from passages of Carroll's books or in attempting to answer the many theoretical questions put to them. It was a great talk for those who wished to expand their knowledge beyond the GCSE or A-Level syllabus, and from the reaction of the audience, it was also thoroughly enjoyed by the non-mathematicians who were there.

Harrison Anton (Sh)



Last Night of the Proms

he famous Last Night of the Proms changed venue from the Royal Albert Hall to our very own Temple Speech Room, where a full orchestra awaited us. The stage was littered with a plethora of red, white and blue union flags; these were coupled with free flags offered to the audience on admittance. The hour-long performance, led by Mr Tanner, treated the younger audience to some

great music. The exciting afternoon was topped off by singing and a huge amount of audience participation. With flags waving, the TSR opened up to "Land of Hope and Glory", "Jerusalem" and, of course, the Floreat. The audience was still waving their flags as they left the TSR.



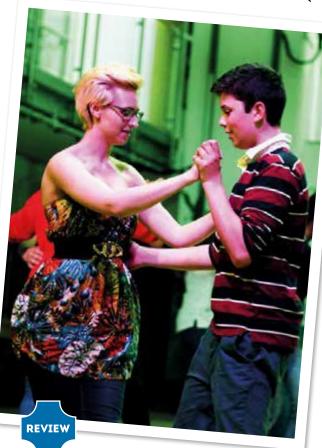




An Audience with Adrian Bradbury

hotography teacher Mr Bradbury gave a talk about his life in the arts industry. This was a fantastic insight to his life as a photographer and gave everyone a chance to look at some of the wonderful photos he has taken over the years. We also found out that he met some interesting people during this time, including several actors and lots and lots of famous models!

• Ben Wirth (Sh)



Argentine Tango Workshop

he perennial reluctance of boys and girls to work together was soon broken down as the tango basics had us dancing like we were in the clubs of Buenos Aires. This was a great class, teaching us the basic (and, for some, the more complex) moves in the improvised Argentine tango. Even I, someone who is not a particularly keen dancer, enjoyed the class thoroughly. I had a great time and, thanks to the dance teacher, learned that patience is required when learning such a wonderful art.

• Saqlain Choudhary (M)



Messiah from Scratch

essiah from Scratch was a powerhouse performance by both the choir and the audience. Mr Beaven led a talented orchestra with the help of two world-class choral singers of different voice types. The event was performed in the TSR, which created a fantastic atmosphere for the audience to enjoy the music. The event did not only contain music but also readings. The recital of the *Messiah* was the highlight of the event with the whole of the audience joining in.

• Harry Phillipson (SF)

REVIEW

I Think, Therefore I Slam

Think, Therefore I Slam showcased a variety of poetry recitals by teachers and pupils. Members of the F block, E block, LXX and staff took to the stage of the Atrium to perform either their own work or their favourite poems. Each performer explained the meaning of their poems before their recital and gave an insight into their choices. A memorable performance came from Mr Fletcher. Nathaniel Hess was also notable, having translated two poems from Latin, one of which he performed. A great, enjoyable, informal recital that interested everyone with its great poetry.

• Zenga Nyirenda (B)

REVIEW

Duet Duel

uet Duel featured eight pairs of performers battling it out for a place in the Festival Finale. The TSR stage was filled with a critical audience ready to judge the talent. Mr Naylor commenced his act by dancing to "Tragedy" in embarrassing-dad style, before being joined by Ellie Olcott who impressively kept up a northern accent throughout their performance of *Educating Rita*. The Sutherland brothers enthusiastically sang "Hero", dedicated by Harry Sutherland to a surprised Miss Perkins sitting on the front row. But the highlight was an exclusive performance by the well-dressed duo of Mr Siggers and Rob Smith with their very own interpretation of the jive.

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• Poppy Hudson (S)

The Chase



ugby School hosted its very own edition of the popular British game show *The* Chase, hosted by Miss Dixon. The four contestants were all from Michell House: Hugo Lebus, Jacob Adorsu, Ollie Colville and Bomi Fagbemi. Hugo, despite not knowing which position Harry Potter plays in Quidditch, managed to survive the first round with Jacob Adorsu, securing a total of 3,500 points between them. Bomi and Ollie were unfortunately too ambitious and were caught by the chaser, Mr Horner.

• George Brockman (Sh)



Choral Evensong

horal Evensong was a magical performance by many music staff and teachers, which bought the Chapel to life. Lasting only an hour the Evensong saw us through readings, responses and anthems. I particularly enjoyed the intricate harmonies present throughout the hymns. I hope to attend the Choral Evensong next year.

• Jack Beere (Sh)

REVIEW

Song Recital

n a warm summer's day forty-odd people piled into the new music room for a short recital of classical music.

Led by the duo of soprano Philipa Hyde and Mr Tanner on the piano, the audience was brought to life by some joyful



arias from Mozart, Schumann, John Ireland and Benjamin Britten. The highlight in my eyes was "Spring Sorrow", with lyrics originally written by Rugby's own Rupert Brooke. Overall a peaceful, relaxing hour listening to some of the School's finest staff members doing what they do best.

• Ben Skailes (C)

REVIEW

Live at the Atrium

brilliant event hosted by Mr Davey and featuring performances from Lucy Cook, the Beere brothers and Gene Hirst. The quality of talent on show ensured that this was an enjoyable and extremely entertaining hour. A wonderful event that we would definitely go to again.

• Emily Gower (S) & Hattie Sumpter Reynolds (S)



Dylan and Bowie

t this event, Dr Sutcliffe and Dr Beesley showed off their intelligence and passion about their two pop idols – Bob Dylan and David Bowie respectively. Up first was Dr Sutcliffe, who provided a literary analysis only an English teacher can muster of one of Dylan's songs. Dr Beesley spoke about Bowie, from Brixton to Ziggy to the David Bowie of the present, showing video clips and explaining lyrics. Luke Stafford topped off the talks with a performance of one of Dylan's songs. It was a very interesting event, bringing to light the lives of musicians I had heard of but never looked into.

• Felix Reynolds (C)

Comedy Workshop

omedy Workshop with OR Max Fletcher (Ma and T 02-09), taught us to lose our inhibitions and to realise that stand-up is easier than is often first assumed. Some people were chosen to come up and talk about a

REVIEW

given subject. As their dialogue developed they started to get into their jokes, talk more easily and make people laugh. Comedy Workshop was great to have taken part in.

• Rory Hunter (SH)

Urban Dance Workshop

he Urban Dance Workshop consisted of The Urban Fusion Dance Group leading approximately 15 pupils, who were mostly entirely incapable of being co-ordinated in any way. After a bit of coaxing they finally managed to teach us a section of a routine that they had been working on to the song "La La La" by Naughty Boy. As we stumbled around poorly performing the well-known "sprinkler" move, it was evident that although we may not have been transformed into professional street dancers, everyone had enjoyed themselves.

• Sarah Lord (D)

Festival Finale

he Arts Festival Finale marked the end of Arts Festival 2013. This year, 34 different events took place during the Festival period. All events were hugely successful. The latest addition to the finale bill was the Rugby School Arts Festival Oscars. There were nine categories of Oscar: "Best Fringe Event" (won by Mr Dhanda's ice cream); "Most Enthusiastic in a Workshop" (won by Johnty Robinson-Stanier); "Best Instrumental" (won by Harry Pateman); "Best Actress in a Supporting Role" (won by Ellie Beach); "Best Singer" (won by Michael Fuxman); "Best Actor in a Supporting Role" (won by Cosmo Wellings); "Best Actress in a leading role" (won by Eve Williams); "Best Actor in a Leading Role" (won by Rob Smith); and finally "Best Director" (won jointly by Charlie Beere and Guy Lough).

REVIEW

The Arts Festival consists of entertainment, variety and "getting involved". Miss Dixon's new event - Duet Duel - is a perfect example of all three. So it was only right that the winners of the Duet Duel, Rob Smith and Mr Siggers, were allowed to perform again their winning dance routine, a sight much loved by the crowd.

The penultimate act of the night was Mrs Naylor and Miss Dixon singing a special number, where the lyrics were based on events that had takken place in the Arts Festival. A really lovely piece of music. The final act of the Finale was a

professional dance group called Urban

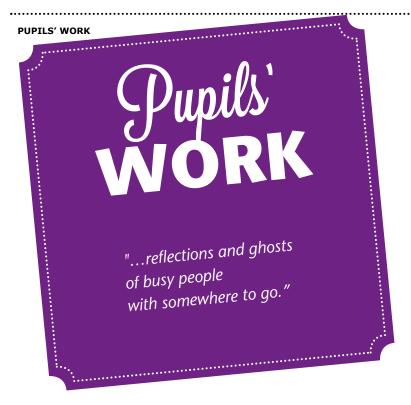
Dance, who finished the night with an

amazing routine.

• George Brockman (Sh)

And all that Jazz!





It snowed last night

Please go to sleep and forget about me

please turn off the light and let me leave

close your blind eyes you forgot a goodbye

I woke up alone but your footprints were fresh in the snow

• Jean Firth (G)

Train

I looked out the window but all I can see is myself printed in darkness invisible with all respect to reflections and ghosts of busy people with somewhere to go.

• Laura Bruce (B)

The Room

I know I've done something wrong, something very wrong, when they send me there, to the room that no one dares invade. Whether it was my fault or not, I'm the one they oppress. It was him, not me. He swung first, no one ever believes me, they don't see him like I do. He thinks he's finer than I am -I'm seen, but never listened to. If I cry, they ignore, if I scream, they punish. They don't realise what lurks behind the doors of the dreaded Red Room. It's the quiet, it's the cold, it's the red that looks like blood. But worst of all it's the sound of the bolt across the door.

Inquisition

tick tick tick

> the clock drums in his ears. He sits down, the chair bulges under him. "Your name, boy?" His words come out stuttered and slurred.

"Why are you here?"
The boy mumbles,
his eyes pinned to the ground
by the glare
drilling through him,
through and through.

The boy drew a book, raised himself with trembling knees, to his knees the book was placed. The boy returns to his modest abode upon the wooden chair as it creaked and moaned.

His hand flicked through, His fingers drumming, never ending, rat-a-tat-tat rat-a-tat-tat rat-a-tat-tat.

The drumming ceased to go on, the leathery hands dropped down. His book was slewed onto the floor – defeated it lay.

"One moment please."

tick tick tick

• Rob Waterhouse (Sh)

• Jean Firth (G)

Praise for Pavarotti

▶ ilent was the hall. Yet soon broken was this silence by the clear creaking of the opening doors and the shuffling of agitated feet as the viewers headed towards their designated seats. Being the first spectator in the hall, I was already half way through devouring my gargantuan meal of a programme, whilst the others were rummaging through their leather designer bags to find theirs five minutes before the concert commenced. A chorus of frustrated whispers from the wives harmonised with the husbands' repetitive work-related mobile phone outbursts to produce an oratorio of animated sound. This was smoothened off by the effortless vowel sounds of the Italian tongue produced in the hundred or so conversations taking place.

I had been amongst the seating for the past half hour to witness the unoccupied hall coupled with the completely irregular (and relatively ironic) feeling of silence in this extraordinary host of music sublime. The opera was called La Gazza Ladra: an infamous nineteenth-century composition of Rossini and was taking place at the Teatro Alla Scala in Milan. The principal role of Fabrizio was played by the sturdy bass Luciano Pavarotti.

The buzz of the audience was soon hushed by the sudden introductory tuning of the orchestral instruments. The nasal hums of the violins and cellos amalgamated with the clipped, breathy spurts of the flutes as they made their

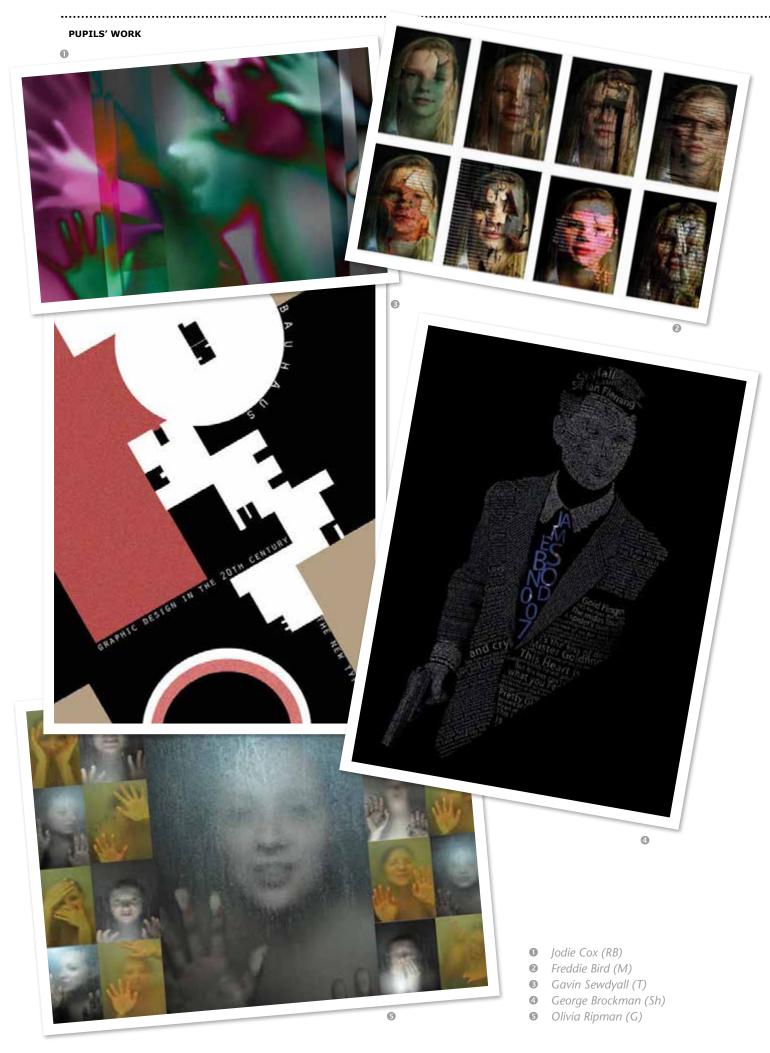
own parallels to the piano's note of A. The bassoonists and oboists clashed with the tuning by testing their double reeds. (This involved a process of blowing through the reed alone – producing a sharp, irritating duck-like sound). I, being in the gods of the hall, was able to peer through the large grate adjacent to the stage and notice the imperious conductor, all in black, mount his step and tap imperatively on his awaiting music stand with his fragile baton. I took this as a command instructing me to discontinue reading my meaty programme. The orchestra, also acknowledging his action, stopped playing immediately, giving him their full attention. He raised his arms, their eyes glued to the baton, and on the downbeat, the orchestra played a majestic overture, well supported with the prominent rhythm of the snare drum. Roughly three minutes in, the dominating figure of Luciano Pavarotti entered with an assured stride. Dressed in a buttoned black tailcoat, he took his professional stance - a tall neck and feet shoulder width apart - and occupied his bars of rest by adapting to his character through various facial expressions. The sound of the accompanying orchestra was then submerged under the extraordinary wave of mellow vibrations leaving his larynx. This wave struck me; and as it withdrew it left nothing but sheer astonishment. His voice resonated through the brickwork and threaded through each engrossed ear like an entwining ribbon. I am a performer myself and entertain frequently; however I was belittled by the miraculous sound of this unique prodigy. His wife and brother elegantly pirouetted onto his terrain and began to harmonise with his overpowering descant, but they became merely part of the orchestra's support for Pavarotti.

The entire concert flourished with colour both from the music as well as from the excellently crafted costumes. It raced by, and when two hours had past the finale had been reached. The bass drum was continuously hammered until the ensemble erupted with volume. Flying streaks of maroon, violet, amber and lime busied the stage and through the blur of tone stepped the familiar face of Fabrizio and his wife. The

"The entire concert flourished with colour."

orchestra crescendoed up an exhilarating arpeggio which was capped by Pavarotti's striking note of top F. The crowd shrieked with applause. I noticed several tears cleansing the soppy women's cheeks as well as the odd man or two subtly removing his handkerchief from his waistcoat pocket. The cast bowed collectively and swiftly exited the stage. Over time, the clapping ceased and the audience soon rushed to the wing doors, each individual intending to avoid the river of hurrying spectators, some succeeding and some failing. Yet I postponed my leave; instead I removed my programme from my satchel and persisted in my read. I waited till the last person had left; I waited till the last chuckle in the outside foyer had died; I waited till the hall was once again ... silent.

• Matt Jackson (Sh)











RUGBY FOOTBALL

XV P11, W7, D1, L3

ith only a handful of Colours returning in the XX this year, it was a generally inexperienced side that started the season. Still, the XV played well throughout the season, and those who were new to the side learned a lot very quickly to put in strong performances as the weeks went on.

The season began with a frustrating 9-9 draw away against Cheltenham, although given the strength of the Cheltenham side this year the team did a good job to keep the opposition score so low. Disappointed by this start, the XV were determined to put in their all in the next match, which they did, winning 54-10 against St Edward's, Oxford. Buoyed by this success, more wins followed in quick succession before the half term break: Oundle (30-10), Uppingham (25-5) and Trent (30-0). The XV also won 36-13 against a resurrected South Schools Scotland team. This was a closer game than the final score line suggests, with Rugby pulling clear only in the last twenty minutes of play.

Having lost captain Dan Martin to injury whilst representing Warwickshire U18 over half term, the XV were worried they might not be able to continue their successful run as they geared up to face tough opposition from old rivals Oakham, Stamford and Bedford. Kit Goodfellow stepped up to do a very good job as interim captain, making some smart decisions and showing a captain's effort in being there for each of his players, but unfortunately his hard work failed to stave off consecutive defeats to Oakham (15-20) and Stamford (12-20). Pride was restored, however, later that month with a 25-10 victory over last year's Daily Mail Cup finalists Old Swinford Hospital. Spirits were high as the XV faced Bedford away, but sadly the team left it too late to put ideas into practice and, despite some excellent play in the second half, Rugby was unable to bag a win – the final score was a hard-felt 26-40.

This year's guest XV match was against Hymers College from Hull. Everyone was tired at the end of term and the first half was tough, with the team unable to dominate. Quickly rethinking things at half time, the XV manage to pull ahead in the second half to secure a convincing 25-8 win. A number of players punched above their weight in this game and left the Close feeling very proud. The XV had put in a very pleasing performance in front of the assembled School and this was a fine way to end the season.

XVs were awarded to: Sam Bennett, Tommy Blystad, Oli Bradfield, Zach Chadwick, Jacob Gilder, Kit Goodfellow, Seb Jenks, George Lewis, Harry Mallinder, Dan Martin, Johnnie Martin, Tom Mourant, Ben Pointon, Paddy Sardeson, William Tuite Dalton, Hugo Whalley and Izzak Williams.

• Jacob Gilder (SF)



2ND XV

P9, W3, L6

he 2nd XV started the season very positively with a convincing win over Cheltenham. The team continued to develop well, despite a loss of players to injury and to the XV. We were lucky to gain Marcus Hunter from the bench of the XV, who immediately added flair at 10. The team went into half term with wins over Trent and St Edward's, Oxford, and narrow losses to Oundle and Uppingham. After half term we suffered a string of arguably undeserved losses, a notable example being the match against Stamford, where a series of Stamford penalties from the kick-off led to a winning soft try. Our most upsetting defeat was against Bedford where, despite an early lead, lapses in concentration allowed a strong Bedford comeback in the second half. Fundamentally, the 2nd XV lacked flamboyance, although this was more than made up for by spirit and determination.

James Bateson, Henry Hollands and James Thomas inspired through both performance and attitude, and their example helped the younger players introduced into the team. Bateson deservedly received the award for most improved player: he started in the 3rd XV and represented the XV towards the end of term. Angus Johnston showed a real promise with his commitment to the contact area. Will Lowe also showed promise for his tackling. Tim Brown epitomised what the team stood for - commitment and industry - and represented the XV on regular occasions. Captain Henry Mitchell led the team admirably throughout the season and his motivation and will to succeed constantly spurred the team on.

• Henry Mitchell (Sh) & Alex Johnson (M)

3RD XV

P7, W3, L4

he 3rd XV's record does not at all represent the quality of their play this season. Tremendous progress was made by the team as a whole and also by a host of individuals, one or two of whom came to the game for the first time and quickly made their names as more than competent rugby players.

The season kicked off with a good victory against a tenacious St Edward's, Oxford. The score of 34-12 hides the tightness of the game. A 0-27 loss against Oundle showed that there was a lot of work to do, especially in midfield, where problems in defence and distribution were exposed. These problems were partly addressed in the game against Uppingham but not to the extent that defeat (19-24) could be avoided. A 67-0 victory against Trent was a real boost to morale but did not provide us with a sufficient test of the team's skills, especially in defence. The game against Oakham was the trough in the season. Delays as the coach driver struggled to find the venue meant that we had very little time to warm up and two early scores went to the opposition. We fought back to lose 12-17. The game against Stamford was a close one and had our decision-making been better we could have drawn the game. In the final game of the season, versus Old Swinford Hospital, we overcame a gutsy opposition to win 34-7.

PTE

U16A

P9, W2, D1, L6

he U16As finished pre-season training with a comfortable 86-0 victory over Greshams. The season began in earnest against a strong Cheltenham side on the Close. After taking the lead shortly after half-time, we conceded minutes before the final whistle, losing 16-27. The following match was away to St Edward's, Oxford. It was a frustrating match for many reasons and resulted in a 19-34 loss. Next came a hard-fought match against Oundle that ended in a 12-12 draw. That was followed by another frustrating match, this time away against Uppingham, where the team only scraped a 26-24 win. The final match before half term was against an extremely professional Warwick, who had finished fourth in the Daily Mail Cup the previous year. At

half time, the team was still in the game, the score standing at 14-14. But we lost our shape in the second half, leading to a 14-38 loss.

After half term, the team played Oakham on the Close. The game was very tight, with Oakham scoring in the final play to secure a 15-25 win. We looked set to lose the game against Stamford too when, very late on in the match, their huge set of forwards scored a converted try to put them in front 17-19. But straight from the kick off we were awarded a penalty, from a challenging position, 30 metres out and to the left of the posts. The kick went through, and we won the game 20-19. Hugh Wrigley stood out in this game, scoring an impressive three tries. He finished as the season's top try-scorer with eight tries. Braving some of the worst weather conditions we have experienced as a team, we travelled to Old Swinford Hospital for our next match, which we won 20-5. Our final ever match together as a team was against a very respectable Bedford. After leading 13-5 at half time, we were unfortunate to suffer an injury and a harsh yellow card. Bedford capitalised and, although we rallied to score a late try, they took the match 20-24.

• Joe Miller (T)

U16B

P8, W7, L1

he U16Bs enjoyed a fantastic season, winning seven of their eight matches, scoring 265 points and conceding only 31. Their only narrow defeat was to Warwick, when seven of the normal starting line-up were missing. The team moved forward in every single match and were clinical when defeating a very aggressive Bedford side in their final game. It is hard to identify the team's strongest performance as they were consistently so strong. The forwards developed most as a unit and were unstoppable in the final few matches. Player



of the Season has to go to the captain, Charlie Welch, whose work at fly half unlocked almost every defence we came up against. He also scored some spectacular tries, though none quite matched Guy Jamieson's run from under his own posts!

• DCG

U16C P6 W5 L1

t was clear from the outset the U16Cs had potential: there were some quick backs, big forwards and good skill levels throughout the team. The missing ingredients were teamwork and the willingness to work hard to improve. The season began with a couple of wins against weak opposition in which the team never got out of second gear. The team came unstuck at Oundle due to an extremely poor start and their own inability to play together. In many ways this was the turning point of the season: the team were determined not to be beaten again and their attitude improved noticeably. Uppingham were defeated without remorse, Rugby scoring at will (on two occasions immediately from the kick off) and the team played superbly to beat a good Warwick side. The final game was a hard-earned 33-22 win at home to Bedford, despite having been 12 points down at one stage. But more important than these wins is the fact that the team have improved immeasurably from a disparate group of talented individuals to a team able to go 12 points down against Bedford and win in fine style. Attitude to training was never ideal but the team has moved forward even there, learning new skills and creating many of their own moves. Thanks go to all of the players, particularly Matt Haslam for captaining the side well throughout the season, and above all to Mr Christie for his help and support running the team.

U15A P12 W4 L8

t is always difficult to reflect on such an unsuccessful season without looking at the reasons behind the disappointments. The group certainly possessed athletic talent but they should have been more competitive and much of the time problems came from their rather erratic approach to training.

Nick Colbourne captained the side well from the back row and made a huge number of tackles, especially in the big defeats. Myles McKay and Bob Sandison took us forward regularly and strongmen Ed Cattermole and John Tsui had good seasons. Ed Gable nicked a lot of ball at the scrum and if he learns to throw has a great future as a hooker. Rory Hunter threw well in the line outs and added some skill at just the right time. The best positional change during the season was the move of George Romain to scrum half where his electric bursts always asked questions of the opposition. Harry Phillipson, James Cutter and Harry Sutherland were steady in midfield. On the wings, Tim Kerr-Chin, Ed Wiltshire and Alex Winter were often a handful for the opposition. Ben Wirth was not always a regular but he played very well from full back. Kerr-Chin, Romain and Wiltshire are each blessed with a low centre of gravity and incredible acceleration; their talent will need greater harnessing in future. The highlight of a season where there was only one win on a Saturday was the run in the Daily Mail Cup. Two big wins gave the side an opportunity to play Loughborough Grammar School for the second year in a row at the third round stage. Buoyed by the inclusion of two talented U14 players, the team played with great pace and purpose. As usual, defence was leaky and with encouragingly inventive attacking play a close victory (36-31) was secured. It proved to be one of only two close results during the season.

TMW



SPORTS



U15B

P8, W6, L2

he season started with a practice game against Cheltenham for which the boys simply were not ready, with no willingness to tackle, ruck or offload. After a couple of weeks working on big hits and offloading from the contact, things changed and the team's weaknesses suddenly became their strengths. The practice game was put behind us (even if it annoyingly stays on the results sheet) and we started not just to win, but to win well. Following the revelation that Joe Phillips is actually a rather talented fly half and after discovering a front five that could destroy the opposition at scrum time, we had the foundations of a good B team. Big tackles were put in by Cosmo Wellings and the ball was then efficiently turned over by players such as Rory Farquharson, Josh Sanghera and Rory Hunter, providing good ball for the backs, who learned to play with aggression and flair. Ed Wiltshire and Oli Tennant scored at will. When the As came knocking to move players up, boys such as Sam Green-Armytage and Matthew Erhardt raised their game to continue the team's dominance over the opposition. What started with the team looking almost incapable of playing rugby turned into a massive success. George Tuckwell was voted Player of the Season but this title could feasibly have been given to any member of the squad.

• JMP

U15C

P6, W5, L1

he U15Cs had an unbeaten season, apart from the one game they lost. Leading from the front, Tom Harwood took the hits as, Saturday after Saturday, he let the opposition bounce off him. His courage was closely mirrored by the never-say-die attitude of Agnel Agbo. Matt Jackson and Sam Green-Armytage tackled until they suffered concussion, whilst Sam Pougatch skipped over challenges to score repeatedly. Player of the Season went to the straightrunning George Creed, undoubtedly the best fly half a C team has ever seen. A season summarised by lots of fun in the freezing cold.

U15D

P3, W1, L2

▶aptained by the energetic Daniel Peet, the U15Ds' first game of the season against St Edward's, Oxford, ended in a resounding 67-5 victory to Rugby, with a sterling performance from Theo Greenfield. The next match saw us outplayed by a resilient Oundle. Radley came out strong in the final match of the season where, despite fighting back in the second half, we lost 12-26. Richard Coombs played well throughout the season, as did Kelan Treanor. Martin Mekushin and Robert Brown proved particularly good on the wings.

AMM

U14A

P11, W4, L7

he U14As made a good start to the season, winning three of the first four games. In the matches against Cheltenham and Haileybury, the team played very fluent rugby, with the forward and back units working together effectively. As the season progressed, the greater physical impact and pace offered by several oppositions often proved too much to handle, although the team remained competitive in all matches. The team was ably captained by Jonnie Fagan; other leading players were Michael Suddaby, Tom Beal, Rory Pond and Seb Somervail.

MAM

U14B

P11, W6, L5

he U14Bs had a mixed season of great successes and great failures. A home match against local team Princethorpe started the season off to a good start, with a final score of 22-0 to the good. After this, the team had more great victories, including a 24 point haul against Cheltenham and a three point win in a very close game against Haileybury. The players demonstrated excellent team work in the game against Trent: after being dominated for the first half, the forwards and backs worked together to help Rugby emerge victorious at the final whistle. Defeats against Oakham and Bromsgrove in difficult conditions dampened the team's spirits slightly but some focused training sessions and a desire to get back to winning ways saw the team finish the season strongly.

• Fraser Ralston (T)

U14C P9, W9

season for all the boys to remember saw the U14Cs go undefeated from September to December, scoring a total of 339 points (an average of 40 a game) and conceding only 53 (six a game). The forwards were well-drilled at the breakdown, scrum and line out and provided an excellent platform for the backs to utilise the ball. The half back positions were well-played by the likes of Harry Kesterton, Freddie Houlker and Will Leng at scrum half and Henry Myers playing every game at fly half. All four showed good game awareness and moved the ball well when needed. The back line had both pace and strength in attack and defence and a game was never quite complete without a Jack Harwood gallop from deep and try in the corner.

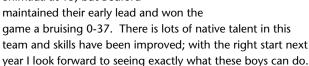
• RBM

U14D

P6, W3, L3

very year the U14Ds thrive on confidence – after all, always a large number of them have never played rugby before and those who have know they need to improve certain basic skills. So it was the whole season, really, that

took a knock when the team lost their first match 19-30 against a much sharper and more physical St Edward's, Oxford. Subsequent games did see wins - 40-0 against Oundle and a nail-biting 21-20 against Oakham - but the die had been cast and the team never properly found the guts or enthusiasm to push always for victory. Captain Hassan Usman did a fine job of rallying the troops for the final match of the season against Bedford, and lots of good play was seen from Tom Lord at 2 and Tora Shimada at 15, but Bedford



• RJS



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GIRLS' HOCKEY

XI P13, W6, D1, L6

> he hockey tour of Australia and Hong Kong over the summer had helped the XI bond as a team, which meant we started the

season already knowing each other's skills. This undoubtedly helped us progress up through the pre-season tournament to win the plate and then on to beat Bloxham 3-1. Losses early on against Uppingham and Trent were disappointing, but we kept our heads up, and our determination to win helped us to a 6-3 victory over Malvern and a 3-3 draw against a tough Bromsgrove. The County Tournament proved our real stomping ground and, in true Rugby XI girls' hockey fashion, we waited until the last opportunity to pull it out the bag, beating Princethorpe in the final, and so qualifying for the Regional Tournament. Unfortunately, we came up against very talented teams from Repton and Oakham here, who both managed to beat us to go on to the final. After showing some of our best play against Bedford Girls and Solihull (both comfortable wins) we faced Repton again. We were unable to tackle the strength of Repton's forward line, but we kept them thinking and working hard with everyone playing with a ferocity and energy which allowed us to break through and have a few shots on goal. The season has provided us all with some great entertainment and enjoyment, and we all feel lucky to have been coached by Mr Dhanda and Mr Bell. A few special mentions must go to Eliza Talbot-Williams, who was awarded Player of the Season; Jessy Firth, who received the award for Most Improved Player; and Zara Thornton who was the top

Anastasia Duncan (St)

2ND XI P11, W5, D2, L4

goal scorer.

espite a bad start to things (a defeat against Bloxham and a draw against a usually unthreatening Uppingham), the 2nd XI had a good season this year, which saw them, amongst other successes, come fourth on goal difference in the Midlands Hockey League – a real achievement. Effective movement throughout the side and support from the midfield, led by India Harris Stuart, enabled the team to put in convincing performances in every game. Indeed, some of the losses could easily have been wins; and this is no truer than in the match against Bromsgrove, where two late goals form the opposition snatched a draw. As so often, team changes between the 1st and 2nd XIs towards the end of the season meant that some momentum against the better sides was lost, and the team suffered defeats to strong Repton and Oundle sides.



3RD XI

P8, W4, D1, L3

he 3rd XI started the season with a strong win away to Bloxham, which buoyed the team with high hopes for the rest of the season. These hopes were dashed somewhat, however, with losses on the trot in the next three games. Some tough fitness work and training sessions helped turn things around, and the team won two more games and drew a third, with captain Phoebe Dunstan doing a fantastic job of keeping the work rate high. The team lost the final game of the season to Oundle, although they can all be very proud of the way they played here.

• DLB

4TH XI

P7, W3, L4

he 4th XI had a very good season with some excellent wins - most notably a comfortable 8-1 victory over Uppingham. Success came from some very impressive individual performances. The team was very well-captained by Alice Miller, who could always be relied upon to sweep up any runaway attacks from the opposition. Special mention must also go to Sophie Tennant, who scored a good number of goals for the team.

RKMC

5TH XI

P6, W4, L2

he 5th XI played this season with spirit, humour and admirable teamwork. The match of the season was the 4-1 victory early on against Oundle - the first win against Oundle by the 5th XI in current staff memory. Special mention goes to Julia Hewitt, who took on the mantle of goalkeeper for the first time. Player of the Season was awarded to Jess Mason, for her steely resolve in the centre of defence, although the award could have gone to any of the girls, all of whom showed Rugby School sport at its very best.

• PJB



6TH **XI P5**, **L5**

fun time was had by the 6th XI this year, who appreciated a good number of training sessions run by international hockey coaches. The team mostly comprised D block, LXX and XX players, but some E block players helped out for the match against Oakham. Player of the Season was Christina Smith, although there were notable performances from Bex Capewell-Salisbury and Emma Carrington.

• MAT

U16A

P9, W4, D2, L3

he 16As began the season with a 1-1 draw away to Uppingham before a narrow 3-4 loss to a strong Trent side. Both matches were very close and the team demonstrated they had real talent and potential. After a scoreless draw at home to Malvern, the girls then won the Warwickshire Cup, winning all three matches in a convincing display. Excellent wins and strong performances against Cheltenham (3-2) and Bromsgrove (5-4) then followed. At this stage in the season, the team were playing their best hockey, and the attacking trio of Kate Broad, Mimi Swaby and Amy Dunstan proved too strong, fast and skilful for opposing teams.

Despite losing Dunstan and our keeper, Annie Adams, to injury, the team kept up their winning streak with a 2-0 victory against Oakham before qualifying for the Midlands Finals with wins against Oundle and others in the zonal rounds. The girls were playing some quality pass and move hockey, particularly when attacking from wide positions. The ball speed and pace of Yasmin Walilay and Kate Constable-Maxwell on the wings was impressive, and they selflessly set up chances for the forwards. We lost against Bedford, a match we should have won comfortably. The following week we played in the Midlands Finals, losing only one match, before losing 2-4 to league winners Repton. Although we had suffered our first consecutive defeats of the season, there was not a match all term in which we found ourselves outplayed. The girls went into the final match of the season against Oundle determined to end on a high. A 4-0 victory was a fine way to sign off the year.

U16B

P10, W5, D2, L3

he U16Bs got off to a promising start with a draw against a strong Uppingham team and then five consecutive victories. An unbeaten season seemed to be a possibility until a closely contested match against Repton resulted in a 0-1 defeat. Rugby had chances to equalise but, as was the pattern across the season, could not get the ball across the goal line. A special mention should go to the consistently strong and impressive defence of Hermione Wilson, Islay Stacey, Millie Garland and Lauren Veasey.

• SSP

U15A

P13, W6, D3, L4

his has been a successful season for the U15As. The most memorable match must be the one against Uppingham where, with seven minutes to go, the girls were trailing 1-4, but went on to draw the match 4-4. It was this will to win, even when the chips were down, that saw the team notch up victories against Cheltenham, Bedford and Bromsgrove. A number of girls were in the running for Player of the Season, but Nush Mehta stood out above the rest. Her fearlessness when tackling, her energy going forward and the quality of her passing made her our central player in every way. Special mention should also go to captain Kirsty Martin, whose consistently good performance on the pitch was matched by the quality of her leadership and maturity. Mehta, Martin, Lydia Norton and Laura Bruce were asked to play for the U16 competition side. Their contribution saw the U16s progress through to the regional finals of the National Schools Competition and they should be commended for their efforts and skill. Singling out some girls should not, however, detract from the quality of the team as a whole. There is much skill and ability here, which bodes well for the future.

• KH

U15B

P10, W8, D1, L1

he U15Bs had a fantastic season, only losing one game – we even beat Oundle! Sophie Benson joined the School and was a godsend as goalie. Other stalwarts at defence were Lucy Rusling, Livi Clarke, Frances Leung, Alex Bibby and Sophie Palmer, but all the girls, whatever their position, played well and were real assets. This is a team who massively improved throughout the season and now understand how to play as a team and the importance of positioning on the pitch. This is a team who should be aiming to be unbeaten next year!

• CLH

U15C

P8, W4, D1, L3

he U15Cs had a good season, with a particularly strong start, which saw them unbeaten at Exeat.

They were particularly committed in game situations, despite some very hostile weather conditions, and worked hard in training throughout the season. They should be aiming for a lot of success next year.

• EJRN



U15D

P4, L3, D1

Ithough the U15Ds did not actually win a game this season, the scores improved consistently as the games went on and the team grew a lot in confidence. A particular mention needs to go to Valerie Chan, whose speed and determination ran rings around most of our opposition, and Cat Frost, who played every position formidably throughout the season.

• EKO

U14B

P11, W4, D2, L5

he U14Bs began the season with a 1-2 loss against Bloxham, but they soon found their confidence to win 3-0 against Trent (with some excellent play from Hattie Byrne), draw against Cheltenham and win against Bromsgrove. More wins came from our games against Oakham (2-0) and Bedford (1-0). The last game of the season – against Oundle – finished with a 1-2 loss, which by no means reflected the effort of the girls on the pitch.

• LMH & CL

U14A

P12, W7, L5

he U14As started the season well, winning the first match (against Bloxham) 3-0. There were defeats, but we didn't let these dent our confidence and we ended the season with more wins than losses. Our defending was particularly strong and we used the solid hits of Kirti Mehta and Zenga Nyirenda to get the ball up field. The opposition always struggled to put shots past Lottie Harbottle, who also commanded the backs really well. The real highlight of the season was earning the title of County Champions.

U14C

P9, W5, D1, L3

ue to the determination and drive of this year's U14Cs, the team was only beaten a couple of times, and there were some very tough fixtures. Special mention must go to our fantastic forwards, Harriett Bibby, Natalie Houlston and Anna Gibson, who scored an amazing 18 goals in total. The defence only conceded ten goals – a statistic to be proud of. The highlight of the season was undoubtedly the draw against Oundle, where the girls fought to the bitter end.

• Sky Martle (Tu)

• HEG



U14D P7, W2, L5

The U14Ds showed much improvement throughout the hockey season, despite only winning two of their games. The best games were against Oakham and Oundle where, with some excellent goals from our forwards Hermione Bathurst and Meg Stuart and tactical defending from Olivia Unwin, we won 3-0. A few of the girls had never played hockey before, but all the team showed great determination and skill.

• RLA



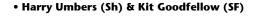
BOYS' HOCKEY

season so successful.

XI P7, W3, D1, L3

> hings got off to a winning start for the XI as they recorded victories over Rugby

Hockey Club and Bloxham during preseason, although any hope for an unbeaten season was dashed after losses to strong Oundle and Oakham sides. A win against Bedford after the disruption of a heavy snowfall buoyed us as we moved towards our half term tour to the Netherlands, where we played at some fantastic venues and where we played magnificent hockey to win all three games, scoring 14 goals and conceding just three. The tour taught us a lot about working under pressure, which we put into practice on our return to school when, 2-0 down against a very strong Repton team, we recovered and won 4-2 - and this is only the second win against Repton by the XI in recent memory. Victory here was followed by a win over Uppingham and a high-scoring draw against Trent. The XI then progressed to the Midlands Finals, with convincing victories against Bablake and being unbeaten in the zonal rounds. The second half of term finished unbeaten, which was a great credit to the players involved. The departing members of the team should be satisfied with their efforts in securing one of the most successful seasons for the XI in recent times and the LXX players should look forward to another successful season next year, with lots of young, nurtured talent coming through the ranks - Charlie Austin, George Lewis, Tom Mourant, Sam Philipson and Jordan Wilson especially. Special mention must go to Mr Dhanda and Mr Bell, who both contributed a huge amount of knowledge, expertise and time to make the





2ND XI

P8, W5, D1, L2

his side was one of the better 2nd XI teams on the circuit this season, and it was fitting that they came second overall in the extremely competitive Midlands Hockey League. The side had genuine resilience, as shown in their very first match (against Oundle), where they came back from 2-0 down to draw the game. They also had quality throughout, from the brilliant saves of Ed Hutchinson in goal through to the speed and energy of George Beard up front. Beard was a leading goal scorer during the season, but the energy of the whole forward line was crucial. There was no lack of energy in the midfield and half back positions, where captain Paul Clarke and Ed Clarke were supported by James Walker (until his promotion to the XI), Ben Pointon, Oli Rowlands and Jamie Dujardin. All these players managed to support the attack as well as fulfil their key defensive roles. As a result of their willingness to work hard for each other, they played genuinely good hockey and were only less effective when they allowed ball speed to decline; but even here their determination made life difficult for any opposition.

• TGB

3RD XI

P7 W2 D3 L2



he 3rd XI had a very impressive season, playing some good hockey based on a rock-solid defence. The season saw only two losses and a third-place finish in the Midlands League - both fantastic achievements. The best performance of the season came in the match against Uppingham, where the team came back from 2-0 down to draw 2-2. Injuries and illness caused a significant number of changes throughout the term, but a strong side finished with a super seven goal win over Lawrence Sheriff School.

NGH

U16A

P6, W1, L5

he U16As got the season off to a good start with a confident 3-0 win against Oundle. All signs pointed to them having a strong season ahead of them but their second match saw them lose 1-0 to Oakham and the one after saw a disappointing 3-1 loss to Bedford. The team produced some brilliant hockey in the match against Repton, with Johnny Woodhead creating many chances for the team to score, but it was not enough, the final score being 5-2 to Repton. The team journeyed to Uppingham for the second round of the regional tournament. They lost narrowly to Trent in their first match, but a convincing 5-1 win in their next match kept their hopes alive for getting into the semi-finals. A win over Repton would have seen them through the group stages of the tournament but again they were beaten, ending their competition hopes. The boys showed great improvement in their skills and tactical awareness throughout the season which will hopefully help them as they move to senior teams next year.

• DLB

U16B

P6, W2, D1, L3

arly victories over Oundle and Bedford and a draw against Oakham got the season off to a good start.

The trough came with a 0-6 drubbing by a well-drilled Repton side. The games against Uppingham and Bromsgrove were competitive affairs, but our early concessions to the opposition were just a little too generous to permit comebacks. Our strengths most certainly lay down the flanks but we leaked too many goals through avoidable defensive errors at the back. High morale however was an ever-present feature of the team, with Matthew Karlslake providing fine leadership in his position as captain.

• PTE

U15A P7, W5, D2

fter their success at U14 in the National Schools
Competition, this group of boys had set themselves
high standards to meet. Without a national
competition for the U15 age group, the focus was on the
Midlands School League. The competition in this league was
incredibly tough, with schools such as Repton, Trent and
Bedford putting out very strong sides. However, the team
never lost their determination to win games, combining this
with a considerable degree of skill to see off all opposition in
an unbeaten season which saw them win the League. There
is a huge amount of potential within this group of boys and,
with focus and hard work, there could be plenty more success
for them in the future.



U15B

P7, W5, D1, L1

he U15Bs made a great start to the season, with a comprehensive 4-0 win away at Oundle, with captain Rory Hunter scoring a decisive hat-trick. Our only loss of the season was to a strong Repton side who converted all their chances. The team showed spirit and character to bounce back days later to defeat a good Uppingham side 6-0. A highlight of the season was the 2-1 victory away at Trent, where the team showed they could win without necessarily playing their best hockey. In each game, both the defence and midfield were very strong. Ed Gable was awarded the title of Most Improved Player, thanks largely to his determined performance in the defeat to Repton.

• Rory Hunter (SH) & Rory Farquharson (SH)

U15C

P7, W3, D2, L2

he U15Cs received some expert coaching from international hockey players throughout the season, resulting in a dramatic improvement in both their individual and team skills. Each of their games was highly competitive and the boys played with great vigour and commitment. The team was very unlucky to draw in the final and most thrilling game against Trent, only conceding a goal to a penalty flick in the last play of the game. All the players contributed much to the team, but the outstanding players were definitely Bob Sandison, Philip Garthwaite and James Hudson.

• MAM

U14A

P8, W3, D1, L4

he season began well for the U14As, with a 5-0 victory away to Princethorpe. But then the weather interrupted the flow of things, leading to losses against Oakham and Bedford. The team beat KES, Birmingham, in a league game and drew against a good Repton side (although this was a match we were leading 3-1 with ten minutes to go). Consecutive defeats to Trent (3-4) and Bromsgrove (2-4) concluded the season. The team is a strong group of players, who impressed throughout the season. Their performance against Bablake (5-1) showed the level of their resolve and team play and their game that day certainly demonstrates their potential for the future.

• KH • GS

U14B

U14E P6, W3, L3

P4, D1, L3

xcept in the game against Repton, which we lost 0-4, the U14Bs faced some fairly evenly-matched oppositions this season and each of the boys played well in some often tight games. Wins were recorded against Oakham, Bedford and Trent, with the boys managing the ball well to slot in some tidy goals. The 1-3 loss in a league game against KES, Birmingham, was disappointing and gives an unfair picture of the boys' play. Losing in the final match of the season to Bromsgrove was also disappointing, but the boys should be proud of their season overall and of how much they have developed as the weeks have gone on. I expect some of these boys to be challenging for places in the A team next year – although there is stiff competition

he U14Es started the season strongly with a draw in their first match against an older team from Oundle. Further fixtures against this side resulted in losses, but the team gained valuable experience from this more experienced side. Used to training and playing on grass, the team were at a disadvantage on astro in their game against Solihull. The boys put in a valiant performance but conceded four goals in the end. Throughout the season, each boy made strides in his own personal performance which he can carry forward to next season.

AIC

• SJB

U14C

there.

P6, W2 D1 L3

he U14Cs had a good season, which saw some narrow losses and two great wins. This was in no small part due to the expert advice of a variety of coaches with international experience who worked with them. Goalkeeper Callum McGuinness was a consistent performer for the team, as were the defensive pair of Charlie Hess and Jack Harwood. The highlight of the season has to be out 3-2 win over Trent, where the boys came from behind to score twice, first with only ten minutes to go and then again in the last minute of the game.

• WDB

U14D

P5, W2, L3

fter initial selection, the U14Ds developed into an enthusiastic team who gave everything all their effort come rain, snow, sub-zero temperatures and eventually sunshine. Goalkeeper Niklas Yoho was regularly put to the test, helping us to good wins against Bromsgrove (6-2) and arch-rivals Bedford (1-0) in what felt like arctic conditions. Captain Saglain Choudhary led a strong attacking line and set the standard for the "power-strike" on goal. The force to be reckoned with in defence was Chris Thomas, who maintained constant pressure on opposition forwards. The toughest opposition this year was Oundle, where we lost 1-6 - but we did score the only goal they conceded all season!

AMM





ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL

XI P12, W9, L3

he XI began with a pre-season tournament against Bromsgrove,
Oakham and Uppingham. This proved to be a successful outing for the squad, with impressive victories over all three opponents. The season proper began with a block fixture against Loughborough Grammar School. Toby Bell broke the offside trap to slot in his sixth goal in only four games. Three more goals followed and with a strong and a sharp performance up front, a solid defensive base, and a productive midfield, the team won 4-1. More victories followed – against Stowe (3-1) and in a Cup fixture against Radley (2-0) – before an unconfident start and poor defence saw the team lose 1-2 to St Edward's, Oxford.

The game against the ORs is always keenly contested, and no less so this year, as the XI faced the strongest OR side in recent memory. The ORs got off to a flying start with a

goal in the first five minutes from former XI captain Beau Carney (T, 00-06), but after some good play on the left between Jamie Marshall and Marcus Hunter, it was Bell who was on hand again to slot in a rebound to net his ninth goal of the



season. As the second half got under way, both teams looked relatively dangerous, the ORs manufacturing a couple of opportunities only for their efforts to be denied by the heroic exploits of Harry Badwan in goal. Later on in the second half, Rugby extended their lead through some good vision from Freddie Embleton and Bell, which led to a lovely placed finish by Hunter out on the left hand side of the penalty area. The final score was 3-1 to the XI.

After half term, the XI played a Cup fixture against Bromsgrove, which Rugby won towards the end of the game with a corner by Sam Johnson headed in by Embleton. The team then had a tricky away game against Oundle. Rugby deservedly took the lead as Johnson found Marshall who smartly pulled the ball back to Embleton who blasted it past the keeper. A good second half failed to produce any goals and Rugby came away with a very satisfying win. Rugby rarely threatened in the final game of the season, away against St Albans, who exploited weakness at the back to take a 0-3 victory. But to Rugby's credit they fought to the very last whistle, which was greeted by cheers from the home faithful.

Alex Johnson (M), Callum Grier (C)
 & Freddie Embleton (C)



2ND XI

P6, W4, L2

Douncebackability was a phrase coined by a famous ex-professional footballer turned pundit and one which aptly describes the 2nd XI's season this year, as highlighted in the first match (against Loughborough Grammar School) where, after conceding two goals in under two minutes, they clawed their way back into the game to level the score 3-3, only for the referee to award a penalty in the dying moments which the opposition converted. Throughout the season, Malique Zephar and Theo Gough made up a formidable partnership, and Seb Jenks kept goal quite brilliantly, allowing stability in the defence. The midfield engine room is normally powered by four cylinders,

but an inability amongst the cylinders here to fire for an entire game led the coaches to tinker with the system between 4-1-4-1 and 4-4-2 in order to try and find the best balance between the left foot of Jacob Gilder, the touches of Ollie Skailes, the determination of Tommy Blystad and the footballing nous of Matthew Tabor. Tabor deserves special mention as a utility player capable of operating effectively at right back, playing the anchor role, or sometimes the box to box player. Danny Volkenstein was an improved player from

last season; he claims he was only denied a well-deserved hattrick against Oakham by a dodgy decision. However, he was rewarded with an end of season soirée with the XI which was much deserved.

• TWR & PWD

3RD XI

P5, W1, D1, L3

osing the first game of the season to Radley dented the 3rd XI's motivation. Rugby dominated the second game (against Oakham) but could only manage a 2-2 draw. This was a frustrating result, as many individuals displayed skill and determination. It was pleasing to see Steve Fernandes and Boris Tsang adding pace and accuracy to the link up play here. The solitary victory came at home to Abingdon, where the team won 3-2. Grant Cumming at right back tackled hard and George Shone headed away many dangerous balls from the centre of defence. Overall, the season was an entertaining one, and although results did not quite go Rugby's way in the remaining two matches, a good time was had by all involved.

• Stephan Voinea (W)

4[™] **XI**

P3, W1, D1, L1

he 4th XI's football this season was attractive and very much in the modern style: short accurate passing in possession and the ability to break at pace. Will Roberts captained the side and was a calm and efficient presence in the centre of defence. There were some excellent individual performances, including Henry Holmes' blistering pace on the right wing and Fergus Carmichael displaying excellent skill and movement behind the front two. The award of Player of the Season goes to Daniel Makarov. His goalkeeping displayed great bravery and, whether berating his defence or congratulating a goal, he always brought a smile to the rest of the team.

• PJB

U16A P5, W5

his is the first unbeaten season I have had in the 15 years I have been running U16 soccer. I only regret that the weather denied us a further four games because I believe we would have gone on and won these games too, as the only team that managed to run us close was Abingdon (a new fixture), where we won 2-1 with a late goal. The team's best performances were against Loughborough Grammar School on a perfect pitch, with a score of 7-2, and the trouncing of Oundle 9-0 on our own first team pitch. The team consistently played free-flowing, attacking football which was attractive to watch from the side-lines.

• JCE

U16B P4, W1, L3

he U16Bs' season could not have started better, with an impressive 1-2 victory against Loughborough Grammar School. In the first half our midfield and attack dominated: Craig McGuinness pulled the strings; Adam Smith and Henry Hudson used their pace to create numerous opportunities; and Archie Hughes scored two fine goals. The second half was a more even contest, but Kelvin Wong, Alex Lawson-May, Miles Wheatland and Luke McManus were solid in defence. Loughborough Grammar still managed to create a couple of good goal scoring chances, but Harry Rawicz-Szczerbo made a number of wonderful saves to secure a well-deserved win. Unfortunately, poor weather disrupted the rest of the season. We managed only three more fixtures in the next two and half months; we lost all three. The final fixture against Oundle was a close affair: two first half goals from Smith put us in a commanding position, but Oundle battled back, scoring three goals in reply. We were then "robbed" by an incompetent referee (me!) who failed to spot an obvious handball in the penalty area. Had the penalty been awarded and converted a draw would have been a fairer result.



U15A

P6, W2, D1, L3

school in the first game of the season brought us to our senses and we replied with a pleasing 4-1 victory away at Radley followed by a hard-fought 3-1 home victory against Oundle. Bedford narrowly beat us but Abingdon were just too strong in every position and we lost 0-7. In the final fixture away at Bromsgrove, everything was miserable – the weather, the spectators and the football. We scored early, failed to capitalise and the eventual draw was inevitable. Joe Phillips was a feisty captain with a real passion for the game; Vova Semenyaka scored seven goals in six matches; Ollie Bacon, the would-be Ronaldo of the side, teased defences and assisted well; and Ben Neuendorf was an unsung hero in goal, even if statistics might suggest otherwise.

• NDJ

U15B

P5, L5

f cancelled matches count as 0-0 results, the team finished the season with more points than they started with.

Richard Coombs scored the goal of the season, a screamer from 30 yards. James Binks showed a captain's resolve, boosting moral on some of the coldest winter afternoons.

Daniel Peet and Matthew Erhardt both kept goal and towards the end of the season were stopping more shots than not.

Player of the Season was George Creed, sadly lost to the A team for the final games.

• EGT

• JDW





NETBALL

VII

P9, W2, D1, L6

he VII's season this year was one of the most competitive seasons of netball that Rugby School has ever experienced. Strengthened from their tour of Australia the previous summer, the VII were keen to make a good start. Still, it took until week three for the team to secure their first win. In many matches the score line was determined by one or two goals. A highlight of the season was a draw against Uppingham, where Rugby came from behind and fought to the end. Special mention must go to the most improved player, Emma Lawrence, and captain Issie Wrigley, who together created a formidable defence which strengthened dramatically throughout the season. Player of the Season Zara Thornton also proved herself to be a talented netballer.

• HEG

2ND VII P8, W8

he 2nd VII improved hugely throughout the season; even when defeating the opposition by a large margin they constantly worked hard, putting what they had learned into practice. Being undefeated does not mean they had an easy season: they came up against a number of very physical oppositions, who also tested them psychologically. This is no more true than of the game against Trent, where the teams were goal for goal until the second half when Rugby worked together to win the game – with plenty of encouragement, drive and support on and off the court. Not only did the team as a whole develop over the season but so did each player – well done, girls!

• HEG

3RD VII

P7, W3, D1, L3

he 3rd VII didn't have an easy start to the season, with two early losses. Then Franny, our defensive TOWERS of strength, was claimed by the seconds. SWABY it was time for the other defenders to prove their true WIRTH. The snow WALILAYed the next two matches so we didn't play again till just before Exeat when we drew with Tudor Hall, despite great tenacity and WILSONpower on display from the team. Cheltenham awaited us next. WATTS going on? Hebe is lying on the floor, swearing a lot and forcing some poor man to touch her sweaty sock. The injury was a great shame because the girls were playing their best netball of the season, and were complimented by the Cheltenham coach for the way they behaved and played. In the match against Trent, Rosie SHONE with her sharp shooting and Millie was BYRNE-ing up the centre court. It was a tall order and a huge effort of WILLIAMS to play two matches on the last competitive day of the season so a win and a loss was a pleasing result. Girls, you have been great this season. You should all take a BOUGHEY.



4TH VII

P5, W5

Oundle's 3rd VII in the very last game. Apart from one tight match (where they won by just six goals against another 3rd team) the 4ths beat all opposition by an average of 22 goals. The team was very ably captained by Issie Hollands and Poppy Mostyn-Owen, both of whom have now played their last matches – they will certainly be a great loss to Rugby School netball.

• CLH

5TH VII

P6, W5, D1

he 5th VII's unbeaten season was sadly undone on a snowy Tuesday just before Exeat, despite being in the lead at the end of the third quarter. Was it the fact that we had all thought the game would be off, only to find ourselves in the Tudor Hall gymnasium? Was it the warmth inside after we had specifically geared our training to cold conditions? Was it the vocal support from the opposition coach that put us off? Was it that Tudor Hall were better than us? This loss apart, the team had an excellent season, with pleasing wins over our traditional enemies (Oundle, Uppingham and Oakham) as well as over Princethorpe and Cheltenham. Those of you who have been following Mr Price's netball coaching career closely will know that he particularly likes to beat Oakham after a very tight away loss with the 4th VII back in 2008. Why he is now in charge of the 5th VII is another story, but the girls certainly responded well to his rousing team talk at the end of the third quarter to see off the Oakham comeback and win 21-19.

• HWP

6TH VII

P4, W4

he 6th VII this year was made up of members of the D block, LXX and XX, all with different levels of ability, interest and enthusiasm. For a team that was so loosely grouped we managed an undefeated season. The highlight of the season was playing on the 1st VII court as often as possible as we tried to hone our skills by proximity.

PJS

U15A

P7, W3, L4

he U15As started the season against one of our hardest opponents, Oakham. Although we played well, the final score did not reflect Rugby's possession of the ball nor our good skills. Our second match saw us beat Uppingham 34-24; wins were also recorded against Cheltenham (33-11) and King's High, Warwick (15-11). One of our most physical games was against Wellingborough, who pulled through at the end to win 17-22. Our final matches saw losses to Oundle (14-23) and Sedburgh (10-13). Despite these losses we improved hugely as a team as the season went on.

• Beatrix Lohn (S)

U15B

P5, W4, D1

he U15Bs were able always to raise their game when they needed to, meaning that they finished the season unbeaten. In the very last match it looked as though there might be a frustrating end to their successful run, but their determination to remain undefeated saw an all-important goal in the last minute to maintain their record. In every match the shooters were consistent, the centre court players all worked so hard to get the ball into the circle and the defence was formidable.





U15C

P6, W5, L1

rom the very start of the season, the U15Cs worked together with determination and strength; as a result we lost only one of our six matches. Our most impressive match was against Cheltenham, where we won 38-1. Because we were winning against Cheltenham by such a margin, at the end of the second quarter we swapped positions so centre court players were shooters and shooters were defenders. Even when we were playing these different positions we still managed to work as a unit and play at our usual standard. Our last match of the season was against Oundle. It was a close and tense match but when the final whistle sounded we were one gaol up at 14.

• Alex Bibby (Tu)

· јо **U15D**

P6, W2, D1, L3

he U15Ds had a squad of 14 girls, meaning a good number of girls got the chance to play in matches and to represent the School. We found ourselves up against some tough competition and had to work hard in every match, however thanks to a few very useful shooters (Syndney Anton, Laura Firth, Chrysti Wright particularly) we managed to keep games interesting. We even achieved a notable win against Oakham! The team was well lead by their captain Phoebe Read and should be proud of the improvement they made over the term.

• RKMC

U14A

P7, W4, L3

he U14As had a slow start to the season, coming third in the County Tournament and losing our first match. But we managed to turn things round, winning against Princethorpe, and then against Wellingborough, Trent and Sedburgh. We lost against Oakham and Uppingham, but only in very close games. We lost our last match to a strong Oundle team, which was a shame, given how hard we were playing. The team gained strength throughout the season and were never put off by the typical English weather.

Ella Sturley (S)

U14B

P6, W4, D1, L1

he U14Bs started with an excellent 27-11 win against Oakham away, with great shooting from Bea Mostyn-Owen. This was followed by more wins, against Princethorpe, Cheltenham and Trent. The team played well against Uppingham away, finishing a close-fought contest 11-11. After an unbeaten season so far, the team faced Oundle for the final game. Despite working hard together, and the excellent centre court play from Zoe Summers, they experienced their first loss 9-24.



• CL **U14F**

P7, W7

P5, W3, L2

U14C

he U14Cs had a fantastic season, proving themselves superior to all their opposition from the off with a convincing 22-11 win against Oakham. A lot rested on the final game of the season against Oundle. Here, for the first time in any game, the team was down by one goal in the third quarter. Never a side to let their heads drop, the girls dug deep to score an amazing ten goals in the final ten minute guarter to win the match 22-16. The U14Cs have been a real pleasure to coach all season and there was a really good team spirit between all the players and plenty of encouragement from the sidelines from those who were off.

SSP

U14D

P6, W2, D1, L3

he U14Ds had a season of consistent improvement, as the girls learned to rely on one another and to work as a team. The 21-1 win against Wellingborough has to be the season highlight, although the girls probably played their best netball against Trent (despite a sprained ankle, a broken finger and a collision with the post). Jasmine Selby really stepped up to the mark as the season progressed. Sophie Killick scored a lot of very difficult goals. Emma Thomas showed excellent team spirit, playing through all kinds of injuries in almost every position.

• EKO

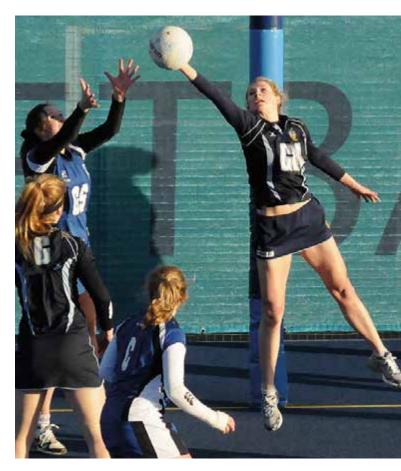
U14E

P6, W2, L4

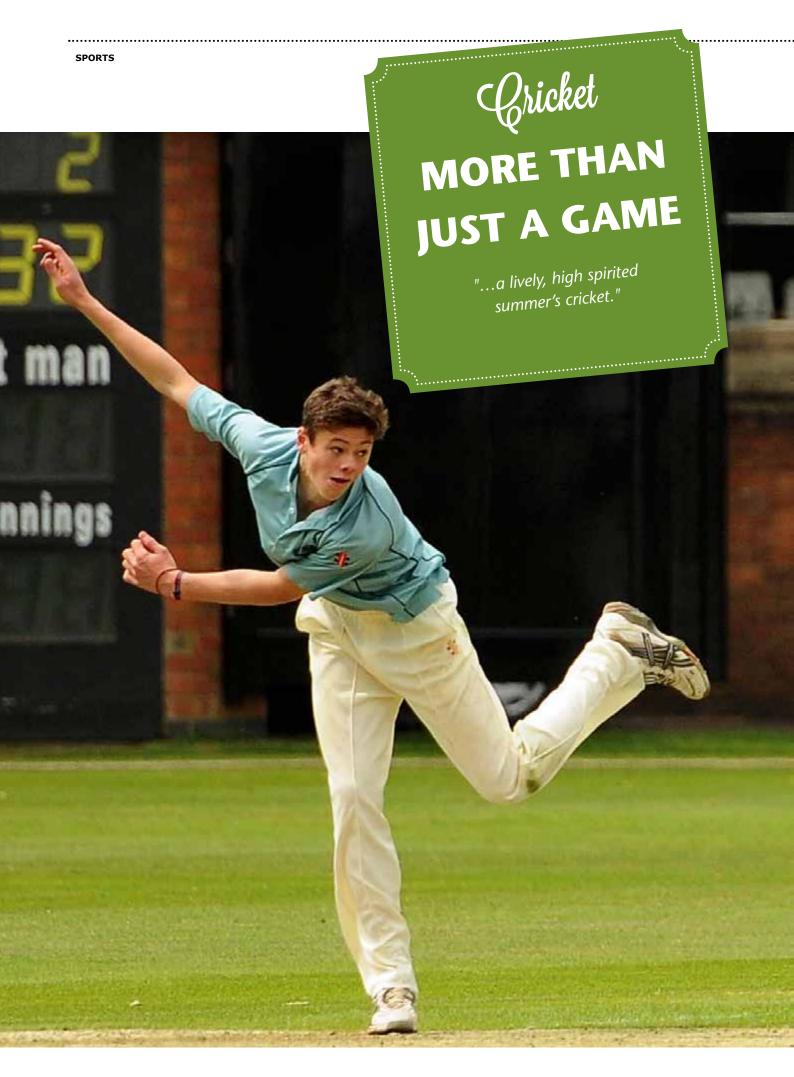
he U14Es developed significantly during the season and each girl should be pleased with her individual progress as a player. The team developed an especially good level of fluency when passing in the central area, with Meg Stuart, Hermione Bathurst, Róisín Goodall and Ellie Shepherd all playing well. Solid defensive play was seen from Esther McLaughlin, Katherine Johns, Naomi Cook and Emily Gower.

he U14F netball team has had a very productive and successful season. Although the actual number of victories in matches was limited, the girls' individual achievements and successes were many. Anastasiia Kurguzova and Molly Hammond both joined us from international schools and made exponential progress with learning the positions, in-bounds areas, rules, tactics and skills. Katya Clarkson and Olivia Unwin worked very well together in defence, assisted by Isobel Thompson and Hattie Sumpter-Reynolds. Lizzie Raynsford and Jasmine Ho scored almost every goal they went for, and the centre court girls worked tirelessly to feed the ball into the circle.

• RPK & CAO



ADT



CRICKET

XI

P19, W11, D5, L3

ollowing the successful tour of India, the season started on a high with excellent wins against Tamworth, Oundle (in a T20 fixture) and MCC in the first week. The wickets were good and the boys made the most of the conditions, scoring over 300 against Tamworth, setting nearly 200 against Oundle and chasing 184 against MCC. Robbie Povey scored heavily and was ably supported by Jacob Gilder, Will Briggs, Kit Goodfellow and the captain, Paul Clarke.

Having been bowled out cheaply at St Edward's, Oxford, by Miles Hammond, the England U19 off spinner, the Radley game the next day was a thriller. Having bowled Radley out for 182, Rugby got themselves in a strong position, but could not quite reach the target, finishing on 170 for 8. All results were possible in the last over and this clearly demonstrates how important it is for schools to continue to play timed cricket.

Following another good T20 performance against Warwick, where Briggs and Povey dominated from the start, the weather then changed and the wickets became greener and more difficult to bat on. Up until this point our spinners had taken a majority of the wickets; Gilder with his left arm spin had already taken 13 wickets and Clarke and Povey bowling leg spin had taken 15 between them.

Oundle's wicket was green and soft and on winning the toss Clarke elected to bowl. Within minutes it was clear it was the right decision as Oundle were reeling at 5 for 4. Matthew Karslake produced an exceptional display of seam bowling, taking 5 for 18 off 18 overs; he was ably supported by Bertie-Bennett-Jones. Oundle were eventually dismissed for 96 and Rugby won by 8 wickets. The following week, against Stowe, Clarke won the toss again and chose to bowl. On another seaming wicket Karslake bowled even better than at Oundle and took 5 for 10 off 15 overs. Stowe were dismissed for 79 and Rugby won comfortably.

The MCS game followed a similar pattern, as they were dismissed for 103, but this time it was Johnny Woodhead bowling left arm

spin who took the key wickets. Gilder made another 50 in an easy run chase and Rugby won again by 8 wickets. At Uppingham the wicket was hard and good and what followed was quite extraordinary: after a fairly slow start Goodfellow came in at number 4 and promptly started to dispatch the Uppingham bowlers to all corners of the ground. When Rugby declared half an hour after lunch on 266 for 2, Goodfellow had made a chanceless 154 not out off fewer than 100 balls. Goodfellow's timing and shot selection were exemplary in what was likely to be an innings of a lifetime. In declaring so early, Rugby gave themselves long enough to bowl Uppingham out and although Uppingham attempted to chase the total they were eventually bowled out for 155.

With such form behind the XI there were high hopes for the two-day match against Marlborough. In the first innings, Rugby declared on 245 for 7, with Goodfellow scoring 51 and Povey a quick and powerful 81. Marlborough were eventually bowled out for a slow 211, with Karslake taking 3 for 37 and Gilder 4 for 76. The Rugby second innings was dominated by another display of clean hitting from Goodfellow, who made an important 71. Sam Phillipson's run-a-ball 28 enabled Rugby to declare on 162 for 7, setting Marlborough under 200 in 50 overs. Sadly the rain came and the game finished in another draw.

Trent arrived at Rugby having had a good season, but were spellbound by the swinging ball of Bennett-Jones and Karslake. They were dismissed for an astonishing 30 and the game was over before lunch. The final three matches were played at the Malvern Festival. A disappointing first game against Blundell's was followed by a hard-fought draw against Malvern (who arguably are the best public school side in the country), and a final comprehensive victory against Downside, where Bennett-Jones took 5 for 49, Gilder made 101 and Clarke made 64.

Clarke captained the side well throughout the summer and marshalled his troops with aplomb. Gilder, the top wicket taker and highest run scorer, matured as a cricketer as the season progressed and thoroughly deserved his success. Goodfellow scored heavily; his 154* was certainly one of the highlights of the summer. Povey had a very strong start to the season and finished with over 500 runs; this shows real



SPORTS

promise for the future. Briggs sadly broke his finger at the start of the season and was unable to recapture his early season form, but he is a very exciting prospect and will relish the opportunity to captain the XI next year. The seam bowling was spearheaded by Karslake; his 33 wickets at 14 was exceptional for a boy in the D block. Bennett-Jones had a slow start to the season. However he finished his School career on a high with 29 wickets at 17 – a notable achievement.

Next year will be a very different side, but there is much promise with Briggs, Povey, Jack Rosser, Phillipson and Woodhead returning.



ΧI

P.G. Clarke, J.D. Gilder, W.J. Briggs, C.R.D. Goodfellow, R.J. Povey, H.E.A. Umbers, J.P. Rosser, S.M. Phillipson, A.G. Bennett-Jones, T.W.T. Latham, J.H. Woodhead, M.W. Karslake.

MJSE

XI Averages

Batting							Bowling							
	Innings	Runs	Not outs	Average	50	100		Overs	Maidans	Runs	Wickets	Average		
J.D. Gilder	19	594	6	45.69	5	1	J. D. Gilder	190	35	641	35	18.31		
C.R.D. Goodfellov	w 16	567	3	43.62	5	1	M. W. Karslake	159	38	465	33	14.09		
R.J. Povey	17	540	3	38.57	5		A. G. Bennett-Jones	136	17	496	29	17.1		
W.J. Briggs	14	408	0	29.14	4		P. G. Clarke*	88	13	341	22	15.5		
P.G. Clarke*	18	404	7	36.73	2		J. H. Woodhead	68	9	226	14	16.14		
S.M. Phillipson	7	122	4	40.67			R. J. Povey	87	9	379	11	34.45		
J.P. Rosser	8	85	2	14.17										
A.G. Bennett-Jone	s 5	42	3	21.00										
H.E.A. Umbers	8	32	1	4.57										

XXII P8, W4, L4 3RD XI P6 W2 L4

ith a number of players pushing for places in the XI, a lot was expected of the XXII this season. Overall, the team performed well, with some great individual performances early on, such as Sam Phillipson's century against St Edward's, Oxford, to win us a tense run chase from a position of 3-7 after four overs. Each of the players grew as cricketers, and especially Marcus Hunter, who perfected a well-disguised slower ball. Johnny Woodhead's move up to the XI was well deserved after success with both the bat and the ball. Arguably the best team effort came when defending a low total against Stowe, where clean hitting from Charlie Bruce and Freddie Embleton pushed our total from 49-6 to 116 all out.

An enjoyable season ended with a typically tense game at Trent. The team managed to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory: a technical half-century from Guy Lough set up a run chase nicely, but some extraordinary shot and run decisions cost the team eight wickets for 14 runs!

• Theo Gough (M)

omfortable early victories over Wyggeston and Stowe suggested the 3rd XI were a team that could go on to win most, if not all, of the rest of their games. However, poor batting and bowling at key intervals in the other matches meant we were defeated more frequently than we should have been. Seb Walker was the pick of the bowling attack, collecting wickets on a regular basis. George Beard and Guy Franklin scored half centuries along the way.

• AJN

4TH **XI** P2, L2

St Edward's, Oxford. After winning the toss, Rugby made the wise decision to bat first on a flat pitch.

Less wise were the various choices of stroke which brought us to a mediocre total of 75 all out. When Johnnie Martin seized a catch behind the wicket in the first over, the side were hopeful of a possible win. A series of dropped catches, however, squandered Rugby's chances as the opposition

motored towards an easy victory. The next game was against Oundle. Rugby put on a somewhat more respectable total of 101-6 here, largely thanks to Ed Krarup, whose classy 49 took us past the hundred milestone. Early wickets in the second innings for Krarup and Ollie Colville seemed to unnerve the opposition. Their efforts were hampered by intermittent rain delays. Whilst our 102 target was met within a few overs, Rugby's spirits always remained high in the field. Unfortunately, the last match of the season was abandoned since Stowe's bus never

arrived. Whether by accident or a deliberate boycott, this marked a sad end to what was a lively, high-spirited summer's cricket.

• AJD

U15A

P15, W9, L6

fter a successful pre-season tour to Dubai, the U15As got things off to a good start and maintained a strong momentum throughout the season, recording nine match wins, third place in the MCS T20 Tournament and victory in the Warwickshire T20 Trophy. Perhaps the greatest match highlight was the victory over Stowe. Chasing a daunting 193 to win, we reached the target with the loss of only one wicket. James Cutter (64 not out) and Henry Bradshaw (37) put on 79 for the first wicket and then Cutter and Sam Pougatch (51 not out) saw us home with a partnership of 115. Another notable victory was secured against Warwick, although it seemed unlikely that we would win when we were reduced to 23-6. An excellent big hitting partnership of 68 between Arthur Umbers (30) and Ed Cattermole (93 not out) followed by one of 66 between Cattermole and Henry Whittley (6 not out) saw us reach an impressive 173. A tight bowling display completed the victory.

Cutter captained the side and led from the front, scoring 426 runs, and taking 15 wickets and 10 catches. Pougatch topped the bowling charts with 19 wickets and also scored 387 runs. Whittley was unlucky not to pick up more than his 16 wickets. In addition to his often pyrotechnic batting George Romain collected 17 wickets.

• Ed Cattermole (M)

U15B

P11, W5, L6

he season began away to a strong St Edward's, Oxford, where despite the 41 scored by captain Jack Beere and George Creed's 3-18, Rugby lost by five wickets. The team responded well to this defeat with a convincing display against Warwick School, where Anto Woodhead's 60 with the



bat and Harry Leadsom's figures of 3-10 led the side to a 40 run victory. Successive defeats to Oundle and Stowe followed before an outstanding performance away to Malvern saw Rugby win by four wickets. The topsy-turvy rhythm of the season continued after half term. Victory against Wellingborough was followed by defeats to Uppingham and Loughborough. Against a strong Repton side, Rugby were six wickets down and 50 runs short of their target when Tom Gregory came to the crease. Six overs of his big hitting brought Rugby close to the win before runs from the final ball of the day gave the team a precious one-run victory. This was followed by a convincing win over Trent to end the season on a high.

• **GS**

U14A

P15, W10, T1, L4

he U14As had good season, winning the majority of their matches and ending with a win in the county final. Ed Beard captained the side well and made the most runs. Others who scored important runs included Ed Robinson, Tris Astley-Jones, Wills Hatton and Jonnie Fagan. Billy Feather would have made runs had he not suffered an unfortunate injury early in the season. Most of the seam bowling was done by Fagan, Astley-Jones and Maia Bouchier, all with a good deal of accuracy. The spin bowling was effective, with Robinson bowling slow left arm and Beard bowling off breaks. In the county final, Beard and Robinson put on 50 for the first wicket. Wickets started to fall but there was then a crucial fifth wicket partnership between Ollie Rogerson and Fagan, with Rogerson top scoring with 38. It was an unorthodox innings but vital at the time. The opposition were well-placed chasing our total of 138, losing their second wicket on 77. At this stage Astley-Jones and Bouchier bowled 13 overs between them for only 27 runs. This put the opposition well-behind the clock and wickets then fell rapidly, largely due to Fagan who took five. A margin of 27 runs was pretty fortunate but it was the 13 overs for 27 runs that turned the game in our favour.

• PJR

U14B

U14C P11, W5, L6

P7, W3, L4

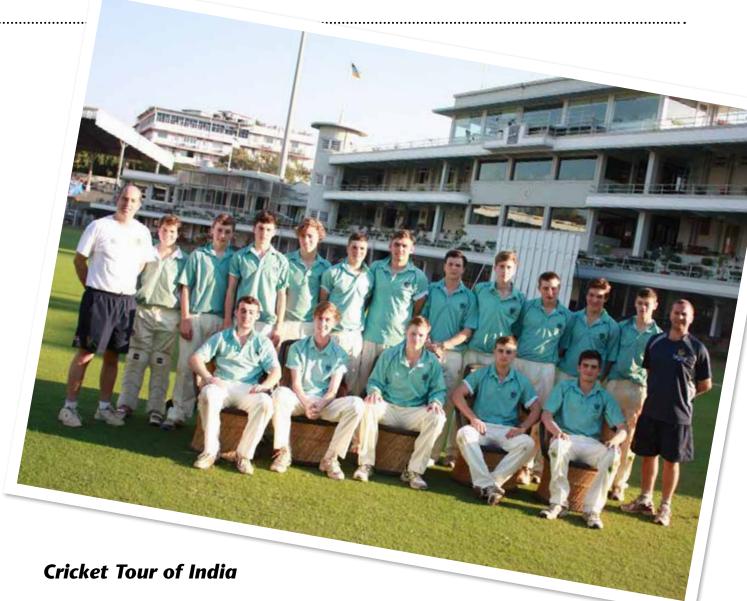
his was narrowly a losing season for the U14Bs, but the emphasis here should be on the significant potential shown by all the team. There were many impressive wins, including a famous narrow victory against Malvern on the Close. The low point must be the seven dropped catches in the match against Stowe. Captain James Sibley improved throughout the season and towards the end gained plaudits from both staff and pupils for his tactical nous. Saqlain Choudhary was the Player of the Season, possessing a Sobersesque range of abilities - well, perhaps with the exception of fielding! Whether he needed big hitting, technical defence, swing, seam or off-spin, Choudhary was the man the captain turned to. Watch out for this one in Wisden.

his year's U14Cs was the most successful C team at Rugby in the last few years. Crucial was the victory in the first match of the season against St Edward's, Oxford, where the team scored an impressive 183, then bowled out the opposition for 82, with Tora Shimada and Jack Harwood taking three wickets apiece. This gave the players self-belief, and the collective attitude in training suddenly became much more serious and focused. In subsequent matches, we won against MCS and Trent, and lost against Oundle, Stowe, Uppingham and Repton. Player of the Season was Brett Edmondson, who scored a great 50 against Oundle and who was the leading wicket-taker with 10 wickets. Special mention should also go to the excellent Tommy Kwan, who, never having played cricket before, typified the mood of this enthusiastic and determined team; a late replacement in the first match, he became a permanent fixture.

• PJB

JOS





he tour of India must be considered a success, both in terms of the cricket played and the cultural experience for the 16 playing members of the touring squad and members of staff. Encouragingly, many of those who travelled were in the D block, which bodes well for the future, while the tour undoubtedly benefited the more experienced players in the LXX and XX. The standard of cricket was very high and at all times the Indian tradition of fierce competition was upheld. The XI performed admirably in managing to secure an overall record of four impressive victories, a particularly thrilling tie and two defeats.

Culturally, we caught a glimpse of all forms of Indian society. In Mumbai, our first port of call, we witnessed the anarchy that daily engulfs one of the world's most densely populated cities: the streets were packed with a multitude of cars, cows and rickshaws, with chaos everywhere. Our subsequent 16-hour train journey from Mumbai to Jaipur was another experience that many of us will never forget, with some being unaccustomed to the luxury provided and the constant procession of Indians trying to sell us English ice cream until the middle of the night. In Jaipur the visit to the Amer Fort was incredible and all members of the party took an elephant ride. Our stay in the Ranthambore National Park gave us the chance to see the beauty of the Indian countryside. We were privileged to go on two tiger safaris, but unfortunately we failed to catch a glimpse of the elusive Bengal tiger. The true

cultural highlight of the tour was undoubtedly seeing the Taj Mahal – this was an exerience none of us will ever forget.

In terms of the cricket played, the tour was an invaluable experience. The pitches we played on varied from the sublime Brabourne stadium in Mumbai, a former Test cricket ground, where the England touring side had played only a few weeks previously, to the unorthodox Hindu Gymkhana, the sight of the first Test match between India and England in 1933, where half the outfield consisted of dust. It was not only, however, the grounds that we played at which expanded our cricketing knowledge, but also the opposition we came up against. At both the Braburne stadium, playing against the C.C.I., and in Delhi, playing against the Delhi Public Schools, we faced two outstanding batsmen, whose explosive batting gave us an example of how to construct an innings. Yet facing these highly skilled players inspired the best in the team. Will Briggs topped the batting averages, scoring 130 at an average of 26, including a fine innings of 50 not out against Neerja Modi Academy in Jaipur. Charlie Bruce became the tour's leading wicket taker, claiming nine scalps, with tour best figures of 3 for 12 coming against Neerja Modi.

Toby Latham (SF)



BOYS' TENNIS

he term started with a very productive pre-season weekend led by our school professional, Jamie Taylor. Prospects for the term looked fair, with the main hopes resting on a good and positive senior group and on the U15 VI. The 1st VI enjoyed good wins against Uppingham, Shrewsbury and Oakham. There was also a drawn match with Stowe and one defeat against a strong Oundle VI. The team was usually made up of Edward Clarke, Ollie Skailes, James Walker, James Hingley, Zach Chadwick and Ben Wilmot-Sitwell; four of these return next year. One disappointment was that the captain, Josh Passmore, was out injured for the entire term, and that was particularly unlucky as he had worked really hard with Jamie through the winter. The 2nd VI was unbeaten and we have high hopes for LXX players such as Ollie Rowlands and Theo Chadwick next year. The U16 teams had a few matches before study leave and their GCSEs. The first pair of Will Naul and Craig McGuinness was the most successful combination in the

team. The U15A VI were unbeaten in the regular season and are the great hope for the future. However, the boys were given a reality check by a very strong Warwick team in the Aegon Knock-Out Trophy. Ewan Rowlands, Nick Colbourne, Philip Garthwaite, Richard Coombs and Martin Mekushin are the mainstays of this group and have come on well under Jamie's expert guidance. The U14s had a better season than we thought they might, being well led by the first pair of Ben Skailes and Jamie Harvey, who were consistently competitive despite their final set shocker at Oakham. The ISLTA Competition at Eton saw a mixed set of results. Every group had some success, but we tended to give away key points and leads all too easily. Thus there are some changes

that need to be made to the way that the teams train and that will begin from September with the Thursday

tennis group. In short we need to develop more of a competitive edge and find a way to win more readily.

So, all in all, it has been a season of progress despite the vagaries of the weather. It was not so much the rain, as the wind and cold that hampered training in the first half of term. We lost the chance to play on the grass at MCS for the second year in a row owing to a downpour, but at least no-one mentioned a drought this time round...

• PWD





GIRLS' TENNIS

he 1st VI had some impressive victories this season against Uppingham, Trent, Shrewsbury and Bromsgrove. They also finished the season on a high with victory against Oundle in mixed doubles. The pressures of the public exam season meant that we were regularly without our full team, but even so there were some very close fixtures, notably against Repton and Stowe. This season we said goodbye to captain Issy Schlee, who has played in the 1st VI since the E block. She has been ably assisted by Amy Green and Laura Gordon-Lennox, who have played for the 1st VI throughout their time in the Upper School. The 2nd and 3rd VIs also had good seasons. The 2nds played particularly well, winning against Uppingham, Trent, Repton, Bromsgrove and Stowe before a final loss to Oakham. A number of this team return to Rugby next year and we look forward to them challenging for places in the 1sts. The 3rds really should have beaten Repton but the final score (4-5) shows how tight the game was.

In the Lower School, the U16s played well, despite the pressures of public exams, with particularly strong performances from the first pair of Millie Richards and Katie Holloway and from Kate Constable-Maxwell and Georgie Colborne. A bit more bite is

needed in this year group, with the girls coming up to play at the net more often and generally being more aggressive – with these things in mind, they will make a formidable opposition next year. At U15 level, first pair Lydia Norton and Ocky Spray won all but one of their fixtures, playing consistently throughout the season. Losses in this age group were more often down to bad luck than mistakes in play – fingers crossed, then, for next year! The U14s showed themselves to be a good team, with many skills and much promise for the future. We look

forward to nurturing the

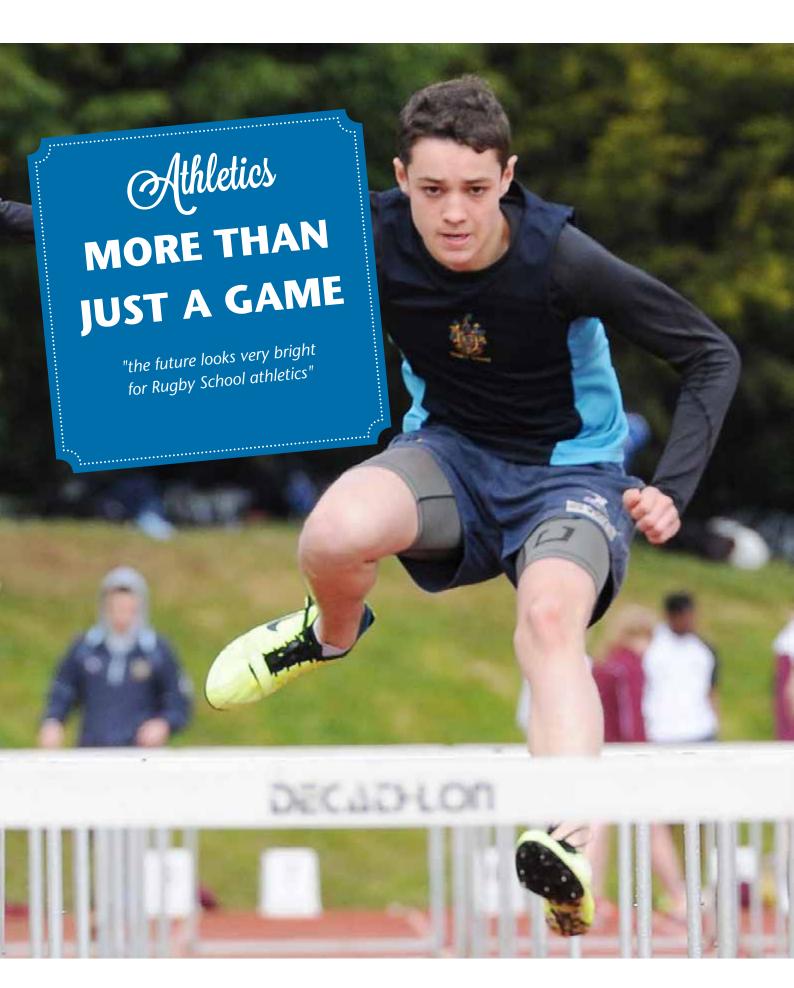
talent here and seeing some quality tennis over the years to come.

In the ISLTA Competition at Eton, the senior girls played some excellent tennis to advance through the main draw before finally losing to Millfield. The highlight was the convincing victory of first pair La Toya Francis and Alice Williams over Repton, whom we had lost to earlier in the season. At junior level, Georgie Gooch and Philippine de Cardes had a good run in the plate competition. First pair Lydia Norton and Ocky Spray successfully made it into the shield competition

before losing in the third round to a strong pair from Whittington. Overall, the girls put up a good display in what was a very enjoyable few days of tennis.

• KH





ATHLETICS

he athletics team had a good start to the season at the Radley Relays, where we won medals in the 4x100m and in the medley relays. At the national Achilles Relays, we again did well, making several finals, including the 4x400m, 4x200m and 4x100m. Still, we were disappointed to come away with no individual titles. As we moved through the season it was good to see the team's performances remain strong and it is greatly to the team's credit that we were consistently in the top three teams at all the meetings we attended. A real highlight here was the Warwickshire Schools Championships, where the number of titles we won went into double figures and covered a whole range of different events. Various members of the team were picked to compete at the Mason Trophy, where Harry Sutherland won the shot put.

Throughout the season, the team performed well in national competitions, with five pupils making the National Schools Championships, televised live on Sky Sports. Rob Sutherland finished seventh in the triple jump; Harry Sutherland finished fourth in the shot put; and Michael Suddaby ran a string of personal bests to qualify for the final of the 300m - an exceptional achievement given the fact he had only started training three months previously. Tim Kerr-Chin jumped a big personal best to finish fourth in the long jump, and Oli Bradfield won a superb bronze medal in the javelin, despite still recovering from injury. On the back of his performances this year, Kerr-Chin has been selected to compete for England Midlands at the UK School Games against international teams from Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Sutherland has qualified for the National Combined Events Championships, where he will look to secure his third successive England vest. Bradfield finishes the season with the furthest javelin throw in the UK in his age group in 2013. With all three pupils returning to school next year the future looks very bright for Rugby School athletics.

• Ben Sutherland (W)





BADMINTON

he A team had the best season this year that they have had for a long time, only losing away to Abingdon and Repton (but winning comfortably against both at home). The first pair – James Peet and Tristan Humphrey – were outstanding and only dropped one match. Bryan Lee and Kevin Taechaubol were an exciting and demonstrative second pair. The third pair was strong too, either in the capable hands of old-timers Kaamil Walilay and Bernard Pang or when represented by the up-and-coming Andrew Wong, Will Naul or Rejaul Islam. The B team – Krishan Mistry, Gerald Tong, Jack Kesterton, Godfrey Chan and Jiho Choi – only lost one match out of five.

• NDJ

FIVES

his has been another successful year for fives at Rugby. The IV were undefeated, with excellent wins over Bedford, Derby Moor



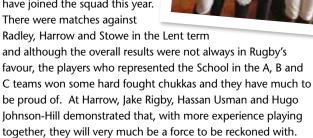
and St Paul's Colts. Moreover,

captain Marcus Hunter was not beaten in any singles game. The U15 IV have also been very successful. They put in a fine performance at the Midlands Championships, with Freddie Evans and George Romain winning the Doubles Cup, Romain winning the singles competition and Evans finishing third in the singles competition and winning the Singles Plate. The National Championships saw more success, with Joe Miller replicating Hunter's achievement two years earlier by winning the Colts' Plate. He narrowly failed to get into the top 16 but thereafter he was undefeated. He is likely to be an important member of the IV for the next two years. In the girls' competition, Milly Richards and Kate Broad won the Colts National Doubles. Rugby really dominated this event, with girls in the last four of all the competitions at Colts level and above.

The house competitions were won by Town House (Miller and Tom Mourant) at senior level and Kilbraken (Romain and Michael Suddaby) at junior level.

POLO

polo continues to be a popular activity for students and a number of enthusiastic and talented players have joined the squad this year. There were matches against



The highlight of the term is always the National Arena Championships. Rugby performed well here, winning the Intermediate and Lower Intermediate sections. The A team of Tarka Carew, James Glew and Alicia Taylor finished second in the Upper Intermediates after an exciting and aggressive match against St Bartholomew's. The Beginners finished third and fourth in their matches.





RACKETS

he senior rackets players won most of their matches at second pair level but only one (against Malvern) at first pair. Bertie Bennett-Jones and Paul Clarke played most of the first pair matches and were well supported variously by Kit Goodfellow, Ed Clarke and Sam Phillipson. At U16, James Hingley and Jack Rosser had a successful season and were unlucky to meet a very strong Eton pair in the quarter finals at Queens. The U15 pair was usually Arthur Umbers and Nick Colbourne; they made great strides, winning several matches. Several players played in the U14 matches, but the A pair was always selected from Jonnie Fagan, Ed Beard and Wills Hatton. Between them they won five out of six matches.

• TMW • PJR



SAILING

he sailing team were very successful this season in their various matches and competitions, notching up several wins and a couple of trophies. The regular team sailors were James Lorimer Turner, Giles Lorimer Turner, Olivia Stock, Will Roberts, Ian Sillett and Alexandra Bibby, but there were 24 sailors and windsurfers on the water this

year, all doing their bit to help the Club. The highlight of the season was probably the National Schools Competition at Itchenor, where we had lots of good sailing. Both our boats were placed in the Silver League (second division), which Alexandra Bibby and Toby Brazier went on to win.

• PDR

SQUASH

his season, the V enjoyed home and away wins against Oundle and reversed a home defeat to Uppingham by winning there. Defeats against strong Bedford and St Edward's, Oxford, sides were offset by a number of strong individual performances; indeed, Calvin Cragg leaves the School this year undefeated over the last three seasons. In the house competition, Michell won the senior boys' competition and Kilbracken won the junior competition.

• AJN

SWIMMING

e have had a number of regular and enthusiastic attendees at team swimming this season, although many of the School's best swimmers are unavailable due to other games commitments. There has only been one match this term, against Oundle and Greshams. We performed well here: we were beaten by Oundle but we beat Greshams by four points. I am encouraged by the number of good swimmers coming through the School and we look to increase the number of fixtures for next year.

• BJR

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Name in bold print indicates winner of more than one prize







