

Meteor
2012

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Chaplain's Notes

Chaplain's Notes

Shropshire, the Silver Duke of Edinburgh expedition; good weather, good company, sunny days and clear nights. On one such night, I sat in the camp site and gazed up at the stars. My eye swept the sparkling heavens. Ah, yes, I murmured knowingly to myself, there's Orion's belt ... and there are ... lots of other stars as well. Having thus rehearsed my entire knowledge of astronomy, I retired to my tent. But I have subsequently learned one more fact about the stars, a nice little thought which might encourage you as it did me.

Scientists tell us that apart from water, our bodies are made mostly of carbon. Perhaps that doesn't inspire you, that you and I are made of the same stuff that makes coal, oil and soot. But you know what happens to those carbon products when, deep under the earth, they are subjected to huge pressure and heated to incredibly high temperatures – with heat and pressure, carbon makes diamonds.

So when the heat is on, and you're feeling under pressure – it happens to us all from time to time – perhaps those times of stress will bring out the diamond in you. But think of something else as well. You're made of carbon, and do you know where carbon comes from? Every single atom of carbon in existence was formed in the heat and light of a distant star.

That's where carbon comes from – stars which explode and burn, contract and die, sending out into the universe the billions of atoms of which living creatures are made. So the substance that makes the physical part of you was formed and born, literally, a long time ago in a galaxy far, far away.

And whether you can accept that chance and fortune have assembled those atoms into you, or whether you look to one whose guiding hand creates order from randomness and whose will gives life, the fact remains that you are stardust.

As we look at each other across the aisle in Chapel at the beginning of a school day, it's hard to see each other as products of stars and as diamonds in the making. Such qualities are not immediately apparent in many of us.

But the quite illogical pleasure I derived from the knowledge that I came from a star and could one day be a diamond encouraged me to seek out and recognise star qualities in others. And let me invite you to think of yourself – and of the people around you – as born of stars and as diamonds in the making.

RMH



Colin Edwards

Colin was appointed to Rugby School in 1988 to lead a gifted Mathematics Department, and he was the youngest Head of Department by a considerable number of years. With the Department in some disarray, in the finest of Rugby traditions, Colin picked up the challenge and ran with it. His years at the helm saw the Department, and numbers in the sixth form in particular, flourish, and countless Rugbeians owe their passion for this subject to Colin's sharp brain and enthusiasm for all things calculable.

In 1995 Colin became a bachelor Housemaster of Michell, having tutored there since 1991. Colin has always made light of his application for this position – he was in a field of just one, he reminds us – but he was undoubtedly the right man for the job. His strong moral beliefs and sense of right and wrong guided many boys through their challenging adolescent years, and he is remembered by all of them with great fondness. It was the cause of much celebration in the Common Room when Colin married Jennifer in 1998, and it is only right that Jennifer is mentioned in this vale too. Jennifer came to Rugby with her husband David, who sadly died in 1995. While David was Housemaster of Tudor, Jennifer almost singlehandedly took on responsibility for its refurbishment, making curtains, redecorating studies and helping to manage the cleaning and kitchen staff, all whilst teaching Science at Spratton Hall. Jennifer played a crucial part in supporting Colin in the running of Michell and was a sympathetic and respected tutor in School House. She has also passed on her considerable needlework and culinary skills to a great number of D Block pupils through their 3AA programme.

When Colin decided to step down from Michell in 2005, I had no hesitation in inviting him to join my tutor team in Tudor and I was delighted when he accepted. It is fair to say that on his first few duty nights the girls were a little wary of him: his deep, sonorous voice and manly tread were things none of them were used to. But it was not very long before he had them all quite literally at his feet. Come the end of prep every evening he was on duty, the tutor room would fill with girls of all ages, who would sit on the floor in front of him absorbing his wise counsel as they talked about schoolwork and life in general. Colin is sharply incisive and very perceptive, and I was always confident that the girls were benefitting hugely from his being a house tutor. And he certainly kept them entertained: never have girls heard more frightful stories of the kind of things boys get up to!

One of Colin's great loves has always been music. He has become an accomplished saxophone player in recent years, and he and Jennifer now both play in the School's concert band. He is also a singer of some note and on leaving Michell he established the Bliss Society, which has, over the last seven years, enabled a number of Rugbeians to attend a wide range of operatic and other concert performances. Colin is also enthusiastic about games. Over the years he has coached both boys' and girls' hockey, running girls' hockey for a time. Latterly, he has umpired hockey matches at all levels and in the summer term he can be found at the athletics track, stopwatch in hand, recording the results.

In 2005, Colin was appointed Assistant Director of Studies. His responsibilities here have included organising the academic timetable,

options choices, monitoring pupil concerns and overseeing the provision for the School's gifted and talented pupils, including at one stage preparation for Oxbridge. Throughout his time in this role, Colin has brought his keen intellect and his ability to think laterally to the aid of, first, Sarah Fletcher and now Kieran McLaughlin, and he has been a vital sounding board for ideas for the development of the School's curriculum. His perceptiveness, experience and wisdom will be sorely missed as he leaves this role.

Colin, and Jennifer, will be much missed by the Rugby community, as much for being the 'hosts with the most' as for everything else. They will be making their permanent home in Warwick, where they have had a house for some years, and where Colin grew up. The allotment they recently purchased is already growing two asparagus shoots and a bumper crop can be expected now that they have more time to nurture it. Though Colin is retiring from the teaching staff he is taking up a new role on the Governing Body, having been elected staff governor by the Common Room. So, we are looking forward to continuing to see him around the School, and we know that he will be keeping a careful, kindly eye on us all.

SAR

Monica Barlow

It is a little known fact that Monica Barlow was once Director of Music. At Paddox School. When husband Robin became Housemaster of Cotton in 1992, Monica tutored alongside him as well as teaching in a variety of schools in Rugby until Michael Mavor had the good sense to appoint her to run the Junior Department in 1994. Monica was instrumental in renaming it Marshall House, of which she is justifiably proud, particularly in the light of John Marshall's passing away in April this year, feeling it only right that there should be a lasting legacy to John's massive contribution to the life of the School. Monica ran Marshall House with her especial blend of gentleness and firmness. She invented the Pudsey Bear Café – so if you have ever had to don a sumo suit, you know where the blame lies.

Monica has an uproarious sense of humour, which I imagine comes in pretty handy when you have dedicated thirteen years of your life to looking after fifty teenage girls. I am sure she will never forget the night one amply proportioned Bradleian nipped out of the window for a cigarette but was, unfortunately, unable to re fenestrate herself. Eventually, Monica had to call the fire brigade to un wedge the mortified maiden.

The Bradley wig has been a source of great amusement over the years. On one occasion, Monica opened her study window to harangue her Head of House who was gadding about outside. The girl's head popped into the window frame, and Monica was faced with a bizarre mirror image of herself, wearing sporting gear, badly applied turquoise eye shadow and the infamous wig. The XX, it turns out, were filming their Christmas skit. Indeed, this outfit was convincing enough to fool Robin himself, who once returned home and asked Monica if she had enjoyed her run: he had seen the same Head of House springing up Barby Road!

Monica has a great sense of adventure to complement her sense of humour. Three times, she has won the Snowdon Marathon Best in Age Group. Thanks to this expertise and experience, she has contributed hugely to the School's cross-country and road-running activities over the years. She has also been known to chase squirrels with tennis rackets. And, once, she paid £5 to a bearded gentleman she had met in the Merchant's Inn to take her round the gyratory on his Honda Goldwing. (The payment was donated to the Warwickshire Air Ambulance...)

It was in 1999 that Monica was first appointed as Housemistress of Bradley, and this is when I first had the privilege of meeting this funny, wise and impressive lady. She was my Rugby School mum, giving me wonderfully sound advice about teaching, love and life. My rudimentary maths tells me that Monica has been a similarly loving and candid figure to around 200 Bradleians. She has played a huge role in a lot of young women's lives, and I am sure that her work ethic, patience and love still inspire them today. Even more pupils have benefitted from Monica's teaching, and her meticulous and thoughtful methods. Unfortunately, she did not pick up the music teaching again at Rugby but she has taught Divinity, English and, of course, Welsh. She has even taught me some Welsh: 'eog euog ... dy dei du di'.

And now her missionary work in England is complete, Monica has been recalled to GCHQ in Myddfai, and will report back to Prince Charles who lives next door to her new home. ("I was there first," she is keen to point out.) I am very much looking forward to visiting the Barlows there, and putting my Welsh into practice – apparently there are a lot of 'guilty salmon' and 'black ties' in that neck of the woods.

JS

Ali Moreland

Alison Jane Virginia Powell was appointed Director of Girls' Games at Rugby in September 1993, the year the first F Block girls joined the School. At the same time, she also became Assistant Housemistress in Rupert Brooke and a teacher in the Geography Department. Immediately renowned across the School over for her keen-eyed attention to detail, order and logic, it was never a surprise to see Ali papering the Old Quad noticeboards with team sheets (each including her cartoon drawings of netball, hockey and tennis players) and weekly training schedules. These were the days, it will be remembered, when coloured card and drawing pins were the favoured – indeed the only – method of posting such details.

During the years Ali was at the helm, Rugby's girls' hockey, netball, tennis and athletics teams were all real forces to be reckoned with on the match circuit, and her time in charge also saw successful (and highly entertaining) hockey tours to the Netherlands. Question Ali about teaching PE lessons in the early days of co-education and she will entertain you with stories of boys turning up to the Gym in just their boxer shorts to see how shocked she would be; they were always disappointed – nothing fazes her. With the arrival of F Block girls came the challenge of teaching mixed PE lessons, and Ali tackled the finer points of teaching partner-support work in Gymnastics with finesse, especially when reminding her classes about exactly how close they

needed to hold each other! Nothing has ever really fazed Ali during her time at Rugby, even in those somewhat challenging early days.

In 1999, Ali stepped down from running Girls' Games and took up the position of Housemistress in Marshall House, succeeding Monica Barlow. Ali relished this opportunity and quickly set about building on all that Monica had achieved. Her innovative fundraising ideas for involving staff and pupils in the Pudsey Bear café are still fresh in the memory of the many of us who found ourselves immersed in a bathtub full of tomato sauce, baked beans and other sticky ingredients. Ali, as Monica had before her, actively encouraged the townsfolk of Rugby to join in the fun, setting the tone for what is now a firm fixture, and highly successful, charity event in the School calendar.

By 2003 Ali had relinquished the mantle of Marshall House and was appointed Examinations Officer. She applied an almost ruthless efficiency to this position, and her easy administration of the public examination season ensured that, by the time she left that office, the major examination months of May and June ran like clockwork. At the same time, Ali joined the tutor team in Dean, and the way in which she has cajoled, encouraged and at times blackmailed (chocolate, of course) her tutees into achieving their potential has been much appreciated, both by them and by the succession of grateful housemistresses she has served.

Everyone who knows Ali knows how much she loves the outdoors. During her time here, she has helped lead expeditions to Morocco, India, Pakistan, Uganda and Corsica and in more recent years she has built up the Duke of Edinburgh Award programme into what it is today, where over 180 pupils take part at all levels. In spite of her busy schedule, Ali has also found time to become a qualified Mountain Leader and an external assessor for the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award. Since 2007, Ali has donned a Flight Lieutenant's uniform every Thursday afternoon, to lead the RAF section of the CCF.

In October 2000, Miss Powell became Mrs Moreland. It is the fact that her husband John is now the Headmaster of Polam Hall School in County Durham that takes Ali away from Rugby. One of the things that Ali has enjoyed most about her time at Rugby has been the coaching of major games at all levels. It is, then, only appropriate that from September of this year she will take up the post of Director of Sport at Bootham School in York. Ali will be much missed and we wish her well.

SAR

Michael Howard

The extraordinary thing about Michael is that he is just that – extraordinary. Having known him for over twelve years now I can safely say that I have never met anyone who has done such a huge number of different jobs as he has done or who has had quite so many fascinating experiences.

Michael came to Rugby from Christ's Hospital in 1999, where had also worked before taking himself off to Kenya for a couple of years' working and painting. Michael began here as a teacher of Art under Ian

Burke; later, when the Art Department needed a new head, there was no doubt in anyone's mind that Michael was the man for the job. His calm, unflappable character has made a huge difference in the lives of those pupils and staff who have been lucky enough to work with him. The Department's results have also been consistently excellent, a real testament to Michael's passion for art of all kinds and his understated yet thorough management style. Michael leaves the Art department in very fine fettle; his successor will have very big shoes to fill.

As an all-round schoolmaster, Michael has always done his fair share of games. He has been a particular influence on the hockey pitches. He is always one to take things seriously, but at the same time, he always allows his charges to enjoy the game thoroughly. Although one might not think it when one meets him for the first time, Michael is fiercely competitive and hates losing nearly as much as he loves winning. He instils a similar competitiveness in his hockey teams, and I know that his departure will be a great loss to games. Michael also ran fencing for many years and developed the sport from nothing into a popular option with several termly fixtures.

Michael has dedicated ten years of his life to Cotton, both as a tutor and as Assistant Housemaster. His duty nights have always been typified by a degree of calm assurance that is seldom seen in the corridors of boarding houses and the boys tend to do exactly as he asks. I have learned a lot from Michael during my time in the House and I have probably never told him that – now is maybe a good time. As a tutor he is incredibly thorough. He has built exceptionally strong relationship with his tutees and their parents and I know everyone who has known him in that role will always be grateful for his time and effort.

Michael asked me to keep this brief, so I will conclude with a simple list of the most extraordinary things about him. Some of these make me smile just thinking about them.

- riding his bike with one hand firmly wedged in his pocket;
- his Rupert the Bear scarf;
- his 'universal' figure;
- the songs he always writes and sings for Christmas supper;
- his woven ties;
- the paint that is forever splattered on his trousers and shirts;
- his banjo, his ukulele and his general musical prowess;
- the retro specs; and
- the unflinching kindness and care he exhibits to everyone he meets.

As Michael moves to his beloved Brecon we wish him well in his retirement. I have already promised him a visit with my mountain bike but I also hope he graces us with his extraordinary presence whenever he is passing Rugby.

MRW

Richard Dunster-Sigtermans

I can clearly remember Richard – forever known now as RDS – arriving for his interview in 2003, dressed immaculately in a three-piece

pinstripe, complete with fob-watch and chain. Unlike Alice's White Rabbit however, he was neither late nor a clock-watcher. Even if he was, the prospect of meeting the Duchess would have held few fears for him. Richard is completely his own man and can pacify the most outrageously difficult customer with his native charm and wit. And as the School's Director of Music, such encounters of this kind are an almost daily feature. Musicians are not known for being the easiest of personalities, and Richard is surrounded by them, day in and day out.

Richard got off to a rapid start around the Music Department, and we soon had a greatly expanded teaching staff, including new Heads of Woodwind, Singing and Strings. His dynamic energy spilled over into the pupils' engagement with the subject: numbers taking music at GCSE and numbers having individual lessons immediately began to rise. There have also been concerts everywhere, all the time, because of him: informal concerts, spring concerts, chamber concerts, formal concerts, lunchtime concerts, breakfast concerts ... the file of concert programmes in the music office bulges perilously.

Richard started a school Choral Society, inviting parents and staff to join in, and this has proved to be extremely popular and successful for all involved, giving opportunities for them to participate in large-scale annual concerts with orchestra in the TSR. It was fitting that at this year's event he chose to perform Alexander L'Estrange's popular 'Zimbe!', a celebration of African folk song complete with jazz band, in the presence of the composer (who, incidentally was press-ganged into playing percussion himself!), the stage awash with local primary school children, the band adorned in gaudy Soweto flame shirts, the audience brimful with proud parents. Joyous, unaffected, welcoming! Richard's conducting skills are equally effective in more traditional pieces, such as Mozart's Requiem. He adopts a non-elitist, egalitarian approach to repertoire, and has an ear for the audience at all times.

The Arnold Singers have been Richard's pride and joy. A whole generation of the School's most able choral singers have delighted audiences and reached astonishing heights under his leadership, encouragement and meticulous direction. A highlight amongst its achievements must be having reached the final of the BBC Songs of Praise competition three years running. They may never have taken the title, but they were always certainly the people's choice, judging from the scores of fan letters appearing in the press and received directly. Richard is his own good cop/bad cop, supplying both stick and carrot to the group, who respect him enormously.

Richard is one of the few people I know who actually owns – and reads! – books on musical theatre. Not for him the clichéd paths of the standard school musical repertoire. His enthusiasm for the genre approaches evangelical fervour, and he has regularly put on two musicals a year. The list of works reads like a who's who (well, a what's what) of remarkable challenges, and they have all been unequivocal successes. Pupils rose with splendour to the enormous challenges of shows such as *Cabaret*, *West Side Story*, *We Will Rock You* and *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and the benefits to them of their involvement at such a high level will surely be lifelong. It is a real tribute to the inspiration he has brought in this field that the last show he musically directs at the

School will be *Flashman*, written by one of his pupils in the E block, Geraint Owen.

Richard is an outstanding classroom teacher and it is a genuine pleasure to see him at his absolute best, enthusing a group of pupils with his energy, gusto, outrageous wit and huge subject knowledge. He is also a gifted arranger and composer and I know that he plans to spend more time on these activities in the years ahead. His fascination with the organ – and he is currently researching for a PhD in that field – will also form a big part of his future interests: he has had two manual organs installed in his new house. (Fortunately, his wife Carlyn is also a fan!)

Richard has achieved a great deal during the last nine years, doing a very difficult job. We all wish him the very best as he embarks on the next stage of his professional career as a musician and senior examiner and moderator for the Associated Board. I am sure we will continue to see him around the place as he and his family will be remaining in Rugby, and I know that we will wait a long time for anyone to replace his unique contribution to the life of the School.

RFC

David Eno

David Eno, who slipped as quietly out of the School last December, to Dulwich College, as he slipped in in January 2004, will be fondly remembered by so many of us, pupils and staff alike, as a great teacher, a fabulous musician and a wonderful colleague – I think the term used to be ‘a real schoolmaster’. Nothing was ever too much trouble for him, especially when it came to helping others. I recall that he seemed quietly surprised to have been appointed Head of Woodwind; to him, the hours he had spent helping pupils and organizing teaching was just what he did, rewarded or not. Many will be excused for imagining that the saxophone – David’s signature instrument – is a brass instrument. The presence of a reed in its mouthpiece, however, grants it woodwind status. David could ‘get a tune’ out of almost anything. Indeed, in his first week here, he was playing clarinet in the Gershwin concerto. He certainly hit the ground running, and only ever looked forward.

David once told me that, during his time playing on American cruise ships, he had combined his role as performer with that of commander of a lifeboat evacuation station. This, he said, had been very valuable experience for teaching. He was very good with a group of pupils, parents or staff, and his genial firmness must have been a boon when he later worked as Assistant Housemaster in School Field. David made an outstanding contribution to School Field. He was calm, thoughtful and very sensitive to the needs of the pupils. He is missed, especially during breakfast, where he was the only person that could muster a conversation that early in the morning!

His first school house was the old Assistant Housemaster’s flat at Mitchell. He was particularly proud of its cavernous ground floor entrance lobby and palatial staircase. ‘This will be my wine cellar,’ he immediately announced, as he opened the front door for the first time. David was never one for buying cheap wine. A few years ago a group of us took a wine tasting tour of Bordeaux. At Chateau Mouton-

Rothschild, David and I decided to buy a few souvenirs in the shop. My budget ran to a poster of the bottle labels; I think David actually bought at least one bottle!

David’s saxophone playing is extraordinary. Most players have a range of two and a half octaves but David – using various cabalistic devices, nameless books and probably several weeks locked in his cruise-ship cabin – had at least another octave on top of that. The saxophone is the most voice-like of all musical instruments, and for David, it is indeed his second voice. He used it to articulate the thoughts he was perhaps too modest to express in words. David was at his best on a public platform. The shouts of ‘Eno ... Eno ...’ at every Christmas concert whenever he came on to shift an amplifier cabinet or adjust a microphone are a fitting tribute which will resonate long in the collective memory of his time at Rugby. As, too, will all the work he did with the School’s Jazz Orchestra, where he constantly raised the pupils’ expectations in the most gentle, encouraging and effective ways. Latterly he also conducted the School orchestra, which he particularly enjoyed. He always liked a new challenge. But what I will remember most was how he always had time for the visiting staff, the cleaning staff, members of the public (I recall someone asking him in the street if he was Brian Eno) and, of course, the pupils. He was a gentleman.

We wish him every future success and happiness, and hope that living in the big city will give him the opportunity to bring his performing skills before an even wider audience.

RFC

Sophie Murenu

The circumstances surrounding Sophie’s appointment were odd to say the least. Sophie arrived in Rugby at 6.30pm on the last day of the Lent term 2005. My interview with her consisted of a stroll around The Close followed by my observing a ‘staged lesson’, for which I had called in some members of my XX Drama class during prep. By 8.00pm the deal was done she had been appointed. With a background in languages, an MA in Theatre and having spent time in Paris at the Sorbonne and drama school I hoped that she would bring both cosmopolitan glamour and academic expertise to the department – and she has.

With a PGCE but no other teaching experience, Sophie found her first few months here euphemistically ‘interesting’, particularly because she had done her teaching practice at a rather rough school in north London. Sophie very quickly appreciated that Rugbeians could be stretched and set about looking at texts and topics that we had previously shied away from. After only two years of teaching she took over the Department and had the unenviable position of trying to manage the previous Head of Department, now also Housemaster, who was never there. I have to say she has done that superbly, as she has been a superb Head of Department, and many students keep in touch with her, grateful for her teaching and leadership.

It may well be Sophie’s productions that will live long in the memory after she goes. The one that I remember most fondly was her promenade performance of *Alice*, taking the audience around a hallucinogenic tour

of the Close, ending up with Humpty Dumpty sat on the Doctor's Wall. She raised the bar for the idea of a school play when she staged Oscar Wilde's immensely challenging *Salome*. The stylisation and attention to detail in this production pushed the School audience to challenge their ideas of what theatre is (something that Sophie has also consistently brought to her class teaching) and they were enthralled by her Berkovian approach. She followed this up with *Doctor Faustus*, another difficult text. With golden scaffolding and a striking chorus, Sophie was again able to take people out of their comfort zones and create truly entertaining, but also thought-provoking, work.

Away from the theatre, Sophie has worked hard to raise the profile of polo at Rugby. She never sought to gain credit for her involvement in this growing sport but worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make sure the students enjoyed their time and had someone with whom to compare chukkas. The strength of the sport in the School now is a real testament to her work in this sphere and I hope that she gets to continue to play herself in the future.

Sophie came to Rugby as a single woman but leaves – following a holiday romance with a tall, dark, handsome Italian – a married woman with a beautiful daughter. Motherhood and Sophie's excellent work as a house tutor in Dean have played their part in her now wanting to follow the pastoral side of school life and she leaves to become a Housemistress at Hurtwood House School in Surrey. I know that she will relish the position and be excellent at it.

Sophie will be much missed here at Rugby. We wish her all the best for the exciting times ahead.

MRW

Barbara Almond

Barbara arrived at Rugby as Head of Learning Development in 2007 from King Henry VIII School in Coventry. She was, of course, already very familiar with the School, her daughter Kate having been a pupil in both Marshall House and Southfield, and so before long she had settled in and was ready to start improving those aspects of learning development here that she knew could be done better. During the six years Barbara has been here, she has overseen the complete reorganisation of assessment, record-keeping and the way information is conveyed to the extent that now, at the click of a mouse, every teacher has immediate access to everything they might need to know about the pupils they teach and about good learning generally. She has also helped bring what had been a fairly disparate band of learning support teachers together into an identifiable body, very probably soon to have designated classrooms in one location. At the same time, Barbara has also managed the implementation of an increasingly torturous array of regulatory bureaucracy. Government legislation about access arrangements are Byzantine in their density (even stipulating, for example, the number and kind of plug sockets there must be in an examination room) and Barbara has worked tirelessly to ensure that the School meets every requirement. But during all of this Barbara has never lost sight of the real purpose of her role: to help individual pupils learn more effectively. Hundreds of Rugbeians have had their academic lives transformed because of her, either directly,

because of her own classes with them, or indirectly, because of the way in which she has helped raise awareness of needs and promoted best practice to the teaching staff as a whole. I know that my teaching at least is far better than it ever would have been without her advice and support. As a teacher herself, Barbara has coped with a dizzying number of different pupils with sympathy and imagination, going to endless trouble to prepare ways to help them most as individuals: she has read the set texts they are studying, got hold of the textbooks they are working from and talked to their teachers so that she knows what they need to do and how. What she does not now know about GCSE Religious Studies or redrafting English coursework is not worth knowing. The School itself is very proud of the fact that parents with bright children with specific learning needs are often advised to try Rugby because of the understanding atmosphere and the way that their children will be individually supported. This is down to Barbara.

Since arriving at Rugby, Barbara has been a tutor in Bradley, where her especial mix of kind good humour, kindly attention and sensible advice. I like the story of Barbara's husband Frank being woken up in the middle of the night by an unfamiliar ringing noise coming from inside the wardrobe. Investigating, he found the house mobile, still in one of Barbara's coat pockets. Now, that really is dedication to the job.

Barbara retires from her role at a time of massive change in educational policy about the definition and arrangements for special educational needs. Her successor will face a difficult job, but one she knows is infinitesimally easier than it would have been without Barbara before her. We wish Barbara and Frank well for the future – if past experience is a measure, most of us will probably bump into them again at some point at Stratford or the Derngate, and that will be a real pleasure.

RJS

Gemma Harris

Glamorous Gemma Gammons arrived at Rugby from a career in the City in 2008 to take up a post in the Chemistry Department. It took her no time at all to make her mark. Her excellent subject knowledge and her plain speaking, no-nonsense approach (she's a Yorkshire lass through and through!) quickly earned her the respect of both her pupils and her colleagues, and it is a respect that she has continued to inspire, not least now also because of her record of excellent results in public examinations and the time she has devoted to extra-curricular activities in the Department, such as quizzes and competitions. Gemma is certainly a character and it will be some Chemist and teacher who is able to fill her shoes.

And about those shoes. Gemma is at all times immaculately dressed and coiffed, even when standing by the edge of the pool coaching swimming or on a wind-blown netball court. This is the legacy of her City days, perhaps, but her sense of style provides a model of obvious confidence and success for everyone with whom she comes into contact. This has been especially appreciated in Griffin, where she has worked as a house tutor. Much appreciated, too, has been her frankness and real-world knowledge, which has illuminated discussions on work, society and relationships with her tutees.

Gemma has also found the time to build a life for herself whilst she has been here, marrying (although very few pupils have been able to bring themselves to call her Mrs Harris) and then raising a fast-growing chocolate Labrador puppy, Barney. It soon became clear that a bigger house was needed than the one she lives in on Oak Street and – never one to do things by half – Gemma settled on a boarding house at King Edward's School, Witley, where she moves to become Housemistress. King Edward's gain is very much Rugby's loss and we wish Gemma every success there and in the future.

TMW

Ellie Martin

Ellie arrived in 2010 as a graduate teaching assistant to help in the Games and Philosophy Departments. Ellie's help here has been hugely appreciated, especially in Games, where her bubbly enthusiasm and quick advice have helped countless girls improve their performance and simply to enjoy games more, even on the wettest, coldest afternoons! Ellie was disappointed to discover that Rugby does not play her favourite sport, lacrosse. So, with characteristic gusto, and ignoring the naysayers, she set up an informal lacrosse club for Sunday afternoons. This has proved very popular, with the girls really enjoyed the chance to try something new, and we hope the club will continue next year and after.

Wanting to make the very most of her time here, Ellie quickly also involved herself in the Mathematics Department, helping out in particular with the lower sets, where her energy, patience and kindness have been hugely appreciated by both staff and pupils alike. Such was her success with these sets that Ellie was made a part-time member of the Department this year, teaching three Lower School sets, and impressing everyone by the imaginativeness of her lessons and how motivated her pupils are to do well.

Ellie sense of fun and her wise counsel have made her very popular amongst the girls in Tudor, where she has been a caring and proactive house tutor, always giving the girls the sense that, no matter how busy she is herself, she has all the time in the world for them, and they care very much for her for that, and for her many other kindnesses.

We wish Ellie well for the next stage of her career as she moves to London to take up a position as a Mathematics teacher at a prep school. Again, she is disappointed that there is no lacrosse on the School's fixture cards; we are sure it will not be long before they have their own lacrosse club ... at the very least.

PKB, LMH and DJH

Paul Shipley

Paul came to Rugby in September as Head of Economics and Business Studies from Warwick School. The short move across the A45 still allowed him to keep a close eye on his beloved Birmingham City Football Club, although I am not sure he found many likeminded supporters here... Paul helped to pioneer a joint academic trip to Paris with the Modern Languages

Department, something that will hopefully continue in the future. Apart from running the Department, he spent some time on the games pitches, helping to get the best out of the 3rd, 4th and 5th rugby teams on Bigside II. He was also able to give us an occasional glimpse of his illustrious soccer past in the Lent term, where he helped with the coaching of the Under 16s. Whilst the vast majority that enter the Department end up becoming 'life members', Paul's stay has been brief; and we wish him every success with his move 'Down South'.

AJD

Richard Higson

Richard joined the Mathematics Department as a part-time teacher last September. His high level of mathematical ability and his stickling for rigorous method brought on A level students in particular, although pupils of all ages enjoyed turning their minds to his challenging problem sheets – even the rest of the Department enjoyed giving them a go! Richard has also been generous with his time outside the schoolroom, helping a number of pupils with one-to-one tuition in houses during lunchtimes and in the evenings. We wish him all the best for the future.

MRB

Andrew Seddon

During his year as a graduate teaching assistant, Andrew has worked in both the PE and Games Departments and been attached to Sheriff.

In the classroom, he knows his subject and has been prepared to spend additional time with the pupils to pass on his knowledge; pupils and staff alike have benefitted from his hard work here. On the games fields he has developed an excellent rapport with the pupils and coached both his U15B rugby team and U14C hockey teams to unbeaten seasons. In Sheriff, the boys have found him very approachable and have appreciated his honest and helpful advice when they have sought it, and I know that he has enjoyed his the time he has spent with them.

Andrew had been good value in the Games Department throughout the year and has gained some valuable experience. We wish him all the very best for when he starts his PGCE course in September.

SJB

Claire Smith

Claire joined the School in September as one of this one-year graduate teaching assistants. She has taught English to F Block, E Block and LXX classes and overseen D Block Citizenship projects and a bewildering variety of Upper School Extended Projects. She has also coached girls' hockey, netball and tennis, and helped with administration in the Games Department.

Claire has been a valued part of life in Griffin this year. Claire has really got to know all the girls and has been particularly effective at inspiring, persuading and co-opting them into inter-house competitions. Griffin will miss her regular offerings of advice on the big issues in life:

university choices, GCSEs courses and, of course, the various ranges of mascara on the market – especially the advice about the mascara...

It is hardly necessary to wish Claire every success in the future – after she takes her PGCE next year schools will be falling over each other to lure her in. So we wish her every happiness instead.

AF, LMH and AN

Kerry Smith

The School has really benefitted from Kerry's work this year as one of the one-year graduate teaching assistants. She has really thrown herself into all aspects of school life, especially in the PE and Geography Departments, where she has been an excellent teacher, delivering courses across all the year groups, and through a number of innovative teaching games.

Kerry has also been an excellent games coach, especially on the tennis courts, where the U14 girls have benefitted particularly from her guidance and encouragement. She has also organized a staff tennis ladder, which was huge fun, and which saw lots of the Common Room dusting off their rackets and vowing to play more often.

Since arriving, Kerry has been attached to Tudor, where she has been fully involved in the life of the house and where she has formed a strong relationship with the girls and the rest of the house staff.

We will all miss Kerry when she goes. We wish her well in the future.

LMH, DJH and AJVM

Emma Thompson

This year the School welcomed Emma into the Biology Department to teach for two terms. With a first class degree in Applied Genetics, Emma has used her knowledge and interest to teach classes across the age range in a diligent, caring and academically stimulating manner. Elsewhere, she has really enjoyed her work in Tudor and she has been spotted knee-deep in mud with the Gardening Club on Thursday afternoons. She has also helped with dance. We wish her every success with her future teaching career.

MAM

Somhat Uch, Aurélie Poinard, Semiha Celik And Magdalena Esteban

The Modern Languages Department will be very sorry to say goodbye to this year's excellent language assistants. Magdalena (from Spain), Semiha (from Germany) and Aurélie and Somhat (both from France) have carried out their duties in school with hard work and generosity, and our pupils, particularly the A level linguists, have cause to be grateful to them for all their help. School House, Bradley, Dean and Rupert Brooke have had the benefit of their willingness to guide pupils

in house, their support of house events and help with more general work in house. Somhat, who has been with us for two years, has also been generous with his time supporting music in the School. We wish them well in the future.

JMJ

Peter Kilvert

Dr Peter Kilvert retired from his role as School Doctor this year after 22 years' service. He became Medical Officer for the School in 1991, although he had been a locum in the San on an occasional basis since the 1970s. Peter became a GP at the Whitehall Medical Practice in Rugby in 1977 after a ten-year spell in London, during which time he trained at University College Hospital and did his GP training in North London. Peter has always had a particular interest in adolescent medicine. I asked him why he had stayed in adolescent medicine so long and he responded that, 'the influx of new young people every year keeps you young'. He also added that over the years there had been 'a great team in the San to work with and a great School community to go with it'. He has been fully committed to his work during his time with us and we have been thoroughly spoilt by his service. He and his wife Anne have also been Rugby School parents: Claire was in Southfield for the Sixth Form, being one year too old to be amongst the first F block girls, and Tom and Ed were both Marshall House and then Town House boys. The School has also benefitted over the years from Peter's association with MOSA, the Medical Officers for Schools Association. He joined the MOSA council in 1993 and served as President from 2005 to 2007. The sharing of good practice with other schools has been important to our medical team over the years and Peter has been at the forefront of this, leading by example. He has given papers on the whole range of adolescent medical issues, from infectious diseases and eating disorders to minor skin conditions to various organisations, including the paediatric branch of the Royal Society of Physicians. He has also lectured on sports medicine at the Royal Society of Medicine and has run interactive workshops and been a guest speaker at numerous Boarding Schools' Association and Girls Schools' Association conferences. He was instrumental in encouraging MOSA to set up study days for school nurses and matrons too. Peter's interest in football is almost legendary. He and Anne both hold season tickets at Old Trafford and he is a keen supporter of West Bromwich Albion and is currently President of Rugby Town FC, having been the club's doctor there for many years. In July 2013 Peter retires from medicine altogether and is looking forward to spending time in South Africa with his grandchildren. He is a keen walker and he is also hoping to have more time to go to the theatre, both in Stratford and in Rugby, where Anne is trustee of the local theatre. There are no plans for the Kilvert family to leave Rugby and I am sure that we will continue to see Peter on the touchline on the Close or at the Carol Service for some years to come.

SAR

Future Hope

It is mid May and Future Hope School has just broken up for the summer holidays – and not a moment too soon! Temperatures have been soaring into the 40s, occasional violent electric storms have rocked the city and the children are sweltering as they wait for the relief of the monsoon rains.



It has been a busy but very successful year. Sixteen children have sat Class 10 (GCSE equivalent) and eleven Class 12 (A level) exams and are now awaiting their results. A number of our most academic youngsters hope to go to Calcutta University and other places of further education, and all of them are thinking about their futures. All the older children in our homes are now on summer work experience placements.

Earlier this month the children were thrilled that a real life prince, HRH the Duke of York, was going to come and open the new science laboratory. The lab was finished in March, and now the children of Future Hope School have a purpose built space for science lessons. The lab also marks an important step in the development of the School from a tiny and informal organisation set up to provide special education for the differing needs of former street children who had had a very bad start in life and found conventional mainstream schooling difficult, if not impossible. The School now caters for 250 children, not only Future Hope's own resident children but also our day scholars, children from the poorest slums of Kolkata but who still live with their parents albeit in very difficult circumstances. You can see from the academic achievements of the pupils that the School is offering an education that any school in Kolkata would be proud of. An important next step is for us to gain CBSE (Central Board of Secondary Education) accreditation which would enable the School to become an exam centre and to be fully recognised as an educational institution. The science lab is one of the qualifying criteria. Watch this space for full CBSE accreditation: it will be an amazing achievement!

So the Prince duly arrived and opened the science lab. To the dismay of some of the smaller girls, he was rather soberly dressed

and not decked out at all as a prince should be. However he was very gracious and spent far longer than his allotted time touring the school and chatting with children and staff. The children have made a video of the event to send to the Queen as a way of saying thank you for sending Prince Andrew and to congratulate her on her Diamond Jubilee. Special thanks are also due to Rugby School, and especially Trevor White and the Science Department, who have provided time, advice and equipment for the laboratory.

Future Hope's children have had a great year outside the classroom as well. The Future Hope Harlequins recently won the Howrah Sevens rugby tournament, beating their hosts and arch rivals, the Jungle Crows, in an exciting final. The girls have



also enjoyed success on the hockey pitch this year, winning the Bengal Women's five-a-side Hockey Tournament.

The after school chess club on Mondays and Thursdays now attracts over 80 children a week. The chess team has enjoyed notable successes and three of the boys have actually attained international chess rankings. When OR Tim Grandage started to take children from the streets of Kolkata 25 years ago, he found that sport had the power to transform young lives that had been damaged by abuse and neglect. From very early on



Service & Public Benefit

success on the sports field so often led to great leaps forward in the classroom and in other areas of life. Chess has proved to be equally powerful: youngsters who have found the discipline of school life hard to adjust to are now excelling in their academic work as a result of their achievements in chess.

Although Future Hope is a secular organisation, blind to ethnicity, creed, caste or colour, the children love to mark the regular festivals on the Indian religious calendar. In March they piled into the battered Future Hope bus and went to Rajarhat to splash coloured dye over one another to celebrate Holi. Saraswati Puja, the Indian equivalent of Valentine's Day, is another favourite occasion. In December, Future Hope hosted its own Mela (like a school fete) where the children perform, sell hand crafts and run food stalls.

Other highlights this year have been a visit from the England cricket team, a girls' trip to Hong Kong as guests of the Hong Kong Island School, and a visit by Performers Without Borders,



a charity which teaches circus skills, a visit which culminated in the Future Hope Circus!

As ever, Future Hope is immensely grateful to Patrick Derham, the governing body, the staff, parents, pupils and former pupils of Rugby School who continue to provide every kind of support and encouragement.

Please sign up for Future Hope's regular news updates at www.futurehope.net

*Jane Manson
Director of Fundraising, Future Hope*

The Rugby Portobello Trust and The Bradby Youth Club



This 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 five to 25 to help them learn how to help themselves. The Trust 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. A key project for 2012 has been the RPT Hub Programme. The Hub is a centre that provides offenders with key support services that will help them break the cycle of their offending behaviour. By assisting with the most fundamental needs such as housing, debt, addiction and health issues, the

staff at the RPT Hub can enable clients to stabilise their lives, thus helping them to become economically active, socially responsible members of the community. On the sporting front, the RPT Sports Academy is founded on the principle of 'traditional sports to bring back traditional values': Courses are offered in football, cricket and tag rugby within a setting that teaches good sportsmanship, the rules of the game, friendship and working as part of a team. The award-winning 'Seriously Sexy' Project provides an unthreatening clinic for those with sexual health concerns and problems. Trained peer educators help young people to understand the nature of relationships and the consequences of inappropriate sexual behaviour. There is also a hugely popular homework and activity club for primary school children, parenting classes for young parents with young children and a scheme that provides baby equipment and clothes for those on low incomes. In addition to the above, the RPT Housing Project currently provides housing and support for 80 young people who are without homes, and helps them get into training and work while teaching them how to maintain their homes and live independently.



The Rugby Portobello Trust 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, and it is hoped that this will continue. On 23 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 the Trust, and more information for anyone who wishes to get involved or offer financial support is available on the Trust's website at www.rugbyportobellotruster.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 for its members, such as boxing, cooking, music, kick boxing, table tennis, canoeing, pool, art, trips, drama, an internet café and more. Other services include hugely successful Outward Bound and residential opportunities; partnership support for primary and secondary schools, offering groups of students alternatives and additions to their curriculum; and a substance misuse project working with schools, clubs and other agencies. Members can also access support services to assist with training, work or further education, such as application and interview advice, 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 the Club's website at www.bradby.co.uk.

Rugby School regularly hosts successful fundraising events to support the Club, most notably the annual Rokeby Garden Party in June, the Leavers' Ball Raffle, and Quiz Nights in the Sports Centre Café, which this year raised over £1,000. This year, the Club has seen regular evening visits by nine members of the LXX, and it is hoped that some of these pupils will continue their visits next year. Visiting Bradby is part of the School's Thursday afternoon Social Service Programme, even though the activity



is carried out on Monday to Thursday evenings. Matt Conibere, the Club's Youth Leader, has reported that the pupils have done an excellent job engaging with the members and he is 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 Club's activities and events in the future. Below, several of the pupils describe their experience visiting Bradby this year.

'Spending my Tuesday evenings at Bradby is more rewarding than I ever imagined. I enjoy getting to know younger children and also teenagers my age. On a more selfish level it is also very useful in improving my communication skills. But this benefit is nothing compared to the gratitude you are given when you arrive on a Tuesday evening. The work at Bradby makes such a difference to young people's lives and I am so proud to have been a small part of that.'

Ella Dodd

'I volunteered at Bradby Club on Wednesday nights with two other girls. As the weeks progressed and my relationship with the children developed, I found myself looking forward to my visits. I was involved in activities ranging from making bracelets to playing football, and I have even improved my pool skills! Bradby Club means a lot to the children and young adults who go there; many go every day and for many years, becoming part of the Bradby community. Volunteers are crucial to the survival of this club and I therefore recommend anyone interested in helping out in the wider community to volunteer. You can get as much out of this activity as you are willing to put in.'

Alice Miller

'For one night every week this year I, along with two other members of my year, have visited the Bradby Club. We have helped in the activities and worked alongside the management by working with the young people who attend the Club and taking part in different activities. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time working at the Club and feel that I have learnt many vital skills about working alongside different people. I will take away a rich variety of experiences and memories and will take a keen interest in how the Club progresses in the future.'

James Thomas

'Supporting young people at Bradby has been a very worthwhile experience. I've enjoyed meeting the members and getting to know them and supporting them in a facilitating role. The experience has taught me a lot about myself, and it's always great to see the young people appreciate our help and inform us of the positive difference we make.'

Aisha Nageen

ACL

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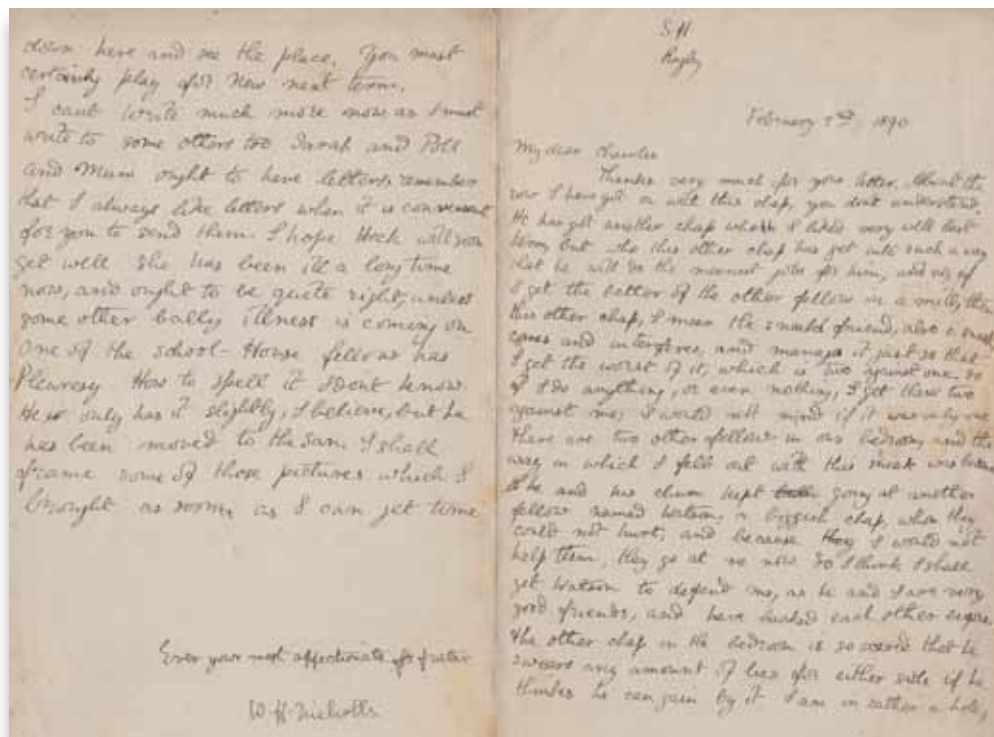
Temple Reading Room

The generosity of Rugbeians and their families is very well known. The continued support for the School and its projects is outstanding, and their generosity is well recorded in the various newsletters and publications.

This generosity extends to numerous donations and gifts to the School's collections, primarily the School Archives, and this past year has seen not only a continuing number of single items and small donations but also a number of larger gifts. It would be impossible, within the confines of this article, to mention every item donated in the last year, and I must apologise for any names which do not appear here. Every donation however is recorded in the catalogues of the Rugby School Collections, and the names set down for posterity. Some items are displayed throughout the School, and most are available for consultation by current members of the School and visiting researchers.

Original materials are always interesting and exciting. A typed copy of the diary of Capt. K. B. Montgomery (SF 1912-16) was kindly donated by Peter Wigley (B 1958-62). Helen Boyce, the grand-daughter of W. H. Nicholls (SH 1889-94), sent a collection of some twenty-one original letters written by him. These give a very valuable insight into what the School was like at that time. There are also sheets of exercises for shorthand, which was introduced to the School during his time at Rugby. David Addis (SH 1957-61) has given a small collection of family letters relating to Graham and Richard Addis, who were in School House. Tim Hale (B 1966-71) donated an old house visiting book. Harold Moses, who has been working at the Durham Light Infantry Museum, sent photocopies of two war diaries by P. H. B. Lyon (Head Master, 1931-48). The first covers April to July 1915 and the second describes 'Seven months of captivity' between May and December 1918.

Roger Wallis (T 1954-59) presented copies of a recording made at the TSR in July 1959 of his performance on piano and organ. Gillian Linke, daughter of Frank McBain (SH 1920-23), gave a collection of fifteen colour slides from the 1967 celebrations of the opening of Queen's Gates. We have received nineteenth- and twentieth-century Blue Books from a number of ORs, including William Reed Herbert (B 1966-70). Annabel Beech has given two watercolour paintings of Westbury Farm where George Hughes,



the brother of *Tom Brown* author Thomas Hughes, lived. These now hang in School House, where the Hughes brothers lived during their time at Rugby. Douglas Dalrymple (C 1952-58) has very kindly given caps, house emblems for shirts, house supper menus and other memorabilia. Mrs Liz Pierssené presented to the School, several items which belonged to her late husband, Rev. Jeremy Antony Pierssené, former School Chaplain, (M 1945-50, staff 1969-76). They include a personal communion set and the surplice which was once worn by William Temple. Basil Burt (SHf 1941-46) presented six prints of the School, which may be seen in the refurbished area of the TRR, and John Monier Bickersteth (Shf 1935-40) presented his old swagger stick from the School Corps.

John Pierson, who joined the staff in 1950, has given copies of many old school magazines, OR newsletters, books and photographs of the planting of the 'Temple Tree' on the Close. Hugh Carslake (Tu 1960-65) has kindly donated a collection of books about the School, some of which once belonged to Leonard Maton, one of the Rugbeians who created the first national code for the RFU in 1871. Charles Garroway, the nephew of A.J.N. Paterson (K 1916-20) and grandson of Sir Noel Goldie (SF 1897-1901), made a very generous donation of books and even a programme with song lyrics for an OR reunion in December 1923. Michael Benson (W 1943-47) donated a 1902 edition of the *Hare and Hounds* book, which describes the old school runs.

Of the larger donations, one from Michael Fowle (ST 1953-58), a former Chairman of the Governing Body, filled several gaps in the collections: a set of first edition of the *Flashman* novels, *The History of Rugby School*, by R. Ackermann (1815); *Sixty Views of Endowed Grammar Schools* by J. C. Buckler (1827); 'Thomas Lawrence - Regency Power and Brilliance', by Albinson et al.

(2010) (Catalogue of the exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery); a complete edition of *The History of the Town & School of Rugby* by Nicholas Harris Nicholas (1826-1828) and the 1861 pamphlet 'Public School: or Boys Slave to Boys'. Di Marshall, the widow of John Marshall, has given several boxes of Rugby material, including scrapbooks, photographs, and materials relating to Marshall House which John ran from its inception. John entered Michell in 1942, and was a member of staff between 1959 and 1994.

The largest and most valuable single donation is the Tony Yablon Collection, which arrived at Rugby during the summer. Tony, who was in Sheriff between 1953 and 1958, has gifted to the School a large collection of books and original documents relating to the Rugby School. In outline the collection comprises over forty books by or about Thomas Arnold, numerous autographed letters and notes by Arnold, and many letters by other Head Masters. Thomas Hughes books include forty-five editions of *Tom Brown's*

Schooldays, seven editions of *Tom Brown at Oxford* and over fifty other books by or about him. There is also original artwork for editions of *Tom Brown*, one by E. H. Shepard. There are more than fifty books about the School, or containing references to Rugby, and other documents relating to the history of the School. The collection also includes copies of the famous photograph of Rupert Brooke. This wonderful collection has been given for the benefit of Rugbeians and for all researchers studying Rugby, and will be available for consultation through the School Archives.

The School Archives provide an extremely valuable resource both for current and former Rugbeians and for all those who have an interest in Rugby and its history. Everything, from letters and photographs, play programmes and badges, are always of value to us. I would like to thank everyone who has given so generously and hope that future donations will prove to be just as interesting.

DRSM

Pudsey Bear Café

The Pudsey Bear Café is an annual event in School each November, which raises money for the BBC's Children in Need appeal. Marshall House runs the Café and goes into town and asks the public for donations.



There are always many fun things to do at the Pudsey Bear Café, such as the Tombola, where you can win many cool prizes. Tombola consists of spinning a barrel-like object and removing a ticket, so it's like a lottery combined with a raffle. There is also always a raffle with lots of prizes; an amazing cake sale with many delicious cakes, brownies, cookies and muffins; and fun stalls such as Nerf Challenge, Monkey Mania, Splat the Rat, Find the Key, and Find the Treasure. This year, my friend and I did Nerf Challenge and we had to look after other stalls when Marshall House pupils performed music, or just for the fun of trying other people's stalls. There was also an Xbox Kinect dance off.

Aiden McGuirk

Olympic Torch at Rugby

In July, on Day 45 of its nationwide tour, the Olympic Torch was welcomed to Rugby School – in many ways the spiritual home of the modern Olympic movement – by pupils and their parents, staff, local school children and Olympic gold medallist, Edwin Moses.

The event began with the re-enactment of a nineteenth-century game of rugby football, with 35 boys kitted out in old style rugby kit battling out a match against the backdrop of School House and some old-style wooden rugby posts – much to the delight of the watching crowds! The game was halted on the arrival of the torch, which made its way onto The Close and through a tunnel of rugby players who waved their velvet caps in the air as it passed. After a brief pause for a photo with Edwin Moses and other dignitaries, the torch made its way along the touchline to exit the Close by Queen's Gates.

AH



PSHEe

Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHEe) at Rugby

The PSHEe 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, F and E Block and LXX), all year groups benefit from whole year-group presentations and workshops at different times 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. Pupils do appreciate and enjoy these talks very much, as the following comments from this year testify:

Tony Farquarson (E Block)

I learnt about different drug classes and about how they affect you, physically and psychologically. Tony told us some stories about people who come under the effect of drugs and I learnt how drugs can destroy your life by making you become unstable and paranoid.

Charles Mcquilkin

Alex Fryer and Dr Aric Sigman (D Block)

Alex Fryer's talk was not just amusing but also taught everyone something they didn't know before. She knew a lot about people our age and how they think which made the talk even better as she knew what both boys and girls think about relationships. She seemed to have a lot of experience of giving talks and dealing directly with relationships.

Dr Aric Sigman's talk was just as funny and taught us even more. He showed us some shocking statistics about the effects of alcohol and how it can be just as bad as other drugs. It made us think about the negative influence of alcohol as well as the positives that people think they get from it.

Margot Speed and Tom Sainty

Charlotte Bram (LXX)

The presentation this year on alcohol awareness was informative, moving and didactic. Charlotte Bram talked about her abuse of alcohol and drugs as a teenager and how they affected her. I enjoyed this lecture for a number of reasons. Firstly, a speaker with personal experience is always more interesting. Secondly, she appreciated that teenagers like to enjoy themselves and didn't completely discourage us from drinking alcohol. Finally, she was very open and matter-of-fact about her own problems, which encourages others to feel less uncomfortable.

Will Seymour

Everyone thought that Charlotte Bram's talk was really insightful and interesting. We learnt a lot from it and it was inspiring to learn about the journey that she had gone on. Her story had an impact on our year and we were all pleased that we had been

given the opportunity to listen to what had happened to her. We all thought that it fitted in well with what we had discussed in our PSHEe lessons and hope that she will come back again to talk to the younger years also.

Becky Bestwick

Peter Hall and John Hoskison (XX)

I thought Peter Hall was amazingly open with us, which caught my attention strongly, as he didn't skirt round problematic issues like class and money, but just told his own experience. Having come from a public school as well he was easy to relate to for most people and helped break down some stereotypes about people who get into difficult situations. I really liked his bold way of talking, honesty and the way he didn't sound like he was preaching or being melodramatic.

Personally, I found John Hoskison's talk the most interesting as he was extremely open about his life and willing to answer questions that in another situation would be awkward to ask. He also made me realise, that anyone – even perfectly normal, successful people – can go to prison and the consequences that can have, which I don't think is often made clear. He illustrated just how serious drink-driving is, which is hard to get across effectively when people's parents or friends seem to do it all the time.

Kezia Fender

Peter Hall's story gave people an insight into the consequences of drug and alcohol addiction. His talk was, although shocking and sad, the one with the most hope in, as although Peter had not started his life on the right course, he managed to turn his life around. His dry wit and humour also engaged with the audience, making people listen more attentively, meaning the message was stronger.

Freddie Wildblood

In Southfield John Hoskison's talk was generally felt to be the best – an excellent deterrent for prison! However he also talked a lot about coping strategies when you are in a difficult environment and how to achieve the most from your life, even when everything seems to be against you. It was not just a lecture on 'Do not drink and drive'. It was a motivational speech on how to deal with life when you make mistakes. Everyone really enjoyed this talk. It gave us a lot to think about, and most people felt that we would look back on it in the future when things go wrong for us and use it to help us get through difficult times.

Charlotte Hoggarth

LXX Interactive Workshop: 'Beyond School: Healthy Eating for Healthy Living'



the dish in a wok, gradually combining each ingredient and adding suitable amounts of water and oil. The balti took a mere ten minutes to prepare. We presented it delicately on plates and sent sample portions around the room. It was incredible that this simple recipe could produce such a delicious and authentic Indian dish. This experience has definitely encouraged me to be self-catering in years to come: I can cut expenses as a student and share out larger tasks among a group of friends.

Will Seymour

I think that the LXX cookery workshop was a good opportunity for anyone who doesn't know very much about cooking to learn some necessary skills for the future, and for university. The idea of cooking on a budget was helpful and proved just how much costs can add up if you don't economise, and the recipes that were chosen to be cooked in front of the audience were both affordable and nutritious.

Charlotte Sweet

ACL

This year, for the first time, the LXX were given the opportunity to participate in an interactive cookery workshop organised by Chartwells, the School Caterers, in the Sports Centre Café. The aim of the workshop – run by Darren and Graham of the Chartwells team – was to demonstrate to the pupils how they could enjoy healthy food on a budget once they leave School and



live independently, giving them confidence and teaching basic cooking skills through the preparation of two quick and easy – but thoroughly nutritious – dishes: vegetarian balti and Caribbean jerk chicken wraps. At the end of the workshop, all the pupils were able to sample both dishes. Here are the brief accounts of two workshop participants who appreciated the experience:

At the first LXX cookery workshop, I was volunteered to be a chef for the vegetarian balti dish. This comprised long grain rice, fresh spinach, chickpeas and a number of exotic spices, including ground turmeric, coriander and cumin. Thanks to Darren's preparations in advance, I took on the simple task of cooking



Activities

The Sir Steuart Pringle Trophy Competition

The Rugby School Royal Marines arrived at Lymestone on the first Leave Out of the Advent term with high hopes after a very successful Sir Steuart Pringle Trophy 2010, where they won the Observation stance and finished a very encouraging ninth place overall. We arrived at Commando Training Centre at Lymestone in the early evening after a long coach journey from Rugby. The team (comprising Toby Skailes, Hector Alexander, Alistair Blundy, Oliver Oglethorpe, James Thomas, Peter Style, Nina Whatmough, Henry Brown and Zach Chadwick) alighted the bus and immediately stored our weapons in the armoury and went to find our bed spaces in the gym. We then headed over to the galley for some much needed food and a minute to catch our breath. Refreshed, we headed back to the gym to unpack our kit and equipment and meticulously readied ourselves for the strenuous challenges that lay ahead.

When the alarm rang the following morning just after 4 o'clock, none of us had got the sleep that we really needed. We rolled out of bed and in the quiet and darkness of the gym got kitted up. After fuelling up on a large English breakfast we did a final kit check and headed out into the cold and fog of Woodbury Common. Once at the training area on which the competition actually takes place, we cammed-up, then headed out (with Hector Alexander map-reading) to our first stance – Leadership. When we arrived, Toby Skailes immediately showed his worth by organising us to face the mine field which we were tasked to cross. We worked as a unit and before we knew it we had completed the task in what we knew was a strong time. We pressed on to the next stance, – Camouflage and Concealment – and, once again, put in another excellent performance with six of our team gaining full points without being spotted at all by the Royal Marines Snipers.

Encouraged by the first two stances we continued to live up to the high standards we had set ourselves in the Battle, Fire Control, Weapons Handling and Map Reading stances. Oliver Oglethorpe, for a second year running, showed how capable he

is as section medic in the First Aid stance. Approaching the last two stances, we were all very confident that we had performed well. Yet again, Toby demonstrated his skill and leadership qualities in the section attack as he guided us through that stance. When we arrived at the Observation stance, however, it became apparent that the Section Attack would be our last stance as some other teams had encountered “navigational difficulties” on the Common and encroaching nightfall brought the competition to an end.

We were transported back to the training centre and, after a good shower and a hearty meal, we tried to get our heads

down in preparation for the challenging endurance course and drill the next morning. With five fire alarms during the night and over a hundred cadets spilling outside the gym each time, we perhaps weren't as fresh as we would have wanted by the time the morning eventually came. Another early departure, and we were on the start line of the notorious endurance course by seven o'clock. By the time we had battled through the various water-filled tunnels and had negotiated the treacherous terrain, both the A and B teams had put in a committed and spirited performance. Straight back to base, we donned our immaculate drill uniforms, ready to face the Drill stance. The whole team, lead by Toby barking orders, performed excellently yet again.



We had now completed another Pringle Trophy, and the only thing left to do was to enter the Falklands Hall to find out the results. There was nervousness in the air as we sat down, and as the results were read out. We were conscious of maintaining our record of winning a trophy, so when it was announced that we had won the Leadership stance we were understandably overjoyed. Yet there was more great news to come as we bundled into the minibus to go home as Mr Maguire informed us that we had also secured the Camouflage and Concealment stance, one of the most competitive of the whole weekend. We returned to Rugby elated with the performance we had put in



over the weekend, with every member of the team showing their commitment to the Section.

We had competed in another excellent Pringle Trophy and demonstrated yet again that the Rugby School Royal Marines section are a force to be reckoned with, bringing home two trophies and earning a very impressive eighth place finish out



of seventeen schools. As a post-script to the competition, the team was tremendously proud when our team photograph taken after the Endurance run was printed in the subsequent Royal Marines' Globe & Laurel magazine. A big thank you to Mr Maguire and Mr and Mrs Waples for their support, and we certainly look forward to next year's competition and returning to Lymington, the home of the Royal Marines.

James Thomas

Duke of Edinburgh Award

I enjoyed this year's bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award expedition. During the practice, our group didn't do very well at navigation and on a number of occasions got lost. We made a lot of mistakes in the practice, which we were glad; the effect would have been a lot worse if we had made them during the assessed expedition! Overall the practice was worthwhile but tiring, and by the end of it we definitely needed a break. A long hot shower and a very large meal and we were ready to go to the assessed expedition in Shropshire that evening.

When we arrived we set up our tents fairly quickly and unpacked the rest of our rucksacks, got our food bags out along with the Trangias and fuel, lit the Trangias and eagerly started eating supper.

The next morning we wearily got out of our tents, got dressed, had breakfast, packed up our tents and headed off on our way. Looking at the map, it did look like a very long way indeed, and our first confusion came on the very first corner we came to, but thankfully we took the right turning. It was a nice day, and we could see the hills up ahead of us, waiting for us to attempt our three-day journey. The journey was fairly smooth on the first day, up until about the fifteenth mile, when we were well behind time, and it seemed like we were never going to get to camp. By the time we did, we could barely stand up. But there was no resting as we had to immediately unpack our bags, set our tents up, and show off our camp craft as best we could to the assessor.

The second day went by smoothly. Although our bags were getting heavy by now, our spirits were high, the countryside was beautiful, and up until lunch we had not got lost. We arrived at our third and final campsite in good time, and had time to kill talking to the other groups and enjoying a well-earned evening's rest, knowing that we only had one day left before we could relax properly, have a decent meal, and have an endless night's sleep in our own beds at home.

On the third day, we had an extremely early start, leaving campsite at 6:30 am, having packed up all our gear into our bags, slung them on our backs, and dragged ourselves out of the campsite and up the street. We had had plenty of practice at navigation by now, so we did not have any problems with that. We were very tired by now, and our main incentive to keep going was getting back home later that day. After finishing our 100 or so miles of endless walking, we finally reached the end of the expedition. We had beaten the other groups, and we happily slung our bags into the backs of the buses and sat down for a debrief.

When I go on the Gold D of E expedition, my main aim will be to give myself some variety in food. I remember going shopping for the food that I would be eating on the assessed expedition, and I did not think I could get bored of anything, so I mainly bought lots of the same thing. By the end of the three days, I felt like I could never eat John West's tinned tuna again!

I learned a lot from the expedition, and I also enjoyed it, even the parts where I wished I could be anywhere but there. I will sign up for Gold, and I will complete it knowing what I know now. And the experience may tempt me to try some of my own expeditions in the future, possibly in other countries.

Freddie Leadsom



PADDY SARDESON



Pushcart Race

25 September 2011 will for some be the day Paula Radcliffe won the Berlin Marathon. For the more discerning, it will be the day Mark Cavendish won the cycling World Road Race Championships in Copenhagen. Real connoisseurs of dramatic, gladiatorial contest will, however, have been on the Close where the pupils once again took to their extraordinary hand-built machines for the annual festival of high speed one-upmanship – the Pushcart Race.

Dressed to impress in top hat and tails, Kilbracken's sartorial elegance quickly faded after their brand new lightweight aluminium steed collapsed early on the first lap to leave them a disappointing DNF. The remainder of the first half of the race showed customary lively commitment and friendly house spirit, with special mention deservedly going to the driver of Sheriff's heavy metal steering device. Was removing the bearings and lubricant to save weight brave or stupid? The jury is still out. If volume can ever be converted to forward motion then some of the girls' houses, through enthusiastic vociferous support, would certainly move a lot quicker. The race officials will be provided with ear defenders next year.

As usual, the seeding began to work itself out as the race progressed and the real contenders began to show their worth. Southfield were the early leaders on their step ladder inspired design before Bradley came back to their best and saw off a rather confident Stanley for first place in the three lap race.

In the longer race Michell's lightweight machine flew for a lap but then faltered under the high expectations. This left School Field in third before the "battle royale" that has become School House v Whitelaw. One second in the first lap, and again in the second with positions reversed showed that once again this would go to the wire. Whitelaw's third lap was three seconds faster than School House's, giving them a two second cushion going into the last. However, lessons learnt from last year gave them enough impetus to extend this to thirteen seconds by the end and they become deserved champions.

Glory was had and wounds were licked as the teams left the Close, which by 4.00pm was peaceful once more.

PAB



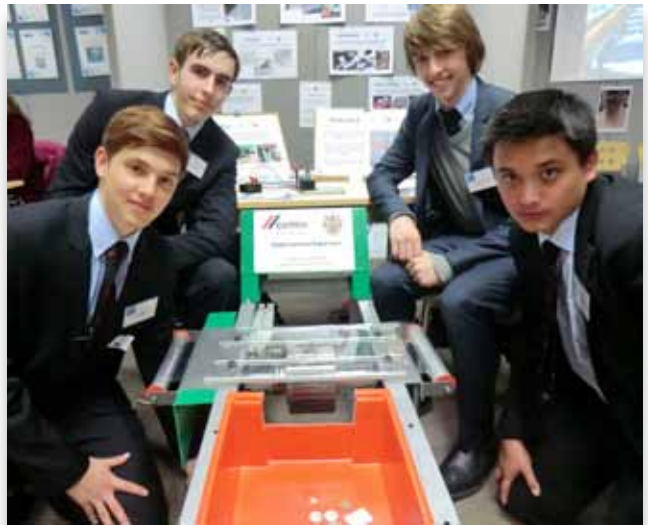
Engineering Education Scheme

The Engineering Education Scheme is a nationally run enterprise and involves school teams working for about six months on a real problem with a local company. This year our team of four LXX engineers were set a project by our partner company, Cemex (Formerly Rugby Cement).

Our task was to design a system to help Cemex separate rogue material from the Climafuel (derived from household waste) that they are using in increasing quantities to heat their kilns. The flow rate is about 50 metric tonnes per hour. The present system can sieve material and separate ferrous metals, but non-ferrous metals and over-size particles still get through and can block the fuel pipelines.

After visiting the site and planning various ideas, the team decided to concentrate on separating non-ferrous metals and researched systems using a method of eddy-current separation. Fortunately we were able to obtain a magnetic rotor drum, and we designed a bearing and motor drive to spin the magnetic rotor at the required speed. A conveyor belt was added to pass the material across the drum. The induced currents in the pieces of metal cause them to be rapidly thrown to one side.

At the assessment day in April, we demonstrated the project alongside 80 other schools, and were pleased to be in the top four projects as voted by the other schools. Our team delivered a short presentation and a full report on the project to a panel of engineers.



In May we then presented the working solution to the engineers at Cemex, as they may well be interested in using this principle in their plans for Climafuel processing at the Malpass Quarry site next to the Cemex plant. The audience of engineers were very impressed, not only with the working demonstration but also the quality of the students' presentation and handling of questions.

Once again the pupils gained invaluable experience from the project, and their reports are useful material in their university applications.

PDR

Cotton House Reunion

Over 230 Rugbeians from across seven decades attended the Cotton House Reunion on Saturday, 5 November 2011, a splendid turnout! Lunch was served in a magnificent marquee on the lawns of the House. The Head Master provided a brief update on the School today and Matt Williams, the present Housemaster, and Toby Skailes, Head of House, gave an enlightened insight into how the House has evolved over the years. Thankfully some traditions are still maintained - not least the singing of the Floreat!

MRW



Activities



Sheriff House Reunion

It was a great pleasure to welcome 180 old boys and their partners as well as former Housemasters back for the Sheriff Reunion in March. There were two former pupils who attended the House in the 1930s and we were lucky to have a brief account of those early years from Bishop Bickersteth after lunch. The day coincided with the Crick Run, with a contingent of twenty five current and former Sheriff pupils running as well as the Housemaster, all showing admirable abstemiousness from the excellent lunch and tantalising barrel of beer. The former pupils were all given a tour of the House, but the focus of attention quickly became a hitherto unnoticed hook in HWP's study where a previous Housemaster used to hang his cane. We look forward to the next reunion in 2019.

HWP

Haileybury Model United Nations Conference

Qatar was represented by four LXX Rugby students at the Haileybury Model United Nations conference in March. We all arrived with our resolutions in hand, eager to lobby our ideas on a number of issues. We all received the signatures required for our resolutions to be sent for approval.

This year was the largest ever Haileybury MUN Conference, with more than 600 delegates attending the three day event. Although this made it more difficult to be recognised, our perseverance paid off and we ensured our views were heard throughout the debates. One of the resolutions submitted by a Qatari delegate was successfully debated at Committee stage, which is a huge achievement; unfortunately it narrowly missed out on being sent forward to the General Assembly.

As a member of the Human Rights Committee, I was actively engaged in discussions about child labour in the economy and establishing international policies regarding euthanasia. The Netherlands delegate and I were able to argue our respective countries' views regarding euthanasia for a long period of time and concluded with very contrasting resolutions, only Qatar's resolution received enough support at the lobbying stage to be sent for approval.

The Conference was brought to an end with the General Assembly debate and a prize giving. One of the Rugby delegation, Amaar Esufally, left Haileybury MUN with a Highly Commended Delegate award. Overall it was a successful weekend for Rugby, and we hope we represented Qatar to its full potential.

Aisha Nageen



Dewar-Pilkington Gap Year Report

Sierra Leone

During my gap year, I travelled to Freetown in Sierra Leone. Since returning, I have been excited about going back for a longer stint! From the moment I stepped onto the plane at Heathrow I became acquainted with the beautiful Sierra Leonean hospitality. Within an hour, I was playing cards with the person sitting next to me and chatting to people close by, some returning home after years away, and all intrigued by what I was going to be doing in their country! Landing in Freetown at night was a surreal experience. After descending for about twenty minutes I began to feel a little apprehensive as we couldn't see any lights at all; only when we were metres off the ground did I see some very welcoming lights on the runway! We arrived at about 9 o'clock at night, and it was already pitch black. I felt like it was a hostile environment, with hundreds of men running towards me offering their various services of driving me to the ferry or carrying my bags! I managed to ward them off and find my two huge suitcases (as an aid worker I was allowed 50kg of luggage!). I left the airport and walked through the dark to the taxi stand. After an hour's wait, we drove the ten minute journey to the water taxi. From the airport you must cross the River Sierra Leone. In itself this is an adventure, and a dangerous one: one of the conversations I had on the way over was about the number of disasters there had been on this crossing – a ferry and water taxi have sunk, and the hovercraft has crashed several times. It is a mystery to me why the airport was not built on the other side of town. I have heard rumours that a Chinese company have invested a lot of money to get a new airport built on the Peninsula, much closer to Freetown. After a very bumpy journey I met with the lady with whom I was working, Alison, and drove through the dark, bustle and noise to her flat.

Home became a flat in Kissy, perfectly located in between a bar, a church and a mosque. In Sierra Leone, though, this means music blasting at an unbelievable volume until 3am before the mosque opens at 5am. At Christmas the church and the mosque began a little competition to see which could be louder! Regardless, I grew to love the noise and have now developed an incredible ability to sleep through anything!

The first few days of work were hectic as I set up for the first team and assessed possibilities for future projects in Freetown. We started off by looking at a school in a small village in Waterloo. We met the man who set up the school, Pastor Ganda,



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who proceeded to tell us his amazing story. He began the school several years ago, after noticing that the local children did not have access to a reasonable standard of education; most were taught in

classrooms of over 90 students with limited numbers of seats and desks. Last year his school was forced out of its buildings, and was set up under a mango tree in the centre of the village. At first they had only a few benches and the rest of the students sat on the floor. Mission Direct managed to provide them with more benches and tarpaulin sheets to provide crucial shelter, especially during the monsoon season, and the charity is looking at the possibility of providing them with a new building. We were shown a potential site which is right in the countryside. While waiting to speak with the landowner on a dirt track outside the village we encountered a woman playing a drum who stank of the pungent, locally brewed palm wine! Pastor Ganda told us that she was a member of the 'bundu', a secret society which practices female genital mutilation. Sierra Leone is one of the few countries where such practices are not banned by law. Within minutes there were more than twenty bundu women surrounding us, banging their drums and dancing, a surreal and unnerving experience!

My next meeting was with Helene and the two contractors with whom I would be working on the City of Rest Project. The City of Rest is a drug rehabilitation centre set up by the inspirational Pastor Ngobe over twenty years ago. His original vision was to take in boys living on the streets who were addicted to drugs. After the civil war, many ex-child soldiers

were also taken in and helped to cope with drug addictions and war trauma. The current building is in an awful condition in the centre of Freetown, in a tiny two floor house with little light and poor sanitation, and housing over 40 residents. Mission Direct began a new building four years ago in the hillside village of Grafton, outside Freetown, which will provide a peaceful place of recovery and healing.

While in Sierra Leone my role was construction manager and I oversaw two different projects the City of Rest, and the Waterloo Hospital. It was an unbelievable challenge and privilege to be in charge of these projects. Having no prior experience in building I had to learn



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very quickly how to deal with different issues, most importantly those with the contractors I hired, who more often than not would try and order extra materials for personal use, making keeping to a budget quite interesting! However, on the last day of each project, we had an opening ceremony of the structure where, as is tradition, the local pastor or imman (depending upon the religion of the client) would come and bless the land with the whole community.

A typical working day started at 5.30am. The team and I would wake up and meet together for devotions before breakfast. We would prepare the team for the day's work and pack the aid suitcases to be distributed among the projects. Following a breakfast of bread and sometimes porridge we would pack up cheese sandwiches and head out in a jeep and a minibus to the building site. After building until 1pm we would sit in the shade to eat lunch before leaving for the afternoon project visit somewhere in Freetown. By 6pm we were usually back at our accommodation for dinner and a debrief. If the teams weren't exhausted we would sometimes head down to one of the beach bars for a Salone star!

During my time in Sierra Leone, a highlight was taking teams to visit the projects. St George Foundation is a home for street kids, and I loved developing a relationship with the children there and learning more about their histories. Each time we visited them in their home in Grafton they would sing us the most beautiful songs, and at Christmas we were even treated to some carols! The first time we visited them I had suggested that, after building, the team should go on a hill walk to see the dam which supplies water to the City of Rest and the St George Foundation buildings. We had 11 people on the team of varying ages from 25-60 and I may have underestimated the difficulty of the walk. Three hours after setting off in the Sierra Leonean heat, we stumbled back with one of the team members being carried out of the jungle by Prince (the contractor for the City of Rest), and me having to fan him and feed him water and rehydration salts for the next hour until he became conscious! So by the time everybody arrived at the St George Foundation in the afternoon, we were all a little exhausted!

Another one of my favourite projects was Mahanaim, a centre for disabled children. At first, Mahanaim seems like an incredibly sad place, and some of the children's stories are disturbing. The most shocking thing to appreciate for me was the attitude towards disabled children in Sierra Leone. Over half of the children in the centre had tragic younger years during which they had been either abandoned by their families or had severe 'treatment' by witchcraft, which is still practiced in the country. This often involves burning the 'demons' (disabilities) out of the children. If they survive



this awful treatment and are uncured, they are normally left to die. The ones that are lucky enough to survive and are found can start a new life with Melrose and her staff at Mahanaim. Melrose is herself disabled (polio) but incredibly cares unstoppingly for around twenty children. I became particularly close to a girl called Kadi who cannot speak and is described by the staff as being 'mental'. She makes growling noises and shouts and is at first quite scary, but as you get to know her she is incredibly affectionate and just loves attention. Children like Kadi are the reason that I will keep returning to Sierra Leone as often as I can.

Witchcraft and the secret societies in Sierra Leone make the country both challenging and fascinating. For me, what I loved most was how I never stopped learning, whether from a little child who shared a secret from one of the societies or about the methods of country medicine which witchdoctors use. I also had several opportunities to speak with Major Moses, the Chaplain for the Sierra Leonean army, who talked about the history of the country, the civil war and the various religions and traditions of the different tribes. It was riveting, hearing of his time in Pandemba Road Prison during one of the country's many coup d'états. I found the experience truly humbling. I realized that even though Sierra Leone is one of the poorest countries in the world, I have a great deal of admiration for so much of its culture and behaviour, and the respect its people have for each other despite their differences and religions. More than 60% of Sierra Leone is Muslim, 20-30% Christian and the remaining 10% having animistic beliefs. Nearly all live side by side peacefully, so much so that I met a rather large selection of 'Crismus' people, who, as the name suggests, attend both mosque and church!

One of the most interesting visits I made was to the Lifeline Centre. Lifeline is where I met four of the most inspirational men I am sure I will ever meet. All of them are ex-child soldiers, who were rescued and taken in by the late Richard Cole. One was captured when he was 13, drugged and trained to kill. He was used as a fighter for three years before he was rescued by ECOWAS (Nigerian peacekeeping forces) and taken in to Lifeline. Another's village was attacked by the rebels when he was young; he had his foot nailed to a tree stump while he watched his mother and sisters being raped then killed and his father shot dead in front of his eyes. With no family left



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Freetown coming down to the beach to have fun and party. I spent quite a few weekends down there, staying in a bungalow right on the beach and had the most amazing time getting to know the local people, who were incredibly welcoming and from whom I learnt so much. They treated me to 'locals only' parties along the peninsula. I had to learn quickly the art of Sierra Leonean dancing... and have concluded that I will never quite master it!

alive he had to fend for himself until he was also taken in by Richard Cole. These are just two of the thousands of stories of the civil war. We cannot begin to understand some of the tragedies, but the sense of hope that Lifeline brings to the country, and the attitude of these four men, will be what helps the country recover and develop.

When asked about where I was going, the first reaction of most people, is "Isn't that the country at war over blood diamonds?" This is a stigma which the country is desperate to get rid of. Sierra Leone now is relatively safe and has had more than eight years of peace and one peaceful election. There is however, a common fear about the upcoming elections, and many people are planning to stay clear of Freetown when they're on and go up to the provinces. My strongest wish is that these elections run smoothly and that the country continues to progress peacefully.

I had the opportunity to travel around the country during my time off. On my first trip, I travelled to the south, past the large town of Bo, to Tiwai Island. The journey to this island covered over half the time of the holiday itself! We left at 10am in the morning and before even leaving the city, we had a flat tyre – this became a habit for the remainder of the ten-hour journey! We finally arrived in the dark of night, (25 flat tyres later) in a village, having driven through some amazing country. We took a canoe over to the beautiful island, whilst hearing about various creatures which live in the river, including crocodiles and hippos. This made the quaint old rickety canoe seem not quite so welcoming! However, after two days on the island, sleeping in a little tent and going on nature walks to see the monkeys, I lost faith in there being any hippos left in Sierra Leone, as they are seen as a delicacy by the locals, who are rumoured to catch them and eat them the second they are sighted!

Trips to the beaches in Sierra Leone were incredible, and I would love to travel to more! I normally went alone on the bumpy two hour journey to River 2 beach, which is at the meeting of the beautiful River 2 and the ocean. The bay is surrounded by jungle-covered mountains and there are amazing walks which you can take to get from beach to beach along the peninsula. Normally deserted during the week, the beach comes alive at weekends with many people from

The best thing about going back to the Projects was spending time with the children I had got to know. It made a world of difference spending more time with them and getting to know more about their everyday life. On my last night I took some of them out to a café in the local area. The next day, we all took the long journey, by the ridiculously crowded ferry, to the airport. My last few moments in the country were spent crammed into a taxi with Tokka, Mohammed, Obai, Lamin, Amidu and Alison (and a puppy Tokka found!), all the way from the ferry to the airport for a very emotional goodbye! I couldn't think of a better way to leave.

The incredible opportunity to go to Sierra Leone is one which I will never forget – spending time in the ministry of defence, talking with ex-rebels; singing carols with the vice-prime minister; visiting West Africa's biggest and worst slum. I am so grateful for the Dewar-Pilkington and Bulkeley-Evans scholarships, the travel grant from the Brackley Round Table, and the once in a lifetime experience which I had in Sierra Leone. I will most certainly be returning to the country as soon I can. If I can raise enough funds I will return to Sierra Leone in August to help co-ordinate a child sponsorship programme. Before then I will be travelling through South America with a friend, then working at Wimbledon during the Championships.

Ella Oates (Tu 06-11)



Societies

Arnold Society

Professor Matthew Leigh came to the first Arnold Society meeting of the year to talk about 'Military Ethics, Ancient and Modern'. He began by discussing the Virgilian heroic code and how it relates to the Roman philosophy of stoicism. He ended by reading Colonel Tim Collins' speech made to British troops before entering Iraq and comparing his words to ancient military ethics and the likelihood of Collins (or his speech writer) having read Virgil. In March, the Arnold Society was delighted to welcome Stephen Chambers to give a lecture on 'Slaves in Ancient Greek Literature and Art'. Stephen started by discussing slaves (or the lack of) in Homer and tragedy, and then moved on to some beautiful (and some humorous!) images from pottery and sculpture. In the usual fashion after both lectures the speaker, teachers and pupils retired for dinner and drinks, where the Classical conversation continued.

For the Junior Arnold Society, Jonathan Burden, ex-Rugby Classics teacher, returned to talk on 'Gladiator: Myth or History'. After showing several clips from the famous film he explained how historically correct the battle and gladiatorial combat scenes were, using both literary and archeological evidence. This was a brilliant way to start our calendar of Junior Arnold Society events and for the F Block to start their Rugby School Classics careers!

CLH

F Block Latin Reading Competition

After some fiercely fought heats in class, 15 Latinists arrived at Upper Bench to compete in the grand finale of the F Block Latin Reading Competition, reading a poem by Catullus. The standard was extremely high with all finalists reading with good expression, good Latin accents and some with great drama! Chief (unbiased!) judge, Mr Smith, praised all the finalists, but he had to pick some winners. Highly commended were Anouk Wear and Eamon MacDonald. The overall winner was Hugh Campbell.

CLH

Black Lamp Society

The debate at this term's Black Lamp Society centred on the religiously pluralist society in which we live, and whether or not it is right to not allow a Roman Catholic to marry the heir to the throne. The consequences of allowing this to happen in the future were discussed and problems such as what religion their child would follow and how this would affect the Church of England with the monarch as Supreme Governor were argued. The Society felt that the change to the current prohibition proposed by David Cameron would lead to a situation in which politics would be too closely intertwined with religion. The society also discussed whether this would be change for

the sake of change, and whether it was brought about by the recent marriage of Prince William and Kate Middleton. However, overall, it was widely accepted that the changes should take place before a time when rash decisions needed to be made, when changing the law could affect the future monarch.

Freddie Wildblood

Bliss Society

Bliss Society started the year with a party of 32 going to see *Chicago*, a jazzed up musical about the murderous exploits and court cases of two flirtatious performers, done in a tongue-in-cheek and light-hearted fashion, with plenty of sass and jazz. Not a single member of the party was left unimpressed, indeed left un-dumbfounded, by the simply spectacular dancing and musical performances which were executed with such incomprehensible ease – not to mention the exuberant and downright dangerous manoeuvres in hefty, strappy high heels without a moment of exasperation or a drop of sweat. All this stunning showmanship was not left without moments of sincerity, even of emotional profundity, with one particular episode in which a character sings of the lack of appreciation others show him, and consequently his unrequited love. With a stream of classic songs and charming melodies (numbers such as "All That Jazz" and "When You're Good to Mama" come to mind), it was difficult not to be enchanted by the show's undeniable character, with both our emotional and frivolous natures satisfied.

Robert Smith

Physics Masterclass

In October Anu Ojha, a Director of the National Space Centre in Leicester and Director of the National Space Academy, spent a day with over 40 XX Physics students running an Astrophysics Masterclass. Students were involved in ballistics experiments on the Close with rockets, modelling the warping of space using latex wrapped over hoops, using thermal imaging cameras to see their usually invisible footprints and bringing to life many of the concepts learnt in their A Level and Pre-U studies. Anu's energetic approach and passion for the subject left the students inspired and fired up about Physics.

Anu also delivered an inspirational lecture on 'Mars as the Abode for Life' in the evening to a packed and enthralled audience of over 120 Rugby students from all year groups. At one point, the audience were 'torturing' marshmallows in syringes, simulating what could happen to the human body in the low pressure atmosphere on Mars!

The day was rounded off by a dinner for a small group of students where Anu showed off a sample of a Martian meteorite and solar panels retrieved from the Hubble Space telescope during

its repair. The group then visited the blue plaque in Sheep Street celebrating the birthplace of astronomer Sir Norman Lockyer who first discovered Helium in the Sun's spectrum.

Andrew Davies

Drama Club

Too much fun to be a society, Drama Club is perhaps the only regular meeting group that has no intention other than for members simply to enjoy themselves for an hour. Led by members of the XX the Club, held regularly on Thursday evenings, is a relief from the strains of uniform life. The sessions run for an hour each week, varying more due to the mood of the participants and leaders than any sort of schedule or rota; thus no exercise or game ever feels out of place or forced. This, in turn, helps bring out one of the most significant benefits of the Club: improvisation. Much like the structure of the sessions, almost all of the performances in all scenarios and circumstances are improvised. By far the most rewarding element of improvisation is that one's confidence grows exponentially. One of the younger members notably said to me at the beginning of this year that she was 'afraid of making a fool of herself'. Now, at the end of the year, she claims that making a fool of herself is 'much better than being normal'. This, if anything, is the greatest purpose of Drama Club: for people to be comfortable being themselves so they are happy to embody the characters of others. Not only does the Club have a major influence on the development of self-esteem in certain students through participation in a range of hilarious games and exercises, it also acts as a significant bridge between students who otherwise would probably not even know each others' names. Drama Club is one of the school's few factions to successfully cross the social crevasse between the Upper and Lower School, and for this the rewards are truly tremendous. The interaction of almost all the school's demographics enable potential casting for major school productions to begin at grassroots level. Moreover, the club provides an escape, albeit only a brief one, from stress and mounting pressure, especially for those taking exams. That is, in my view, quintessential to maintaining sanity at a school that requires so much so often. Undoubtedly Drama Club is not only the most rewarding hour of my week but also the most beneficial to my mental health!

Ben Wiegman

Engineering Society

Engineering Society began with an introductory talk in which members of the XX spoke about the various branches of engineering. This included civil, mechanical, automotive, aeronautical, chemical, biomedical and electronic engineering, as well as materials science. The aim was to present these specific areas to the lower years in order to give people an idea of the range of subjects that will be covered during the course

of the year. We were then given a presentation by Chloe Agg, a building services engineer, who provides ventilation, electricity, communications and water management systems to a range of industrial buildings. Chloe spoke about some of the projects that she has been involved with, and explained the relevance of this field of engineering to everyday life. The last talk of the term was provided by Johann Wiseman who works as a graduate engineer at Alstom Power Services. Johann specialises in gas turbines, which are used to harness many different sources of energy. He discussed many of these and gave us an idea for the arguments for and against gas energy.

Hugo Manson

Senior House Debating Competition

Bradley (represented by Chiedza Chikanza and Meely Cooper) won this year's Senior House Debating Competition, beating Stanley (represented by Catriona Low and Tara Jacobs) in what was probably one of the closest finals there has been for years. The motion – 'This house does not welcome the re-election of Vladimir Putin' – was an especially topical one, and both houses did an excellent job of marshalling huge amounts of recent press coverage of the election into their arguments. Bradley spoke particularly convincingly for the motion, stressing Putin's desire to centralize government power and his hardening of relations with the West.

Thanks go to all the teams who took part in the competition and to Elissa Foord and Will Seymour who chaired it.

RJS

English Society

The English Society has had a busy year. The term started with a talk from children's author Jason Wallace on his novel *Out of Shadows*, which all the F block were studying in class. This is the first time in recent memory that Rugby pupils have heard from the author of a text that they have been studying and the F block asked lots of interesting questions about the novel's central question: would you assassinate a dictator if you had the chance? The Society also heard lectures from Adrian Poole (Cambridge University) on the poetry of the First World War and Michael Dobson (Director of the Shakespeare Institute) on how Shakespeare's plays have been staged over time. The Society also organized a term-long guided reading of James Joyce's famously difficult novel *Ulysses*, open to pupils, staff and members of the local community. Much was learned in this colloquy and a number of the pupils really impressed with their engagement with the text and their sensitive understanding of its language and purpose. This year's Clough Lecture was delivered by Paul Davies, reader in English Literature at UCL.

RJS

Societies

The Clough Lecture

Paul Davies, who delivered this year's annual Clough Lecture on 'Clough, Milton and the Chivalry of Work', began his talk by reminding us all of the connexion between Arthur Hugh Clough – at Rugby, the most gifted pupil of his generation and expected to glitter at Oxford – and University College, London, where he took up a post having found it impossible to subscribe to the Articles of the Church of England (at the time a prerequisite for securing an Oxford fellowship). Jeremy Bentham's University College, founded on utilitarian principles, had no such inhibitions, and from there he delivered the lectures on English Literature that provided the starting point for Dr Davies's lecture.

In a carefully considered, yet intellectually bold sweep, Dr Davies outlined the theory of work that underlay Clough's attempts to resolve and transcend the doubts which troubled him – an idea conceived by the Scottish philosopher Carlyle, who, true to the mediaeval turn of the period called for "the chivalry of work" – labour as an ennobling antidote to romantic introspection.

From there we went back to Milton, who, rather than having the unfallen Adam and Eve reclining lazily in Paradise, sees them meeting the profuse abundance of Paradise with they own energetic physical labour. Eve, at one point more masculine in her zeal to control this than her own husband, decides to separate from him to increase their output; he appears the more domestic in wishing to work hand in hand with her. This recalls the lovers Clorinda and Argantes, who, in Tasso's *Gerusalemme Liberata*, one of the works which inspired Milton in writing *Paradise Lost*, fight together hand in hand. So "The Chivalry of Work" is anticipated in this combination between military and domestic labour, and the psychological cost of work undertaken in excess of need is prophetically opened by Milton, looking towards the work ethic as it was to develop into the industrial revolution. Of course, this brief moment of mutuality between



Adam and Eve ends as they part, opening the way to Satan to catch Eve alone...

The subtlety of Dr Davies's tracing of these differing inflections of a cultural phenomenon from the nineteenth century to the mediaeval period, through the Renaissance and back again, challenging conventional critical views on *Paradise Lost* on the way, gave our pupils a sense of the range and dynamism of English studies at their most keenly honed – a chivalry of reading, indeed.

We are all most grateful to Dr Davies for coming to fire our imagination and aspiration in this way – and to Dr Sutcliffe, a friend of his, for securing a memorable meeting.

AF



Geography Society

The Advent term was another busy few months for Geography Society, with talks on subjects as varied as Gap Year experiences in New Zealand to climbing Mount Everest. Senior Geographers enjoyed a talk from Hannah Ives about her travels in New Zealand before starting her University studies, ranging from enjoying scenery from *Lord of the Rings* to the shocking experience of the Christchurch earthquake. The lower school were inspired by Alex Hibbert, who holds the world record for the longest unsupported polar journey on foot – crossing Greenland, twice. His recollections of the tough struggle against the arctic conditions, as well as his thoughts on his motivation for setting himself such an epic challenge, made for a fascinating talk and led to a barrage of questions at the end! At the last meeting of the term, Geordie Stewart came to talk about his experiences in becoming the youngest Brit to climb the Seven Summits. From impenetrable jungles in Indonesia to the death zone of Everest, Geordie recounted the challenges he set himself when he was only the same age as many of the senior geographers. From being forced to turn away from the Everest Summit only a few hundred metres away to help team mates succumbing to the crippling death zone conditions, to endless struggles for funding, Geordie certainly put our everyday problems into perspective! The Lent Term promises to be just as exciting, with talks ranging from film-making to Development issues lined up.

Catriona Low

Junior Scholars' Forum

Miss Rayner gave a fascinating talk on 'The Art of Death', showing how pictures of public hangings in the 18th century, while intended to deter, might subvert the law by celebrating the criminal and the spectacle. Then, in a brilliant move, just as the young audience were resigning themselves to a lecture in Art History, Miss Rayner came up-to-date with images of recent executions (Saddam Hussein, Osama bin Laden) that required a personal response and forced us to reassess our stance. Were these images proof of humanitarian concern as claimed or was this message undermined by their manner, thus throwing justice into question? All images set an example: the question was whether the victim is deterrent or hero. In this, modern photographs have the same ambiguity as ancient engravings.

JCS

Law Society

There have been a number of Law Society meetings this term. The most recent one was particularly relevant as the speaker, Miss Rhiannon Williams, was a Law Society secretary at Rugby herself. She gave an extremely interesting talk, letting us know how she became a lawyer from her time as a pupil here. She also spoke about the highlights and downsides of her job as

a recently qualified solicitor at Baker & McKenzie LLP, where she works in the Energy, Mining & Infrastructure team, which is also part of the Corporate department. Her talk was very encouraging and informative for budding lawyers and inspired many questions from pupils, which were all answered in a clear way.

We have also had a session where we encouraged all society members to think about a number of legal scenarios, for example whether a man who stabbed his pregnant wife and whose baby died four months later due to premature birth (which could possibly have been affected by his attack), should be sentenced to life imprisonment. There was a wide range of suggestions and opinions, and hopefully everyone found this exercise useful as it the kind of thing that employers or university interviewers would use to assess candidates. We look forward to hearing talks from lawyers next term and encourage pupils in D-block and above to attend.

Alice Geary

Medical Society

It was great to see Medical Society in the Advent term welcome many new members to its meetings. Our aim was to focus on life as a medical student and preparing for the application process.

In the first meeting, Ealaff and I gave a talk and presentation on getting into medical school, as well as outlining the pros and cons of life as a medic. This talk was especially appreciated by the LXX members of the society who are approaching the stressful time of UCAS applications. The second meeting was held by Eather Shakweh, a medical student at Imperial College, London. She spoke to us about life at medical school and gave us advice on the application process. It was great to have her come and talk about her personal experience.

Dr Sarah Vestey (a surgeon) gave a brilliant presentation at the final meeting of the term. She talked to us about her job as a breast surgeon and was able to provide some great guidance for the society members who are coming up to applying for medical school.

This term we have two meetings booked. We intend to spend one talking about interviews. We will invite some members of the XX to come and talk about their interview experiences and how they prepared for them. We also hope to have Kathryn Griffith, a GP, come and speak to us about General Practice and how the new NHS reforms will affect her.

Polly Hayes

Societies

Scholars' Lecture

Patrick Jephson, sometime equerry and private secretary to Diana, Princess of Wales, gave an enthralling lecture on 'Triumph, Disaster and Other Impostors' that was very warmly received. The allusion to Kipling's poem 'If' introduced a rich tapestry of history, autobiography and wise counsel designed to show that both triumph and disaster tend to turn up in disguise. So it is best to treat both of them the same – especially if you are a leader. Among many examples was the military disaster of Dunkirk that became a 'moral and psychological triumph'; and the disaster of Princess Diana's marriage that resulted in her unique devotion to the welfare of others. There were telling quotations. Theodore Roosevelt: 'The only man who never makes mistakes is the man who never does anything'. And Diana herself, when Mr Jephson told her that the award she had just received in New York was well deserved: 'I haven't earned this award, but I'm working on it.' Diana had the all-important quality of self-awareness. For if we cannot determine outcomes, at least we can decide what our attitude should be. Contingencies may be forced upon us, but we can still fulfil our obligations. In times of disaster, then, the advice was threefold: stay calm; count your blessings; and look forward to the triumphs that are sure to come your way. You can never spin your way out of disaster; you have to go through it. But you can rebuild your life with the bricks they throw at you.

JCS

Photography Society

The Photography department welcomed back Antonia Cameron (S, 2007) to talk to members of the XX about her student life, studying Photography at the London College of Fashion. We were very lucky to get her as she is just starting back into her final year. She talked to five different groups showing her highly imaginative fashion photography from her portfolio, shot both in studios and on location. Pupils certainly enjoyed her easy delivery and were greatly impressed with the work and her attention to detail which is so much a feature of her extremely well-constructed imagery. She described her working processes and the value of in-depth research. Hopefully she will return in mid-year to show us how her final year work is progressing - something which will be extremely interesting to see, I am sure.

ADB

Politics Society

A fresh set of new faces in the LXX joined the department in September. The first engagement of the academic year was the annual Politics Society BBQ. Yet again the Louisiana Gumbo dish went down singing hymns. The political implications of the continuing economic fallout from the credit crunch were followed with particular attention being paid to the

prospects of the single European currency remaining intact. As the term progressed, the pre-Republican primaries in the USA continued to surprise as did the games of brinkmanship between the Obama presidency and the Republican-controlled House of Representatives. It was thus quite apt that Dr Andrew Wroe of Kent University travelled up from the Cathedral city of Canterbury to deliver an enthralling lecture on the state of the Obama presidency and the prospects of his being re-elected in November 2012. The annual Politics trip to the USA, which took place over half term, was a roaring success. The department celebrated good news on the Oxbridge front over the Christmas holidays and Mr Teeton brought back a wealth of fresh perspectives from his tours of the European Court of Human Rights, the European Court of Justice and the German Constitutional Court.

PTE



ODETTE MONCUR

'Your Future in Europe' Conference: Paris, 2–5 February 2012

For several years now, conferences have been held in Paris for British students on the topic of 'Your Future in Europe'. The conferences spread over two days, with lectures on 'Focus on Business' and a 'Focus on French' topic the first day, and lectures for everyone on the second day focusing on current affairs in Europe, our future as the next generation of European business men and women, and how we can make the most out of the European Union. This year, for the first time at Rugby, a group of forty LXX and XX students were taken to the conferences by four members of staff: Dr Leamon, Mrs Jordan, Mr Shipley and Mr Bryant.



A Parisian weekend was instantly more appealing than another freezing weekend in Rugby, and so the group was buzzing when we arrived at Rugby station to start our journey to Paris. Luckily everything started well with everyone present with their passports, and our journey went smoothly, arriving in Paris late on the Thursday night. After being allocated to our rooms, we went to bed with high hopes for the next day – we were to be split in to two groups, those studying French and those studying Business, to attend our respective lectures. As a French student, my lectures were that afternoon, so we had free time in the morning and headed over to the area around the Louvre and Opéra, quickly finding ourselves (after a coffee and a crêpe) in the Galeries Lafayette to make the most of the French shops.

Our lectures that afternoon were in French and on a number of subjects, ranging from the history of tourism in Paris to the passion and drive that sport can give us. We also had an interactive discussion about the problems of youth unemployment in France, and what can be done to change the shocking statistics. After the lectures, we met the Business group and went up the Tour Montparnasse, with incredible (if rather cold!) views over the whole of Paris. That evening, we were again given free time, and I went with some friends over to the Latin Quarter, a vibrant, energetic area of Paris, alive with diversity and *joie de vivre*.

Saturday was the main day for lectures, this time in English. We heard from leading economists such as Dragons' Den's Evan Davis as they explained the Eurozone crisis; UK politicians such as Simon Hughes and Esther McVey, to whom we could ask questions; educational speakers such as Arne Mielken who spoke to us about the Erasmus university exchange scheme, and entrepreneurs such as Jo Fairley, co-founder of Green & Black's organic chocolate.

Our last night in Paris finished with a boat tour along the Seine and dinner as a group in a restaurant in the Latin Quarter – great fun for us, but I'm not sure how the other diners felt about Rugby School arriving en masse! After such a rich, informative weekend, leaving Paris was incredibly sad, but I am sure that I'm not the only one who hopes to return to Paris in the near future. It was a brilliant weekend, and I recommend it to anyone who studies French or Business Studies – and everyone should look into the Erasmus scheme! A big thank you goes to the teachers who organised the trip and made it possible.

Meely Cooper

Here are some comments from pupils who appreciated the experience:

I thought that the trip was organised exceptionally. I thought that the business conferences were inspiring in parts, particularly those who spoke about their business start-ups and so I enjoyed those very much. Finally, I thought that the balance between work and free time was perfect, consequently the trip was very enjoyable as well as being informative and educational. I really liked the view from the boat as well. Thank you so much for taking me on the trip as I found it very useful and enjoyable.

Jamie Dujardin

I especially liked Evan Davis from the BBC and Arnie Mielken talking about the Erasmus programme. I got a lot out of the business conference on both days and would definitely recommend it to anyone thinking of doing it in the future! Also it was great to have some free time on the Friday to explore Paris on our own and the group meal on the last night was also a really great idea!

Gil Reeves

Trips & Visits

I really enjoyed the trip, because it gave me the opportunity to put my study of French politics, the environment and daily life into context as well as improve my conversational skills. I really enjoyed being able to wander around the city centre and absorb the atmosphere of the city. The Erasmus presentation was a highlight as well as the boat tour, shopping in St. Germain and visiting Notre Dame, eating at French restaurants in the



evenings and stopping at cafés to observe the world around us.

Flora Ogilvy

D Block History Trip to Berlin and Krakow



The excitement began with a film to set the mood of the trip in Mr Beaumonts' classroom, and after a quick lunch in McDonalds' we piled onto the coach and headed off for East Midlands airport. The evening flight was short and we arrived into the thriving nightlife of Berlin. We settled into the much nicer than expected youth hostel and went to bed with high anticipation of the day to follow.

We awoke the next day to a blue-skied, but chilly Berlin. The morning consisted of an exploration of the city, and our first glimpse of the remaining Berlin wall. Later that afternoon, we visited the Stasi Prison in East Berlin. We heard fascinating stories about the lives of the prisoners, and our first detailed insight into the realities of the Cold War.

Day two involved a walking tour of Berlin with a guide, visiting both the modern and historic monuments of the city. We went to the Brandenburg Gate and the Reichstag, followed by a disorientating visit to the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe. After lunch we headed towards the Story of Berlin museum and a tour of the nuclear bunker with our flamboyant guide, Daniel. A relaxing dinner followed, preparing us for an evening trip to Potsdamer Platz. The morning of our last day in Berlin involved a trip to the site of the Wannsee Conference in which Hitler's Final Solution was planned. It gave an educational

insight into the final plans of what was to be the Holocaust. After a quick lunch, we walked down the central road in Berlin, Strasse des 17. Juni, to the site of the burning of the Jewish books where a simple, but powerful memorial now stands.

After dinner in the city centre, and a quick but very entertaining quiz back at the hostel, it was time for us to board the coach for an overnight nine-hour trip to Krakow. Despite a slight hiccup with the tyre the journey got peacefully underway, until the early hours of the morning when we hit Poland. Apparently roads in Poland aren't resurfaced too frequently. The long hours passed and in the early hours of the morning we arrived to an awakening Krakow.

After an early breakfast, we walked up to the castle and got our first view of the city of Krakow. We then returned to the hotel for a well-earned rest, which managed to confuse some people's body clocks slightly more than planned. The weather in Krakow was slightly greyer than experienced in Berlin as we started a walk into the Jewish Quarter. This day of all days was probably not the best to go on the longest walk of the trip, but the dinner at the end was well deserved and our final night in Krakow involved sampling some local cuisine.

Our final day was the focal point of the trip, a visit to Auschwitz. The morning was spent with a guided tour around the museum, putting the lives lost into perspective with rooms full of suitcases and human hair that were forcefully removed from the Jewish prisoners. Later that day we went to the concentration camp at Auschwitz 2 where the gas chambers were located. We saw the train track that the Jews were bought in on and the Auschwitz memorial. A very memorable but poignant experience. After one last opportunity to look around Krakow and shop for souvenirs, we headed off to the airport to return to the UK after an exciting and interesting five days away.

A massive Thank You to Miss Hollings, Mr Beaumont, Mrs Beaumont, Mr Smith and Danuta for taking us.

Ellie Waugh and Odette Moncur



Politics Trip to USA

Early on Sunday 23 October our small group of 21 converged on Heathrow Terminal 3. All still bleary eyed we checked in and, before boarding our flight to Washington Dulles, indulged in some retail therapy. After a long and rather cramped flight, we arrived in Washington at 2pm local time and all the tiredness quickly faded, as the pre-departure excitement became a reality. We headed straight to our hotel, just outside the city, and freshened up before getting the bus to the Tysons Corner Mall, one of the largest in the US. The Town House boys' discovery of the 'Lids' hat store ensured plenty of amusement. We then returned to the hotel for a much needed night's sleep.

The following morning we headed into the 'political heartland' that is Washington D.C. After a quick ride on the Metro we emerged outside Capitol Hill where we were greeted by characteristic Fall sunshine and well-recognised sights, such as the National Monument, and Congress itself. We then had a tour of Congress, our first taste of politics on the trip, and for most of us the first time we had set foot inside Congress. Next stop was the National Archives, only a short walk away. There we saw an original copy of the U.S. Constitution. This year, for the first time, we toured the monuments on bikes and for many it was certainly one of the highlights of the trip. The famous monuments were awe inspiring up-close. After a short bus ride, our next destination was rustic Georgetown, a stark change from the centre of Washington. We stopped for some dinner and shopping. A bus ride back to the hotel marked the end to our first full day in the US and Washington D.C. It had been a very busy day, but a highly enjoyable one and a great way to kick off the trip.

Day two saw us head back to Congress to meet the impressive Paul Ryan, Chair of the House Budget Committee, who kindly gave up part of his morning to talk to us about what exactly it is that he does. This was very interesting and we were very lucky to have been able to meet a member of Congress with such a high profile, even if some of the more 'left' wing members of the group did not agree with much of what he had to say. It was undoubtedly one of the trip's many highlights. We toured the Supreme Court, the highest court in the land, which as well as being a very impressive building, plays a vital role within the US. After a good look around, and a talk from a guide, we headed to our next appointment, a meeting with lobbyist, Nicole

Churchill. Mrs Churchill gave us an insight into exactly what it is that lobbyists such as herself do. It was great to be able to hear a less political explanation to everything in DC.

The following morning marked the end of our time in Washington as we boarded a coach bound for New York. After a couple of hours on the road, we arrived in Philadelphia where we toured Independence Hall and saw the famous Liberty Bell. This brief political pit stop was topped off by a local delicacy, the 'Philly Cheese Steak.' We arrived in New York late afternoon and the excitement was clear. After checking into our hotel, perfectly situated in the heart of Manhattan, we were let loose and given the chance to shop, explore and eat to our hearts' content. We returned to the hotel exhausted from the day's excitement.

Our first full day in NYC started in true New York style with a bagel from a local deli. After breakfast we headed to the United Nations, where we had an informative tour. It was a strange feeling to be told that we were leaving US territory as we entered. At this point it had started raining fairly heavily which proved interesting as our next activity was the Staten Island Ferry! We all got a good view of the Statue of Liberty nonetheless. Even through the rain this icon of America was still able to impress. After the ferry ride, we made the short walk to the former site of the Twin Towers, now known as Ground Zero, where a truly humbling memorial has been constructed. Nobody can fully understand just how moving a place this is until they have visited for themselves. Our final scheduled event of the day was a meeting with Professor Niall Ferguson in the offices of a hedge fund in midtown. He explained the importance of the economy and the huge role the financial sector plays within US politics.

After one last morning bagel and any last minute present shopping we headed for the airport and flew back to London on the overnight flight, bringing an end to what had been a truly memorable trip. Everyone on the trip had the most amazing time and I would urge all current politics students to seriously consider going. Of course the trip would not have been the same without the Politics department and I would therefore like to thank Mr Teeton and Mr Trelinski on behalf of everyone, and I would also like to thank Miss Dixon. All in all it was a fantastic trip, everyone enjoyed themselves immensely and I can safely say that we all learned a huge amount about the US and its politics.

Felix Douglas-Ferguson

Trips & Visits

Madrid Exchange

After an intense half term, while the majority of us were heading home, the LXX Hispanists were bound for Madrid on a 10 day intercambio with Spanish exchange students from a private school on the outskirts of Madrid. We arrived with mixed expectations, however we were thrown in at the deep end as we were quickly despatched to the home and family life of our exchange students, and of course solely communicating in Spanish!

On the first weekend we took the opportunity to settle in to the Madrileño lifestyle and to adjust to speaking Spanish. Various groups met up at the central square Sol where we caught our first glimpse of the true centre of Madrid. The Spaniards showed us some of its finest sites and buildings, including La Plaza Mayor, Opera, Gran Vía, Parque Retiro and Palacio Real, and it was a chance to meet those who would return to England with us.

However, after the weekend we were straight into school, Colegio Base, taking part in classes such as Maths, Philosophy,



Chemistry, French and even English. Most of us took part in their seemingly active breaks as well, with England vs Spain football matches, shooting hoops or just lapping up the sun. As the week went on we adjusted to the relaxed and open Spanish routine, but still feeling hungry at 22.30 was something we did not anticipate, considering how late the Spanish eat their main meal. We made a lot of friends within the school, but it was also a chance to see just how different the Spanish education is.

There were also trips during the week to the Prado and Thyssen museums to look at some of the world's most treasured art, some of which we had studied, as well as a day trip to Toledo, known for its beautiful skyline and production of knives and swords. Our final weekend consisted of a chance to go out in Madrid city with our exchanges and friends from the school. For some the last day was used to go to a theme park, for others the time to see the Santiago Bernabeu stadium, home of Real Madrid, or revisit the Madrid flea market, El Rastro.

Overall it was a wonderful trip and a fantastic language experience, and there are lots of good memories, so we would like to thank Mr. Maguire for the blood, sweat and tears required to get us there and back!

Ben Kew



Vienna Exchange

Last February, three LXX Rugbeians and I visited Vienna for 12 days to improve our German and to experience Viennese culture.

The arrival in Vienna was slightly daunting as we immediately had to go home with our respective host families. Fortunately, our partners were very friendly and their families equally hospitable.

We spent seven days at the Theresianum Academy, which was undeniably a valuable experience. I found that there is less discipline in Austria than in England and it was really fascinating to be part of the class and lessons. The students could use their mobiles during lessons and they didn't have to wear a school uniform so it felt quite relaxed and informal.

The afternoon excursions around Vienna were a highlight of the trip. It is difficult to single out the best excursion but the beauty of Schoenbrunn Palace particularly impressed me. It had a fascinating history, which we discovered during the guided



tour and, equally importantly, the authentic apple strudel afterwards was delicious! Other examples from our busy schedule was a detailed guided city tour, a visit to Klosterneuburg, the Belvedere Palace, the Hundertwasserhaus and finally, on our last Friday, a memorable evening at the Opera.

One unique Viennese experience that cannot go unmentioned was the Elmayer Ball. As preparation, we had a waltzing lesson at the Elmayer dancing school and I have to admit that our dancing abilities were questionable. Nevertheless, we threw ourselves into learning the steps enthusiastically, which was proved worthwhile at the Ball.

The stay wasn't only fun but also improved our language skills considerably. We are all grateful to Dr Smith for having organised the Exchange; without him, it would not have been possible.

Izzy Schlee

E Block Classics Trip

We arrived in Italy on a late Sunday evening, quickly discovering the heat. The next day we woke up early, and went into the centre of the old city of Rome. In the morning, we visited The Forum and the Palatine Hill, where there were gardens and spectacular views of the city. It was really interesting to see the huge amount of temples there and to see all of the ruins. We then went to the Pantheon, and Trevi Fountain, before stopping for our first real Italian pizza/pasta. After lunch, we went to the Colosseum, our final stop in Rome. After spending some time looking at the site, we travelled to Naples.



The following day, we went to Pompeii. The ruins were amazing, and extremely well preserved. It was great to see each of the different aspects of the town, from the large villas to the small houses and the bakeries. I especially liked seeing the theatre and the bodies, and it was really interesting to see what life was like for those living in Pompeii, around the time of the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius. The town's baths were really interesting, and it was really good to see all of the different rooms and stages of the baths. We then spent a great evening wondering around Sorrento, eating lots of ice creams and doing some touristy shopping!

Our final day took us to Oplontis, the large villa of Nero's mistress. It was fascinating to see her house, and the luxurious life she would have been living compared with many of the smaller houses in Pompeii that we had seen previously, showing us the difference in class and lifestyle. We saw the consequences of the eruption, in that the ash level was so high that the height difference between the modern streets and the excavated villa was extremely large. Finally, before returning home, we visited Herculaneum, an archaeological site much like Pompeii. Overall, the trip was a great success, and a really great time was had by all.

Lydia Kember

Trips & Visits

LXX Art History Trip

On Wednesday 20th June the LXX art historians and the E block artists were lucky enough to go to the *Picasso and Modern British Artists* exhibition at Tate Britain, as well as the Courtauld Gallery for a tour of their impressive collection.

It was interesting to see the different styles and progression in Picasso's work, especially as it was so varied. However, the main emphasis of the Picasso exhibition was to show his influence over a wide range of British artists, including Henry Moore and Ben Nicholson. Although this was a very thought-provoking approach, it seemed flawed in some places, as it was argued that many of the links from Picasso's work to others were incorrect. For example, Wyndham Lewis' 'Workshop' of 1914 was suggested to be a result of Picasso's Cubism; however many have argued that he was looking more towards Italian Futurism. Some also felt that Picasso's work belittled the surrounding art works, such is the superiority of his talent. Despite this, the LXX were kept busy looking for the links and influences, and the E block filled their sketchbooks and were perhaps able to see that even professional artists record their visual influences.

Next we went to the Courtauld Gallery where the LXX enjoyed seeing some of the works they will be studying in class, such as 'Nevermore' by Paul Gauguin. It allowed us to fully appreciate the intricate detail and value of each painting which come across so differently in real-life to on paper. Overall it was a great day out and a very helpful great introduction to 'Impressionism' which the LXX will be looking at next in their course.

Issie Hollands



Art History Trip to London

In October 2011, the XX and LXX Art Historians ventured to London and had a packed day of gallery visits. In the morning, we visited the Imperial War Museum to see the *Women War Artists* exhibition, where Knight's *Ruby Loftus Screwing a Breech Ring* could be seen alongside publicity footage of Loftus in the factory. We also saw the permanent collections, including some of Nash's landscape paintings of both World Wars. As some of us had never been to the Imperial War Museum before, we were impressed by the diversity of the collections and even the museum's aircraft were useful when we were looking at another Nash painting, *Totes Meer*, later in the day at Tate Britain. After lunch, we went to see *Degas and the Ballet* at the Royal Academy. The exhibition of Degas' sculpture *Little Dancer Aged Fourteen*, and the preparatory sketches that he made of the ballet student, were really useful in thinking about Degas' working practices and his desire for realism. We finished the day with a whistle-stop tour of nineteenth and twentieth century paintings in Tate Britain. The XX had already studied the work of the Pre-Raphaelites and were able to see works such as *Christ in the House of his Parents* by Millais, first-hand; the LXX got a glimpse of the work that they will cover next year! We returned to Rugby exhausted but knowing that we'd seen a huge variety of art that would also be important in lessons!

JLR

LXX artists in London

This art trip was a marathon of art viewing and appreciation. After a long, slow bus ride down the M1, our first gallery was a Contemporary Sculpture Exhibition at the Saatchi Gallery just off Sloane Square. After a swift guided tour everyone got out their sketch book and began to draw the multi-media strangeness that populated the large, white spaces. Our bus then took us to the Tate Britain where we did more drawing in the impressive new hang of the C20th British art work. After a quick lunch, a boat took us down the Thames to The Tate Modern where everyone dispersed, trying to see as much as we could from the fantastic exhibitions of international contemporary art. After a slow negotiation with the heavy London traffic we were eventually back on the M1 and heading home, tired but happy after an excellent productive art trip with lots of drawing done, postcards bought and photographs taken.

MH

LXX Geography Field Day



Once again, the LXX Geographers made their annual visit to London during the October Activities day, and surprisingly the weather was identical to how it had been this time last year! The programme was also much the same as last year – a quick walk through Docklands followed by a brief lunch break, and then an overview of the Olympic Park from the viewing platform at Holden Point, Stratford.

There was little time to lose as we were on a tight schedule, and the students did grumble on a couple of occasions as we paced through the streets of London – it was no 'jolly'. However, the students were rewarded by first class tutoring on the changes from renowned author, John Widdowson, as well excellent opportunities for photos of the developing Olympic site. The scene is continually changing as the new Westfield has just been opened, and all of the permanent venues are nearing completion – however, one student commented on the fact that it still looks somewhat like a building site rather than a park!

We discovered that a couple in the group are lucky enough to have tickets for the Olympics, although the rest of us will have to wait and see how far the site develops when the pictures are beamed worldwide in July 2012.

JCE

Yorkshire Sculpture Park

The XX artists trundled their way up the M1 on a grey, damp autumn day to look at the sculptures and attend a workshop at Yorkshire Sculpture Park. This is the first time we have visited this amazing park, and even after a two hour journey the pupils thoroughly enjoyed themselves. We were guided around the park by Victoria Ferrand Scott, highly respected sculptor and parent of Old Rugbeian Laura Scott (G). The Pupils were encouraged to draw extensively from the work on display and despite the cold, many excellent drawings were done. After our lunch in the centre's cafe we were presented with heaps of timber and organic materials, and set about making our own large scale sculptures set amongst the trees of the park. As well as the wide range of sculpture by artists such as Henry Moore, Barbara Hepworth, Magdalena Abukanowicz, Anthony Caro and many more there was a fantastic exhibition in the main underground gallery by acclaimed Spanish artist Juame Plensa. This was one of the best exhibitions we have seen for some time. We were treated to his large scale sensory and tactile



human forms in steel and stone, a 50 metre curtain of poetry in suspended steel letters and large bronze gongs that we were allowed to play with large padded hammers. Yorkshire Sculpture Park is certainly a place our artists will visit again.

MH

Trips & Visits

The Scholars' Outing

An army of smart casual scholars, led by a smart casual Dr Smith, descended upon Queen's Gates and climbed upon a smart casual bus.

Within a short while the coach arrived at the wonderfully large British Library. Each scholar filed out of the bus and, upon seeing the gates that attempted to obscure the world of books and knowledge, headed straight towards the library in great anticipation. This was a world that had been imagined ever since that polite e-mail arrived in inboxes. Fifteen minutes were allocated for exploring. Fifteen minutes, sadly, was not sufficient to inspect the vast and almost limitless corridors and exhibitions of the library.

The eager scholars were then divided into two groups and split into different workshops. One workshop was titled Sacred Text; it began with a tour enabling people to carry on from where the fifteen minutes left off. Alongside the tour came a very helpful tour-guide who challenged the scholars with questions and debates. At last the cohort were escorted into a room and taught all about the makings of sacred texts and examined the documentations upon which so many world religions depend.

The scholars now understood how to delicately dissect the history and importance of religious texts. However, as all good things come to an end, the group regretfully returned to the coach and reluctantly waved goodbye to the library.

The second half of the trip involved a visit to the theatre. After all had eaten lunch, discussed, and debated the workshops group, they headed to the theatre. On arriving, everyone waited patiently for the tickets to be thrust into each eager hand and headed inside the warm, inviting building that is the Harold Pinter theatre.

A few seat swaps later the garish lights of the theatre were dimmed, silence descended, an actress calmly entered the stage and we began to unravel the mystery Ariel Dorfman had written so well.

Midway through the performance the theatre lights gloriously relit and some began the laborious task of queuing and then buying an overpriced strawberry ice cream. After the play, the group gathered positive opinions about the piece (such as the gripping storyline and clever cliffhanger) together with their belongings; they then threaded through the luxurious theatre to walk through the freezing streets of London, heads buzzing with the necessity to complete the ending of the play themselves.

As the coach pulled into the Queen's Gates the scholars realised the link that joined the day together. Just as the scholars had been placed as detectives in the morning session, pulling apart the nature of religious texts, so were they detectives in the

afternoon, puzzling over the ambiguous ending to the play. As each scholar stepped out onto the crisp pavement of school, the group realised the meaning of the day. This is what being a scholar was all about: going out, puzzling and nudging out truth, making links and learning together. We thanked Dr. Smith and knew that he was a smart casual teacher indeed.

Eamon MacDonald

Ludi Scaenici 2012

At the end of exam week, G1 took part in the 35th edition of the annual 'Ludi Scaenici', Latin Drama Competition in The Perse School in Cambridge. A number of schools from around the country took part, each entering their own specially-created play, written and performed in Latin.

Our entry in the competition was a play entitled, 'Oh dear, oh deer!' about a thief stealing from the Temple of Diana to pay for a birthday present for his friend. The thief should have remembered the myth of Diana and Actaeon as he is punished by the goddess by being transformed into a deer, which is subsequently mauled by his own dog.

Our cast looked resplendent in their costumes and are to be commended for all their hard work. The judges were hugely impressed by their Latin pronunciation, especially the superlatives 'pulcherrimum' and 'iratissima' as well as by the swift on-stage transformations from Roman citizen to deer complete with furry antlers. Everyone enjoyed the experience, not least for the chance to take Latin out of the textbook and on to the stage!

AJC



ARCHIE REED

Bradley House Play

Some houses struggle with Shakespeare, others regret doing Rattigan, and some just sidle by with skits, but Bradley have always been partial to the odd fairytale. After the success of 'The Witches' in 2009 and 'Snow White' the following year, House drama sixth Krissy Foster decided to stick with the much-loved tradition and opt for the charming story of 'the boy who never grew up'- Peter Pan. A play with something for everyone: swashbuckling pirates, mischievous young boys and child-minding dogs (perhaps every parent's dream.) However, directors Gev Barton, Jess Breese and Meely Cooper apprehended the job they had on their hands when they realised that in just five weeks they had to transform a bunch of long-haired, Top-Shop wearing girls into an assortment of pyjama-wearing Edwardian children, savage lost boys, bearded pirates and exotic Red Indians. This they successfully managed with some help from the costume cupboard at the Macready theatre and many hours spent after tea, rehearsing in the Old Tosh. As is the case with all productions, whether they are on the West End or the Barby Road, things only come together at the last minute. With just two days to go things were starting to come together. The artists and design experts amongst us were working tirelessly in the Art schools to construct a Neverland set, palm trees and pirate ship included. However, with the unexpected snow flurry and the whisking away of one of our precious directors to Paris, the tension was beginning to rise. But Bradley was not going to call off its play just for the sake of a little snow. All of Sunday was spent adding finishing touches, finalising the set and making some last-minute changes to costumes. And with the evening came the steady flow of parents, all having shown impressive resolve in travelling in the adverse weather conditions.

The evening began with a selection of Bradley's finest musicians as they entertained the audience with a musical assortment, ranging from a rendition of 'Pumped up Kicks' on the piano to singing. Once the music stands had been cleared away, however, the stage of the Macready was transformed into an Edwardian bedroom and the audience was invited into a world of pirates, alarm-clock swallowing crocodiles and Red Indians. Everyone embraced their character with gusto and was prepared to completely lose their schoolgirl façade in order to capture the magic of the fairy tale. We were even lucky enough to have our own light-footed Tinkerbell flitting gracefully around the stage. She did look very similar to a particular male Tutor in Bradley but we'll just leave that to the imagination... Overall, the evening was a huge success and special thanks must go to Krissy and the three directors who made it all possible with their patience and hard work - as any thespian knows, no matter how many problems you are faced with...the show must go on!

Connie Krarup

Dean House Play



On a snowy evening in February, 'Cinderella' was performed by Dean House to much laughter, applause and audience participation! Sarah Lord and Julia Richmond's interpretation of the 'modern day' stepsisters reduced the audience to hysterics with their improvisation, facial expressions and outrageous costumes. The whole cast sang together beautifully to end the play, but a special mention must also go to Sophie Elmhirst and Charley Strachan for their solo performances which were pitch perfect.

The OBS proved the perfect location for the intimate musical and despite Cinderella leaving the Ball with two slippers instead of one (as the script stated), everything went smoothly! Thank you to Izzy Schlee and Arabella Bowers who were the directors and to Scout Astley-Jones who was the backstage manager.

Izzy Schlee

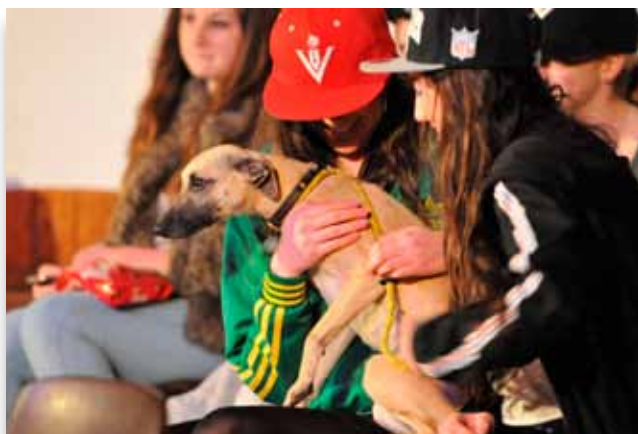
DRAMA & MUSIC

Griffin House Play

Despite Tiffany Bucknall as Briggs pronouncing early on that "most of you don't know how to enjoy yourselves", the Griffin House Play certainly seemed to disprove this. Parents and pupils alike spent a very enjoyable hour in the OBS on Sunday, 4th March absorbed in the Griffin take on Willy Russell's "Our Day Out". Months of hard work under the careful directorship of Ella Dodd had paid off wonderfully; the play managed to combine seamlessly the "joys and pains of being fourteen" with the comedy created by the attempt to control a group of boisterous and outrageous Liverpudlians on a school trip.



The play essentially relies upon the development of character and so all involved, particularly those playing the children, had the chance to become fully immersed in their roles. Olivia Clarke produced such a convincing Reilly, capturing his wayward spirit perfectly, that it will be impossible to see her in the same light again. There isn't time enough to mention here the highlights of all the brilliant moments created by the children, but credit must be given to Stephanie Cheng, Pixie Gladstone, Jess Bibby, Anna Wirth, Daisy Raichura, Phoebe Swiderska and Poppy Raichura for being, simply, naughty. Charlotte Sweet, Lydia Campbell-Black and Xanthe Gladstone were brilliant in filling the roles of the hapless teachers accompanying the group, and the audience watched with amusement as romance blossomed between Colin and Susan. Eve Williams and Jimmy Sandison



fulfilled the parts of the driver and zookeeper and once again were splendid in these roles.

The clever use of film throughout the play added another dimension to the event, and mention must go here to Scarley Hall who was an excellent Mr Derham. Hebe Rut and Alice Berwick provided great comedy value as the shopkeepers of Stodge. The stars of the show, though, must be Luna and Shadow Gladstone whose surprise appearance was a brilliant end to a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon.

Thanks should be given to Emily Graham-Campbell for her delightful piano solo, and the musicians with Mrs Naylor who provided entertainment before the play. We are also grateful to Miss Perkins and Mrs Harris who kept their eyes on the progress of rehearsals.

Olivia Stock

Michell House Play

This year's Michell House drama production was centred around an episode of vintage BBC situation comedy "Yes, Minister". The episode itself, "The Moral Dimension", saw the Minister despatched to the fictitious oil-rich state of Qumran, where the alcohol-free reception at the embassy was circumvented by a fake communications room, with urgent "messages" for each government official in turn arriving from "The Scotch Office", "a delegation of Teachers", "Johnnie Walker" and "the VAT man about the '69 returns – VAT 69". Hugo Lebus bumbled around in tremendously comic fashion as Jim Hacker, Geraint Owen was a delightfully smug Sir Humphrey Appleby and Alex Lawson-May played Bernard Woolley in drily-witty style.

The F Block volunteered happily to entertain parents, staff and fellow pupils with a range of politically-themed sketches and there were also highly amusing comic turns from the other years; Doug Ponsonby's interpretation of John Cleese was particularly well-received. Jan Westad and Jamie Couchman closed the show, as they have done for the last two years, with a wonderful interpretation of a Monty Python sketch, namely "The Dead Parrot". The production was directed with deft skill by Jamie Dujardin and Freddie Kerner.

TJD

Stanley House Play

Fellow pupils, parents and staff were treated to a thoroughly entertaining evening for Stanley's House Play 'Grease'. Without a doubt one of the most enjoyable musicals to perform, it was to the delight of the Stanley girls that it was chosen as the production. However, it was no easy task to accomplish a complete show piece during a time of exams. Yet, not a house for defeat, rehearsals occurred extensively every day until the performance was due; a performance that not many will forget. None of this would have been possible without the inspiration and determination of our esteemed director, Anna Hepburn, whose creativity and motivation were key to the achievement made that evening.

Connie Hurley brought energy and humour to her performance of Danny, with Tash Gething seamlessly playing the innocent, bright-eyed Sandy. The roles of the T-Birds and the Pink Ladies were executed with wittiness and talent, overall creating a light-hearted atmosphere. Every single performer that evening was dedicated to their role, with dance choreography expertly carried out by the cast and singing of the highest standard. Scene changes were perfect, helped by our skilful sound and lighting team, which produced a smooth, polished feel. Well known songs, such as "Summer Nights" and "You're The One That I Want" were staged with immense enthusiasm and portrayed the powerful message that each character was trying to evoke.

It was not only the efforts of the performers, light and sound teams and our fantastic director that made the play an achievement, the assistance of our backstage crew, props team, front-of-house team and of course the encouragement of Mrs Hampton and Mr Siggers, as well as all the Stanley tutors that aided an imaginative and spectacular performance, whether on stage or back-stage. There was laughter and there were moments of sorrow from the audience, but as they stood to applaud, it was truly deserved. Well done to everyone involved.

Zoë Rudin



Town House Music Evening

Music must be the food of love, for it explains why the audience at the Town House Music Concert were a crowd of sighing gluttons, greedy for more Ian Dury than you can shake a stick at. It was a surprisingly painless evening, with little angst involved; more crotchety then crotchety. The usual musical veterans of Town House kept to tradition by astounding the audience. Rising stars such as Rory Molloy, Harry Pateman, Jack Fisher and Ben van Laar had both underwear and roses hurled at them from an enamoured crowd, eager for more. But the real strength of the evening came from the group events, where students had come together to create their own musical sound – the brass band tutored under Mr Bentham, the sexy sax quartet (no doubt tutored under several attractive members of the music department, judging from the outstandingly seductive sound they produced) and the Town House Rock Band are but a few examples of how far Town House will go to expand a half hour entourage into a full blown hour



of mayhem and modulations. The entire House took part in moulding the evening and I have every faith that next year will prove a worthy encore to March. Jackson Five ain't got nothin' on us.

Harry Penfold

AS Theatre Studies

Scuffer

'Chav' culture was brought to the forefront of the media when David Cameron said "hug a hoodie." This AS group took the idea of 'chav' culture from the play "Scuffer" by Mark Hatley. This was meant to be a naturalistic play, however it was adapted into the style of Berkoff allowing them to be over the top and work on stereotypes.

Ethan Smith brilliantly performed his role of a hyperbolic homosexual middle class gallery owner in a stereotypical Berkoff style, which left the audience in hysterics.

Charlotte Coombs changed from her sweet caring self into a terrifying cockney loan shark who wasn't scared to break your legs if you didn't pay up.

Hebe Watts was especially impressive as she transformed from a Northern teenage girl into an extremely convincing cockney middle aged bloke.

Osburh also effectively changed her voice into an irritating high pitched voice for the whole piece - a boyfriend's worst nightmare.

George's heightened style of acting made it easy for the audience to comprehend his lazy, petty character. He is effectively the main 'Scuffer' of the play and the story revolves around his character. For those who know George well it was particularly impressive to see him transform from a confident, quick witted teenager to a pathetic, needy chav who relies on other people for his income. His faultless timing with the humour of his lines added to the overall comedy of the play.

James has mastered the style of Berkovian acting, making his performance impeccable and entertaining. He played a grotesque perverted chav and a posh art observer in the play, showing his theatrical versatility.

Sofia Ribaroff, Dani Boughey, Ella Dodd and Fabia Carney

Pool (No Water)

A theatre company renowned for its physical and visual ingenuity, Frantic Assembly was a perfect choice of practitioner for a group of such talented performers. Ella Dodd, Sofia Ribaroff, Fabia Carney and Dani Boughey are to be highly commended for their incredible performance of Frantic's own script, 'Pool (No Water)'. The play is an exploration of a group of artists' reaction to the casualty of their close friend; this arty, abstract feel was heightened by the background music and Bohemian-style costumes.

The piece was chilling yet beautiful. Not only were the physical movements and sequences utterly stunning; there was a strong sense of raw emotion, accompanied by the poetic, almost lyrical text of the play. Just like Frantic Assembly, the movements were daring and inventive, and blended perfectly with the dialogue. There were some truly lovely visual images created: these four gifted girls made great use of the stage space, which was made 'in the round' to forge a close, intimate, almost 'in your face' relationship with the audience.

The combination of abstract physical sequences with more naturalistic facial expressions and vocal performances worked really well. Fabia in particular was fantastic in creating moving and believable emotion through her voice. Ella, too, made excellent use of her voice and was, at times, quite frightening (which was, of course, perfectly suited to her character). Neither the striking physical movements nor the superb vocals would have been nearly as effective without the intelligently, well-chosen music, which was powerfully atmospheric and emphasised the emotion the girls so brilliantly displayed.

Charlotte Coombs, James Day, Ethan Smith, Osburh Rigg-Widdowson, Hebe Watts and George West



Tudor House Entertainment Evening **Rugby Schools Have Talent**

This year the Tudor House entertainment evening was full of laughter and music, with a number of sketches and several musical acts from across the years. The OBS found the Tudor girls performing a variety of acts which was kicked off with Katie's fantastic version of 'Valerie', soon to be followed by Lucy Rusling on the flute playing 'Comic Song' who was quickly joined by Lucy Ripman. By now the entertainment was fully under way and running smoothly: Charlotte and Jess came on and wowed the audience with an awesome rendition of Jessie J's 'Price Tag'. That wasn't the end of the Tudor House singers as Immy White later came on with Adele's 'Rolling in the Deep', and the house choir sang an enchanting version of 'Fields of Gold'. It didn't take long for the audience to realise the skill of our resident clarinet players as four of them gave it their all. The LXX ukulele choir, with its two members Jess and Jessy, performed a delightful duet of Jason Mraz's 'I'm Yours' to a charmed audience. The audience was then looking forward to another musical act, only to be surprised by Hattie and Sophie's comically chaotic delivery of 'Greensleeves', which was saved by Mr Dunster-Sigtermans. India and Issy produced a hilarious act called 'My Blackberry is not working' involving a number of hysterical puns with a blend of fruit and technology, while Mairi and Jessy followed the theme of the Two Ronnies and took to the floor in rhyme with a clever and witty detective sketch. The night was nicely rounded off with the whole house attempting to sing and dance to 'I need a hero', which provided a perfect end to a beautifully organised and well-rehearsed entertainment evening.

Jessy Firth and Jess Mason

Sheriff House Music Evening

Once again there was solid proof (as if it was needed) of just how talented Sheriff House is at this year's music evening. It included a dynamic range of faultless performances with every year group making its own contributions, with such talents as Chris Wright, Paddy Goodall and Godfrey Chan representing classical music with Bach, Beethoven and Vivaldi. Ali Horler, Josh Passmore and Luke Stafford performed Kings of Leon's 'Back Down South', and there were even a few songs, from Matt Jackson's 'Wishing You Were Somehow Here Again', Freddie Wildblood's 'Mad World' and a group venture by the F Block (Bob Sandison, Martin Mekushin, Ben Wirth and Matt Jackson) on 'Sweet Child o' Mine'. The evening was rounded off by our formidable House Choir (who were robbed at the House Singing Competition – again) singing 'Stand by Me.' With there now being seven music scholars at Sheriff, the concert promised to be an utter triumph, and didn't disappoint!

Alex Colville

The annual event, Rugby Schools Have Talent, this year fittingly took place on Armistice Day, 11.11.2011, in support of the charity *Help for Heroes*. Collectively the three schools Rugby High, Lawrence Sheriff and Rugby School raised £657.19.

This year the competition was as fierce as ever with nine fabulous acts. The show was opened by last year's winner who performed a stunning break-dance routine. Representing the school were *The Three Dean Girls: Evie Purves, Frankie Anderson-Wood and Lilly Atkinson, The Duo: Jamie Hirst and Will Lynn and finally, Matt Jackson*. All three performed fantastically and the crowd became ever more intrigued as the competition progressed. The winner was announced and the act from Rugby High deservedly took first, with Rugby School's own *Three Dean Girls* and *Matt Jackson* rounding off the top three.

Aside from the entertainment, it was a fantastic atmosphere in which all three local schools worked together to raise money for a worthy common goal.

Robert Pütter



Review of Chamber Concert Series

The Advent term saw the first three concerts in the new music scholars' "Chamber Concert Series". These have been well received, with Sunday at 12 noon proving to be a convenient and popular time to have them. The light refreshments provided have also given parents, staff and pupils a chance to chat and reflect on the performances afterwards.

The first concert was in September, given by Sophie Ogunyemi and Ali Horler. Sophie began the programme with various flute solos, including a very evocative rendition of Debussy's "Syrinx" for unaccompanied flute. Ali then continued with his selection of songs, with "Do you hear the people sing?" from "Les Misérables", being particularly rousing.

In October, it was the turn of Mamie Lowther and Eric Ma to share the stage and together, this multi-talented duo put together a splendid variety of pieces. Mamie played violin, piano and sang, whilst Eric played the violin, organ and, in a poignant reading of Morricone's "Gabriel's Oboe", the oboe. In their penultimate piece, Eric also sang, joining Mamie in a moving performance of Franck's "Panis Angelicus".

The third and final concert for the term took place in November, and this gave Fabia Carney and Jinseog Lee a chance to shine, which they most certainly did. Again, they each demonstrated their ability on more than one instrument, with Fabia singing beautifully a selection of songs and also playing Gregson's sinister "Danse Macabre" on the trumpet. Jinseog opened the programme with a polished and stirring performance of the organ toccata from Böellmann's "Suite Gothique". He also played repertoire for cello (including the Prelude from Bach's G major suite), for solo piano and, finally, joined forces with Fabia for their finale. This piece struck a more contemporary note, as they both sang and accompanied themselves on guitar and tambourine in Ed Sheeran's "Lego House".

Mention should also be made of Mr. Colley's contribution. He has given invaluable support throughout by accompanying all the instrumental solos, as ever, with the utmost sensitivity and musicianship. The Chamber Concert Series continues with four more concerts in the Lent term.

MCM



Arts Festival Reviews

Plaster Casting

This event was thoroughly enjoyed in the cracking setting of the art schools. We made holiday friezes, quite realistic-looking crumpets and even a replica mask from the "Saw" series (sadly this ended up looking more like the face of Thomas the Tank Engine). Making the clay moulds took me back a bit, and, before I knew it, I had created my own lumpy masterpiece of a casting. I still maintain that it's a work of Surrealist art – eat your heart out, Dali - but there are those who think otherwise! My design aside, the cornucopia of creations that resulted from the efforts of others at this event stand as testament to its success!

Alex Campbell

Dan's Cha-Cha Workshop

This workshop was not only an hour of fun but an intense, energy-consuming lesson of vital dance skills. The room was filled with around forty young Rugbeians and a great deal of embarrassment, but as the music played on we all had our hips moving to the beat. As the workshop's name suggests, it was supposed to be led by expert ballroom-dancer Dan; unfortunately, he was injured and so in his place was Lucy, also an experienced dancer at a competitive level. She was fun and friendly and guided us through each of the moves, slowly at first to get a feel for it, then bringing up the pace and pairing the routine with some appropriately Latin music. Girls were greatly outnumbered by boys, so, rather than dance in an awkwardly-thrown-together twosome, we were taught a routine which we could do on our own. It was a highly entertaining evening and I think most of us were surprised at just how enjoyable ballroom-dancing can be.

Ethan Smith

Jive Dancing Workshop

Entering the building we were all thinking the same thing; why am I here? This will be embarrassing! I hope I don't have to dance with the opposite sex! As soon as the Top 40 chart began to blare from the speakers, we all relaxed as our fears of fifties jiving were put to rest. We all overcame the childish clichéd fear of holding hands with the opposite sex, when we realised it would be more awkward to refuse than to participate, which then led us to being reluctantly pulled in to the jiving world: there was no time for silly fears as girls were flung around the room from boy to boy. Leaving the JSC with bright red faces, all we could think was: Mr Siggers and his wife are awesome!

Dani Boughey and Elinor Skinner

Whose Line Is It, Anyway?

There were high expectations about this event following the one from 2008, and some people were worried it would not be able to exceed these expectations. Having not seen that one myself, I cannot compare it, but it was definitely the most hilarious performance I have seen in the Arts Festival so far. It was an improvised comedy event that included the splits, people giving



birth, men falling into huge vats of hot chili, giant man-eating ants and reversed slow-motion enactments of a surfing lesson. There was even an Italian fashion photographer who claimed to be from Madrid! Lots of different games were played amongst the six contestants with a guest appearance from one of the contestants from 2008. At the very end of the performance, the winner was crowned: James Day, whose prize was to stand by the door ushering the audience out like a butler who wanted a pay rise.

Tiffany Bucknall

Eisteddfod

Eisteddfod. Despite being a Welsh word, we all knew nothing about it: what exactly was going to happen? As we turned up, we were greeted by the brilliant blue sight of Andrew Fletcher and Monica Barlow in long nun-like outfits: was this, we asked ourselves, an ancient tradition for Welsh teachers of literature? Why was Mr Fletcher dressed as a nun? They were, in fact, merely presenting the two hour event – and what an event! We witnessed a range of monologues, duologues, solos, choirs, and instrumental solos... Winners included Kaitlin Wild, who was wild on the trumpet, and young Town House boys who tackled Harold Pinter's old pensioners' duologue; Southfield girls were in paradise as they performed a winning version of one of Coldplay's hits. Overall, it was a great first experience of the Welsh Eisteddfod and, as they say, *Roedd e'n bendigedig!*

Dani Boughey



Arts Festival

Staff Blue Note

Entering the Science schools foyer, there was already a good atmosphere in the room: with the band's kit all set up and ready it seemed professional and exciting. The band, starring Mr Bradbury, Dr Smith, Mr John, Mrs Fleming and Mr Richards, started off with some classic rock and roll by Elvis Presley, which instantly got the audience going and in the mood to be involved in the music. Mr Dhanda then sang two very well-known songs which I particularly enjoyed, accompanied by piano and violin. Mrs Fleming and Dr Smith sang the lead vocals in their band and their voices played harmoniously off one another and produced a really nice effect. The lighting of the room was also very atmospheric. The thing I enjoyed most about the Staff Blue Note was the fact that the band, and Mr Dhanda, played a range of songs which ran through a long period of time, so this mixed the mood up and gave everyone a taste of what they might have enjoyed more. I also enjoyed seeing the teachers in a different light, and glimpsing what they get up to outside the classroom!

Xanthe Gladstone

A Little Summer Music

Despite the performance taking place in weather that was anything but summery, the performers persevered and succeeded in lifting our spirits with various pieces that were performed with vigour. The variety of pieces was vast with



something to please everyone, including the Arnold singers who performed Gosling, Ave Verum and Angels. The performance was not limited to pupils only - members of staff and even past pupil Tim Bentham made an appearance, playing an impressive piece on the oboe. It was director Mr Dunster-Sigterman's final concert and it is safe to say he finished on a high note. This was a lovely, heart-lifting event which felt summery even if, in reality, it wasn't.

Elinor Skinner

The SAMPAD story

We were all looking forward to seeing the SAMPAD story, but if we were being totally honest, none of us had the vaguest idea what it was exactly. The name 'SAMPAD' isn't what you would call self-explanatory, but, as soon as I stepped through the



doors of the Lewis Gallery, everything began to fall into place. Admiring the art work in the gallery (as well as having a useful book on everything SAMPAD) I quickly realised that SAMPAD is an arts development agency which displays artistic work from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. The gallery was divided into many sections: music, dance, poetry and stories. All the displays were bright and eye-catching, helping you get a real taste of the cultures from which they came.

Elinor Skinner

Medea

Oi Moi Telina! Medea, the original story of the spurned lover, truly shows that "Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned." When Medea's husband Jason decides he wants to marry a new woman, Medea is suitably angry, and hatches a plot to make him love her again, which, in the end, backfires. The story of one woman's desperate struggle to get her husband back, resulting in the horrific demise of her own children, Medea is an emotive and slightly terrifying piece of theatre. This particular performance put on by the classics department was set in the memorial chapel. Though a small stage space, the acoustics created an echo which accompanied the Greek tragedy perfectly. The all-female Grecian chorus added a new element to the play, keeping the audience engaged and on the edge of their seats throughout.

Osburh Rigg-Widdowson





Arts Festival

Chatroom, approaching suicides through the lens of Internet chat rooms, places where with relative ease, anyone with a PC and an Internet connection can engage with topics and issues as diverse and perverse as the human imagination. The cast was fabulous in portraying the dangers in the claustrophobic void of this chatroom, a world where unimaginable possibilities become a near reality with just a click of a mouse. Engaging, frightening, thought-provoking, distant, yet palpably close and real: it certainly played on our senses and left us contemplating whether the world of the chatroom is becoming the new reality.

Francesca Davie

'Flashman' The Musical

Wow, what a theatrical *tour de force*! Here we have a colourful musical that was not only performed by Rugby School students, but also written and directed by some of them! Enormous credit goes to Geraint Owen and Elissa Foord for the story and score; however, I must say that the talented cast equally ensured that their début went down a storm. It was great to be able to take such a fun journey through Victorian Rugby, via shady Soho, leaving me eventually in the haunting woods of the Crimea. From what I saw here, I feel qualified to say that here we have a piece that could set the stage for what should be a golden future of fine theatrical productions; keep up the good work, guys!

Alex Campbell

Choral Evensong

The Festival Evensong was no doubt a very good one. A full choral evensong is surely not what we hear every day. Beginning with 'A Tender Shoot' by Otto Goldschmidt, the choir started singing with voices of angels. Like every Evensong, every part of the service was sung instead of read out. I like Psalm 22 in particular, for first it was sung out in a very beautiful voice, giving us a feeling of comfort and peace: it has always been one of my favourite psalms. As for Psalm 23, I have heard of it somewhere else with a different melody, and yet I like the version in the Festival Evensong more. 'Ave Maria', sung by the choir, marked the end of the service. It was sung so peacefully that no words can be used to describe this. It was a great Evensong service and I am really glad that I went.

Steph Cheng

Chatroom

As we all clambered into the dark Macready Theatre, none of us had much idea of what to expect. We were in for a surprise. Immediately, we were drawn into the sinister underworld of



A Feast of Musical Variety

As people, old and young, filed into the TSR not everyone was sure about what to expect. But as the performance began to get under way, it was clear that everyone was enjoying themselves. The guitar trio was very original, and Lydia Suen's self-composed piece on the piano was just as exquisite. There were a many different pieces ranging from Brazilian dances to Pachelbel's Canon. There were groups such as the festival strings, and soloists playing all sorts of different instruments. The concert ran smoothly thanks to the organisers, Mrs Brogaard and Mr Martin, who helped to put together the whole concert. It was a lovely concert with a great atmosphere and some very skilled and detailed performances. By the end, the audience were eating up this feast of musical talent!

Tiffany Bucknall

Indian Food Workshop

As soon as we walked in, the wonderful smell of what was to come was already floating in the air of the corridor, through to the kitchen where the Indian Food Workshop was to take place. But it was not just the smells that made the workshop more appealing than others; the display of some of the food to be made in the minutes to come was a great sight for the eyes of those taking part. As we sat down waiting whilst cooking took place, we were told the special secrets of delicious Indian food. Once the food was ready, we could taste the excellence of spices in the curry, samosas and even the delicious dessert. It was certainly an amazing afternoon filled with interesting new knowledge and, of course, tasty treats!

Ruairidh Tait

An Audience with Chris John

As the Arts Festival is drawing to its end and the sun has finally come out, I look again at my bookings to see that I have signed up to 'An Audience with Chris John'. Really not knowing what to expect, I headed over to OBS excited to hear what Mr John had to say. What followed was a lot of condensed art history with a series of hilarious anecdotes slotted in, perhaps to keep the large collection of F and E Block boys on the edge of their seats. Mr John did keep us all entertained, explaining his influences in a stimulating and moving way and getting increasingly personal as he showed us his own work. However, true to his signature style, Mr John's speech remained light-



hearted and highly entertaining and his audience was delighted by the tales of such a “babe magnet”. He vividly recounted, for example, how a mysterious aristocratic French lady on a horse rewarded him with a stylish lunch *en plein air*, so delighted was she by his sketches of the château (hers presumably) which he was producing: a hamper, chilled wine in a bucket, and a table were carried down to him from the château by butlers as encouragement of his talent.

Poppy Mostyn-Owen

Henna Tattoo Designs

There were lots of people there as we entered the arts schools waiting eagerly for the henna class to begin. The desks in front of us were littered with various pieces of paper covered in the most intricate designs you have ever seen. There were swirls and spots everywhere you looked, hands covered in leaves and flowers so delicate that they almost looked too fragile to move. We used face-paint to try to copy the designs onto our hands, legs and face: we used black mainly with details using blue, white and silver to add to the illusion. The outcome was brilliant with people leaving the art schools with black twists around their eyes and hands, and spectacular swirls around their fingers. I really enjoyed the henna workshop and would do it again any time.

Olivia Clarke

Truelad

Tilly Fletcher’s infamous play, ‘Truelad’, sparked into existence on the Rugby School radar with much controversy. The message of the play was soon made clear, though, and, after a packed open dress-rehearsal, rumours began to spread about this play: it is funny, daring, and really touches upon a number of dubious realities about our modern teenage culture. By the final performance, there were about 20 extra people waiting outside the Crescent Club, in the hope of getting the opportunity to see this highly successful play, be it sitting or standing. The eye-wateringly funny scenes in the classroom, and the club, were perfectly contrasted with extremely moving scenes of one young

girl, Emma, on the morning after. The play ends on a bitter irony with the Oxford boys defiantly shouting the word “bastards” at the people who couldn’t take the banter. As a sign of extremely professional directing and acting, you couldn’t come out of the performance without asking some serious questions about our society.

Livvy Constable-Maxwell

Tentertainment

There was no doubt what to expect as we entered the festival tent for one of the final performances of the arts festival. The name said it all and the audience were certainly entertained. Mrs Scanlon took centre stage as she quizzed a team of staff who competed against the school’s elite Levée with questions that pushed all to their intellectual extremes. In the elimination rounds the categories of History, TV, Literature and Sport were covered leaving four members of the Levée to compete against two teachers in the tense general knowledge final. The questions covered everything from armadillos to TinTin and Mrs Scanlon’s mum to Mary Queen of Scots. The Levée proved to be victorious and put the staff to shame in a display of knowledge that left none of us questioning how they had earned their right to wear the navy jacket.

Poppy Mostyn-Owen

The Joker

In a single word, the Joker was ACE! A story about a man fighting his own self-consciousness is a battle that is impossible to fight, even with CLUBS. The man is under the knife during a heart-transplant and keeping him company is the Joker who conveys different aspects of the future, leading the man into believing



the future is his. A DIAMOND performance by the drama QUEEN, James Day, and KING of Kilbracken, Chris Palmer: you could see that they had put their HEART and soul into it. Overall a great performance with SPADEtacular short films by the LXX media students: it was an awesome watch.

Dani Boughey



Arts Festival

Live at the Atrium

The Arts Festival showcases some of the school community's amazing talents, no more so than in "Live at the Atrium." Audiences were treated to astounding performances by resident band Horizon and the immensely talented Jemima before Hebe, Matt, Charlotte and Jess contested for the chance to play at the Bollywood Finale. Though Matt ultimately won, all should be commended on their clear musical ability: the eclectic mix of unique and individual styles made for a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon.

Olivia Stock

Dhol Drumming Workshop

The Dhol drum is a large double-sided drum most commonly found in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh; it is struck with two sticks, a curved stick and a straight one. After seeing many in noisy street parades and Bollywood movies in which the players strike the Dhol drum with such enthusiasm and joy, I noticed it on the Arts Festival booking and knew I would be a fool to miss it. Around thirty eager and potential drummers arrived at the NMR where an air of excitement was evident. We met our host, who clearly took delight in hearing and playing the drum and each new drummer was just as enthusiastic.



We were taught the basic terms of the Dhol drum and finally were permitted to play. In front of us three drums were already laid out. Each drum had a sense of majesty as they were large and had a hugely powerful sound. I waited for our instructor to unpack more; however, instead he invited us, in threes, up to the drums. For the five or so minutes I was playing, the Dhol drum was amazing and gave me a sense of importance, though I would have loved to have played for longer!

Eamon Macdonald

Bollywood Dance Workshop and Finale

After stripping ourselves of shoes and socks we began the workshop. After a quick dance routine to limber up ready for the workshop, we were taught the basics, such as shoulder movements, rolling our shoulders back and forth. After this they played the music that some of us would dance to in front the whole school. At this point, we were deemed ready and could begin to finally become true Bollywood dancers! It was a fun and lively workshop and a delight to be involved as it gave us all a feel for Indian culture in a less conventional way than we might typically have imagined. It was also a lot of fun getting to see our routine performed on stage in front of everyone in the Bollywood finale. This was a stunning compilation of all the workshop events, showing off what we had all learned as well as some solo acts. This included a Dhol drumming routine to show off the skills learned by some of the school's drummers, as well as a solo act by Matt Gallagher as his prize for winning the Live at the Atrium competition. It was a fantastic show and it was a treat to see how much we'd all learned.

Osburh Rigg-Widdowson





ALI HORLER



HATTIE SLATER



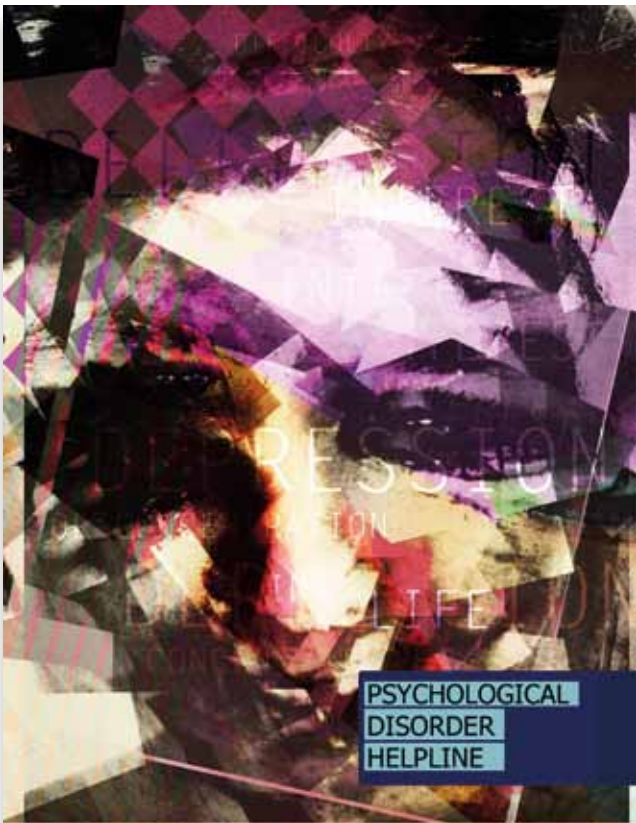
ELIZA HILLARY



MANON STEYAERT



OMEY WALKER



COCO SHELLIM



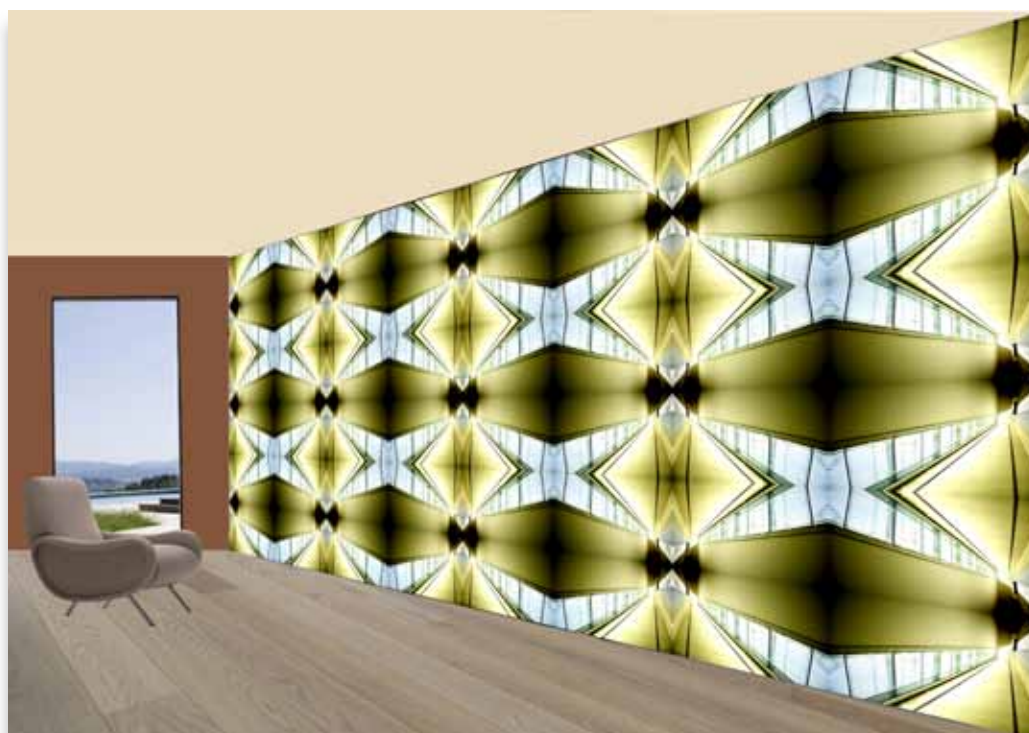
ELLIE OLCOTT



GEORGIA CURRELL



OLIVIA ANNAN



GUY RUSLING

Titanic Anniversary

April 14 2012 was the 100th Anniversary of the tragic sinking of the ocean liner the Titanic. To commemorate this, TCJ reporter Tim Hrenchir wrote the following article which explains the link between Thomas Hughes' family and the sinking of the Titanic. This article in turn helped to inspire some Rugby pupils to write their own responses to the tragic event, in the form of poems.

Posted: April 14, 2012 - 6:45pm

TCJ reporter: Tim Hrenchir

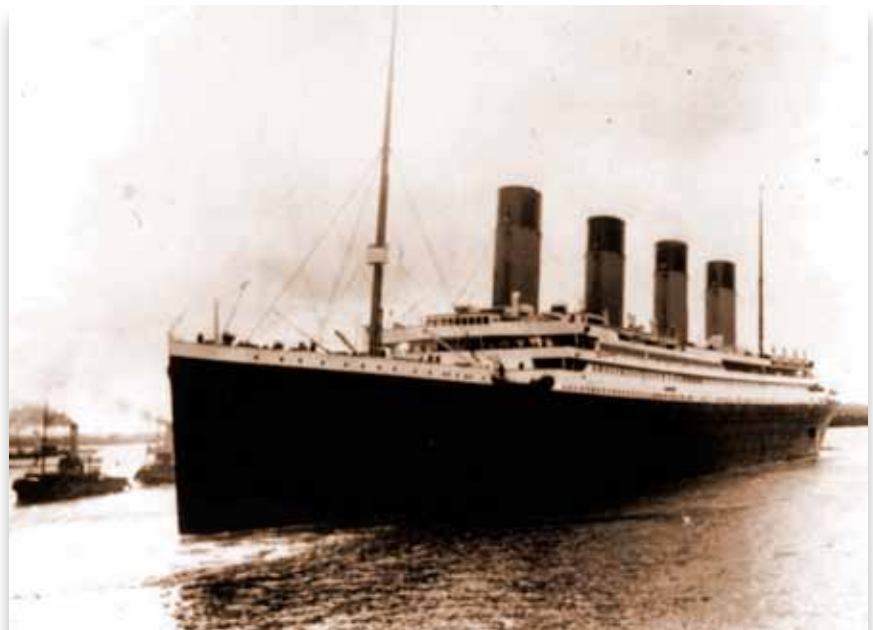
THE CAPITAL-JOURNAL

A London couple en route to Topeka were among the more than 1,500 people who perished a century ago in the sinking of the Titanic. The Rev. Ernest Carter, 54, and his wife, Lilian Carter, 45, were coming to visit her brother, Topekan George Hughes, when the ship struck an iceberg, then sank just before 2:20 a.m. on April 15, 1912.

The Topeka Daily Capital reported eight days later: "No doubt remains as to the fate of Rev. and Mrs. Ernest Carter, who sailed from England on the Titanic to visit Mrs. Carter's brother, George Hughes, of 1627 Buchanan street. Mr. Hughes yesterday received definite word that they were not among the survivors who were landed by the Carpathia in New York." The article also said, "Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Carter had been engaged in missionary work in several countries and were sailing for the United States to visit Mrs. Carter's brother, Mr. Hughes, and to take a long rest."

The article noted that Lilian Carter was the daughter of famed English writer Thomas Hughes.

Hughes (1822-1896) was best known for his 1857 novel "Tom Brown's School Days," a semi-autobiographical work set at Rugby School, which he had attended, in Rugby, England.



George Hughes, one of nine children of Thomas and Frances "Fanny" Hughes, was born in England in 1865. He moved as a young man to the United States, where he became involved in ranching. George Hughes came in 1903 to Topeka, where he operated a sand company and engaged extensively in farming, according to an article published in the Daily Capital after his death in 1939. George Hughes and his wife, Lena Hughes, had three children. At the time of the Titanic disaster, they lived in a house he had built at 1627 S.W. Buchanan. Hughes' youngest sister, Lilian, was married to Ernest Carter in 1890. They had no children and lived in London's East End.

An article published in May 1912 in Oxford Magazine said Ernest Carter wasn't especially gifted intellectually or as a preacher, but nevertheless "was in many ways a remarkable man." The article said, "As Vicar of St. Jude's, Whitechapel, he had a most difficult and disheartening task to face, for his parishioners belonged mainly to the Jewish colony which crowds that quarter of London." The article said Carter faced his task bravely and with

an "infinite optimism," showing great social qualities and making many friends. The article said of Lilian Carter: "She was a great diocesan worker amongst women. As soon as the news came, people said, 'He was just the one to let others go first,' and all felt certain they would keep together."

The Carters bought second-class tickets on the maiden voyage of the massive Titanic, a White Star ocean liner they boarded on April 10, 1912, at Southampton, England. On the night the Titanic sank, Ernest Carter led a hymn service involving about 100 passengers in its second-class dining area. The service ended about 10 p.m. April 14, 1912. The Titanic struck the iceberg about 11:40 p.m. The Carters' subsequent actions are described in an article at www.encyclopedia-titanica.org/titanic-victim/lilian-carter.html that says, "According to newspaper reports of the period Carter and his wife were given the opportunity to get into one of the lifeboats, but they refused saying 'Let the others go first' and Mrs. Carter resolutely refused to go with the women." The article says survivor Kate Buss later named her daughter after Lilian Carter, whom she

met on the Titanic, though an article at www.encyclopedia-titanica.org/titanic-victim/kate-buss.html indicates a death certificate and obituary for Buss, who died in 1972, gave the name of her one daughter as 'Sybil.'"

Confirmation of the Carters' deaths was reported on the front page of the April 23, 1912, edition of the Topeka Daily Capital. The newspaper was published in the mornings. It had quickly broken the news locally about the Titanic on April 15, 1912 — hours after the disaster — in a wire service article indicating the ship had struck an iceberg and was reported to be sinking. The Daily Capital published an article April 17, 1912, saying two women who lived near Hoyt in Jackson County, identified only as "Miss Powers" and "Miss Ryan," were in England and had bought tickets aboard the Titanic for a trip to New York City that had been scheduled to begin May 1, 1912, but would never take place. A Daily Capital article published April 20, 1912, suggested those who went down with the Titanic may have included Topekan Sanford Kurtz, his wife and their two children.

The newspaper reported that Kurtz, a United Brethren missionary who had been in the Philippines for three years, told his father in Topeka that he expected to sail from Southampton about April 10 on an unspecified ship and arrive in New York five or six days later. Kurtz and his family turned out to have not taken the Titanic. Page 8 of the Daily Capital's April 23, 1912 edition, which included continuing coverage of the Titanic disaster, also bore an advertisement in the lower right-hand corner for the White Star Dominion Canada Service, a partnership involving the White Star shipping line that included the Titanic. "Shortest route to Europe," the ad said.

Inaccuracies were common in wire service coverage published in the days after the disaster in the Daily Capital and its competing newspaper, the afternoon Topeka State Journal. Those papers later merged to form The Topeka Capital-Journal. "All passengers are safe" said the headline for a story about the sinking published in the State Journal on April 15, 1912. "More than two thousand were drowned," the State Journal then reported in a headline on April 17, 1912. The actual death toll was a little more than 1,500, and most victims died of hypothermia instead of drowning. Providing perspective about the Titanic's size was the purpose of a front-page graphic the State Journal published on April 17, 1912.

The graphic showed that the 882-foot, 9-inch-long ship, if it stood along S.W. 8th Street in downtown Topeka, would encompass about two blocks from its bow at S. Kansas Avenue west to its stern at S.W. Van Buren Street.

The graphic showed the Titanic's 92-foot, 6-inch breadth would span the entire distance between the buildings that stood on the north and south sides of S.W. 8th between S. Kansas Avenue and S.W. Jackson Street.

tim.hrenchir@cjonline.com.
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TITANIC

*The metal swan sweeps through azure with exterior grace,
A paragon of divide between the rich and the impoverished.
On the zenith, laze the opulent - inebriated, oblivious, blithe.
Beneath are the invisible impecunious.
They squat in their own trepidation and mutter frantic prayer.
They are the frenzied kicking legs that remain under the surface of the majestic swan.
It leaves a trail of disrupted spume at its flank
And disturbs the stagnant air into plumes of twisted miasmas.
A rainbow of tangled sound radiates off the vehicle
Soon to be choked by the voracious waters.
When the vessel splits
The aristocrat and pauper at last stand side by side.
Bound by mutual disquiet as the ship is torn apart.
The master of millions is weighed down in the water by his over-adorned apparel.
Whilst he is drowned by his own conceit,
Titanic steals away into the depths, to be unseen forever.*

*Hidden by obscurity is Titanic's metal carcass, carefully sprawled on the seafloor.
Bitter current tiptoes over each fragment.
Every limb and appendage overlaid with avaricious aquatic entities
That imbibe the last few glimmers of life from the wreckage.
The recurring currents,
And the recurrence of history.
Human narcissism leaves scars like these
That are left to crumble in the hands of nature.*

Lucy Hayes

The Lady

*The bitter monster gnaws away at its helpless, graceful prey,
As it clings to her majestic gut.
She howls and shrieks in pain and agony,
But the deafened people do not turn their oblivious heads,
Their minds constricted by the coils of their own focus and journey.
She cried out for aid, assistance that was never going to come.*

*She wallowed in the jagged knives, awaiting the cuts and scars to show,
Everything ached from the arrogant diamond reflection on the clean, soft breast
To the sweating brow of the diligent, dirty, black burner.*

*The drunkard, wretched swine swings to and fro by the dancing fire,
Chanting merrily to his crying sons in the creaking container soon to be flooded by their tears,
Whilst the shimmering mirror captures the gleaming girl smiling with her precious pearls.*

*The rhythmic wave of polished wood entwining the luxurious gallery,
Wore a splendid glass cap, soon demolished by the circling ribbon of chilly
Fate and mourning. Smoothed by polished leather and dazzling sequins,
It wrapped round the elegant royalty as if a warm, comforting
Scarf, but was soon saturated with its icy foe and wriggled down to the bed.*

*Moaning heavily, the gargantuan woman cracked and clicked and vertically
Stood did she. She shivered and twitched as her coffin grew near.
She started her miserable, muddy descent to her shivering tomb,
Where its worms lay motionless, waiting for their dwelling feast.
Her decaying skeleton still howls from the grave, waiting for the curious lights to fade,
And liberate her soul for eternity.*

Matt Jackson



EMILY POST

No Indian Knows English

No Indian knows English.

No Indian can grapple with complexities of the English language.
Not REAL English.
Not the English of Shakespeare, Dickens, Austen and the great English poets and writers.
*'If music be the food of love, play on,
Give me excess of it; that surfeiting,
The appetite may sicken, and so die.'*

No Indian can understand that!

No Indian can understand the English way.
No Indian can taste the difference between each tea blend.
Black teas with oxidation and green without.

No Indian can understand that!

No Indian can see the Queen and understand what she means.
Her history and Christmas speech,
'It is through this lens of history that we should view the conflicts of today, and so give us hope for tomorrow.'
No Indian can understand that!

No Indian can eat a roast dinner with appreciation of the flavours combined.
The potatoes crispy on the outside, soft on the inside.
Yorkshire puddings cupped to provide a home for thick gravy.
No Indian can know that, *'cooking doesn't get tougher than this.'*
Or that carrots help you see in the dark.

No Indian knows that!

No Indian knows English.

A strong chord sounds loudly.
Freddie Mercury's tuneful voice is heard.

Change the channel.

The red ball spins towards the wickets.
Monty Panesar has skillfully bowled another player out!

Change the Channel.

Salman Rushdie is reading an extract from his new book. Words fall out of his mouth and through the transmitter into the living room, entralling all into his world.

No Indian knows English?

Eamon MacDonald

RUGBY FOOTBALL**XV****P13, W10, L3**

The first game of the season – home, to Haileybury – started intensely, with Rugby charging on the red zone five times in the first quarter. But the try line proved elusive and it was another ten minutes before Jacob Knight would turn a phase from nothing into a try for Matt Vaux with a grubber through the defensive line. Following the conversion from Sam Pointon (Captain), Rugby led 7-0 into the end of the first half. A reinvigorated Rugby team started the half full of energy and Charles Ogunkeyede scored early from a break by Jake Kings. Kings then scored himself, taking an offload from Pointon along the right wing to touch down in the corner. The match fell short of the full 70 minutes as Sam Bennett dislocated his shoulder in contact against the two biggest men on the pitch. The final score was 19-7 to Rugby. Subsequent matches followed a similar story, with Ogunkeyede scoring twice against St Edward's, Oxford, and second halves being played quicker and more daringly than first halves. Arguably the best try of the season was scored in the first few minutes of the game against Trent, when a driven lineout from just outside the 22 crossed the line with ease. This set the tone for the rest of the match and regular line breaks from the likes of Callum Wilson and Knight enabled quick ball for capitalisation. Further tries were scored by Richard Assheton, Dan Martin, George Terry and Ben Wiegman, to name a few. But things did not always go the team's way. Careless ball retention in defence in the game against Oundle, for example, saw Rugby stuck in its own end for much of the first half. The second half saw Rugby increase the intensity and physicality of their game but the team still remained unable to breach the Oundle defence, and the score remained at 14-0.

Half way through term, Rugby hosted Coleraine, a touring side from Northern Ireland. Anticipation was high but early tries from Will Darby and Ogunkeyede gave the suggestion that they were not as strong as anticipated. At the half the score was 38-0 and many new faces appeared in the ranks, including Paddy Sardeson, Jonny Chin, Jamie Couchman and Rob Pütter. The replacements were just as comfortable on the Close as those they had replaced and the score board continued to tick over, almost keeping up with the clock. Quality performances were seen in the centres and the front row, providing turnover ball at the scrum and ruck. More victories on the Close were secured with wins against strong Stamford and Oakham teams. The Oakham win was particularly well-received by the 'Follow Up Club', who had returned to Rugby for the first time to watch the match.

Having won all their post-half term matches until this point, Rugby were on somewhat of a roll as they welcomed Harrow to the Close. Harrow overshadowed the XV in size and physicality, but it was Rugby that played the more flowing game. The first ten minutes saw Rugby sit inside the Harrow 22, nearly crossing the



line twice, but being kept short. Harrow dominated line outs and scrums, but Rugby were steady in defence and ball retention. After the half, Rugby attacked the setting sun and scored quickly through Jack Riley, who crashed over the line from an assist from Wiegman. Harrow scored immediately after and again only a few minutes later. Knight and Ogunkeyede made a superb passage of play up the left wing to give Knight his second try of the game. Harrow scored another try through the strength of their pack, leaving Rugby with a deficit of 29-15. Ogunkeyede scored in the closing minutes of the match to take the score to a respectable 29-20 against a side that plays almost exclusively on the all-boys circuit.

Having lost two matches consecutively, to Cheltenham and Harrow, the exceptional season that the XV were enjoying had taken a severe slump, and now the team was faced with one of the toughest fixtures of the season: Bedford. Pointon took the first score here, touching down after finishing a well executed back row move. Not long after, Assheton furthered the lead by intercepting the ball on the half and running the way to the line, untouched by the chasing defence. This lead was held until the end of the first half, with some strong defence from the XV as they were set back on their own line by several long kicks by the Bedford half backs. The second half continued the strong play that Rugby were enjoying, as Knight scored a much needed try to secure the lead. The last half of the second half put Rugby back on their own line for the most part, forcing them to defend desperately, with some superb tackling from the likes of Riley and Darby. However, a loose ball from the side of a scrum gave Bedford an opportunity to put some points on the board. This was a much stronger and more confident side that Rugby had produced against Cheltenham, with their playing resembling that of the match against Stamford. The final score was 21-7.

Benedict Wiegman

2nd XV**P9, W9**

The 2nd XV had an unbeaten season this year, something that has not been seen on Bigside for quite some time. The boys trained well and played even better, scoring a massive 363 points in the season as a whole and only conceding 36. Huge victories over Haileybury (41-0) and St Edward's, Oxford (76-0), paved the way for a memorable match at Oundle, where again we were simply too

strong and the opposition put up little resistance; the final score here was 46-5. Kit Goodfellow racked up a tally of well over 100 points, a remarkable feat at schoolboy level in one season. Henry Hunt, Rob Pütter and Ali Horler were also able to excel during the season, taking on important leadership roles to help Jamie Couchman as Captain. The boys rounded things off in grand style by beating Bedford 32-0 on the Close. I am sure their achievements will live long in the memory.

MRW

3rd XV

P9, W5, L4

Much has been achieved this season and the playing record does not do adequate justice to the manner in which the boys have conducted themselves. Only on one occasion were we comprehensively outplayed (Oakham – 27-5) and even then, if we had made more of some of our early chances, the pattern of the game might have gone in our favour. A good victory against Haileybury kick-started the season. This was followed by an overwhelming win away against St Edward's, Oxford. The narrow loss to Oundle in the last five minutes of the game spurred the boys to higher things in the victories against Uppingham and Radley, where the superiority of our rucking and lineout play helped to provide sufficient ball to the increasingly confident backs to steer straight paths through the opposition. The highlight of the season came against Stamford, who arrived on Hillbrow unbeaten and left comprehensively outplayed. The final chapter of the season was characterized by absences due to illness and injury. Had we encountered Bedford and Cheltenham when we were at full strength the story would have been a very positive one from our point of view. As it was, the Bedford match was only lost via a penalty kick in the last minute of the game.

PTE

4th XV

P8, W3, L4, D1

This season has been an enjoyable and memorable one for all the right reasons. The team bonded together extremely well and showed their talents in the first game with a fantastic 34-0 victory against St Edward's, Oxford. Oundle were our next opponents and, although we lost narrowly (26-12), the defeat only hardened the team's resolve to win again. A hard-fought game away to Uppingham produced a thrilling 19-19 draw. The team then produced some fast-flowing rugby and a victory against a strong Radley team.

The second half of the season started with a victory against Stamford and narrow losses to Oakham, Cheltenham and Bedford. The team produced some wonderful rugby with forwards and backs combining to show some of the excellent skills honed in training. The team was ably led by Felix Douglas-Ferguson (Captain), with fantastic contributions from all the players.

PS

Vth XV

P6, W2, L4

The Vth XI had a fantastic season this year and surpassed all expectations by winning two of our five games (Cheltenham and Bedford). Sadly, we were beaten by Uppingham, Radley and Stamford. A special mention must be made of Max Or because, whilst his dedication to the game may have been questioned during training sessions, he was certainly willing to risk life and, in one instance, a limb in match situations. This was not, however, an easy team to captain, or at least not with Jordan Johnson's well-timed but badly executed spear tackle which nearly saw me taken out completely.

I thoroughly enjoyed my season in the fifths and was deeply impressed by the persistence and true grit shown by every single player.

Hector Alexander



U16A

P11 W10 L1

As we gathered for pre-season training, there was a palpable feeling of excitement and ambition for the season ahead. We won a convincing victory against Greshams (25-0) and so set up what was to be a very successful season in which we only lost one game. The most convincing win of the season as a whole came against a strong Loughborough Grammar School side (49-10), with Harry Mallinder scoring three tries and James Darby being driven over the line for one of his three tries this season. The only loss of the season came against a big Stamford team. Despite a huge effort from the forwards, in the scrum and from Will Briggs' stealing balls at the lineout, the team was unable to clinch winning points and the game finished 24-20 against us. This was a disappointing result, of course, but the courage and spirit displayed during the game was a real testament to good the team had become. The season culminated in a superb win against a Bedford side that had beaten us by a large margin two years previously. After an anxious start, in which we were pinned on our own line for much of the time, George Lewis scored two fantastic tries, using his blistering pace to bring us back into the game. A couple more tries consolidated the healthy score line and ensured the season ended on a high.

Many players performed consistently to a fantastic standard during the season. Harry Mallinder's kicking allowed us to remain a threat in many games. Oscar Avis also played an important role in the front row. Ben Pointon and Marcus Hunter were instrumental in orchestrating the backline. A strong midfield, combined with the pace of Henry Holmes and Toby Bell on the wings, and George Lewis at fullback created a dangerous attack. We are sure this team will continue to have much success over the coming years as it moves up the School.

Theo Gough and Tom Mourant

U16B

P9, W2, L7

The U16Bs played with enthusiasm and commitment in each of their nine fixtures this season. The fact that some of the team's best performances came in matches which they lost heavily to much bigger oppositions demonstrates how positively they played. The side's two victories came in exciting matches against St Edward's, Oxford, and Cheltenham, and it was frustrating to

lose very narrowly to Haileybury, Oakham and Oundle. Indeed, we dominated possession and the forward battle in most of our fixtures but we were simply unable to turn territory into points. Worthy of special mention are the performance of the pack (led by Harrison Anton) against Stamford and the committed defence of the entire backline against Bedford. Guy Balogun and Oliver Colville led the team's Michell contingent to greatness, much to My Day's delight.

DCG

U16C

P 8, W2, L1, D5

The U16C's first game of the season, against St Edward's, Oxford, was not a success, with St Edward's scoring 32 points to our 17. But, dusting ourselves down, we came back with a more positive result the following week, when we drew against Oundle (17-17). Were it not for the post, Jatinder Devgun's final conversion could have seen us win. A very close game against Uppingham ended in another loss, although the final score – 22-19 – could have been a lot worse if it was not for Rufus Holt at full back. The season ended in a win against Loughborough (50-36), with a number of tries from Finlo Clarkson, the season's top try-scorer.

AJC and EGT

U15A

P13, W8, L5

This has been a very enjoyable and productive season for the U15As and they have made a lot of progress, both as individuals and as a team. Pre-season was focused and the performances against KES Birmingham in the trial matches hinted at the possibility of a successful season. Training sessions for the rest of the term were less purposeful and too often the key players did not lead by example and there was a lack of belief and seriousness in the way that they approached technical sessions. I am sure that this will improve in future and that with more winning results they will take themselves more seriously. There were few stars in the team and this helped to mould a team spirit that produced excellent rear-guard defensive displays, particularly against Oakham and Trent. Defeating Oakham, to whom they had lost so heavily the year before, was indicative of how much they had improved so quickly. The Daily Mail run was cut cruelly short at Loughborough where we played with different laws, and after fine wins against John Cleveland School and Lawrence Sheriff we might have expected to go a lot further. This 19-18 defeat away from home still represented significant improvement and, had the ball bounced more kindly, the second half of the term may have been very different.

Big hits from the Rawicz-Szczerbo twins and Will Barlow certainly kept the opposition on the back foot and Matt Karslake's skill in the lineout and at the base of the scrum tidied up nicely. Flankers Will Church and George Innes were very effective over the tackle but both need a little more brawn to be really competitive. Hooker Luke McManus frequently joined attacking moves with his sidestep and dummy. Props Archie Hughes and Henry Don were good technically. Toby Latham at scrum half was a reliable link but



again will need more to his game to be a genuine threat. The midfield of Robbie Povey, Josh Harris and Joe Miller (Captain) was the focal point of so much that was good and they worked well as a unit. All three are strong and quick and they looked after the ball. Winger Tom Howell was the most effective weapon and his acceleration caught many teams out. He scored the most tries and was a real match winner. Hugh Wrigley, Adam Smith and Ed Anton all showed quality in attack and slowly improved their defence. Each has his own strengths and weaknesses and the final line-up for the backs was never really settled.

TMW



U15B

P9 W9

This has been a fantastic season for the U15Bs, not just in terms of results but also in the way all the boys have developed as rugby players as the season has gone on. Although there were a couple of frustrating moments from my point of view as the coach, the boys largely bought into the mindset that the team is always more important than the individual; and as the season progressed this was clear to see as seventeen boys managed to score tries. The most prolific scorers were George Kamau, Leo Seymour and Lukas Lakin. And Lukas' try count is even more astonishing as he only played in the final two games of the season! The front row of Jack Rosser, Angus Campbell, Harry Weston and Alex Lawson-May were dominant in every scrum and each of them was excellent around the park in loose play. Hugo and Ollie Inglis struck fear into opponents with their size and as the season progressed both developed into key members of the team. The back row of Henry Hudson, Mark Weaver and Leo Seymour excelled at the breakdown and were everywhere in attack. Aaron Hall progressed nicely as scrum half and was a solid organizer and distributor of the ball. Johnny Woodhead ran the back line from fly half; it was such a shame to see him injured in the match against Trent, but Bill Downer more than made up for his absence. The skills of Adam Jeevanjee, Bill Downer, Rory Bennett and Felix Tubbs made selecting a final team very difficult and all four were used in various combinations throughout the season. I wish all the boys every success in their rugby careers and I am sure that many will be challenging for places in the As next year.

AJS

U15C

P8, W7, L1

In previous seasons, the early match against St Edward's, Oxford, has proved a gentle early test for the U15Cs and we went there this year with high hopes for a win. Returning as the only team to lose that day – and against mediocre opposition – was not the start we were hoping for. Indeed, two of our strike players, Kelvin Wong and Kyle Sun, got injured and took no further part in the season. Oundle, traditionally one of our strongest opponents, was next on

the fixture card – not what we needed. But enter Josh Awosika, who scored six tries, and, with some awesome attacking flair in backs, the expected rout actually went in our favour, a success we repeated against Uppingham and Trent, with superb running from the likes of Michael Odunsi, Craig McGuinness, Sea Assakul and Miles Wheatland. Superb strength and fearless tackling from Duncan Leng and Ben Van Laar gave the pack a dominant base for the rest of the season, from which an almost unbeatable rucking performance set up much of our attacking play.

The final match against Bedford is normally a fixture that is feared, but this team knew that they had a chance to overturn the traditional defeat and were suitably fired up before the game. The tactic was to come out fast and to hit them hard, and that is exactly what happened. A lead from the very first possession gave confidence to the team and there followed an epic performance both in attack and defence - Sam Hillcox gave the performance of the season. Without doubt Bedford were the best team we played all season, but almost faultless play from all the boys summed up the spirit they had shown since the first match and they ended the game as deserved winners.

PAB

U15D

P6, W2, L4

For the U15Ds, the season started full of promise. Enthusiasm in training and a good starting XV saw us win our first match against St Edward's, Oxford, by a convincing margin. Phoenix Cronin, Miles Wheatland and Chris Wright scored impressive tries, and Chris Wright's conversions were impressive. The much-loved conditioning sessions saw the team's fitness improve dramatically over the term, with the boys going from struggling initially to complete one lap of Springhill to doing a 45-minute cross-country session – clearly an achievement. Our early win was followed by several hard-fought matches where the opposition unfortunately maintained the upper hand, but our final match of the season mirrored our first and, away against Cheltenham, with the extreme gradient of the pitch and the Arctic conditions doing nothing to dampen the boys' spirits, Chester Chan, Luke Marchant, Jack Talbot, Will Naul and

Phoenix Cronin all notched up tries, with Marchant getting all the conversions despite the strong winds. Well done boys!

AMM

U14A

P11, W8, L3

The U14As had a very promising season, with the team developing well over the term. The forwards looked strong at times and, at their best, they were effective at the breakdown and in the set-piece. Performance in the line-out was a positive and there is some size amongst them, which bodes well for the team in the future. The backs showed some pace and they were not without skill. But tactical kicking and the speed of passing will be areas for development next season.

Overall, the team played 11 games, winning eight of them. In total, they scored 316 points and conceded 162. The coaches were most encouraged by wins over Teddies (17-10), Haileybury (33-5) and Cheltenham (24-14). Two games against Oakham brought losses, but the spirit shown by the boys in both of the second halves of these games was impressive, and I am sure that they will be looking forward to reversing these defeats next year.

MAM

U14B

P10, W8, L2

The team started with victories against Princethorpe and St Edward's, Oxford, but it was against Haileybury and Wellingborough that we settled into a pattern of play which suited us. Next we came up against a strong Oakham side, who started well and ended as deserving winners. The team regained confidence with twin wins over Trent. The return with Oakham was one of the highlights of the season: Rugby attacked and defended as a team, sealing a 24-0 victory. A loss to Cheltenham in the penultimate game was disappointing but the boys were soon to show they had resilience. The final match was at Bedford who looked strong but, after a tough, attritional first half, Rugby found another gear to race away to a 38-17 victory.

We used 28 players in the season so it is only possible to name a few of the best here. In the forwards, Rory Farquharson led the side well from No. 8 and Nick Marsden was always a thorn in the side

of the opposition. In the backs Ollie Bacon and Henry Bradshaw formed a strong midfield partnership, while rugby novice Richie Yeung was top try scorer.

BJR

U14C

P8, W7, D1

A remarkable season culminated in a terrific victory at Bedford School. This 17-10 victory was the final game of an unbeaten season. Before this game, the team had defeated St Edward's, Oxford (49-0), Oakham (28-5 and 52-0), Trent College (53-5 and 57-5) and Cheltenham (10-5). The only blip in a tremendous season was a 17-17 draw against Haileybury. All the boys of the team are to be congratulated for a successful season, from the front row all the way through the team to the full back. There were some fine performances from Sam Pougatch (Captain); Henry Whitley and William Carr, who shared the scrum half position; and the 'boot' extraordinaire, George Creed.

In the last game of the season – against Bedford – the boys played definitely their best game of the term. Michael Johnson was outstanding as hooker and all the forwards played with real intensity, particularly captain on the day James Hudson, who seemed to be everywhere on the pitch. At full time, the Cs completed a fantastic season with a 19-14 win.

RBM

U14D

P6, W3, L3

Three good wins in the first half of term against St Edward's, Oxford (55-0) and twice against Radley (both times 24-7) were counterbalanced by three sorry losses in the second against Radley again (17-7), Cheltenham (12-10) and Bedford (10-0). Daniel Peet did an excellent job as Captain, both in the matches, leading by example to make the most of every opportunity available, and during the training sessions. Arthur Umbers and Anto Woodhead also played well at scrum half and fly half respectively, working quickly at scrums and forcing the back line up the pitch. Vova Semenyaka's deft sidestepping proved indispensable as he frequently ran the length and breadth of the pitch to score right under the posts. All four of them ought to be challenging for a

place in a higher team next season. Of course, each year the Ds is made up on some boys who have never played rugby before. This year, almost a third of the team were new to the sport, and I am especially pleased by how readily that number threw themselves into things. I very much enjoyed the boys' company and I wish them well for a good season next year.

RJS



GIRLS' HOCKEY

XI

P14, W9, L5

The season started promisingly, with wins against Bloxham (2-1) and Uppingham (6-1). After these early victories we were hopeful of an unbeaten season, but unfortunately this was not to happen as, the following week, we lost to Bromsgrove 5-1. Our next match was against Oakham. We defended well and kept them out of the D. With only one minute left the score was 1-1, but in the last few seconds of the match they scored and there was no time left for us to equalise. This was a great match; Rugby deserved at least a draw. In the County Championship in October, we managed to remain undefeated, not even conceding a goal. Feeling very positive, we then went on to play Cheltenham, which was definitely the highlight of our season – the 4-2 win showed us just how well we could play together. This winning streak lasted for another week as we went on to play Bablake, which we won 4-0, with two skilful goals from Hattie Slater.

But our luck was not to last. We lost 2-0 against St Edward's, Oxford, and then again against Oundle (4-1). Oundle was probably the toughest match of the season. There was lots of oppositional pressure on the defence, but Rugby gave as good as it got, with some amazing saves from Tara Barratt in goal, whilst Isabel Schlee scored the best goal RSD had ever seen, as it worked its way through the whole team. Unfortunately, with the scoreline at 2-1 and Rugby pressuring the Oundle defence for an equaliser, the opposition scored two goals on the break.

The regional zone tournament of the Independent Schools Hockey League proved to us that we were good at tournament hockey: we won all three matches, scoring eight goals and only conceding two. The following week we played Malvern. Having never played them before, we were unsure of what to expect. We started off slowly but we picked our game up in the second half and left with a 3-1 win. Sadly, at the Regional finals we lost all three matches against Princethorpe, Oakham and Repton. We went on to play Repton in our fixture the following Saturday. We held our ground here, but they had some very strong players. They only scored three goals (compared to their 15-0 win to Uppingham, this was very good!) and Barratt again made some great saves. Our final match was against Sedbergh, which we ended up winning 3-1 in a game in which we probably could have scored even more goals. That night we had our End of Season Awards: Top Goal Scorer was Hattie Slater, Most Improved Player was Anie Duncan and Player of the Season was Lucy Ripman.

This term, we have also started playing U18 development matches, which means players from the younger year groups are able to play with members of the XI to learn new skills and



to enjoy really competitive hockey. This season, the U18s have played Princethorpe (winning 3-1), Solihull (winning 5-0) and King's, Worcester (winning 3-1). Girls from the 2nd XI, the U16As and the U15As have played in these matches, so thank you to all of them for their contribution.

Lucy Ripman

2nd XI

P11, W7, L3, D1

The 2nd XI can be justifiably proud of a very good season, in which they won seven of their 11 games. Our only losses were to talented teams at Oundle, Repton and Cheltenham; and indeed in two of these matches we were disappointed to lose. In many ways, our win against St Edward's, Oxford, typified our season. The girls worked really well as a team, and were prepared to battle hard to the end to win a difficult game 1-0. LJG and I thoroughly enjoyed coaching the girls: they were keen to learn and willing to work hard –although there was the odd complaint about fitness sessions! Sophie Sheach was appointed Captain for the second half of term and led by example. The Player of the Match award was spread throughout the team, showing that everyone contributed to the team's success. Connie Krarup was Top Goal Scorer with six goals, Amy Webb was the Most Improved Player, and Laura Gordon Lennox was Player of the Season.

PKB

3rd XI

P10, W7, L3

From the very first game this season it was clear that the 3rds were full of spirit and passion and that they had a strong desire to win. Every single player worked hard in training and each girl supported and played for her team mate. With Sophie Skipper commanding the centre and Fabia Carney, Alice Geary, Bianca Vergara, Hebe Rut and Phoebe Dunston dominating the mid-field it was always hard for the opposition to get any rhythm going, hence our seven wins. And if the opposition did managed to break through the mid they had to negotiate the highly effective defence made up of Catriona Low, Becky Beswick, Alice Miller and Caroline Cieslewicz. The ever-

dependable Jessie Firth made save after save, stoically protecting her goal. It has been an excellent season full of fun and success from a hard working and competitive team.

MH

4th XI

P7, W4, L1, D2

The 4ths are ecstatic to have done so well this season, never failing to have a ball, never hesitating to bring an idea into our training if it could possibly help us win (even if yoga at half time did provoke a few giggles from the opposition) and always playing with a smile on our faces. The fact that we believed so much in the team spirit of the 'Mighty 4ths' worked hugely to our advantage, especially in our final match of the season, when we beat a notorious Repton team 3-1, and in our well-supported home match against Cheltenham, when a cheeky hat-trick of goals led to victory. A group rendition of Queen's 'We are the Champions' on the minibus home from our last match certainly made all those cold Autumn afternoons and group jogs worth the effort. The departing XX are truly honoured to have spent their last hockey season with the 4ths, enjoying a successful term in an energetic and friendly atmosphere.

Flora Ogilvy

5th XI

P9 W4 L4 D1

Beginning the season with a 13-0 victory over Uppingham was a presage of things to come, we hoped. However, the following five games all fell into a rut as goals started to dry up. Spirits remained high nonetheless – the team's enthusiasm certainly cannot be faulted and it was noted by more than one opposition coach how much the girls seemed to be enjoying themselves and that they had bonded particularly well. The team's consistent determination to succeed enabled us to win our final two matches against Oundle. We have very much enjoyed coaching the 5th XI this term: they have provided great entertainment and amusement and even some very impressive hockey at times. Their enthusiasm was infectious and meant that a good time was had by all.

PJB and EAM

6th XI

P3, L3

The 6ths fought valiantly in each of their three fixtures and made a lot of progress as the season went on. Our 10-0 loss against Oundle was not the best start to things, however a much improved second loss of 5-1 raised our spirits somewhat for subsequent matches. Unfortunately, after a few cancelled fixtures and with illnesses sweeping through the squad, we suffered a third and final defeat, again against Oundle (7-1). Well done to Emily Jones who was Top Goal Scorer and to Connie Hurley, who was awarded the title of Most Improved Player – Connie showed natural talent and great reliability when stepping up to her goal keeping role. The award for Player of the Season went to Tara Jacob, who gave her absolute all in every training session and match.

KMS

U16A

P10, W8, L2

The U16As have had another impressive season, losing only two of their ten matches. A particular highlight was their excellent performance against Repton, where they won 3-1 despite not being at full strength. After a victory over Trent in the last week of term, they finished the Midlands Schools Hockey League on equal points to first-place Bromsgrove (missing out on the title only on goal difference). Their achievement in this league was matched by their success in the county and zone rounds of the National Independent Schools Competition, which saw them narrowly miss out on a semi-final place in the Midlands Finals. The success of this team is undoubtedly down to the competitive spirit in all of the girls involved and also simply to their enjoyment of scoring goals. The senior teams will undoubtedly benefit next year when these girls are absorbed into places.

KH

U16B

P9, W6, L2, D1

Lead by an inspiring Miss Dixon, the U16Bs had a very pleasing season, winning six matches, losing two matches and drawing one match. The beginning of the season was looking very good indeed, with two good wins – Uppingham (4-1) and Bromsgrove (5-1) – under our belts. We were looking ahead with optimism, believing that an unbeaten season was a realistic aim. Alas, this aim was not realized, as we lost crushingly against Oundle. We played Oundle again later in the term, but this time we held on to a nail biting 0-0 draw. This shows how far the team had come throughout the season. There is no doubt that this was a very high-spirited side, and there were many funny moments throughout the term, but when the girls needed to perform, they did just that. Particular credits go to Jess Bibby, who





Advent 11

Roberts were brilliant in midfield, and Romilly Harris Stuart, Lizzie Alexander, Millie Byrne and Lydia Kember were excellent forwards. The Captain was Raichura. Top Goal Scorer was awarded to Harris Stuart. Player of the Season went to Stacey. The Most Improved Player was Millie Byrne, who was also in the running for Top Goal Scorer and Player of the Season!

CLH and SSP

was an excellent Captain throughout the term, to Pippa Grimston, who was named Player of the Season; to Sophie Tennant, who was Top Goal Scorer; and finally to Poppy Hudson, our Most Improved Player.

Frances Towers

U15A

P13, W4, L6, D3

At their most confident, the U15As were a genuinely impressive team and squad unit. Kate Broad provided a key fulcrum in the heart of midfield, her incisive passing being matched by her combative defensive work. Alongside Kate, the energy and pace of Amy Dunstan was a constant threat to the opposition wherever she played across the midfield or even in the forward line. Her versatility was complemented by that of Mimi Swaby, who played in six different positions as circumstances demanded; it was no surprise that she ended as Top Goal Scorer for the season. The game against Cheltenham marked the positive development of the side. Having lost, but not been outplayed by, sides from Bromsgrove and Uppingham, this game saw the team dominate play with a fluent game based on pass and move. That the match was eventually drawn was unfortunate, since Cheltenham's goal was against the run of play and was scant reward for some genuinely good hockey from Rugby. Equally important to the improvements made by the side during the season was the increasing confidence of those who, at the start of term, may have considered themselves lesser lights. By the time we played Bablake, just before the November Leave Out, the contribution and importance of the entire side was clear to see.

TGB and EAT

U15B

P11, W6, L4, D1

It has been a mixed season for this group although the final score card is very pleasing indeed! The team has greatly changed as the season has gone on – we have had four different goalies, four U14 players, and five players have also played variously for the As or the Cs. The defenders – Islay Stacey, Millie Garland, Lauren Veasey and Hermione Wilson – were consistently impressive. They were helped by our two main goalies, Alex Rushen and Gabriella Grier. Daisy Raichura, India Jackson, Issie Mansell and Amelia St Clair

U15C

P6, W3, L3

The 2011 U15Cs will probably go down in Rugby School hockey club history as the only team ever to have demanded extra hockey practices; it should also be noted that they were often to be seen dancing joyfully in the rain when weather called off practices. They brought this general enthusiasm to both training and matches and performed solidly throughout the term. There were some defeats (the less said about these the better!) but there were also some spectacular victories, such as their 9-1 triumph over St Edward's, Oxford. All in all, the team ended the season very respectably, having won half of their six matches, and all of those by a clear margin.

EJRN

U15D

P5, W1, L4

The U15Ds had a rather disappointing season, losing all but one of their matches. But they played with good spirit and never gave up until the final whistle was blown. Particular mentions must go to Charlotte Strachan and Anna Farquhar for stepping into the goalkeeper-shaped breach when required; their tenacity and willingness to help as well as their versatility on the pitch eventually earned both of them a well-deserved place in the C team. All the girls have made progress since last year, with particular improvement made on hitting skills and tackles.

LLD





Advent 11

Campbell was awarded Player of the Season. Livvy Higgins was awarded Top Goal Scorer. Lucy Russling was given the award of Most Improved Player, and for good reason: she started the season in the Cs, was promoted to play in the Bs, and then was selected to play a couple of matches in the As!

Olivia Higgins and Ocky Spray

U14A

P13, W3, L6, D4

The U14s played trained together for the first time on the first Wednesday of term and were selected for a match only three days later, so they had to gel very quickly and have a lot of trust in each other's play. This the U14As did well, winning their first match against Bloxham by a clear 3-1. A few days later and they had defeated Uppingham 5-2. Things were looking good for the season, but unfortunately the bubble burst and we suffered a couple of narrow one-goal losses.

Following success in the zone stage of the Independent Schools Competition, the team qualified for the semi-final of the Midlands competition, where they came up against Malvern, whom they had met twice already. This match ended in a draw so our fate was in the hands of the penalty takers. Having done so brilliantly in the County stages on flicks, the girls were disappointed not to win.

The girls were always enthusiastic and the quality of their play improved over the course of the season. With continued determination they should be able to perform well again next year and should be aiming to turn this year's narrow defeats into victories.

AJVM

U14B

P12, W6, L5, D1

The U14Bs had a very good season, not only because we won the majority of our matches but because we always played our hardest and enjoyed everything that we did. Our first match – where we beat Bloxham 8-0 – gave us optimistic hope for the rest of the season. The rest of our matches varied between wins and losses.

A few special mentions go to Clea Rixon, the goalie, who stretched and dived magnificently to save the balls from hitting the back board, and Alex Bibby, who was key to our successful short corners. Isla

U14C

P8, W5, L3

The season started with a tough match against Uppingham. Unfortunately, we were not yet fully established as a team and this meant we suffered a 3-1 loss. But this loss only made us more determined to win and, after a week's tough training focussing on formation and tactics, we played against Cheltenham, where we won secured a solid victory. From this point onwards, we were set to win more matches and have a really successful season, even after a number of our key players moved up to the Bs.

Jess Clarke and Lucy Rusling

U14D

P5, L5

Despite not winning any matches, the U14Ds put all their heart and soul into everything they did this season and they all feel they have learned a lot about hockey and improved as players. Special mention must be made of Emily Price, who was crowned Player of the Match after our encounter with Oakham for the way in which she always kept the ball moving forward. Kitty Munnings also deserves a mention as the team's prized defender, always fighting back against the opposition with strength and determination.

Natasha Chong



BOYS' HOCKEY

XI

P9, W3, L6

The XI had a good season and played much better than the final score tally suggests. The highlights of the term were securing second place in the Warwickshire County Cup and the excellent 2-0 win against a very strong Bedford. We finished in fifth place in the 1st XI Independent Schools League, being unlucky to lose a couple of games by the odd goal which, if won, would have seen us in contention for the final.

The first half of the term got off to a good start, with a 2-1 win against King Henry VIII, Coventry. Unfortunately we were unable to beat a number of other schools and morale began to flag. Outside the D the quality of play was high thanks to great play from Richard Assheton and Harry Wilson. William Darby and Sam Livingstone also deserve a mention because of how solid they were at the back. The speed and fitness of Sam Pointon was outstanding and was a constant threat down the right. Alex Flory was key, being the top goal scorer. We also had strong performances from some members of the LXX, with special mentions going to Harry Umbers, Kit Goodfellow and Kieran Savage.

The second half of the season was not quite as successful as the first half and we met some particularly strong opposition from Oundle, Uppingham and Trent. A less relaxed attitude on the pitch amongst the team could have enabled the score sheet to register more in Rugby's favour.

It is easy to take the plaudits for winning, but a team can learn far more about themselves through losing and the XI learned a lot.

Callum Wilson and Harry Wilson

3rd XI

P 5, W1, L4

The season got off to a good start with a 1-0 home victory against Repton. The weather then intervened and it was another three weeks before we were able to come together again to continue the campaign. Wooden legs do not make for success and our trouncing at the hands of Oundle (9-1) clearly indicated that we had a lot of work to do to get scores up on the board. At times during the our various matches against Uppingham, Oakham and Trent we competed valiantly but ultimately we always came off second best.

PTE

U16A

P7, W4, L1, D2

The U16As can be proud of their achievements this season. In regular fixtures, they were beaten only once, by Oundle, in perhaps the most frustrating match of the season, when they had all of the play but could not score, only to see Oundle score from a



short corner with time up on the clock. In many ways this match encapsulates our season – we played some excellent hockey up to the final third, but could not finish our chances often enough. That said, the team won the Independent Schools League in the regular school fixtures, and made it to the semi-finals of the Midlands Regional Finals, losing on penalty strokes, having been unbeaten in regular play throughout the tournament. There were a number of outstanding performers in the team, notably Charlie Austin, who led by example as Captain, Tom Mourant, George Lewis and Sam Phillipson. The boys were a pleasure to coach, and I wish them well as they challenge for places in the 1st XI next season.

PKB

U16B

P8, W5, L2, D1

While it was a successful season for the U16Bs it was also a frustrating one. We started really strongly with a convincing run of four wins, but the disastrous game played away at Uppingham seemed to rock our confidence; we lost this 7-1. Nevertheless our reliable goal scorer George Beard and determined forward play in subsequent games from Alex Walker and Harry Cross ensured a strong attacking force. In mid-field, Oliver Geary (Captain) was ably supported by Monty Alexander, Cameron McAlister, Toby Brazier and the always dependable Oliver Turner at centre-mid. Keeping the goals against tally low was our solid wall defence in the shape of Oscar Avis, Alex Dibnah, Edmund Krarup, James Haynes and our terrier sweeper James Darby. Finally James Glew in goal kept us in many a game.

MH

U15A

P9, W3, L5, D1

The U15As had a very full term of fixtures and by the final match against Oakham the tiredness amongst the boys was showing. But much of this tiredness comes from the way in which the boys approach each match – with sheer determination, energy and commitment. The team have battled to some impressive victories this term. A particular highlight was the match against Trent, where the boys soaked up the attacking pressure from Trent for much of the second half before scoring on a counter-attack to win the game 3-2.



The term had begun with a reshuffling of personnel and positions, in part due to injury. The boys quickly took on board their new roles and, most importantly, gelled as a team. George Innes moved up this year into both the central midfield and the captaincy. He excelled in both, leading the team with his maturity of thought and his impressive hockey skills. There is still a way for this team to go in terms of development, but if they continue to progress at the same rate they did this term they have the potential for success at senior level.

KH

U15C

P6, W3, L2, D1

The U15Cs trained well and played enterprising hockey throughout the season. They played their best hockey in notable victories against Bedford (4-0) and Oundle (3-0). The team was very competitive in all fixtures, particularly showing tenacious defensive qualities. All players contributed much to the success of the team, with Duncan Leng, Freddie Rawicz-Szczerbo and Sam Hillcox consistently displaying noteworthy performances.

MAM

U15B

P7, W3, L3, D1

The U15Bs won their first match against Repton 4-3 after a second half fight back led by Man of the Match Jack Fisher. But the British weather took a turn for the worse and postponed all matches until after Exeat. Following losses against Bedford, Oundle and Uppingham, the team returned to form and did not losing another game thereafter. A good win was secured against a competitive Trent side, with Man of the Match Kyle Sun bravely battling on despite injury. The season ended on a high, with a triumphant 6-1 win against Oakham. Fisher picked up another two goals to add to his season tally of six. Fisher, Adam Jevanjee, Luke McManus and Mark Weaver provided a strong spine to the team throughout the season.

Rohan Bedi

U14A

P9, W6, L1, D2

The boys enjoyed a successful season, winning the Warwickshire County Cup, the Midlands League and finishing third at the National Finals at Cannock. The Finals were a fitting end to three months of hard work by the boys, who always demonstrated exemplary commitment and sportsmanship.

The season (and indeed the hockey careers of some) began with a visit to Bromsgrove, a strong side who were starting their third season together. The boys acquitted themselves well here, and two goals from Tim Kerr-Chin secured a 2-2 draw. This was followed by a superb display against Repton, where the team won 4-1, thanks to goals from James Cutter (Captain) and Kerr-Chin. Victories against Lawrence Sheriff (8-0) and Bedford (4-1) came either side of the first round of the Warwickshire County Cup, played, and eventually abandoned, in sub-zero temperatures. A friendly against Bromsgrove offered the team a good warm up for the Warwickshire Final against Bablake, where Rugby played some excellent hockey to win the Cup 5-0.

It was then off to the Midlands Finals in Cannock, where the team again performed very well to reach the final after wins over Trent and Bablake and a draw with Repton. The final against Bromsgrove finished 2-2, before we lost 5-4 on penalty-flicks, meaning a play-off match against the South West runners-up would stand in our way of reaching the National Finals. We then had a close match against fellow league leaders Trent, winning 3-2, and a 5-1 victory against Bloxham. With one week left of the term, the team had two remaining fixtures, and the opportunity of turning a good term into a very successful one.

The first of these two matches was away to Oakham, where we knew a draw would secure the Midlands League title. We found



ourselves 3-0 down at the break after a slow start, only to recover to draw 3-3 and secure the title. Next up was the play-off match against Canford to qualify for the National Finals, and when 3-0 up at half time, I felt confident that the match would not be as tense as the visit to Oakham. My confidence was shattered within 20 minutes of the restart when Canford had brought it back to 3-3, before Rugby scored again to secure the narrowest of wins. It was then off to the National Finals, for which the top eight teams in the country qualify.

After finishing runners-up in the group matches (one point behind the eventual winners, Whitgift), the boys qualified for the third place play-off match against Felsted. The team put in another excellent performance to win 4-0 thanks to a hat-trick from Sam Green-Armytage and one more from Cutter. The boys played to a very high standard throughout the day, finishing as the top scoring team and in Cutter had the leading goal-scorer of the tournament. On a day where every match was closely contested, the boys should feel proud of their efforts. There were several outstanding individual performances, yet it was as a team that they really showed their quality, as they did throughout the season as a whole.



GS

U14B

P8, W4, L3, D1

The U14Bs had a good season, despite many of our matches being called off because of bad weather. We won more games than we lost and the draw could have gone either way if we had taken all of our chances and had defended better against soft goals. Our first game was a 3-0 loss against Bromsgrove, who were just better than us at moving the ball about the pitch. The highlight of the season was our 9-0 victory over Bablake. Other successes were our 2-1 wins over Repton and Trent. We look forward to another season as U15s next year.

Rory Farquharson

U14C

P5, W3, D2

Because of the bad weather, the boys only played one game in the first half of term, against Repton. The 3-1 win was a very good result after only one training session together. The boys progressed extremely well throughout the season, both in their individual skills and in knowing how to play as a team. George Creed was excellent in his role as Captain and centre forward, providing us with some key goals throughout the season. Ben Wirth also had a knack for goals, scoring a hat-trick against Bedford (4-1) and also scoring the game-tying goal against Oakham (2-2) in the last five minutes. On the subject of scoring goals, Joe Phillips' goal against Bloxham was

my goal of the season and will take some beating at this level. Alex Winter and Richard Coombs were rocks at centre back and centre half respectively, and by the end of the season they were two of our most consistent players.

AJS

U14D

P5, W2, L2, D1

The U14Ds played a good season, with convincing wins over Bedford (4-0) and Bromsgrove (2-0). The Bromsgrove score was especially pleasing, given the same team had beaten them 3-0 in their very first game. The team also recorded a 1-0 victory over a good Oundle team. The team drew 0-0 against Trent, a score which does not reflect some of the very good play there was at the goal from both teams. Rufus Hall and Barnaby Preece played well in various matches, and the whole team learned a lot of useful skills which I hope they will put into practice next season so we can see some more wins on the scoreboard.

RSD

U14E

P2, L1, D1

The U14E team benefitted from there being so many boys in the group that we were able to have almost two completely different line-ups in our matches against Solihull. The boys played hard in the first game, keeping the opposition at bay for most of the match, to finish on a 1-1 draw. Those who were not picked for the first game were given the chance to play in a second game. Unfortunately, this resulted in 6-0 defeat. The team gained much experience throughout the season, which they can carry forward to next year.

AJC

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL

XI

P6, W3, L2, D1

Having three block fixtures cancelled due to bad weather before Exeat meant that the season got off to a slow start. However, overall, the XI enjoyed a successful run and recorded a good season result. The squad had a good combination of ability and experience, with seven of their number having played for the XI last year.

Victory against St Edwards, Oxford, at the start of the season got the side off to a good start. Despite missing several opportunities during the game, the adept footwork and speed of George Terry and Wilf MacColl on the wings exploited gaps behind the St Edward's defence; both the game's goals came from their work out wide. Long distance shooting from Tommy McIntyre almost brought a reward, but the ball hit the post. Jake Kings, Marcus Kerr, Joe Walde Aldam and Alex Johnson allowed nothing past them in defence and the game ended in our favour.

A similarly good game was played against a fit and well-organized Radley. Rugby took the lead on three occasions here, but Radley maintained their composure and equalised each time, resulting in a well-deserved draw for both sides. The game saw Oli Ashby and George Walker utilise their pace well up front, causing problems for the Radley defence throughout the game. Jake Kings, (Captain) proved unbreakable at the centre of defence and, with Will Haszard, Kerr and Johnson maintaining a strong gate, Radley were forced from distance. Goalie Jacob Gilder made a number of excellent saves to keep us in front to the last five minutes, when Radley equalised with a very well taken and unstoppable header. A cold, blustery day at Oakham saw another win thanks to well-taken first half goals from Walker and Charles Ogunkeyede and two goals from Freddie Embleton.

After all this success, it was unfortunate that a re-arranged cup fixture against Bromsgrove did not go to plan, with a slow start in the first half causing us to concede a soft goal from which we never recovered. Despite an inspired final push that saw us pull back to 1-2, the woodwork and Bromsgrove's resilient goal keeper kept us wanting. Throughout the match, Terry showed just what a good games player he is and, after providing so many chances for his team

mates to score, only narrowly missed a goal in the closing minutes. Marcus Hunter came on as substitute in the final minutes, making an immediate impact, despite still only being an U16. The final whistle and the realisation that we were going no further in another year's cup competition was difficult pill to swallow, especially for those in the XX who were playing their last few games for the XI. The remaining games of the season were in some way an anti-climax, but a win against Oundle (2-0) made a positive finish to the season.

FHA

2nd XI

A mixed bag of a season for the 2nd XI produced some good performances over the term and some really pleasing individual efforts, but the team never quite fulfilled its potential. Weather affected the first half of term, but the team put in some good training sessions, practised hard and kept their spirits up, even though we played only one competitive match. Overall, the Radley match probably summed up the team and the season, as a disappointing first half performance was followed by a good and gutsy second period. As far as the players go, our custodian, Sam Addis, would be in line for Player of the Season: his performances between the posts really kept us in some matches and allowed us to control from the back. Callum Grier and George Holt were the mainstay at the centre of defence; they defended resolutely and created a solid spine from which to move forward. Grier really did show some class as a ball player and defender of quality. Calvin Cragg and Sam Christopherson did well at full back and gave the team some potential both moving forward and when in retreat. Our midfield consisted of Harry Marchant and Gil Reeves and what they lacked in the pace they certainly made up in passing. Reeves was the midfield 'general' and also Captain. The wings were patrolled by Will Lewis and Tommy Blystad, who both added energy to the team and they looked to get crosses into the box. Toby Carver became the real find of the season and the effort and commitment he showed was fantastic, adding spice up front and really putting opposition defenders under pressure. Danny Volkenstein was our self-styled mercurial striker, and although he lacked consistency and missed some simple chances, he did show some potential for the future.

PWD



3rd XI

P5, W5

A boring midfield battle in the first match of the season against St Edward's, Oxford, was made more interesting by a touch of genius from Faisal Hizami, who curled the ball in the back of the net from 25 yards out. Both teams attacked relentlessly and St Edward's went on to equalise after finishing a great through ball. Time was running out when George West received the ball in the box; his shot beat the opposition goalkeeper and helped Rugby to a 2-1 victory. Similar wins were had against Oakham (2-0), Bedford (2-0), and Oundle (4-2), where Archie Reed managed to score directly from a corner and where Rob Pütter curled the ball into the top left corner of the net from a free kick.

Lent 12

With these wins behind us, the pressure was on for the last game against Bromsgrove, away. Bromsgrove proved to be a persistently aggressive team, who looked to capitalize on mistakes made by Rugby's tiring defence. The first half was a tight affair. Rugby dominated in chances created but failed to break the deadlock. Rob Pütter rectified this in spectacular fashion before half time with a beautiful 25-yard half volley which sent the team into a state of euphoria. After the break, Stefan Voinea did well to parry away a flurry of shots but a cruel deflection tricked the goalkeeper and Rugby conceded, bringing the score to 1-1. The deficit was soon restored by Bertie Bennett-Jones' cool lob over a stranded opposition goalkeeper. The last minutes of the game were a nervous affair but determination and hard work meant Rugby were able to hold on to the lead.

Grant Cumming and Stefan Voinea

4th XI

P4, W1, L2, D1

This year's 4ths were a markedly better team than last year's as a wave of fresh talent helped reinvigorate the squad. Daniel Caplin dominated with his forceful presence and George Shone's chip from outside the box looked more at home on the First's pitch. Notable other players were Hector Hughes and Jamie Stevensen. A final thank you must go to Mike Daniltsev: his commitment as mascot was unflinching.

Jan Westad

U16

P6, W4, L1, D1

The U16As have had a successful season, winning four of their six matches. That said, I think that there was enough talent in these boys to have won an unbeaten season.

Throughout the season, I have tried to encourage the boys to have the confidence to play from the back and to use the flanks to get behind the defence – and a lot of our goals have come from this strategy. We have played nearly all of our matches at home this term, and we have done especially well here to be unbeaten on our own turf. We thumped both Oakham and St Edward's, Oxford. We also won against a poorly-behaved Uppingham (4-2) in a very mature display in the circumstances. We finished the term with an emphatic victory against Bromsgrove by seven goals to one, playing the best football for the season.

Our only disappointment was a 3-2 loss to Oundle, who were not any better than us but had enough luck to get ahead at the start and stay there long enough to win the match. Important lessons were learned from this experience and I hope the boys will put the record straight on this account next year when in the senior teams. Marcus Hunter (Captain) created most of our scoring opportunities



from central midfield and was top scorer with six goals. Charlie Bruce was tireless with his running and tackling, and Harry Badwan was an excellent shot-stopper in goal. The rest of the squad have also been good value and I hope they have enjoyed the opportunity to develop as football players.

JCE

U15A

P4, W3, D1

In my brief three years of involvement with the U15s, this is the best team I have seen, a judgment shared by fellow coach NDJ. From the very first match it felt as though the team had been playing together for some time, such was the fluidity of their movement and the instinctive ease with which passes were strung together. This was a team of fighters, too, showing great spirit to come from behind to win games, as well as a ruthless willingness to press to the end of the game in search of more goals, even when the result was no longer in doubt. In goal, Harry Rawicz-Szczerbo was a fearless presence, asserting himself when necessary and making crucial saves at key moments. The defence was impressively mobile and skilful. At right back, Charlie Welch overlapped and crossed impressively; George Kamau was the archetypal centre-half rock, alongside the skilful and tenacious Felix Tubbs and the elegant Craig McGuinness; and at left back, Ben Hatton was a model of composure. Tom Howell (Captain) was the inspirational driving-force from midfield, and was ably assisted by Ed Anton (shades of Glen Hoddle, there), the surging pace and goals of Josh Awosika, and the feisty guile of Will Naul. The highly skilful Michael Odunsi scored most of the goals in the forward line and was supported by either the fleet-footed Adam Smith or the mercurial Laolu Akerele. This was a fine team who played with some panache.

JOS

U15B

P4, W2, L2

The U15Bs enjoyed a good season, bookended by good performances at home to Bedford at the start and Bromsgrove at the end. A weather-disrupted midseason presented some difficulties, with the team shipping eight goals in two games. Through this, though, the boys kept their optimism and positive attitude and went into every game fully expecting, and aiming for, a win.

Will Barlow captained a competitive team with especial pace on the wings and a skilful midfield which battled hard. Of particular note out wide was Henry Hudson. Despite this being his first ever experience of football, his pace, power and movement soon found its place. Very few fullbacks in this country would feel happy lining up opposite him. Harry Tudball finished as the top scorer with four goals.

PJB

NETBALL**VII****P11, W8, L2, D1**

The VII had a very successful season, losing only two matches out of eleven. The main highlight of the season was securing the win in a tightly contested match against Uppingham. The VII displayed sheer determination and fight in order to secure this victory. Player of the Match was awarded to Aggie Macdonald Milner for the number of interceptions that she made. Throughout the whole match, the VII played together as a team and communicated with each other well.

The VII's match against Kimbolton pushed the team to its limits and in so doing revealed our determination to win right until the last minute. Connie Krarup's shooting and Emma Laurie's defending allowed us to beat the opposition by one goal in the last minute – 18-17 to Rugby. Another significant match was the one against Oakham (our first fixture), where we won 34-28. Issie Wrigley's smart play showed why she was later to win Player of the Season. The title of Most Improved Player went to Lucy Ripman, who was taken off for only one quarter in the whole season and who was a very safe goal keeper.

Helena Carter

**2nd VII****P10, W8, L2**

The seconds have been a wonderful *Carew* to coach. We were blessed with two outstanding shooters who could *Wedge* themselves under the post and *slam-Duncan* the goals in. Thanks to them, we scored an amazing 304 goals in ten matches. We had some excellent early victories in the first half of term: there was *Jackson*-all Oakham, Repton, Kimbolton, Princethorpe and Uppingham could do to stop us. In the second half of term, we lost two of the old ladies from the XX to injury – but not before they had proved themselves a *Thorton* in the side of their markers, weaving a magical *Webb* round the opposition. We also had the centre court strengthened by the arrival of Hannah who swept in like a *Hawkesley* from the VII.

We only lost two matches – to strong and physical teams from Cheltenham and Trent. The latter contained our nemesis of the season: a rather *Cox*-sure goal attack. It gave the team great pleasure to *Slater*. Some matches, though, were an absolute *Breese*: Bloxham, King's High and Oundle were all well and truly *Schleed*.

JS

never understand as well as you should, and you will certainly not appreciate the success of the 3rd VII netball season.

The facts are that we lost the first three games of the season to Oakham, Repton and Kimbolton respectively. Before we move on to the glorious run of five consecutive victories that make up the heart of the season, it is worth adding that the defeats to Repton and Kimbolton were on the same day, and this was before we had settled on the players, formation and strategy that was to prove (almost) unbeatable for the next two months. Uppingham, Trent, Bloxham, Princethorpe and Cheltenham were no match for our superior fitness, commitment and overall skill level. The final game of the season at Oundle was a classic; it was a shame that someone had to lose. It is also a shame that the criterion for winning is not being in the lead for most of the match, rather than just at the end!

All the girls were a pleasure to work with and Georgia Hodgson made an excellent Captain. GLD's coaching went from strength to strength each week, which is more than can be said for HWP's umpiring, although he did finally crack the over a third rule from the back line after some prompting. The season finished with cake and cava in Sheriff.

HWP

3rd VII**P9, W5, L4**

Are you the sort of person who reads the first couple of paragraphs of a newspaper article then skips to final paragraph to form your opinion? Do you think that first impressions are all that matter? Do you believe that you are only as good as your last game? If this is the case, there are many things in life that you will

U16A**P9, W6, L3**

The team knew that U16 netball would be a step up from last year and that we would have to start the season strong and always train hard. Unfortunately, we lost our first two matches against Oakham and Repton, but we won our next match against Uppingham (37-18). As the season went on, we learned which areas we needed to

focus on most in our play: the defence had to work on regaining their composure in order to make a good pass; the centre court players had to create more space on court; and the shooters had to play a more tactical game by using their body position to protect their space in the D. Having worked hard here we were rewarded in our final match against Oundle, our main rivals, which we won 29-23. The season was a successful one, with the team only losing three matches. Eliza Talbot-Williams was a great Captain, leading by example in every match, and her constant encouragement helped bolster team morale.

Zara Thornton

U16B

P7, W6, L1

The U16Bs had a training squad of 16 players (so enough for a C team, really!) and a total of 13 different girls played in the season's matches. These girls were all great fun and very enthusiastic about playing. This bodes very well for the senior squads next year. In some ways we feel we would be justified in saying that we had an unbeaten season – we only lost one match, and this was to Tudor Hall's 2ndVII, who were much taller than us. Our other games were won pretty easily, although we did finish on a nail-biter against Oundle (25-23). All the girls played brilliantly together and all improved their individual skills. Player of the Season was awarded to Sophie Tennant – a great shooter and all round court mover. The title of Most Improved Player went to Katriona McAllister. A final mention goes to Ellie Waugh, our top goal scorer, who will be greatly missed when she leaves the School next year.

CLH

U15A

P10, W7, L3

It took a few matches for the U15As to get their momentum going and to finalise the team, with shooters and defenders being swapped between the As and Bs, but once we did we became a dream team!

We started the season well with a strong victory against Oakham (19-10). In a triangular fixture, we won against Kimbolton 26-3 but lost against Repton 7-9. Trying our hardest to shake this loss off we played Wrekin, where we fought hard against a much taller team but lost 16-23. One of the best matches we have played was against Cheltenham, where we played on an indoor court. We focused hard and put into practice everything we had learned in training to come away with a fantastic 27-19 win. Ultimately we were just too physically fit for them, and by the last quarter we were quite literally running rings around them.

A real highlight for this season was our performance in the U15 tournament

Uppingham. Despite missing a few of our key players, we came third out of 15 places, which is very impressive. We worked so well as a team here, delivering beautiful passes and magnificent shots. Our only loss was against the eventual overall winners of the tournament.

Kate Broad

U15B

P9, W6, L2, D1

The U15B's first match, against Oakham, ended in a draw. The following week saw a close 7-9 loss against Repton. But after this slightly shaky start, the team scored at least double the number goals of their opponents at almost every match and on two occasions the winning margin was a massive 29 goals! In most of these matches a Rugby centre pass almost always resulted in a goal. When the opposition did get the ball to their end, the strong defence of Rosa Hirtzel, Saskia Weir, Lauren Veasey and Becky Thanangadan made numerous interceptions, enabling centre court players Daisy Raichura, Millie Byrne and Issy Mansell to bring the ball down the court. Finally the accurate shooting trio of Rosie Shone, Poppy Miller and Priya Mistry finished the move with a goal.

There was a really good team spirit between all the players and there was always plenty of encouragement from the sidelines from those who were off, which kept everyone energetic right until the last whistle. The team thoroughly deserved their excellent set of results.

JO

U15C

P7, W5, L2

The U15Cs made an excellent start to the season with a comfortable 21-8 victory against Oakham. Although their feathers were slightly ruffled in their second match, a narrow loss to Repton (10-15), the team did not let their heads drop and went on to win the next four matches. The squad showed lots of improvement over the term



and generally trained enthusiastically. A special mention should go to Islay Stacey (Player of the Season) for consistently working hard in matches and to Bella Campbell (Most Improved Player) for her dedication in both training sessions and matches.

SSP

U15D

P5, W4, L1

The 15Ds have had an excellent season, with the result against Kimbolton (42-0) standing as a particular triumph. The squad was large (14, rather than the normal nine or ten), and it is a testament to the girls' enthusiasm and commitment that they consistently trained hard throughout the season. It is a similar testament to their skill and versatility that the team appeared in so many different manifestations in different weeks. A good number of skills were improved upon as the season went on and the girls should feel justly proud of their overall achievements. I hope that many of them will put their highly elaborate and practised pivoting routines to good use next year!

EJRN

U14A

P10, W4, L5, D1

Things started slowly for the U14As, with losses against Oakham (14-16) and Repton (7-11). By our third match, against Kimbolton, we had got to know each other's game and we were feeling optimistic. Sadly, we lost 11-14. In preparation for our next match we trained hard and were rewarded with a win against Princethorpe (27-8). This was followed by a close match against Uppingham (15-16). In the U14 tournament at Bromsgrove we won the first three games and drew the fourth. Unfortunately, we lost against Oakham. Our last games, against Bloxham and Oundle, were both wins. Everyone was sad to see the end of the season. Hopefully next season will be just as good.

Lydia Norton



U14B

P9, W8, L1

The U14Bs have had a strong season, starting with a win against Oakham (31-3), and continuing with successive wins against Repton, Kimbolton and Princethorpe. We scored especially high wins against Cheltenham (20-2) and Bloxham (42-4). Sadly, we lost a close final match against Oundle. This was the toughest match of all and with only minutes to go we were drawing 17-17. However, despite lots of support on the sideline, we lost 19-17.

Jess Clarke

U14C

P9, W7, L1, D1

From the very start of the season, the U14Cs have shown great determination in matches and training sessions and have pulled together as a team extremely well. We played two matches against Uppingham. The first ended in a draw 12-12; the second saw us bring that score back with a win of 23-11. Our last match, against Oundle, was definitely the one to win, to maintain our unbeaten season, but we came unstuck and lost 23-25. Overall the U14Cs have had an excellent term, showing strength and willpower. They showed great potential and we look forward to seeing what they do next year.

Lucy Rusling

U14D

P8, W2, L5, D1

The U14D team had a promising season, with all the girls making individual progress, and they learnt to gel as a team, playing some very close matches. Phoebe Read, Laura Firth and Emily Price were significant centre court players, with an improving ability both to defend and attack, whilst the partnership of Lotty Brumpton and Laura Sainty (Most Improved Player) presented a skilled and athletic defence. Clea Rixon, Chrysti Wright and Poppy Raichura improved significantly during the season and should be congratulated. It was a pleasure to coach this team and I hope they enjoyed the season.

ADT

U14E

P9, W1, L8

Although the U14Es have not won many matches this season, we have certainly improved as players, developing both our individual skills and how we play as a team. Every girl has made a contribution and been willing to give it a go, including playing in new positions, something which unearthed a sharp shooter in one of our defenders. As for our matches we have gradually, match by match, got better, with our win at Uppingham giving the whole team a huge confidence boost.

Saskia Beacham-Watts



CRICKET

XI

P12, W5, L3, D4

The 2012 season will be remembered for one thing – the rain. The XI had 12 matches either cancelled without a ball being bowled or abandoned during the game, and the stop-start nature of the season made it very difficult for the boys to keep focus and momentum. But despite the obvious difficulties they performed well and won five matches.

The eight wicket win over Oundle was probably the highlight of the season. Oundle were inserted on a damp wicket and the Rugby seamers bowled particularly well at the start. George Terry bowled full and straight and took 3 for 12, and then the spinners Jake Kings (3 for 34) and Paul Clarke (2 for 6) bowled beautifully. At one stage, Oundle were 27 for 6, but managed to post a total of 108. However Kings scored an elegant 54, taking Rugby to victory.

The sun did shine for the annual two day match against Marlborough. Having lost the toss and being asked to bat, the XI declared their first innings at 268 for 8, with Kings making 62 and Clarke making 66. The XI then proceeded to bowl 90 overs at Marlborough, finally bowling them out for 180 with Kings taking 3 for 37. The slow nature of the Marlborough innings was always going to make it difficult to achieve a result, so the XI quickly scored another 95 in the second innings, declared and set Marlborough 183 in just under 50 overs. Marlborough did not seize the initiative and finished on 91 for 4.

Despite losing almost half our matches to the weather, Kings still

managed to take a total of 25 wickets and score nearly 300 runs. This will bring his overall XI aggregate to 2,156 runs and 117 wickets and this is likely to be the best all-round performance in the School's history. He captained the side adroitly and we wish him well at Loughborough University.

Harry Wilson batted well throughout the season, with the highlights being an excellent 64 against the MCC and 77 not out against the Meteors in an impressive five wicket win; his determination and commitment in the field was second to none. George Terry was plagued by injury during the summer and after an excellent start with the ball, struggled to regain form. This was also the case with Theo McKibbin. These boys have been in the side for several years now and we will miss them next year.

Clarke, Jacob Gilder and Kit Goodfellow all made useful contributions with the bat, and Clarke and Gilder will both bowl a lot of overs next year. Bertie Bennett-Jones was not able to repeat the form that he showed in 2011, however it was always going to be difficult trying to swing a wet bowl this season. Will Briggs finished top of the batting averages. He has a good technique and at times can take bowling attacks apart. We are looking forward to



watching him bat over the next two years. Harry Mallinder bowled well throughout the season and as he matures and becomes a little tighter with his line and length, he will surely become quite a force to be reckoned with.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Tim Roberts, our excellent cricket professional; James Mead and his team from the Grounds Department, who often performed miracles in getting games underway; all the cricketing staff; and, of course, the boys.

MJSE

Batting averages

	Innings	Not Outs	Runs	Average
W. J. Briggs	10	4	245	41
H. P. Wilson	10	2	270	34
J. B. Kings	13	1	278	23
P. G. Clarke	11	2	229	25
J. D. Gilder	10	2	175	22
C. R. D. Goodfellow	9	2	156	22
T. P. McKibbin	9	2	103	15

Bowling averages

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
J. B. Kings	163	38	457	25	18.28
H. J. Mallinder	84	6	238	13	18.31
A. G. Bennett-Jones	72	12	184	11	16.73
G. E. O. Terry	78	19	203	10	20.3
J. D. Gilder	99	10	298	10	29.8
P. G. Clarke	68	9	217	9	24.11

XXII

P6, W2, L4

Like most sides this summer, the XXII's season was spoiled by rain, with the team only managing to play six games with a seventh being called off after six overs. Throughout the season, Will Lowe proved himself to be the top batsman of the year, as shown in his 67 against Stowe. Charlie Bruce's 63 and Alex Johnson's 42 against MCS, and Henry Hunt's 47 against Stowe, also showed how capable they are with the bat. Will Haszard was the pick of the bowlers with a five wicket haul against Stowe and 4-1 against Oundle. He was ably supported by Alex Johnson, George West, Charlie Bruce, Freddie Embleton, Abhijit Roy, Sam Addis and James Bateson. Embleton was rewarded for his efforts by being called up to play for the XI midway through the season.

AJS

3rd XI

P4, W3, L1

The 3rd XI had an excellent season despite the rain. A comfortable 55 run win against Oundle – traditionally our strongest opponents

– gave us a positive beginning. We then beat Stowe by 114 runs. The highlight of this match was Roddy Crawford's 98 runs. Agonisingly, he was bowled two short of a well-deserved 100 in the last over, having batted through the innings. A much closer encounter against Cheltenham followed. Defending a mere 159 runs, the side ended up keeping the opposition at bay, restricting them to 146-9. Freddie Wildblood (Captain) led from the front, taking 3-14 from six overs to secure the win. The last game of the season, against MCS, featured eleven entirely different players. We lost this match by five wickets.

AJN

4th XI

P2, W0, L2

The 4th XI lost their matches against Stowe and Cheltenham College, but there were plenty of positives to take from these fixtures. Against a strong Stowe side, we battled to 108 all out from just under our allocated 30 overs. We took the field with confidence, despite the tricky wicket. Stowe replied with 110-1 from 14 overs. Against Cheltenham, we finished on 131 from our 30 overs, with runs from big hitting Oscar Miller (21) and Edmund Krarup (20) anchoring the innings. In response Cheltenham reached 132-4 from 21 overs, although James Bateson (Captain) still managed 2-19 from his four overs of swing. This was a brief season, in which our sportsmanship outshone our success, but one also that has left the team keen for victory next year.

GS

U15A

P13, W8, L4, D1

After success at U14 level last year, expectations for the team were high and, for the most part, we did not disappoint. Although the weather threatened to disrupt the season, we still managed to play 13 matches, of which we won eight and drew one. After the disappointment of being knocked out of the Lord Taverners' Cup





Trinity 12

The team were well led by James Cutter, who also made considerable progress with his batting. Harry Phillipson made two early fifties and usually opened with Sam Green-Armytage, who could be quite difficult to get out. Rory Hunter made crucial runs against Stowe. George Romain batted five and provided acceleration, scoring 50 in 24 balls against Trent in the innings of the season. He has a great eye and is an outstanding fielder, although he must keep working at his bowling. Sam Pougatch always looked the part and moved up to open in the last match; his 42 against Trent was the most orthodox innings by an U14 during the season. Henry Bradshaw made two thirties early in the season. He was followed by Freddie Evans, who opened the bowling effectively and made a number of quick runs. Henry Whitley was the most accurate of the bowlers and will be able to bat. Matt Gregory often took wickets and George Tuckwell caught some great catches including a crucial one against Stowe. Joe Phillips played some games and has a good action; he was our best bowler in the last game against Trent.

If a season is judged by progress, this one should be judged a success.

PJR

by Northampton School for Boys – a game we really should have won – we picked ourselves up to end the season being unbeaten in all block fixtures (carrying on this record from last year), with notable wins over Cheltenham, Stowe and Oundle. Once again, Robbie Povey was the leading run-scorer with 341, an average of 42. He had admirable support from his opening partner Jack Rosser. Johnny Woodhead ripped through many a batting line up, taking 19 wickets, while Matt Karlake and Mark Weaver both bowled important spells throughout the year.

As a team, we have had a really successful two years. We all look forward to senior cricket next year with relish.

Toby Latham

U15B

P6, W1, L5

The U15B's season can be summarised like this: a wealth of talent meets bad luck and terrible weather. Still, wonderful new discoveries were made: William Church is a natural keeper, Luke McManus can spin the ball sideways and Charles McQuilkin can take a cricket bat to the face and still play on. Although the season took weeks to get going, spirits were kept high, largely because of the padded-up running sessions. Trusted bowlers such as Guy Franklin and Jack White developed their skills taking many wickets, and leaders emerged in Felix Tubbs and Ed Anton as the captaincy was rotated. The highlight of the term had to be the win at Cheltenham, where the team chased down 165 runs in 28 overs with only four wickets lost.

EGT

U14A

P11, W2, L9

The U14As won only two matches this season but there were many close matches, including a two-wicket loss to Malvern and a loss off the last ball against Trent. The highlight of the season was a comfortable win, batting first, against a strong Stowe side.

U14B

P8, W4, L4

This was a mixed season for the U14Bs – four matches won, four matches lost. When the team won, it won big, beating Wellingborough by nine wickets, for example, and chasing down Bloxham's total with 30 overs to spare. However, the team will rue the defeats to Bedford and Trent, where they lost by only seven and eight runs respectively.

Rory Farquharson (Captain) opened the batting, driving and defending nicely. A highlight for him was his 65 at Malvern. Barnaby Preece was the season's top scorer with 182 runs (an average of just over 30). Charlie Appell batted solidly and also took ten wickets with his left arm orthodox. Ed Cattermole raised eyebrows with his IPL-style flair; he hit 19 fours in the season. Ed also contributed well with the ball with his accurate left arm mediums. Hugo Riley endured a difficult season but did end on a high with his useful 21 against MCS. Anto Woodhead had a good season with the gloves, making four stumpings. Arthur Umbers' legspin took twelve wickets (including three in an over against Malvern) at an average of 6.7 in just five matches; this speaks volumes for his natural ability. George Creed was top wicket taker with his accurate mediums, taking thirteen at an average of 11.7. Joe Phillips bowled excellently, and deserved to take more wickets. He also made an excellent 28 against MCS, including a glorious straight six into the sight screen. Jack Beere was out of the team with injury for much of the season, but in his absence his straight bat and handy off breaks were a much missed. Rufus Hall was a good influence in the field and Harry Leadsom and Josheel Sanghera both bowled nicely.

PJB

U14C

P3, W0, L3

Sunshine, glorious cover-drives, imperious spells of fast bowling in which wickets tumble – it would have been nice if any of these had featured in the U14C's season but, alas, such was not the case. This was a frustrating season for a team that had a lot of potential and could have blossomed nicely if the players had had the chance to build some momentum. But the weather-induced stop-start nature of the fixtures meant it was difficult for patterns to develop and confidence to be built: only three games were completed. This was exemplified in the best performance of the season, the final match against Trent, where victory looked to be on the cards until a batting collapse meant the match ended in disappointment. There were confident innings from Dan Uruchurtu (18, top score), Ollie Bacon (20), Ollie Hastings (20) and, best of all, Tom Gregory (38). Rufus Hall, Harry Pateman, Agnel Agbo and Patrick Haszard all showed promise. Ed Wiltshire, fast and accurate, looked the most threatening bowler (four wickets in three matches), though the leading wicket-taker was James Binks, who took six wickets in three matches: his relatively slow-paced but accurate bowling tempted batsmen into various kinds of trouble. James Hudson, Ed Gable, Chris Tsang and Matt Rudin all bowled well.

JOS



BOYS' TENNIS

The abiding memory of this season will be one of playing and practising in rain and strong winds. The weather has been miserable and conditions have certainly hindered the players developing as they might.



We had high hopes for the 1st VI. They did only lose one match – but it was the first one. The best performance of the term for them was undoubtedly in the victory over Oakham, when all six boys had to play at their best for the whole afternoon in order to turn round last year's 4-5 defeat. In the final round we needed to win two out of the three points available. Alex Flory and Sam Livingstone halved the first pair match and Josh Passmore and Ed Clarke also managed half a point. So it came down to the second pair: Gil Reeves and Will Clarke remained consistent enough to win both sets and secure the whole point required for victory. Alex Flory (Captain) has been the best player that we have had for some time and he and his partner did not lose a rubber this term. As a whole, this has been a very good group: they have been loyal to the sport and set a good standard and example for the younger boys to follow. The LXX is a good year with lots of players, and so 2nd and 3rd VI matches were also played. Next year's 1st VI will be much changed, but should remain competitive on our circuit.

The junior teams had a slightly more mixed season. The U16s were without their top two players, and without the three points they could normally be guaranteed struggled to win matches. However, we hope that the likes of Theo Chadwick, Oli Rowlands and Luke Stafford will challenge the year above for places in the team next year. The U15s managed just one win last year but were bolstered by two new arrivals this season, which meant that the majority of matches were won. James Hingley joined Max Guo (Marshall House) at first pair, and they laid the foundation for the victories by securing a minimum of two points per match. From this, the combination of Will Naul, Craig McGuinness, Hugo Abel

and Ben Swiderski did the rest. The B team was less successful, but showed a lot of talent as they fought each other tooth and nail for the top ranking in the team. Few of the matches at U14 were won with ease; this group will have to work on its ability to finish matches off cleanly as they progress through the School. The pairings swapped about a little, but the A VI was usually made up of Ewan Rowlands, Nick Colbourne, Martin Mekushin, Philip Garthwaite, Richard Coombs and David de Rothschild, with Ben Cuthbertson-Smith as the next in line. This group is very keen and promising.

Outside of the scheduled fixtures, the Thursday tennis group played two matches against Coventry University as part of their winter training programme. We also took ten boys to the ISTC Competition at Eton, where we had some success with the U13 pair and in the various plate competitions. All those who had played at Eton then had the chance to go to Wimbledon, where we got to see some games played under Centre Court's new roof. For next year, we hope to see the standard of play rise across the age groups as work with Jamie Taylor, our professional coach, pays off. The aim has to be that we can begin to target a bit more success in the end of season ISTA competitions.

PWD

GIRLS' TENNIS

Putting together girls' tennis teams when public examinations are on is never easy but to do so in a term in which practices and matches are battered by wind and driving rain is practically impossible. It is, therefore, much to the girls' credit that they committed themselves to representing their teams, a commitment exemplified by the Captain of tennis, Becks Smith, whose contribution to the sport over the last two years has been outstanding, both on and off the court.

The 1st VI played very well throughout the season. On a regular basis, Smith was joined by Izzy Schlee, Laura Gordon-Lennox, Amy Green, Olivia Jackson and Emma Laurie. Together, these girls secured wins in two thirds of their matches, notching up victories against tough opposition from Uppingham, Stowe and Trent. The squad was at times joined by two girls from the U16s – Katie Lister and Alice Williams – who play undoubtedly benefitted from working at this level and who will, I hope, capitalize upon the experience next year as they enter the senior teams permanently. The 2nd VI also played well, although a slow start to things saw them lose badly to Uppingham and Oundle. Hard work and commitment in subsequent matches saw wins against Repton (8-1) and Trent (9-0) on two very blustery days where playing conditions were difficult. The 3rd VI had a similarly mixed season, with three wins (Repton, Stowe and Trent) and two losses (Oundle and Uppingham). There was one 4th VI match against Repton, which gave Hitomi Kayama, Akane Yamaguchi, Jessy Firth and Irene Panovich a chance to play and win 6-3.

At U16, the girls showed their mettle, with wins for both the As and the Bs over tough opposition from Uppingham (7-2 and

6-3 respectively) and Trent (4-0 each). Unfortunately, the same grit could not be found in the match against Oundle, where both teams lost (4-5 and 3-6 respectively). Katie Lister and Alice Williams played excellently together as first pair for the As and their individual talents saw both of them co-opted into the seniors as needed. Excellent play was also seen from Manon Steyaert and Eliza Talbot-Williams. Further down the ranks, much progress was made, with many of the girls learning important new skills and becoming increasingly becoming more confident on court.

The U15As had good seasons, winning three out of their six matches. The Bs were less fortunate, losing all of their, although the losses to Bloxham and Repton were tantalizingly narrow (4-5 in both). The U14As also won three of their six matches. Some excellent scores were recorded here, with 9-0 and 8-1 wins against Bloxham and Trent respectively. The U14Bs won three of their six



matches too, also scoring 9-0 against Bloxham. There is certainly plenty of promise in both these age groups for the future.

Eight girls went to the ISTC Competition at Eton. At U15, the first pair of Lydia Norton and Ocky Spray, won their first match, successfully making it into the main draw. A loss in a closely fought match in the second round saw them enter the shield competition, where they progressed to the quarter finals. The second pair – Georgie Gooch and Milly Richards – lost their first two matches but gained an impressive victory in their third match where they came from behind to win. At senior level, both pairs of Laura Gordon-Lennox and Izzy Schlee and Amy Green and Julia Hewitt progressed to the quarter finals of the plate competition, with Izzy and Laura losing to the eventual winners.

KH

BOYS' BADMINTON

This was a tremendous season for boys' badminton, with the A and B teams winning a total of 11 out of 14 matches. James Peet (Captain) and Tristan Humphrey led at first pair by example, only dropping five sets all season. Although we say goodbye this year to a number of A team players, Kevin Taechaubol and Bryan Lee, both very good players, will be back for the VI next season. A lot of boys represented the Bs. Kaamil Walilay and Bernard Pang were a strong first pair, who should step up to the VI next year. Krishan Mistry, Tom Radley, Gerald Tong and Godfrey Chan are all promising players. Jaimie Hirst, Jason Zeng and Paddy Goodall have made good contributions in their final year. The team is particularly grateful to Darren Walker, the external coach.

NDJ

RUNNING

This season has built upon the success of previous years, with the Cross Country club entering the East Midlands Independent Schools XC League and the County Schools Competition. Both events saw individual and team success. There was also a significant representation at the English Schools National XC Championships.

At the Warwickshire County Schools XC Championships at Hatton World in January, Amy Dunstan, Ben Sutherland and Josh Cara were all victorious at their respective age groups to become Warwickshire County XC Champions. Cara went on to finish an excellent 23rd at the National Championships in a field of 300+ county runners. Silver team medals went to Toby Skailes, Alistair Blundy and Peter Style in the senior boys' event.

Sutherland and Cara also achieved gold and silver in the Junior Boys East Midlands Independent Schools XC League. They also helped make up the junior boys team, along with Harrison Anton, Johnny Woodhead, Cosmo Wellings and Bob Sandison. The team finished second in the league overall.

In School, the House Running Cup, and the Crick and Barby runs saw much success, with new course records being set in all four races on the Crick and Barby courses.

RBM

BASKETBALL

With the addition of ex-international player Mark Spatcher to the coaching staff, morale within the group this year was high. Our first game, against Bedford, was tough and we lost narrowly. Nevertheless, we felt the season would pick up and we looked forward to our next match. After a few weeks' intensive training, we met our main rivals, Uppingham. We won this match in a nail-biting finish, with just one point. Exeat came and went and the team seemed to lose focus, resulting in a narrow loss against Oundle. After Oundle came our toughest match, Stowe. The records suggested that Rugby would be the underdogs here, but we played well, and the margin of loss was the smallest it has ever been. Despite the final match scores, the season has been a really good one and we have all improved as players.

Jack Alderson

FIVES

2011/12 has seen Rugby fives back at its spiritual home grow stronger. The number of fixtures has increased significantly (Merchant Taylor's, Malvern and St Paul's were added to our already strong fixture card) and more adult teams have visited our courts and played against the IV. Both the Jesters' and the RFA clubs sent strong teams and taught our fast developing seniors that experience and guile was more than a match for youthful vigour. The Derby Moor adults came to coach and Wayne Enstone, generally accepted as the finest player in the country, spent an evening with both our top boys and girls.





The season's greatest success once again came at the National Championships. Chessie Ruffell, after her success as the U16 National Championships, narrowly lost in the final of the open competition. However the pair of Ruffell and Hannah Hawkesley went one better and they secured the National Doubles title. The other younger girls were unable to go to their Championship and they all played with considerable skill; we were delighted to have six girls in total at this competition. Marcus Hunter also had a good Nationals and he reached the last sixteen of the colts competition. He might have hoped to go further but he had to push too hard in his first game and the next two proved physically beyond him and the match was lost. George Terry, this year's Captain of Fives, also did well in his singles, eventually losing in the semi-final of the plate competition. Our top two girls also accompanied members of staff (KMS and EAT) to the Ladies' National finals at St Paul's and all four were placed in the top eight at that competition.

Rugby fives is really flourishing at the School now: 22 talented boys and girls spend their Thursday afternoons playing, more opt to do it as a games option in two terms, the School has been involved in 17 matches, staff are starting to play and the IV beat the ORs for the first time this century. The five leavers – Tris Edwards, Marcus Kerr, Theo McKibbin, Alex Roden and George Terry – have all become very competent players and I hope that they will return as OR players soon, having found the time to find some courts and enjoy a game that they are clearly well suited to.

TMW



GERALD MICKLEM GOLF TROPHY

The School last won the Gerald Micklem Trophy in 1986, then only the third time a Rugby team had won the event since its beginning in the 1950s. So expectations were high as the team of Rory Browne (Captain), Huw Phillips, Karan Inamdar, Alex Walker, Tom Barker and Tom Osborn arrived at Woking for the start of this year's competition. Over the two days we were there, the team won an incredible 13 matches out of 15, beating strong Charterhouse and Bradfield teams 5-0 to meet Wellington in the final. Wellington have won the Trophy four years in a row and their team this year was particularly strong, with handicaps of 1, 2, 2, 2 and 3 (against Rugby's 3, 5, 5, 8 and 11). Still, Rugby very quickly got up in three matches, with Browne and Inamdar winning 3 and 1 each. Finally, Phillips sunk the winning putt to win the Trophy – victory at last!

I kept on being asked throughout the two days what our 'secret' was. To be honest, I don't know. We have been improving gradually year on year and reaching National Finals has helped our expectations. The only tangible difference has been the School's new Anthony Armitage practice facility. The boys are using it to an even greater extent than I had hoped. We work there every Tuesday afternoon and Browne did a great job of getting the team there in practice times and after prep most nights for an hour's hitting.

My thanks go to Mark Watkins, our pro, for his help and advice; OR community for its support; the Grounds Department for maintaining the green in such good condition; and to the boys, who have just been fantastic.

RBD

POLO

The highlight of the Lent term was undoubtedly the National Arena Championships held at Rugby Polo Club. After a close defeat to the eventual winners, Cheltenham College, in the first round, the A team of James Hudson, Ned Goedhuis and David Gibbons finished fourth in the Senior section. Rugby dominated the Intermediate section with two teams from the School facing each other in the final, with Rugby C beating Rugby E to finish top. The Championship also provided the first opportunity for some of this year's beginners to play and they had some nail-biting matches. The two novice teams finally played each other for fifth and sixth place in their section.

Later on in the term, Hudson, Goedhuis and Tris Hobson formed the A team to play Harrow at Rugby. The team put on a fantastic performance that was a clear demonstration of their understanding of team dynamics and of their individual experience. They beat Harrow 23-3 – a well-deserved victory! The B and C teams were not so fortunate, but both played well against very strong teams. The Bs were defeated 1-3, the Cs 3-9.



We were due to meet Harrow again in the Trinity term but this fixture, along with a number of others, was cancelled because of the wet summer. The B team did manage to squeeze in a match against Cheltenham College. The match was closely contested, with Max Barnes scoring a remarkable penalty, but sadly Cheltenham proved too strong and won 4-2. The novices also managed to play a match against Oakham. The Oakham team was older but the Rugby team had more experience thanks to the arena facilities at Rugby Polo Club that have enabled them to play the whole year round. This was a very exciting match. Both teams dug deep, desperate to win one of the few fixtures of the term. Oakham had excellent support from their home crowd, but Rugby refused to be beaten and took glory in the final chukka – the score, 12-5.



In the Speech Day match of ORs v the XX, Hudson, Goedhuis, Hobson and Milly Brine played hard to secure an excellent win. I would like to thank the ORs who played and also wish all of the XX players luck for the future. I am sure that they will be valuable additions to any university team.

JLR

RACKETS

The rackets team had a difficult time of it this season but things were still enjoyable. Harry Wilson and Richard Assheton played at first pair. They saved their best until last when they had a very narrow defeat in an exciting contest at Queen's Club. They – and Henry Hunt and George Terry – now leave the school but with so many young ORs now playing in England and in North America there are plenty of opportunities for them to continue the sport. Thanks to them all but particularly Wilson, who has been an excellent Captain.

School rackets matches are always good fun but the season's highlight was the Public Schools' Competition, where all the singles players won their first round and James Hingley and Ed Clarke both won two matches each. In the doubles competition Hingley and Jack Rosser won two matches before losing in a good match to a strong Tonbridge pair.

Bertie Bennett-Jones, Paul Clarke and Kit Goodfellow are all now in their last year in the School and will face the challenge of first pair rackets at some point next season, as may Ed Clarke who is making good progress. Sam Phillipson also made good progress in the colts pair, partnering Ed Clarke. The U14s (Nick Colbourne, Arthur Umbers and Ben Cuthbertson-Smith) played a few matches winning half of them. Finally, Max Guo in Marshal House has started playing and has made lots of encouraging early progress.

PJR

ROUNDERS

This season's rounders was a bit of a washout, with a number of fixtures cancelled because of water-logged pitches. Undeterred, we continued with our training programme and the girls very soon became accustomed to batting, throwing and catching in the rain. When the ground eventually became playable we had some victories and the senior teams were invited to a Rugby-Kimbolton-King's Ely triangular in Kimbolton. The season finished with a mixed set of results, but our resolve and determination to succeed have not been lessened by the scoreboard, and we look forward to a warm – and sunny! – 2013 season.

RPK

Girls' Hockey and Netball Tour to Hong Kong and Australia

After eighteen months of preparation and anticipation, thirty girls and four staff met at Heathrow to begin the 2012 hockey and netball tour to Hong Kong and Australia. We flew to Hong Kong, where we were immediately hit by the heat, humidity and bustle of such a busy city. With our guide, Huang, we visited Ladies' Market, toured the harbour in a sampan and went sightseeing. Both hockey teams played against Hong Kong University and won. Later, the 2nd and 3rd netball VIs played against St Paul's School whilst the 1st VII faced a challenge from the Hong Kong Youth Squad. The highlight of our time in Hong Kong was a delightful evening at the Kowloon Cricket Club, where we were hosted most generously by the Hong Kong Friends of Rugby School. Particular thanks must go to Stacey Wong for organising the evening.

From Hong Kong we travelled to Cairns, Australia. For most of the girls, this was the highlight of the tour.

On our first day we played netball against Trinity Anglican School, who were extremely welcoming, and the matches were played with a friendly yet competitive spirit. Afterwards, we were treated to a very Australian post-match tea with a poolside 'barbie'. The next two days were spent experiencing the delights of Queensland. We spent an afternoon in the rainforest at Kuranda, where we learnt much about the flora and fauna but particularly enjoyed hugging koalas, feeding some joeys and eating ants' bottoms! The following day we set sail on a catamaran for the Great Barrier Reef. Sunbathing on the deck was interspersed with snorkelling trips out on the reef and trips in a glass bottom boat and a semi-submersible to admire the phenomenal marine life.

We then flew to Brisbane, where the girls were each hosted by an Australian family. We travelled straight to Matthew Flinders College in Mooloolaba on the Sunshine Coast, where we played hockey on the local hockey association's astro before enjoying a sausage sizzle and lamingtons before heading back to the school to play netball with all matches being very even. Unfortunately Charley Dennis injured her ankle during the warm up for netball and ended up spending the evening in hospital, leaving with the assurance of no fracture but on crutches. It was good that she recovered enough to play for a short part of the final hockey match.

On leaving Flinders, promising to reciprocate the girls' hospitality when they tour in the UK, we travelled into Brisbane, where we played some tough hockey matches against Brisbane State High School. Then, we moved onto Surfers' Paradise on the Gold Coast, where we had surf lesson. Whilst most of the girls managed a few seconds on their feet, Alice Williams was crowned the 'surf queen'!

The journey to Armidale lasted around seven hours and gave us a chance to see more of the Australian countryside. The beautiful sunshine lulled us into a false sense of security as, at 1200m, it was freezing! We met our new hosts from New England Girls' School at the hockey pitches and, again, were made to feel very welcome. Both the hockey matches and all three netball matches here were



closely fought. We sampled the extent of local Australian sport when, following our matches, over 150 females of all ages started playing on ten netball courts followed by another 150 an hour later. This is the weekly norm. Many of the host families lived in the rural countryside, where farming is the main industry. The girls experienced sheep herding, whip cracking and dinner of home-reared lamb.

Leaving Armidale, we journeyed for another seven hours to get to Sydney, the final destination of our tour. The girls met immediately with their host families from Presbyterian Ladies College, Sydney. After one night with their billets, we started the day with a visit to Circular Quay and the harbour, the famous Opera House, the Harbour Bridge and the Rocks. In the afternoon we faced our hosts in some of our best netball matches of the tour. This was followed the next day by a visit to Bondi Beach. Unfortunately, the weather meant that swimming was not an option but the girls still did their best to attract the attention of the famous lifeguards! We completed the day with the fiercest hockey competition of the tour. After a final night with their Sydney hosts, the girls joined together for our Awards Night in a lovely restaurant overlooking Darling Harbour.

LMH



XV Rugby Tour of Japan

For almost two weeks in August the XV squad toured Japan. We expected a few rugby matches and the chance to see some of the major sights; we got so much more.

Our first full day in Japan set the tone for the rest of the tour – one of complete celebration at our being there. We arrived at Tokyo City University Todoroki Junior and Senior High School to be welcomed by a brass band and hundreds of students and teachers applauding us. We felt overwhelmed by this greeting and humbled at the effort the students had gone to on our behalf; given we had not even introduced ourselves yet we felt very undeserving. At the school we had our first ‘cultural exchange’ with the students, which included eating a traditional Japanese meal which included domburi, onigiri and other rice-based dishes. Following the meal some of the squad were given a lesson in writing Japanese characters whilst others enjoyed a traditional tea ceremony, known as a chanoyu. We also played our first game ... of basketball. Jack Alderson led the side in a tense match on court, which Rugby narrowly won 38-39.

Day three of the tour was the start of the serious stuff. Due to the heat during the day, our first match, against Aoyama Gakuin Senior High School, had to kick off at 8.30am and even then we were feeling the weather. The game finished 30-0 to Rugby after two shortened halves. We then continued the day with the most prestigious part of the tour: a reception at the British Embassy with the ambassador and various prominent Japanese people who had contributed to the tour or who were influential in the world of Japanese rugby – a sport which has grown exponentially in recent decades, attracting more and more foreign international players. Jamie Couchman gave a speech thanking our hosts for their kindness before we were all introduced to some of the parents of the students of the school we were playing next.

Our first real match was against Toho Junior and Senior High School, which was played on the grounds of one of Toho’s exclusive sports clubs. The game itself was one-sided in the most complete sense of the phrase: the final score was 109-0 to Rugby. That night we stayed with the families of the team we had just played. This could have meant some frosty welcomes from parents who had wanted their children to win or at least not lose by so much but, as we found everywhere we went in Japan, we encountered only warmth and hospitality.

The next day we left our host families to meet our next opposition, Waseda High School. The match we played here was rather more of a contest, but Matt Vaux led the side to another resounding victory – Rugby won 51-0. From Tokyo, where we had stayed up to this point in the tour, we then travelled to Nagoya by Shinkansen, Japan’s famous bullet train. As we had been previously, we were greeted by host families. Some of us were then taken to the famous Nagoya Castle, which gave an opportunity to see some of the historical artefacts of the Samurai warriors and to learn about their way of life.

The final game of the tour was the first and only real test of strength and character for the Rugby squad, as we faced the unforgiving heat, a referee who was intent on us conceding our first points of the tour, and a well-drilled and brave Nagoya Junior and Senior High School. The match was won 31-5, which meant that left Japan unbeaten but certainly not untouchable.

The journey home was far more gruelling than the one there. It began with a six hour bus journey from Nagoya to Tokyo, the flight from Tokyo to the UAE and then an additional seven-hour wait in Abu Dhabi before the flight home. Most of us would have struggled a lot more with this return if it was not for our happy memories of the tour.

Benedict Wiegman

Prize Winners 2012

Art

Astley Jones	Scout	D
Bulmer	Isabella	RB
Firth	Jessy	Tu
Hollands	Issie	St
Holton	Isabelle	S
Hurley	Connie	St
Rut	Hebe	G
Steyaert	Margaux	G
Swaby	Mimi	RB
Taechaubol	Kevin	W
Wright	Steve	C

Business Studies

Christy	Jazz	D
Kerner	Freddie	M

Classics

Brumpton	Charlotte	S
Cheng	Stephanie	G
Clarke	Jessica	Tu
Davies	Sophie	Tu
Denton	Becky	B
Farquhar	Anna	B
Foord	Elissa	Tu
Hanson	Emma	S
Hepburn	Anna	St
Hess	Nathaniel	SF
Hingley	James	SF
Hoggarth	Charlotte	S
Holt	Rufus	SH
Matthews	Augusta	S
Mehta	Nush	S
Newman	Noel	SF
Owen	Geraint	M
Rixon	Ali	RB
Skinner	Aleister	T
Slater	Harriet	Tu
Smith	Julia	D
Speed	Margot	RB
Stone	Olivia	S
Sun	Kyle	C
Towers	Franny	RB
White	Jack	K
Wirth	Ben	Sh

Creative Arts

Cara	Josh	T
Jackson	Matt	Sh
Kerr-Chin	Timothy	T
Mekushin	Martin	Sh
Munnings	Kitty	D
Phillips	Millie	S

Design & Technology

Ashby	Fergus	Sh
Capewell-Salisbury	Rebecca	S
Grassi	Cristiana	St
Inglis	Hugo	K
Manson	Hugo	W
Pointon	Ben	T
Pointon	Sam	T

Divinity

Annan	Olivia	B
Mansell	Isobel	Tu
Odunsi	Michael	SF
Rawicz-Szczerbo	Harry	W
Seymour	Leo	Sh
St Clair Roberts	Amelia	B
Walker	Omey	B
Zhao	Alice	S

Drama

Dodd	Ella	G
Hobson	Tristram	SH
Owen	Geraint	M
Stafford	Luke	Sh
Trevaldwyn	Harry	K
White	Imogen	Tu

Economics

Bateson	James	Sh
Carter	Helena	St
Dujardin	Jamie	M
Invin	Isabel	St

Stock
Uckermann
van Amerongen

English

Alexander	Monty	C
Cara	Josh	T
Cooper	Meely	B
Cutter	James	SF
Davies	Sophie	Tu
Day	James	SF
Edwardes	Auden	B
Fender	Kezia	D
Ford	Gaby	B
Gibbons	David	SF
Haslam	Matthew	C
Haynes	James	C
Holt	Rufus	SH
Kamau	George	K
Kayama	Hitomi	D
Livingstone	Sam	C
Matthews	McQuilkin	SH
Meads	Emma	D
Munnings	Kitty	S
Parker	Alice	RB
Pointon	Ben	T
Purves	Evie	D
Roberts	Nia	D
Rushen	Alex	B
Schlee	Isabel	D
Sheach	Sophie	G
Sillman-McNeish	Sophie	S
Smith	Ethan	T
Suen	Lydia	B
Symington	Lucy	RB
Van Laar	Ben	T
White	Imogen	Tu
Williams	Eve	G
Wright	Steve	C

Games

Kings	Jake	W
Mourant	Tom	T
Ripman	Lucy	Tu
Williams	Alice	RB

Geography

Annan	Olivia	B
Anton	Harrison	Sh
Bennett	Rory	SF
Brumpton	Charlotte	SF
Campbell	Hugh	K
Capewell-Salisbury	Rebecca	S
Cara	Josh	T
Dibnah	Alex	T
Gregory	Matthew	C
Hinchley	Rob	K
Hudson	Poppy	S
Jackson	India	Tu
Jackson	Olivia	St
Lauterpacht	Emily	Tu
Low	Giles	W
Matthews	Emma	St
Munnings	Kitty	D
Scott	Chloe	St
Skinner	Aleister	T
Wheeler	Imy	Tu

Graphics

Currell	Georgia	RB
Hodgson	Georgia	D

Head Master

Alexander	Hector	C
Goodall	Paddy	Sh
Hayes	Polly	S
Laurie	Emma	St
MacColl	Wilf	M
McGrath	Hannah	S
Ripman	Lucy	Tu
Wilson	Harry	M

History

Austin	Charlie	SH
Bennett-Jones	Bertie	W

Olivia
Mark
Lucy

Monty	C
Josh	T
Meely	B
James	SF
Sophie	Tu
James	SF
Auden	B
Kezia	D
Gaby	B
David	SF
Matthew	C
James	C
Rufus	SH
George	K
Hitomi	D
Sam	C
Augusta	S
Charles	SH
Emma	D
Kitty	S
Alice	RB
Ben	T
Evie	D
Nia	D
Alex	B
Isabel	D
Sophie	G
Sophie	S
Ethan	T
Lydia	B
Lucy	RB
Ben	T
Imogen	Tu
Eve	G
Steve	C

Jake	W
Tom	T
Lucy	Tu
Alice	RB

Brumpton
Calvert
Cara
Cheng
Colbourne
Edwardes
Ford
Goodfellow
Gough
Hayes
Latham
Low
Morrongiello
Newman
Owen
Penfold
Robinson Stanier

Cheng	Colbourne
Edwardes	Edwards
Ford	Goodfellow
Gough	Hayes
Latham	Low
Low	Morrongiello
Newman	Owen
Penfold	Robinson Stanier
Scott	Chloe
Smith	Robert
Speed	Margot
Suen	Lydia
Sun	Kyle
Rob	C
Eva	Tu
Freddie	Sh

ICT

Cheng	Stephanie
Cumming	Grant
Treanor	Kelan
Yeung	Richie

Marshall House

Bell	Emily
Byrne	Hattie
Cook	Naomi
Gower	Emily
Guo	Max
Guo	Max
Kerslake	Rhian
Kerslake	Rhian
McGuirk	Aiden
Pateman	Lydia
Shepherd	Ellie
Warwick	Milly

Mathematics

Au	Joy
Capewell-Salisbury	Rebecca
Cara	Josh
Chan	Godfrey
Cheng	Stephanie
Darby	William
Farquhar	Anna
Foord	Elissa
Hudson	Poppy
Jenkins	Ptolemy
Lough	Guy
Manson	Hugo
McKay	Myles
Mehta	Nush
Miroshnichenko	Daniil
Mistry	Priya
Mourant	Tom
Palmer	Christopher
Pang	Jacqueline
Ribaroff	Thomas
Roden	Alex
Sun	Kyle
van den Belt	Boris
van der Post	Max
Van Laar	Ben
Varley	Michael
Watkins	Richard
Wear	Anouk
Yue	Tiffany
Zhao	Alice

Media

Carmichael	Fergus
Carney	Fabia
Day	James
Downing	Beth
Leng	Duncan

Modern Languages

Bathurst	Ianthe
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Charlotte
Suzie
Josh
Stephanie
Nicholas
Auden
Gaby
Kit
Theo
Lucy
Toby
Catriona
Emma
Noel
Geraint
Harry
Johny
Chloe
Robert
Margot
Lydia
Kyle
Rob
Eva
Freddie

Suzie	RB
Josh	T
Stephanie	G
Nicholas	B
Auden	T
Gaby	B
Kit	SF
Theo	M
Lucy	S
Toby	SF
Catriona	St
Emma	B
Noel	SF
Geraint	M
Harry	T
Johny	Sh
Chloe	St
Robert	SF
Margot	RB
Lydia	B
Kyle	C
Rob	C
Eva	Tu
Freddie	Sh

Stephanie	G
Grant	W
Kelan	T
Richie	M

Emily	Ma
Hattie	Ma
Naomi	Ma
Emily	Ma
Max	Ma
Max	Ma
Rhian	Ma
Rhian	Ma
Aiden	Ma
Lydia	Ma
Ellie	Ma
Milly	Ma

Joy	St
Rebecca	S
Josh	Sh
Godfrey	T
Stephanie	G
William	SF
Anna	B
Elissa	Tu
Poppy	S
Ptolemy	SH
Guy	SF
Hugo	W
Myles	T
Nush	S
Daniil	W
Priya	S
Tom	T
Christopher	K
Jacqueline	St
Thomas	W
Alex	SF
Kyle	C
Boris	SH
Max	T
Ben	T
Michael	Sh
Richard	Sh
Anouk	B
Tiffany	RB
Alice	S

Fergus	T
Fabia	S
James	SF
Beth	D
Duncan	T

Ianthe	RB
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Bickerton
Capewell-Salisbury
Cara
Chadwick
Cheng
Cooper
Dibnah
Farquharson
Fender
Geary
Goodall
Goodfellow
Grassi
Hall
Hess
Higgins
Hingley
Hoggarth
Holloway
Holmes
Jackson
Kerner
Krarup
Leng
McManus
Mistry
Pateman
Phillips
Povey
Price
Raichura
Roberts
Rosser
Rowlands
Rushen
Sainty
Schlee
Seymour
Smith
Sutherland
Treanor
van Amerongen
Vrana
Wear
Wildblood

Cara	Chadwick
Cheng	Cheng
Cooper	Cooper
Dibnah	Dibnah
Farquharson	Farquharson
Fender	Fender
Geary	Goodall
Goodfellow	Goodfellow
Grassi	Grassi
Hall	Hall
Hess	Hess
Higgins	Hingley
Hingley	Hoggarth
Holloway	Holmes
Jackson	Jackson
Kerner	Kerner
Krarup	Leng
McManus	Mistry
Pateman	Pateman
Phillips	Povey
Price	Price
Raichura	Roberts
Rosser	Rosser
Rowlands	Rowlands
Rushen	Sainty
Schlee	Schlee
Seymour	Smith
Smith	Sutherland
Treanor	Treanor
van Amerongen	Vrana
Wear	Wear
Wildblood	Wildblood

Music

Blundy	Alistair
Byrne	Hattie
Carney	Fabia
Colbourne	Georgie
Fisher	Jack
Gallagher	Matt
Hayes	Polly
Hess	Nathaniel
Hirst	Gene
Hodgson	Georgia
Horler	Ali
Jackson	Matt
Lee	Linseog
Lee	Sarang
Lough	Guy
Lowther	Mamie
Ma	Eric
MacMahon	Meg
Matthews	Augusta
Miroshnichenko	Daniil
Molloy	Rory
Ogunyemi	Sophie
Owen	Geraint
Passmore	Josh
Pateman	Harry
Rawicz-Szczerbo	Harry
Roberts	Will
Smith	Robert
Suen	Lydia
Talbot-Williams	Eliza
Wild	Kaitlin



Rugby School