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Brian Rafferty  
A tribute

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

It is important to record that Brian was a very professional, astute and efficient colleague and he achieved many things in his years here, including outstanding exam results, successful arrangements with the Scouts and the refurbished science block. But I suspect we will remember him more for his flights of fancy, his comic diatribes, his ridiculous exaggeration.

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

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

Jim MacLeod

Headmaster’s Notes

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

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

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

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

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

Brian left us many legacies: a Science Block, the rebuilding of which he managed and which looks like a Liquorice Allsort dropped into the school from the sky. He couldn’t do anything mundane. He left us a superb catering set-up much of which he negotiated. He was a formidable negotiator to work with, someone you wanted on your side. I was always the Good Cop when he was on the case….

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

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

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

The rest of this Magazine is a tribute to what can be achieved and in work emails.

Jim MacLeod

Headmaster’s Notes

Brian Rafferty

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Jim MacLeod

Headmaster’s Notes
The Story of a Minibus

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

The moral of the story is surely that parental giving to the School both in terms of money and innovative support is an essential part of what makes WBGS excellent. Apart from the minibus, the Friends were also able to fund other projects around the School during the 2012-13 academic year, including £56 parental donation the School receives each month means that every boy at the school benefits from an extra £3.32 per annum on top of the Government allocation of about £3,000 to each state school student. Of course we all know that a privately educated student has at least £8,000 per annum allocated to their education, but that does not itself guarantee excellence.

I recently visited a local private school with annual fees of £10,000 per student. They have 14 acres of land compared to our 7 acres and they have a student body of just over 1,000 students compared to 1,300 boys at WBGS. Last summer, they sent 3 of their students to Oxbridge and the rest left to attend a mixed-bag of higher educational establishments. At WBGS, last summer’s student cohort secured 16 places at Oxbridge. Last summer, they left 3 of their students to Oxbridge and the rest left to attend a mixed-bag of higher educational establishments. At WBGS, last summer’s student cohort secured 16 places at Oxbridge and the vast majority of the rest have gone to elite Russell Group universities.

And yet, despite all this, I must admit to feeling a touch envious at the ease with which a private school can fund the punishing annual gas bill to heat a state-of-the-art swimming pool, or easily access funding for new computers or mini-buses, sports air domes or observatories, new builds, refurbished old buildings and so on. A good education isn’t just about facilities, right? But wouldn’t it be great if we could have ongoing, reliable sources of funding that don’t sway with global downturns or unexpected inflation and interest rate rises.

Annually, the School needs an extra £450,000 a year to continue to deliver good outcomes for each student and to provide some stability to fluctuating budgets. The continued support of our parents cannot be underestimated; it is an essential part of each boy’s success here.

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

Effie Stevenson Chair, Friends of WBGS 2009-13

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

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

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

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

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

However, it was not only the men that fought in WWI that will be remembered this year. The Fullerians that fought in WWII are just as important. One of the most extraordinary war stories I have heard to this day is that of Robert Bateson, a former student and senior member of the RAF in WWII. Picture the scene; it is 11th April 1944, and hundreds of people have started queuing outside a bakery in The Hague, Holland. Across the street, the Gestapo's Headquarters in Holland. To the locals, and most others throughout Holland, it was the most hated building in the country. That morning, the men, women and children heard a gentle hum over the city; the humming was that of aircraft engines. Six mosquito bombers approached the headquarters and released their payload of explosives and firebombs over the building. The attack was an outstanding success; the building was instantly ablaze, and more importantly so, the sensitive records held inside. The bombs were so accurate in fact that it has been reported two of them bounced through the front door. Amazingly, no civilians were injured in the raid and no other buildings were damaged. It was one of the many great successes of the RAF in WWII, and it was planned by an old Fullerian in around 10 hours.

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

Henry Anderson 10P

Fullerians of WWI and WWII
The Great War Centenary

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

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

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

Not all of the Fullerians lie in the far reaches of the world. In fact James Rae and Gordon Adamson both rest in the local Vicarage Road Cemetery. However, they both died through very different circumstances. Gordon was wounded and sent back to England where he died of his wounds; James was killed in a motorcycle accident in Windsor and though very different they are no less important than the other. However the bitterest of stories lie with the men and boys who died just days shy of important milestones. Sidney Dawes and Robert Hodgson suffered these fates as they were killed just days prior to Armistice. Imagine the bitter sting their families had to endure as their loved ones were snatched away just before their safety appeared to be guaranteed. One can only imagine the numbness their parents felt as they received the news that they had died so close to the war itself ending.

The names of these Fullerians can be found in many different places, from the local Vicarage Road cemetery to the Thiepval Memorial and all around the world. Whether they fell at Vimy Ridge or Gallipoli, their names can found carved in stone somewhere; memorials like these were made to commemorate the sacrifices they made in the most permanent way possible. Although names are recorded on various memorials, men’s bodies may not be where their names are. Many Fullerians who died of battle wounds may be in mass graves as opposed to near their marked graves. But visiting their graves is no less important despite a body not necessarily being there. The most important thing is that the graves symbolise the men and should often be visited to remember those lost.

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

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

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

Daniel Booth yT

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The Fallen of Watford Grammar School for Boys 1914-1918
Ypres and Somme Trip

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

Day 1

We departed for Ypres, travelling by coach to the port of Dover and from there caught a ferry to Dunkirk. Our first stop in Belgium was Tyne Cot Cemetery, a Commonwealth War Graves Commission burial ground to the fallen of the First World War in the Ypres Salient on the Western Front. It is a memorial to those who died near Passchendaele in 1917. It contains the graves of 12,000 men (roughly) and has a wall of names (about 37,000) in memory of the soldiers whose bodies could not be found. When we went there the sheer number of names and graves was overwhelming and we found it a humbling experience.

Our next stop was an interesting museum telling us about conditions for soldiers in war; for example: what the weight of it. The museum also had a series of replica trenches that we could go through.

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

Day 2

On our second day we travelled to Northern France for our first stop where we visited the Wellington Quarries: a series of tunnels 30m under the ground which forces of the British and Commonwealth Empire used in the First World War. These tunnels were built by a combination of British and New Zealand soldiers (hence the name Wellington Quarries, capital of New Zealand). They were built to be a means of shelter for the troops from the incessant German shelling and as a means of conveying and transporting the soldiers to the battlefield with secrecy and safety. We were lucky enough to have a tour through the actual tunnels which, in my opinion, was an amazing experience. We were able to see the cramped conditions of the soldiers and the things they had left like little drawings on the walls of rock. It was incredible to see how well preserved the tunnels had been kept.

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

We were able to go through the path that the trenches had cut up to the petrolifer tree which is a historic symbol marking No Man’s Land. We could see the damage that the shells and mines had left upon the land, leaving craters and dips everywhere. After exploring the site we left for Thiepval, a monument dedicated to the missing soldiers. The site is massive in size and astounded me showing us that a vast number of soldiers were never found after the battle emphasising its failure. On it are the names of 7,649 missing soldiers. We performed a short service in their memory laying a wreath in the process.

Our next stop would be a place called Langemark which was the site of an extremely deep crater. This was where some of the Germans had been positioned in The Battle of the Somme. The Allied Forces had previously tunnelled deep into the ground and laid 68 tons of explosives. On the day it exploded it created a huge crater which we were able to see. Vimy Ridge was another one of our destinations, it was again a Memorial, this time to the Canadian Expeditionary Force and any Canadian soldiers who died in the war and have no grave.

Day 3

On the final day Mr McDermott gave a speech about our trip and then we were allowed to explore the church and we found different plaques from schools commemorating fallen pupils and staff including our very own.

After exploring we went to the Flanders Field Museum. We were then allowed to explore the town itself which was extremely beautiful because the Allies rebuilt it after the World War.

Next, we visited the Flanders Field Cemetery, the place where the medic John McCrae (the poet who wrote ‘In Flanders Fields’) was stationed.

He spoke of the time that he first lost a man under his command, his brother who selflessly gave and still give their lives so that we may continue to live in a free and fair society.

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By Kumael Bilgrami 10G

Remembrance Day 2013

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

Every year a guest speaker is invited to come and speak to the students and teachers before the two-minute silence commences and this year, the school was fortunate enough to welcome Captain Tom Villa to talk about his experiences with conflict. Having been a previous student of the school who had then moved on to take up a position in the British military, Tom could remember sitting in the exact position that we were sitting during his time at the school, not knowing what to think or how to react to the events that take place during Remembrance Day.

He spoke of how in the early stages of his school life, he would think about his family members who had fought during the 1st and 2nd world wars. As Remembrance Day has long been an event associated with these two global conflicts that took place during the early stages of the 20th century, he spoke of how often, is that the only thing the majority of us do think about during those two minutes. In our childhood, we are taught to think about the soldiers who fought and died and how we should be grateful to them for their courageous service, which indeed we should be.

However Captain Villa spoke of how in 2001 he had a revelation. That year’s Remembrance Day service was preceded just 2 months earlier by the events of 9/11 in which 2966 innocent people lost their lives. As these attacks were shocking events that led to a tremendous amount of loss, he felt there was no reason why they couldn’t be a part of his thoughts during the two-minute silence that year, which brought him to his startling realisation. In truth, Remembrance Day is not only a day about wars and about those lost in defence of our country, but also about all those who have lost and still lose their lives as a result of world conflict, whether they be soldier or civilian and regardless of whether they are directly or indirectly involved in fighting.

It was then that Tom described his experiences whilst serving with the British Expeditionary Force, which were in my opinion equally harrowing. He spoke of the time that he first lost a man under his command, his attempts to come to terms with this loss and the moments that he spent with the soldier’s family explaining to them the circumstances of their son’s death. This was not only a time of great difficulty and contemplation for Captain Villa but also emphasised to him the fact that soldiers are not the only ones that suffer as a consequence of conflict. One must also remember the many loved ones that are left behind.

Tom’s message was clear therefore; it really doesn’t matter what you think about during those two minutes of silence, as for most of us it is personal. However, the two minutes are short. Hence, one must never waste the opportunity to remember those who have suffered and died in any form of conflict throughout the world. War is something that affects so many people and Remembrance Day is a time to pay our respects to them all.

Jonathan Waller U6NAi

Jonathan Waller U6NAi
THE PROBLEM

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

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

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

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

THE SOLUTION

Symbio Energy and Schools...

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

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

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UK schools could reduce energy costs by around £44 million per year which would prevent 625,000 tonnes of CO2 from entering the atmosphere by adopting energy efficient technologies.

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

(www.gov.uk, 2013)

(Schools Carbon Strategy, SD commission 2008)

(Carbon Trust, 2012)

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**SCHOOL LIFE**

**First Aid Training**

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

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

**Psychology**

Extended Project Qualification

**Heavy Metal and aggression**

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

The study consisted of 2 groups of 16 Watford Grammar School for Boys students, drawn from the Sixth Form with their ages ranging from 17-18 years old.

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

- Physical aggression
- Verbal aggression
- Aggression towards inanimate objects

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

**Results/Findings**

| 1  | 107 | 107 |
| 2  | 108 | 94  |
| 3  | 110 | 73  |
| 4  | 93  | 82  |
| 5  | 87  | 69  |
| 6  | 84  | 77  |
| 7  | 78  | 66  |
| 8  | 76  | 66  |
| 9  | 67  | 59  |
| 10 | 97  | 36  |

**Average score 85.9**

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

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

**Raphael Deb Nath 6TBg**

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**What You Looking At Films**

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

The production process begins with the creation of a script. We then move on to producing a storyboard (drawing out each of the different shots to be used in each scene) as, unlike a theatrical script, the visual element is of very high importance.

We then move on to producing a storyboard (drawing out each of the different shots to be used in each scene) as, unlike a theatrical script, the visual element is of very high importance.

After all the shooting is finished, the tape is uploaded to a computer and the editing begins, something which can take up to a month!

All of this means that making films is a very time-consuming process. Therefore, we chose to stick to making sub six minute films in order to produce as many separate shorts as possible.

In this vein, we have, over the course of several years made; a silent comedy featuring a life size Gingerbread man; a WWI drama based on real letters written by a soldier on the Western Front; and of course our most recent effort, ‘The Plague...’ which took inspiration from the 1920s gothic horror film ‘Nosferatu’. All these have all been submitted to, and screened at several major children’s film festivals across the country.

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

For more details on film festivals please email whatyoulookingatfilm@gmail.com

Tim and Nick Bush 11T and 8T
Workshop

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

It took a while to get used to, but for me the best part of Workshop is the feeling of actually helping a younger boy with their school life. In many respects I was a teacher, just younger and more charming. But since I wasn’t really a teacher, I could talk to my buddy about football, friends and any other aspects of a teenage boy’s life. This wasn’t all though, and of course we made progress on the academic front. Working on both English and Maths skills made my role more challenging – especially since I no longer study Maths – but both of us benefited from the scheme to other schools in the country. Workshop is a testament to how dedicated Watford Boys is at striving to support all members of its community, and is continually raising the bar in educational provision. Even once I’ve vacated my post next year, it’s about helping them to make the most of their time at the school.

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

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

Michael Holohan 6Wg

Alan Senitt
Memorial Trust

There are many parts to this specific charity and one of them is to educate children on community. The charity teamed up with another called ‘Streetwise’ and they work together to educate children into believing in the power of community and how it brings people together.

I found out about this charity last year when they were collecting bottles for a greenhouse to be built in a garden for the homeless, and then I got the chance to apply this year when a representative of the scheme to other schools in the country. Workshop is a charity that take part. All of this means that we can further help all boys in reaching their full potential – be it in the mentor role, or the learner role. This year we also have a newly created position of Head of Science, allowing us to expand our teaching capability across the curriculum. Within a couple of years I’m certain that boys will be able to receive extra support in all subjects, under the watchful eyes of Dr Gunton and Mrs Stokes.

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Michael Holohan 6Wg

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Young Enterprise

Year 8 Business Day

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

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

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

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

Nathan Horbury 8P

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

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

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

From then on, all of the coaches knew we had to go inside, not just for warmth but for our safety and the sake of the waterlogged pitches. Without a single word we all ran in. By that time it was getting worse; Ali and I were covering our heads and eyes from the hail that was pelting us. There were a few “ouches” and “owows” as the hail felt like it was stinging us.

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

Then sir, with a big loud voice shouted, “The game is called off,” some faces smiling, others frowning. We were all dismissed as a beautiful rainbow appeared.

I thought - what a bizarre day!

Robert Curwen 7F

Science Block

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

Matthew Bishop 6th NAI

The Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation Clinic (Rickmansworth) Ltd.

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

01923 897 514 anya@physio-rehab.co.uk
It was a grey Monday afternoon and as we were queuing up for the computing class outside T4, we were informed by Mr Thurgood of a robot programming activity run by UEA (University of East Anglia). Robotics is widely used, from manufacturing, to situations which are too dangerous for human life, and even in space. We went in, expecting a boring lecture on robots, and how important they are, and thought that if we were lucky we'd get to watch a video of one in action. We couldn't have been more wrong.

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

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

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

Shaheer Hasan 11B & Soham Garg 11F
The Rotary Young Chef Competition for Watford district which took place on the 23rd of November was a fun but stressful, eye opening experience.

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

We planned our dishes carefully and arrived at West-Herts College on the Saturday morning, to meet Andy Wakeford, chef lecturer at West Herts College. We were shown round the professional training kitchen, which seemed alien to begin with. We had 45 minutes to familiarise ourselves with the kitchen, organise our utensils and ingredients and to lay our serving tables.

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

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

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

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

Rohit Mitra 10P
Michael Rosen
Sixth Form Lecture

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

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

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

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

Christian Ames 06WG

Mr Allchorn, Mr Carr and La Marmotte

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

The ride is not without its challenges, the day and then off in the car to the alpine town of Bourg d’Oisans. Realise before the race how long these downhills that this really is spectacular mountain scenery. Realise, too, that there are more than 6000 riders and hangers-on descend on this town for the start. Park up just outside someone’s drive. Assembly bikes for last time. Witness spectacular slow speed ripping off of Renault Captur’s front wheel in collision with a van and hear the Swiss equivalent of several oaths. Good job it wasn’t his bike, we thought. Then wait in the cold shadow of the awesome mountains to be let loose on the roads to the high mountains. 8 am we pass the timing control point and it’s a good fast few kilometres to the first climb of the day. See other riders we know and see the last of Mr Carr’s back wheel that day until the finish.

So the route. The first bit of suffering is up the Col du Glandon at 1924 metres, a scarly fast descent off this to the Maurienne valley.

That descent isn’t timed, but I still saw one bad crash which made me even more wary of letting go too much on the descents. It’s a bit of a slog on the level to the foot of the next big climb, the Col du Télégraphe at 1750 metres and then a bit before ascending the 2645 metres Col du Galibier. At that point, the roads were still surrounded by the remains of the unseasonal May snowdrifts. The Galibier was my ‘calvaire’ as the French would put it. In spite of drinking litres of water on the way up the Galibier, my legs suffered cramp like never before. However, I made it to the top knowing that there was a 40 km descent to get back to Bourg d’Oisans before the finish on Alpe d’Huez. Again, phased by seeing a rider being hauled back onto the road after disappearing over the edge on the 20% descent of the Galibier, confidence returned and it was a pleasure to barrel down hill for the equivalent of having ground up hill. The only party spoilers were the snow tunnels, which were poorly surfaced, and the equivalent of going into a darkened room from the bright sunshine outside.

 Soon enough, I was back in Bourg d’Oisans and the foot of the final climb to Alpe d’Huez. The good news was I’d already done 180 km and there was only 18 km to go to the finish. Unfortunately, there was another bad crash on the sharp bends of road, which lead to the ski station. At the foot of the Alpe you just have to dig in and, in my case, try not to count until you get near the top. There is distraction by reading the French graffiti and reading count down markers. Eventually I reached the finish and my medal. 1 hour and 32 minutes after starting, nearly 54 km of vertical climbing and 247 km travelled. Massive sense of achievement. Test family to say ‘well done’ (again), wolf end of meal and then, well, try to get down the mountain to our car. Easier said than done and need to be talked down from the mountain like a scared cat in a tree by Mr Carr in 21 steps. That evening, we treated ourselves to a very tasty steak, chips and a pint of Guinness. That evening, we were treated to a very tasty steak, chips and a pint of Guinness. That evening, we were treated to a very tasty steak, chips and a pint of Guinness. That evening, we were treated to a very tasty steak, chips and a pint of Guinness.
Young Engineers

Selex ES

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

The project was to be split into 4 parts:

- Simulating a vehicle entering the controlled zone to creating the data that the sensors would receive
- Calculating the distances from the sensors to where the vehicle is and using these to find the co-ordinates of the vehicle
- Transmitting the co-ordinates to a remote location
- Displaying the co-ordinates on an android app

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

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

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

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

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

Ben Keenlyside 6CPu

Hyder Consulting

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

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

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

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

Felix Thompson 6THn
Year 9 STEM Day

Last year, I took part in an exciting competition run by STEM lab. The competition involved splitting into groups and then we had to design and construct our own gliders. The materials we were given were a selection of plywood and the use of a glue gun. We also had sheets of paper for designing our gliders. After constructing them, we had to test our gliders and see whose could go the farthest. They were marked on both style and how well they glided. It took a lot of perseverance to finally achieve a working model but, by the end, each group had a reasonably successful glider ready to be tested.

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

Dimithra Bodara 10G

Visit to the University of Hertfordshire

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

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

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

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

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

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

Josh Shemtob 6NGv

Go4set

Last year, two teams were selected from Watford Boys to represent the school in the Go4set engineering project. During the course of the year, both teams had to embark on a six month project which could have been: to create an ideal eco sports stadium; to find out about the water use in your school or to create an eco-classroom.

We decided to design our own eco-classroom. Throughout the year we had four trips to meet with our mentors and find out more about engineering. Our first trip was to a university where the project was officially launched. There we participated in lots of team building exercises and began to understand what exactly it was that we needed to do. On our second trip we were fortunate enough to visit a building site where they were creating the houses of the future. This gave us a better understanding of what kind of environmentally friendly ideas were already out there that we could maybe use in our project. By this time most of our hard work was coming together; we had almost completed a model of our ideal classroom and we had written most of our report on this project.

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

Samit Patel 10B
Contrary to popular belief, Design and Technology is not all drawing, model-making and colouring in. We also shoot rockets across the playground. Yes, bizarre as it may sound, this task is a part of the sixth form Design and Technology course, being one of the few ‘technical challenges’ set throughout the school year by Mr Crozier, Mr Brookes and Mr Franklin in order to test our creativity and resourcefulness in the workshop. Each technical challenge takes place over a single week, before which we are given no hint as to what our test could be. This particular challenge began on the 14th of October, when Mr Brookes arrived at our lesson with a simple brief: propel this empty 2 litre coke bottle as far as you can across the playground, using only compressed water.

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

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

Finally, with our rockets intact (and looking beautiful) on Friday morning, we each carried our models proudly down to the quad, the spitting image of the McLaren and Mercedes F1 teams walking down to the pits in Monaco. It was Group One’s green and yellow bullet against Group Two’s yellow and black missile. A safety area was cordoned off, and a pressure pump attached to the bottles, each half full with water. After excessive pumping from Mr Brookes, Group One’s first attempt was off, travelling half the length of the safety area before spinning to a halt; an underwhelming start for the hundreds of fans who had gathered around the safety tape to watch. Group Two’s effort was hardly any better. But after that things improved, and before the end of break, each team could look upon their rocket with pride in what was a hard fought, tight contest for furthest distance. However, for Group Two, the day was to end on a sour note, as the inevitable “one last go” had dire consequences. After being pumped harder than any rocket had been before, the yellow and black missile gained a mind of its own, charging out of the safety area and making a beeline straight for the metal stairs which lead up to the old M2 classroom. I’m afraid that it looks like this particular rocket may never live to race again, but that did not put too much of a dampener on what was an educational, rewarding and of course, extremely entertaining week of design and technology. Oh, and I think it’s fair to say, with no bias, that Group Two probably won.

By David Anderson, 6GCs
The whole process started when Secretary of State for Education, Michael Gove decided to create a nationwide competition entitled ‘Poetry by Heart’, in which teenagers from up and down the country would have to memorise a poem and recite it from memory. And, to be honest, when we found out that we were one of those teenagers that had to memorise a poem and recite it from memory, most of us emitted a deep, long and heavy sigh of utter despair. Some of us may have even cheered sarcastically, before joining in with the deep, long and heavy sigh of utter despair. Some of us may have thought that we were one of those teenagers that had to memorise a poem and recite it from memory. And, to be honest, when we found out that we had to perform a poem in the first place, I felt rather pessimistic about the concept of having to do it again. But, just like the first time, it did seem quite exciting. Because I unfortunatley remembered my poem, I was one of the three from our class who went through to the grand final in front of the whole year and a large number of staff and a large number of 6th form experts and Mr Post. So as you can imagine, there was absolutely no pressure whatsoever.

And, after a sneaky training session from Miss Borgan along with the 2 other chosen pupils from our class in which she told us to speak as slowly as a snail on crutches, the day was here. The day I, along with many of my peers, had to perform our poem to the entire year. And it was extremely nerve-racking. As you stand on stage, there's nothing to hide behind, it's just you and a spotlight. It was hard to concentrate on speaking to the audience when you can constantly see the judges staring at you from the corner of your eye, occasionally scribbling down notes. But in the blink of an eye, it was all over. The top 5 had been decided, with Miracle Okereke winning the grand prize and taking the top spot; a worthy winner. And so, that concludes our adventurous and roller-coaster of a story.

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

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

Jack Butler 11T
As if in a race,
The paint cracks on his face,
Wishing—no, longing!—to die.
And scarves, all the while,
With card tricks and smiles
At his desk in town, he entertains a boy
He closes his eyes and closes his mouth and slowly falls asleep,
Sometimes he wishes he was dead.
Sometimes he wishes he were sleeping,
He sits on an armchair, as they sit and play,
His children arrive, they drop their bags,
He opens the door and no-one is home,
Harlequin goes home; his work here is done.
A tick of a clock, a fall of a sun,
People to see, but none to meet.
He plays his tricks on a dark grey street,
One move caught, and one move missed,
A slip of the hand, a flick of the wrist,
When at work, he works as a liar,
Harlequin wakes up at four and kisses his wife goodbye,
Charade behind charade, an ace behind an ace,
A face behind a mask, a mask behind the face,
Harlequin goes home; his work here is done.
He opens the door and no-one is home,
Tired Harlequin, all alone.
His children arrive, they drop their bags,
They run to their father, but he merely sags,
He sits on an armchair, as they sit and play,
He doesn’t even notice, at home it doesn’t pay.
His wife is still in bed,
And quickens his pace,
But his feet are made of lead.
Harlequin does a card trick,
Harlequin puts on a show,
Harlequin pulls a rabbit from a hat,
But Harlequin is feeling low.
Harlequin puts his nose in his drawer,
Harlequin puts his mask on his dresser,
At the sad eyes, but not the cards,
Harlequin gets up.
He gets home, he sits in a chair,
His wife is still in bed,
He licks the red from his lip, and
He cries the paint off, into his pillow,
Harlequin kicks his shoes off,
Harlequin can take little more.
He cries the paint off, into his pillow,
He licks the red from his lip,
He ignores the calls from his children,
He lies there, watching the ceiling drip.
He wakes once more, too early.
His wife is still in bed,
He paints his face,
And quickens his pace,
But his feet are made of lead.
Harlequin does a card trick,
Harlequin puts on a show,
Harlequin pulls a rabbit from a hat,
But Harlequin is feeling low.
Harlequin gets up.
He pouts himself a gin into his dusty wooden cup.
A rope on the floor, a beam on the ceiling,
A slope of the hand, a flick of the wrist,
When at work, he works as a liar,
When at home, he lives in a lie.
A slip of the hand, a flick of the wrist,
The charges against me leading to my discharge were false in every aspect. The blame lies elsewhere,
To be continued……
Sitting in the dock, alone, the Sergeant was worried. Butterflies didn’t really cut it, more a swarm of very angry bees flying around inside him. He was innocent, he hadn’t given the order to shell the village, but, who would believe him. His own men had testified that they had received an order of the radio from Sergeant Clark. He had no defence, no alibi, no witness; even the character witnesses hadn’t portrayed him well. It was wrong, the whole ordeal was wrong. And now General McKenzie entered the room to give his verdict.
It was like dream. After the general had delivered his verdict, guards entered the dock to remove Jonathan Clark from the dock. Not a sergeant anymore. Not even a private.
Therefore Mr Clark will be convicted of four counts of abusing power, and two counts of attacking non-combatants. He will be discharged from the army, with minimal payments. You have failed your country.” His precise words rung inside his head like unceasing church bells.
You didn’t come back from dishonorable discharge. You’d have your chance and you’d wasted it. Nothing left for him now; he’d have to see if he could retrain, maybe as a plumber.
Well, that’s what he’s thought as he trudged away from the court martial in London. The rain lashed down but he didn’t seek shelter. He didn’t deserve shelter.
The weeks turned into months as the now unshaven Jonathan Clark turned increasingly towards alcohol, even cocaine. The drugs didn’t help him though; just made him more and more depressed. Drinks though, drinks helped. Drinks were still helping when two men knocked on his door, seeking to talk to a ‘Sergeant Clark’.
“I ain’t a sergeant no more,”
“That may be in the eyes of the law, but we are here to change that. You deserve far more than you got. You never sent that order. That order came from the top. Your men acted out an order from General McKenzie himself, in your name. It is no coincidence that you were tried by him. Many arms were twisted to get the general to try you. Anyway, may we continue this discussion inside?”
“Come in, although don’t get your hopes up.” His apartment had fallen in standards, once the model of a perfect home it was now a mess, with empty cans of Budweiser strewn across the floor.
“General McKenzie is an evil man,” the second figure said, as he perched himself on the edge of the sofa. They were both about forty, and were clothed in tailor-made suits. Lawyers, if ever he’d seen them.

“Get to the point. I don’t have all day.” The first man nodded quickly.
“As you wish. We wish to, say, ‘enlighten’ the public to the true nature of General McKenzie. We have friends who have also been wronged by this man, and we are here to help both our friend, and you get justice.”
“We need you, and you need us,”
“As you wish. We wish to, say, ‘enlighten’ the public to the true nature of General McKenzie. We have friends who have also been wronged by this man, and we are here to help both our friend, and you get justice.”
“We need you, and you need us,”
“Well, I wish you the very best of luck but I’m sorry, no. I know you—” Clark began
“How? Jonathan this is no joke, we can get you justice, compensation for the miscarriage of justice. You must help us help you.” Both men were now clearly agitated. Jonathan began to relent.
“Very well. How may I help you?”
Standing now in the witness box, all too familiar to that fateful day nearly 11 months ago, Jonathan Clark prepared to reveal his evidence to the court.
“The order that my platoon carried out never passed through me. I never signed any paper with that order upon it. The charges against me leading to my discharge were false in every aspect. The blame lies elsewhere, for my story has not changed.” He spoke eloquently, carefully but firmly laying out his story. He began right from the beginning of the whole affair, right through to the court martial hearing. He had nothing to hide, and thus hid nothing. His burden had been lifted.
“I am innocent.” His closing line that headline writers everywhere took to like a vice. The Mail, the Guardian, the Telegraph, all of them had those 3 words on their front page. And with the end of his rather lengthy presentation, the court closed for the week. The defence would open its case on Monday. The prosecution was, or so they thought, home and dry. Evidence irrefutable, nobody foresaw any conclusion other than that which favoured Jonathan Clark.
Monday came and Clark, now seated in the audience, was preparing for a defence peppered with holes. All the journalists were clutching their stories, just waiting to fill in the final details. But of what was to come, not a single person in that room could’ve predicted.
To be continued……
the door opened revealing a man in a smart army uniform. They withdrew and the metal slit slid back into place. Then knew the eyes were telling him to stop. He spat at the eyes. yelled something in a language he did not understand. But he pair of eyes, staring at him with an enraged look. The eyes knew it. Suddenly a metal slit slid away and he could see a it would open to freedom. But that wouldn't happen and he towards the door. Banging at it without end in some chance a mad fit, flailing his limbs uncontrollably. He knew he was in and the gun draped on the floor. He screamed in Everything made him sick. The disgusting walls covered in at it made him gag. He held it in as he replaced his uniform. started to peel away showing of his raw flesh. Just looking over his body. On a particularly painful one the skin had He pulled away his uniform to reveal gaping bloody wounds He woke up; an electrifying pain ricocheted through his body. Richard Blake lay unconscious in the small space shuttle floating above the rough waters of the Pacific Ocean. The shuttle was drifting above the uneven waters when its doors were forced open. A diver was gripping on to the edge of the shuttle for dear life as the weights that were buckled to his belt were pulling him down. Richard woke up just in time to see the diver trying to shift him out. Richard felt the frigid waters surrounding his body up to his neck. Slowly, he made his way onto a speed boat heading towards land.
Vienna Trip

The excitement and anticipation had been building up to the very first trip by the school to Vienna. Early on Friday morning around 4.00 a.m., the group assembled at school. Incredibly, everyone was on time, but some were quite asleep! We made our way to London – Stansted Airport. There was a rush for boarding the flight as we were held up at security checks by a couple of bags. The flight took off at 6.30 a.m. on Ryan Air, to Bratislava. We arrived at Bratislava about 9.50 a.m. (local time). Happily, there were no delays at Passport Control and we were at the airport about 9.50 a.m. (local time). Happily, there were no delays at Passport Control and we were allowed to board our coach taking us to Vienna. We arrived at Vienna’s airport, Vienna – Schwechat, at 10:05 a.m. (local time). Happily, there were no delays at Passport Control and we were allowed to board our coach taking us to Vienna.

The coach trip was about 2 hours and we passed through beautiful countryside, dotted with small villages and towns. It was interesting to note how quiet the city seemed. We took the U-Bahn to Prater amusement park and saw the famous Ferris wheel (the Riesenrad). There were many dodgems, stalls of funfair games and a go-kart track which was very popular and competitive. We had lots of fun at the dodgems trying to ‘crash’ against each other and ‘bump’ the teachers’ cars.

On the Monday, following another super breakfast, we went to an Austrian school (die Freie Waldorfschule in West Wien). The pupils and school staff were very welcoming. We took part in a dancing lesson, which showcased and improved our co-ordination skills!

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

The day of our departure seemed to arrive quicker than expected because of all the fun we had. We went around the city centre on a tram. Then, we took the ‘Twin City Liner’ catamaran along the River Danube to Bratislava. This boat gave the opportunity to take fun and funny photographs of the group. Upon arrival at Bratislava, we visited the Bratislavsky Hrad (Bratislava Castle; the landmark of the city). We had a race around the city centre to locate 13 places, similar to a treasure hunt. We caught a “bendi-bus” local service to the airport. This time, there were no delays at security. We departed for London – Stansted at 9:30am (local time and landed at 10:35pm BST). We arrived at the school at twenty-five minutes past midnight, where parents were relieved to see us arrive safely.

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

Vielen Dank Frau Webster und Doktor Taylor für diese wunderbare Reise.

Devon Veralia

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TRIPS & EXCHANGES

THE FULLERIAN 2013-14

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Our journey started on Friday, 3 May as all the boys met in the cold at two o’clock in the morning. We packed our luggage onto the coach and set off to Gatwick Airport. Whilst there, we were able to rest for a while and get some breakfast. Next we boarded the plane for the short journey to Italy and Naples airport. As soon as we had landed, we were greeted by the warm Italian sun and got on board a coach that took us through the densely packed streets of Naples and out to our first destination in the Bay of Naples, Pozzuoli Roman Amphitheatre. There we ventured around the site and explored the various underground tunnels and rooms of the very well-preserved amphitheatre. Next we headed to the National Archaeological museum to see its enormous collection of statues, mosaics, paintings and all things Roman. One of these included a giant and beautiful mosaic of Alexander the Great that was so detailed it almost appeared to be a painting. Finally, after a hot and busy day we checked in at the Hotel Tourist in Sorrento. There we relaxed for the rest of the day and enjoyed some traditional Italian cuisine for dinner. After this, we headed up to our rooms and were strongly encouraged by Mr Pegler to have lights out by nine o’clock (or die).

In the morning, we had another early start as we enjoyed a continental breakfast and then departed from the hotel to visit the ruins of Pompeii. We were shown around and guided by the brilliant expertise of Mr Pegler and Mr Davies. We all enjoyed learning about how the Romans lived, such as how their dead were buried on the outside of the city for respect (and because they smelled), and the intelligent planning of the city revealing the ingenuity of people that lived thousands of years ago. We learnt how the city was destroyed by ash and how people were smothered slowly by the ash until they suffocated and died, or crushed under the enormous weight of pumice. We looked on sorrowfully at the many plaster casts, which depicted the victims in their last moments as they were killed suddenly by pyroclastic flow from the volcano. The whole day was spent exploring the great ruins of the city, stopping only to have lunch and eat ice cream. One of the most exciting events of the day was a confrontation between Mr Pegler and a small, irate Italian tour guide. Whilst Mr P was explaining to us about the Roman baths, the tour guide told us to be quiet so he could talk. It led to a not so civilised discussion and the tour guide’s angry antics became common topic of conversation for the rest of the day. After our fantastic day at we returned to the hotel where we all collapsed with exhaustion.

On the Sunday, we excitedly anticipated another action packed day. This time we set out to climb Mount Vesuvius. After a casual race to the top of the volcano, we were able to capture a breathtaking view of all of the bay of Naples. We were then given a guided tour of the mountain and learnt about how the blast in AD 79 had made a smaller mountain within a larger one, which is what exists today. After this fascinating talk, we ventured to the ruins of Herculaneum where we ate lunch and then set off in small groups to explore. This smaller town, similar to Pompeii, was said to be the posh area of the bay of Naples. We had to descend 20 metres to the town where we saw exquisitely preserved mosaics and beautiful houses. We were given freedom to explore the many shops and sights that the city offered. Back in Sorrento we indulged at the world famous Italian ice cream shop (which the pope and other famous people had visited) and purchased souvenirs to remember our visit and finally enjoyed a quick stop at a pleasant little beach.

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

Jesse Rist 10T
Walking to board the coach, I looked around to see that all of us had changed into our costumes. Everyone was very critical of each other’s outfits. Even the teachers were dressed up! But you could tell we were all very excited. Finally, the coach arrived; we rushed on board and we were off!

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

We were led to a gate, where we met a fearsome gatekeeper (he would make a good teacher!). After an interrogation and teaching us on appropriate etiquette (bowing and greeting with Good Morrow), we were finally allowed to pass.

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

The next stop was the archer’s tent, where the archer proceeded to show us the difference between hunting arrows and war arrows. The fletcher then demonstrated how he could shoot a person from 12m away, but there is nothing to worry about as it was only a stuffed bag. Amazing! After this, we proceeded to the garden beside the manor’s moat which was filled with flowers, plants and amazing carved bushes. The gardener told us which plants were used to treat the villagers, for example lavender, which would help with hay fever.

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

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

The manor house was where all the grand people lived, feasting on grand meals and playing instruments amongst opulent surroundings. There was clearly a big difference between these grand people and the poor working folk who worked in the grounds and lived in hovels.

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

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

Matteo Ponzini 7B

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B

er, history, architecture and cars. That’s what Germany is famous for! However, being in the sixth form at Watford Boys meant that going to Mainz, Germany, last February wasn’t just going to be a simple holiday with sightseeing. Before setting off we all had to choose a specific field in which we wanted to work for 5 days. Personally I wanted to do some teaching. So I was assigned a primary school in the heart of Mainz called ‘Feldberg Grundschule’.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Later in the day we saw both the House of Lords and House of Commons, which we found particularly enthralling, as it was like seeing what we had studied jump out of the page in theory. This was also very useful for us as well as it gave us a relevant case study that we could use in our exam. We also learnt some different techniques on how to argue your point in a debate and how useful it is to have statistics to back up everything you say and counter arguments from the opposition.

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

One thing which impressed us throughout the day was the fact that we were standing where some of the most important decisions in history had been made and had seen famous politicians speak, like Churchill, Attlee and Thatcher. But it was only when we saw the live debate in the House of Lords that we really grasped the significance of the place that we were in, as we knew from our studies how important the Lords were in holding the Commons to account, so to see this live really amazed us.
Thirty boys from the Humanities Club went on a trip to Greenwich. We were going to the Cutty Sark, the Greenwich Meridian line, and the Planetarium – all in one day! Everyone was buzzing with excitement.

After a traffic-free(ish) journey, we went first to the Cutty Sark, the amazing ship that transported tea from Shanghai to London and whose captain navigated what is still the quickest route by a sailing ship from Australia to London. It took him 73 days. This might sound like quite a long time, but others have tried and the quickest person still took round 90 days!

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

The final part of our trip was a visit to the Planetarium. Inside, the seats are pointed upwards so there is no need to lean back to see the show, which is projected onto the roof. We were told our show was going to be about ‘our neighbours’ meaning the planets near Earth. This later expanded to other Solar Systems, Galaxies and even Universes. The show was very enjoyable and though I am really no astronomer, I still learnt a lot from it.

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

Charles Smith 6G

Diamond Light Particle Accelerator Trip

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

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

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

After this, we split up into a few small groups and were given tours by a number of staff from the site. Our “tour guide” was an engineer, so was particularly interested in explaining and discussing how the accelerator and beam chambers presented some interesting engineering challenges to build and keep running. The thing that surprised me the most was the way the radiation was kept in entirely via a “maze lock”, where the entrance doubled back on itself a couple of times, meaning the chance of any radiation (which follows straight line paths until it collides) reaching the exit was so low the dosage would be safe.

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

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

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

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

Ben Keenlyside 6CPu
The whole of year 7 travelled by coach to the stunning Hindu Temple in Neasden which is in fact the largest traditional Mandir outside of India. During the course of this half term we have been studying the Hindu faith and I’m sure that the trip furthered our understanding of this religion.

The definition of a traditional Mandir is that it follows the Hindu scripture of architecture. One of these rules is that no metal is to be used in the building so the building is all made of stone. We were told of the materials that were to be used, including marble and granite. One of the things we were told is that all the carvings were handmade.

By Aron Finkelstein, Matty Doulton and Muhammad Yahya 7T

Shri Swaminarayan Mandir

The temple was the Aarti ceremony in which the statues of the deities (Gods) to the Hindu songs and the sound of Aum. Aarti can also be spelt arathi; these words originate from a Sanskrit word with the same meaning. Everyone had to observe silence during the ritual and the women were to sit separately from the men. When they took the puja tray round, all the Hindu worshippers put money in the tray and put their hands over the flame. We were told our activity groups and who we would be sharing a tent with.

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

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

By Aron Finkelstein, Matty Doulton and Muhammad Yahya 7T

Aryan Tanna 8T
Our visit to the BIG BANG SCIENCE FAIR (their capitals, not mine) began at 7:30am on a cold Thursday morning. Slightly questioning our sanity for agreeing to such an enterprise, we stumbled bleary eyed...

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

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

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

Who we are...

Armchair Mortgages ---- we are directly authorised by the Financial Conduct Authority to advise and arrange products like mortgages and non investment insurance. Our registration number is 304264.

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Founded in June 2000 as a Partnership, Armchair Mortgages is an ethical and professional company and this has been the cornerstone of our success. We are proud to state that despite the financial rewards on offer we never sold PPI, thus consolidating our position in the market place as a broker that people could trust. We have offices based in Norwich, Oxford, Birmingham, Coventry, Reading and London and after over 15 years in business no complaints have been registered against us with Trading Standards or The Financial Ombudsman Service, a fact we are very proud of. The company head office is in Staffordshire along with 2 other offices as this was where the company first started business. Please note any fee we may charge you for arranging your mortgage is only payable once the business completes so you pay for the work we have done and not the work we promised to do.

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The Big Bang Science Fair 2013

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

My group consisted of seven people and the first thing we saw was a stall that would do a 3D print of your face. There was a large queue and even a waiting list so we couldn't have it done. However, we did visit a workshop on snakes and their bites where we learnt how to cure them, and we also made a lie detector which we were able to take home.

Finally, we sat down to watch a show on machinery that mimics superpowers, like X ray transmissions of sound in a laser and then after the show I went to another workshop where I made a paper DNA helix. We had an excellent time learning and actively getting involved in the workshops. It is an enjoyable day out which I recommend going on because it could also inspire you into a career in Maths, Science or Engineering.

Tej Dhrona 10G

The Big Bang Science Fair 2014

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

Tim Bush 11T

The Big Bang Science Fair 2013

The Big Bang Science Fair 2014
**Classics Trip to Greece**

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

We found our coach driver and the coach and headed to our first hotel destination. When we got there we entered the hotel and then someone shouted “There’s FREE WIFI!” and we all rushed to try and get the password.

After we had all freshened up we headed into the Plaka district via the metro. Upon arrival we could think about were our empty stomachs so we entered the hotel and then someone shouted “There’s FREE WIFI!” and we all rushed to try and get the password.

After one of the longest drives so far, we finally arrived at Olympia, ‘exhausted’ is the first word that comes to mind. We had a ‘pool’ in Athens, but it paled in comparison to the beauty we had here. 8-10 metres long and cool, really nice and cool. By cool I mean absolutely freezing, the kind of cold that makes you go all numb after a quick dip. Anyway, Olympia was especially relevant to us Year 11, as our Controlled Assessment was on the Ancient Olympic games, something we, naturally, were ‘always’ thinking about throughout the following day.

First, we headed to the site, and went to the museum. It was small, but was full of artefacts of athletes and vases with paintings of races, but also armours, and shields, weapons, and odd little statues of things like horses. Later, we went to the site itself, the place where the Olympic Games started. We spent a while looking around the training facilities for the athletes, saw a grand hotel (now just ruins) and a workshop, where the statue of Zeus was said to have been made. Eventually, we made it to the stadium.

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

Tolon was another long drive away, but it was definitely well worth it. The hotel had a proper pool, still freezing but nice and big, and was a short walk away from the sandy beach. On the first day in Tolon, we went into the town, and headed up to the ancient ruins of Mycenae, home to King Agamemnon from the Trojan War fame. The fort was massive, covering huge expanses of ground, and the views were absolutely stunning. At Epidaurus we visited a perfectly preserved Ancient Greek theatre, one of the few remaining. It was massive and frankly staggering.

We listened to an oration by Harry Dinsdale which was in Latin. Even from the very top we could hear what was being said - it was remarkable. Finally we headed into the town of Nauplion and climbed up some 2000 steps to reach a huge Venetian fortress with some of the best views I have seen in my life. Even from half way up we could see for miles in every direction. The climb was tiring, but it was definitely worth it not just for the views but for the massive fortress we could explore.

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

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

By Pranav Patel 11T

and Danayan Luxmanan 11G
As we all said our goodbyes to family and friends, we were off on an amazing journey to be. All of us were tired but very excited so that many of us were not able to get to sleep on the way there. The teachers told us that we had a very long night and morning ahead of us because there were very long delays at Dover as a result of the strong winds but that still didn’t stop us.

We were on the ferry and it was not a pleasant ride with the ferry shaking all over the place. We were all very tired when we landed in France and climbed back onto the warm and cosy coach and within seconds we were all fast asleep. On the way, there were many stops as the coach drivers had to be changed as they could only drive a certain amount of time. Most of us were awake by 7:00 am and were ready for breakfast. And finally after a big mountain climb, the sun shone and we reached our magnificent accommodation on the snowy mountain hill.

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

We all skied with great sense and maturity and by the end of the week we all looked like we could ski. All of us were very pleased with ourselves and the teachers must have been too as they decided to take us to town and buy us all an ice cream! After the ice cream, we were allowed to visit the high street. The main reason was to get a present for our instructor, but we also bought souvenirs for ourselves and after that we had a pizza night with the other schools.

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

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

Paarth Patel 8T

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**Ski Italy**

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Paarth Patel 8T

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**Lower 6th Geography Field Trip**

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

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

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

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

JL
in the steep hills and valleys, we went straight into Cardiff Bay. After passing countryside that differed to England only under the mind. After passing countryside that differed to England only, we understood the reason behind this. The view was spectacular; renowned for its scenery, and straight from the Severn Bridge we set off on our first task, which was to find the purposes and facilities of certain (well known) buildings like those mentioned above. We had a quick bite, and explored the Bay with Duke of Edinburgh’sh expertise. The weather did nothing to hinder our progress, and we found ourselves really enjoying the area; we understood what brought a million people here each year. But we finished our task in a few hours, and set off to what was to be our home for the next 2 nights. A brief coach journey later, and we were in Abendare, in a parking lot, outside what looked like two small houses. An alley in the middle revealed itself, leading to a courtyard in which we were surrounded by small rooms. And while the rooms were not 5-star hotel, they were nice, not over the top, and equipped with a small TV each. What was the first thing I did? Watch a Wimbledon of course. And in this manner we set off. At first time was passed with idle chat, some attempting to sleep (like that would happen). And then the phones came out, and the consoles. Maybe the trip wouldn’t be so bad after all.

After a brief, uneventful stop at a (very expensive) service station, we passed into Wales. The country is of course wouldn’t be so bad after all. We had a quick bite, and explored the Bay with Duke of Edinburgh’sh expertise. The weather did nothing to hinder our progress, and we found ourselves really enjoying the area; we understood what brought a million people here each year. But we finished our task in a few hours, and set off to what was to be our home for the next 2 nights. A brief coach journey later, and we were in Abendare, in a parking lot, outside what looked like two small houses. An alley in the middle revealed itself, leading to a courtyard in which we were surrounded by small rooms. And while the rooms were not 5-star hotel, they were nice, not over the top, and equipped with a small TV each. What was the first thing I did? Watch a Wimbledon of course. And in this manner we set off. At first time was passed with idle chat, some attempting to sleep (like that would happen). And then the phones came out, and the consoles. Maybe the trip wouldn’t be so bad after all.

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Computer Science visit to Middlesex University

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

Upon arrival Dr Rui gave us a lecture about haptic technology which he teaches to his students. We were each given a Novint Falcon force feedback device to use and some software which simulated lifting a virtual rubber duck that was floating in water. When using the device, you could actually feel the force of water as you moved the object through it. We were then shown how this could be used in the real world such as a doctor performing remote surgery on patient who could be on the other side of the world. Using some trusty duct tape we attached some percussion instruments to the feedback devices and generated some program code that would move them when we waved our hands in front of an Xbox Kinect sensor. Our musical masterpiece was made without any of us actually playing an instrument!

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

James Jackson 6PWh

Year 10 Biology Trip to Whipsnade Zoo

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

As hard as it may seem, chimps are much smarter than we give them credit for. We were told that chimps had been trained to use American Sign Language and lexigrams and have excellent problem solving skills. Afterwards we saw real chimps being fed and saw their crafty ways of obtaining food like out of the water and from each other! We saw their behaviour of grooming. We also learnt that there are actually styles of hierarchy within this group of monkeys and specifically the alpha male established power by friendship. This was an amazing and interesting start to our visit.

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

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

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

Afterwards my group and one other went around simply to explore and view different animals. We saw flamingos; on our way we learned some very interesting facts like they only happen to be pink because of the food they eat. We also had the pleasure to see cheetahs, though they weren’t in a very active mood! Lions were our next stop. They were asleep but nevertheless large when we saw them. Surprisingly, lions sleep for 21 hours a day. We saw many females but only one male. We went on to the meerkats and afterwards strolled along to see the giraffes. Apparently, the heart of a giraffe weighs roughly 6kg! Lastly we went to the discovery centre to learn more about insects and reptiles etc.

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

Kumael Bilgrami 10G

Raspberry Pi STEM day

Ten intrepid pupils from Year 9 attended a Raspberry Pi STEM day at North Herts College in Stevenage accompanied by Mr Thurgood. The day organised by SetPoint Herts is part of a nationwide scheme to encourage more pupils into Science, Engineering and Maths subjects at A-Level and university. The boys attending are already accomplished coders in Pascal and Python, thanks to Dr Morrison’s lunch time programming clubs every Wednesday. Already accomplished coders in Pascal and Python, thanks to Dr Morrison’s lunch time programming clubs every Wednesday. Ten intrepid pupils from Year 9 attended a Raspberry Pi STEM day at North Herts College in Stevenage accompanied by Mr Thurgood.

The day involved using a breadboard wired up to a Pi interface to control a series of LEDs, as well as networking 2 Pis together to understand the concept of Sub Net Masks and data packets in sending messages around the internet.

Year 10 Computing Trip to UCL

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

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Art Trip to London

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

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

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

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

The trip back home allowed us to travel via one of Heatherwick’s designs, the new routemaster bus, which has recently been introduced to standard bus routes across London. All in all, the trip allowed us to see the influence that Thomas Heatherwick has had on London, as well as some of his great designs. The popularity of his work is a true testament to his skill as a designer.

By Dylan Jumar 11G and Nathaniel Oshunniyi 11T
Year 11 Artists

Nathaniel Oshunniyi

Mujtaba Shah

Dylan Jumar

Kirisun Sivanathan

John Magadia

John ibabao

Josh Butt

Andrew Layton
the Music season opened with the Autumn concerts: two evenings of musical entertainment beginning with the Brass Ensemble’s performance of Juanear and Los Canarios, new pieces discovered on a collection of music from Spain produced by the group of professionals known as Superbrass. The virtuoso pieces really engaged the audience, the ensemble giving a very professional account of this 16th-century composition. This led into the famous opening carol, ‘Once in Royal David’s City’, with Thomas Bartlett singing the treble solo for the first verse with an excellent sound and fine intonation. The other congregational carols were the traditional Hark! The herald angels sing, ‘O Come all ye faithful and Unto us is Born a Son. The Senior Choir and Fuller Sound presented Gaudete, Canon Gloria, The Colours of Christmas, Noel Nouvelet, Christmas Lullaby, Child in a Manger, Star Carol and Tattoos. The musical interludes were provided by a small group of players from the Senior String ensemble, performing the first movement of the Bach Double Violin Concerto, Danny Lewis and Robert Carpenter taking the solo violin parts.

Prizegiving took place on the very day that we returned to school, so there was the inevitable rushing around to have everything ready, but on the evening, there were magnificent performances to the stage for the Friday Band’s slot and the group entertained with their versions of We Will Rock You, Another One Bites the Dust, both arranged by Paul Mertha, and A Tribute to Rogers and Hammerstein arranged by Calvin Cluster. The sixty-strong Senior Choir sang Ben Parry’s arrangement of Gaudette, David Carpenter taking the solo violin parts, and Jamie Wall on trumpet, Robert Carpenter playing the solo violin lines, and finishing with the Senior Orchestra playing part of Matthaeus’ Serenade and Kander’s Chicago Medley.

The solists and groups performed superbly and provided a very fitting climax to all the work that our committed and talented students had put in during the term, witnessed by nearly six hundred people over the two evenings.

**2012 Autumn Concerts**

Band opened with Philip Sparke’s A Tameside Overture, followed by Breezin’ Down Broadway by Goff Richards and then Peter Graham’s Cossack Wedding Dance. The challenging programme was superbly executed by the talented ensemble. The next item was provided by Patrick Kennedy, Gusikulam Kannan, James Hamilton and Kazu Sair, the members of the Chilcott String Quartet, who gave an accomplished account of Michael Maclean’s Czardas. It was great to see many Year 7 performers taking their place on stage, no more so than in the solo trumpet part played by Rhys Haberfield in Juanear. The ensemble met the challenges most admirably and completed their programme with a traditional Christmas rendition of Santa Baby, with Jamie Wall playing the solo trumpet part.

**Prizegiving**

from all the musicians involved. For a change, the Fuller Piano Quintet started the proceedings this year with a wonderful performance of the first movement of the Brahms Piano Quintet in F minor with Danny Lewis and Ros Groves on violin, Joe Watts on viola, Shivaite Shah on ‘cello and Gregory Page on piano. The musical interludes were provided by the gifted jazz pianist, Matthew Jacobs, who performed an impressive improvisation on Here’s that Rainy Day. This was followed by three of our top trumpet players, Jamie Wall, Jonathan Shapiro and Rhys Haberfield, performing a superb rendition of Leroy Anderson’s comical Bugler’s Holiday. The musical finale following all the evening’s celebrations of success was given by the Brass Quintet: Jonathan Shapiro, Jamie Wall, Robert Carpenter, Bill Foster and John Malcolm performing Buster Keaton Blues. The lively rendition of music brought the evening to a triumphant conclusion and allowed Mr Malcolm some of the limelight in his final term with us at Watford Boys. Many thanks and congratulations to our musicians for giving a very professional account of themselves during the evening.
Due to the shorter Spring Term, the Lower Sixth Chamber Concert took place before half term on February 14th, but it was nonetheless an entertaining and enjoyable evening for all concerned, providing some excellent performances for the students’ examination components. The concert started with Joshua Harper playing from the soundtrack written for the recently-formed folk band were then the lively arrangement Best of the Beach You Are, which was full of emotion and written for the Military Wives, Wherever they’re from. The Senior Choir sang two of the best Ellington tunes. Crescendo Strings, led by Justin Ho, started the second half with some spirited playing of Ron Goodwin’s 633 Squadron, Faure’s Pavane and Classic Duke, an arrangement of some of the original on the piccolo trumpet. Fuller musicians into the Muse to inspire and take the stage to prepare the large scale pieces as one unit. What was particularly exciting for all the musicians was the fact that every one of the professionals was a high-profile player in a major orchestra who spread themselves out amongst the students not only to play but also to give advice. Led by Mr Malcolm, the Brass Band and brass players from the County started the day by listening to the group in rehearsal, which was most enjoyable, and then all

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

The first of our two Spring Concerts took place on Wednesday 20th March to a packed audience of enthusiastic parents and friends. The Brass Ensemble began with a lively Gershwin selection entitled Got a Little Rhythm, followed by John Iveson's iconic arrangement for solo trombone of the traditional Londonderry Air. The soloist was Bill Foster, who gave an evocative performance of Remembrances of Joshua Harper and then performed Conchita reve by Joaquin Rodrigo. His evocative performance of Remembrances was most enjoyable, and then all of the best Ellington tunes. Crescendo Strings, led by Justin Ho, started the second half with some spirited playing of Ron Goodwin’s 633 Squadron, Faure’s Pavane and Classic Duke, an arrangement of some of the original on the piccolo trumpet. Fuller musicians into the Muse to inspire and take the stage to prepare the large scale pieces as one unit. What was particularly exciting for all the musicians was the fact that every one of the professionals was a high-profile player in a major orchestra who spread themselves out amongst the students not only to play but also to give advice. Led by Mr Malcolm, the Brass Band and brass players from the County started the day by listening to the group in rehearsal, which was most enjoyable, and then all

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The Upper Sixth Chamber Concert took place at the start of the Spring Term, on Thursday 11th April, and gave the opportunity for seven accomplished musicians to present their prepared programmes to their families and friends. Rhyd Haberfield opened the evening with three movements from three different trumpet works: Haydn's Allegro from the concerto was followed by the middle movement of the Neruda concerto and then the Spiritual from Hubeau's sonata. The pieces were played extremely musically, with a clear tone and excellent accuracy. The first of our pianists, Matthew Jacobs, had prepared a jazz-influenced Gershwin programme with Prelude 2 followed by improvisations on Summertime and Embraceable you. The Preludio was very sensitively played with some musical rubato and careful chord placement. For Summertime, Matthew had engaged the services of Owen Nicolaou on bass, Jonathan Pampolin on kit and Bill Foster on bongos, and the performance was electric and swung effortlessly, with many masterful touches in Matthew's solo line. Embraceable you also sparked. Tank, the first of our violinists, performed the middle movement of the Grieg sonata very effectively and this was followed by a typical Vaughan Williams slow movement, entitled Ballade for viola, in which Tank captured the style of the solemn melody very well. Two movements of the Telemann concerto followed. Our second pianist, James Kennedy, had chosen three famous romantic works for his recital. Starting with the Liebstraume by Liszt: James managed to capture the mysterious quality of the work. Chopin’s Waltz in B minor was very stylish and forceful, where it needed to be and the Schubert Impromptu in Eb was played effortlessly. The right-hand part is in triplets almost all the way through and James managed to keep this sounding energetic and even through the whole piece. Bill Foster performed two movements of the Larsson concerto for his recital and he managed to accomplish the technical demands of the piece with real ease, whilst still maintaining a beautifully rounded sound for the lyrical sections of the work, ably assisted by Winnie Wu, his accompanist. Our second violinist Jay-Russell Dennis, had chosen to play the same opener as Tank, the Grieg sonata, and then followed this with a well-managed account of the completed Tank’s recital. Our second violinist Jay-Russell Dennis, had chosen to play the same opener as Tank, the Grieg sonata, and then followed this with a well-managed account of the completed Tank’s recital. Our second violinist Jay-Russell Dennis, had chosen to play the same opener as Tank, the Grieg sonata, and then followed this with a well-managed account of the completed Tank’s recital.

The instrumental forces of WGGS and WBGS combined on Mayday to present the traditional Joint Orchestral Concert at the Muse. The programme was a very varied one, with a mixture of concerti movements and orchestral pieces and a string quartet movement included for good measure. The standard was excellent and a real credit to our older students, especially when the demands of revision and coursework were undoubtedly uppermost in their minds. The concert commenced with the first of Eric Coates’ programmed works for the evening, the final movement from the Three Elizabiths Suite, the portrait of Queen Elizabeth II, also known as the British of Youth March. Full of catchy melodies and enriching harmonies, the piece provided a wonderful start to the proceedings. The traditional Founder’s Day Service took place the day after our Joint Concert at St. Mary’s Church in the High Street. The service started with a Gabrieli Canzona with the Upper Sixth Chamber Choir, which split on both sides of the isle to maximise the exploitation of the church’s acoustics, as had originally been intended when the Stave Church was built. The alternative service also ran smoothly.

**Upper Sixth Chamber Concert**

**Joint Orchestral Concert**

**Founder’s Day**

**Big Band At The Canal Festival**

Once again we had been invited to come down to the Aquadrome and perform at the end of the Canal Festival. The weather held firm and the Big Band performed superbly to a large and enthusiastic crowd. Stephen Resterack sang a selection of vocal numbers alongside our special guest singer from the Girls’ School, Sarah Hunt. This year’s set included 920 Special, One Note Samba, All of Me, Wave, Duet, In a Mellow Tone, April in Paris, One Mint Julep, I Get a Kick Out of You and I’ve Got You Under my Skin. It was a joy to direct such a talented group of players, many of whom we had to say goodbye to this year, including the majority of the trumpet and rhythm sections, but I am sure that there are others who will rise to the occasion and now relish the opportunity to perform some of the great repertoire written for this outfit. Many thanks to you all as well as your individual teams of supporters!

**2013 Summer Concert**

Our summer concert took place on the Friday of this week’s Arts and Literary Festival week. It was our traditional concert to celebrate many of the Prizewinners from the Competition held in April and also featured some of the groups that were still in operation towards the end of term. The concert started with the Friday Band performing three pieces, Final Countdown, Psalm 42 and Men in Black. This was our new Head of Brass, Stuart Quinlan’s first concert with the group and it was a most impressive performance from this large ensemble. Our first prizewinner, Alex Page, then moved to the Steinway and gave an evocative rendition of the Sarabande by Debussy. Eddie Cummins gave an impressive account of an arrangement of Fly me to the Moon on the clarinet and Tom Watts followed with a beautifully-crafted rendition of the Shepherd’s Song on the trumpet. Hamish McGregor-Smith performed a Messiaen prelude full of different colours and shadings and then Chris Weatherilt played the theme tune to The House of Elliott with great skill. James Wheeler and Matthew Gibson then took to the stage to perform on the taiko; the performance was extremely well choreographed and it was quite a spectacle with plenty of varied and interesting rhythms to keep the audience’s attention. With many of our older students on study leave, a new ten-piece brass ensemble had been formed and the results were revealed next with the group performing two pieces, A Nightingale sang in Berkeley Square and I’m Getting Married in the Morning. The playing was excellent and much appreciated by the audience. Our final soloist of the first half was Russell Barnett, who sang This is the Moment from the musical Jekyll and Hyde, a powerful song performed with great skill and control. The first half was brought to an effective close by the Senior Choir under the direction of Kevin Thorold, performing Adiemus by Karl Jenkins and Money, Money, Money by Abba. The second half started with our Crescendo Strings Group, who entertained with three movements from Purcell’s Suite to The Old Bachelor. Bill Foster then took centre stage and performed the last two movements of Larsson’s trombone concertos with great skill and dexterity, a worthy joint winner of the Rosebowl. The leader of our Crescendo Strings group
Delivered a very musical performance of Elgar's evocative Chanson de Matin, followed by Po de Mico, played mostly ably by Alex Wadgon on the guitar. Our second violinist, Anthony Lo, then performed Meditation from Thais, a real musical account of this very familiar piece. As this was Mrs Groves' last concert as Head of Strings, the Director of Music thanked her profusely for her dedicated service to the string players in the school and the many groups that she had coached over the last fifteen years. She was presented with a large bouquet of flowers in honour of her sterling work, especially with the Fuller Quintet. The players of this group then gave a superb performance of the first movement of Schubert's Trout Quintet.

Earlier in the year, we were delighted to receive a stunning performance of Elgar’s evocative Chanson de Matin, delivered a very musical performance of the first movement of the Piano Quintet in A minor by Schumann.

As this was the second concert at Headway's Piano Trio No.21 in C. The final item on the programme was probably one for which no-one in the audience will ever forget. We have been wowed by the sheer technical brilliance of Danny Lewis ever since he entered the school seven years ago, but actually to perform the Carmen Fantasy with such flair, technical security, musicality and a maturity that belies his age was absolutely incredible. His security, musicality and a maturity that belies his age was absolutely incredible and nighty deserved the standing ovation that it received. The Headmaster then presented the Rosebowl to both Danny and Bill, the Kenizt award to Jamie Wall for his unwavering commitment to at least six school music groups in the last seven years and the Nigel Compton Award to Matthew Rist for the most progress in instrumental lessons in the last year. The concert was a very fitting way to celebrate the brilliant musical talent in the school during Arts Week.

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

Lower School Piano
Tom Watts: Mignon by Schumann.

Middle School Piano
Alex Page: Samba Bande by Debussy.

Upper School Piano
Hannah McGregor: A Prelude by Messiaen.

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

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

Upper School Strings
Danny Lewis: Carmen Fantasy by Saint-Saëns on the trombone. Danny was also joint winner of the Rosebowl.

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

Middle School Woodwind
Patrick Nordin: Music from Pirates by Williams on the bassoon. Williams on the bassoon.

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

The Festival of Lessons and Carols took place on December 17th at St. Michael’s Church. This year we were very fortunate that one of our new Year 7 musicians, Paul Greally, is a talented organist and the lead-up to the service gave him an opportunity to play two pieces before the Brass Introt. This year, the music was provided by Samuel Svedin in the form of his Echo Fantasia and the Brass Ensemble gave a most effective account of this piece. The treble solo to Once in Royal David’s City was sung most effectively by Charlie Smith. The other congregational Carols were the traditional Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, O Come all ye Faithful and O Little Town of Bethlehem. The Senior Choir and Fuller Sound presented Silent Night and the Coventry Carol, A Clare Benediction, Sir Christmas, A Dearer Jesus, When a Child is Born, Tonight and Torches! The Brass Ensemble performed Final Flush following the final hymn and then Paul Greally returned to the organ loft to perform a most appropriate recessional by William Mathias. Once again, the church was full and it was wonderful to involve over 100 musicians to celebrate in the traditional way and bring the term’s musical endeavours to a fitting conclusion.
Dr Tasmin Little’s Masterclass

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

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

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

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

When it came to the short break, I was pulled back to the real world. Suddenly I remembered that I was the next one to play. I was still feeling very scared and nervous when I played my piece. I tried my best to keep calm but unfortunately there were some notes I did not play as well as I should have done. At that moment, I wish I had practised a bit more.

On Monday 24th March, Dr Tasmin Little visited the school to give a Masterclass for string players. A select few of us took turns performing short solo pieces that we had been working on. The Masterclass allowed us to receive constructive criticism to improve our playing both technically and stylistically. I performed Elegie on Viola and was given pointers to improve my tone quality which would help the overall performance. I also performed in 8 Viola exam in which the tips that Tasmin Little gave me were very helpful in giving a well-rounded performance.

This was especially useful as the following Monday I had my Grade 8 Viola exam in which the tips that Tasmin Little gave me were very useful in giving a well-rounded performance. I also performed in the Fuller Quartet playing the final movement of Dvorák’s American Quartet in order to help my ensemble playing as well as my solo playing. She helped us work on our dynamic contrast in some of the quieter sections which allowed us to build suspense to the climax of the piece creating more excitement and a better performance. This was similar with Senior Strings as she helped us to listen more to one another and helped us improve our pizzicato technique.

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

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

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

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

Anthony Lu 8T

Lower School Play
Ernie and his Incredible Illusions

Ernie’s Incredible Illusions. Makes you wonder – doesn’t it? How can hallucinations be so incredible? I suspect that is one of the elements that draws you in.

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

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

Callum Crockford 9T

Theatre in Education at Nascot Wood School

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

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

I was put together in a group with Lewis Taylor, Batsirai Mlimbo and Arjun Vanzia and we were assigned to deliver a workshop on Road Safety and we also created a little sketch to entertain the children. The other groups consisted of Kei Allan, Karl Tiemann, Matthew Huszaco, Tej Dhrona and Jonathan Williams, who presented on Stranger Danger.

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

Thomas Mohan 10G
During the 2012 production of 'A Few Good Men' the idea of performing 'Of Mice and Men' was mooted amongst the cast. A year onwards the Upper School was given the opportunity by Mr Roy to perform this play. Having taken part in the aforementioned 'A Few Good Men', I had no hesitation in auditioning for a part in the next upper school play. Being lucky enough to be handed the role of George, I was able to watch most of the development of the play from start to finish alongside Jack Wagman, a seasoned Watford Boys performer, as Lennie. In the space of two months, the production was ready for performance in front of a sell-out audience at the James Theatre. This was not without countless hours of hard work crammed in by the cast, the tech and stage crews and most importantly Mr Roy. This made it all the more satisfying when the hard work paid off on stage, with all three nights being a great success.

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

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

Jacob Hartley 6BBu

**Of Mice and Men**

**Posters for Productions**

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

The first poster brief came as quite a surprise, as a few members of my class had actually recommended me to the English Department, without my knowledge. This led to me being asked by Mr Roy in the canteen about doing the first poster. He told me what he wanted to be included in the poster. This involved the dates, times and the image on the poster itself. I scribbled the brief frenetically into my planner, striving to understand the strange concept of Ernie's Incredible Illucinations. I then set to work on my first poster for the school. All my posters thus far have been created using Photoshop. This enables me to draw a hound in the moonlight with ghostly red eyes and large teeth. The main aim of any poster is to attract people to the event and I hope that this poster in particular was interesting enough to persuade people to attend.

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

Jesse Rist 10T
Despite the record books recording season statistics of: Played 12, Won 4, Drawn 2 and Lost 7 the season was far from a poor one for the boys involved. Indeed two of the ‘losses’ accredited to the 2nds were against other 1st XV sides and so this events up the final figures a great deal!

With a very good start to the season, gaining 3 wins and a draw in the first four games, including a brilliant 10-0 victory against our local rivals Merchant Taylors’, the boys had every right to feel confident. However, a tough annual trip to a very strong Berkhamsted side saw us brought back down to Earth with a big bump and a 0-68 loss. You would be forgiven in thinking that this would be enough to dampen the spirits but in typical 2nd XV fashion, bonded by a very close knit group of boys, they bounced back admirably with a fantastic victory against St George’s the following week. From here on, it proved to be a tough second half of the season. The 1st XV were hit particularly hard by injuries and so the ranks of the 2nds were thinned quite considerably. As always, there was a great turnaround of players and this upset the team play that Mr Jelski had been able to implement so brilliantly at the start of the season. Despite this, the boys fought until the final whistle every week and this is backed up by the scores against St Albans, Haberdashers’ and Queens Elizabeth Barnet which were only lost by two scores or less.

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

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

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

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

St Columba’s College was our next game and we were determined to carry on the form we had displayed in the second half of our last game. We did just that; our opposition scored late and they managed to find themselves losing the first half. We pulled ourselves together and dominated both halves and win 36-5. Tries were scored from forwards and backs alike and this would be our largest margin for victory in the season. (Tries: Aldersley, Sharkey (2), Banson, Todd, Ratnarajah)

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

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

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We played a total of 15 games in both normal games and the Daily Mail Cup and Vase competitions, winning 8, losing 7, scoring 598 points and conceding only 238. Whilst coping with injuries we also had to manage with extra games in the extra competitions. In the 8 games that we won we managed to overcome some tough opposition as well as inflicting many points against the opposition, with our biggest win being a 98-0, demolishing Slough Grammar.

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

Our season started off with a bang with Bishop Stortford High School, Berkhamsted School and St Albans. We arrived on the bitterly cold 17th of December and with injuries we also had to manage with extra games in the course of the season, including immense wins against Cokethorpe (41-0), Dr Challoner’s (45-12), St George’s (52-14), Haberdashers’ Ashely (42-0) and Bishop’s Stortford (40-10). The backs chased kicks well, executed moves nicely, passed accurately and made threatening lines. Not to be outdone, the forwards also scrummed solidly and kicked and mauled powerfully which consequently gave easy ball for the team to work with.

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

This was a great season for us with only 3 losses and 8 wins, giving us the opportunity to clear our heads and face the future. We'd like to thank Mr Williams for coaching us this season and for giving us the chance to take on the role of team captains.

Squad: Douglas McGregor Smith; Toby Brown; Jonas Kitadi; Onyekachi Onyeuku; James Hayes; Atharva Abhyankar; Thomas Lees; Christopher Butcher; Zakary Fleisch; Jakon Lloyd; Christopher Joseph; Julian Manieson; Christian Edwards; Adam Muscat; Angus Bali; Vyshnav Aamarathan; Matthew Lally; Matthew Hodgson; Tom Fawsett; Daniel Kowalewicz; Youssef Kamel; Harry Baker; Luke O’Mahoney; Haroon Aziz; Max Whittaker; Miracle Okereke; Peter Shears; Timothy Edwards; Brandon Kat; Adeloba Oyekanmi

Zak Fleisch U12

This was a brilliant example of what the under 14 side was capable of. Our season started off with a bang with a fantastic win against Richard Hale, the end score being 59-24. Now that we were in year 9 and playing as a team, we scored a bag load of tries. Over 13 games we managed to score 413 points whilst only letting in 153, averaging 35 points a game. Our season continued to flourish, winning against the likes of Bishop’s Stortford High School, Berkhamsted School and St Albans.

We maintained our winning streak making it 12 from 12 and had made our way to the County Cup final against a St Albans side. We arrived on the bitterly cold 17th of December and with injuries we also had to manage with extra games in the course of the season, including immense wins against Cokethorpe (41-0), Dr Challoner’s (45-12), St George’s (52-14), Haberdashers’ Ashely (42-0) and Bishop’s Stortford (40-10). The backs chased kicks well, executed moves nicely, passed accurately and made threatening lines. Not to be outdone, the forwards also scrummed solidly and kicked and mauled powerfully which consequently gave easy ball for the team to work with.

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During the season, I think every player managed to get their name on the score sheet, just showing how much of a team effort it was. Probably the most rewarding thing was that our heads never went down, whereas we generally managed to make sure their heads didn’t! In my opinion, the highlight of the year was beating St Albans School 24-22. We had gone into the game knowing we were one of our toughest opponents, following an embarrassing thrashing from them the year before. However I had a feeling of excitement before the match. Early on I could see how much effort the boys were putting in and this was shown by our lead. We then had the remainder of the match to seal the win, and we seized on all opportunities and continued our monumental defence. Although they had considerably larger players we fought above our weight and hung on to clinch a great win that day. This win completely defined how the season went, we battled very well and won unexpected games against tough schools.

Squad: Aidan Sharkey; Jake Lees; Chibuike Onyeneku; Thomas Stork; Ronaldos Joslyn; Samuel Boyce; Alex Foley; Olutobi Odanye; Robert Vangucci; Matthew Hives; Liam Green; Euan Wiley; Thomas Milford; Daniel Russo; Nathan Kelion; Craig Beeston(Captain); Haaris Malik; Blankin Pratt; Harry Clements; Jamie Ivory; George Wright

Craig Beeston U13

Squad: Anthony Tryfonos; Morgan Osunsedo 10P; Festus Mensah; Nathan Tyson; Paarth Patel; Matteo Ponzini; Thomas Walsh; Lucas Dyson-Diaz; Ethan Mellier; Max Brown(Capt); Cilm Finneggan; Zachary O’Malley; Antuan Saravanavan; Kulim Patel; Max Baker; Jack Aitchison; Angus Finneggan(Vice-Capt); Louis Harris; Joseph Hancock; Paul Field; Owen Rackham; Thomas Wright; Sam Netcher; Jonathan Meares; David Ali Lauzzana; Waied Malik; Isaham Khroya; Aaron Manu; Charles Manieson

Max Brown U15

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

Rohan Finnegan U13

Squad: Beeston 0P

Feeling confident, we played Verulam and although they were a good side, they were no match for us and we won 12-7. However, away at St George’s School, Harpenden it was a different story, as conditions were poor, but they were just a better more physical side and we lost 7-27. We worked hard after school in training for the final match of the season for us against St. Albans. Watching them train, we could see that they had some strong players on their side, but we had played and beaten teams like this before so why could we not do it again? At half time there was a tie at 5-5. It started to rain, which made the ball harder to pass with, but a brilliant individual effort from C. Finneggan and we gained the lead. After that we scored a great team try, making the score 17-10 to WBGS. This was a great season for us with only 1 losses and 8 wins, making it highly successful, but without our coaches Mr Walls, Mr Williams and Mr Dawson, we would not have been able to do what we have done. Thank you. They have now given us great opportunities to go on to represent the school more and win more in the future.

Squad: Festus Mensah; Nathan Tyson; Paarth Patel; Matteo Ponzini; Thomas Walsh; Lucas Dyson-Diaz; Ethan Mellier; Max Brown(Capt); Cilm Finneggan; Zachary O’Malley; Antuan Saravanavan; Kulim Patel; Max Baker; Jack Aitchison; Angus Finneggan(Vice-Capt); Louis Harris; Joseph Hancock; Paul Field; Owen Rackham; Thomas Wright; Sam Netcher; Jonathan Meares; David Ali Lauzzana; Waied Malik; Isaham Khroya; Aaron Manu; Charles Manieson

Max Brown U15
Hosting ‘The Rock’ from Canada

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

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

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

The match was played the next day on our ‘Field of Dreams’ up at Mill Hill for hosting us after the game.

Rugby 1st Team Yoga

It’s a sight that requires a second glance. Picture 15 of our Senior Rugby squad, 6ft plus, hours of strength training in the fitness suite, each sprawled across his own yoga mat to the sound of calming music and Mrs Rafferty’s relaxing commands. With pre-season training in the summer term well under way, the squad took part in a few sessions in the sports hall dance studio to help with their core strength, flexibility and focusing. With a light hearted attitude, the boys responded to Mrs Rafferty’s expert guidance with Down Dog, the Warrior and the Cobra to name just a few. It was a fantastic opportunity for the students to experience an alternative type of training and broaden their horizons with the benefits of yoga alongside rugby and weight training. A big thank you to Mrs Rafferty for taking the sessions.

GW

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GW
Hockey

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

The Hockey on tour was not up to our usual standards, although the team showed promise and a great deal of perseverance to dig deep and produce a result, which gave us a great deal of confidence going into the next few games. However, we were unfortunately unable to carry this momentum forward as the appalling weather that many parts of Hertfordshire received during the latter stages of January led to the cancellation of the next 3 of our fixtures. St George’s College, UCS and Magdalen College (all fixtures that the 2nds played all season) were determined not to succumb to the same fate. Yet it was not to be. Despite an impressive individual goal from Manoj Mistry late on to level the game at 1-1, Hitchin hit us with a sucker punch, scoring in the last minute of normal time to win the tie.

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

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

The 2nd XI season got off to an impressive start in January with victory over the strong outfit of Windsor Boys. Although margin of victory was only slight as demonstrated by the 1-0 score line, the team showed promise and a great deal of perseverance to dig deep and produce a result, which gave us a great deal of confidence going into the next few games. Without their time and effort WBGS hockey would not be as successful as it is.

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

We did play four strong teams including two from South Africa, Krugersdorp (4-2 win) and Clifton College, Durban (2-1) defeat. Both, however, whilst always hilly, provided a great weekend and an even better curry!

One of the highlights of the season came at the St George’s 6s Tournament, when we beat Whitgift 2-0, which is the most successful hockey school in the country. Stephen Causbrook scored both goals.

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

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2nd XI

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

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

In all in all though, it was a solid season from the 2nd XI in which a valiant effort was shown by each and every individual member of the team. Previous 2nd’s Captain George Gaffney referred to his side as “styling themselves on the likes of Barcelona.” I would describe the team. Previous 2nd’s Captain George Gaffney referred to his side as “styling themselves on the likes of Barcelona.” I would describe the team. Previous 2nd’s Captain George Gaffney referred to his side as “styling themselves on the likes of Barcelona.” I would describe the team. Previous 2nd’s Captain George Gaffney referred to his side as “styling themselves on the likes of Barcelona.” I would describe the team.
Another year under the guidance of Mr Moore and another successful season for the team. Having won a total of 8 out of 10 games with a goal difference of +17, we have become a solid team unit and this was obvious throughout performances this year. We were able to easily dispatch rival teams such as Merchant Taylors’ and Haberdashers’ Asha’s with fantastic team displays that well deserved the most attractive part of away games – the hot meal provided by the unfortunate teams. Thanks to the great deal of hockey talent within our school, non-regular players who were available to replace those injured quickly proved their worth on the pitch and further strengthened our team unit.

In our fifth year of hockey at school, we had seen the mind-sets of many players develop to allow for organisation to seep into its way through, which allowed for well-rehearsed performances on the pitch - with help from Mr Moore’s wealth of experience in playing hockey beyond the half way line. Player of the Season was awarded to Gokulan Kannan, who had run to the point of exhaustion and collapse in our cup run, and Most Improved went to Janahan Manivannan who had performed consistently throughout the year. Despite some disappointment in our outdoors Cup run, we won all indoors County matches but were defeated the opportunity to reach Nationals on goal difference. Thanks to a consistent team performance, we were able to reach second in the country on the school hockey ratings at the end of the season. Although the new season will see the departure of certain memorable key players from our school, we are all hugely looking forward to a new and exciting season, with the opportunity to pinch a few first team places off the upper sixth.

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

Andrew Tunwell CPWb

It was a very successful season for the U14 hockey team, losing only 3 matches, scoring 51 goals and only conceding 15!

We started our season off with a fantastic 7-1 win over Windsor Boys School. It was an unfortunate season in some respects, because it was just so wet and cold. This meant that our next two matches were postponed. It was after this two week break that we continued our winning streak by beating RGS High Wycombe, UCS and St Albans. After winning our first four games we hit a bit of a wall, in the shape of Kingston Grammar School and St George’s College, who are both very good at hockey. We had to beat Merchant Taylors’ in order to bounce back from these two defeats, which we did, with a resounding 4-0 win. In the closing five matches of our season we only managed to get a game on three occasions because the weather was not permitting. In spite of the bad weather, we succeeded in winning all of those games. A special mention must go to Matthew Sears because, in the Haberdashers’ match, he managed to wriggle his way through, and past about 5 of their defenders to score an excellent goal, which gave us the edge in a nail biting 3-2 win. Thanks must go to Charlie Armitage, Sharan Sanjay, Daniel Kowalewicz and Arnav Rawat who were always solid in defence. Thanks are also due to James Yallop, Peter Shears, Chris Butcher, Lewis Giffits-Walker, Matthew Sears and Arthur Cross who, be it defence or attack, were always there. And finally to our two top goal scorers, Luke Withell and James Lloyd; thank you for putting the hard work into training each week. With a little help from Mr Welch, the ten men squad was decided for the seven a-side match against Haberdashers’. We found that Mr Beeke had a great eye for hockey players because the boys chosen remained in either the A or B team for the rest of the season. Last but not the least, we knew that the first game was disappointing but we discovered that the team had a great attacking force as was reflected in our response against Haberdashers’ 4-6 win.

Our first 11-a-side match came up against the strong side of RGS High Wycombe. This was also due to Jay’s absence, which could have been far worse without the great defence of Aushan Gosrani, Aidan Sharkey, Craig Beeston and Thomas Milford, not to mention the super saves of our 6 foot goal keeper Michael Onyekuru who kept the score down to only 1-0. After two losses we ended our losing streak against St Albans with a 3-0 win – the winning goal from the captain. We then lost 3-1 to a very strong Kingston Grammar school but later found out to our surprise that we had played their U13’s team and not the U15’s. Next we drew to Aldenham School 0-0 and went on to lose 0-1 against Hitchin. In our penultimate match we played Aldenham which resulted in yet another draw 0-0. The final result for the season of the A team was 1 won, 2 draws, 5 lost. We scored so goals overall.

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

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

**Squad:** Chibuke (Michael) Onyekuru, Aushan Gosrani, Aidan Sharkey, Arnav Milok (Captain) Thomas Milford, Matthew Sears, Aushan Gosrani, Ishaan Khairullah, Branavan Naveenath, Henry Clements, Nathan Horbury, Craig Beeston, Nathan Kelion, Otulobi Odenyale, Ryan Cupwe, Tom Watts, Euan Wiley, James Wheeler, Robert Troude, Benjamin Picknut, Raddio Ranasahb, Jamie Ivory, Rocky Noreen, Matthew Gibson

Many would agree that the U3’s season is always the hardest. We returned to school in January and played our first match that weekend. Our coach Mr Beere, who was also our rugby coach, was put in a difficult position when he had to choose our squad after watching us train for only the best part of an hour. With a little help from Mr Welch, the ten men squad was decided for the seven a-side match against Haberdashers’. We found that Mr Beeke had a great eye for hockey players because the boys chosen remained in either the A or B team for the rest of the season. Last but not the least, we knew that the first game was disappointing but we discovered that the team had a great attacking force as was reflected in our response against Haberdashers’ 4-6 win.


Tom Gwynne-Evans CAC

After a successful first Hockey season for the U4’s, the school went to PGL was organised to solidify that team spirit built up throughout the year and to let off some steam having some fun. We loaded up the school minibuses in May term; Mr Welch taking the wheel of one, Mr Beeke the other and set off for Shropshire with the prospect of wild adventure, team building, being soaked and getting covered in mud. PGL did not disappoint. From the moment we arrived, our group leader singled us out with no issue due to our tour shirts which a few boys managed to wear for the whole weekend. It was nice to to be there! We had our own log cabin with bunked bedded rooms, which saw many a sweet drifted late night and dumping site of smelly, wet clothes.

Canoing, raft building, zip wire, archery, trapeze, giant swing, tag wars, basketball, football, rounders and cricket kept us very busy for the whole weekend with Mr Welch. Beer and Dawson getting stuck as well. The food was a definite highlight. 3 hot meals a day, 2-3 courses and a self-service salad bar catered for all needs and no one went hungry. Coupled with a lock, stock, buy presents and snacks, bribing the teachers and instructors proved to be no problem when negotiating an extra 30 minutes of cricket or delay for lights out. A truly amazing weekend that will be remembered forever by all.

**Squad Trip**

Year 8 Hockey Squat Trip to PGL

Boreatton Park

Year 8

Boys

Hitchin winning 6-2 and then off to UCS where we recorded a huge 8-1 win against Merchant Taylors’, they scored early on but were dominating the game constantly throughout the match. However, some great saves from our keeper ended the match 1-0. We then travelled to Hitchin winning 6-2 and then off to UCS where we recorded our biggest win of the season; 14-1! Large scores of 9-1 and 5-0 followed.

A very solid defence with Lewis Foley and Oliver Cox stopped anything that came through the almost unbreakable defensive wall of Rahul Patel, James Martin, Kazu Sair and James Weston. In midfield was very compact with great passing and on the ball work from Samir Patel, Luke Jones, Jonny Kennedy and Hashim Jamal. Jonny finished as the top scorer despite breaking his ankle halfway through the season. Dawid Cedro, Luke Benton and Ashley Charles did superb work up front.

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


Tom Gwynne-Evans CAC
A draw against the MCC is usually seen as a success, with a strong 80 from Michael Burgess with the bat, and senior bowlers Mark Walker and Bill Gage bowling well, picking up the wicket of Mr. Samarasinge along the way. The famous Cotswold’s tour was a success yet again, as we retained the T10 trophy the following year. The famous Cotswold’s tour was a success yet again, as we retained the T10 trophy for another year. Overall, the stats for this very successful season were: played 15, won 9, lost 4 and drew 2. Our side season off with a win. A comfortable 71 run win against Bishops Stortford School scoring 154 from 25 overs, it was not quite enough to start the season off with a win. A comfortable 71 run win against Bishops Stortford followed (Tom Durn top scored with 36), before an eventful low scoring affair against RGS High Wycombe. Batting first, we were going along comfortably before losing 6 wickets for 9 runs ending up all out for 90. Our chances were slim, although a great fielding performance and an incredible 4 wickets in 4 balls from Vikesh Patel took the game to the penultimate over. Our batting collapses were sadly not finished there as the following game we were all out for 70 (Robert Kennedy scoring 30) ... then again playing with 10 men and the ball and Tom Durn yet again scoring important runs. Our last game was away at Dr Challoner’s. Accurate bowling and sharp fielding restricted them to just 100 from 20 overs; however losing a wicket on the first ball of our innings was not the ideal way to start a run chase. At 40-5 a win was looking doubtful but some quick fire hitting and a one bounce four with 5 balls remaining was enough to end the season on a high. Thanks must go to Mr Winchester for his dedication and helping me in my search for available players often the day before a match. Overall, it was a frustrating yet eventful season winning 3 out of our 6 fixtures.

Player of the season: Tom Durn

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

Robert Gaffney

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

This streak of 5 victories meant we were confident of performing in the Berkhamsted 7s, however the English summer meant that the tournament and the subsequent game vs Hitchin Boys were called off due to poor weather. This meant we had 2 weeks without cricket going into a game with one of the strongest teams in Bucks– Aylesbury Grammar. We batted first and set a massive score of 195 off 25 overs. (A.Ball 70* A.Abhyankar 60*). However, extremely disappointingly, this score proved to be inadequate as our bowling was picked off and they took the game in the final over with 7 wickets in hand. However, we finished the season on a high with a 65 run win against Erfield Grammar School (M.Hodson taking 4). This left us with a season of 10 games played with 6 wins and 4 losses, with 4 fixtures...
The Usag had a good season winning 9 out of a possible 16 fixtures, beating sides such as St George's, Bishop's Stortford, University College School and Aylesbury Grammar. Greg Sumpter, Ashan De Silva, Deil Patel and Harry Pettit all contributed well with the bat, with Ashley Charles, Luke Jones, Conrad Pinn, Samir Patel and Luke Benton bowling very consistently with the ball. The Usas had a few comfortable victories but our most satisfying victory was against UCS winning by 9 wickets.

The Usas County Cup run was a bit disappointing this year. After winning against Tring in a close game in round one, we faced Haberdashers’ and St.Columba’s, all being 9 wicket wins and with another two wins, including a 123 run win against University Watford U12s started their summer season with a convincing 10 schools where we won most of our matches comprehensively. One of our most prolific wins was against RGS High Wycombe when Ralph Curwen (43) and Tom Stock (85) made a partnership of 150 in just 19 overs to help us to a total of 191. The season was nearing its end and we did not let our standards slip, beating Aylesbury School by 7 wickets and Enfield Grammar school by 9 wickets. Overall it was an almost spotless season with every single player contributing a huge amount. We hope we can carry this form into next season.

Squad: Romario Ranabath, Thomas Stock, Benjamin Plunkett; Greg Sumpter; Ashley Charles; Thomas Gwynne Evans; Deil Patel; Harry Pettit; Luke Benton; Luke Jones (Vice-Capt); Rahul Patel; Conrad Pinn; Thomas Mahan; Samir Patel.

The season began in early January with early morning nets session starting around 7:30am. The team, despite the early start showed great commitment in turning up every week. Our first match was played against Bishop Stortford. We set 298 with great support from Ashan De Silva (73) and Tom Stock (42). Aitchison, Plunkett (90), Romario (36) and Haaris (24). To finish off this great performance we bowled them out for 77. The great batting continued into the next match with Romario reaching 71 not out and Tom Stock reaching 40. Our first and only loss of the season came at the hands of New Hall (one of the best sides in the country), where we lost by 40 runs.

After breasting past Parmers in the 1st round of the County Cup we faced 2nd in the All England side, containing 3 quality county players. We bowled well, restricting them to 134 with one of their county makers scoring 75 off 38 balls. However we chased it down quite comfortably with yet another half century from Tom Stock. In the next match we faced Haberdashers’, our greatest rivals. We set a target of 154 in just 15 overs to help us to a total of 154. As the season was nearing its end we did not let our standards slip, beating Aylesbury School by 7 wickets and Enfield Grammar school by 9 wickets. Overall it was an almost spotless season with every single player contributing a huge amount. We hope we can carry this form into next season.

Squad: Romario Ranabath, Thomas Stock, Benjamin Plunkett; Greg Sumpter; Ashley Charles; Thomas Gwynne Evans; Deil Patel; Harry Pettit; Luke Benton; Luke Jones (Vice-Capt); Rahul Patel; Conrad Pinn; Thomas Mahan; Samir Patel.

Onwards and Upwards

Raymond Barkway

Old Fullerian Olympic

T
alking with a friend recently I realised it must have been four years since I first buckled me into rock-climbing. I say buckled me as it was really more of a squeezed contract (nearly every time on my helmet ‘how much she enjoyed it’. But her meaning was clear. Eventually – reluctantly – ‘I yield’, now, I rarely miss it. Of the many climbers I’ve been with, I think of a well-built, confident, reckless adrenaline-junky. Needless to say – despite my best efforts – I never really fit this image. Yet rock-climbing is now a highlights of my week – and it’s one thing that is in keeping with my climbing really is a sport for everyone. The people you’ll find in a climbing session are a varied group of people just like anywhere.

Over the last six months however the World Central Leisure Centre wall has been under threat. Around April, my fellow climbers and I found a questionnaire lying on the desk of the centre. The centre, we were informed, was planning to remove the wall and replace it with more ‘accessible’ facilities – in reality, little more than exercise machines. Reporting excellent conduct and progress, he was a stellar pupil with all his masters. He put his sprinting and jumping ability to good effect and became one of the country’s top high hurdlers. He recorded his lifetime best of 14.9s in 1950, a time that would have ranked him 42nd in the UK in 2003. This was done in the days of boggy cinder tracks and hand held trowels to dig out make shift starting blocks. There was none of the high performance training facilities or techniques available now. A fine victory in the South of England championships in the same year saw him take the victory by less than a foot between all 3 medalists.

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

Barkway was born in 1924 in Croxley Green and began his athletics career at Harrow County High School. After finishing by Paarth Patel and Jonathan Napier.

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

On the Watford Metropolitan line the train moved into the station house on Cassiobury Park Avenue and the young Barkway arrived at Watford Boys in 1937. He was a stellar pupil with all his masters. He put his sprinting and jumping ability to good effect and became one of the country’s top high hurdlers. He recorded his lifetime best of 14.9s in 1950, a time that would have ranked him 42nd in the UK in 2003. This was done in the days of boggy cinder tracks and hand held trowels to dig out make shift starting blocks. There was none of the high performance training facilities or techniques available now. A fine victory in the South of England championships in the same year saw him take the victory by less than a foot between all 3 medalists.

Barkway went out in the first round to Luton Grammar School in a time of 15.35, although he did go onto win a medal on the world stage in 1948 when he took the bronze medal in the Summer Olympic Games, losing the silver to University School of Bedford held in Luxembourg. An event now referred to as the World Student Games, he finished in a time of 15.55.

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

Squad: Atharva Abhyankar (Capt); Sulaymaan Ahmed; Ruan Telfer; Matthew Hodson; Toby Brown; Matthew Sears; Humza Asad; Jason Lloyd; Shilpa Muthukumarana; Pranav Patel; Luke Wither; Mohammedkazim Kanji; Angus Ball
2013 has been a successful year for the Senior Athletics squad, consisting of strong and dedicated athletes, who were rewarded with 5th place in the Plate Final, despite many absences of athletes due to exams and work experience. The team performed well throughout the season and everyone used their individual skills to gain points and come together as a team. Julian Manieson (500m), Chris Joseph (Hurdles) and Matt Lally (High Jump) were unbeaten all season, with Julian running a very impressive time of 1.10.1 in the 800m sprint, making him the fastest athlete to ever attend WBGS. I was also very lucky to be selected for the Hertfordshire team and compete in the English Schools Track and Field Championships, in which I jumped 1.56m. We have also seen Adam Muscat excel in the 400m and Zachary Oneykuru in the 200m, whilst Luke O'Mahony performed exceptionally well in the triple jump. The year 9s in the athletics team achieved remarkable placings in all their events, next year looks as if it will be extremely strong! Rohan Finnegan performed well in the 1500m and long jump. Harry Petit performed extremely respectably in the field throwing the javelin, and was also awarded “Find of the Season” at the Athletics Surgery in Jimmy’s World Sport and Grill, whilst Julian Manieson gained the “Most Valuable Athlete” award due to his dominance in the 500m. In the triple jump, Ben Wollin jumped very well, whilst Luke Benton ran and threw well in various sprints and in the shot put.

The relay team (Chris Joseph, Adam Muscat, Matt Lally and Julian Manieson) competed consistently well throughout the season, with many 1st place finishes. Overall, the season has been extremely successful, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the PE department and other staff that took the time to come to the events, especially Mr Beere for arranging the events and giving us the opportunity to compete. Many of my school memories will consist of athletics events, and my last year of athletics out of the four I have been competing in for the school has been very enjoyable, and a pleasure to captain. I wish the future athletics team success and enjoyment over the years.

Matt Lally 9G6

Athletics

Sports Day

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

Year 7

In Year 7, many capable and future athletes took to the track. Field events are probably the toughest to master not just for Year 7, but all years throughout the school. However some displays of brilliance from the youngest year group made it look as if some of them had been practising these skills for years. One of the stand out events for the Year 7 field events was javelin, which was won by Max Bond of Platt. He broke the previous school record with an incredible 27.0m throw beating not only his year group but also many of those in the years above as well. In long jump, David Ali Lauzzana from Year 7 and Jack Atchison from Bushey and Cassio hit up the track but ended with Jack Atchison clinching it from Lucas.

The much anticipated event of Year 7 is always the 500m. Many strong runners lined up but Colm Finnegan, of Cassio could not be stopped and came through in first place in a blistering time of 1.52.5, beating the previous school record and almost challenging the Year 8 time. Paul Field, of Bushey, managed second place, in a time of 1.56.4, and also broke the record for the hurdles at a school meeting.

The relays rounded off what had been a successful sports day for Year 7. The top three relay teams were Cassio in first place: Ayodele Andrews, Tom King-Cline, Jack Atchison and Colm Finnegan ran a time of 56.6 seconds, Bushey in second: Lucas Dyson-Diaz, Paul Field, Ebrahim Raja and Rufus Brooks set a time of 56.9 seconds and Groves were in third place: Connor O’Donnell, Max Baker, Waleed Malik and Louis Harris came through in 59.2 seconds.

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

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

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

In the field events, numerous excellent throws and jumps were demonstrated. The performance of the day in the jumping area, undoubtedly was from Tobi Odanye representing Cassio who, in triple jump, was the only person in Year 7 and 8 to jump 5m. Ben Plunkett, also representing Cassio, threw javelin. He did a huge throw of 25.03m beating the next competitor Dhilian Dhodia by 4.71m. Discuss requires skill, strength and determination, which Michael Onyekuru from Platt showed by managing 21.14m. To round off a great day, the relays brought speed, determination and controversy. In first place was Groves which comfortably won with: Gavin Lee, Haaris Malik, Sam Boyce and Aidan Sharkey. Second and third places were extremely close with Bushey: Josh Conney, Robert Vangucci, Peter Norrin and Romario Ranabahu and Cassio consisted of: Tobi Odanye, George Wright, Ben Plunkett and Francis Appiah-Danquah. Both forms were tied on 55.3 seconds but the timers came to the conclusion that Bushey were second place. Platt were disqualified from the relay but would have finished 4th.

Year 9

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

Harry Pettit, who threw the javelin for Turner, reached 28.5m which just beat Rohan Dronfield from Platt. In the triple jump, Ben Wollin jumped 10.15m which sealed the win for New House. In the relay for the Year 9, Fuller took an expected first place with: Rohan Finnegan, Roi Iboaba, Hasham Jamal and Moses Mutalaga in their team. Second place was claimed by Turner consisting of: Luke Benton, Adam Syed, Khabeed Sair and Harry Pettit in their team. Finally, third place was taken by Groves with: Karl Tiemann, Matthew Huszczko, Lewis Taylor and Keir Allan in their team.

One of the most anticipated events of the entire day was the prestigious staff 100m race. New teachers took up the challenge: Mr Winchester and Mr Samarasangine, among other new faces to the race. Mr Sheaf, reigning champion stepped up to the marks as well. The crowds gathered to witness the race and predict the winners. As the gun went, Mr Samarasangine took a good lead but Mr Winchester was pushing him all the way. It was going to be close, however, the lead Mr Samarasangine took at the beginning was enough for him to clinch victory. The reigning champion was beaten, not only by the two young guns but by Mr Beere and the surprise 2nd place was taken by Mr Costi! He looked as if he had sold the butter and lost the money, he was distraught.

Year 10

Year 10 is the most exciting year with the fastest sprinters and runners, strongest throwers and jumpers, and this year was no different. Soon again is the best event, from my point of view, with the likes of Julian Manieson and Jason Lloyd pestering blistering times. Julian from Platt, certainly put on a show with an unbelievable time of 11.2 seconds beating not just people in his group but Mr Samarasangine by one whole second. Jason Lloyd who was running for New House, came second, also beating Mr Samarasangine by 0.6 of a second. The 400m is the most demanding event in running so many brave people had to step up to the task. Tom Fawsett was one of the competitors and finished first in a solid time of 51.8 seconds.

As field events went by, some familiar
helped Mr Corbridge fix the computer error and thankfully no crashed which meant that the time wouldn’t be recorded as the break, Mr Corbridge’s computer system Excel file partially on the field events, it took more running from me as there it up onto the computer, then handed it to a 6th former who did assisting the staff in the score-box: passing files around and Dr Buckley actually allowed the whole day to function. For the endless sweats, the hard work of Mr Wallis, Mr Corbridge and 10th place in the year 10 relay in the school and a privately hired bus making two trips. Once the boys at school waiting for transport to take them to the sports day. This resulted in Mr Monks making the girls in the order: Discus, Shot-Put, Javelin, Triple-Jump the first session of the track events, Mr Winchester was the chief timekeeper and he measured all the times for each person to come past. There were 8 other timekeepers to measure each of the individual runners’ times for each event. In the second session of the track events Mr Samarasinghe was the chief timekeeper, and again, there were 8 other timekeepers. After the race was completed, the participants sat in order of their positions of the race. This made it extremely easy for Mr Beere to write the names of the participants in the order. After this was completed, Mr Beere walked over to the stand where the timekeepers sat and took the times for each pupil who had participated in each event. After this I ran immediately to Mr Beere and then took the piece of paper from him to run to Mr Corbridge to run the procedure to add all the necessary data into the computer. After this I gave it to Mr Wallis and he read out the score on the microphone. After this, there were 8 other timekeepers who measured the times for each pupil who had participated in each event. After this, I ran immediately to Mr Beere and then took the piece of paper from him to run to Mr Corbridge to run the procedure to add all the necessary data into the computer. After this I gave it to Mr Wallis and he read out the score on the microphone. After this, there were 8 other timekeepers who measured the times for each pupil who had participated in each event. After this, I ran immediately to Mr Beere and then took the piece of paper from him to run to Mr Corbridge to run the procedure to add all the necessary data into the computer. After this I gave it to Mr Wallis and he announced the score. On one occurrence, when there was an accident, and Mr Wallis’s time was occupied dealing with the emergency and I had to read out the score on the microphone. After this, there were many queues again to take the minibuses back to school. Most people would agree that this was a long and tiring day and that it wouldn’t have worked without Mr Wallis and Mr Corbridge and the other staff who made the day and event possible.

Friday 5th of July 2013 started as a hot morning with most of the boys at school waiting for transport to take them to the stadium for sports day. This resulted in Mr Monks making three excessively long trips driving pupils to the stadium from the school and a privately hired bus making two trips. Once everyone was there, the events commenced. The field events were first in the order: Discus, Shot-Put, Javelin, Triple-Jump and Long Jump. Whilst there were many athletes in these events working up endless sweats, the hard work of Mr Wallis, Mr Corbridge and Dr Buckley actually allowed the whole day to function. For the bulk of the morning events, when I wasn’t competing, I was assisting the staff in the score-box: passing files around and sticking sheets up on the window using the adhesive Blu-Tack. Continuously after each event the same loop process, I ran and collected the statistics sheet, handed it to Mr Corbridge to type it up onto the computer, then handed it to a 6th former who did some certificates (the certificates ran out very quickly so this didn’t last for a very long time), gave the sheet to Mr Wallis for the announcements and then stuck the sheet up on the window. On the field events, it took more running from me as there was more than one place to be running to and from. During the break, Mr Corbridge’s computer system Excel file partially crashed which meant that the time wouldn’t be recorded as minutes, seconds, points of seconds and data wouldn’t enter. During this period, Dr Buckley came into the score box and helped Mr Corbridge fix the computer error and thankfully no data was lost.

During the track events there was an organised system; Mr Welch started the race by firing the starting gun, which has only gunpowder pellets and no bullet, then the race was run. During the first session of the track events, Mr Winchester was the chief timekeeper and he announced all the times for each person to come past. There were 8 other timekeepers to measure each of the individual runners’ times for each event. In the second session of the track events Mr Samarasinghe was the chief timekeeper, and again, there were 8 other timekeepers. After the race was completed, the participants sat in order of their positions of the race. This made it extremely easy for Mr Beere to write the names of the participants in the order. After this was completed, Mr Beere walked over to the stand where the timekeepers sat and took the times for each pupil who had participated in each event. After this, I ran immediately to Mr Beere and then took the piece of paper from him to run to Mr Corbridge to run the procedure to add all the necessary data into the computer. After this, I gave it to Mr Wallis and he announced the score. On one occurrence, when there was an accident, and Mr Wallis’s time was occupied dealing with the emergency and I had to read out the score on the microphone. After this, there were many queues again to take the minibuses back to school. Most people would agree that this was a long and tiring day and that it wouldn’t have worked without Mr Wallis and Mr Corbridge and the other staff who made the day and event possible.

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

The Under 15 B team also had a good win against Kings Langley school, but lost to Aldenham and narrowly to Haberdashers’. The two new Year 7s, Jacob Culshaw and Reza Ahmad made a significant impact on the team and may have a chance to play in the Under 15 A team next season. Other key team members are: James Wheeler, Ralph Cunwen, Thomas Millpond, Alborz Modarresi Fard and Jamie Ivory.

The Under 15 “A” team suffered from various injuries and operations this season which inevitably had an impact on the results. However, despite this weakened team, they did squeak out a win against Aldenham with Jed Gallif, Christopher Wynne, Nick Hatcher and Chris Butcher. Both Jacob Brunert and Greg Wood, numbers 2 and 3 respectively, were sidelined by injuries. Losses to Habbs boys and Parmiters meant, however, that they came 7th in the group overall.

Cross Country

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

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

Sports Day

Keeping the score

Cross Country


Tennis

The FULLERIAN 2013-14 95

APB
Badminton

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Aditya Chaud – 9F

Sailing

It could have been worse.

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

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

The weekend, as always, was fantastic. It’s hard to describe the euphoria of coming resoundingly last; just about everyone conceded that we were truly superior at losing nearly every race.

There was a glorious moment when my team, the B team, was beaten by our own C team. But the highlight of the weekend? When we glanced at the results table and found, at one point, that we were losing out to a team that hadn’t even turned up. Curse our school for being so far down the alphabet...

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

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

Alex Waygood 6PWh

Nayan Vallabh 10C

Aditya Chaud – 9F
Lucy joined the school eleven years ago and quickly established herself as an excellent teacher. “Frau Glennie” had her own unique teaching style and her classroom was always a whirlwind of activity. She had a devoted following of students, and it should not go unmentioned that her perseverance with students who found academic commitment more of a struggle, frequently paid off. Indeed, many former students have said how Frau Glennie had managed to ignite their love of language learning and it is thanks to the start that she gave them in the lower school that they continued with the study of German at GCSE and Advanced Level, where they achieved excellent results.

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

It is a tribute to Lucy’s enthusiasm for the school and commitment to bringing German language teaching to life that she gave so much to extra-curricular activities, mostly notably the German Exchange for many years and more recently the German Christmas Market trip and Arsenal Double Club trip. Lucy loved to take on new challenges and over the last few years had been learning Spanish and taught it very successfully to lower school pupils. Lucy leaves us after long service to pursue other interests and we wish her all the best for the future.

Val Kempster

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

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

We have really valued Val’s input to the Maths department in her time here and we will really miss her. She is one of those teachers who take on anything that is asked of them without hesitation and who always offers help if it is needed. With her, she has taught across all key stages and all abilities and has shown endless patience and dedication. She is popular, amongst those students who find Maths challenging, for her ability to explain new concepts, and for being helpful.

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

We wish Val a very happy retirement.

Karl Magdeburg

Karl Magdeburg joined the Modern Languages Department four years ago as a fresh-faced NQT. From the off Karl was a breath of fresh air for the French department, with his innovative teaching ideas and wonderful resources that he was always more than happy to share. The boys responded really well to Karl’s teaching and he quickly became a popular member of staff thanks to his enthusiasm and excellent relationship with them. Karl has a real love of everything to do with French language and culture which he transmitted to pupils successfully. Karl also has a deep knowledge of French cinema and again this is something that he used to his advantage to enthuse future French learners. I’m sure that (what were to become legendary) Mr Magdeburg’s French breakfasts also helped to get pupils on board with the promise of French food.

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

Further testament to Karl’s love of travel is that he got involved in all aspects of school life while here at WGSB. From joining the history department on the Berlin trip where he showed boys some key historical monuments, to taking boys to the Europa Language Centre in Essex where we were able to build on this in the following year and hopefully strengthen the foundations that he has laid.

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

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

What’s the attraction? Well, most people read a book from time to time… but most of us tend to go for a “safe” choice – an author we know, or a topic we’re interested in, or both. Which of these subjects would have made my list? Love, war, sex, death, history, travel, sport, animals, the environment, etc. Of the 10 or so books I’ve read with the Club, I probably wouldn’t have picked more than a handful of them if I’d seen them in a bookshop, but for me that’s one of the best things about the Fathers’ Book Club – it’s got me reading and enjoying all these books which are completely different to the writing I used to read and comfortable with. Each meeting we choose the books for the next session – picking one or occasionally two novels of a manageable length. Sometimes we suggest our own favourite book, to see what the others think of it; sometimes we pick a recent successful novel from a Booker prize shortlist or similar; sometimes we choose a novel because we haven’t read anything from that period / country (it’s not just English novelists, we also read translations from other languages); and very occasionally we pick something that the boys at school might come across in their lessons.

Sometimes we choose a rotten egg. That novel by a well-known author based on the Titanic was a genuine dud. Unusually, we all agreed on this and competed to describe in detail why we thought the book was so badly written. Often, though, we are very divided, and a book which some of us think is fantastic, deep, meaningful, life-changing … is dismissed by others as pretentious, depressing, tedious, and facile. Even when we all like a book, there are often very different viewpoints about the characters, the style, the structure or the author’s intentions. Has it actually got my son reading more though? This is supposed to be the founding principle of the Book Club! Well… he has read one or two of the books that we have chosen, and argued with me about them afterwards; and he was furious when we happened to choose a book he loved and I wouldn’t let him come along; but he was reading so much to start with anyway, that he probably didn’t even notice I was reading more myself!

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

Daniel Waygood (father of Alex Waygood)

Chess Club

Chess Club takes place Thursday and Friday lunchtimes in room 106. In usual circumstance anyone can come along, find a board and an opponent to play against. Sometimes finding a board can be hard because Chess Club is so incredibly popular that occasionally it runs short of boards, (by occasionally I mean pretty much always). Luckily, we have recently obtained some new boards and pieces. The best bit is that you can eat lunch in there too; this way you can distract your opponent with very loud eating. There is a good atmosphere, as most people tend to be pretty calm. We have discussed topics in the Bible as a group, and other religions attending; this helps prevent bias or one-sidedness in debates, making them all the more interesting.

The Jewish Awareness Society (known by most as J-Soc), run by John-Luke Summerfield of the Upper Sixth is held every Tuesday from 1.15pm-1.45pm in M3 by Mr Kerr and Mr Crone. The Jewish Society sees boys from all Year groups, from Year 7 to Year 13 sharing ideas together helping to create a small school community which gathers every week.

The Jewish Society is not exclusive to boys of the Jewish Faith, with boys identifying with atheistic views or other religions attending, this helps prevent bias or one-sidedness in debates, making them all the more interesting.

The society is perhaps one of the most lively and well-attended lunchtime clubs in the school and presents an exciting opportunity to look at the Jewish Faith, Arab-Israeli Conflict and to broaden one’s horizons.

Daniel Benson L6PWm

Ignite

The Christian Union, now known as “Ignite,” has changed since I first became aware of it in September 2012. It is run by Christian members of staff who help us understand the Bible and our relationship with God. We learn about how God works and that he is always there, looking after us.

Mrs Kerr was a friendly, kind person who helped out last year and always brought us delicious cakes and biscuits to enjoy. Sadly she left the school at the end of last year so could not continue to help but we remember her great generosity.

During our meetings, we have looked at stories from the Bible, reflected upon them and thought about how they could affect our everyday lives. These stories have ranged from the time of Adam and Eve to after Jesus’s death on the cross. We have discussed topics in the Bible as a group, and visiting speakers have come to talk to us about God.

This year at “Ignite” has been amazing so far. “Ignite” is run from 1.15pm-1.45pm every Thursday in My Mr Brooks, Mr Matthews and Mr Trundle. The atmosphere at “Ignite” is kind and welcoming. God is always the main focus point of “Ignite”, although we play fun games and eat delicious food. We always have weekly teaching which is very good.

James Monument B6

Jewish Awareness Society

The Jewish Awareness Society (known by most as J-Soc), run by John-Luke Summerfield of the Upper Sixth is held every Tuesday in the Religious Studies Department.

Every week, another interesting character from outside of school takes a turn at giving a lecture or opening a debate that we all discuss. More recently, sessions have been run by the charity Tredeq, Liberal Jewish Youth Movement, Friends of Israel and many more, thanks to our connections with UJIA (United Jewish Israel Appeal) and J-Link. J-Soc provides a spectrum of views including both Orthodox and Reform opinions, reflected in the choice of the speakers.

The Jewish Society sees boys from all Year groups, from Year 7 to Year 13 sharing ideas together helping to create a small school community which gathers every week.

At the start of the new term, the unthinkably and traumatic news arose that the 1-Soc had been banned from the consumption of food. Defying the common myth that many visits to 101 on Tuesday lunchtimes are merely food related, the numbers attending the Jewish Society were undiminished.

The Jewish Society is not exclusive to boys of the Jewish Faith, with boys identifying with atheistic views or other religions attending, this helps prevent bias or one-sidedness in debates, making them all the more interesting.

The question is: is it still the same ship?

The Jewish Society is where you will find argument and discussion in their purest forms. In Philosophy Society, we probe fundamental issues like meaning, existence, morality, happiness, knowledge and God. We’re people who’ll ask uncomfortable questions for our own sake. We’re happy to hear any opinion; the more controversial your viewpoint is, the more interesting it is to us. Anything goes – providing you back it up with an argument, and providing you’re prepared to have others argue against you.

Philosophy Society will hopefully be re-starting after October half term. Free food may be provided, but we refuse to take responsibility for ANY moral implications thereof…

Alex Waygood G6PW

Indian Language and Cultural Society

We meet on Tuesdays in Room 102 at lunchtime. It is great fun.

We celebrated Republic Day by watching a clip of the Delhi parade and celebrated the Kite Flight festival in Gujarat. We are going to celebrate Holi, festival of colours and Baisakhi, the Sikh festival with Bhangra music and food.

We also bring games: Karan board, marbles and listen to Indian music and classical songs. We watch Indian films and recently saw ‘Three Idiots’.

Kartigan Navaneethan and Inesh Ahuja YF

Philosophy Society

To be, or not to be? That, sadly, is the question – yet, unlike most you’ll find echoing around the RS classrooms, this one has a definite answer. This year’s version of Philosophy Society has not yet met once, making one of the weirdest articles that I’ve ever written for Fullerian magazine.

But when I think about it, whatever was Philosophy Society after all? The word ‘philosophy’ originates from the Greek: ‘philos’ (love) and ‘sophia’ (knowledge). So, philosophy society is where you go if you love learning. Which sounds rather similar to a lot of the other academic societies the school has to offer…

There’s a famous problem in philosophy called the ‘Ship of Theseus’. The idea rests on a metaphor: a mythical Greek ship who sails to Crete to battle with a Minotaur. The trip takes quite a while, so that, once Theseus has returned home, every plank of wood making up the ship has been replaced at some point in time.

The question is: is it still the same ship?

The question could equally apply to Philosophy Society. The style, character and members of philosophy society have varied wildly over the years, making it difficult to predict just what kind of a beast it will be this year. Yet the spirit – the founding ideals remains the same.

Philosophy Society is where you will find argument and discussion in their purest forms. In Philosophy Society, we probe fundamental issues like meaning, existence, morality, happiness, knowledge and God. We’re people who’ll ask uncomfortable questions for our own sake. We’re happy to hear any opinion; the more controversial your viewpoint is, the more interesting it is to us. Anything goes – providing you back it up with an argument, and providing you’re prepared to have others argue against you.

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Alex Waygood G6PW
Maths Club

Maths club is an amazing opportunity. It can be put on your CV as an achievement, so even if you're in lower school it's still a good idea. Apart from the obvious you get to challenge your mind with fun maths etc. There is a lot more on offer. There are many group and individual competitions you will have the chance to go to, which are fun days out as well as filled with competitive spirit. There is also a lot of competition in the club itself, whether it's against others in your year or by doing sixth form questions before a sixth former.

Maths club allows you to take your learning out of the classroom. You get to learn a lot more interesting and complicated ideas and topics. It is extremely good for practice too. Maths club is an unmissable opportunity and I would strongly recommend it to anyone with a love of maths or challenges and puzzles. It is a brilliant thing to do and occurs on a Monday lunchtime. We look forward to seeing you there!

Ethan Honey 9G

Maths Challenge

Sixty students in the sixth form took part in the UKMT Senior Mathematics Challenge in November 2013. This challenge encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency to solve interesting problems. In recent years there have been over 90,000 entries from around 2000 schools and colleges. Certificates are awarded to the highest scoring 60% of candidates and 27 of our students received Gold awards, 23 Silver and 10 Bronze. In addition Gokul Ramesh, Alex Eliad and Adam Woolf were amongst the 1500 from 90,000 who qualified for the British Mathematics Olympiad.

Also in February 2014 our top sets in Years 9, 10 and 11 took part in the UKMT Intermediate Mathematics Challenge involving around 3000 schools and 250,000 entries. There were 39 Gold awards, 54 Silver and 53 Bronze for our students. In Year 11 Muhammad Manji, Oliver Lee, Matthew Shaw and in Year 9 Jeremy Zolnai-Lucas, Jonathan Aizlewood and Luke Ashford all came in the top 550 entries for their Year group and qualified for the Intermediate Mathematics Olympiad.

Aaron Zolnai-Lucas 6CLd

Maths by Numbers

Maths is fundamental to life at Watford Boys, yet often sees its coverage overlooked in the Fullerian, but what is there to say about this somewhat elusive subject at the school?

Compulsory in the lower years and a necessity at GCSE, Maths often appears to be the subject of complaint. With seemingly exponential quantities of algebraic fractions and textbooks of apparently immeasurable dimensions, it comes as little surprise that, as a nation, our Maths skills are deteriorating. Nowadays, every other piece of kit appears to have a built in calculator and a worrying proportion of Channel 4 documentaries are telling us that our arithmetic is becoming a considerable cause for concern.

Fortunately for students at Watford Boys, the sterling work of the Maths department is helping to buck this downward trend. Having completed their GCSEs, boys are given the option to discontinue their study of the subject. However, 107 chose to study Maths as an A level option during the 2013-2014 period, and more recently, 158 students in the current lower sixth have opted to continue with Maths. This truly is a credit to the methods and results of the growing Maths department at the school, which has succeeded in securing an astonishing A* rate of over 50% at GCSE through their effective collaboration with the student body. It is therefore unsurprising that an unusual number of boys take an especial interest in Maths, beyond the obligatory bounds of their secondary education and many include it as an additional subject to complement their selection of A level choices.

In addition to the above, a huge number of boys are taking two A levels in maths. This number has also increased almost twofold over the past two years, as the Further Maths tally nearly doubled from an impressive 35 to a staggering 65. Further mathematicians will study twice as many modules, bettering their knowledge of Pure Maths as well as many of its applications. Formerly, the Further Maths system saw boys complete their Maths A2 in the lower sixth, and in 2013 every student taking this set of exams achieved an A*. These remarkable results commend students and teachers alike, proving a tremendous interest and talent in Maths, contrary to national figures.

In congruence with the fantastic results of late, a recent renovation has seen the Maths department revamped. Newer, brighter classrooms are now host to daily lessons, titivating the formerly dilapidated décor for a more modern approach, with sharper corners that would meet Pythagorean standards. It is only appropriate that the success of the Maths department has been rewarded with a renewed operational environment, which we can hope will help to continue the good work.

Josh Shemtob 6NGv

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Fortunately for students at Watford Boys, the sterling work of the Maths department is helping to buck this downward trend. Having completed their GCSEs, boys are given the option to discontinue their study of the subject. However, 107 chose to study Maths as an A level option during the 2013-2014 period, and more recently, 158 students in the current lower sixth have opted to continue with Maths. This truly is a credit to the methods and results of the growing Maths department at the school, which has succeeded in securing an astonishing A* rate of over 50% at GCSE through their effective collaboration with the student body. It is therefore unsurprising that an unusual number of boys take an especial interest in Maths, beyond the obligatory bounds of their secondary education and many include it as an additional subject to complement their selection of A level choices.

In addition to the above, a huge number of boys are taking two A levels in maths. This number has also increased almost twofold over the past two years, as the Further Maths tally nearly doubled from an impressive 35 to a staggering 65. Further mathematicians will study twice as many modules, bettering their knowledge of Pure Maths as well as many of its applications. Formerly, the Further Maths system saw boys complete their Maths A2 in the lower sixth, and in 2013 every student taking this set of exams achieved an A*. These remarkable results commend students and teachers alike, proving a tremendous interest and talent in Maths, contrary to national figures.

In congruence with the fantastic results of late, a recent renovation has seen the Maths department revamped. Newer, brighter classrooms are now host to daily lessons, titivating the formerly dilapidated décor for a more modern approach, with sharper corners that would meet Pythagorean standards. It is only appropriate that the success of the Maths department has been rewarded with a renewed operational environment, which we can hope will help to continue the good work.

Josh Shemtob 6NGv

Sixty students in the sixth form took part in the UKMT Senior Mathematics Challenge in November 2013. This challenge encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency to solve interesting problems. In recent years there have been over 90,000 entries from around 2000 schools and colleges. Certificates are awarded to the highest scoring 60% of candidates and 27 of our students received Gold awards, 23 Silver and 10 Bronze. In addition Gokul Ramesh, Alex Eliad and Adam Woolf were amongst the 1500 from 90,000 who qualified for the British Mathematics Olympiad.

Also in February 2014 our top sets in Years 9, 10 and 11 took part in the UKMT Intermediate Mathematics Challenge involving around 3000 schools and 250,000 entries. There were 39 Gold awards, 54 Silver and 53 Bronze for our students. In Year 11 Muhammad Manji, Oliver Lee, Matthew Shaw and in Year 9 Jeremy Zolnai-Lucas, Jonathan Aizlewood and Luke Ashford all came in the top 550 entries for their Year group and qualified for the Intermediate Mathematics Olympiad.

Aaron Zolnai-Lucas 6CLd

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Josh Shemtob 6NGv
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He has completed many operational tours including the Gulf war of 1991, the ‘No Fly Zones’ over Iraq and Bosnia. Edward’s command tours include: OJCF(5) Squadron, when he was also the Jaguar Force Commander for Operation TELIC in Iraq in 2003; Station Commander RAF Leeming and, concurrently, Tomah Fy Force Commander; CO 904, Expeditionary Air Wing based at Kandahar, Afghanistan in 2008; Commandant Air Warfare Centre, from 2009 to 2011, during which he was also the UK’s first Air Contingent Commander for Op UNIFIED PROTECTOR, the NATO OAP in Libya.

He has completed staff tours in the Air Warfare Centre, the Directorate of Operational Capability in the MOD, and as Assistant Director (Operations) in the Air Staff, as well within the MOD. Edward was Head of Joint Capability in the Security Policy and Operations area of the MOD until his appointment to Washington as the UK Chief of Defence Staff’s Liaison Officer to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs in Oct 2012. His military education includes advanced staff college in Canada in 1999, the Higher Command and Staff Course in the UK in 2006, the USAF’s CFAAC course at Maxwell AFB, and the Royal College of Defence Studies in 2009. He completed an MA in International Relations at Kings College London in 2010 and undertook a Slessor fellowship at Oxford University, researching Pol/MI relations and strategy-making. Edward was appointed as the Chief Assistant of the Air Staff in April 2013.

Awards include the MBE in 2000, the OBE in 2003 and the CBE in 2009. Edward is married to Louise, a GP in Yorkshire, where the family of two children are at school.

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The Governors, Headmaster and Staff of Watford Grammar School for Boys wish to thank parents, Old Boys and friends who have donated to the school throughout the year.

Thanks are also extended to the advertisers who have bought space in The Fullerian and to businesses, individuals and organisations who have supported the school in many ways in the past year.

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