



LIFE

MICHAELMAS 2015

The South Bank Show



Royal Festival Hall orchestral and choral spectacular, record-breaking exam results, Open Garden showcase, *Spamalot* hilarity, U11 football champions, astounding Whitgift International Music Competition talent, and much more...



A Royal night to remember

The Lent Term culminated in an outstanding orchestral and choral performance in London's premier venue, the Royal Festival Hall. In partnership with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra (RPO), and featuring multiple Whitgift ensembles, alongside local Croydon choirs from Old Palace of John Whitgift School, Elmhurst School and the Croydon Minster, the concert exceeded all expectations, and showed off the very best that Whitgift has to offer. The venue was thronged with

parents, staff and distinguished guests, including a number of Ambassadors and His Royal Highness The Duke of York, KG (pictured, below right).

The evening started with a rousing rendition of the first bars of the national anthem, in honour of the School's Royal Patron, followed by Howarth's *Processional Fanfare*, by the Whitgift Senior Brass. The formidable 70-strong Whitgift Brass Ensemble, under the expert direction of Mrs Lorraine Temple, went on to perform an arrangement of the overture to *'William Tell'*, which was warmly applauded.

This exhilarating opening was followed by a more sombre and emotional performance of Glazunov's Violin Concerto in A minor, Op. 82, led by soloist and winner of the inaugural Whitgift International Music Competition 2013, Dan-Iulian Druţac (pictured, top right with the Headmaster). The Sixth Former had the honour of performing on a 1696 Stradivarius violin, lent to the School by Andrew Bernardi (pictured, below), a member of the Teaching Staff at the Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance. Dan-Iulian demonstrated his remarkable skill, leading the massed ranks of the Whitgift Symphony Orchestra and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

The first half closed with a selection from *Adiemus: Songs of Sanctuary*, by Karl Jenkins, performed by the collective Whitgift massed choir, the Boys' and Girls' choirs of Croydon Minster, and the choirs of Elmhurst School and Old Palace of John Whitgift School. *Adiemus* was a highlight for anyone associated with Whitgift, as it features in the School video,

and its performance by the 300-strong choir, led by Mrs Rosanna Whitfield (pictured, middle right), was particularly poignant and powerful

The second half opened with the Whitgift Chamber Choir, the choirs of Croydon Minster and the Whitgift-Minster Choral Society, alongside the RPO and the Whitgift Brass and Percussion Ensemble. Mr Ronny Krippner, Organist and Director of Choral Music, directed them in a magical rendition of *I Was Glad* by Parry (arr. Walton), followed by *Coronation Te Deum* by Walton (arr. Naylor).

Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 5 was a fitting finale to the concert. The combined RPO and Whitgift Chamber Orchestra, with Mr Philip Winter conducting (pictured, main), took the audience on an emotional journey. After months of collaboration between hundreds of pupils and the dedicated team of staff, the roar of the applause was an uplifting conclusion to a truly memorable evening.





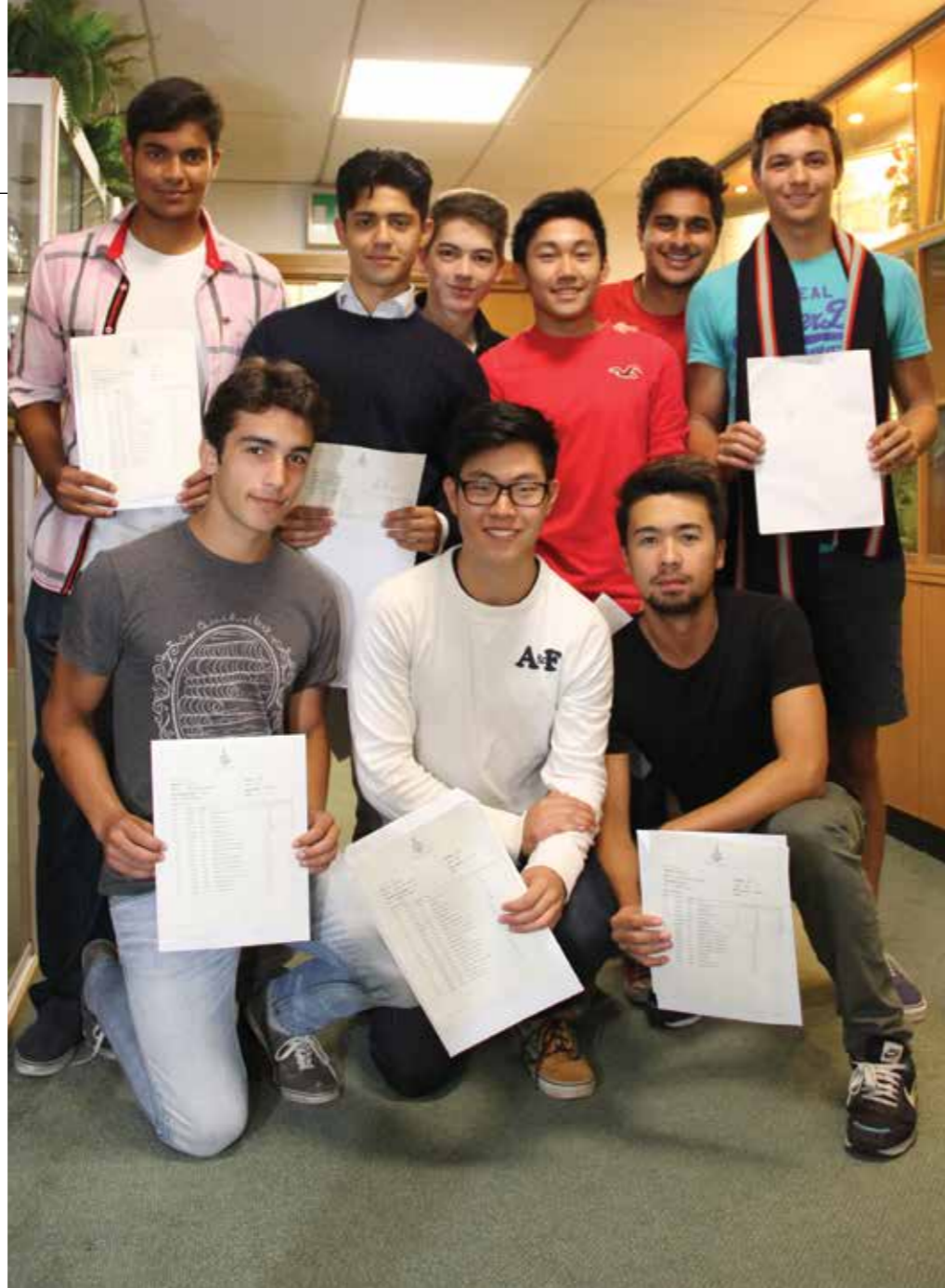
Record-breaking exam results

The 2014-15 school year ended with top-class exam success. International Baccalaureate students performed exceptionally well, achieving an average total score of 38 out of a maximum 45; three-quarters scored over 35 points, with just over a third gaining 40 and above.

We are also delighted to report another year of superb Upper Sixth A Level results, with 91.5% of all grades awarded at A*-B, and a record-breaking number of A* grades. The A*-B rate for A Level and the IB combined was 92.5%, which places Whitgift firmly in the top academic echelon of UK independent schools. A remarkable 80% of boys secured admission to their first-choice university, predominantly Russell Group. A growing number of pupils are looking to study outside the UK, and the School Captain, Stefan Amokwandoh, was awarded a full scholarship to study at Princeton in the USA.

Following on from the excellent performance by Whitgift Sixth Formers, Upper Fifth Form students set a new record for GCSE results: 87% of all grades were at A or A* grade, and 83 pupils achieved an A or an A* in every one of their subjects. A total of 40 students achieved 10 or 11 A*s, of whom 20 attained straight A*s. Across all GCSE subjects, an outstanding 56% of grades achieved were at A*. Most subjects are now examined through the rigorous IGCSE papers, and with the majority of Whitgift students taking at least 10 GCSEs, these results truly highlight the splendid all-round ability of our boys.

The Headmaster and the staff at Whitgift would like to congratulate all pupils on their fantastic results, their hard work and dedication.



The appliance of science

In June, Sixth Form IB students undertook their Group 4 Project, whereby the three fundamental sciences are explored with a practical-based activity, this year themed 'Positive about Plastic'. The winners, judged by their peers, teachers and guests, focused on the issue of plastic waste. Inspired by a an edible water-bottle project by Imperial College London students, the team of Gregoire Dubois, Vinith Elangovan, Thomas Floquet and Ho Ting Lok explored the possibility of using different chemicals to create an environmentally-friendly product. Other teams explored other uses for plastics, including rockets, rafts and super-absorbent polymers in nappies.





Whitgift International Music Competition 2015

WHITGIFT INTERNATIONAL MUSIC COMPETITION

Whitgift was delighted to host its second Whitgift International Music Competition (WIMC), in June 2015, building on the success of the inaugural competition in 2013, which saw three talented young musicians join the School on fully-funded boarding scholarships. This year, as well as nurturing our already well-established links with music schools across Central and Eastern Europe, we reached out to musicians further afield, in particular Latin America, with whom we have developed some valuable connections in recent months. We have, once again, been privileged to receive wide support from a number of institutions and individuals, including international schools, Embassies, Old Whitgiftians and other friends of the School. On the back of this remarkable collaboration, we received entries for the WIMC 2015 from 10 countries around the world; UK, Hungary, Slovak Republic, Czech Republic, Moldova, Romania, Kosovo, Russia, Venezuela and China.

On 28 June, Whitgift welcomed 18 competitors, and their guardians, to this prestigious four-day event, which opened with a recital by multi award-winning Moldovan violinist, Ilian Garnetz, accompanied by acclaimed pianist, Margareta Cuciuc. Together, they presented a stunning virtuosic programme in the School's Concert Hall. The young contestants then performed their meticulously-prepared pieces over two gruelling days of competition rounds, to an esteemed panel of adjudicators, including Whitgift's Director of Music, Mrs Rosanna Whitfield, and Director of Orchestral Music, Mr Philip Winter; Huw Davies, Deputy Managing Director of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra; Guy Johnston, Professor of 'Cello at the Royal Academy of Music and winner of BBC Young Musician of the Year 2000; Jessica Duchen, author, journalist and critic; Ivo Stankov, leading Bulgarian violinist; and Ilian Garnetz.

The level of talent was outstanding across the board, giving much cause for celebration at the Award Ceremony and Gala Concert marking the last day of the competition, on 1 July. A selection of these gifted musicians performed alongside the Whitgift Chamber and Symphony Orchestras, in Whitgift's Big School, showcasing a superb repertoire of summer classics, in what proved to be a fittingly special finale to this unique event. Guests enjoyed a Reception in the School's beautiful Andrew Quadrangle, where students and staff alike had the pleasure of mingling with Ambassadors, professional musicians and other industry specialists.

This September, Whitgift is thrilled to welcome to the School two new international music scholars on fully-funded places; Bardh Lepaja (*pictured, adjacent bottom*), of Kosovo, and Andrei Mamară (*pictured, adjacent top*), of Romania. We say goodbye to two of our WIMC 2013 winners, Dan-Lulian Druțac and Hristo Dunev, who take up places at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, respectively. We wish them both the best of luck in their future careers, and we look forward to seeing them develop with the encouragement and support of our outstanding Music Department. Exciting plans for the WIMC 2017 are well underway!





On stage

The Whitgift Academy of Visual and Performing Arts (WAVPA) is getting a name for itself on the London theatre scene, with a number of students having graced the professional stage in recent months. The professionally-led programme, launched in September 2014 and held in Whitgift's Performing Arts Centre every Saturday during term time, offers drama, dance and musical theatre classes to 8-18 year-olds in and around Croydon. Whitgift pupils and students from local schools have benefited from the exceptional teaching and opportunities available, including masterclasses with industry experts and participation in national youth projects.

In December 2014, WAVPA members enjoyed a class with Layton Williams (pictured, top right), well known for playing the title role in West End's *Billy Elliot* in his early career, followed more recently by Matthew Bourne's *Lord of The Flies* production, as well as BBC's *Bad Education* series. He spent several hours with the students, demonstrating dance techniques and working with them on dynamic routines. He was hugely



impressed by the students' abilities and passion, and commented, "I had such a fab day with WAVPA. The project is perfect for young people who enjoy the Performing Arts."

Four talented youngsters – Whitgift Lower Fifth Former Sam Webber, alongside Joe Brown (The John Fisher School), Jade Jones (Shirley High School) and Jesil Levine-Boateng (Dane Court Grammar School) – were selected to perform in a week's run of the play *Hospital Food* at LOST Theatre, Lambeth, as part of the National Theatre Connections project, in March. Associate Director, Jack Bowman, auditioned students from youth theatres across London for this 10-actor production; WAVPA students made up 40% of the cast, an impressive achievement. In addition, Eva Trodd (pictured, top left), from Highfield Junior School, is currently performing in the West End show *Matilda*, as Lavender, and Sasha Willoughby (pictured, bottom right), of Hitherfield Primary School, starred at the Old Vic Theatre in July as Agnes Cooper in *Comment is Free*, by James Fritz, as part of the Old Vic New Voices Festival.



With the support and direction offered by WAVPA drama teachers – Mrs Lisa Turner-Willoughby (pictured, bottom left) and Miss Annabel York – to students looking to join national theatre groups, Jed Kelly of Whitgift's Upper Fifth Form, Maya Elliot, Old Palace of John Whitgift School, and Jesil Levine-Boateng are now proud members of the National Youth Theatre.

WAVPA students have also enriched Whitgift productions, including the performance of *Summer's Last Will and Testament*, by Thomas Nashe, in the Founder's Garden in June (pictured, below bottom), in which dancers from the programme were selected and choreographed by WAVPA Director, Mr Nick Searle (pictured, below middle), and teacher Mr Shaun Henson. It was a hugely-professional production with some delightful dancing from girls and boys alike.

Congratulations must go to the WAVPA team for a fantastic year of performing arts training and top-class performances, and we look forward to their exciting plans for this school year.



A good cause

Fundraising events this past year have included a cake sale and 'First Form Charity Challenge', in which First Form students displayed their entrepreneurial skills by running a variety of creative and fun activities, including a lucky dip and football shoot out! The Upper School Charity Concert, at the end of the Michaelmas

Term, was a great opportunity for boys to showcase their musical talents.

The Charity Comedy Night in February featured our annual host, multi-award winning comedian, Dominic Holland (pictured, main), and top comedians Andy Askins and Mark Maier.



Congratulations and thank you to all the students, parents and staff who have generously donated their time, money and efforts in raising £8,000, which will be split between Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research, and RNLI in memory of Charlie Hutton.

Whitgift Sixth Former wins Junior Guildhall Lutine Prize

Congratulations to Dan-Iulian Druţac, who won the coveted "Lutine Prize", Junior Guildhall's most prestigious award. Dan-Iulian (pictured, second right alongside Professor Helena Gaunt, Vice Principal and Director of Academic Affairs, Guildhall School), a holder of the Junior Guildhall Violin Scholarship, competed in the final, held at the Milton Court Concert Hall, in May. His winning recital featured Ysaÿe's Sonata No.3 for Solo Violin, and Brahms' Sonata No.1 in G, Op.78.

Dan-Iulian has competed and won prizes in numerous overseas competitions to date. His talent won over the judges at Whitgift's inaugural International Music Competition, in 2013, when he was awarded the Grand Prize: a music

scholarship and boarding place at Whitgift. During his time at Whitgift, he performed at numerous high-profile events, including at the Master's Lodge at Trinity College Cambridge, when Whitgift and Trinity College celebrated their links dating back 400 years; and most recently, when he led the orchestra at the Royal Festival Hall for Glazunov's Violin Concerto in A minor, Op. 82, an event attended by the School's Patron, HRH The Duke of York, KG.

The Lutine Prize – adjudicated by Paul Cosh (pictured, far left), a former professor at Guildhall and trumpet player in the BBC Symphony Orchestra; and Head of Strings at the Purcell School, Charles Sewart (pictured, second left) – allows him the opportunity to perform a concerto with a Junior Guildhall ensemble, and he received a cash award. He is set to continue his success at Guildhall, as he has taken up a prestigious undergraduate scholarship from September.





Skiing

Gold

Whitgift had another successful year at the 9th Independent Schools Ski and Snowboard Championships, held in Les Deux Alpes, in December 2014. Whitgift's junior boys – Bertie Robinson (*pictured, immediate right*), Han Declercq (*pictured, above*), Alfie Lee, Josh Daws, Kit Bellman and Josh Madsen-Jensen – won the prestigious parallel slalom competition, the showcase event of the competition.

Whitgift's senior boys won bronze in the team Giant Slalom and Slalom competitions. Individual performances worthy of note are: Piers Bellman who came 6th in the individual slalom, competing against boys two years his senior; Josh Daws, who missed a bronze by 0.2 seconds in the individual giant slalom; and Bertie Robinson, who, at only 10 years old, won team gold and finished in the top 10 in the Junior Giant Slalom, labelled in the prize ceremony as 'one to watch'.

Mr Green commented, "The boys were an absolute credit to the School. The event grows every year and the standard this year was exceptionally high; there were two national champions and several members of national squads. Arriving two days early for a training phase proved to be a huge benefit; we were able to hone their racing skills in time for the competition."



Hockey

Four-timer

Whitgift's 1st XI hockey team won, for the fourth time in five years, the U18 National Hockey Indoor title; a feat unsurpassed by any other school. The team faced tough competition in the lead up to the final, playing Trent College, Rossall School, The Perse School, Dean Close School and Sir William Borlase's GS. Whitgift were crowned National U18 Indoor Champions, with an excellent performance against a strong Exeter School team, with goals from Rhys Smith, Cameron Johnson, Rory Patterson (*pictured, below middle*), and Samad Suleman.

A number of boys have also excelled in hockey outside the School. This year, the 1st XI had seven players represent the England U18 team, with a large number also heavily involved in national league clubs, including Ore Ogunlana (Surbiton HC), Rhys Smith (East Grinstead HC) and Jack Waller (Wimbledon HC) (*pictured, below left*). Rhys cemented his place with East Grinstead HC playing alongside



a number of current GB internationals, and was part of the English Premier League winning team. Rhys also competed for East Grinstead in the EHL, the hockey equivalent to football's Champions League. Jack mirrored Rhys' achievements this season, as part of the Wimbledon HC, the eventual winners of the 2014/15 English Premier League play-off finals. The Premiership final

saw East Grinstead HC pitted against Wimbledon HC, with Jack scoring one of the crucial goals allowing a victory for Wimbledon. Rhys and Jack, along with Noah Francis, Tendo Kimuli (*pictured, below right*) and George Oyeboode, represented the England U18s during the summer's internationals, with Rhys, Jack and Tendo also selected for the England U21 team.





In bloom

‘Whitgift School shone out as the best garden open in the South West region. It is certainly the jewel in the crown’

Sue Lovell-Greene, South West London Coordinator for OGSW



Whitgift opened up its grounds to the public in June, to take part in the National Gardens Scheme (NGS) and Open Garden Squares Weekend (OGSW). Visitors were able to enjoy the full range of gardens and wildlife areas that the School has to offer. It was the first time Whitgift was taking part in the NGS event, and the School was delighted that *The Telegraph* listed it as one of its top new NGS gardens to visit.

Months of hard work by the Gardens and Grounds teams had clearly paid off. Head Gardener, Sophie Tatzkow, commented, “We were very excited to have the opportunity to showcase our beautiful grounds to the public this year, and even more ecstatic when hundreds of people made their way to explore the gardens. All-in-all, it was a great success and a fantastic way to support numerous charities.”

Even visitors who were familiar with the School rediscovered areas of interest, with children relishing the maze, and adults and children alike enjoying the exotic birds and wallabies at close quarters in the Water Gardens. Whitgift’s catering team did a roaring trade in afternoon teas, and the plants on sale, the same as those grown in the Whitgift grounds, were hugely popular.

Penny Snell, the NGS London County Organiser, commented, “The Whitgift gardens and resident birds are unique, and we are proud and grateful that the School has supported us so generously.”

Sue Lovell-Greene, South West London Coordinator for OGSW, commented, “Whitgift School shone out as the best garden open in the South West region. It is certainly the jewel in the crown and a garden I am so proud to have in my area. The gardens were immaculate, the welcome warm, and the tea a great bonus with which to end the visit.”

The Open Gardens weekends saw over 500 visitors, with £2,300 going towards the NGS and OGSW charities, from admissions and plant sales.





Football

National Champions

Whitgift's young footballers have enjoyed an unprecedented winning streak, with recent county and national competition success. Whitgift dominated the County Cup scene this season with the U11, U12, U13 and U14 teams each bringing home the silverware in their respective Surrey age-group categories.

The U11 squad (*pictured, right*), having won the Investec ISFA U11 Seven-a-Side regional tournament, in September 2014, went on to be crowned national champions in the final at St George's Park, home of the England football team, in May. They beat Lochinver House School 1-0 in the final, a great conclusion to the competition and their incredible season.

Not to be outdone by the U11s, the U13s also had a superb season. In addition to their County Cup win, they too became ISFA national champions, lifting the U13 Cup, beating City of London 4-0 in the

final. This was an outstanding feat, as the Whitgift U13s have been ISFA Cup victors for five consecutive years.

Whitgift football coach, Mr Andrew Martin, commented, "The boys were outstanding all season, in attitude and application to both training and matches. They have been a credit to the School."

Individually, Upper Third Former, Callum Hudson-Odoi (*pictured, below right*), who was selected for the England U15s when still only U14, took part in the U15 International Tournament Delle Nazioni, held in Italy, in April. He faced Japan, Italy and Saudi Arabia, and scored on his debut versus Japan. Callum, who helped win two ISFA titles during his time at Whitgift, as well as scoring an exceptional 113 goals in three years for the School, also played against the USA, during the summer, in a friendly at St George's Park. He now plays for Chelsea Academy on a full-time basis.



Golf - HMC win

Just before the end of the Trinity Term, the School's first-team golfers competed in the HMC National Foursomes Finals, at Purley Downs Golf Club. The team of George Mullins, Harvey Byers, Alfie Fox, Toby Kemp, Johann Perera and Harry Plowman Ollington (*pictured, below*) had qualified for the finals by winning the South East of England group, played throughout the year, defeating Sutton Valance School, Winchester College, Sevenoaks School and Tonbridge

School. With decisive victories, Whitgift emerged top in their pool against Millfield, Reigate Grammar School and Loretto School, leading them to face favourites, Wellington College. The winning putt by Toby Kemp (*pictured, main*) on the 18th hole was sunk from 15 feet after a superb wedge to the green from Alfie Fox.

This is the first time Whitgift has won this highly-prestigious trophy, after

coming very close three years ago. Whitgift's golf coach, Mr Tim Trodd, was full of praise for the boys' monumental win: "This victory was testament to the boys' hard work, but also to the fabulous golf programme at Whitgift."

Further congratulations are due to Harvey Byers, who was instrumental in the England U16 win against Wales during the summer.





Summer's Last Will and Testament

Director, Mr Paul Wilson, and his highly-talented cast, ranging from First to Lower Sixth Formers, took on the monumental task of performing *Summer's Last Will and Testament*, by the Elizabethan writer, Thomas Nashe. The comedy, first performed at the end of the sixteenth century, was commissioned by the School's Founder, Archbishop John Whitgift, to entertain Queen Elizabeth I, when visiting his Croydon residence, in 1592.

The 'show', with such historical links to the School, was fittingly performed in the beautiful Founder's Garden. The occasion, towards the end of the Trinity Term, also served to mark the book launch of a new biography of John Whitgift, written by the Headmaster (pictured, top left), the first to be published for nearly 50 years. Dr Barnett thanked the Whitgift Foundation for supporting the publication, as well as Mr Wilson (pictured, right) for indulging his idea of bringing the Nashe play to fruition.

The audience, some dressed in Elizabethan costume, were delighted by the unique nature of the event, and

were thoroughly impressed by the young actors, who delivered the highly-intellectual script with aplomb beyond their years, and by the graceful dancers. Musical interludes included performances by Whitgift choristers, and superb solos by Mr Wilson and Mr Alan Weakley.

The production, adapted by Mr Wilson to suit a modern audience, features personifications of the four seasons, with Summer as the 'king of the world', but now old and diminished, and ready to make his will. As if in tune with the storyline, the weather responded on cue, with the evening sunset subsiding into gusts of wind at the mention of Autumn, and glowering clouds accompanying Summer's decline.

Mr Wilson commented, "I have been proud of many of my productions, but I have never been more proud than I was after our performance of *Summer's Last Will and Testament*. The extraordinary abilities of my cast and their superb work-ethic meant that my vision of the piece was fully realised. I was humbled, and deeply moved, by the boys' commitment and maturity."



Modern Pentathlon

Old Whitgiftian, Joseph Choong (*pictured, right*), produced consistently strong performances across all disciplines to finish as the 7th individual in front of a home crowd at the Modern Pentathlon European Championships, at University of Bath, in August. This was enough to secure the all-important top eight position for Rio qualification. Still a newcomer on the Senior International circuit, this was 20-year-old Choong's highest finish to date. Commenting on his achievement, Choong said, "Getting an Olympic qualification place means the world to me; it's everything I have been working towards since I was 12 years old. I've just got to keep my performances up to this standard now. This is my first time in the top ten, so I need to continue this and try to improve on it so that I can medal at Rio, which I absolutely believe I can do."

The Whitgift pentathlon programme is certainly providing Pentathlon GB with plenty of athletes for international competition, with James Myatt and Sam Curry forming the men's pair for the relay format in the same Championships. They performed impressively to finish just outside the medals in 4th place. Lots of boys are following 'in the pipeline', with several Old Whitgiftians representing Great Britain regularly in junior internationals. Tom Lees competed in the U21 World Championships, and Henry Choong and Joshua Miller competed in the U18 European Championships, earlier this summer. In domestic competition, Whitgift's Upper First Former, Rudi Bruijn-Yard (*pictured, below with the trophy*), finished the season on a high, claiming the U13 British title at the 2015 British Pentathlon Championships, in Solihull, in June. This is an outstanding achievement, especially as he only started horse riding the previous year.



Phil Searle of Matchlight

Cricket

The 1st XI team has had an excellent 2015 season, littered with outstanding individual performances, and one in which numerous records were broken. Ryan Patel became the first cricketer in recent times to score over a thousand runs in a season, in addition to taking 35 wickets. Young spinner and Upper Fifth Form student, Tyler Meyer (*pictured, right*), performed outstandingly, taking 45 wickets. Nick Welch and Richard Lock formed a very powerful top order partnership, with the former scoring four hundreds. All of the top seven batsmen were able to contribute fifties, with 22 being scored alongside eight centuries – this record certainly stands up very well in comparison to previous Whitgift 1st XIs.

On the international circuit, Whitgift newcomer, Nico Reifer, was selected for West Indies U15 a year young on a recent tour of England. The Lower Fifth Form pupil was voted Most Valuable Player on the tour. Nico's selection comes off the back of scoring two hundreds and two fifties in the recent West Indies U15 inter-island competition, where he played for Barbados. Tyler Meyer was also selected to represent the MCC Select XI at Lords; a huge achievement. Old Whitgiftian, Jason Roy (*pictured, below*), batted for England against New Zealand, during the Royal London ODI Series.



Getty Images





Table Tennis Star

Table tennis star, James Smith, has had an excellent run in national and international events in 2015. In March, he won the team gold and individual silver, while representing England in the Home Nations International. He did outstandingly, as a 14-year-old, to reach the semi-finals of the U19 Schools' National Individual finals, in Tipton, in April. As a result, the Upper Third Former was selected by the English Schools Table Tennis Association to represent England in the Home Nations tournament at the end of June in Perth, Scotland, where he picked up the team gold and individual bronze. That same month, James won the Jack Petchey London Schools' U16 Boys' Individual title for the fourth consecutive year, and the U14 National Doubles title for the second year running. James has represented England throughout the season in a number of international tournaments in the Czech Republic, Belgium, Spain and Lithuania.

James was also part of the Croydon boys team that won a gold medal at the London Youth Games, in July. Following on from competing as part of a 10-strong England team at the European Youth Championships in Slovakia, where he won the crucial match to get England promoted to the top division, he was then whisked off by Table Tennis England to attend a 22-day training camp with the U15 England Squad in China, in August.



Cycling/ Triathlon

Cycling at Whitgift continues to go from strength-to-strength; in only its second year, the medals keep on flowing. At the Inter-School Track Cycling, held at Herne Hill Velodrome in May, Cyrus Hung, Charlie Goriup and Daniel Wyles achieved U16 team gold. Max Bergin (U18 Match Sprint), Anton Iwaniuk (U14 Match Sprint), and Cyrus Hung (U16 Points Race) won individual gold medals.

Upper Sixth Former, Josh Haasz, celebrated his first two wins in June; a 10-mile time trial and a circuit race. Head of Outdoor Education, Mr Ben Green, commented, "Josh is making great strides towards his ambition of becoming a professional cyclist."

In March, Upper Sixth Former, David Pearson, entered the National Duathlon championships, to gauge his progress after a year of having switched from modern pentathlon to concentrate on cycling and triathlons. With a fine performance, he came second, beating seasoned international triathletes. As a result, he has qualified for the European Championship.

Waterpolo

After a 20-year hiatus, waterpolo has made a comeback at Whitgift. Since September 2014, over 40 boys have been participating, with two dedicated coaches overseeing fitness and skills, and imparting an overall understanding of the sport. Head of Swimming, Mr Daniel Webb, commented, "There has already been a noticeable improvement in all areas of the game, and it is exciting to see the potential. Our main focus for next year is the London League, as well as weekly friendly matches, to facilitate more experience and development."





School visitors

In April, the School was delighted to welcome back Old Whitgiftian (2001-2005), Danny Cipriani (pictured, right), for a visit. Whitgift's Upper Sixth Former and 1st XV player, Matthew White-Pettigrew, interviewed the Sale Sharks and England rugby player, regarding his career and time at Whitgift (the video is available to view on the website's News section).

In August, Danny was desperately unlucky not to be included in the final 31-man England World Cup squad. He was given very limited match time by the England coach. Nevertheless, Danny responded with some excellent performances, including an outstanding 15-minute, try-scoring display in the warm-up match against France, when he was selected as the man of the match.

The School took pleasure in welcoming diplomats in March and June – HE Mrs Rocío Maneiro, Ambassador of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (pictured, right), and Mr Jean Robert Pillard, Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of the Republic of Haiti (pictured, below right) – and looks forward to forging strong links, in particular with the Whitgift International Music Competition.

Lower School students enjoyed a varied programme of author visits in the latter half of the 2014/2015 school year. Whilst the subject matter of the literature ranged from horror fantasy to arranged marriage, all authors – Bali Rai, Darren Shan and David Gatward (pictured, below) – imparted interesting life experiences with the boys, often with much hilarity.



New Works

A selection of coursework from the GCSE, AS and A2 exhibition, in June 2015.

Works

Getty Images



Spam, spam, spam, spam...

Words



Lower and Upper School pupils joined forces with Old Palace of John Whitgift School to present the force of nature that is Monty Python's *Spamalot*. The audience was met with a riot of costumes, prolific prop use, hilarious accents, much-loved songs and excellent comic timing, in the play that is 'lovingly ripped off' from *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*.



Co-director, Mr Sami Michael, commented, "After several months of dedication and commitment, the cast can be truly proud of what they achieved: an uproariously funny musical to finish off the year in style. I have received many comments – from staff, governors and parents alike – praising the depth and talent of our very special young cast. At times, it was easy to forget we were watching Lower First to Lower Fifth Form pupils, rather than established West End actors."

Sadly, it was the swansong for Mr Lloyd Beecham and Mr Will Collinson, Co-directors alongside Mr Michael, before they departed Whitgift for pastures new. Both giants of Whitgift Drama, they invested countless rehearsal hours creating several years' worth of the most memorable productions the School has seen.

Congratulations are due to the cast, technical crew and band for a production that will be remembered fondly for many years to come.





On guard

Whitgift welcomed Colonel Peter Eadie, the Commandant of the Army Aviation Centre, to inspect the CCF (pictured, below), at the beginning of May. He was joined by a number of Old Whitgiftians: Colonel Jon Swift OBE; brothers Nick and Alex el-Batel, both officers in the RAF; Charlie Tweed, Surgeon Lieutenant in the Royal Navy; Lieutenant Andrew Dickinson of the Coldstream Guards; Officer Cadet, Tom Morgan, who is completing his senior term at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, and will be commissioning into the Army Air Corps; and Thomas Telford, who won the King's Badge for the top cadet in his Royal Marine Commando training class. Colonel Eadie inspected a Guard of Honour and the Corps of Drums, celebrating its 110th anniversary this year.

Colonel Eadie told the cadets they should be immensely proud of themselves for their excellent team spirit, enthusiasm, expertise and infectious sense of fun and self-discipline. He added that the skills they were learning would serve them well in later life.



Tough Guy

At this year's Tough Guy event, which has been well attended by Whitgiftians for many years, 28 boys took part, as well as eight members of staff and gap students.

Upper Sixth Former, Sebastian Orbell, was Whitgift's top student finisher in 82nd place, out of approximately 4000 participants.

Luke Baptiste, in the Lower Sixth Form, commented, "It was, hands down, the hardest thing I've ever done; it made the Royal Marines Course look like a piece of cake! I've never felt such a sense of reward and satisfaction in my life!"

The event, which took place at the beginning of February this year, sees contestants pitted against water obstacles, climbing towers, fire and barbed wire, all in freezing conditions.



Chris Bell





While we were away...

Outdoor Education made the most of summer with a seven-day Gold Duke of Edinburgh hike, in June/ July, which started in the Pyrenees Mountains and finished on the Atlantic coast in Hendaye. There was also an expedition to North Wales, in August, in preparation for the Moroccan Atlas Mountains trip, planned for October. This excursion also included mountain biking in the famous trails of Coedy Brenin, and water sports at Surf Snowdonia's artificial wave lagoon. Also in August, a group of 11 Whitgift cycling enthusiasts spent four days tracing the beautiful route through the Yorkshire Dales, ridden last year by Chris Froome and the rest of the Tour de France peloton.

The Choristers, together with Organist and Director of Choral Music, Ronny Krippner, embarked on a five-day concert tour of Germany, at the beginning of July. They sang to a packed Frauenkirche in Nuremberg, as well as services at Regensburg Cathedral and Munich's St Michael's Church. A highlight was the choral concert at Marktrechwitz, where an audience of more than 600 was 'completely taken by the performance, and celebrated the Choristers with standing ovations – and quite rightly so!', according to newspaper *Frankenpost*.

Towards the end of July, the 1st XV and 2nd XV rugby boys departed for their tour to New Zealand and Australia. The squads had trained hard in preparation, and encountered challenging, but rewarding, matches. Apart from gaining invaluable rugby experience, the highlights of the trip also included touring Eden Park, where the All Blacks won the 2011 Rugby World Cup, feeding dolphins, sand surfing, and, for the very brave, bungee jumping.



Summer School

After 18 months of planning and preparation, the inaugural residential Whitgift Summer School started on 5 July 2015, and ran for six weeks. It was attended by 168 international students, aged 11-17, who came from 16 different countries. One of the unique aspects of our Summer School course was the inclusion of 140 Whitgift and Old Palace of John Whitgift School students.

Every morning, the international students attended general English lessons, targeted at improving their range and accuracy of language. They were then joined by the British students for afternoon lessons, where they worked collaboratively on various projects. Students also engaged in varied co-curricular activities, a fun evening entertainment programme, and twice-weekly trips to London.

The feedback from our international students and parents was fantastic, and there have already been booking requests for next summer. If you would like to find out more about the Summer School, please visit www.whitgift.co.uk/summerschool.





Canon Boswell Milestone

At the end of the Trinity Term, Canon Colin Boswell celebrated 40 years of priesthood, as well as 20 years as Whitgift's School Chaplain and Vicar of Croydon. A Jubilee Mass in his honour was held at Croydon Minster, where the Whitgift Chamber Choir and the Minster Choirs performed Charles Marie Widor's *Messe Solennelle* for double choirs, and Canon Boswell's personal favourite, *Cantique de Jean Racine*, by Gabriel Fauré.

Canon Boswell commented on the highlights of his involvement at Whitgift, "The main thing is sharing in the joys and the sorrows of the School community. I have met some lovely people, and many of the boys are still in touch. I have officiated at the marriage of past students and baptized their children."

WSPA Summer Ball

The WSPA hosted their Midsummer Ball in June, enjoying the Sports and Conference Centre's sports hall, where cricket nets and basketball hoops made way for chandeliers and casino tables. The Whitgift Jazz Band provided a lively backdrop to the three-course meal, and a silent ibid auction, using iPads, brought out the competitive streak of the guests. Favourites included a dinner for eight cooked in your own home, weekend breaks, signed shirts by Lionel Messi and Sir Geoff Hurst, and spa days.



Cooking up a storm

A team from Whitgift's caterers competed at the Wessex Salon Culinaire, one of the UK's largest live culinary competitions, in May. They achieved amazing results after being mentored for several months by Executive Chef, Leszek Karpinski, in readiness for the competition.

Between Mr Lukas Fecko, Mr Michael Johnson and Miss Amy Joyce, they won 10 silver and four bronze awards, in categories ranging from risotto to fruit tarts. Mr Karpinski won gold for his Cold Chocolate Dessert!



Boot Buddy

Unassuming Upper Third Former, Arminster Dhillon, is building a small business empire for himself at the age of just 14. He hatched an idea, as an 11-year-old, while cleaning his muddy football boots with a dishwashing brush and kitchen knife, to design an ergonomic, multi-functional and environmentally-friendly tool that would take the mess and the fuss out of boot-cleaning. With the help of his family, Arminster went to the drawing board and came up with what is now the "Boot Buddy". The finished product went through much iteration along the way; choosing materials, prototype designs, testing and patenting. Arminster and his Boot Buddy brainchild have featured in sports merchandise exhibitions and national news coverage, and he is now working in partnership with the London Football Association. The Design Technology & Engineering student has said that, for him, the highlight of the whole process was seeing his design "go from a drawing on a piece of paper, to a product you can physically hold, and from an idea to a brand".



DFPhotography



Remembering 1916 – Life on the Western Front

To coincide with the centenary of the First World War, Whitgift is hosting a major exhibition next year, *Remembering 1916 – Life on the Western Front*.

This ambitious exhibition, which will open its doors to the public from Thursday 10 March until 31 August 2016, will bring together an outstanding range of original artefacts, including objects, photographs, letters, uniforms and memorabilia, drawn chiefly from private collectors. *Remembering 1916* will be the first and only time these artefacts are seen together, to tell the story of this pivotal year of the War.

Remembering 1916 will explore the political and social background to key events in 1916, using the contemporary voices of British, French and German soldiers and their families. Themes will include the War on Land, focussing on the battles at the Somme and Verdun; the War in the Air, exploring the growing importance of aerial warfare; and the Home Front, providing a snapshot of what life was like in Croydon and the South East.

Visitors to *Remembering 1916 – Life on the Western Front* will be able to take advantage of guided tours of the Exhibition, and a learning programme will be on offer to primary schools. There will also be an Edwardian-themed café and a shop.

This is not the first time Whitgift has staged a professionally-executed, historical exhibition. In 2009, *Hidden Treasures from the Mary Rose* attracted 35,000 visitors, making it the most popular exhibition ever held in Croydon.



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL EVENSONG

Wednesday 7 October
5.30pm, Chichester Cathedral
FREE admission

LOWER SIXTH FORM PLAY

Wednesday 14 and Thursday 15 October
7.30pm, Big School
Tickets: £2.50, Concessions* FREE
(by ticket only)

BACH AT THE MINSTER

Saturday 14 November
7pm, Croydon Minster
Tickets: £10, Concessions* £5

FAIRFIELD HALLS CONCERT

Thursday 19 November
7pm, Fairfield Halls
Tickets: £8, Concessions* £4
(booking via Fairfield Halls website)

FIRST FORM PLAY

Thursday 26 and Friday 27 November
7:30pm, Concert Hall
Tickets: £2.50, Concessions* FREE
(by ticket only)

CHORISTERS AT THE RITZ

Saturday 5 December
3.45pm and 5.45pm, The Ritz, London
Tickets: Book a table via WisePay
(available from October)

JOURNEY'S END

Wednesday 9 – Friday 11 December
7.30pm, Big School
Tickets: £8, Concessions* £4

CHRISTMAS CONCERT AT ST GEORGE'S, HANOVER SQUARE

Friday 11 December
6.30pm, St George's Church,
Hanover Square
Tickets: £10, Concessions* £5

CAROL SERVICE

Tuesday 15 December
7.30pm, Croydon Minster
FREE admission (by ticket only)

BOOKING INFORMATION

Please visit www.whitgift.co.uk/events for information on how to book.

*Concessions:

Children 16 and under, Over 60s, Students (17–25 in full-time education)

Front Cover image: Royal Festival Hall – Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and Whitgift Chamber Orchestra, *Orchestral and Choral Spectacular*

Photo: DFPhotography

NEW & IMPROVED – You can now apply to Whitgift online.

Please visit <http://admissions.whitgift.co.uk>

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