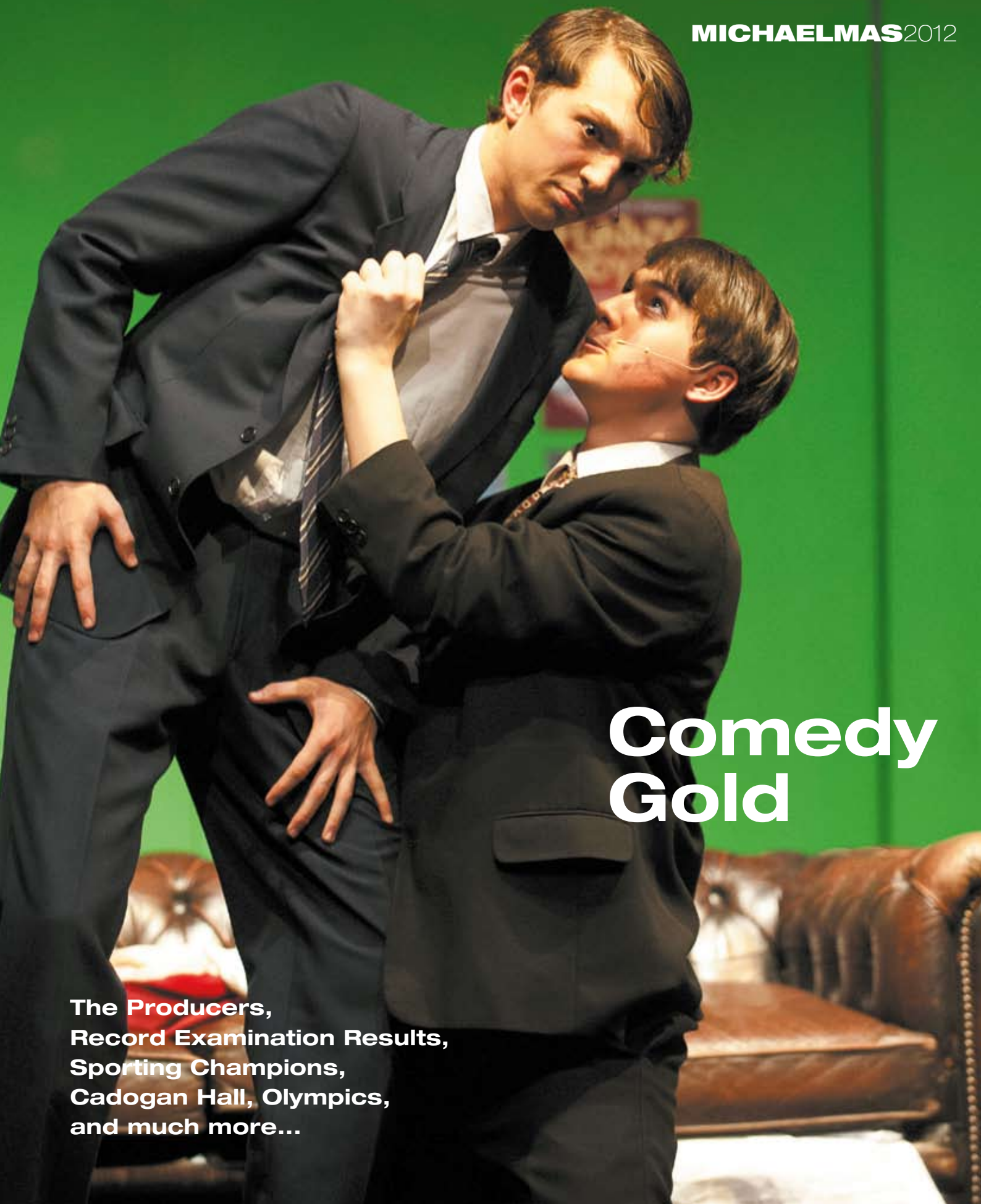




WHITGIFT LIFE

MICHAELMAS2012



Comedy Gold

**The Producers,
Record Examination Results,
Sporting Champions,
Cadogan Hall, Olympics,
and much more...**



The Producers

With hugely successful film and theatre versions to live up to, a multitude of wardrobe changes, risqué content, bordering on offensive songs, not to mention tap-dancing, the staging of *The Producers* was an enormous task for Director of Drama, Lloyd Beecham. The six months of hard work and rigorous rehearsing for the boys of Whitgift and the girls of St Andrews, Old Palace and Croydon High, paid off immensely, with four nights of sold-out shows and ecstatic audiences.

Stuart Nunn, playing the role of down-and-out theatrical producer, Max Bialystock, and Geddy Stringer, cast as the neurotic accountant, Leo Bloom, executed a fantastic double-act, performing with impeccable comic timing.

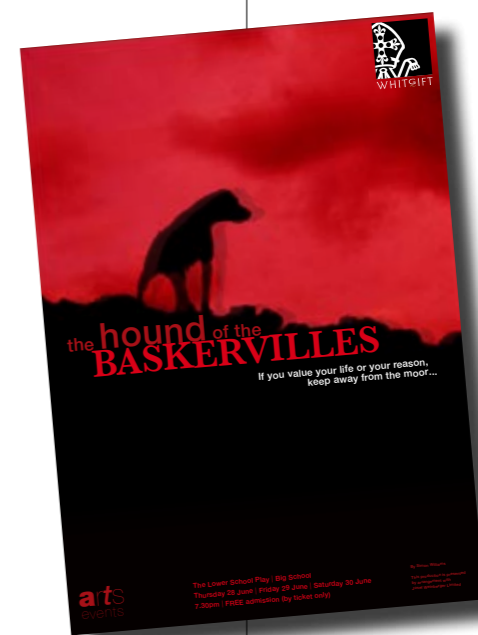
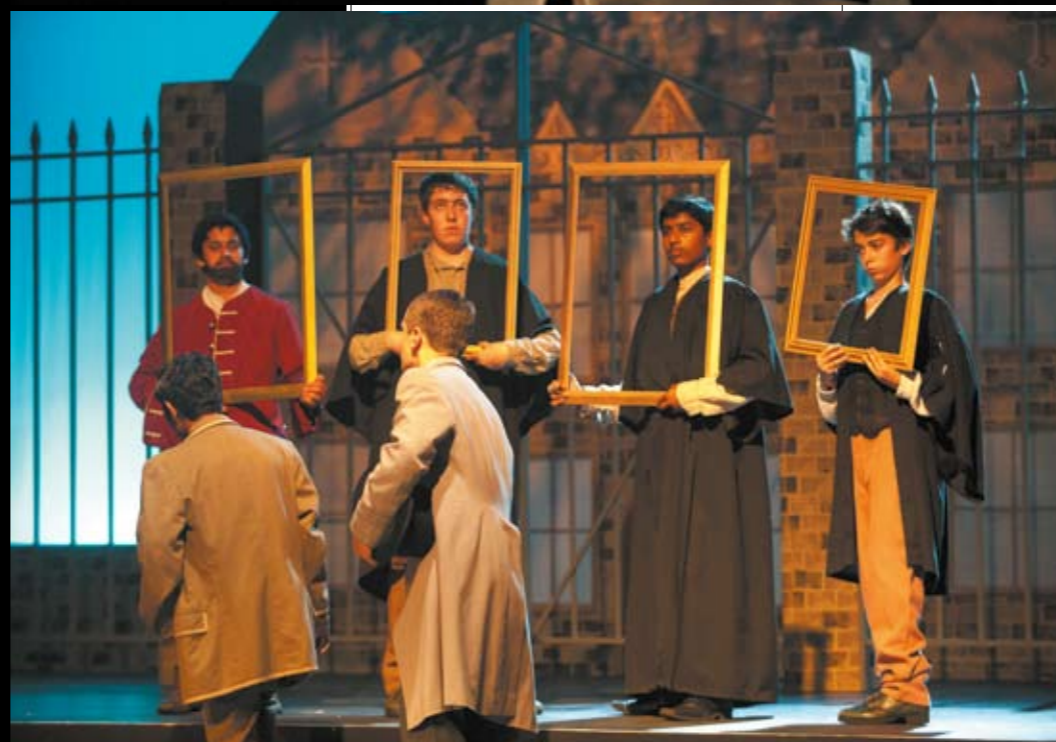
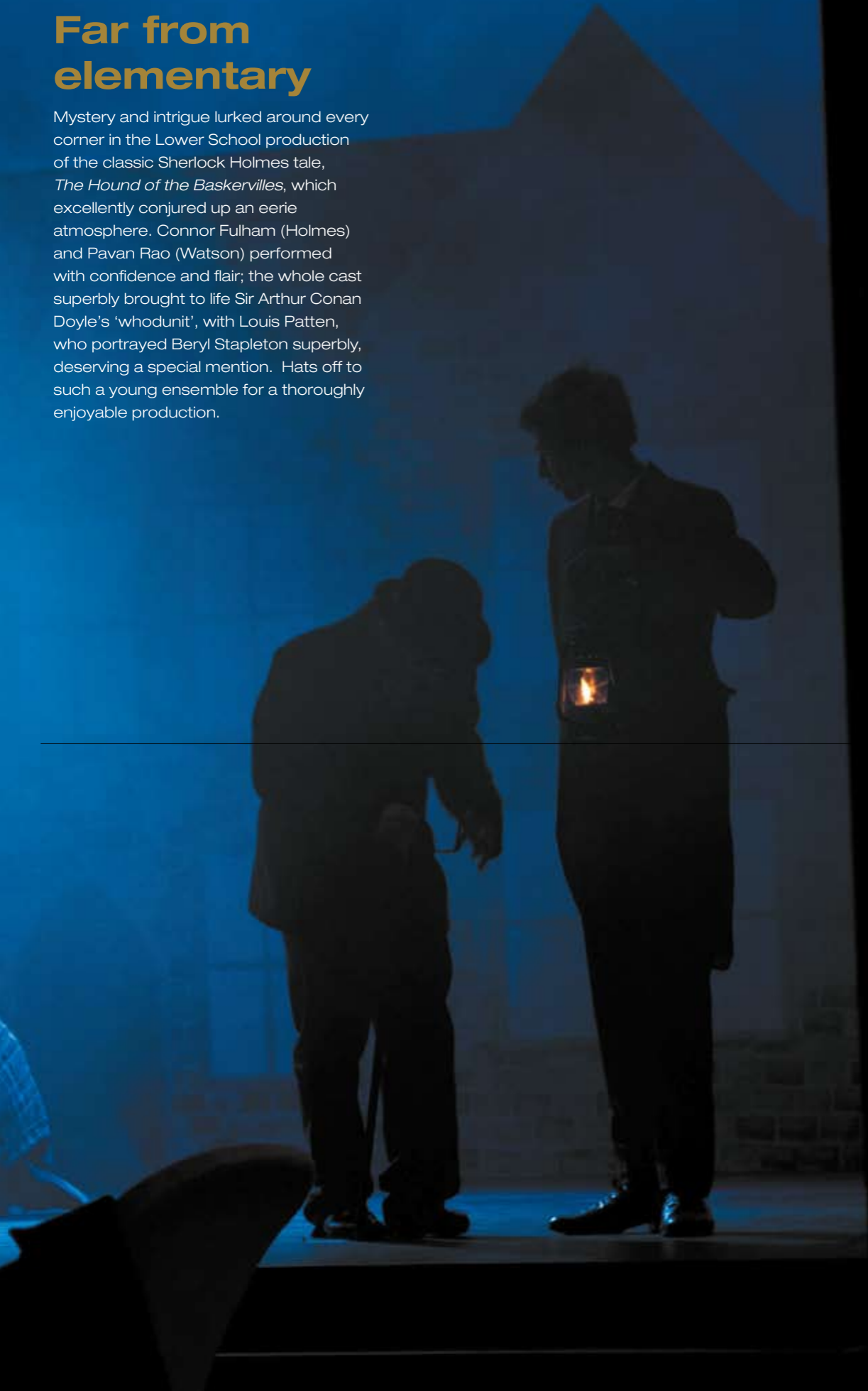
Tom Simpson (*pictured, far left*) played Franz Liebkind, the deranged Hitler-idoliser, performing with hilarious flair and vigour. School Captain, Will Tomsett, alongside Joseph D'Angelo and Katie Tomsett, were on top form in the roles of actors recruited by Max and Leo for their musical, intended to shock, offend and repel the audience.

The production stands out as one of the best Whitgift has staged. Theatre critic, Peter Steptoe, wrote, "I congratulate Lloyd Beecham and his team on producing one of the best school productions that I have ever seen. Fast-paced, over-the-top performances and comic precision worthy of the West End."



Far from elementary

Mystery and intrigue lurked around every corner in the Lower School production of the classic Sherlock Holmes tale, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, which excellently conjured up an eerie atmosphere. Connor Fulham (Holmes) and Pavan Rao (Watson) performed with confidence and flair; the whole cast superbly brought to life Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's 'whodunit', with Louis Patten, who portrayed Beryl Stapleton superbly, deserving a special mention. Hats off to such a young ensemble for a thoroughly enjoyable production.





Science Olympics

IB students took part in a project entitled 'Science: Giving us the edge in the Olympics', investigating three elements of the Games: developing and testing a prototype mask to simulate high altitude training; comparing the 'gun' start in athletics to a modulated 'beep-beep-beep' start used in other sports; and establishing the 'perfect' free kick in football. Students were delighted to welcome Olympic athlete and Old Whitgiftian, Lawrence Okoye (pictured, right), to observe their studies.



Dragon's STEM

46 Sixth Form boys have participated in the inaugural Dragon STEM competition, researching, inventing and testing green technology products in academically rigorous work linked to at least two of the STEM (Science Technology, Engineering and Maths) subjects. In February, the designs were showcased to parents and a panel of judges. A wide range of

projects was on exhibition, covering many areas of green technology, including a domestic, hydroponic farming system, a biosphere design, and several components of green-powered cars. The judges chose the Portable Stirling Engine, designed to be used as a portable power source for the camp craft industry, as the best on display. The winners' trophy was presented to Erfan Sanei, Arun Elanko, Adil Nayeem and Azim Chowdhury.

It all adds up

In June, the Mathematics Department took 28 boys on a residential trip to Cambridge University; challenging topics included proof, BMO and IMO questions, conic sections, the maths of bubbles and shortest path problems. The weekend, which also included a lecture from a Fellow of Trinity College, stretched Whitgift's ablest mathematicians.



Engineering Education Scheme

The Engineering Education Scheme (EES) links Lower Sixth Form students with industry-leading companies in engineering. Jefferson Addy, Johan Arulnesan, Akshay Garigiparthi and Fritz Kirchner were partnered with BP. The project was based on electrical engineering and was undertaken over a period of six months with the help of two mentors from BP. It involved researching processes used within oil extraction, to design and build a circuit known as a 'current-limiter circuit', and investigating two methods of control within the oil and gas industry. The team presented their project at a Celebration & Assessment Day at the BP Headquarters in Sunbury.



'A' Stars

Whitgift leavers celebrated record-breaking results in both A Level and International Baccalaureate examinations, a combined 94.2% A*/B grades, in 2012. At A Level, 93% of entries were graded A*, A or B with almost one-fifth of the results being the top 'A starred' grade. This represents the School's best-ever performance at this level, despite overall success rates nationally falling slightly this year. IB boys achieved an average score of 39.2 out of a possible 45, again the best overall results so far. Two boys, Yang-Fan Zhou (pictured, left) and Reece DeCastro, gained the maximum 45.



These excellent results mean that the vast majority of Whitgift leavers will go on to take up a place at their first-choice university. This includes Yang-Fan who will be going to Cambridge to study Chemical Engineering, following a Gap Year playing chess.



All Gold

James Johnson and Christian Milotte represented Whitgift at the 2012 British Schools Judo Championships in March, and both won Gold Medals in their age and weight categories. Christian (*pictured*) went on to win another Gold at the 2012 London Youth Games, the largest annual youth sports event in Europe.



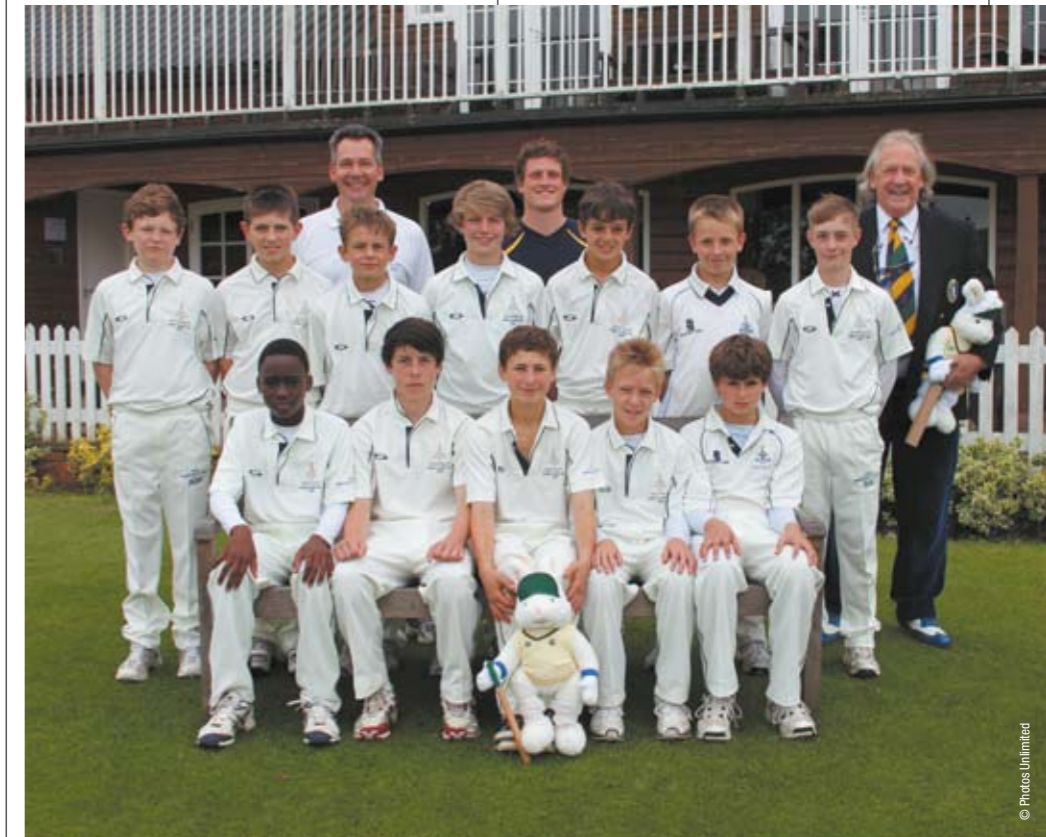
So solid crew

Whitgift School Boat Club has had another excellent year of development. The Lower Thirds (*pictured, right*) won the Octuple event at Richmond Regatta, with a clear win over St Pauls in the final. The Lower Fifth Four became the first Whitgift crew to qualify for a semi-final in the National Schools' Regatta, held at Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham, and our Upper Fifth Double won gold at the Ball Cup (South), held at the Olympic Rowing venue, Dorney Lake.



High Fives

The Fives National Schools' Championships in March and April attracted a high number of entries. Whitgift U14 pair, Ben Ford and Charlie Mabbutt (*pictured, below*), became national champions; after initially knocking out a strong Winchester pairing in the semi-finals, they won the final, a 70-minute, epic match against a skilful Merchiston Castle School from Edinburgh. Whitgift's Tom Walters and Luke Brandon won the Colts doubles plate trophy. Earlier in the season, Tom Walters (*pictured, bottom*) was successful at the inaugural Fives South-East Championships. He won the U16 singles competition and received the newly-commissioned Wheeler Trophy.



A Magnificent Seven

Whitgift U13 cricketers won the ESCA Bunbury Cricket Cup for the seventh time since 1998, beating The Grammar School at Leeds in the national final at Oakham in July. An exceptional team performance in the field, headed by Tyler Meyer, reduced Leeds to 55-all-out. Captain and 'Man of the Match' for the second consecutive year, Nathan Baxter, together with Jamie Smith, quickly knocked off the runs to retain the National Cup for Whitgift.

The U15 cricketers will contest the t20 National Final at Arundel in September; Whitgift has reached the national final four times in the last five years and the team are the defending champions.

Whitgift's 16-year-old 1st XI captain, Dominic Sibley (*pictured below*), has been selected to captain England U17s at Lord's in September, against MCC Young Cricketers; this is a great achievement and honour for one of the country's leading young cricketers.



Summer Classics

The Whitgift Chamber Orchestra and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra came together once again for a summer concert showcasing English composers, with Grig Cuciuc giving a beautiful performance of Vaughan Williams' *The Lark Ascending*. Hugo Herman-Wilson, a choral scholar and a member of the National Youth Choir, sang three of the same composer's *Five Mystical Songs*. Hugo joins Gloucester Cathedral Choir on a Choral Scholarship during his gap year, before taking up a prestigious Choral Scholarship at King's College Cambridge. A capacity audience enjoyed a wonderful evening.



Grig Cuciuc

In May, Whitgift welcomed back former student, Grig Cuciuc, to the Concert Hall. Now in his first year at the Royal College of Music, Grig performed with fellow student, Russian pianist, Diana Galakhova.

Julia Desbruslais, professional 'cellist and member of the London Mozart Players, reviewed the performance: 'Grig gave an elegant, and nicely understated, performance of Schubert's *Sonatina in G minor*, with a purity of sound and beautifully turned phrases. In the Wieniawski *Polonaise*, he showed complete mastery of the violin, brilliance in command of the bow, and a sheer sense of enjoyment of the music. The recital was rounded off with the Franck *Sonata*, giving both performers the chance to convey a subtle, sensuous tone and French charm combined with passion and excitement. It was an evening of true pleasure.'

From Russia with love

The Whitgift partnership with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra reached a new level of excellence in this year's concert at Cadogan Hall featuring an all-Russian programme.

The overture from *Ruslan and Ludmilla* provided a striking opening with the vivid orchestral sounds resonating in the Cadogan Hall's wonderful acoustic. The elegance of Tchaikovsky's *Rococo Variations* was beautifully conveyed in Tim Posner's inspiring account of the demanding solo 'cello part; he thoroughly deserved the ovation from audience and orchestra. Borodin's *Polovetsian Dances* concluded the first half of the concert; the Whitgift Chamber Orchestra and members of the RPO, together with a large choir including girls from Coloma School, handled this exotic music expertly and the lovely singing made a deep impression.

The second half contained a single, substantial, work, Rachmaninoff's *Symphony No 2*, one of the most demanding works in the repertoire, and Philip Winter and the Orchestra are to be congratulated on an outstanding and memorable performance.





Champions again

Whitgift hockey players had reason to celebrate after a remarkable season, having secured yet more national titles.

The U18s won the National Schools Indoor Hockey Championship for the second consecutive year, a rare achievement. In a repeat of last year's final, they played Cranleigh, winning on sudden-death penalty flicks. This was followed by victory at the outdoor event, the England Hockey National Schools Championship. Whitgift played Surrey rivals, Kingston GS, in the final, winning 2-1. Whitgift has high hopes of breaking yet more records next season, as 10 of the squad will be returning.

The U14 team proved equally successful at the National Schools Championships. Fresh from their tour to South Africa, they succeeded in defending their title, with a 2-0 victory over RGS High Wycombe.

Whitgift U18 captain, Rob Farrington (pictured, right), was selected to represent, and captain, England, along with team-mates Jonty Griffiths and Peter Ellis-Phillips. Rhys Smith is also flying the Whitgift flag in the England U16 squad.



© Take That Photo



South Africa Hockey Tour

In April, the U14 and U15 hockey teams embarked on a memorable hockey tour to the sunny shores of South Africa. Starting in Port Elizabeth, the boys were hosted by Woodridge College, set in the beautiful mountain setting of Van Staden's Pass. The two fixtures against Woodridge resulted in a 3-0 win for the U15s, but unfortunately the U14s, despite dominating the match, lost 2-0.

Grey High School's U16 Nomads Festival pitted the boys against older opponents, eight of which were the top South African U16 teams. The Whitgift group was split into two teams: the Lions and Leopards. The Leopards, predominantly U14, had one victory against Jeppe High School for



Boys, but were unlucky not to have made it two or three wins. Their courage and technical skill was inspirational for such a young group. The Lions dominated the festival, playing an incredible brand of hockey and winning every match, which showed just how far Whitgift hockey has developed in the past 15 years.

St David's and St John's, in Johannesburg, were the next schools to host the boys. The U14s and U15s were victorious against both schools – success made even sweeter by the fact they faced U16 squads.

The tour ended with some well-needed rest and recuperation at Sun City, where the boys enjoyed the water park and a safari. They were true ambassadors for the School at all times, both on and off the hockey pitch.





Modern Pentathlon

18 Whitgift boys competed in the British Schools Modern Biathlon Championships at Crystal Palace in March. Two Whitgift teams took national titles; Joshua Miller, Mitchell Goff and Ocean Schwartz finished nearly 500 points clear of their nearest rivals, and Henry Choong, David Pearson and Josh Haasz managed to hold off a very strong Millfield team, in the Year 9 and Year 10 age groups respectively.

Adam Bambroffe (pictured, above) was Whitgift's highest individual finisher. The season ended on a high with three individual golds and one silver at the 2012 British Pentathlon Championships. Tom Lees, in his final competition for Whitgift, added the U18 National

Pentathlon Champion to his long list of achievements. U14 Josh Miller was 600 points clear of his nearest rival, whilst his brother, Isaac Miller, made Whitgift history in being the first student to complete a full pentathlon in the U12 age group. Mitchell Goff added silver to the medal tally for Whitgift in the U16 competition.

Following the successful youth selection series, three Whitgift athletes were selected to represent Great Britain in the European Championships, which took place in Bulgaria and Poland in July and August respectively. Tom Lees and Joseph Choong (pictured, right) joined the four-man U18 team and Henry Choong competed in the U16 category. Joseph performed outstandingly to win gold, only the second British boy to achieve this feat. Tom finished 15th, the second highest British athlete, an exceptional performance at this level,

achieved alongside intense academic study to gain a place at Oxford. Overall, the U18s collected the team bronze medal for Great Britain. Henry gained bronze in both the individual category and the three-man, British U16 team element. He also paired up with British girl, Eidlih Prise, to contest the mixed pair competition and claimed the gold medal for Britain.



Athletics

Farren Morgan (pictured, right) had a superb season; having won both the 200m and 400m at the Kent County championships, he went on to win the 400m at the Southern England Championships. Going into the IAAF World Junior Trials undefeated in the U20 400m track event, Farren finished second, smashing his own personal best and achieving a ranking of 5th in the UK. This resulted in an invitation to compete at the Olympic Trials in Birmingham, alongside the likes of James Ellington, Jessica Ennis and Dwain Chambers. Although failing to progress through the heats, the event has no doubt raised his profile in national athletics.

Stefan Amokwandoh (pictured, below) had another excellent season in the triple jump, the highlight coming at the London U15/U17 Games where he won the event with a personal best of 14.01. He also gained Bronze in the U15 Triple Jump in the South England Athletics Association (SEAA) competition.

Nathan Best competed in the U15 shot putt at the 2012 English Schools Championships in Gateshead. Despite an injury forcing him to throw in a stationary position, he not only won a silver medal, but also achieved a personal best of 14.62m.





Charity

Whitgift hosted a fourth Charity Comedy Night in March, in support of Tapologo and Childreach International. A delightfully entertaining Dom Holland (*pictured*) was followed by Hal Cruttenden, recently nominated for a Chortle Award and seen as 'one to watch' for 2012. Bob Mills provided a riotous closing act; £1,500 was raised.

Other Charity Events included the Lower School Charity Day and an Easter Egg Collection, with 280 eggs donated to Nightwatch, the Salvation Army and the children's ward at University Hospital, London.

Over the course of the 2011-2012 academic year, the boys raised an impressive £11,300.

Derek Walcott OBE

Following a chance meeting in St Lucia with Whitgift Head Librarian, Atiya Afghan, Derek Walcott OBE, the celebrated St. Lucian poet and playwright and winner of the 1992 Nobel Prize for Literature, read his poetry and answered questions from an audience of enthusiastic, aspiring writers during a fascinating visit to Whitgift in April.

Walcott's 2011 collection, 'White Egrets', won the UK's premier poetry award, the T.S. Eliot Prize.



World Book Day visit by author KJ Wignall

On the 1st March, to mark World Book Day, Whitgift hosted KJ Wignall, author of teen vampire novel, *Blood*. He was kind enough to give some lively creative writing sessions. Mr Wignall, whose books are attracting movie-studio interest, later signed copies in the Raeburn Library and gave a reading from his novel. Mr Wignall visited the School and asked for his expenses to be donated to charity. SNAP, the children and young person's special needs charity based at Whitgift, has been selected as the beneficiary of the donation.

The author's website sums up his visit to Whitgift: '...an inspiring school with great, enthusiastic students'.



Golf – up to scratch!

Golf at Whitgift continues to go from strength-to-strength. The Whitgift Golf Academy, now in its fifth year, is producing some exceptional golfers. George Mullins, who was part of the first intake into the Academy in 2008, has become the first student to achieve the milestone status of scratch golfer, at the age of 15. George, coached by the Academy's coach, Tim Trodd, has benefited from the on-site facilities at the School, as well as Whitgift's partnership with The Addington Golf Club. Other Academy members, at handicap 1, 3 and 4 respectively, include Tom Bloxsome, captain of golf and member of the recent swifits tour to USA, Joe Carmody-Firth, current Surrey schools U18 champion, and James Beck.

The U18 singles match-play team of George Mullins, Tom Bloxsome and Joe Carmody-Firth, finished sixth at the 2012 ISGA golf finals at Carnoustie, and the Foursomes team, which includes the aforementioned boys plus James Beck, Chuck Adolph and Harvey Byers, reached the HMC Foursomes finals at Burnham & Berrow Golf Club, beating King Edward's School, Bath, Bradfield College, Berkshire, and top-seeded Loretto School, Scotland. They narrowly lost 2-1 to Millfield in the grand final.

Whitgift 1st team travelled to Sun City for the ISGA World Golf School Championships in August, with schools competing from around the world on the Gary Player and Lost City courses. Of the 32 schools playing in this four-day competition, the Whitgift team finished in a highly respectable sixth place, the best result of any debutant school in the competition.



Title winners

Whitgift's U13s football season finished on a high note, with the team successfully defending the Investec Independent Schools Football Association (ISFA) title. They faced Essex school, Brentwood, in the 2011-12 final, at the Pirelli Stadium, Burton Albion FC, winning 2-1.

Ethan Nelson-Roberts (*pictured, below*) gave Whitgift the upper hand with a header in the second half. Although goalkeeper, Nathan Baxter, made some excellent saves, a period of sustained pressure from Brentwood resulted in them equalising. Reiss de Meza (*pictured, right*) then scored a penalty late in the game, after Nelson-Roberts was brought down, to give Whitgift the title.



Crystal Palace Academy Player of the Year

16-year-old, Reisse Allassani, won the Eagles' Academy Player of the Year award after a fantastic season, during which he also represented the England U16 side which won the Victory Shield, scoring a superb goal against Wales. Reisse has now signed his first professional contract with Crystal Palace.



Future Star

Whitgift Sixth Former, Bertrand Traoré, had a more eventful January than most when he represented his country, Burkina Faso, in the Africa Cup of Nations, hosted by Equatorial Guinea and Gabon. Aged just 16, he became the third youngest player ever at the finals. His older brother Alain, who plays at AJ Auxerre in France,

was also included in the final 23-man squad. Bertrand came on in the final game against Sudan. The midfielder, originally from Burkina Faso's second city, Bobo-Dioulasso, found the atmosphere of the competition amazing and was glad to enjoy the experience with his brother. He is, without doubt, a star of the future.





In the swim

The Whitgift trophy cabinet has been bolstered this year by a very strong swimming squad.

At the Surrey Schools Individual Championships in February, Whitgift won five individual titles, as well as four silvers and six bronzes, and Whitgift finished as the top school, making the School this year's overall champions.

Whitgift's young swimmers (*pictured, below*) had a successful Croydon Borough U12 and U13 Junior Swimming Championship in March, winning 11 out of 14 Croydon titles. Three school records were broken, with individual wins for Will Ward (U13 Breaststroke), Lewis Glasspole (U12 Freestyle), Louis Millington (U12 Breaststroke), Finn Slattery (U13 Butterfly), Charlie Goriup (U12 Freestyle), Freddie Benians (U12 Butterfly), Oliver Randall (U12 Backstroke), as well as wins in the four

relays. The U13s and U12s went on to win the London Schools trophy.

U18s Marlon Gasparotto, Joe Choong, Sam Curry, Freddie Biggs and Kunmi Ogunfeibo won the Eight Schools' Invitation Gala in March. They competed again the following day in the U18 Bath Cup and Otter Medley Competition, held at Crystal Palace. Gasparotto, Choong, Curry and Biggs achieved silver in the 4x100m Freestyle at the Bath Cup, an impressive feat with over 60 schools competing. Kunmi Ogunfeibo joined the team for the Otter Medley and Whitgift again reached the podium with a bronze in the final. Kunmi Ogunfeibo and Freddie Biggs (*pictured, bottom*) were also selected to swim for East England in the Sainsbury's 2012 School Games at the Olympic Park.



U16s for England

Whitgift duo, Henry Cheeseman (*pictured, above*) and Sebastian Adeniran-Olule, represented England in the U16 squad, helping to secure excellent victories against Italy U17s and Wales U16s, in April.

The squad met in London, and, after a training session at Esher Rugby Club, travelled to Parma to face the Italian U17s team, known to be tough opposition. The English XV scored at regular intervals and even though the hosts clawed back some points in extra time, won comfortably, 31-18.

Returning to England, the two Whitgift boys played for England U16s against Wales, a few days later. The Welsh edged ahead 7-3, but England were able to turn the game around and finished with a final score of 39-34, to the delight of the large crowd.



Iceland trip

The Geography Department organised a six-day trip to the 'Land of Fire and Ice' in April. The itinerary included a dip in the famous 'Blue Lagoon', visits to the incredible Skógafoss and Seljalandsfoss waterfalls, beautiful glaciers, columnar basalt rock formations, and mist-shrouded canyons. Other memorable experiences included visiting the breathtaking Jökulsárlón glacial lagoon, where enormous icebergs floated on the glassy, aquamarine-blue water, and watching explosions of boiling water from the famous geyser, Strokkur.



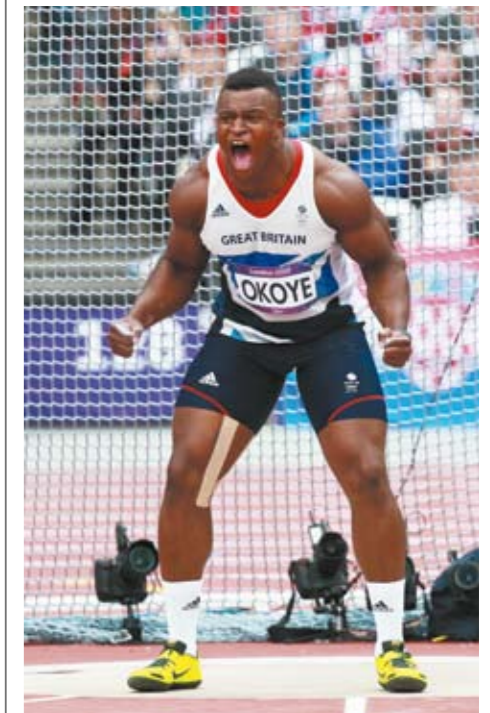


Old Whitgiftian set for future Olympic stardom

Lawrence Okoye became the first British athlete to qualify for an Olympic discus final for nearly 30 years when he was selected to compete for Great Britain in the men's discus final at London 2012. Despite a tense start to the qualifying round, his third throw of 65.28m saw him qualify for the final in fourth place.

Aged only 20, and already U23 European Champion and British record holder, Lawrence was up against the world's most experienced and successful discus athletes - including two-time World Champion, Germany's Robert Harting. Although he did not emerge with a medal, reaching the final after only two years of training was an exceptional achievement.

Lawrence is now setting his sights on the next World Championships and we wish him every success for the future.



CCF Annual General Inspection

On 4 May, Whitgift welcomed General Sir Peter Wall, KCB, CBE, Chief of the General Staff, to inspect the Combined Cadet Force. General Wall is an Old Whitgiftian and last visited in 2004, when he was commanding the 1st Armoured Division in Iraq.

After arriving by helicopter, General Wall inspected the Guard of Honour, under James Margetson (*pictured, below*), and the Corps of Drums, now in their 107th year, under Drum Major Brett Milotte. After observing a variety of CCF activities, including a dramatic platoon attack, General Wall praised the enthusiasm of all the boys, the breadth of activities and the excellent facilities. His parting words were 'Whitgift CCF is fantastic.'



© Stewart Tunlington



Whitgift and London 2012

Whitgift was fully engaged in the London 2012 Olympics, principally through Lawrence Okoye's preparation at the School for his discus competition (see separate article).

A number of staff and boys also had a particularly close involvement. Alex Fraser (*pictured, below*), an Old Whitgiftian, was nominated as a torch bearer, through his involvement with the Lloyds TSB Local Heroes programme which has given him sponsorship over the past two years for his ambitions in Modern Pentathlon. He carried the torch on July 16th in Lancing.

Three weeks later, in the final weekend of the Games, Alex was fortunate enough to be a Games Maker, one of the 70,000 volunteers to help put on the sporting events, based at Greenwich Park for the Modern Pentathlon events. Fellow Old Whitgiftian, Tom Bloomfield, was part of the field-of-play team, and there was a good Whitgift contingent helping to make the Modern Pentathlon a success. Former Whitgift PE teacher and Olympic bronze medallist, Kate Allenby MBE, was the director of fencing at the Copper Box, and the event ended on a high note with Team GB's Samantha Murray gaining the silver medal in the women's event.



Current Whitgift pupil and talented young golfer, Joseph Carmody-Firth (*pictured, above*), was also privileged to carry the Olympic flame in Riverhead, Kent. He has strong ambitions to one day turn pro and his dream is to represent Team GB in Rio 2016.

Keith Smith (*pictured, below*), Whitgift's Head of History and Commanding Officer of the School's CCF contingent, has been heavily involved with the Olympic Games for many years. First selected as a referee by the International Fencing Federation for the Barcelona Olympic Games in 1992, he has since officiated at Atlanta, Sydney, Athens, Beijing and London – where, as the International Governing Body representative, he was responsible for overseeing the team of referees.

Also in July, Whitgift was honoured to welcome back Old Whitgiftian, Steffen Cranmer, who represented Great Britain in the 1952 Helsinki Olympic Games as a one-man shooting team, the youngest entrant at just 17 years of age. He competed in the next two Olympics in Melbourne (1956) and Rome (1960), and won numerous medals at Championship level throughout his shooting career.

Whitgift is proud of the fact that Whitgiftians have competed in each of the three London Games: 1908, 1948 and 2012.



When the going gets tough...

31 Whitgift students and teachers waded chest-deep through icy water, scaled 40-foot-high frames, belly-crawled through tunnels and swung over cargo nets to raise a record £3,000 for the School's charities at the annual Tough Guy Challenge, over a daunting eight-mile course in Perton. Jake Gilkinson was the first student home for Whitgift, finishing 186th out of more than 4,000 competitors.



Flying high

Sixth-Former Mark Collard has been awarded a prestigious RAF Gliding Scholarship. In April, during an intensive five-day training course at RAF Abingdon, he not only won his 'gold wings' but was also selected as one of only three cadets to continue on to Advanced Glider Training.



Whitgift wallabies

In July, as part of Whitgift's developing links with London Zoo, the School was delighted to welcome three wallabies to the Water Gardens. Although the resident birds were initially a little wary of their unusual cohabitants, it didn't take long for the furry creatures to win them over. With two females and one male, we anticipate welcoming some joeys!



Chevalier award for the Headmaster

The Headmaster has been honoured by the French Government by being named a *Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Palmes Academiques*. This prestigious award recognizes Dr Barnett's work in introducing a number of educational and cultural projects at Whitgift, including the creation of bilingual sections, most recently one for French native speakers.

Dr Barnett was also the joint host, with the then French Ambassador, of a major conference, on Bilingual Education, during the French Presidency of the European Union in 2009. The award will be presented at the French Embassy later this year.



Celebration of Whitgift Life

This year's Celebration of Whitgift Life on Friday 6th July marked the end of the Trinity Term and was the perfect event to round off an excellent year which witnessed exceptional attainment in all areas of school life.

Guest of Honour was Mr Tarik O'Regan, Old Whitgiftian and distinguished composer, whose work has garnered two Grammy® nominations, including Best Classical Album, and two British Composer Awards. Tarik's opera, based on Joseph Conrad's novel, *Heart of Darkness*, was premièred at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, in 2011. Whitgift has commissioned an orchestral suite based on *Heart of Darkness* in collaboration with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, for 2012/2013.

The programme of events, interspersing the presentation of prizes, included the Whitgift Brass Ensemble, the Whitgift Jazz Band, a performance from The Producers, the CCF and Corps of Drums, and sports displays.



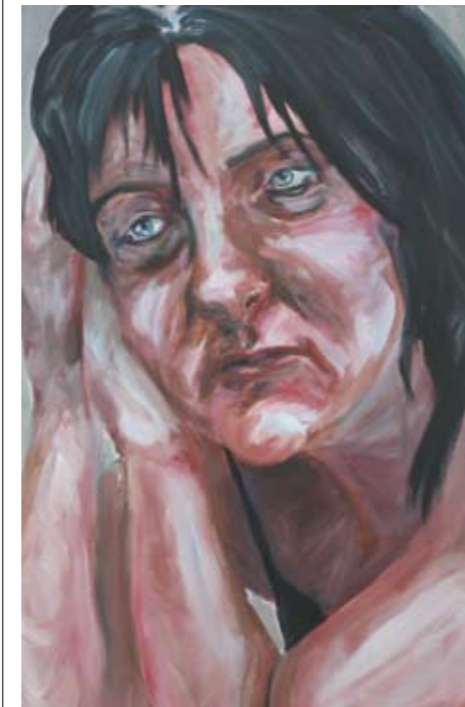
Chess

Yang-Jian Zhou is making an impression in the world of youth chess. In April he gained joint 1st place in both the U12 section of the National Chess Junior Squad Championships and the English Junior Grand Prix table, going on to represent England at the World Schools Individual Chess Championships in Romania.

Both Yang-Jian and his Old Whitgiftian brother, Yang-Fan (pictured, above), were selected to represent England in the 2012 European Youth Chess Championships in Prague.

Private view:

a selection of work from the A Level & GCSE Art Exhibition, held at the end of the Trinity Term, from our talented young artists.





FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**LOWER SIXTH FORM PLAY:
THE INNOCENCE**

Tuesday 16 and Wednesday 17 October,
7.30pm
Big School
FREE admission (by ticket only)

After the resounding success of the student-led Sixth Form play in October 2011, it is with great pleasure that the Drama department announces the return of the event for 2012. With the most successful actors from the GCSE performance taking creative control, this will be an evening of intense theatre, with superb young talent on show, featuring four short pieces of 'shock' theatre.

FAIRFIELD CONCERT

Thursday 22 November, 7.30pm
Fairfield Hall
Tickets: £8, Concessions £4

This concert will include the Whitgift School commission, and world première, of Tarik O'Regan's Chamber Suite from the *Heart of Darkness*, for narrator and chamber orchestra. The music is based on his recent opera and is scored for 14 instruments. Also featuring outstanding performances from the full spectrum of Whitgift's leading ensembles and the massed choirs of the First Form.

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS

Wednesday 12 – Saturday 15 December,
7.30pm
Big School
Tickets: £10, Concessions £5

Combining forces with St Andrew's School, Old Palace and Croydon High, this Upper School production promises to be a stunning piece of theatre. Having taken many forms over the years, including a smash-hit 1986 film version and a stunning Broadway revival in 2003, *Little Shop of Horrors* tells the tale of a hapless florist shop worker who raises a plant that feeds on human flesh and blood. This is the musical that shot Disney

composer, Alan Menken, to fame, with huge hits such as *Suddenly Seymour*, *Somewhere That's Green*, and *Skid Row (Downtown)*.

CAROL SERVICE

Wednesday 19 December 2012, 7.30pm
Croydon Minster
FREE admission (by ticket only)

This beautiful and evocative service marks the end of the Michaelmas Term and is one of the highlights of the choral music calendar. Based on the Nine Lessons and Carols, made famous by the choir of King's College, Cambridge, the service will feature renowned carols and anthems sung by the Whitgift Choristers, Whitgift Chamber Choir and Whitgift Choral Society. It will be held in historic Croydon Minster, the favourite summer residence of our founder Archbishop, John Whitgift.

BOOKING INFORMATION

The Innocence, Little Shop of Horrors, Carol Service

Please visit our school website **www.whitgift.co.uk**, click on the WisePay icon on the homepage and register with our online booking service
Or call our School Office 020 8688 9222

Fairfield Concert

Please book through Fairfield Hall
020 8688 9291

IN MEMORIAM

The school community has been deeply saddened by the tragic death of a young Whitgiftian, Charlie Hutton, in a boating accident while on holiday with family and friends. The many staff and boys who worked alongside Charlie have been devastated by his sudden loss.

A Memorial Service for Charlie gave Whitgift boys, staff and parents the opportunity to pay tribute to the life of a wonderful young student, a highly-talented boy and a leading figure in his year, who was also a gifted hockey player with a bright future beckoning at international level. Charlie's family has had a long association with the School, his father, uncle and two brothers having attended Whitgift; we express our deepest and most sincere condolences.



Front Cover image:

Geddy Stringer (left) and Stuart Nunn (right) in *The Producers*

WHITGIFT Telephone: 020 8688 9222
Haling Park Fax: 020 8760 0682
South Croydon email: office@whitgift.co.uk
CR2 6YT web: www.whitgift.co.uk