



WHITGIFT LIFE

MICHAELMAS 2011

Lighting up the year...



Brilliance in sport, a Royal visit, Beauty and the Beast, Tchaikovsky with the RPO, a new men's discus champion and much more



History Boys

The Whitgift 1st XV wrote themselves into the history books in April by lifting the ERFSSU *Daily Mail/RBS Schools' U18 Cup* for the second consecutive year when they beat Oakham School 45-24. *Daily Mail* columnist, Jim Hooley, ran a headline 'Whitgift retain prized trophy and become ... History Boys', marking this exceptional achievement. This is the most prized trophy in schoolboy rugby and Whitgift became only the fourth school to achieve this double win.

Once again, the whole School, along with staff, parents, Governors and Old Whitgiftians, arrived by the coach-load to cheer the team on a blisteringly hot day at Twickenham Stadium.

Fate had conspired against the team just before the match when freak accidents in training deprived them of England U18 lock, George Merrick, and England U16 captain, Harry Ledger. Nevertheless, the squad, captained by Tom Nicholls, was undeterred with Tom scoring one of Whitgift's five tries.

The contribution of Elliot Daly, England U20 Six Nations Grand Slam winner, selected to start a professional career at Wasps, could not be missed – especially in his pink boots! Daly (centre) was seen as a role model for the rest of the team. His influence was considerable throughout the game and he was involved in all five tries. However, Whitgift's Director of Rugby, Mr Chris Wilkins, was keen to emphasise that individuals were not the main focus as the superb win was due to a huge team effort. This was Whitgift's fifth National Final at Twickenham and preparations are already underway for another win next year!

Following on from the success at Twickenham and other notable victories during the season, Whitgift was chosen as *Rugby World* magazine's schools rugby Team of the Month for April.







Hockey Champions

After the historic National Indoor Hockey U16 and U18 double, Whitgift's hockey teams had the best-ever outdoor season, reaching three National Finals and winning two. The U11, U13, U14, U15 and U18 teams all claimed county titles, with the U12s and U16s securing the runners-up spot. The U13s, U14s and U18s then successfully qualified for the National Finals by becoming divisional champions. The U14s took control of the National competition at Cannock Hockey Club where they beat Rossall, Repton, Ipswich and then Chigwell in the Final with 15 goals and none against, along with only one penalty corner conceded in four matches. The U13s reached the National Final for the fifth time in the past seven years and lifted the National Title beating Exeter School 3-0.

Individual success has also been outstanding, with many players performing at the very highest level. Six players are regularly selected for mens' national teams with Luke Taylor playing for East Grinstead, reputed to be one of the best teams in Europe.

National individual honours have been as impressive, Peter Ellis-Philipps and Jonty Griffiths being selected for England U16, with the latter as captain. At U18 level, Rob Farrington and Luke Taylor have both played for England, Taylor scoring a hat-trick against Spain which led to his selection for the U21 England team. With such an extraordinary catalogue of National achievements, Whitgift can comfortably claim to be the leading school for hockey in the country at present.

Following on from their National Indoor Title in January, the School 1st X1 also had a fantastic season. Undefeated in all the eight games in the run-up to the National Outdoor Finals in Cannock including an impressive 4-0 win against Oakham School in the Varsity match curtain raiser, the team were very unlucky to lose on sudden death penalty flicks in the Final against Cranleigh.







Royal Visit

Whitgift's Patron, HRH The Duke of York, KG, visited the School on 23 March. He met a range of staff and boys during his tour of the School, which included the Sports and Conference Centre, Design Technology department and a Japanese lesson in the Raeburn Library. His Royal Highness also chatted to pupils from Howard Primary who were participating in Whitgift's unique Primary Schools Project which this year celebrates its tenth anniversary.

The Duke's private secretary, Alastair Watson, wrote:

'From what His Royal Highness saw, it is clear that Whitgift is going from strength to strength, not only with the ever-growing success in sport, which is superlative, but also in the strength across the whole School in terms of academics, pastoral care and the numerous initiatives that are being, or have been, put in place.'







Cadogan Hall

Whitgift has embarked on a new programme of major concerts with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra (RPO) with a concert at Cadogan Hall, one of London's major venues. Whitgift musicians first appeared with the RPO in 2000, at the Royal Albert Hall as part of the celebrations marking the 400th Anniversary of the Opening of Whitgift School.

The Cadogan Hall concert was conducted by Whitgift's Director of Orchestral Music, Mr Philip Winter, and the RPO's musicians joined forces with the Whitgift Chamber Orchestra. The concert opened with a spectacular

fanfare conducted by Whitgift's Director of Brass, Miss Lorraine Temple. The evening also saw the London debut of Whitgift's outstanding Moldovan violinist, Grig Cuciuc, who played Tchaikovsky's *Violin Concerto* superbly. Handel's *Zadok The Priest* and Dvorak's *Symphony No 8*, were also performed.

Plans are underway to develop, with the RPO, a number of initiatives including masterclasses, the commissioning of new compositions and a wide range of other projects; these initiatives will bring gifted young orchestral players and singers together with professional musicians.

Whitgift's outstanding Moldovan violinist, Grig Cuciuc





Summer Classics

After the success of the inaugural concert at Cadogan Hall on 14 March, the 'Mozart Summer Classics Concert' was the second occasion on which musicians from the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra (RPO) and the Whitgift Chamber Orchestra (WCO) performed together. The concert was the result of a one-day course by six members of the RPO in which the players coached the members of the WCO in the three chamber works, Mozart – *Oboe Quartet*, Beethoven – *Septet in E flat* and Mahler – *Piano Quartet*. *Symphony Number 40 in G minor* by Mozart, conducted by Director of Orchestral Music, Mr Phillip Winter, concluded the concert.



© Mark Shearman

Lawrence Okoye

Lawrence Okoye, who left Whitgift in 2010, has shot to fame with his outstanding achievements this summer. He broke the British men's discus record with a 67.63 metres throw at Barnet Copthall Stadium, the world's longest-ever discus throw by a teenager. In July, he was crowned European U23 discus champion in Ostrava, in the Czech Republic.

Lawrence, who has deferred his place to read law at St Peter's, Oxford, only began training full-time in the discus last September. He regularly trains at Whitgift.

Lawrence is tipped to become the medal surprise of Team GB at the 2012 Olympics.

Two other Whitgift pupils who hit the headlines over the summer were Stefan Amokwandoh (pictured right), who took triple jump junior gold in the English Schools Championships and Farren Morgan, who finished fourth in the U19 400 metres with a season's best of 48.47 seconds.



© Mark Shearman



On the ball

Whitgift football teams have had a brilliant year. It was double delight for the School when the U13 and U15 sides lifted their respective Rensburg Sheppards ISFA National Cups at Burton Albion's Pirelli Stadium in March, the first time one school has won both National Championships.

The U12s, holders of the ESFA *Danone* Nations Cup, put up a good performance against Liverpool's Cardinal Heenan Sports College to defend their title but could not avoid a 4-1 defeat. The National Cup Final was played at Craven Cottage, Fulham Football Club's renowned arena.





U13 National Cricket Champions

Whitgift's U13 cricketers completed an excellent season by beating The King's School, Grantham by 10 wickets with a faster run rate in the ESCA David English Bunbury National Cricket Cup Final in July at Oakham School. Asked to field at the Leicestershire ground, Whitgift soon tied King's down, restricting them to just 27 off the first ten overs. After a tight opening spell from Ryan Patel and Ashwyn Gomes, wickets soon began to fall with spinners Bradley Erasmus, 2 for 14, and Man of the Match, Nathan Baxter, 4 for 17, taking control of the game. Eventually two sharp run outs and Patel's pace saw King's slump to 83 all out.

Whitgift went to work quickly after the lunch break with openers Erasmus (22), who won the All-rounder of the Match award, and Kiran Beri (26), scoring 63 off the first 12 overs before rain brought the game to a premature end with Whitgift winning their sixth U13 National Cricket Title since 1998.

Sibley the best

Dominic Sibley broke numerous English Schools cricket records this summer when he collected five trophies in the U15 ESCA Festival in Monmouth. The roll of honour saw Dominic earn The David English Bunbury Scholarship for 'Best Batsman', The Bentley Motors Trophy for 'The Best Individual Innings', The Gray Nicholls Trophy for 'The Highest Runs in the Tournament', The Brit Insurance Trophy for 'The Best Performance at the SWALEC Stadium' and The Slazenger Trophy for 'The Best Batsman'.

Dominic then went on to play for his club, Ashtead, in the Surrey Premiersip and scored a record 200 against Weybridge. In addition, another double hundred was notched-up when he played for Surrey U17 in the ECB Cup semi-final.

Dominic has now been selected for the England Development Programme at Loughborough.





Six medal haul

Yet another spectacular season for Modern Pentathlon brought 13 National Titles for Whitgift boys, with many going on to represent Great Britain, winning six European medals at the major internationals.

Whitgift's reigning European champion, Joseph Choong, along with Marlon Gasparotto, were two of the five strong contingent selected to represent Great Britain in the U16 European Modern Triathlon Championships in Hungary, with Choong collecting the bronze medal and Great Britain the team bronze.

Sixth formers, Sam Curry, Tom Lees and Alex Fraser, were all selected for the U18 European Modern Tetrathlon Championships in Hungary, with the team gaining the silver medal.

U18 British number one, Joseph Choong, also flew the Whitgift flag at the U18 World Championships in Turkey, climbing to fourth place, just outside the medals.



Bronze medal team winners, Marlon Gasparotto (left) and Joseph Choong (right), U16 Modern Triathlon Championships in Hungary

Whitgift Rugby Tour to Australia

In July, the U18s flew to Perth for a three-week development tour of Australia. Training sessions were interspersed with five matches. The first fixture was against Hale which saw a narrow 29-24 defeat. A flight to Alice Springs and the opportunity to visit Ayres Rock followed before heading to Sydney for matches against Endeavour School and Westfield High School in Parramatta, previous winners of the Sanix World Rugby Youth Invitational Tournament. Westfield were extremely physical and powerful, however, the Whitgift side enjoyed a well-deserved 30-5 victory.

Matches in Brisbane followed against The Southport School and Nudgee College, the famous Queensland Rugby School and the team were looking forward to running out onto the famous Ross Oval.

The tour offered a great opportunity for development ahead of the new season.





Beauty and the Beast

As the Trinity Term drew to a close, Whitgift was proud to present a musical based on the traditional Walt Disney fairy tale, *Beauty and the Beast*.

The audience relived all the romance and magic of the classic Disney film and the love story of Belle and the Beast, with a cast of pupils from Whitgift, St Andrew's and Croydon High. Katie Tomsett brought Belle beautifully to life with confident vocal skills and was matched perfectly by her captor, Beast, played by a masterful Geddy Stringer. Sam Herman-Wilson made a fine contribution as Belle's father, Maurice, and Daniel Alsoof made much of



Lefou's comic lines. The three Silly Girls, Joe D'Angelo, Jed Kelly and Will Tomsett, (pictured top left) wore ridiculous wigs and stiletto heels. Excellent performances were also given by Disney character favourites such as Gaston (Elliot Foster) and Lumière (Tom Simpson).

A talented cast, complemented by a superb chorus and orchestra, ensured a full house at all of the performances.





The Fonz

American actor, director, producer and author, Henry Winkler, OBE, met staff and pupils during a visit to Whitgift in June. He is famous for his role as The Fonz in the 1970s sitcom *Happy Days*.

Members of the Lower School were joined by Howard Primary. Winkler talked to pupils about his own life experiences and introduced them to his *Hank Zipzer* stories, reading passages about the world's greatest underachiever. Winkler encouraged his audience telling them 'we all have greatness inside of us'.



(Above)
Jack Blurton, Prefect,
with Henry Winkler, OBE



On Yer Bike

In May, three members of the Whitgift teaching staff, (Lloyd Beecham, Ian Hanley and Andy Sims) and Lloyd's brother, Craig, set off by bike on a gruelling mission to raise money for the cancer research charity, *Everyman*. The first ride was to cycle the widest part of the UK, the "Coast to Coast" from Lowestoft to St David's Bay in Wales, covering some 400 miles. In July, the foursome cycled "South to North" from Land's End to John O'Groats, taking eleven days and averaging somewhere close to 90 miles on each day.

The bikers still have to hit their target of £5,000 in sponsorship; visit www.justgiving.com/foursorecorners.



Exam success

Once again, Whitgift students celebrated impressive results in public examinations this summer. In the International Baccalaureate, Whitgift achieved the best-ever average points score per diploma candidate. Edmund De Souza gained the maximum 45 points with more than half of the cohort securing 40



points plus. At A Level and GCSE, it was a bumper year with very high percentages of top grades. This ensured that nearly all pupils have their first choice university places.

Two boys who stood out from the crowd were twins, Ramsey and Thomas Lawrence (pictured left), who performed outstandingly with 20 A*s between them.



Celebration of Whitgift Life



The Trinity Term ended on Wednesday, 6 July with the Celebration of Whitgift Life. This was a perfect event to round-off an academic year which witnessed exceptional attainment in all areas of school life.

Guest of Honour was the outstanding Old Whitgiftian sportsman, Mr Raman Subba Row, CBE. Mr Subba Row played cricket for Whitgift, Cambridge University, Surrey, Northamptonshire and England. He had a distinguished Test career, and then went on to become Chairman of the Test and County Cricket Board and a Test Match Referee.

The programme of events included the Whitgift Brass Ensemble, with the presentation of prizes interspersed with a performance from *Beauty and the Beast*, musical pieces and sports demonstrations.



CCF Annual General Inspection

The Annual General Inspection for the CCF took place on Friday, 5 May with Old Whitgiftian, Lieutenant Colonel Jonathan Swift, inspecting. As usual, the event included a superb Guard of Honour, dramatic Platoon Attack and "Beating the Retreat" by The Corps of Drums. Colonel Swift wrote to applaud Whitgift on its remarkable and impressive talent.



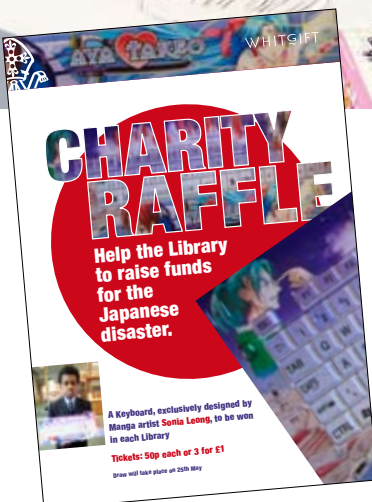
All aboard for charity

During the summer, Whitgift's Director of Music and Performing Arts, Mr Paul Wilson, led a group, including staff and pupils, in a selection of Sea Shanties to entertain passengers on a tram specially decorated for the RNLI.



Library winners

After a visit on World Book Day from Sonia Leong, UK-based professional artist & illustrator specialising in the Anime/Manga style, Whitgift students raised funds for the Japan Earthquake and Tsunami Relief fund. Two collectable keyboards designed and donated by Sonia Leong were the prizes on offer. The draws took place on 25 May and the lucky winners were Alex Huddart and Omar Choudary (pictured below with Mrs Moody, Lower School Librarian).



The Lower School Library runs an annual *Design a Bookmark* competition which follows a given theme. The winner of the competition has his entry made into a thousand bookmarks professionally. The winning entry (pictured left) on the theme 'Science' was by Finn Slattery.



Now pay attention...

In June, Whitgift's Sports Centre underwent a transformation to emerge sparkling and radiant for the Sixth Form Leavers Ball.

The 007 *Casino Royale* theme brought sleek tuxedos from the boys and elegant dresses from their guests. The roulette tables provided high-class entertainment throughout the evening and the décor was topped-off by the arrival of an Aston Martin in true James Bond style. An excellent magician mystified and amazed all the guests throughout the evening, even managing to remove the Headmaster's watch!

The evening was a resounding success and a great send-off for this multi-talented year group.



2011



Raise a glass

In July, glasses were raised by staff and former students to mark Dr Barnett's 20th anniversary as Headmaster of Whitgift. Pictured left are Dr & Mrs Barnett supported by their Old Whitgiftian sons Rowan, Nathaniel and Benjamin (left to right) and Benjamin's wife, Alina (front left) a former member of staff.



Having a Ball

The Whitgift School Association (WSA) held their Midsummer Ball in Big School on Saturday, 18 June. Parents enjoyed a superb evening which included a champagne reception to the accompaniment of a string quartet provided by Whitgift pupils, a fine silver service meal, a raffle and a live band, *The Sound Experiment*. Big School was beautifully decorated with a midsummer theme.

The raffle raised over £1,200 for the School's charities.

An extremely enjoyable and sociable evening marked the end of a busy school year.



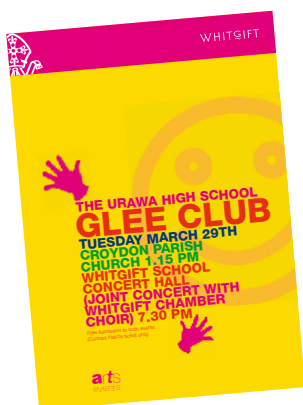
Siegfried Sassoon and the Great War: the making of a war poet

During the Trinity Term, Whitgift welcomed the distinguished former Warden of Radley College and former Chairman, Test and County Cricket Board, Mr Dennis Silk, CBE, who gave an illustrated talk on the life of Siegfried Sassoon, one of the leading poets of the First World War. Mr Silk, who was accompanied by his wife, addressed an audience of parents and students in the Raeburn Library.

Mr Silk was a close friend of the cricket-loving poet, Sassoon, and treated his audience to fascinating, personal insights with selected poetry readings accompanied by images of trench warfare.

Early arrivers in the audience were treated to the Headmaster and Mr Silk reciting 'The General', in unison and from memory.

Proceeds from the talk went to Mr & Mrs Silk's local childrens charity, *Hop, Skip and Jump*.



Sing it out

At the end of March, Whitgift was delighted to welcome the Urawa Glee Club. The male voice choir, from Urawa High School in Japan, made the journey to Croydon despite the horrendous earthquake which devastated parts of their country. The Glee Club has about fifty voices and they performed

a programme of traditional Japanese songs at Croydon Minster and Whitgift's Concert Hall. The Whitgift Chamber Choir collaborated with the Japanese guests in Sullivan's beautiful part song 'The Long Day Closes'. Whitgift is extremely proud of its links with Japan and the continuing partnership agreement with Urawa.

Comedy Night



During the course of the last academic year Whitgift boys, staff and parents raised over £15,000 – a record amount – for Whitgift’s two chosen charities, the *Alice Faith Mittelman Foundation* and *Get Kids Going*. Fundraising highlights included a sell-out comedy night with Harry Hill, two Junior discos in conjunction with Croydon High School, the Prefects Poker Evenings, a spectacular concert and a wonderfully sunny Lower School Charity Day. The School also benefitted from a generous donation from the WSA Summer Ball and sponsorship money raised by the Outdoor Education department as both boys and staff tackled various gruelling races. This year, Whitgift looks forward to supporting the *Tapologo Programme* in South Africa and *Childreach* in Nepal, which will culminate in Sixth Form trips to both countries in October 2012.



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Double National chess champions

During the summer, Whitgift student, Yang-Jian Zhou, became British U11 champion at the British U11 Chess Championships in Sheffield. Following on from this success, he was invited to join the National Chess Junior Squad.

Yang-Jian’s brother, Yang-Fan, again won the British U18 Title in this year’s British Championships held in Sheffield. The tournament was the strongest-ever as almost all the top Grand Masters were playing. In the last round, Yang-Fan drew against British no. 1 and reigning British Champion, Michael Adams.

(Centre)
Yang-Fan Zhou

(Immediate left)
Yang-Jian Zhou



The cast of 'Captain Stirrick' in a rousing rendition of 'Botany Bay' (above)

(Right) Will Tomsett (seated) as Lord Kensington and Stuart Nunn as Percival Simms, engage in witty repartee

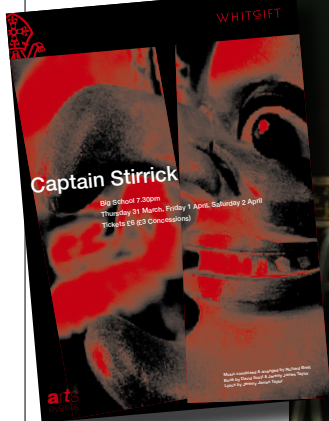


Captain Stirrick

Jeremy James Taylor's *Captain Stirrick* was brought vividly to life by a Whitgift cast supported by girls from St Andrew's and Old Palace. Captain Ned Stirrick, and his infant gang of pick-pockets, plunder and steal in the treacherous conditions of Bartholomew Fair, in 19th Century London.

Douglas Wood shone as Captain Ned and was supported by a menacing array of swindlers and looters.

Moments of tragedy mixed with rousing songs captured the boisterous atmosphere of Bartholomew Fair. The catchy number *Now I Comes Up From Twickenham* was performed with show-stopping fervour, while the reprise of *Roll Up!* had the audience singing and clapping along with delight.







In full swing

Golf at Whitgift is stronger than ever. There are currently four boys with handicaps of 3 or below and trophies have been won both in school competitions and boys' individual Championships.

Whitgift golf captain and Surrey U18 player, Tom Bloxsome, has continued to display great promise since his success in America when representing the GB Independent Schools Golf Association, by winning the Junior Scratch competition at Wentworth and The Carmelite competition at the London Club. The overall winner of the Pied Piper trophy at Wentworth with a net 62 was Joe Carmody-Firth, who previously in the season also won the Surrey Schools U18 and the Surrey U16 Boys Championships. Harvey Byers, who won through to the Junior Boys World Championships in Pinehurst USA, George Mullins and James Beck have also won a large number of senior and junior club Championships and medals this year.

National team success at the Shire Golf Club in the ISGA Championships in June saw Harvey Byers lift the U13 trophy and the Whitgift team win the Junior Team Title.



Tom Bloxsome (left) and Joe Carmody-Firth at Wentworth

Dubai Tour



During the Easter holidays, Whitgift U13 cricketers travelled to Dubai as part of their pre-season preparations and took part in the Emirates School 40 ARCH (ARabian CHallenge) trophy. The boys put in a number of excellent performances, including a victory over the U14 Netherlands' side at the magnificent Sheikh Zayed Stadium, thus ensuring that Whitgift won the inaugural competition. Other successes included wins against Dubai College, the British International School Abu Dhabi and Young Talents Cricket Academy.

Apart from tough matches, the trip also incorporated some time to relax and included trips to Atlantis Water Park and a Desert Safari. The aim of the tour was to ensure that the boys returned well prepared for the challenges of defending their Surrey Cup Title and pushing for National Cup honours which they later won in July at Oakham.



t20's a big hit

Whitgift was delighted to host a National *Friends Life* t20 match which was played, for the first time ever in Croydon, on Monday, 4 July. The clash was between Surrey Lions and Sussex Sharks and the sense of occasion was further enhanced with live coverage from *Sky Sports*.

With this fast scoring, big-hitting version of the game, Whitgift had to put in place extra high fencing and covers for the players who unleashed a barrage of big hits around Haling Park.

Old Whitgiftian, Jason Roy (pictured above, taking a key catch), opened Surrey's innings clubbing the ball in spectacular fashion. Man of the Match, Steven Davies top-scored with an unbeaten 99 off 56 balls as Surrey sealed an important victory and kept alive their hopes of FLt20 quarter-final qualification with an 18-run defeat of Sussex. Clear skies and balmy conditions encouraged spectators to turn out in force filling every available space, taking the crowd to over 5,000.



The Headmaster on North Field with former England cricketers, Raman Subba Row, CBE (OW) (far left), Ted Dexter, CBE (left) and Old Whitgiftians Matt Spriegel (right) and Jason Roy (far right)



Festival time

In May, excellent crowds enjoyed some outstanding cricket during Whitgift's Surrey Cricket Festival on North Field. The four-day LV= County Championship game saw Surrey draw against Essex.

The following day's CB 40 match against Hampshire Royals was another very entertaining, high-scoring game, with Surrey Lions winning after rattling up a massive 311 before The Royals were bowled out for 275.



BOARDING

The Boarding House has now received planning consent and Whitgift is on course for the first boarders to be admitted in September, 2013.

The Boarding House will open up an exciting new chapter for Whitgift by making the School accessible to a wider range of students, including internationally, as well as enhancing in so many different ways the current provision. It will also make Whitgift even more attractive in its existing market for day pupils, through the availability of flexi-boarding.



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

OPEN EVENING

Tuesday, 11 October, 4–8pm

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA/WHITGIFT CHAMBER ORCHESTRA EVENING

Concert Hall
Thursday, 13 October, 7.30pm

SIXTH FORM PLAY: THREE SHORT FARCES (CHEKHOV COLLECTION)

Big School
Tuesday, 18 October/ Wednesday, 19 October, 7.30pm

CHORAL EVENSONG

Southwark Cathedral
Wednesday, 19 October, 5.30pm

COOKERY DEMONSTRATION WITH MICHEL ROUX Jr

Big School
Thursday, 20 October, 7.00pm
Tickets £15 – early booking of tickets strongly advised



AN AUTUMN COLLECTION CONCERT

The Fairfield Halls
Thursday, 24 November, 7.30pm

RPO/WCO VIENNESE EVENING

Big School
Thursday, 1 December, 7.30pm

DR FAUSTUS

Big School
Wednesday, 7 December – Friday, 9 December, 7.30pm

CAROL SERVICE

Croydon Minster
Thursday, 15 December, 7.30pm

ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS

Thursday, 5 January (10+ & 11+) and Monday, 9 January 2012 (12+ & 13+)

**Further Information/Box Office:
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