

# Mind games

Derren Brown made a sentimental return to Whitgift as part of a *Channel 4* documentary on the psychological illusionist's life. Derren was accompanied by the programme's Director, Nigel Walk, also an Old Whitgiftian. *Derren Brown: behind the mischief* began an evening of programmes about the celebrity and included footage of Whitgift.

Known worldwide for his distinctive style of magic, Derren was a pupil at Whitgift

from 1981 to 1989, during which time his mind-bending skills coaxed a number of teachers into giving him top marks.

Having spent several hours filming,
Derren was keen to arrange a further
visit to his old school. A date for lunch
was fixed and Derren and Nigel enjoyed
a nostalgic time with senior staff and
prefects. There was also time to tour the
School and chat to staff who had taught
them.







# Jesus Christ Superstar

The production of the Tim Rice/Andrew Lloyd-Webber musical Jesus Christ Superstar, directed by Mr Lloyd Beecham and conducted by Mr lain McGregor, has been hailed as a major triumph for the School.

The production, with a cast of pupils from six schools and four different year groups, narrated the last week of Jesus's life, beginning with the preparations for the arrival of Christ and his disciples in Jerusalem, and ending with his crucifixion.

Stuart Nunn and Tom Dawkins were superb as Jesus and Judas respectively. Hugo Herman-Wilson impressed as Pilate with Joe D'Angelo an amusing Herod in his one 'show-stealing' scene.

Beautifully staged with superb, colourful lighting, the performances were a magnificent achievement that reflected the highest credit on all those involved.

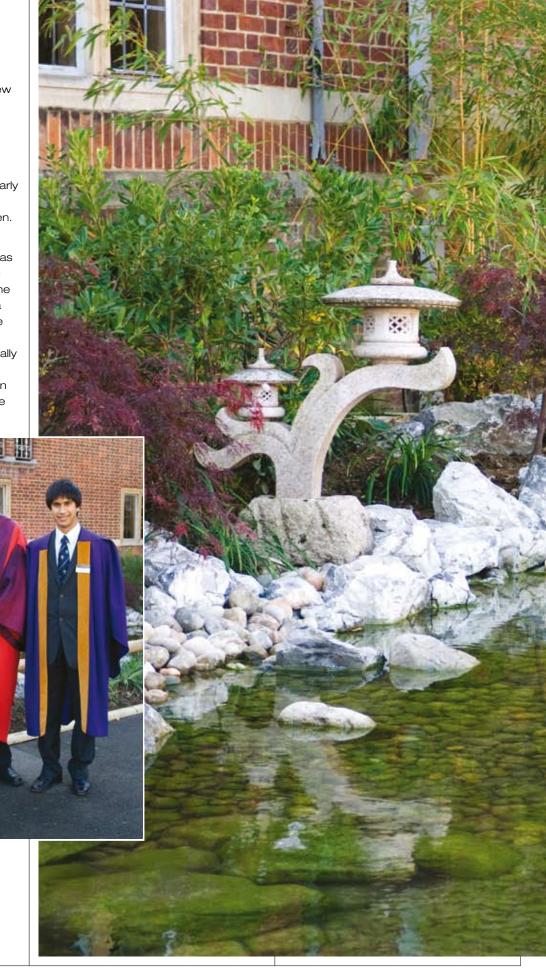




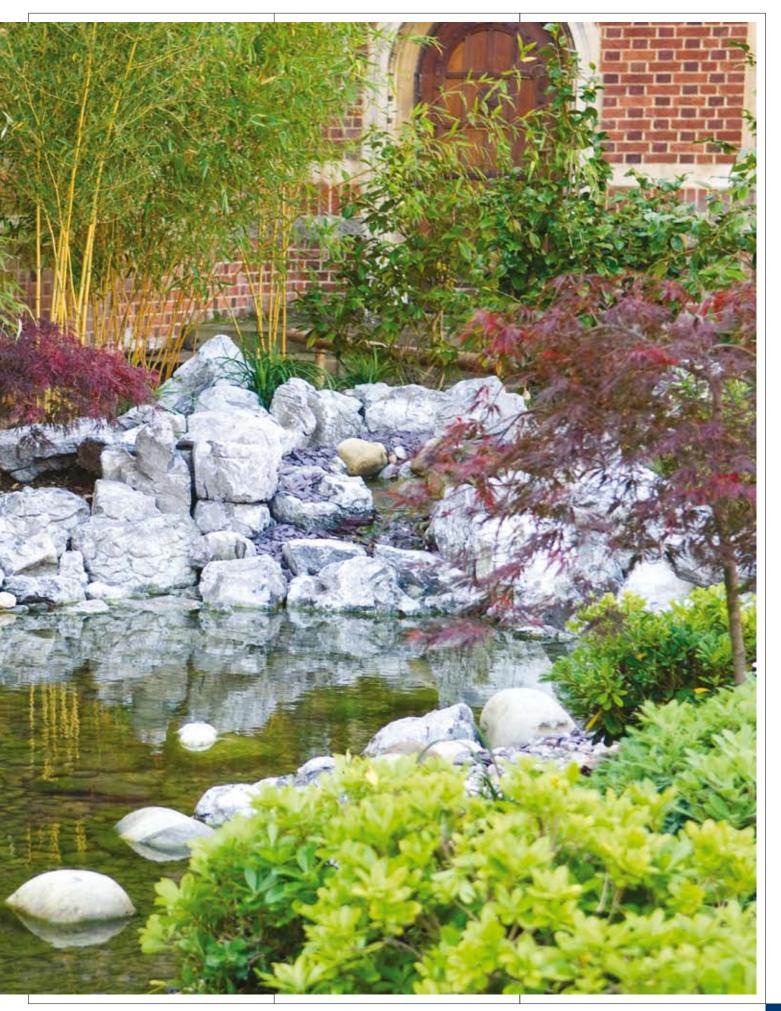
# Turning Japanese

Whitgift's Estates Manager and his team spent the summer holidays completing the extension to the Andrew Quadrangle's Japanese Garden. The two gardens have now intertwined into one impressive landscape and Mr Ken Okaniwa, Director of the Japan Information and Cultural Centre at the Embassy of Japan, visited Whitgift in early October, when the trees were at their most colourful, to open this new garden.

This extension follows the success of the original Japanese Garden which was opened in 2006 by the then Japanese Ambassador, HE Mr Yoshiji Nogami. The new water feature provides home to a selection of carp. There are impressive Japanese trees and plants along with two stone lanterns which are strategically placed, one at the start of the garden and the other overhanging the water, in keeping with the tradition of lighting the way for travellers.



















# **BBC** Big Band

Widely regarded as the UK's leading and most versatile jazz orchestra, the *BBC Big Band* came to Whitgift in December to record *Jazz Line-Up's* Christmas Show, which was broadcast on BBC Radio 3 the following week.

The Band, which consisted of 18 members, was presented by Julian Joseph, and directed by arranger and composer, Barry Forgie. In this special programme, two Whitgift pupils, Douglas Hardman on trombone and Michael Obed at the piano, played a piece specially written for them by Barry Forgie. It was an arrangement of the traditional carol God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen, for which the two boys played the introduction. Giving a confident and flawless performance, and described by the presenter as 'two budding young jazz men', the boys were greeted by rapturous applause from the packed-out Concert Hall.

When the programme was broadcast, Julian Joseph introduced Whitgift as 'a school with a deep tradition for providing great musical experiences for their students, accompanied with excellent facilities for music creation and performance.'









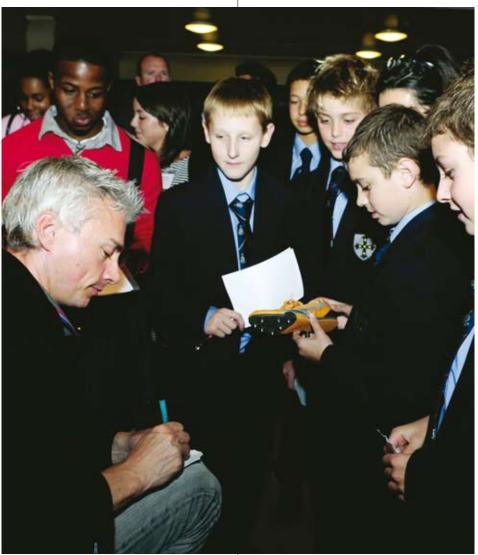


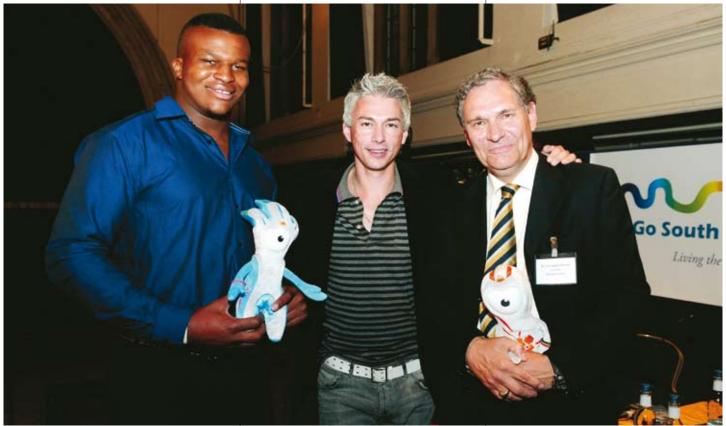
# **Golden Event**

Olympic gold medallist, Jonathan Edwards CBE, found Whitgift the perfect setting to give a motivational speech to business leaders looking to benefit from London 2012. The event was organised by *Go South Go* which is running an Olympics awareness campaign in the capital.

Retired triple-jumper turned TV commentator, Mr Edwards, was clearly impressed as he toured the School's outstanding Sports Centre which played a key role in Whitgift winning approval as a training facility for the 2012 Olympics.

Former Whitgift student and top discus thrower, Lawrence Okoye (pictured below left with Jonathan Edwards and the Headmaster), joined Mr Edwards on the panel, and gave the audience an insight into how Whitgift has brought him to the brink of fulfilling his Olympic dream.







# **Daly News**

Elliot Daly stepped into rugby's big time in November when he became the second youngest player to start a competitive match for Wasps.

A member of Whitgift's *Daily Mail/RBS* Cup-winning side last season, the sixth-former kicked two penalties as the London side beat Exeter Chiefs (for whom Old Whitgiftian, Mark Foster, played on the wing) 29-6 in the LV= Anglo Welsh Cup.

Two replacement appearances against Bath followed, the second of which saw Daly make his Aviva Premiership début in the 11-6 success at the Rec.

Whitgift boasts a long list of talented players who have made a career out of rugby, including former Wasps and England star, Danny Cipriani, and Elliot is set to join them having signed a four-year contract with Wasps.

His talent has not escaped the national selectors either. In September, Daly was picked for the England U20 elite player squad – although still a year under age – and in December scored a try as England U19 beat Ireland U19 31-13 in Dublin.



# On a roll

Holders, Whitgift, moved into the quarter-finals of the *Daily Mail/RBS* U18 Schools' Rugby Cup with a 37-5 win at St Benedict's.

Elliot Daly played a big part in the win, scoring a try and kicking three penalties and two conversions. Chris Crane, James Canty and George Smith also scored tries. In the previous round, even the weather could not halt Whitgift's rampant side who completed a convincing 64-0 win over \$1 Olaye's

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Whitgift began the defense of their title with a 27-3 win over Ravens Wood, followed by a 61-0 home success over Colfe's that brought back memories of last season's free-scoring rugby.

Whitgift are still on course for a Twickenham double after the U15s also reached the quarter-finals eliminating Dulwich College having previously secured a 38-0 win over New Hall (pictured, left). Leading 17-0 at the break, Whitgift withstood some determined attacks from the Essex side before making certain of victory with three late tries.

Showing that Whitgift's attacking brand of rugby runs through both age groups, Whitgift had previously notched up a 62-0 win over Sutton Grammar, a 39-26 win at King's College, Wimbledon, a 61-0 triumph over Ravensbourne and a 12-3 victory over Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School.



# La Dolce Vita

At the start of the Michaelmas Term, the boys in the Lower First were treated to a weeklong stay in Northern Italy. This is proving to be an enormously successful annual 'bonding' initiative, allowing newcomers to get to know each other.

Mr d'Arcy, the Head of First Form, led the trip and was accompanied by members of the teaching staff, including the boys' Form Tutors.

The party enjoyed taking part in a wide range of projects from a base overlooking the spectacular Lake Garda.

The boys visited Verona, Venice, Malcesine and Monte Baldo, and participated in a diverse range of activities. These included mountainwalking, sailing on Lake Garda, visiting the Verona amphitheatre and, of course, savouring local delights such as Italian pizzas and ice-cream!

Full itineraries were planned for each day and boys were encouraged to keep a daily diary of their activities.

The trip was greatly enjoyed by all participants, with many boys describing it as an 'action-packed adventure' and one of the most exciting things they had ever done.





# **Champions!**

Rob Farrington held his nerve in the penalty-flick shoot-out to ensure Whitgift completed a superb and historic double, at the National Schools Indoor Hockey Championships, becoming the first school to win both the U16 and U18 National titles in the same year.

Having already seen the U16 side win their age group title for the third successive year, the U18s completed Whitgift's dominance with a dramatic final success over Cranleigh.

There was little to separate the two sides in a repeat of the Divisional Indoor final. Sam Driver (England U18) gave Whitgift the lead but it took some outstanding saves from goalkeeper, Callum Chaundy, to keep his side in the game after Cranleigh had pulled level.

All square at full-time, the game went to penalty flicks. Harrison Sellers and Matt Laidman both converted for Whitgift and, with Cranleigh missing one of their flicks, it was left to Farrington to place the ball into the bottom right-hand corner to spark jubilant scenes at Whitgift.

The U18s had started their campaign with a 3-1 win over Taunton followed by a convincing 7-1 success over Egglescliffe.

A 3-2 win over Bromsgrove allowed Whitgift the luxury of being able to lose 1-0 to Ipswich and still top their Pool.

A tense semi-final against The Perse saw Whitgift waste a number of good chances before finally going through 2-1.

Hosting the Championships for the first time, Whitgift got the weekend off to a flying start when the U16s beat a strong Millfield outfit 8-1 thanks to some powerful drag flicks from Luke Taylor (England U18).

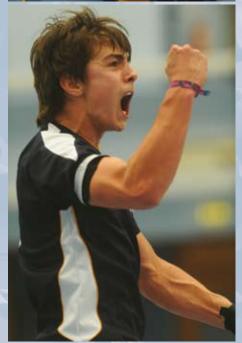
Whitgift dominated their second game beating Egglescliffe 6-0 and a superb team display saw Warwick School beaten 10-0. Jonty Griffiths (England U16) produced some sublime individual skills in the 5-2 victory over Thomas Deacon to put Whitgift into the semi-finals.

Trailing 1-0 to South Dartmoor, Whitgift hit back with two goals in quick succession from Luca Petrozzi (Saxon Tigers U16) and they ran out 5-3 winners.

Whitgift faced a much improved Millfield side in the final but the individual flair of Griffiths and Rhys Smith, and the flicking power of Luke Taylor proved decisive as the holders powered to a 6-2 win.











# **Into Africa**

Whitgift's U12 footballers started off the Michaelmas Term by having the honour of forming the side to represent England in the finals of the Danone 2010 Nations Cup in Pretoria, South Africa. They finished the competition strongly and achieved the best-ever performance by any England side, having qualified for the 45-nation event by winning the National Final of the English Schools Cup, at Chelsea's Stamford Bridge, last summer. The youngsters played some exciting matches which included wins against Bangladesh, Romania, Egypt, Austria and Tunisia. Only a late goal by the United States in a 1-1 draw prevented the Whitgift England side from progressing to the last 10 of the competition. In their final match, the youngsters met Tunisia in the play-off for 17th place in the Orlando Stadium, Soweto, which they won 1-0 in front of a crowd of 30,000. Photographs from the finals show Whitgift's England team in either red shirts/white shorts or white shirts/blue shorts.

It was a unique opportunity for the boys to experience different cultures both on and off the pitch and to integrate with teams with vastly contrasting backgrounds.

As well as attending the Nations Cup finals to support the Whitgift team, the Headmaster led a small group of staff on visits to a number of South Africa's top independent schools, including Hilton College, Michaelhouse, St John's, St Stithian's, Jeppe High School, Bishops Diocesan College and Glenwood High School. There was also a useful visit to the Sharks Rugby Academy. It is very much hoped that the new links formed will lead to many exchange and touring opportunities and Whitgift now looks forward to welcoming the Hilton College golf team in June.













# **Sport Matters**

Whitgift's reputation for sporting excellence was again underlined when Brian Moore, *Telegraph* columnist and former England and British Lions Rugby Union International, declared Whitgift Independent School of the Year at the *Daily Telegraph*-Aviva School Sport Matters Awards.

The Headmaster, along with Whitgift's Director of Sport, Mr Alistair Osborne, and former student and 2012 Olympic hopeful, Lawrence Okoye, joined a host of British sporting greats from a wide array of disciplines at a gala luncheon. This was held at Wembley Stadium in early November when the Award was

presented. It has been a remarkable year for Whitgift, which can boast national team champions in rugby, cricket, football and hockey – a unique achievement in school sport.











# Wilko!

Whitgift's Director of Rugby, Mr Chris Wilkins, has been rewarded for making Whitgift the top rugby school in the country by being named the RFU's Performance Development Coach of the Year.

Having made his name as a back-row forward for Wasps, Wilkins has shown himself to be an outstanding coach and richly deserved the award he received from former England head coach, Brian Ashton, at Loughborough University in January.

Wilkins impressed the judges with his distinctive "player-centered" approach which saw six of his players represent their country during 2010.

Whitgift teams have thrived under his coaching. Last season the 1st XV was named the *Evening Standard* Team of the Month for October, the *Rugby World* Team of the Month for January and the *Evening Standard* Team of the Year 2010, having won the *Daily Mail/RBS* U18 Schools Cup for the first time.

In addition to his success with the School, Wilkins coached the Kent senior side to victory in the County Championship Bill Beaumont Plate last season.





# U14s Hockey Success

Ore Ogunlana was in unbeatable form keeping six clean sheets as hosts, Whitgift, claimed the U14s Indoor Divisional title in November.

The goalkeeper recently attended the HiPAC England Hockey training programme and the extra coaching certainly paid off as Whitgift stormed through the group stages.

Coached by Ryan Ravenscroft, Stuart Litchfield and Seb Carpenter, Whitgift beat Eltham College 3-0, Caterham School 3-0, St Bede's 9-0 and Langley Park 3-0.

Reed's School were beaten 5-0 in the semi-final setting Whitgift up for a final against Trinity.

Rhys Smith claimed two goals and there was one apiece for Samad Suleman and Will Goodall (taking his tally to 13 goals for the tournament) as Whitgift ran out convincing 4-0 winners.



# **FA Youth Cup**

Whitgift fifth-former, Ghassimu Sow (right), was not overawed by the Anfield roar when he stepped out at the famous home of Liverpool Football Club in a Crystal Palace shirt.

Ghassimu has been ever-present for Palace U18s this season and was certainly going to make the most of his side's FA Youth Cup, fourth round, encounter with Liverpool.

He said: "The atmosphere was huge. The Kop was full and the game was televised for Liverpool TV."

Palace held Liverpool to a 1-1 scoreline after 90 minutes only to go down 3-1 after extra time with Ghassimu being substituted during the second period.

The central midfielder will be looking to maintain his impressive form into March, when he is scheduled to play for England U16 against Northern Ireland U16 in a game due to be televised live on *Sky Sports*.



Credit : Neil Everitt - CPFC Picture

Fellow Whitgift fifth-former, Reise Allassani, is also about to make his mark on the international scene having been selected for the Republic of Ireland.

# **Fencing Gold**

Whitgift fencers struck gold for England at the Commonwealth Fencing Games in Melbourne last October.

Maiyuran Ratneswaran (below, second left) showed he had lost none of his sharpness since leaving the School by claiming silver in the senior men's sabre. Now studying medicine at Imperial College, Maiyuran looked in impressive form in the early rounds, but was eventually edged out 15/14 by England team-mate Anthony Crutchett. The former British U17 and U20 champion made up for it in the team event, however, helping England claim gold.

Dudley Tredger, another former pupil and now Head of Economics and Business Studies at Whitgift, won an individual bronze in the men's epée and a team gold when England beat India 45-44.





# Whitgift pupil gets Royal seal of approval

Kairu Wambari-Kairu represented Whitgift and the Cadet Movement in London, acting as the Cadet NCO who was inspected by HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, at the Field of Remembrance, Westminster Abbey.

The Field of Remembrance pays tribute to all the brave servicemen and women who have sacrificed their lives in the British Armed Forces since World War I. This year it was bigger than ever before, with 60,000 crosses planted outside the Abbey.

Kairu, representing all the cadets in the country, had the honour of being presented to Prince Philip.



# Celebrations... and commiserations

At the beginning of November, the Headmaster and a small group of staff and pupils were invited to visit the Royal Navy Flagship and Whitgift-affiliated ship, HMS Ark Royal. Celebrations to mark the ship's Silver Jubilee had already been planned well in advance of any decommissioning decision.

To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the commissioning of HMS Ark Royal, a Ceremonial Divisions was held in the presence of HM The Queen in Portsmouth. Whitgift staff and students from the Naval section of the CCF were presented to Her Majesty.

Sadly, following the Government's recent defence review, the 22,000 tonne vessel has now been decommissioned. This marks the end of an era for the ship and the sad conclusion to Whitgift's relationship with ships bearing the Ark Royal name. Lord Howard of Effingham, Lord High Admiral of the Fleet who commanded the first Ark Royal, lived in the grounds of Haling Park and is believed to have sent one of his sons to Whitgift.







# **Festival Time**

Whitgift will again be hosting Surrey for five days of top county cricket.

The 2011 Surrey Cricket Festival opens with Surrey's LV= County Championship match against Essex from Wednesday, 18 May to Saturday, 21 May, finishing with a Clydesdale Bank 40 clash with Hampshire on the Sunday.

Whitgift is proud that the current Surrey Squad includes four former Whitgift students, Matthew Spriegel, Tom Lancefield, Jason Roy and Rory Burns – a quite exceptional record for one school.

Corporate hospitality opportunities as well as boundary-board advertising will, as usual, be available. Further details may be obtained from Mrs Valerie Baxter in the School Office (tel: 020 8633 9909).

U16 European Modern Triathlon Champion, gold medal winner Joseph Choong

Whitgift boys, Tom Lees (centre), Joseph Choong (right) won bronze in the U16 Modern Triathlon Relay team





# European success

# Modern Triathlon

Joseph Choong was crowned European U16 Modern Triathlon Champion after running, shooting and swimming his way to gold in Bulgaria. It is the first time that a Great Britain competitor has won the title. Joseph came first in the 200m freestyle and achieved a personal best.

Whitgift dominated the U18 Modern Tetrathlon Berlin Cup with Sam Curry taking the title and Jacob Stapleton picking up the bronze medal. Both boys produced strong performances in all disciplines over the two-day event, particularly in the combined run and shoot.





# Your Move...

World Youth Chess Championships 2010

Whitgift sixth-former, Yang-Fan Zhou, was the sole English representative in the U16 section of the WYCC 2010, held in Porto Carras, Greece. There were 140 selected players competing from 75 different countries. Yang-Fan was seeded 21st. The format was an 11-round Swiss tournament held over two weeks. Each game lasted around 4-5 hours (although in one game he played for 6 hours, only to end in a draw!). Finishing with 7/11 Yang-Fan came in 13th place with a good tie-break. He had the toughest pairings, being drawn against the 1st, 3rd, 4th and 5th seeds of the tournament. Of the eleven games, Yang-Fan won five, drew four and lost two.

Waiting for Round 11 to start, Yang-Fan is pictured in the white shirt



# Nico Tjarks - AS Project

During half-term, Nico Tjarks, one of Whitgift's Arkwright Scholars, was invited to exhibit his AS Project at this year's Arkwright Awards Ceremony at the Institution of Engineering & Technology, Savoy Place, London.

One of only six scholars invited to display his work, Nico's project 'A Ski Helmet' which receives snow reports, plays music and can be synchronised to other helmets, outshone all others, attracting much praise from the various sponsors who attended the event.

As a result of the positive reception, Nico has been invited to show his exhibit to third-year Mechanical Engineering students at Imperial College, London, with a view to producing a collaborative, fully-functional prototype.

Nico is also one of a selected number of students from Whitgift whose artwork has been entered into the Saatchi Art for Schools competition.



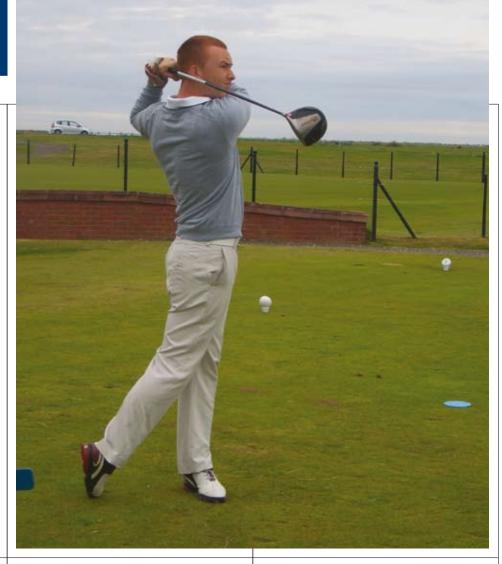
# Tee time

Tom Bloxsome is the latest product of the Whitgift golfing fraternity to win national honours, having been selected to represent Great Britain in the 20th Independent Schools Golf Tour.

A member of the Surrey U16 team last year, Bloxsome is the youngest of eight boys in his age group to be chosen to tour the Eastern Seaboard of the United States next April.

The team will play 19 matches over a three-week period. In addition, Tom has been invited by Terry Casey (father of the PGA Tour's Paul Casey), to participate in the Advanced Apprenticeship in Sporting Excellence. This is an England futures programme and claims to target England's most talented youngsters.

Tom teeing off at Carnoustie last summer when Captaining Purley Downs Golf Club



# OUVBUES TELEU SO BALLES SERVICE SERVIC

# Ski and Snowboard Champions

In December, a team of 17 Whitgift skiers and snowboarders headed for the French Alps for the Inter-School Ski and Snowboard Championships, in the French resort of Les Deux Alpes.

Led by Mr Ben Green, Head of Outdoor Education, the young team braved temperatures of -20 to compete against schools such as Stowe, Ardingly, KCS Wimbledon and Hurstpierpoint.

Excited by the competition ahead, the boys were undeterred by the sub-zero temperatures, producing some excellent performances on the slopes.

Captained by Alastair McWilliam, the team secured some impressive wins. Peter Oswald took the Snowboard Giant Slalom title with Jack Lloyd securing two medals, with a win in the Board-a-Cross competition and a bronze in the team dual slalom.

Pictured left to right, Max Haycock, Robbie Vaile and Chris Markham



# Tapologo Charity Trip

During the October half-term, a group of twenty sixth-formers travelled to the Tapologo Aids Mission in South Africa.

The Tsholofelo community was set up to provide charitable aid and assistance to the impoverished people living in squatter camps and informal settlements near Rustenburg.

The Whitgift boys were able to assist the charity workers by helping to educate local children and adults in the Edward de Bono thinking skills and by transforming a shipping container into a children's crèche.

The boys were left with unforgettable memories of their time in South Africa, from the shocking depravity and poverty of the squatter camps to the smiles on the faces of the young children when they saw their newly-painted crèche for the first time. It was an inspirational and rewarding experience for the boys and for the staff accompanying them.













## VIOLIN RECITAL BY GRIG CUCIUC

Whitgift's outstandingly talented violinist, Grig Cuciuc, gives a solo recital with Romanian pianist, Florian Mitrea.

Concert Hall Monday 31 January, 7.30pm Free Admission (by ticket only)

## **CONCERT & EVENSONG**

St Peter's Church, South Croydon Saturday 12 February, 7.30pm Free Admission

# LENT TERM CONCERT

Concert Hall
Monday 14 February, 7.30pm
Free Admission (by ticket only)

## **INAUGURAL RPO/WCO CONCERT**

The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and the Whitgift Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Philip Winter, join together in celebration of classical masterpieces including Tchaikovsky's *Violin Concerto* with soloist, Grig Cuciuc, Handel's *Zadok The Priest* and Dvorak's *Symphony No 8*.

Cadogan Hall Monday 14 March, 7.30pm Tickets £15/£12/£8 (£7.50/£6/£4 Concessions)

Return travel to London by coach may be available subject to demand

# WHITGIFT CHAMBER CHOIR AND WHITGIFT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

A concert of music by Henry Purcell and Benjamin Britten, including Purcell's 'O sing unto the Lord' and Britten's 'Rejoice in the Lamb'.

Croydon Parish Church Wednesday 23 March, 7.30pm Free Admission

### **CHARITY COMEDY NIGHT**

After the huge success of last year's events, Whitgift will once again play host to some of the UK's finest comedians for the Charity Comedy Night on Friday 25 March in support of our two chosen charities, The Alice Faith Mittelman Foundation and Get Kids Going, We welcome back Dom Holland, Perrier Award-winning comedian, as compère for a celebrity line-up including Addy van der Borgh who has been described as "an unassuming comic genius". We are thrilled to announce four-time Baftawinner and TV presenter, Harry Hill, as our headline act, not only due to his immeasurable talent and eminence in the world of comedy but also because he will be able to visit the home of Peter the Duck, created by Andrew Hunt (Head of Oriental Languages), as featured in the Michaelmas 2010 edition of Whitgift Life.

Big School
Friday 25 March, 7.15pm
Tickets £15 (£12 Concessions)
Not suitable for under 15s

# URAWA GLEE CLUB AND WHITGIFT CHAMBER CHOIR

Joint concert of popular choral music and 'barbershop'.

Concert Hall Tuesday 29 March, 7.30pm Free Admission (by ticket only)

# SCHOOL PLAY: 'CAPTAIN STIRRICK' (Jeremy James Taylor)

Set in London at the beginning of the 19th Century, Captain Stirrick tells the dramatic story of the child-thief, Ned Stirrick, and his infant gang of pick-pockets as they plunder the rich to survive in the harsh conditions of George III's England. The colourful fantasy of the Fantoccinis and

their puppets vividly highlight the taut drama and its inevitable tragic ending. A gripping play with a ballad score which strongly evokes the atmosphere of the London underworld.

# Big School

Thursday 31 March, Friday 1 April, Saturday 2 April, 7.30pm Tickets £6 (£3 Concessions)

# SIEGFRIED SASSOON AND THE GREAT WAR: THE MAKING OF A WAR POET

Mr Dennis Silk, CBE, gives a talk on Siegfried Sassoon, one of the leading poets of the First World War.

Wednesday 4 May, 6.30pm Free Admission (by ticket only)

### **BEAUTY & THE BEAST**

Whitgift is proud to present a musical of the traditional Walt Disney fairy tale, *Beauty & the Beast*. The combination of Mrs Rosanna Whitfield's musical direction teamed with the talents of Mr William Collinson should certainly produce a unique, unmissable event full of magical moments.

# Big School

Thursday 30 June, Friday 1 July, Saturday 2 July, 7.30pm Tickets £10/£6 (£3 Concessions)

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