



# WHITGIFT LIFE

LENT 2013



## International Music Competition Launch

Little Shop of Horrors, Academic Success,  
National Swimming Champions, Fairfield Halls  
Concert, Nepal Trip, and much more...



## Starry Night

On 29th November, Big School was transformed into a performance and dining venue which would have graced the best of London hotels. It played host to an elite guest list of Ambassadors, world-class musicians, high-profile music-industry professionals, journalists and many other distinguished guests of the School.

The event celebrated Whitgift music and marked the launch of Whitgift's inaugural International Music Competition, a competition which will give young string musicians, from the UK and around the world, the opportunity to study at Whitgift on a full boarding scholarship, amongst other special prizes on offer. One A-list guest was Jonathan Gill, Old Whitgiftian and member of boy band, JLS. More commonly known in the industry as 'JB', Jonathan, together with a number

of other notable former Whitgift pupils, returned to the School in support of this exciting new initiative.

The evening commenced with a Champagne Reception in Whitgift's Performing Arts Centre. With a beautifully-lit Founder's Garden and special-effect lighting on the building, the venue really was worthy of the red carpet.

The inspired, six-course dinner was served in Big School, with musical interludes to whet the appetite. Current Whitgift scholar, Tim Posner, set the bar high with his sensational cello performance accompanied by Royal College of Music pianist, Diana Galakhova. Former Whitgift scholar, and current violin student at the Royal College of Music, Grig Cuciuc, took the

spotlight two courses later, performing a mesmerising solo recital.

Half way through the evening, we were delighted to welcome renowned concert pianist, Janina Fialkowska, to the stage, who captivated the audience with a beautiful Chopin trio. The guests were moved by the vigour and passion with which she played. Anthony Strong, tipped as the next British 'jazz superstar', and former Whitgift scholar, rounded off the evening perfectly with some swinging tracks from his jazz trio. What better accompaniment to a bite of delectable British cheese and sumptuous red wine!



The evening's performances pay testament to the exceptionally high standard of music at Whitgift and the talent of our pupils, many of whom were amongst the guests. The whole event, from the company, ambience and décor, to the cuisine and entertainment, was a feast for the senses; an inspiring and memorable occasion for all involved.





WHITGIFT INTERNATIONAL  
MUSIC  
COMPETITION



*The whole event, from the company, ambience and décor, to the cuisine and entertainment, was a feast for the senses*



# Autumn Collection

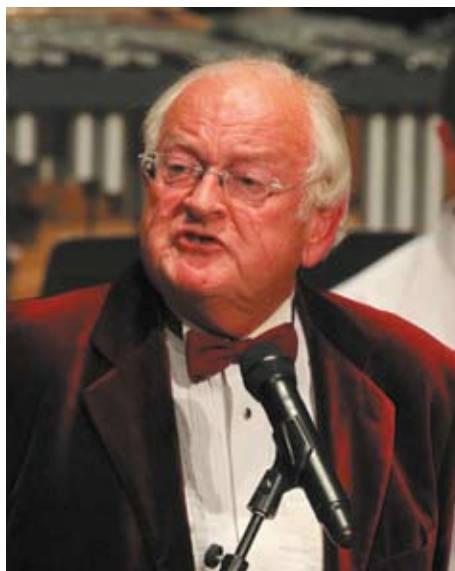
Whitgift's annual November concert at Fairfield Halls reached a new level of distinction this year, with musical variety and ambition like never before.

The Whitgift Brass Band opened the evening in rousing fashion, with short pieces by Howarth and Purcell, and an arrangement of Wagner's *The Ride of the Valkyries*. Sean Dunn, a member of the National Youth Orchestra, and members of the Whitgift Chamber Orchestra, followed this striking introduction with a movement from Mozart's *Violin Concerto No.2 in D major*.

The Whitgift Wind Band offered further evidence of the School's musical versatility, with a hugely-entertaining arrangement of songs by Abba, conducted by Rosanna Whitfield. She returned to conduct her own composition, *The Gift*, featuring the massed choirs of the First Form and Elmhurst School, as well as a huge orchestra; the arrangement was heart-warming and inspiring.

Whitgift Corps of Drums provided their customary, jaw-dropping blend of spectacle and flair.

Further contrast was provided by the world première of Old Whitgiftian, Tarik O'Regan's, Chamber Suite from his opera, *Heart of Darkness*, featuring another distinguished Old Whitgiftian, Pip Burley (pictured, below), as narrator. This 25-minute performance was one of the most impressive ever given at an *Autumn Collection* concert, and conductor, Philip



Winter, and his young forces, deserve congratulations.

The concert concluded with a performance of Pachelbel's *Canon*, featuring an amazingly large number of string players of all ranges of ability, and a movement from Karl Jenkins' *In These Stones Horizons Ring*, written for the opening of the Wales Millennium Centre in Cardiff. A simple, but effective, work, this was probably the first time a Whitgift Choir has sung in Welsh, albeit the one word 'Llwyd' - 'Grey'!

The Music Department is to be congratulated on a remarkable evening.

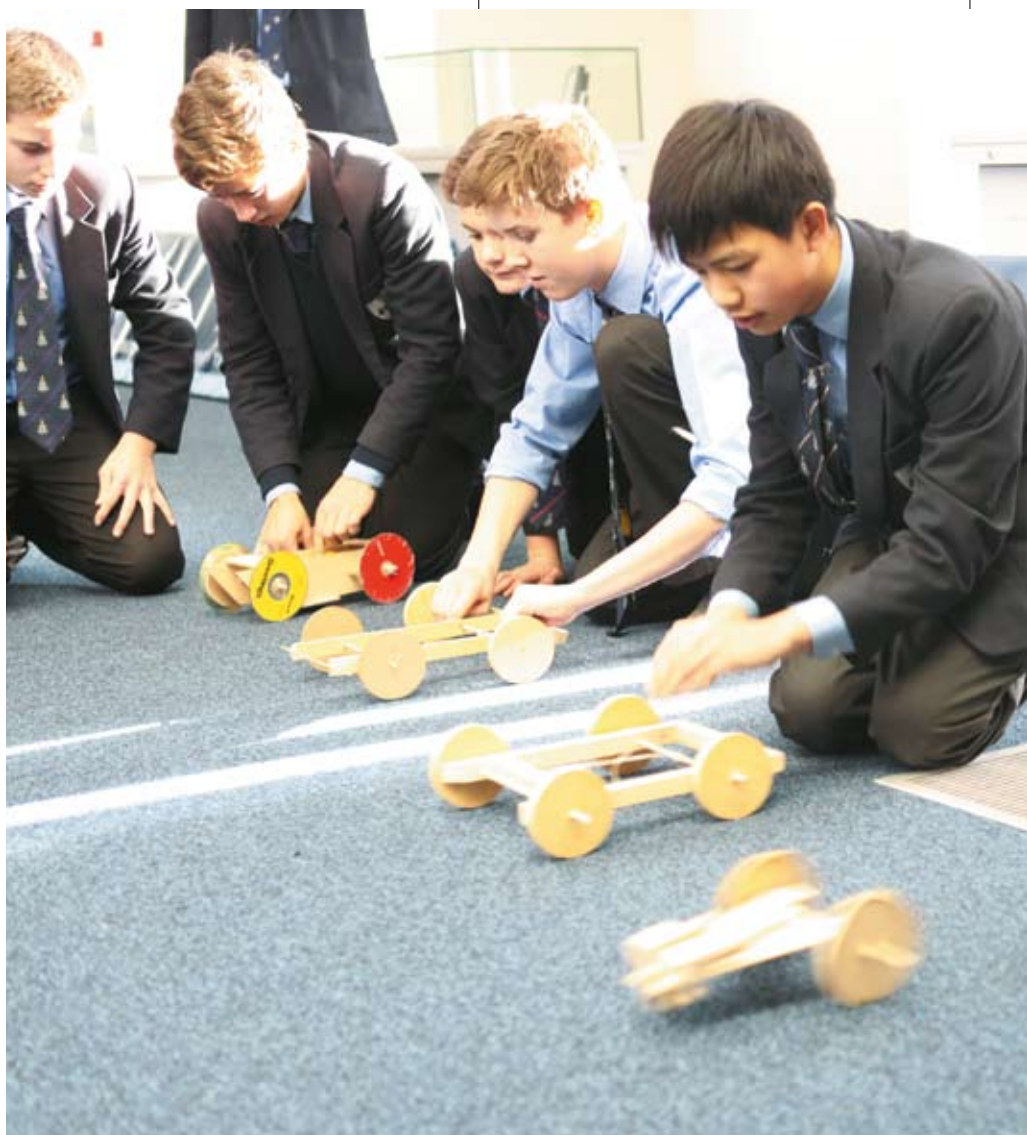




## Project STEM

The School's focus on STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) is being manifested in a number of different ways.

All 189 boys in the Upper Third Form completed, outside lesson time, a project in practical, STEM-related areas. In November, the first half of the cohort presented their work in the Performing Arts Centre. Projects included a development of a new airport terminal building, models for self-powered vehicles, programming and electronics devices, development of a Whitgift Seed Bank, and of STEM lessons that will be delivered to Primary Schools in our Outreach Programme. Nathan Bambroffe, Edward McCrea, Jonathan Choy and Reiss de Meza won certificates for their entry, a self-powered vehicle. The event was extremely popular and enjoyed by the boys from other year groups, and staff, who attended.



## Festival of Chemistry

Four Lower Third Form boys, Akram Yoosoofsah, Marcel Hedman, Matthew Binns and Jed Kelly (*pictured*), attended the Salters' Festival of Chemistry at London South Bank University in May. They demonstrated excellent team work and practical skills during the day, and fully deserved their award of 1st place in the University Challenge competition, which included making a chemical clock go cloudy after exactly two minutes.





## Arkwright Scholars

For 21 years, the Arkwright Scholarship Trust has nurtured future leaders in engineering and related areas of design.

An Arkwright Scholar is viewed as a young person who has attained the very top of the STEM pyramid. Each Scholar gains financial support through their Sixth Form, as well as a work experience placement, visits to, and opportunities in, companies and Universities that support the Scheme.

Whitgift Sixth Formers awarded the prestigious Arkwright Scholarship, in the Michaelmas Term, were Dan Hughman, Raj Sukul, Andrew Brackenbury and Karun Harrar (*pictured, right*).





## Hole-in-one

Young golfers in the South East were given an opportunity to show off their skills as Whitgift organised the Independent Schools Invitational Junior Trophy at Croham Hurst Golf Club. Whitgift won the gross points team competition, calculated on the exact number of shots taken, and Dulwich Prep London won the nett points Stapleford trophy, calculated after handicaps.

'The level of golf was outstanding', said competition organiser and Whitgift School Registrar, Simon Beck, 'The highlight of the day came when 10-year-old Jack Holmwood, of Windlesham Prep in Sussex, bagged his first ever hole-in-one.' Freddie Horler, from Dulwich Prep London, in the nett competition, and George Kemp, from Whitgift, in the gross competition, won the individual awards.

The Golf Academy at Whitgift School, through which all new entrants receive eight, half-hour lessons taught by golf professionals, is clearly creating a solid golfing foundation at the School. In the last 12 months, Whitgift has reached two national golf finals, as well as bolstering the trophy cabinet at the Independent Schools Golf Association Shire competition. A trip to Sun City, South Africa, in the summer, saw Whitgift come 6th out of 32 teams in the ISGA Tournament.



## Golf star

Six Surrey players took part in the Reid Trophy, the English Open U14 Championship. A player has to have a 6 handicap or less to be one of the more than 100 players to compete. Whitgift Year 9 pupil, Harvey Byers (*pictured, below centre*), not only finished the highest-ranked Surrey player, but also kept his composure on the final day to come 3rd, finishing just behind a French and an Italian player, making him the highest-ranked English U13 player in the Championship.





## Squash

Squash at Whitgift has recently taken a giant leap forward. A key reason for this is the arrival of the No.1 ranked U13 player in Europe. James Wyatt (*pictured, right*) joined Whitgift in September, and has already helped both the U15 and U18 boys' teams to qualify for the knockout stages of the National Championships.

James regularly trains at school, and also at Virgin Active, Surrey Health and Rackets Club (the UK's most successful squash club), where he is already making quite a name for himself.

Squash within the School is certainly not limited to just James. Sean Agun (*pictured, below*) is a very talented county-level player who is representing Whitgift at U15 and U18 level. The U18 team, led by Jonathan Wilkinson, also includes the talented Tom Walters and Boris Petri.

The future of squash at Whitgift looks to be extremely exciting.





## Blue is the colour

In August, Old Whitgiftian, Victor Moses, signed for Chelsea FC.

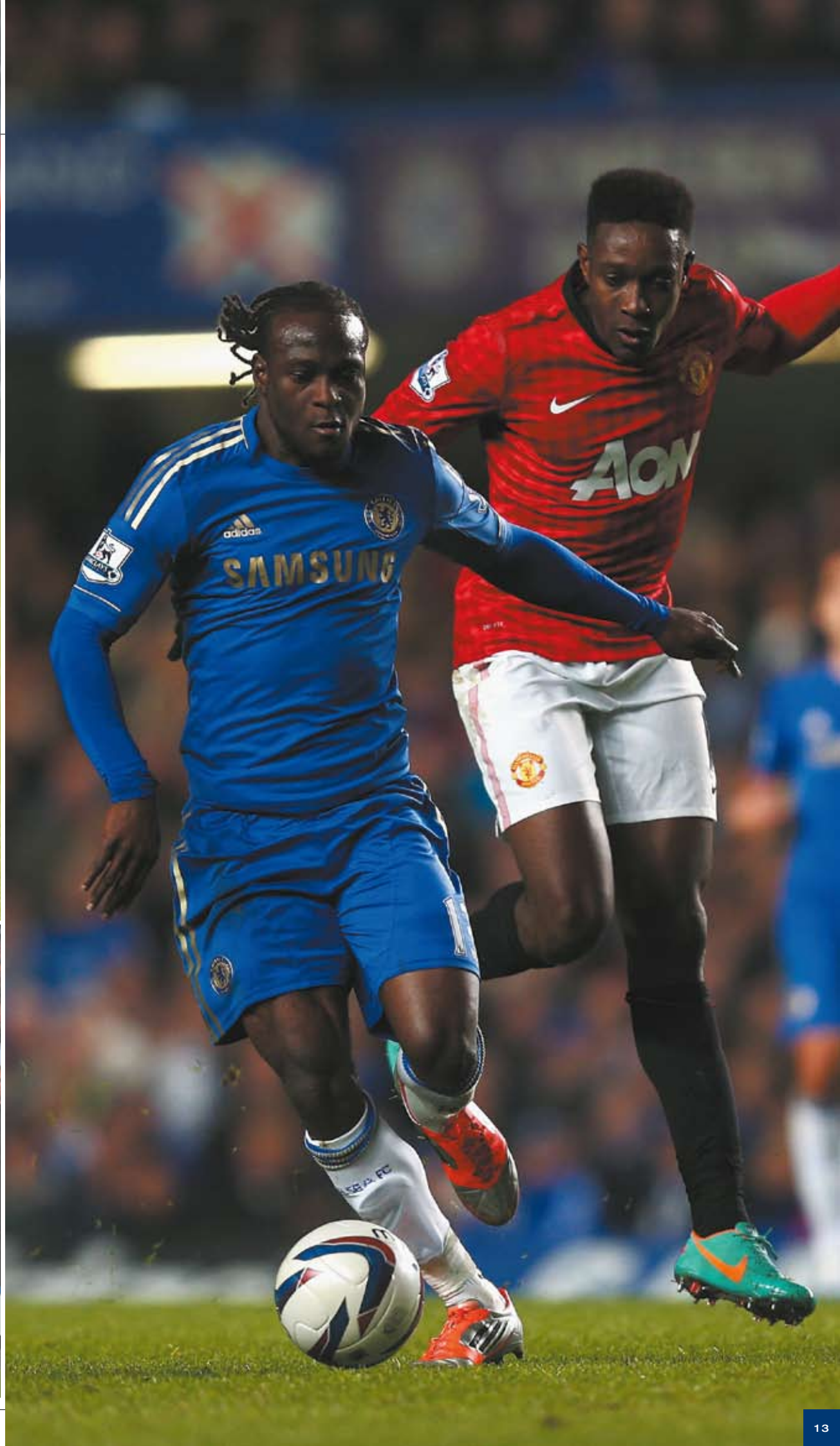
Victor has been making a mark at Chelsea since his arrival, with many strong performances, including a goal in the Champions League win over Shakhtar Donetsk.

Victor's footballing career began when he was scouted by Crystal Palace whilst playing in the local Tandridge League. He was recommended to Whitgift by Palace, so that he could benefit from a Whitgift education and the quality of the facilities and coaching.

In his first year at Whitgift, he helped the U14s win the ESFA National Cup, scoring all five goals in a resounding 5-0 victory.

Whitgift wishes Victor all the best at his new club.







## World success

Tom Lees (*pictured, right*), who graduated from the Whitgift Sixth Form in 2012 and now reads Geography at Oxford University, finished his youth pentathlon career in fine style. With the performance of his life at the World U18 Championships, held in Hungary, he finished in 6th place. Fellow Whitgiftian, Joseph Choong (*pictured, below*), crowned U18 European Champion earlier this year, finished 14th.

With 80 competitors from all over the world, the fencing discipline took a gruelling six hours. Tom Lees found good form throughout the fence to score a creditable 45 victories – his best fence performance at international level to date. Joseph was disappointed to score 37 victories, putting him just below half way in the field. However, he soon bounced back after posting the quickest swim-time of the day, an impressive 2.00.09, to move him into 13th before the final run/shoot, just 44 seconds off the leader. Tom Lees also managed a fast time of 2.05.78, to start in 9th place in the final event, 37 seconds behind the leader.

Both boys put absolutely everything into the final shoot/run discipline and recorded fast times, but just fell short of the podium. Despite this, finishing as the top two athletes in Britain, and top 14 in the world, is an extraordinary achievement and credit to their hard work and commitment to the School programme.

Joseph Choong returned home with a World Championship medal, to add to his collection of victories, winning silver in the mixed pair competition with Eidlih Prise.



## Charlie Hutton Hockey Festival

The new, state-of-the-art, all-weather surface was completed just before the October Half Term, creating yet another buzz around hockey at Whitgift. With eight players selected for the Futures Cup, six for their respective England squads, and three national titles to defend, everything was set for another competitive season, which started in earnest in December with the national indoor campaign, a competition in which Charlie Hutton, our deeply-missed former student, reigned supreme. The U16

indoor team, although ranked favourites in this tournament, undoubtedly missed his creative flair and charisma, though a winning start saw them qualify for the national final in January, undefeated.

On the 15th December, the School hosted a hockey festival to celebrate the life of Charlie Hutton; his presence is missed daily, around the corridors, in the classroom and on the hockey pitch, where he spent so many hours. As a community, the School has paused and reflected on his life, and we have, in doing so, grown closer and stronger, using Charlie's life as an inspiration to us all.

Money raised from the hockey festival went to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.





## Whitgift still delivering in the *Daily Mail*

Whitgift 1st XV and U15 teams are still in the running for this season's *Daily Mail*/RBS Rugby Cups, after some tough encounters during the Michaelmas Term.

The 1st XV, off the back of a good season so far, have reached the 7th round by beating Caterham, Ravenswood, and, in a thrilling 5th round match, local rivals, John Fisher, 33–19. Sussex Downs Sports College then came to Haling Park just before the Christmas break, and ran Whitgift very close with a determined performance, narrowly being edged out 27–23.

Hampton will be Whitgift's next opponents in the New Year, when a home fixture in the 7th round will see two of the form schools lock horns for what should be an epic encounter.

Not to be overshadowed by the senior school side, the U15s have produced some very solid performances to reach the 6th round, where a re-match of the November clash between Whitgift and Dulwich, which the School won 26–17, will result in the winning side taking on St Paul's at home.





## Hellboys (and girls!)

Members of the Sixth Form and the Cross Country team have taken part in a number of adventure races in 2012, culminating in the Tough Guy challenge in January 2013. The first race was 'Hellrunner', an 11-mile race through brutal, testing terrain at an army camp at Longmoor, in Hampshire. The School fielded an impressively large contingent of 35 boys and three staff, all of whom managed to overcome the hills, sandpits, and the 'bog of doom', to complete the course. Ryan Kavanagh was the stand-out performer on the day, finishing the race in 1h 19m, in the top 20, out of a field of more than 1,500.

A few weeks later, a select and hardy group of boys braved the cold to take part in the 'Grim Challenge' cross-country race in Aldershot. Temperatures had been very low overnight, leaving the mud frozen, and the many deep puddles iced over, which added an extra challenge to the 8½ miles of Army tank-testing tracks that served as the course. The boys performed admirably. In a group of over 2000, Ryan Kavanagh placed in the top 30, Jake Gilkinson in the top 60, and Tim Ackland and George Marchbank also achieved good times. Ben Viggars, in particular, deserves praise (and to be reminded to have a little more common sense next time...) for completing the race despite spraining his ankle about one mile in, and Joe Norris for kindly staying with him for the rest of the course.

Two members of Whitgift staff, Sophie Lane and Sarah Richardson, also took part. Sarah did extremely well, finishing as the fourth-fastest woman, and inside the top 100 overall.

## OW on the move

Old Whitgiftian, Matthew Spiegel, is moving from Surrey CCC and has signed a two-year contract with Northants CCC, from September 2012. Matthew has been an integral part of Surrey's T20 and one-day team for the last few seasons, the highlight being hitting the winning runs in the CB40 final at Lords in 2011.

It is hoped the move will see Matthew getting more chances in the longer form of the game, and develop into a leadership role in the future.

Whitgift wishes Matthew all the best with his new club.





# National Champions

Five Whitgift squads travelled to Coventry in November to compete in the ESSA National Relays. Taking on the might of the country in the U14s and U16s, both Medley and Freestyle, and the U18s Freestyle, this was the largest team the School had ever assembled for these championships.

The U16s team of Kunmi Ogunfeibo, Rhys Warner, Freddie Biggs and Henry Choong (*pictured, below*), placed 2nd and 4th in their semi-qualifying rounds, went on to swim two further school records to achieve an incredible double gold, placing first in both the Medley and Freestyle Relays.

This is the first time that Whitgift students have won a national title in an Open English Schools event, and, due to the incredible efforts of all the boys, Whitgift won two, breaking the dominance of Plymouth College and Millfield, who between them have won these titles for the last fourteen years.

The U14s team – Freddie Benians, Finn Slattery, Charlie Goriup and Will Ward –

won incredible back-to-back silvers in their events, narrowly pipped to the gold by Millfield, who had to swim a national record to come out on top.

This success was followed by dominating the Croydon Schools Competition, where the U14s, U15s and U18s together won 17 out of 19 events.





The October Half Term holidays saw a large number of Whitgift boys disperse to various corners of the globe, to enrich their studies and cultural understanding, and to build relationships with our much-valued exchange partners. Charitable work was also high on the agenda, with a life-changing trip to an impoverished area of South Africa. The following articles offer a taste of their experiences.

### Ich bin ein Berliner

40 Upper Fifth Form historians, and four teachers, headed to Berlin. The first focus was on World War II, involving visits to the Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp; the Jewish Holocaust Memorial; the Wannsee Villa, where the Final Solution was planned in 1942; and the Olympic Stadium, constructed for the 1936 Berlin Olympics. The second theme of the visit was Cold War Germany, involving visits to the Stasi Museum, the Stasi Prison and the DDR museum. Other key Berlin landmarks visited included the Brandenburg Gate, the Reichstag Building, 'Checkpoint Charlie' and the remnants of the Berlin Wall, and the famous Fernsehturm (television tower), constructed by the East German government to show the technical achievements of the communist regime. This trip brought to life historical periods studied by the boys as part of their GCSE History course.

### Hola Valencia

30 boys and staff visited Valencia for the Year 10 exchange trip, and enjoyed many activities, including a visit to the historic centre, a tour of the Mestalla football stadium, a cruise around the port, and a trip to the City of Arts and Sciences complex.

### La dolce vita

20 Fifth Form boys visited the cultural hub of Verona for a week-long exchange. Ian Head, one of those who took part, said "The Italian exchange was easily one of the most influential experiences of my life. There is simply no better way to learn a language and fall in love with a culture."





## Bible Stories

15 Fifth and Sixth Formers ventured to the Holy Land, visiting everything from Alpha to the Omega: the site of the Annunciation in Nazareth, and of the predicted end of the world, Megiddo, the eventual battleground of Armageddon.

Travelling south to Jericho, the group visited the Old City, which the Bible claims was taken by Joshua with miraculous intervention. Ascending the mountains to the west, they visited an Eastern Orthodox monastery, built to mark the site of Jesus' temptation. At the desert fortress of Masada, the final outpost of the Jewish rebellion against the Romans, traces of the encampments and the massive siege wall were still visible.

That evening, before setting off for Jerusalem, the boys swam in the Dead

Sea. On entering Jerusalem at nightfall, on the beginning of the Sabbath, they found the normally-thriving city deserted of both traffic and people. In Orthodox neighbourhoods, the roads were closed and families walked to synagogue in traditional dress.

Daniel Harkin, Head of Theology and Philosophy, commented, of the Palestine question, "Sometimes it seemed as if this most intractable of conflicts has no possibility of resolution. But sloshing through Hezekiah's Tunnel beneath the Old City, or strolling across the roof of King David's, it is impossible to leave this indomitable land without a deep sense of hope."





## Turning Japanese

Enjoying the clear blue skies and exquisite Autumn foliage which make late October the most appealing time to visit Japan, Head of Languages, Mr Hunt, led an exchange to our partner school in Saitama, just outside Tokyo. This is the 20th year of our relationship with Urawa, one of Japan's most prestigious grammar schools. Japan is famous for its hospitality, and the Whitgift pupils spent a very enjoyable eight days staying with the families of the Urawa pupils. The most memorable part of the trip for the group was marching through the 2000 Urawa pupils who were assembled for our welcome ceremony, to the tune of *Land of Hope and Glory*. Other highlights included taking part in lessons at Urawa, learning the art of Judo, visiting Nikko – a World Heritage site famed for its beautiful waterfalls and ancient shrines – sightseeing in downtown Tokyo, and a trip to the Studio Ghibli museum. All of the Fifth and Sixth Form boys on the trip are now confirmed Japanophiles and can't wait to go back.





## Into Africa

23 Whitgift Sixth Form pupils experienced a life-changing, 12-day charity trip to Rustenburg, South Africa, during October Half Term. The boys were hosted at Tapologo, an HIV outreach centre and hospice, which provides crucial support to the local area through medical treatment, education and services. The group was joined by a party of boys and girls from Stanford Lake College in the Limpopo Province. Hosts, Brother Joseph and Sister Georgina, have been working at the Catholic mission for 33 years, and provided fantastic insight and access to the local communities.

One area of focus for the trip was to visit schools, church groups and adult education centres, so that the Whitgift pupils could teach the Six Thinking Hat de Bono skills. The pupils represented themselves and the School superbly in this role, and there was even evidence of some possible future teachers in the ranks.

The other main aim of the trip was to try to make a difference for children and families based in squatter camps in the Rustenburg area. The students spent a number of days working in the 'Siza' settlement, cleaning and painting shipping containers for conversion into a crèche and classroom.

Through charity fundraising at Whitgift, a donation of £5,650 was made to help with various community initiatives; many of the pupils are already planning ways to return in the future.





## On top of the world

After nearly two years of preparation, and a huge fundraising effort, 53 boys and eight staff set off, during the Michaelmas Half Term, on a trip of a lifetime to Nepal. In this joint Duke of Edinburgh and charities venture, boys were aiming to experience the beauty of the Himalayas, whilst also giving back to the local communities in which they would be housed.

After a fun night in the capital, Kathmandu, the first full day was spent on an eight-hour bus journey through the foothills between Kathmandu and the final destination, Birethanti. An acclimatisation day followed, which allowed the boys to prepare for the arduous expedition, as well as absorbing some of the local culture.

The next day, the boys embarked on their unaccompanied, four-day expedition around the majestic 8000m of Annapurna. A particular highlight was ascending Poon Hill at dawn, to see the sunrise across the backdrop of the Himalayas.

The boys began their residential project the following day. Based in three isolated local schools in significant need of help, they set to work on several projects aimed at improving the everyday lives of the students and teachers. During five fun, but arduous, days, the boys rebuilt a collapsed stone wall, levelled and prepared a coffee plantation, built a dam to help irrigate local farmers' fields, and laid 2.5km of pipes from a mountain-top water-source to bring freshwater to one of the schools for the first time ever. The boys also taught lessons in the schools and joined in with harvesting and ploughing the land.

The locals referred to the boys as 'the British Army' and they certainly left a very positive impression on the local communities in which they stayed. On the last day, the boys thanked their Sherpas for their kindness, hospitality, and the fantastic Nepalese food they had prepared for the duration of the trip. With amazing memories sure to last a lifetime, they headed back to Kathmandu, where they spent one final night before leaving for England.





## Little Shop of Horrors

Never one to shy away from a challenge, Director of Drama, Lloyd Beecham, chose a cult classic to showcase in the Michaelmas Term. *Little Shop of Horrors* has an impressive pedigree, with the likes of a young Jack Nicholson starring in the 1960 movie, Rick Moranis in the popular 1986 film and a critically-acclaimed Broadway revival in 2003.

The cast of Whitgift boys, and girls from St Andrew's School, Old Palace and Croydon High, managed to pull off this Upper School production with a combination of impeccable comic timing, highly-entertaining musical sketches and a clever use of props.

*Little Shop of Horrors* tells the tale of a hapless florist shop-worker who raises a plant that feeds on human flesh and blood, with tragic consequences. Geddy Stringer, star of previous Whitgift productions, such as *The Producers* and *Beauty and the Beast*, played Seymour, opposite his *Producers* co-star, Katie Tomsett, as Audrey. The pair kept the audience in fits of laughter, alongside Daniel Alsoof, the hilarious Mr Mushnik.

Yvan Bollet-Quivogne did a sterling job bringing the simultaneously creepy and comical plant to life, and Connor Hughes was outstanding as the voice of the plant! Douglas Wood proved a star as the unhinged dentist destined for a gruesome fate. This was a performance not for the faint-hearted.

Drama at Whitgift is thriving as ever and staff, parents and pupils will have a lot to look forward to in 2013 with such a pool of talent at the School.

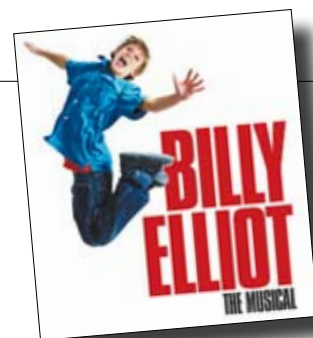






*A performance  
not for the  
faint-hearted ...*





## Hey, Jude

Whitgift First Form student, Jude Willoughby, saw off fierce competition to land a part in the award-winning West End show, *Billy Elliot*. The Year 7 pupil juggled school and 2-3 performances a week. He was selected from around 100 boys, and after less than two week's rehearsal time, made his debut as a friend of the lead character, in May 2012.

The show follows the inspirational story of a young boy's struggle to follow his dream of becoming a dancer, set against the backdrop of tough times in a northern mining town in the 80s. With music by Elton John (*pictured, below, with the cast*), the show regularly receives rave reviews.

Jude, whose last show was on the 6th November, also had to have fight training for some of the scenes. When asked about the highlights of being in the show, he said, 'The relaxed, and often silly, atmosphere backstage, as well as having to think on my feet when the show didn't run smoothly.'

Although only 11 years old, Jude already has a background in television, and has appeared in an ITV children's show, a music video and several adverts. He has also been cast in an upcoming prime-time period drama on ITV.





## The Innocence

After the huge success of last year's student-led, Lower Sixth Form Play, the format was repeated in October, with seven boys creating a brilliant and disturbing evening of theatre. Douglas Wood, directing, put together four pieces based around the interrogation theatre of Barrie Keeffe and Harold Pinter, as well as a devised piece structured by the cast.

The skilful players – Rory Allen, John McGhee, Liam Fernandes, Kieran O'Toole, Douglas Wood, Toby Fisher, Bardeya Firoozkoochi and Jude Willoughby – produced captivating performances, creating an apt air of suspense and unease. Jude Willoughby, who, as a First Form student, executed a seamless, spine-tingling performance alongside the Sixth Formers, and Raj Sukul, who created a wonderful lighting plot for the evening, deserve special mention.





## Topping Out

October saw the completion of the main structure of the £6 million Boarding House, which was marked with a traditional topping out ceremony. Shane Mason, Operations Director of Galliford Try, presented the Headmaster with a silver trowel, following the bedding of the last coping stone.

The Boarding House is due to be completed in March, and will have superb facilities, including junior and senior common rooms, kitchen and social areas, and staff and student accommodation over three floors.





## John Whitgift in Bronze

No one could miss the builders busy at Whitgift, but you may be unaware that a parallel project is underway in the Old Squash Court. Sam Holland has been ensconced there since September, with kilos of clay and a portfolio of reference pictures, sculpting a range of figures in preparation for a 7'6" statue of John Whitgift to mark the opening of Founder's House, the new Boarding House. The bronze figure is scaled to 'life and a quarter' size, and is planned to, as Sam says, 'bring history together with the new building'.

She graduated from City and Guilds of London School of Art in 1991, and specialises in large, outdoor bronze and stainless steel figures, and previous work includes commissions for prestigious organisations such as the RNLI and Aston Villa Football Club.

Having a professional artist in residence is a unique benefit to the Art curriculum at the School, as classes and individuals are free to drop by and ask questions, or simply observe Sam at work. It is inspiring for students to see the project develop, and to witness at first hand, the discipline, hard work and skill involved in creating a piece of art. "It is a hard profession," she admits, but she advises any budding artists that "it's like a marathon, not a sprint. Do it every day. No matter how good you are, you need to keep at it."

We look forward to the completion of what promises to be a magnificent statue to mark the opening of the new Boarding House next year.





## Christmas Joy

The Michaelmas Term was rounded off beautifully by the ever-popular Carol Service, one of the highlights of the choral music calendar, traditionally held in historic Croydon Minster. Based on the *Nine Lessons and Carols*, the service featured renowned anthems and carols sung by the Whitgift Choristers, Whitgift Chamber Choir and Whitgift Choral Society. A guitar quartet created a welcoming ambience for guests as they arrived. Fifth Former, Charles Sladdin, sang a beautiful solo piece, *The Holy Boy*, by John Ireland.





## Perfect Prefects

Our prefect team has had a strong start to the new School year. The young men, whom I have had the pleasure to lead, exhibited their commitment to the Whitgift community on the extremely successful Open Day, earlier this year. Both the Senior and Junior prefects displayed real enthusiasm and passion for the School, whilst highlighting, to our many visitors, the wide variety of opportunity that comes with a Whitgift education. The team embodies exactly what Whitgift is about: balance, aspiration and pride, not just in academia, but in everything available here. These are the values that impress and excite prospective parents.

In terms of the day-to-day running of the School, the prefects have become pillars of strength within the community. It is crucial for any exemplary body to provide role models, by whom they will be inspired. This is perhaps the most important job of the prefect, and something which our team achieves in every aspect of school life, be it discipline, uniform standards, or school spirit.

However, it is vitally important that we keep improving, and striving for excellence in our individual jobs. To achieve this, we are constantly looking for new areas of influence, such as a prefect's mentoring system, which we hope to implement in the Lent Term. Within this system, I would like the prefects to take on a more direct pastoral role, helping younger students who may struggle in a particular area of life. I am immensely proud of the hard work of our prefect team, and look forward to the many challenges, and successes, to come.

*Jonathan McMillan, School Captain*



**FORTHCOMING EVENTS****CHARITY COMEDY NIGHT**

Friday 1 March  
8pm, Big School  
Tickets: £15, Concessions\* £12  
(Suitable for those aged 15 and over)



This year's annual Whitgift Charity Comedy Night will play host to some of the UK's finest comedians, to raise money for local children's hospice,

*Shooting Star CHASE*, and the *RNLI*. Once again, Dom Holland, Perrier award-winning comedian, will be compèring, alongside two yet-to-be confirmed celebrity acts. In previous years, we have welcomed the likes of four-time Bafta-winner, Harry Hill, and this year also promises to be a fantastic night of comedy.

**MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING**

Wednesday 13 – Friday 15 March  
7.30pm, Big School  
FREE admission (by ticket only)

Following last year's atmospheric performance of *Dr Faustus*, Whitgift will stage another classic text, the Bard's comedy, *Much Ado About Nothing*. In collaboration with the Whitgift Jazz Ensemble, Big School will be transformed into a jazz club. Charismatic sailors return from war to celebrate with old friends – or, in the case of the witty, but arrogant, Benedick, his feisty nemesis, Beatrice, arguably Shakespeare's most interesting female lead. Romance, double-crossing and intrigue reveal the dark side of male chivalry, as we see Claudio and Leonato turn on Hero for dishonouring them. Full of fun, but unsettling in equal measure, this joint venture with Old Palace and Croydon High promises to be an outstanding piece of theatre.

**STRICTLY COME BRASSING**

Monday 18 March  
7pm, Big School  
FREE admission (by ticket only)

This evening of spectacular brass-playing will include an eclectic mix of traditional brass classics and exciting arrangements from some of our favourite and most popular composers. The first half of the evening will take the form of an 'X Factor' style competition, with public adjudications from a panel of esteemed professionals and the final vote coming down to the audience members. This event is set to be the highlight of the brass calendar for 2013.

**HEART OF DARKNESS**

Tuesday 26 March  
7.30pm, Big School  
Tickets: £10, Concessions\* £5

This concert brings together the Whitgift Chamber Orchestra and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in their fourth major performance.

The evening's music will include the Whitgift School commission, and world première, of Tarik O'Regan's Orchestral Suite from *Heart of Darkness*, with narration by Pip Burley, following the success of the Chamber Suite performed at Fairfield Halls in November 2012. Gustav Mahler's *Symphony No.4* will complete the concert.

**BOOKING INFORMATION**

Please visit [www.whitgift.co.uk/events](http://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:**

Tim Posner's solo cello performance at the International Music Competition Launch

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