



LIFE

MICHAELMAS2013

**Eyes on
the prize...**



Whitgift International Music Competition, question time with the Prime Minister, Buggy Malone on the big stage, Royal visit, a host of national sporting successes, and much more...



Arkwright Scholar

Upper Sixth Form student, Akshay Garigiparthi, saw his final-year Design Technology project take pride of place at Taplow Court, home of the Soka Gakkai International UK (SGI-UK), a Lay Buddhist society.



Akshay, an Arkwright Scholar, designed and created the 'Lotus of Gratitude', with the aim of encapsulating both the values of the SGI, as well as the fundamental principles of Nichiren Buddhism.

Installed in March, the lotus – which rests neatly on the water's surface and has LEDs that reflect off its petals – has proved a real hit with residents and visitors alike, and Akshay hopes to produce an exact replica to be placed within the School grounds.



Tough Guy

33 boys and 12 staff took part in the annual Tough Guy challenge in Wolverhampton; one of the toughest courses in the country.

Over half the boys finished, whilst all but one of the participating staff completed the course. Jake Gilkinson came 19th out of over 5000 entrants, the highest-placed person of his age by some way. Ryan Kavanagh also performed well, finishing in 152nd place.

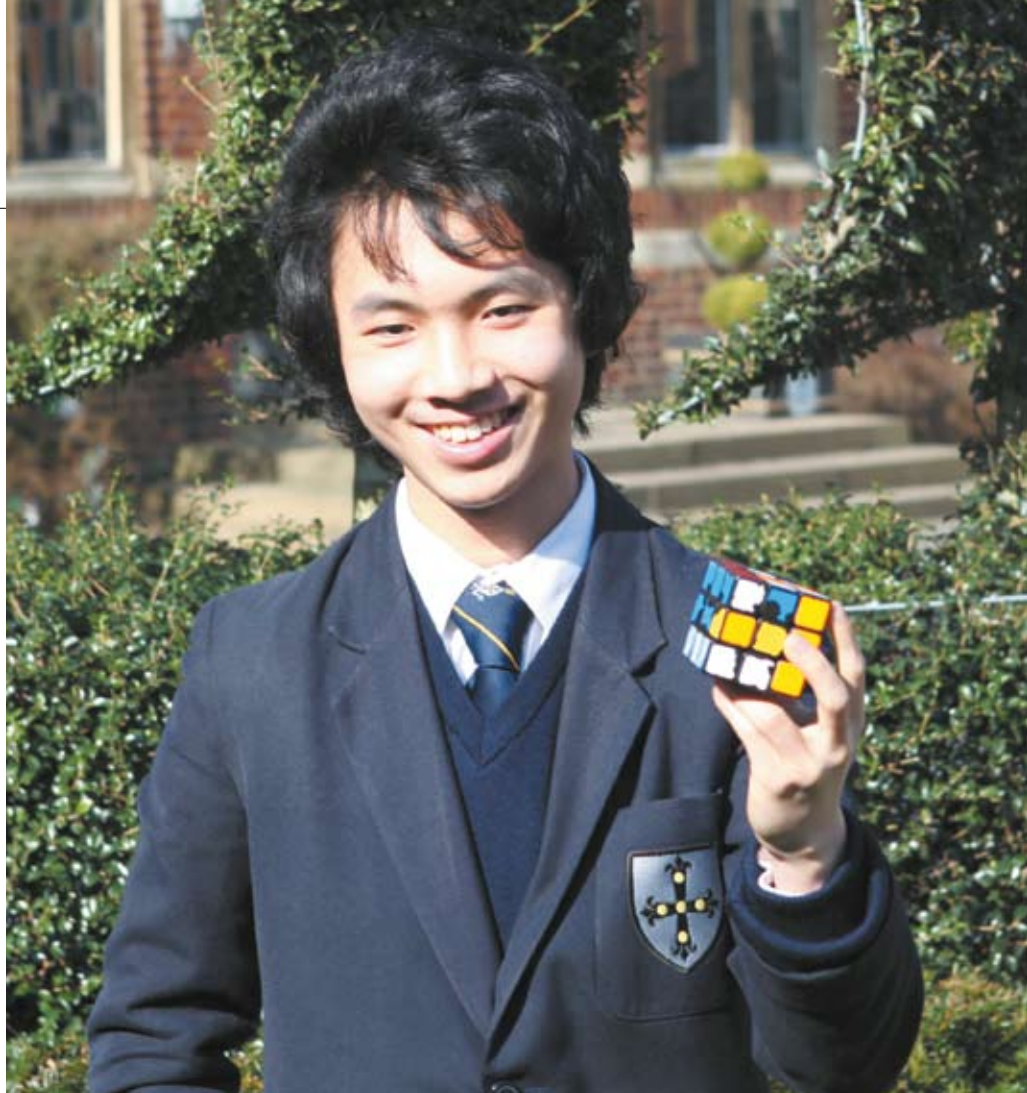
Team organiser, Miss Jude Lowson, said: "It was the toughest day that I'd seen there since the very first time I attended in 2004. I've never seen so many people dropping out of the event, so our boys did brilliantly. In short, it lived up to its billing."

Problem solved - in 6.85 seconds!

Little is known about the world of speedcubing - Rubik's Cube solving - but Fifth Former, Alex Lau, is making a name for himself in this most competitive of arenas, both domestically, and on the global stage.

Alex recorded an outstanding time of 6.85 seconds to solve the cube at the Leicester Open, claiming a new national record in doing so. Having only taken up the pursuit two years ago, Alex also triumphed at the Edinburgh Open in January.

Alex is now ranked No.1 in the UK, No.2 in Europe, and No.3 in the world; a remarkable achievement. The next challenge for Alex is to break the world record of 5.55 seconds, which, going on current form, will only be a matter of time - great work, Alex!



In the club

Whitgift's Journalism Club flourished in the Trinity Term, taking part in BBC News' School Report programme, in which two students - Rahmon Agbaje and David Gordon-Dixon - were lucky enough to interview Prime Minister, David Cameron, and London Olympics chief, Lord Sebastian Coe.

Both boys had the chance to pose a number of questions, with Rahmon wanting to know from the Prime Minister his thoughts on the Olympic legacy programme, and David keen to ask Lord Coe what options there were to get involved, within his local community, post-Games.

The Journalism Club considered a number of other issues, ranging from reviewing the Budget, to assessing the possible consequences of an asteroid collision!

Academic success

At GCSE level, 21 boys achieved the extraordinary feat of a clean sweep of A* grades, with 72 boys gaining all A*/A grades. Overall, over 44% of all entries were graded A*, a new record.

Breadth is still a key feature of the Whitgift curriculum at this level, with boys gaining an average of over 10 GCSEs. For the first time, well over half the qualifications achieved were in international GCSEs, which in many subjects are more rigorous.

Top grades were also in plentiful supply at A Level, as nearly 60% of grades awarded were A* or A.

It was a particularly successful year in terms of university places, a greater proportion than ever before securing admission to their first-choice university. Of those moving on to higher education, 70% gained places at Oxbridge and other Russell Group universities.



School Captain, Jonathan McMillan (pictured, above), returning to Australia, was one of the pupils celebrating on results day, with three A* grades and one A grade.

Top musicians, Timothy Posner and Edward Howell, will take up their places at Hannover's music conservatoire, and Brasenose College, Oxford, respectively.



Champions

The Whitgift 1st XI, led by current England U21 star, Jonty Griffiths, secured a second consecutive National Outdoor title last Trinity Term.

Having battled through the regional stages, Dr Karl Stagno's side remained unbeaten over two days of competition at Cannock Hockey Club in April, before beating local rivals, Cranleigh, 3-1, in the final.

The quality of the Whitgift hockey programme was further highlighted when five boys represented England Hockey age-grade squads. Goalkeepers Oreoluwa Ogunlana and George Oyebo, alongside Rhys Smith, were part of the U16 group, with Peter Ellis-Phillipps and Jonty Griffiths – members of the Whitgift 1st XI that won the National title – included in the U18 team.

The junior national teams competed in the European Four Nations tournament, in Spain, in late March, after which the U18s headed to Vienna, in July, to take part in the European U18 Championships.

A further two boys – Joshua Hallett and Joshua Coniglio – took part in an U15 training camp, at Lilleshall, in May.

Old Whitgiftians were in action for the England U21 side over the summer, with Luke Taylor, Rob Farrington, and 2013 leaver, Jonty Griffiths, playing a part in the Test Series win over Malaysia.

Rob was awarded the player-of-the-series award; there is every chance he could soon be elevated into the full senior squad.



Open winner

Modern pentathlete, Joseph Choong (pictured above, right), delivered a stunning performance at the 2013 British Modern Pentathlon Championships, finishing ahead of a host of established Great Britain internationals, to win the men's open title.

In amongst an experienced, top-class field at the Tudor Grange Leisure Centre, Solihull, Joseph saw off the 2011 Junior World Champion, James Cooke, into 2nd position, whilst double Olympian, Sam Weale, came home in 4th.

This win capped an outstanding season in Joe's final year at Whitgift, which included wins at the British Schools' U18 Biathlon Championship, and the GB Youth International event, at Hartpury College, in March. This summer, he took individual bronze at the U18 European Championships, in Russia, and went on to gain a silver medal at the U18 World Championships, in China.

The 18-year-old is also included in GB Pentathlon's 'Podium Potential Athletes' group – alongside younger brother, Henry, who competed in the U16 European Championship, in Belarus.

Whitgift's Head of Modern Pentathlon, Miss Laura Gomersall commented:

"Joe is a very level-headed, mature individual, and he's worked incredibly hard over the past 12 months. He's certainly made an impact here and has inspired a number of the younger boys, which is fantastic."





Up for the cups

Whitgift's remarkable record in the ISFA U13 and U15 football competitions continued last term, as both sides won their respective national finals at the Pirelli Stadium, Burton-upon-Trent.

Mr Andrew Martin's U13s (*pictured, above*) – who scored 40 goals in just five games en-route to the final – dispatched Priory School, Edgbaston, in the decider, winning 5-0.

A stunning, long-range, Callum Hudson-Odoi effort set them on their way, before two goals apiece from Di shon Bernard

and Ethan Nelson-Roberts completed the scoring. The juniors first entered the competition in 2011, and have been unbeaten since, the latest triumph seeing them claim a hat-trick of wins.

Mr Steve Kember's U15s (*pictured, right*) then took on Brentwood School in the evening kick-off. Goals from Ollie Archard, James Culff and Andre Coker, helped see off the Brentwood team that matched Whitgift for periods, but succumbed to sustained pressure in the final quarter.

Despite missing a number of key personnel, they secured, with a superb 3-1 win, the coveted trophy last won by Whitgift in the 2010-2011 season.





Welcome to the bay

Old Whitgiftian, Lawrence Okoye, was once again the talk of British sport this year, having joined the San Francisco 49ers, one of the biggest franchises in the NFL.

Lawrence was part of the Whitgift 1st XV that won the School's first *Daily Mail/RBS* U18 Cup, in 2010, before leaving to pursue a career in athletics.

He reached the London 2012 Olympic men's discus final, having already claimed the British record in registering a superb 68.24m throw, in Germany, weeks before the start of the Games.

The versatile 21-year-old has opted for a new challenge, however, and was signed up by last season's Super Bowl runners-up. He will initially be on the 49ers' practice roster, as a defensive lineman.

Whitgift Director of Sport, Mr Alistair Osborne, wished Lawrence, who astonished NFL draft coaches with his outstanding sprint times, all the best in his latest adventure: "Everyone at the School will support Lawrence every step of the way, and we're all incredibly excited at seeing him perform on such a grand stage."

Bowled over

The School's outstanding record in the David English/Bunbury Cup showed no signs of letting up last term, as the U13s beat Warwick School to notch up an eighth national title in the country's premier cricket competition for schools at junior level.

Long Close were seen off in round one, before wins against St Bede's Prep and Dulwich College saw Mr David Ward's side qualify for the national semi-final, where they beat Millfield Prep.

The final, on a lovely day in the Midlands, saw Jamie Smith and his team go about their work in excellent fashion.

Batting first, Whitgift posted 230-3 from their allotted 35 overs, with Sam Hall's superb 134 forming the backbone of a formidable total.

Warwick ended their innings on 137-5, giving Whitgift a 93-run win and the

trophy for the third time in as many years, confirming Whitgift's status as the most successful school in the 17-year history of the competition.

Team manager, Mr Simon Beck, said: "Jamie Smith and Sam Hall were consistent throughout the summer; Jamie's innings at Millfield a few weeks

before the final, and Sam's in the final, are two of the best schoolboy knocks I have ever seen."

With Dominic Sibley and Jack Winslade both involved with England U19s over the summer, cricket at Whitgift continues to go from strength to strength.





OWs on International duty

Whitgift's excellent record of producing international rugby stars continued last season, as Marland Yarde (*pictured below, right*) and Elliot Daly (*pictured, right*) became the latest Old Whitgiftians to join a distinguished list of alumni in turning out at the top level.

London Irish winger, Marland, and London Wasps full-back, Elliot, were in opposition in the clash between England and the Barbarians at Twickenham, with Marland scoring for the hosts as they ran out 40-12 winners. Elliot was on the score-sheet for the invitational side, proving to be one of the stand-out performers for Dai Young's men.

Elliot, who started the game in London in the No.15 jersey, shifted to outside centre for the Barbarians showpiece fixture against the British and Irish Lions a week later in Hong Kong, and impressed, scoring a long-range penalty.

Marland went on to tour Argentina, and duly won his first senior cap, scoring two superb tries in a resounding 51-26 win. He has been named in the extended squad for the 2014 RBS Six Nations.

Both men seem destined for bright futures at international level, with Elliot already included in the England Saxons squad.

Henry Cheeseman (England U17 and Harlequins Elite Player Development Group) is one of the current School 1st XV's star men, and, having featured for Harlequins' senior sevens side in this summer's World Club Sevens competition, is tipped for top honours in this version of the game.





A bit of

Whitgift's Drama Department delivered yet another top-drawer, Upper School production with Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*, wowing audiences, over three nights, in Big School.

Director, Mr Paul Dinnen, along with a 27-strong cast, including girls from Old Palace of John Whitgift School and Croydon High School, pressed

fast-forward on the 'setting' button, replacing the play's original 16th century surroundings with the rather swankier, sleeker base of a Harlem jazz bar, in New York, in the closing months of 1945.

With a clever concoction of humour, gravity, and emotional intelligence, the acting ensemble immediately eased the fears of the purists, but simultaneously connected with the audience.

The Whitgift Jazz Six, led by Musical Director, Connor Hughes, were very much in harmony, not only as a group, but also with their stage-bound colleagues. The acting crew was led by the superb Douglas Wood, playing Benedick, and the bustling Toby Fisher, who gave an energetic, yet measured performance, as Leonato.





Ado





Swimming success

Whitgift's senior swimmers swam themselves into the history books by winning the Bath Cup, the premier swimming trophy for independent schools, last won by the School in 1974.

The boys claimed a meet record, knocking some three seconds off last year's winning time – but it didn't stop there.

The team, of Marlon Gasparotto, Joseph Choong, Fred Biggs, Henry Choong, Kunmi Ogunfeibo, and Rhys Warner, went on to complete a notable double by winning the Otter Medley Relay, a race never previously won by a Whitgift team.

The wins came on the back of the senior team successfully defending the Eight Schools Trophy, on home turf, in the week leading into the prestigious meet at Crystal Palace, and the two major national titles won earlier in the year.



England Captain

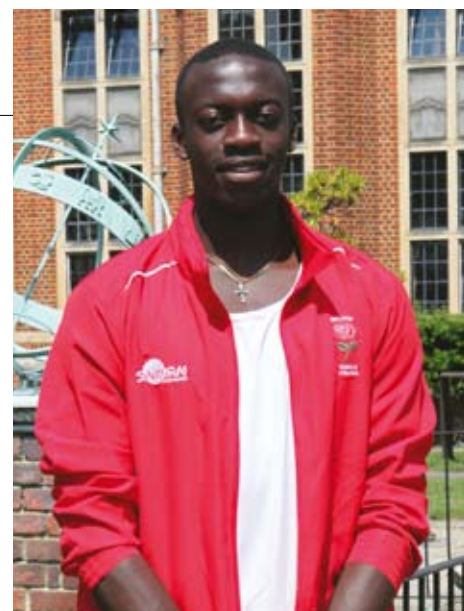
Triple Jumper, Stefan Amokwandoh, ended his brilliant year by captaining the England Schools Athletics Association team to victory, in an August international in Dublin.

The Lower Sixth Form student qualified for a place on the team after winning the National Championships, in Birmingham, just weeks before the fixture in Ireland.

The international clash, at the Santry Stadium, involving England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, saw the English team easily come out on top.

Stefan, who jumped 14.33m in Birmingham, before registering 14.44m for England, was given the honour of captaining his nation in one of the most prestigious age-group athletics meetings on the calendar, and a bright future should certainly await the current U17 National Indoor Champion.

Despite still being a relative newcomer to the sport, having previously excelled at rugby and football, Stefan hopes to continue his remarkable rise over the coming 12 months, as he makes the step up to senior competition.





Ski medals

In a first-ever for Whitgift, a group of boys represented the School at the Inter-Schools Ski Championships, in Les Deux Alpes, winning a number of medals to complete a successful few days in south-east France.

Under the leadership of Mr Ben Green, Jake Gilkinson won bronze in the Giant Slalom, before he joined up with Toby Thomas, Daniel James and Justin Manson, to secure bronze in the same event's team competition.

Jake went on to compete internationally over the Easter break, and is currently sponsored by Whitgift in New Zealand, training incredibly hard, with selection into the England team a distinct possibility.



On your bike

2013 saw the start of the Whitgift School Cycling Club (WSCC), and the introduction of track cycling at the Herne Hill Velodrome. With state-of-the-art turbo training sessions running throughout the week, and dedicated track coaching sessions during games lessons, the boys are provided with a fantastic opportunity to develop their passion for this increasingly popular and hugely-exciting sport.

A 15-strong Whitgift team competed in the Inter-Schools Championships in May, held at Herne Hill, and, after working incredibly hard over the winter months, they returned with an excellent haul of five medals:

Individual Gold in the U16 Points Race – Max Bergin

Individual Silver in the U16 Scratch Race – Max Bergin

Individual Bronze in the Australian Pursuit – Patrick Middleton

U16 Team Pursuit Silver Medals – Max Bergin, James Ackerley and Alex Haseldine

Overall team Bronze Medals – Max Bergin, James Ackerley and Alex Haseldine





Bugsy

At the end of the Trinity Term, a cast of Lower School pupils, together with girls from St Andrew's CE High School, put on excellent performances of Alan Parker's 1976 classic, *Bugsy Malone*.

Co-directors, Miss Miranda Hughes and Mrs Faye Carter, transformed Big School into a wonderfully intimate arena.

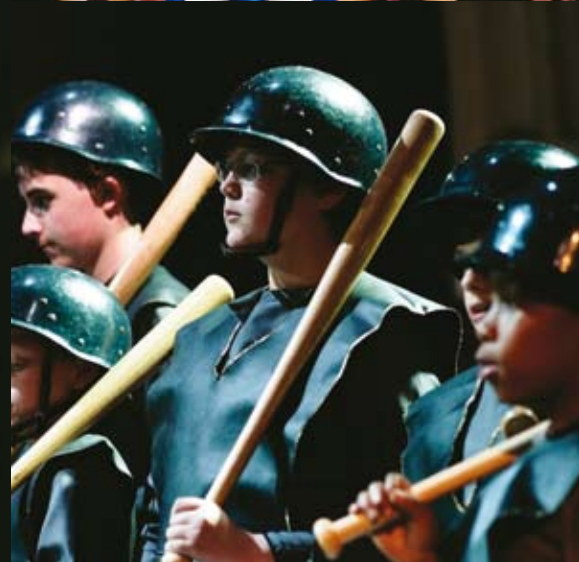
A difficult production to stage, with so many settings to take into consideration, the whole team can be thoroughly proud of their achievements, after months of intensive rehearsals.

A delighted Miss Hughes said: "The presence of guns, gangsters, boxers, and lots of mess, made it very appealing to the boys, and I was thrilled to see so many of them take part in the production – they certainly had a lot of fun with the 'splurge' scenes!"



Fun with the 'splurge' guns ...







Not just for laughs

Whitgift once again played host to the annual Charity Comedy Night in March, in support of the School's two chosen charities for 2012-13.

Dom Holland, now a familiar face and hosting the show for a fourth time, entertained us with stories of his broken ankle and his famous son. He was joined on stage by Milo McCabe, playing his alter-ego 'Philberto', as well as Old Whitgiftian, Matt Lacey (pictured, right), playing a number of characters; 'Orlando', the star of his 'Gap Yah' sketches, was particularly well-received.

The event raised £1,200, which contributed to a total amount of over £12,700, to be split between local children's hospice, *Shooting Star CHASE*, and the *RNLI*.



Keith Smith, MBE

The Whitgift CCF Contingent Commander, Mr Keith Smith, has received an MBE for services to Whitgift's Combined Cadet Force.

The Whitgift CCF currently has over 400 boys affiliated across its three sections, and two local partnership schools in Thomas More, Purley, and St Andrew's CE High School, Croydon.

Described by General Sir Peter Wall, Old Whitgiftian and Chief of the General Staff, as being "a benchmark for others to follow", Whitgift's CCF runs an extensive range of activities. The Corps of Drums recently performed at the British Military Tournament, in front of Her Majesty The Queen.

Away from classroom and co-curricular duties, Mr Smith is heavily involved with British Fencing, and is an Olympic referee. He has officiated at four Olympic Games, and headed up the officiating panel in Beijing, in 2008, and in London last summer.



CCF Summer

This summer saw the CCF attend Summer Camp in Shropshire.

55 boys took part in map reading, shooting on the ranges and on the electronic indoor range, a 'win the observation' competition, as well as a 24-hour overnight exercise. At the Adventurous Training Camp in Devon, 30 boys enjoyed raft building, sailing, kayaking, abseiling, and a confidence-raising High Ropes course.

In August, the CCF visited the Army Air Corps. After an introduction to the Apache helicopter, the boys had the privilege of sitting in it, which was extremely well-received. In the afternoon, boys and staff alike were given flights in the Lynx helicopter. This trip was made even more exciting by flying with the side doors open, giving a quite breathtaking view of the ground.



WHITGIFT INTERNATIONAL MUSIC COMPETITION

Having got off to a fantastic start with its high-profile launch in November 2012, the inaugural Whitgift International Music Competition, offering a range of major prizes, including education opportunities at Whitgift to young string players, has proved to be an enormous success. Through the sheer dedication of staff, and the loyal support and invaluable assistance of a number of Old Whitgiftians, Ambassadors, and professional musicians, this wonderful competition came to life, bringing an array of talented young musicians to Whitgift to take part in the competition, at the end of the Trinity Term.

Everyone's a winner



In 2012/13, several countries were visited by members of staff, developing links with international schools; Bulgaria, accompanied by Ivo Stankov, Bulgarian violinist, and Rumen Cholakov, Old Whitgiftian; Kosovo, accompanied by H.E. Lirim Greiçevci, the Kosovan Ambassador in London; and Romania and Moldova, together with Grig Cuciuc, Old Whitgiftian and student at the Royal College of Music.

From 29 June to 3 July, Whitgift welcomed 14 finalists, both international and from the UK, and their guardians, to the School, accommodating them in the new Boarding House. The competition opened with a recital by Remus Azoitei, acclaimed Romanian violinist, who, accompanied by pianist Eduard Stan, played a dazzling array of virtuosic

pieces. Two days of competition rounds followed, with competitors performing to a distinguished panel of adjudicators, including Remus Azoitei, violin professor at the Royal Academy of Music; Guy Johnston, cellist and winner of the BBC Young Musician of the Year 2000; Jessica Duchen, novelist and journalist for the *Independent* newspaper; Huw Davies, Development Director, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra (RPO); Ivo Stankov, Director of the London Festival of Bulgarian Culture; Rosie Whitfield, Director of Music Development at Whitgift, and Philip Winter, Whitgift's Director of Orchestral Music.

The adjudicators were deeply impressed by the boys' performances; Grand Prizes, of a fully-funded boarding education at Whitgift, were offered to Dan-Iulian Druțac and Ion Moșneaga, both of Moldova, and

Hristo Dunev, of Bulgaria. These winners performed alongside members of the RPO, together with adjudicators, Whitgift students and teachers, at the closing Gala Concert on 3 July, showcasing pieces from the competition. The Performing Arts Centre was once again transformed into a beautiful venue to host a Reception for guests, including Ambassadors, musicians and industry professionals.

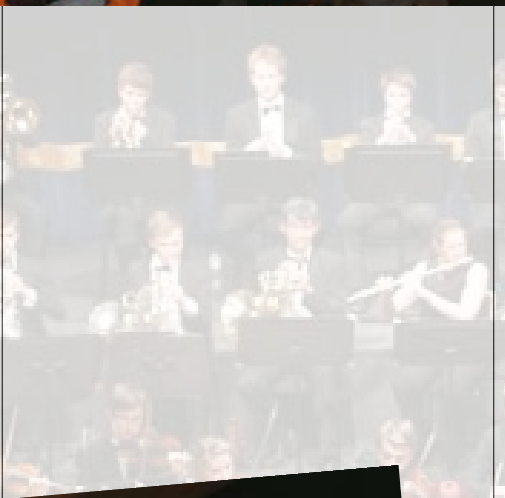
The closing concert also included an Award Ceremony, with competitors receiving their record of achievement and prizes. The evening closed with a performance of Dvořák's rousing *New World Symphony* by the Whitgift Symphony Orchestra and members of the RPO.



WHITGIFT INTERNATIONAL MUSIC COMPETITION



The whole competition, from the audition process in their home countries, to their stay at Whitgift and on-stage performances, was a magical experience for all the competitors. Whitgift is, of course, delighted to have Dan-lulian (pictured, opposite), Ion (pictured, above, fourth right) and Hristo (pictured, above, third right) now studying at the School. This competition will greatly enhance orchestral music-making at Whitgift, and we look forward to the Whitgift International Music Competition 2014.





'A panel of the School's own dynamic musical leaders, Rosanna Whitfield and Philip Winter, and "external jurors", listened, entranced, to a cavalcade of young talents from Romania, Moldova, Kosovo, Bulgaria and the UK, looking for three young string players whose lives were about to change...'

Jessica Duchon, the Independent



Celebrating outstanding achievements

The annual Celebration of Whitgift Life took place this year on Friday 5 July, marking the end of the school year, and celebrating the outstanding achievements across all areas of school life.

Guest of Honour was Mr Pip Burley (pictured, right), Old Whitgiftian, Chairman of the Whitgiftian Association, and distinguished television producer, whose attainments include devising and producing *The Darling Buds of May*, starring David Jason and Catherine

Zeta-Jones, and *A Touch of Frost*, amongst other significant television and theatre productions. Also a composer of music for commercials, theatre, film and television, Pip won the Ivor Novello Award in 1990 for best television theme music for *The Darling Buds of May*. This year, Pip has played an important part in Whitgift music, taking on an integral role, as narrator, in *Suite from Heart of Darkness*, commissioned by Whitgift, and composed by a fellow Old Whitgiftian, Mr Tarik O'Regan.

The ceremony was opened in traditional fashion by the Whitgift Senior Brass Ensemble, and continued with an inspiring series of interludes. These included the Senior String Quartet, a performance from *Bugsy Malone*, and video presentations on the charitable work Whitgift has accomplished this year, and on the School's many sporting achievements. The students enjoyed receiving their sports honours from Old



Whitgiftian, Lawrence Okoye, who was back in Croydon on a brief break from his NFL training in San Francisco. The commemorative event was rounded off with a performance of a new setting of the School Song, composed by Whitgift's Director of Choral Music, Mr Ronny Krippner, and sung by the Whitgift Evensong Choir.

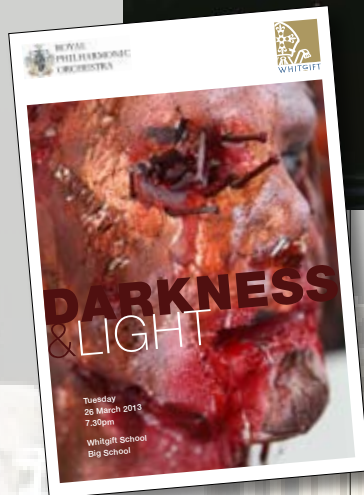






Darkness and Light





Following the success of October 2012's performance of Old Whitgiftian, Tarik O'Regan's, *Chamber Suite from Heart of Darkness* at the Fairfield Halls, the culmination of over a year's work on the *Heart of Darkness* project took place on 26 March this year, with a concert in Big School.

The world première of the orchestral piece, *Suite from Heart of Darkness*, commissioned by Whitgift, and based on Tarik's opera, was performed superbly by the combined forces of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and the Whitgift Chamber Orchestra. Drawing on text from Joseph Conrad's novella, the piece was narrated by Old Whitgiftian, Mr Pip Burley, in a magical and poignant fashion, with cleverly-written interplay between himself and the musicians. The concert also included a fine performance of Gustav Mahler's *Symphony No. 4*, with soprano soloist, Anna Leese (pictured, right).





Royal visit

Whitgift was honoured to welcome its Patron, HRH The Duke of York, KG, to the *RPO Resound* project on the afternoon of 25 March. Also Patron of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, His Royal Highness was eager to observe this unique, community venture, inspired by *Heart of Darkness*, bringing together the Orchestra and Whitgift once again, alongside pupils from local schools, Elmhurst Prep and Howard Primary. He attended a creative music session and pre-concert rehearsal, interacting with students and speaking to a group about the project, their experience and ambitions. The children were evidently excited and inspired by this experience, privileged to perform for, and chat with, such a special guest.





International links

Ambassador of the Republic of Kosovo

The Ambassador of the Republic of Kosovo, H.E. Lirim Greiçevci (*pictured, left*), new to the post in 2012, visited Whitgift on 11 February. The Ambassador has been extremely supportive, accompanying the Headmaster on a visit to Kosovo, where they visited a number of schools.

House of Lords

On 4 March, the Headmaster held a lunch for European Ambassadors at the House of Lords (*pictured, middle*), hosted by Old Whitgiftian and Member of the House of Lords, Lord Peter Bowness. Twelve Ambassadors and a further eight senior diplomats attended the lunch. It was a highly-successful event, one which has created new friendships and international links, and encouraged entrants for the Whitgift International Music Competition.

The Ambassador of Poland and the Ambassador of the Slovak Republic

Whitgift was delighted to host two Ambassadorial visits during the Trinity Term. H.E. Witold Sobków, Ambassador of Poland, (*pictured, bottom left*), visited Whitgift on 14 May, and H.E. Mr Miroslav Wlachovský, (*pictured, bottom right*) Ambassador of the Slovak Republic, and his wife, Mrs Jaroslava Wlachovská, visited on 17 June. Both were visiting Whitgift for the first time, and were hugely impressed by the high standard of the School, its staff, facilities, and grounds. We hope that a number of exciting links with these countries will follow in the future.





Stars in their eyes

On 3 July, Whitgift welcomed back two star former students to take part in the School's Primary Schools Project, a scheme that offers primary schools across South London the opportunity to spend time at Whitgift, experiencing its facilities, grounds, and teachers.

Jonathan 'JB' Gill, member of boyband JLS, and Lawrence Okoye, London 2012 Olympic finalist, came back to support and promote this unique project, which works, on a weekly basis, with 55 local schools throughout the year.

Children of Purley Oaks Primary School were ecstatic when JB joined in with a music class and taught them some dance moves to the band's hit, *She Makes Me Wanna*. JB and Lawrence then went head-to-head on the field in a game of touch rugby with students from St. Francesca Cabrini Primary School, followed by a discus demonstration from Lawrence.

This special event attracted strong media interest, bringing reporters to the School from *Sky Sports*, *BBC London*, *ITV London*, the *Daily Mail* and the *Telegraph*, to witness the Primary Schools Project in action.

It was an exciting and memorable day for all the children involved, with one of them commenting, "This is the best day of my life; nothing will be able to top this."





Rugby Tour

The senior rugby squad enjoyed a successful 19-day summer tour, to Hong Kong, New Zealand and the Cook Islands, winning four out of five games.

Led by Director of Rugby, Mr Chris Wilkins, and coach, Mr Nick Martin, a 25-man squad opened the tour with a 14-10 win against the Hong Kong U19 side, before moving on to New Zealand, where they beat John McGlashan College, 28-20, in their second game.

Their only loss was in Murchison, against a Top of the South Area XV, but, despite the 24-18 loss, the Whitgift side drew plenty of positives from a hard-fought encounter.

The boys concluded their stay in New Zealand with a 71-0 win over a Waimea College Development team, before moving on to the Cook Islands, where they beat the national U19 side, 26-0, in Rarotanga.

The 1st XV began their domestic campaign by winning the President's Cup, at Esher Rugby Club, beating Croydon rivals, John Fisher, in the final.





Say hello to Wilbur and Snowy

The Whitgift wallaby family has grown significantly since the arrival of three red-necked wallabies in July 2012. Two white Bennett's wallabies were welcomed into the Water Gardens early this year, and subsequently named *Wilbur* and *Snowy* in a "Name the Wallaby" competition, run for Whitgift's Primary Schools Project and Whitgift's First Form. Howard Primary School emerged as winner in the naming of the female, Snowy, and Whitgift's Ash and Teak Houses were neck-and-neck in putting forward the name Wilbur for the male, for which precious House Points were awarded to both!

We look forward to Wilbur and Snowy producing a little joey in the near future; this would be a lovely addition to the other two wallaby youngsters skipping playfully around amongst the birds!



Library friends



Following the success of last year's 'OW Authors Evening', Mr Peter Cox, author and OW (1955-64), was invited back to talk about his latest publication, *Memories of Whitgift – The Boys' Own Tales 1880-1980*. The book is a series of reminiscences by Old Whitgiftians.

The audience was entertained by extracts read from the book by the author and Mr Pip Burley, and also three current students; Geddy Stringer (Sixth Form), Alex Buchanan (Fifth Form) and

Max Shirto (First Form). Illustrations from the book were shown on a screen throughout. Guests included Mr Michael Proudfoot, Whitgift Governor and Old Whitgiftian, and Mrs Leila Samy Beggin, daughter of the late Prince Omer Fethi Samy, Boxing Master at Whitgift (1950-72) and great-nephew of the last Sultan of Turkey.





New Archives Room

The launch of the recently completed Archives Room, adjacent to the Raeburn Library, took place on the evening of 5 June. VIP guests were invited to view a unique collection, including items on loan from Ms Melissa John, notable medal collector, featuring in particular those of the late John 'Cats Eyes' Cunningham, Old Whitgiftian. Distinguished guests included Air Commodore Rob Cunningham (second cousin of John) (*pictured, right*), Sir Keith Lindblom, Raman Subba Row, Geoff Austen, John Henty, Grant Eustace, Jack Furtado, Didi Bowthorpe, Pip Burley, Ian Flanagan, Dr Peter Warren and many others.

The Headmaster gave a welcoming speech, thanking Melissa for her generosity for the loan of John Cunningham's memorabilia and for the donation of a magnificent set of original medals, marking Cunningham's wartime exploits and bravery.





French exchange

Members of the Lower Fifth and Upper Third Forms headed to Albertville, south-east France, in May, and enjoyed a superb stay with wonderfully-hospitable host families.

After flying into Geneva, the group visited 'Le Lac d'Annecy', surrounded by the beautiful mountains of Dents de Lanfon, Lanfonnet and La Tournette.

Once in Albertville, the Whitgift boys were partnered with their hosts, and indulged in an array of activities, including bowling and ice skating, and a number took to the slopes in Méribel and Courchevel.



German exchange

The visit to Salzgitter over the Easter break included a trip to the old medieval town of Goslar, with its historic mines and beautiful timber-framed buildings. Other highlights included the 'Autostadt', in Wolfsburg, where the visitors enjoyed a tour of one of the largest car manufacturing plants in the world, and a day trip to Hamburg.

A hub of warmth and with plenty of soul, Salzgitter has always been a popular trip for Whitgiftians, but there is plenty to look forward to on the next German exchange, to Berlin, this coming Half Term.





China in their hands

Over the summer break, 10 Lower Sixth Form students enjoyed an eye-opening trip to China, gaining first-hand experience of its rich culture and rapidly-growing economy. Organised by the Chinese and Economics Departments, and aiming to provide a rounded view of life in 'real' China, students were taken on an unforgettable journey, engaging in a wide range of educational, cultural, social and outdoor activities.

Ranging from visiting attractions in the metropolitan city of Shanghai, such as the Pearl Tower and the Bund, to mountain climbing in the rural suburbs, the itinerary was full of variety.

A visit to a local school in Shanghai was a particular highlight; boys were invited to students' homes for lunch, before participating in a number of ice-breaker activities alongside their Chinese partners.

A major highlight was a hike to a stunning, crystal-clear lagoon, through bamboo forest and rice fields, in Mount Moganshan.





FORTHCOMING EVENTS

LOWER SIXTH FORM PLAY

Tuesday 15 October /
Wednesday 16 October
7.30pm, Big School
FREE admission (by ticket only)

AUTUMN COLLECTION

Thursday 21 November
7pm, Fairfield Halls
Tickets: £10, Concessions* £5



THE PIPER OF HAMELIN

Thursday 28 November /
Friday 29 November
7.30pm, Performing Arts Centre
FREE admission (by ticket only)



A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE

Wednesday 11 December /
Thursday 12 December /
Friday 13 December
7.30pm, Big School
FREE admission (by ticket only)



CAROL SERVICE

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



WEST SIDE STORY

Wednesday 5 March /
Thursday 6 March /
Friday 7 March /
Saturday 8 March /
7.30pm, Big School
Tickets: £10, Concessions* £5



WHITGIFT SCHOOL, 5-8 MARCH, 2014

BOOKING INFORMATION

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

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

Front Cover image:

*Jaan Stanley, Lower First Form, receiving his
Junior Science Progress Prize, at the Celebration
of Whitgift Life*

WHITGIFT
Haling Park
South Croydon
CR2 6YT
United Kingdom

Telephone: +44 (0)20 8688 9222
email: office@whitgift.co.uk
www.whitgift.co.uk

Find us on
Twitter: @WhitgiftSchool
Facebook: Whitgift School

