



LIFE

LENT 2015

In Remembrance

WW1 Centenary Commemoration, Modern Pentathlon Academy status, Evensong at Westminster Abbey, inaugural Junior Literary Festival, London Schools' Table Tennis champions, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and much more...



Whitgift paid tribute to former students who lost their lives during World War One, with a Remembrance Day Service on 11 November, marking 100 years since the start of The Great War. The entire School body – 1,458 boys and over 150 staff – as well as Old Whitgiftians and members of Whitgift House care home, assembled in the Sports and Conference Centre.

A live video-link to the School's War Memorial showed the Wreath Laying Ceremony, Prayers, and The Last Post. A poignant, two-minute silence was observed.

All in attendance reflected on the 251 Old Whitgiftians who died in the conflict; the entire middle section of seated boys stood to demonstrate the sheer number of those who sacrificed their lives. The Service included poetry readings by Lower School pupils, a performance by the Corps of Drums, and tributes to Old Whitgiftians. Head of History and CCF Contingent Commander, Mr Keith Smith, noted that around 1,400 boys and teaching staff saw active service in the 1914-1918 war.

Whitgift remembers WWI



The Headmaster, Old Whitgiftian Colonel Jon Swift OBE, and Revd Canon Boswell, addressed the School. The Headmaster read some words written by Whitgift's Headmaster in 1914, Mr Andrew, taken from the Preface to the Whitgift Book of Remembrance. The Whitgift Chamber Choir concluded the service with a beautiful rendition of *For the Fallen*, by Douglas Guest.



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Poppy Day



© Jana Chiellino 2014

30 members of Whitgift's Combined Cadet Force (CCF), together with students from CCF partner schools, Thomas More Catholic School and St. Andrew's CE High School, travelled to the Tower of London, in September, to take part in the 'Poppies in the Moat' project. The art installation transformed the London landmark's dry moat into a powerful visual commemoration for the First World War Centenary.

The venture, officially entitled 'Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red', displayed 888,246 ceramic poppies, each representing a British or Colonial fatality during The Great War. The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, and Prince Harry, each 'planted' a poppy on the launch day in August.

The Whitgift boys were part of a volunteer team that planted 9000 poppies during one afternoon.



Fully-booked

The Michaelmas Term was packed with literary activities. Fittingly, in view of the World War One commemorations, Tony Bradman (*pictured, top left*) visited Whitgift, to give an assembly to First Formers about his anthology of short stories, chronicling the events of The Great War. He was delighted to visit the Raeburn Library, as the eponymous former Headmaster encouraged him on the path to becoming an author.

Jeremy Paxman (*pictured, top right*), of *Newsnight* and *University Challenge* fame, gave a talk to Fifth and Sixth Form pupils based on his book, *Great Britain's Great War*, a history of WW1 from the point of view of the British people. The audience enjoyed his account of trench warfare, conscription and rations, and relished the opportunity to ask questions at the end.

The Fifth Form were treated to a dynamic session by BREIS on National Poetry Day. The Hip Hop rapper and author, whose stage-name stands for Brother Reaching Each Inner Soul, gave a rendition of his oral form of poetry and received a lot of creative participation from the audience.

As for fans of adventure fiction, Steve Cole (*pictured, middle left*) visited to promote the latest novel in the popular *Young Bond* series. The School's assembly hall was packed with First and Third Form pupils, who thoroughly enjoyed the presentation, complete with fun spy props.

The termly Friends of the Library meeting took place in November; a wonderful evening was had by all, and new parents were welcomed to the group.

The inaugural Junior Literary Festival, organised by the English Department at the end of November, was a huge success. A diverse range of authors were in the line-up – Jonathan Stroud, Steven Camden (*pictured, bottom left*), Jon Robison, Saci Lloyd (*pictured, bottom right*), Dfiza Benson (*pictured, middle left*) and Gareth Owen (*pictured, middle right*) – representing a range of genres. It was a busy day full of assembly presentations, literary workshops and book-signings; a number of authors tweeted their enjoyment afterwards, with Jonathan Stroud commenting, "Fab crowd...top questions!"

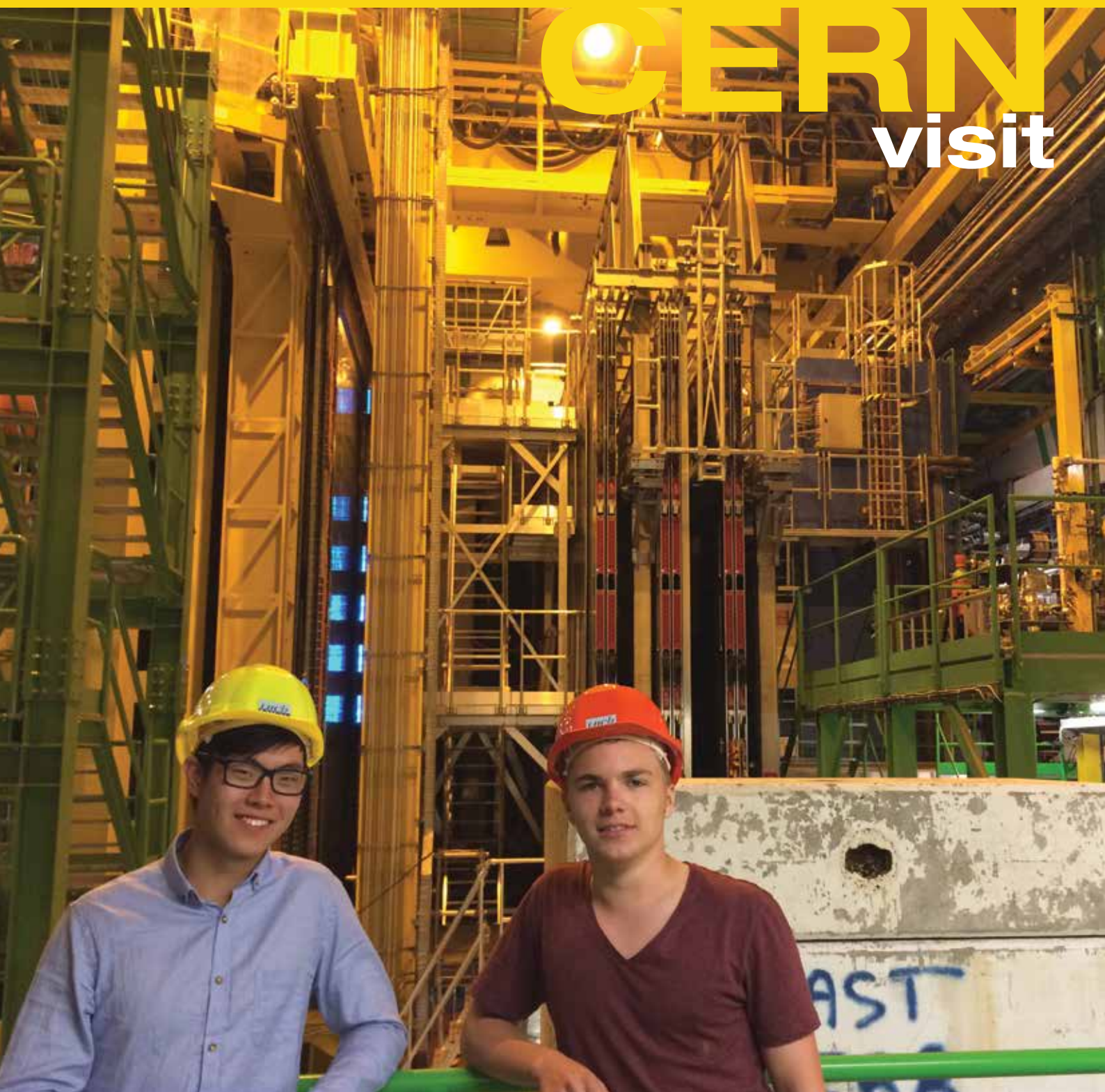
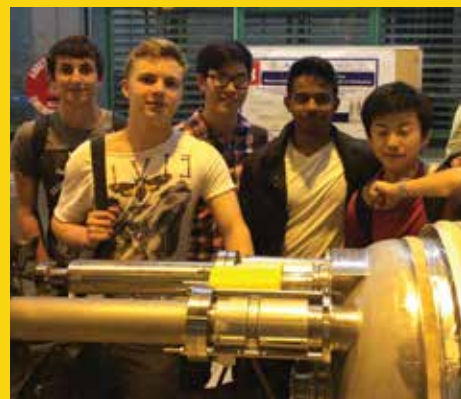




Five Sixth Form Physics pupils travelled to Switzerland, at the end of August, for a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to visit CERN (The European Organization for Nuclear Research), the world's largest particle physics research laboratory. Each student had won an essay competition, adjudicated by Professor Themis Bocock, Head of Particle Physics at Liverpool University. The calibre of the Whitgift essays submitted was so high that five winners were selected, instead of the standard three.

The boys took part in a five-day summer school, which encompassed talks, quizzes, debating workshops, and tours of the facility, giving a glimpse of how CERN seeks to find the answers to the biggest scientific mysteries of the universe.

Raghul Parthipan, Alex Babulevich, Bona Wang, Alex Forsyth and Jong Kwon were delighted to have the chance to explore the pioneering physics featured in their essay research.

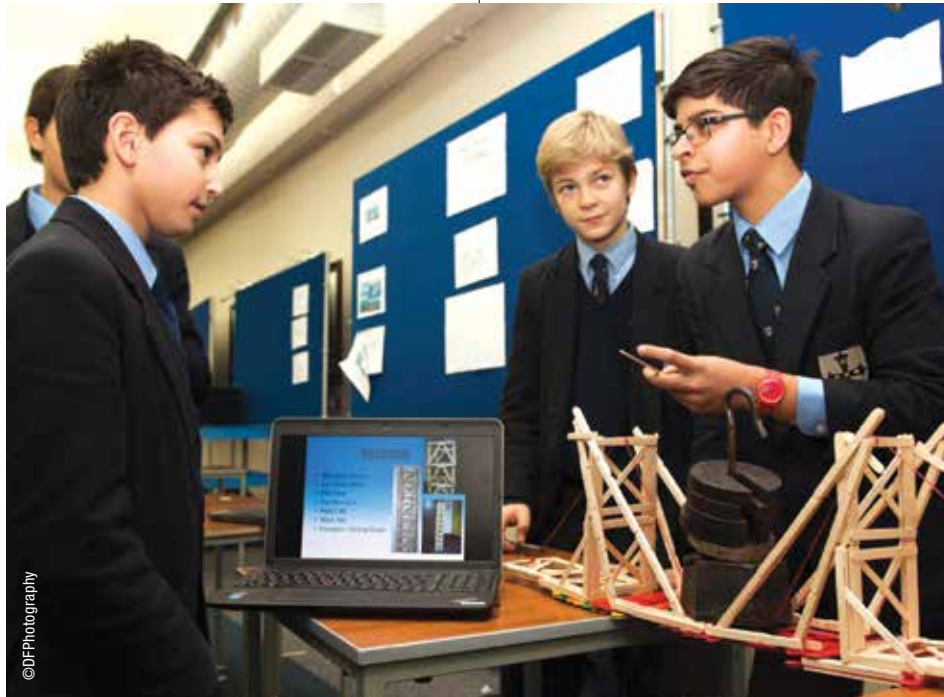




STEM display

Trebuchets firing overhead, bridges straining under weights, aeroplanes gliding through the air, and rockets launching amid a flurry of sparks – all in a day's work for our Third Form STEM enthusiasts! It was, in fact, the culmination of a term's worth of hard work, with the boys showcasing their projects in the Performing Arts Centre. Other highlights included: complex code breaking, environmentally-friendly systems that turn salt water into fresh water, Raspberry Pi Programming, and teaching aids designed by students and built by 3D printers.

The other half of the Upper Third Form will work on projects next term. The winners from both groups will be rewarded for their efforts; last year's winners went to *Land Rover*, in Birmingham, to tour the factory, and were driven in the latest model on their off-road circuit.



©DFPhotography

Green Beret

20-year-old Old Whitgiftian, Thomas Telford, has achieved the impressive feat of joining the elite Royal Marine Commandos, following a gruelling 32-week course.

He attended a passing-out parade, in October, where the commandos were ceremonially presented with their green berets, in front of their families, at the Commando Training Centre in Lympstone.

In addition to joining the special 'band of brothers', Thomas was also selected to become the King's Badgeman, a great honour; the finest recruit is given this award, and wears the badge on his uniform for the remainder of his career in the Royal Marines.



Well-drilled



The summer holidays saw the CCF win the Inter-Contingent Competition at Annual Camp, which took place during CCF Central Camp, at Crowborough, with 50 schools competing. This involved competitions ranging from shooting and drill, to orienteering, command tasks, an assault course, map reading, and military knowledge. This was a very significant achievement and many congratulations to the boys involved.

During Half Term, members of the Whitgift CCF travelled to Folkestone for a training weekend. 50 students from the School were joined by our two partner schools. The cadets camped out, did their own cooking, took part in ambush drills, and learned about section attacks, to name but a few of the activities.



MP Academy

Pentathlon GB, the national governing body for Modern Pentathlon, confirmed that, in recognition of Whitgift's contribution to British Modern Pentathlon, the School's pentathlon offering will now be known as the Whitgift School Modern Pentathlon Academy.

Modern Pentathlon at Whitgift, now in its 11th year, was re-introduced at the School by Kate Allenby MBE, a Modern Pentathlon Olympic bronze medallist at Sydney 2000. She commented, 'Progression in sport is inevitable when you have a great team at the helm. This certainly applies to Whitgift Modern Pentathlon, which is why it is viewed as a flagship operation by Pentathlon GB. I'm so delighted to hear the School has been awarded Academy status, as it is thoroughly deserved.'

In the 10 years that the programme has been running, an impressive tally of 16 boys have represented Great Britain,

whilst still at school. More recently, the School has produced Whitgift's first Youth Olympian, Henry Choong, who represented Team GB at the 2014 Youth Olympic Games, in Nanjing, China.

The Department was pleased to welcome back a number of OWs to its 10-year anniversary celebration in September – Joe Choong (University of Bath undergraduate, GB Senior and U21), Ollie Robinson (University of Bath

graduate and GB U21), Jacob Stapleton (University of Nottingham graduate and GB U18), Sam Curry (University of Bath undergraduate, GB Senior and U21), Tom Lees (University of Oxford undergraduate, training at University of Bath High Performance Centre for Modern Pentathlon, GB Senior and U21), Alex Fraser (University of Oxford and GB U18), Tom Bloomfield (University of Oxford graduate) and Marlon Gasparotto (Gap Year, GB U16).





Martial Arts

Michaelmas was a busy term for Whitgift's martial arts enthusiasts. Lower Third Form pupil, Shaun Michaels (*pictured, bottom right*), competed in the 5th WUKF Junior World Karate Championships, in Poland, with over 1,500 youngsters from 36 countries. His outstanding performance earned him gold in the 11-12 years age category.

Daniel Harding (*pictured, top*) won bronze in the 12-13 age group category, at the Belgium International Karate Open, held in Heverlee, an impressive achievement considering the size and exceptionally-high standards of the tournament. He won all but one of his fights to finish 2nd in his pool. This follows on from team gold medals in the U12 British 4 Nations Karate Championships, and the British Open Championships, earlier this year.

Upper Fifth Former, David Saran, won bronze in the Cadet U60kg category, at



the Southern Area Cadet Open, in Surrey. David is now placed in the top six in the British ranking in his age group for Judo.

Whitgift Judo coach, Ms Szandra Szogedi (*pictured, right*), won the women's U63kg

event at the Welsh Open International Championships. A few days later, she won gold again in Mauritius, competing at the African Open Championships, one of the qualification events leading up to the Rio 2016 Olympic Games. Winning this title means that Szogedi is now ranked in the top 20 worldwide.



The final countdown

Mr Andrew Martin's U11 footballers put in excellent performances at the ISFA Surrey and Hampshire U11 Seven-a-Side Regional Championship, which took place at East London's Rokeby School, on 26 September.

Having defeated St Andrew's, Woking, 5-0 in the quarter-finals, they faced the hosts in the semi-final of the competition. Whitgift opened the scoring, with Xavier Shamlian finding the far corner of the goal. Following half time, Daniel Berry managed to score, after Thomas Smith's shot rebounded off the posts, finishing the game at 2-0.

With fine playing conditions, Whitgift took on Hoe Bridge School, also of Woking, in the Final. Fionn Mooney, Xavier Shamlian and Arun Stanley rounded off a fantastic team effort to clinch the match 3-0.

This regional victory takes the team to the national finals, at St George's Park, the English Football Association's national football centre, in Burton upon Trent, Staffordshire. They will attempt to become national U11 champions for the first time at only the second attempt in this competition.



OWS for England

Old Whitgiftians, Luke Taylor, Rob Farrington and Jonty Griffiths, were selected to play hockey for England, in the Sultan of Johor Cup, in Malaysia, in October. This U21 competition, at the Taman Daya Hockey Stadium, in Johor Baru, is used as part of the build-up to the Junior World Cup Finals, in 2016. Participating nations are India (defending champions), Malaysia, Australia, New Zealand, England and Pakistan. The England side went on to win 5-0, with Luke scoring a hat trick.



Indoor skiing Champions

Our young skiers put in a fantastic performance to win the British Independent Schools Ski Racing Indoor Championships, in September. Out of the 240 skiers competing at the Snowcentre, in Hemel Hempstead, the hotshot team of Fifth Formers (*pictured, back row, from left to right*) Spencer Daws, Rordon Daws, Piers Bellman, and Jakob Madsen-Jensen (*pictured, front, right*), came out on top. Third Former, Kit Bellman (*pictured, front, left*), was an individual medallist.



Roaring success

Whitgift had an impressive nine boys selected for England Hockey's South of England hockey teams, known as the Saxon Tigers, in October. Cameron Johnson, Sebastien Carpenter, Noah Francis, Tendo Kimuli, Ore Ogunlana, George Oyeboade, Rory Patterson, Rhys Smith and Jack Waller were called up for the U18 squad. The U16 squad had three Whitgift boys who made the grade: Will Wong, Morgan Males and Thomas Rhodes.

Further high performance training squads were selected according to age category: Josh Coniglio, Rob Durling, Josh Hallett and Ed Treece for the U17s, and Reece O'Flaherty, Finley Newton, Tom Finnegan and Mehmet Munir for the U15s.

The U16 and U18 teams participated in the Futures Cup, in October, an especially

pertinent fixture, as the National Age Group Squads are selected based on performances in this tournament. The Saxon Tigers won both age-group categories. Congratulations to Noah Francis, Tendo Kimuli, Ore Ogunlana, George Oyeboade, Rory Patterson, Rhys Smith and Jack Waller, who were subsequently selected for the England U18 training squad; and to Finley Newton, who was selected for the England U16 training squad.

In the last few weeks of the Michaelmas Term, both U16s and U18s reached the finals of the Boys U16/U18 Schools' National Indoor Championships, hosted in January at the School for the fifth consecutive year.





The magic numbers

Founder's House has been open for just over a year, and boarding, whether full, weekly or flexi, is enabling boys to pursue their passions to the full, and flourish in the academic, sporting and performing arts fields. The list of boarders' achievements is numerous; some highlights include:

- 8** Oxbridge Interviewees
- 1** England U19 Rugby Player
- 2** Conservatoire Scholarships
- 5** Premiership Rugby Academy Players
- 2** England Hockey Training Squad members
- 1** Surrey CCC Emerging Players Programme participant
- 3** London Schools' Table Tennis Champions
- 11** Members of the Whitgift Chamber Orchestra
- 3** Lower School Play Cast Members
- 1** ESCA t20 U15 Team Winner

The average position of a boarder in their Year Group at the end of a year compared to the start: **+10%**



Choral



Michaelmas Term saw the beginning of the busiest time in the choral calendar, with the Whitgift Chamber Choir, and newly-appointed Whitgift Minster Choristers, rising to the challenge of multiple engagements. Led by Director of Choral Music, Mr Ronny Krippner, the Choir sang Evensong at Westminster Abbey (pictured, left) in November, after which Minor Canon, The Revd Dr James Hawkley, commented, 'the Choir's musicality and confidence were plain to see'. This was closely followed by a performance at the Fairfield Halls, with conductor Nicholas Cleobury and the London Mozart Players, for the London première of Jonathan Dove's *For an Unknown Soldier*.

In December, the singers joined forces with the Whitgift Senior String Ensemble for a Christmas Concert in the heart of Mayfair, at St George's, Hanover Square (pictured, right). Performances of Christmas favourites, including the *Sussex Carol* and *Ding Dong! Merrily on High*, were extremely well-received, and the beautiful setting of 'Handel's Church'



was the perfect fit for this festive music. The term came to a close with the annual Carol Service, in Croydon Minster, and highlights included the beautiful advent antiphon *O Radiant Dawn*, and the lively *I Saw Three Ships*.

The choir looks forward to performing at both the Royal Festival Hall, and historic Salisbury Cathedral, in 2015.

Music trip to Italy

In August, the Music Department embarked on a 10-day trip to the idyllic Italian port town of San Marco di Castellabate, in response to an exciting invitation to participate in the 'Festival of the Gulf'.

Based in the grounds of the stunning Fondazione Passarelli, the group of 35 Whitgift instrumentalists enjoyed a rich programme of orchestral rehearsals, as well as specialist instrumental tuition with some of the visiting professors in situ.

The musicians represented Whitgift splendidly in each of the concerts they performed, which featured a number of solo items and concerto movements, as well as full orchestral repertoire. Of the many musical highlights, the première of a new Marimba Concerto by Italian percussionist and ex-footballer, Claudio Santangelo, stands out. The solo part was taken by the composer himself, and our musicians rose to the work's considerable challenges, to deliver a thrilling performance, expertly guided by Mrs Rosanna Whitfield.





Perfick!

It was a one-off event that promised to be a showstopper, and the *Darling Buds of May* concert certainly delivered. Devised and compèred by the show's Executive Producer, and Old Whitgiftian, Mr Pip Burley (pictured, right, centre), the evening was a mixture of music, film, stories and cast interviews.



This was the first concert of the academic year to celebrate the partnership between the Whitgift Chamber Orchestra and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, and was conducted by Whitgift's Director of Orchestral Music, Mr Philip Winter. Pieces from the *Darling Buds of May* score were played to a fantastically-high standard, and were clearly enjoyed by all the musicians taking part, as well as the audience. Mr Burley commented during the evening that this was the largest orchestra to play the show's music, and he was thrilled that this orchestral pairing was performing the series' classic soundtrack.

Mr Barrie Guard (pictured, below and right), the *Darling Buds of May* Musical Director, made an appearance, conducting his beautiful piece, *On the River*, much to the audience's delight.

Cast member, Abigail Rokison (pictured, right), who played Primrose Larkin, was one of Mr Burley's interviewees during the evening, and a second cast member greeted the audience upon arrival...Pop Larkin's Rolls Royce!





'a second cast member greeted the audience upon arrival...Pop Larkin's Rolls Royce!'



This year's Lower Sixth Form Play was a resounding success, with the team of young actors taking on challenging scripts and bringing them to life in two compelling evenings of theatre on the Whitgift stage, exploring themes of entrapment that exist within every aspect of society.

Opening with the haunting *The Winter of 1917*, the pupils took on the personalities of a group of unsuspecting youths, seeking refuge from a storm in an abandoned stately home. As the house's dark and terrifying secret was revealed, there were audible gasps from the audience. Abbas Khan's portrayal of Truempenny chilled the blood, contrasting with Aaron Bird's hilarious Clegg.

In *Road Trip*, friendly conversation and strained laughs within the confines of a car provided an innocent mask to a rather more disturbing underlying tone, conveyed expertly by Connor Fulham and Paul Bird, who were trapped within a single box of light surrounded by encroaching darkness.

Catastrophe, a minimalist Samuel Beckett classic, had Henry Parritt's white-faced Protagonist pointing ominously into the audience, and Abbas Khan's Director physically forcing audience members out of their seats.

The final play, David Campton's *The Cagebirds*, presented a flock of mismatched caricatures, tyrannised by Pavan Rao's and Louis Danckwerts' spine-chilling portrayals of the Master. Directed by Alex Buchanan, who also played the Wild One, this show-stopper included ensemble choreography, along with a use of perspective and scale, to display the birds' physical and mental entrapment under the crushing influence of their oppressor.



Trapped





Olé

Whitgift competed in the 2014 Hispanic Theatre Festival, hosted at North London Collegiate School, in Harrow, in October. Sixth Formers David Gyamfi, Matthew Choy, Parth Vashee, Alex Tremlin, Josh Haasz and Rahmon Agbaje, represented the School against other top independent schools, including Eton College, Harrow School, St Paul's Girls' School and University College School, and emerged as prize-winners.



They performed the gripping play *La Muerte y La Doncella* by the famous Chilean writer, Ariel Dorfman, winning the grand prize of 'Best Group – Spoken Spanish'. The play, performed in fluent Spanish throughout, tells the tale of torture under the tyranny of Chilean dictator, General Pinochet, and a woman's desperation to bring her captor to justice.

The judges included Laura Querubin, the Embassy of Colombia's Cultural Attaché; Gilberto Terente, Language and

Education Consultant for the Spanish Embassy; and Juan Blas Delgado, Director of Cultural Activities at Instituto Cervantes. Whitgift was one of only two schools to win a group prize.

David Gyamfi commented, "Acting out a play in another language was an unusual experience; however, it was one that I thoroughly enjoyed. Our hard work certainly paid off, and winning against schools of such a high standard was a fantastic feeling."



Let the games begin

Upper Third Former, James Smith (pictured, right), was selected by Table Tennis England for their 28-strong England Youth Squad, in September. The squad, set up to 'help the elite players of the future hit their full potential', allows regular contact and support from national coaching staff. The 14-year-old has since played in the U15 and U18 nationals, in Preston, Lancashire, in November. He reached the last 32 in the U18 singles, the semi-finals of the U15 singles, and lost a tight final in the U15 doubles.

The U16 team of James Smith, Reiss Vydelingum, Jason Kwok, Kobi Mintah and Callum McKeague (pictured, right) won the Jack Petchey London Schools' Table Tennis Championships for South London, defeating Wilson's School in the final. The team now progress on to the National Zone Finals in January.

Upper Sixth Form pupil, Matthew Gold (pictured, below), has been selected to represent Maccabi Team GB, in the junior table tennis event at the European Maccabi Games, in the summer of 2015. Maccabi is a worldwide Jewish organisation, which provides sport and educational activities, with membership at over 400,000. The next games will take place in Germany. There will be over 250 GB athletes taking part in 23 sports at junior, masters and open levels. In order to be selected for the Games, Matthew won the Maccabi GB Junior Boys Open Championship, in July 2014.



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Golden Brown

In November, Lower Fifth Form pupil, Piers Brown, won gold at the Peter Waterfield Novice Diving Invitational competition. The event, held at The Quays in Southampton, was open to junior divers from all over the country. Piers, who dives for Crystal Palace Diving Club, came 1st out of 29 contestants in the 14-16 age group at the event.





Fencing

success

Not one, but two, Old Whitgiftians represented England at the Commonwealth Fencing Championships 2014, in Largs, Scotland. 300 athletes from 20 Commonwealth countries competed over the course of five days, in November. Maiyuran Ratneswaran (pictured, above, on the right) won silver in the Men's Individual Sabre, and gold in the Sabre Team event. Mr Dudley Tredger (pictured, right, on the right), also a Whitgift teacher of Economics, was crowned Commonwealth Individual Épée Champion. The School has had Old Whitgiftians in five consecutive Commonwealth Championships, winning a medal each time. Mr Keith Smith, Head of History, commented, "I am very proud of their achievements, as they learned fencing at Whitgift during my time as master in charge."

In the current Whitgift fencing ranks, Upper Third Form pupil, Tarrig Roach (pictured, below right), has achieved the outstanding feat of being selected to represent Great Britain at the next international fencing event, in Bratislava, as part of the U17 team. This is particularly significant considering he is only 13 years old. This follows on from competing for the first time ever in the U16 category, and winning, in the Elite Épée Series, a national competition that was held in Surrey, in November. Tarrig is also in the selection pool for the Cadet and Junior Commonwealth Fencing Championships, due to take place in Cape Town, in July 2015.





Whitgift's Lower School have performed *The Wind in the Willows*, in which Mole (Ben Hunter), Rat (Rex Elliott), and Badger (Joshua Tikare), try to keep the wild obsessions of their wealthy, eccentric friend, Toad (Alex Painter), in check. The story was punctuated by delightful interludes of song, accompanied by an orchestra of boys and staff, led by Mr Alan Weakley. The cast brought to life the characters of the Kenneth Grahame novel, with Matthew Warne's Albert, the disgruntled horse, and Haydn Rees's Scottish Otter, in particular,

raising laughs from the audience. The motley crew of crafty weasels, ferrets and foxes, duly brought the story to its climax.

Under Mr Paul Wilson's adept direction, the performance was charming; the clever use of cast members to represent mobile props, such as the river boat, and the artistic make-up, courtesy of the English National Opera, added extra dimensions.

Wind in the the Willows







Experienced commentators were unanimous in hailing this term's Autumn Collection Concert as one of the best ever. The Brass Ensemble excelled themselves in a rousing performance of the finale from Rossini's *William Tell* overture; Mr James Griffith's arrangement of music from the Bond movie, *Skyfall*, was exciting and atmospheric, with the First Form Choir, the Soul Choir and Whitgift Voices combined to stunning effect; a superb performance of Vivaldi's *Concerto for Three Violins*, conducted by Mr Philip Winter, allowed our *Whitgift International Music Competition* scholars to show off their talent; and Atanas Yanchev played Rachmaninoff's *Variations on a Theme of Paganini* to the manner born, ably supported by Mrs Rosanna Whitfield. Perhaps the most moving item was the première of Mr William Church's *Til the Boys Come Home*, sung by the First Form Choir. This excellent work was a fitting tribute to those who gave their lives in World War One.



Autumn





Collection





The October Half Term holiday saw an array of boys enhancing their education, with cultural trips, musical exploits and language exchanges.

Surfs up

22 boys went to Portugal for the annual, so-called 'Endless Summer' excursion. They had a fantastic week taking advantage of the warm weather and first-rate surf-coaching. Head of Outdoor Education, Mr Ben Green, commented, "Progress amongst the whole group was very impressive, and the instructors were amazed by the sheer energy and enthusiasm displayed by the boys."



Wherefore art thou?

The Upper Fifth Form Italian students embarked on their annual Verona exchange. All involved had a fantastic time, learning first-hand the value of immersion in the culture. The group also enjoyed visits to Venice and Bologna, where they were wowed by the architecture. James O'Sullivan, who thoroughly enjoyed his stay with his host family, commented, "Learning about the culture was very interesting, and the best way to do this is with the local people. I have come out of my first Italian exchange having had fun, and an educational and rewarding experience."





In a liga of their own

A group of Lower Fifth Form students visited the enchanting city of Valencia. The boys visited the Cathedral, a bullring, the Fallas Museum, the Oceanographic (the biggest aquarium in Europe) and the City of Arts and Sciences. A sure highlight was the Mestalla Stadium tour, where the boys could pretend they were Valencian footballers. Despite discovering all these wonderful places, what really made the exchange successful was the relationship with their partners and host families, enabling them to live the real Spanish life.



In Beijing

25 Fifth Form Chinese linguists went on the annual Beijing exchange. The boys were amazed by the sheer size of the majestic Forbidden City – the imperial palace from the Ming dynasty – and impressed by well-preserved 2,000-year-old Terracotta Warriors, not to mention exhausted by the steep incline of the Great Wall of China!

Lower Fifth Former, Andrew Young, was initially struck, on arrival to the country, by the array of Chinese characters, but soon found that he could recognise more characters than he thought. He commented, “It was an incredible trip that ‘threw us in at the deep end’ of Chinese culture, and provided a realistic experience of Chinese life. I left with wonderful memories that I will cherish forever.”



Wilde things

In the lead-up to Christmas, the Upper School performed Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Taking on one of the best-loved plays in the English language, the cast had the formidable task of delivering Wilde's complex and extensive dialogue, and engaging the audience fully in the sharp wordplay throughout.

Especially strong performances came from Alex Buchanan and Connor Fulham as Algernon and Jack/Earnest respectively, Zara Kesterton as Gwendolen, Jack Hill as the fidgety vicar, and Oscar Nicholson as the matriarch Lady Bracknell, with her ridiculous views on morality. The cast was directed by Mr Hugh Trimble, and produced by Miss Rosanna Seal.





DofE Gold

Whitgift's Duke of Edinburgh Award Gold participants – Kavish Shah (*front row, second from left*), Nishil Patel (*front row, second from right*); Darshan Patel (*middle row, boy on the left*), Gobi Varatha-Rajan (*middle row, boy on the right*); Alex Rousou (*back row, furthest left*), Andrew Brackenbury (*back row, second from left*), Dominic Clark (*back row, centre*), Rishi Patel (*back row, third from right*) and Jason Ying (*back row, second from right*) – received their awards at St James's Palace, in November, from the scheme's Patron, HRH Prince Philip, and the 'Dragon Slayer' himself, businessman Levi Roots.

Designed to teach and foster the skills of teamwork, leadership, independence and organisation, the DofE is highly-regarded by admissions tutors and employers alike. The programme is open to boys in Upper Third Form and above.



Premier league

First Former, Jamal Musiala, was one of two members of the Chelsea FC Academy team who met David Cameron, at Downing Street, in December. All 20 *Premier League* clubs had U12 teams playing in the Premier League Christmas Truce tournament, held in Ypres. The Chelsea FC Academy players emerged victorious, beating Liverpool FC Academy 5-0 in the final, with Jamal scoring three goals, qualifying them for the international competition. They met the Prime Minister ahead of their *Premier League* Christmas Truce International Tournament in Belgium, where they faced their European counterparts. The competition was started in 2011 in the spirit of the Christmas Truce, when soldiers in the First World War ceased fighting on Christmas Day, in 1914, and exchanged gifts, sang carols and played impromptu games of football in no-man's land.



Private View

A selection of the work on display at the Third Form Art Exhibition in December





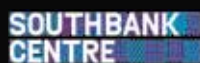
THE ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA AND WHITGIFT CHAMBER ORCHESTRA Orchestral and Choral Spectacular

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
Thursday 26 March 2015, 7.30pm

To book, please visit:
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or call 0844 847 9910



Featuring violinist *Dan-Iulian Druţac*,
Grand Prize winner of the Whitgift
International Music Competition 2013



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL EVENSONG

Wednesday 18 February
5.30pm, Salisbury Cathedral
FREE admission

THE CRUCIBLE

Wednesday 11 – Saturday 14 March
7.30pm, Big School
Tickets: £8, Concessions* £4
Suitable for 11+ years only



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)

**REMEMBERING
1916**
LIFE ON THE WESTERN FRONT

In 2016, Whitgift will be hosting a major exhibition, to mark the Centenary of the First World War. **Remembering 1916 – Life on the Western Front** will display a large number of superb exhibits, including links to many of the 251 Old Whitgiftians who lost their lives during the War.

Front Cover image:

Members of Whitgift's Combined Cadet Force take part in the 'Poppies in the Moat' project at the Tower of London

Photography ©Jana Chiellino 2014

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,
South Croydon
YouTube: Whitgift School

