

Newsletter

Summer 2018

St Gabriel's

Your Route to Success

Message from the Principal

Schools are all about community

For a school to succeed it must have a sense of community and at the same time play an active role in the local area. St Gabriel's has been part of the Newbury community for over 70 years and has built strong relationships locally.

The celebrations on Greenham Common last September to mark 100 Years of War & Peace were a most memorable occasion, and I was proud of the way that the school contributed to, and participated in, these celebrations. This September, the Junior and Senior Schools will be performing on the bandstand at the Royal Berkshire Show putting on a music showcase for the enjoyment of the wider community, whilst experiencing the thrill of performing, in front of a live audience.

We have strengthened our links with St Nicolas' Church in the town centre, holding our confirmation service there last November and, looking ahead, this more traditional setting will be hosting our Senior School carol service at the end of the Autumn Term.

We are a school where the young people we educate work together to achieve greatness: you only have to read this newsletter to see so many examples of this.

Our pupils continue to be part of our school community even after they move on to the next stage of their education. We were delighted to welcome back over 70 alumnae to our recent school reunion, where they delighted in sharing their memories and there was an overriding feeling of belonging.

Schools run in cycles, and as we prepare for the start of a new academic year we are looking forward to welcoming our next generation of pupils, who will benefit from new Science facilities, a refurbished theatre, as well as floodlighting on the netball courts. Most importantly, it is the sense of belonging and community that will allow our pupils to be themselves, in a world where it seems this is increasingly challenging for young people.

Mr Ricki Smith, Principal



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It's Your Newsletter



Hello everybody I am delighted to introduce myself, Bridget Evans, as the new editor of your School Newsletter.

In this edition you can enjoy reading lots of interesting stories about what has been happening in and out of school over the Summer Term.

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Toddler Room

The toddler Room has had great fun in the sun, taking full advantage of every opportunity for some water play to stay cool. They have been squirting water pistols, playing in the water tray and filling balloons with water and then popping them with sticks, pictured below.

Learning topics have included **Under the Sea**, where the children helped to make a fantastic and vibrant 3D fish display, suspended from the ceiling. They used balloons to make the fish and painted many other sea creatures to complete the scene.

Babies Room

Our youngest children had a busy and exciting Summer Term. The fabulous weather allowed them to get outside and enjoy the new outdoor cosy book corner, pictured above, explore the mathematical activities space, pictured below and have fun playing with their toy animals at the Small World Big Tyre. A lot of water play has helped to keep everyone cool whilst having lots of fun too.

The Babies have taken part in several events with the other children in Sandleford; including the **Barnados Big Toddle**, pictured below right, this was followed by a lovely long afternoon tea in the shade of the marquee, and the Fathers Day Stay & Play morning, where they painted kindness rocks as gifts for their daddies.

Discussions about the sea naturally led to thoughts of holidays and different forms of transport. The children eagerly talked about visiting Spain, France, Portugal and Turkey. They took part in creating a display where they could fill a suitcase with what they needed for their holiday. This encouraged the use and development of new vocabulary and spoken language skills, critical at this stage of the children's learning.

Tod the bear continued to visit many homes. He always returned with his host, who shared news on what Tod had done with their family at the weekend.



SANDLEFORD

Pre-School Room

Our Pre-School Room has been a hive of activity over the Summer Term. The children were fascinated by the volcanic eruption experiments, which captured their attention. They watched intently and asked many excellent questions.

The story focus for July was '**Room on the Broom**', which led to lots of creative activities including mask-making.

Food, as always, was a popular topic in the Pre-School Room and everyone loved having the opportunity to do some baking, making chocolate chip cupcakes with Jemma.



The children also looked after plants and took great care to water them in the hot weather, pictured below. They were able to taste the fruits of their labour when they harvested the peas and strawberries – yummy!



Many visitors came to join and support the children at the **Big Toddler**, raising funds for Barnardo's, pictured above and the **Teddy Bears' Picnic**, pictured below. The children also enjoyed spending time with their daddies during the Fathers Day Stay and Play morning.

The hot weather meant the children could have lots of fun splashing and playing in the paddling pool and taking swimming lessons in the school pool (as part of our PE programme). It was a good time to teach the children important rules about staying safe in the water and the sun. The children made their own safety posters which were displayed around the paddling pool.

The Pre-School Room and Reception staff also reassured the children as they prepared for the next step to 'big school' with visits during the Summer Term, to both St Gabriel's and other local schools. The children enjoyed meeting their new teachers and making new friends.

Mrs Lawrence, Sandleford Curriculum Manager



JUNIOR SCHOOL

Sammy the Cheeky Cat



We were delighted to welcome Mrs Fuller, author and illustrator of **Sammy the Cheeky Cat**, which she kindly read to all our Reception children at the end of term. They loved hearing the tale.

Lifecycles of the Frog and Butterfly

Reception pupils brought to life their learning about the lifecycles of the frog and butterfly by watching a tank of tadpoles and a pot of caterpillars grow rapidly. Pupils eagerly awaited the next stage in each of these lifecycles; would the tadpoles change into froglets first, or would the caterpillars spin their cocoons?

In one of their OWLTime sessions, the children discovered lots of frogs in the grounds and Maquil, Reception, pictured below, was brave enough to hold one. The children embraced the topic in all areas of their learning, they sang number rhymes such as **Five Little Speckled Frogs**, were inspired to paint and write stories based on the classic tale **The Frog Prince**, and enjoyed the sequencing activities allowing them to demonstrate their knowledge of the frog's lifecycle.



Superhero Mask Writing

Reception pupils put on their superhero capes and masks and wrote letters to their favourite superheroes, popped them in envelopes and posted them in the special postbox! Not only was this great imaginative play, but it also encouraged everybody to put pen to paper and practise their handwriting skills.

Capacity

Reception pupils learnt about capacity. This involved how to describe the amount of liquid or solid in a container. A practical application of this was **Milkshake Maths**, where the children, pictured below, filled their cups with strawberry milkshake and used straws to gradually change the levels from full to empty - delicious!



Year 1- Mud Faces

During the Summer Term Miss Adams set our small adventurers the very messy and fun challenge of making mud faces on trees, which connected with the science topic, '**growing plants**'.



JUNIOR SCHOOL



New iPads

New iPads for Year 1 children meant they proudly got to take photographs of plants in the grounds during their Science lesson.



The Living Rainforest

Our Year 1 “explorers” had a hot and humid time at the Living Rainforest in Hampstead Norreys. Highlights were seeing **Cinnamon the Sloth**, **Delilah the Toucan** and sharing a unique moment when a cockroach shed its skin. A happy day in the tropics!



History Talk



Year 1 children ‘time travelled’ to the Victorian days, when a special visitor Mrs Hornsey, came into school to share talks about life at home in the olden days as a mother and housewife. Mrs Hornsey engaged the children with her stories, costume and very interesting artefacts.

Following this, in June the whole Junior School enjoyed a special outdoor history talk in assembly, pictured above. They learnt about life in the 17th Century which was brought to life by authentic costumes and artefacts courtesy of the English Civil War Society.

Year 5 Visit Normandy

In June, Year 5 enjoyed a fantastic educational trip to Bosville in Normandy. Residing on a wonderful farm with horses, goats, chickens, alpacas and pot-bellied pigs, they appreciated delicious food, many exciting trips, spoke lots of French and relished the chance to meet their pen-pals! C’était super!



JUNIOR SCHOOL

Year 4 Tudor Portraits

Year 4 created Tudor portraits. Below is several examples of their fantastic work.



Dynamo Dance Day



Mrs Hastings, Head of Dance, ran an action-filled dance event in July. St Gabriel's participants were joined by external pupils from seven local schools. It was a hugely successful workshop culminating in a dance performance to an engaged audience. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the event and the participants took home a personalised certificate.

Year 5 & 6 - Art & Textiles

Take a look at this montage of the colourful surrealism artwork by Year 5 - 6 and below the exquisite textile work below by Gabriella, Year 5 and Elsy W. Year 5



JUNIOR SCHOOL

Year 6 - Matilda Production

In June, Year 6 took to the stage to perform the much loved musical 'Matilda' directed by Head of Drama Mrs Ruth Chaplin. During the performance the audience saw Matilda journey into her first day at school and Miss Honey take

her under her wing to allow her to grow in the way any caring and understanding teacher would.

The pupils showed dedication and commitment throughout the rehearsal process, right up until the final curtain. Millie, who played Miss Trunchbull, performed to an outstanding standard, using her voice and



facial expressions to offer an exceptional all-round hilarious character.

Matilda, played by Gabby, showed a mature level of characterisation highlighting the sensitive, bright and determined character of Matilda.

The audience witnessed a wide selection of talent from all the pupils involved. Mrs Hastings choreographed a selection of dances that really brought the ensemble numbers to life, while Dr Tebbs took to the stage with his Senior School band to present the talent of his musicians.

Mrs Chaplin, Head of Drama

Year 6 to Mill on the Brue

Year 6 enjoyed a wonderful week at **Mill on the Brue** activity centre in May. This was a special visit as it was the 30th year that St Gabriel's have taken children to Trendle Farm in Bruton, and they were presented with a commemorative wooden canoe paddle by way of celebration.

The weather held out for most of the week and children relished the



challenges of climbing, tunnelling, canoeing and raft-building amongst other activities.

Mr Dove, Miss Pearmine and Mrs Cockar were extremely impressed with the positive attitude of the children throughout the week and Year 6 were all pleased to receive **Zero Hero** wristbands for having wasted not one ounce of food!



JUNIOR SCHOOL

Year 4 Visit Lulworth Cove

In June, Year 4 enjoyed their much awaited, first residential trip to Lulworth Cove in Dorset as part of their geography curriculum. They met a ranger from the English Heritage Centre who explained how the coastline has evolved. One of the many facts they learnt was that the oldest rock, Portland Limestone, is 150 million years old. Everyone had a brilliant time.



"When we arrived, the weather was gorgeous and we headed straight to Durdle Door. We enjoyed paddling in the sea and I found some anemones. We made beach art out of beautiful rocks by balancing them, like Mr Smith had shown us in assembly."
Penny, Year 4

JUNIOR SPORTS

Gold Award 2017 - 2018



Congratulations to our Junior School pupils for achieving **School Games GOLD Award 2017 - 2018**. This is great recognition of the excellent commitment all our pupils apply to sport.

Swimming

The sun shone brightly at this year's Swimming Gala. Everyone in the Junior School took part in races which were appropriate to the children's stage of development, from object pick-ups to individual medley races and there was plenty of excellent swimming on show.

Particular congratulations go to individual medley cup winners Rubi and Max, Year 6, with the overall team win going to Bede.



JUNIOR SPORTS

IAPS Swimming

After coming through the first round at Marlston House in April, Max and Rubi, Year 6, pictured right, clocked up times which put them in the top 20 national swimmers from the independent schools sector.

They travelled to the Aquatics Centre in London in June, to compete in the finals of the 50m breaststroke with Max gaining second place and Rubi 15th in a personal best time.

We have been very lucky to have had the expertise of this pair in our Year 6 lessons this term and have been treated to a masterclass of stroke technique from both of them. They have a bright future in swimming and we wish them every success.



Mrs Cockar, who has been developing swimming in our after-school provision, has reported that every child has developed well over the 6 week course. We would like to thank Grace, Year 9, for supporting Mrs Cockar, this term, with her swimming sessions.

Football

First place and gold medals went to our Years 3 and 4 football team during the Summer term at the Girls Football Festival run by Newbury Football Club. In their first outing of the year, the Year 2 team managed to keep a clean sheet during the afternoon and were very pleased with their medals. Well done to all our footballers.

Thanks to Mr Ives who has managed the Football Club throughout the year with some highly competitive matches during Sport Relief.



QuadKids

Pupils from Year 3 - 6 took part in the West Berkshire QuadKids competition at Park House School. This was an opportunity to compete against over 100 children from West Berkshire schools and to improve personal performances in Vortex, sprint, distance and standing long jump.

Congratulations go to the whole squad and in the Year 5 - 6 age group, special mention to:

Clare - 3rd
Poppy - 5th
Lydia - 6th

Well done to all our athletes for a season of achieving personal best performances.



Sports Day

Junior School Sports Day was a thrilling occasion for everyone. All our pupils participated with great enthusiasm, well done! Special mention to Bede our overall winners. A gallery of images from Junior School Sports Day is available at:

www.stgabriels.co.uk/juniorsportsday2018



Cricket



The Year 3's were fortunate enough to be invited to a training session at Falkland Cricket Club where they were able to work on their bowling, catching, aiming and batting.

They finished with a game of clock cricket and had a lovely morning.

Mrs Pasternakiewicz, PE Department

JUNIOR SCHOOL



Hengistbury Head

In July, Year 2 spent a gloriously sunny day at Hengistbury Head, Bournemouth. The sun gods were most definitely on our side after two years of rainy seaside trips.

When we arrived we were already famished so we tucked into our packed lunches at 10:30 am! Whilst the sun shone overhead we ambled through the woodland path, making the most of the shade to read about the Headland and discover more about its ancient history. (As Year 2 know all too well, Miss Smith can turn any lesson into a History lesson). Little legs as we know can soon tire, but the promise of a picnic lunch on the beach soon encouraged the troops to march on. On our arrival at Mudeford we set-up base camp.

The afternoon on the beach left us all with a lifetime of memories from sandcastles, to seaweed moustaches, to pebble skimming and paddling. No one wanted to leave, but with the promise of a train ride home and ice-cream at the Hikers Café it was with sadness that our final Year 2 class trip drew to a close. But in the words of Winnie the Pooh 'How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard'.

Miss Smith, Deputy Head of Junior School



Junior Music

Another fantastic term in the Junior Music Department! Parents were treated to class concerts by Year 2 on the Ukulele, Year 3 on the Fife and chalumeau, and Year 4 on the P-Bone, pictured above. There was also a very professional lunch-time concert given by our young instrumentalists and vocalists. Year 1 also enjoyed learning the violin with Mr Bott our violin teacher.

Year 3 and Year 4 were thrilled to visit the Corn Exchange theatre to hear the thundering rhythms of the Mugenyiko Taiko Drummers, as part of Newbury Spring Festival. They learnt how to say the rhythms in Japanese, and enjoyed a very funny demonstration of how **not** to play the Taiko drums! This was an excellent opportunity for pupils to see and hear a genre of music beyond their usual experience.

The whole Junior School sang with style and power at Celebration Day; the school favourite was 'Proud Mary' complete with actions. The highlight of the term was the Year 6 production of Matilda! Congratulations to Year 6 on a well-performed and wonderful show.

Ms Gunn, Music Department



SENIOR SCHOOL

Parc Astérix

The journey was fun-packed on our trip to Parc Astérix and the feeling of watching England float away was amazing! Later we visited war graves, which was an incredible, but deeply sad experience. It triggered many emotions.

Then at Parc Astérix, in groups of four we went on rides. Some people preferred the huge rides while others went for the water rides. The next day we went to Parc Samara and had a two hour tour, where we travelled back in time millions of years. We learnt about different civilisations and how they used to live. Some of us got to try carving limestone.

Soon the trip had to cease. We travelled back to England with several jars of pickles, some strawberries, a giant dog, a giant pink blob, a goat, a doughnut and a unicorn. Parc Astérix was brilliant and I would like to say a big "thank you" on behalf of all the participants, to the teachers who came with us. Merci!

Rachel, Year 8

Greenham Common

On 28 June, Year 10 went on a five kilometre walk over Greenham Common. Throughout the walk, they discussed the common's rich history including enclosure, the Civil War, the Cold War, D-Day and life on the US air base.

Various questions were posed to the group as they navigated around the missile silos, control tower, runway and contamination suite. There are several links between St Gabriel's and the common and they posed challenges for Year 10 to work out. For example, which current member of staff piloted a plane over Greenham Common when it was an American airbase?

Answer : Mrs Haywood-Smith.

A new question for parents and grandparents. Which current member of staff's father-in-law was involved in the court case of Sarah Tisdall, the civil servant who leaked official secrets to the peace campaigners about missile deployment in the 1980s?

Answer: Will be given in the next issue.

Mr Mannion, History Department



"We managed to get the teachers on some of the rides!

Mr Ives went on the log flumes and Miss Ferretti, Yao Yao, Liséa and I went on the Grand Splatch. We all had great fun and left with reluctance".

Rachel, Year 8

Murder in our Library

On a gloriously sunny morning, Year 7 and a sprinkling of Year 8 were welcomed to Sandleford Priory, home of Lord and Lady Wittering. There had been a murder most foul – Lady Wittering was found dead by her husband. The girls set off on their investigative quest for the truth.

Later they designed book covers and had the opportunity to devise and perform their own murder mysteries. The body count rose with the afternoon temperatures, there were some splendid 'deaths', some spectacular murders and finger-print taking a-plenty to round off a day of detective delights!

Huge thanks to Mrs Rumbol, Miss Halstead, Miss Crombie and Dr Tebbs and also to Miss Gu and Miss Zhu who enjoyed all the afternoon plays enormously. Thanks to all the girls for getting involved with such enthusiasm. Remember **Murder will out!**

Mrs Borzoni, Librarian



SENIOR SCHOOL

Community Links

Year 10 pupils got active in the community in May, visiting local care homes and painting equipment at a play park.

Year 10T visited The Argyles Residential Care Home, in Newbury, pictured below, where they chatted to a number of residents, found out about their lives, interests and performed some musical accompaniment to the listeners delight.

Year 10S visited Gracewell of Newbury. The girls were given a guided tour of the home, played board games and enjoyed getting to know the people who lived there. Jemima, Year 10 has decided to continue our link with Gracewells and is hoping to volunteer there in the future as part of her Duke of Edinburgh award.

"We enjoyed brightening up their day and finding out about them and how they used to live".

Year 10S

Year 10G pupils also painted the play equipment at Swings & Smiles, pictured below. Year 9S visited St Mark's School in Cold Ash, where Misty ran activities such as reading and parachute games.

Year 9T organised sporting activities for Year 3 & 4 pupils at Falkland Primary School.

Well done to all our girls for giving something back to the local community.



Jewish Museum

On 29 June, Year 7 and some Year 8 visited the Jewish Museum in London. We started off by learning about Judaism and then identified some objects that are important to the religion. We particularly focused on Torah Scrolls and how they are read and made. We explored the galleries, learnt how to write our names in ancient Hebrew using a feather and ink and were taught more about the Jewish religion.

"Personally, I really enjoyed the day and found it an extremely interesting and informative exercise to learn about Jewish beliefs and festivals. I particularly liked learning to write in ancient Hebrew."

We also learnt about the festival Shabbat; this is the Jewish day of rest and occurs every week from sunset on Friday until sunset on Saturday. We learnt about what Jews should and should not do and how they celebrate Shabbat.

Charlotte, Year 7



SENIOR SCHOOL



Geography Trip to Swanage

In June, Year 10 spent a gloriously sunny day in Swanage collecting primary data for their geography GCSE. They were investigating how effective the groynes were at reducing longshore drift. The pupils undertook a range of data collection methods including beach profiling, field sketching and measuring sediment accumulation on both sides of the groynes.

They had lunch on the beach and even squeezed in an ice-cream! Since returning to school they have concluded that their data shows that the groynes in Swanage are effective at reducing longshore drift.

Year 12 also joined Year 10 for the day, as this gave them an opportunity to practise their data collection skills in preparation for their field work later this year.

Mrs Harvey, Head of Geography

SENIOR SCHOOL



Mini Production Plant Tour

Year 10-13 Product Design and Business students visited the Mini plant in Oxford for an exclusive tour of the manufacturing facilities. The trip was the perfect opportunity for students to experience first-hand the specialist logistics and equipment used to maintain a Just-in-time production line.

They watched advanced robots using laser welding techniques to complete body shell production and witnessed state of the art camera visioning systems being utilised along the assembly line for quality checking. It was certainly like nothing we have seen before and the students gained a real appreciation of the awe-inspiring scale and sheer level of automation.

Mrs Knott, Head of Technology

Maths Challenge

In April, girls in Years 7 & 8, alongside 260,000 others in the UK, entered this year's Junior Maths Challenge competition. Only the top 6% were awarded Gold, 13% Silver and 21% Bronze. We would like to congratulate the following girls for their excellent achievement.

Bronze Certificates go to:

Megan, Year 7

Mei, Year 7

Ellen, Year 7

Amber, Year 8

Liséa, Year 8

Tabitha, Year 8

Emily W, Year 8

Silver Certificates go to:

Alice, Year 8

Poppy, Year 7

Zara W, Year 7 (Also 'Best in Year 7').

Gold certificates, along with 'Best in Year 8 & Best in School' go jointly to:

Holly, Year 8 & Tayisha, Year 8

Well done to all those who took part!

Mrs Sim, Head of Maths



Duke of Edinburgh

Over two evenings and two weekends in the Summer Term, 34 girls from Year 10 completed the expedition section of their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award. The first weekend away was the practice walk completed in the Andover area, where the girls got to grips with key skills such as cooking on a stove and pitching a tent, whilst also completing a 25km walk with heavy backpacks!

The second weekend away was the assessed expedition in the Wantage area. The girls had to contend with steep hills and high temperatures... but they kept going and ultimately triumphed. They all passed this section and went home tired but proud.

Over a very warm couple of days during Activities' Week, Year 9 completed a training camp as a taster for the Duke of Edinburgh Award. They learned key skills such as how to read a map, navigate with a compass, pitch a tent and cook on a stove. They camped overnight in the school grounds and then completed an 11km walk in the local area the following morning.

Congratulations to all the girls for meeting the challenges, and thank you to all the staff who made it possible. You are all winners!

Mr Lewis and Mrs Lay, Duke of Edinburgh



SENIOR SCHOOL



Jane Austen Tea Party

In June, Year 10 took part in a Jane Austen tea party. For this event we dressed either as a woman or a man of the time, which resulted in many interesting costumes. Each of us brought a plate of food, mostly consisting of cake and other sweet treats, to share with the others at our table.

After a short time of sitting, chatting and eating we watched a performance of Regency Blind Date by a small group of people in our year. In this performance we had six characters: Mr Wickham, Mr Bingley, Mrs Gardiner, Lydia Bennet, Elizabeth Bennet and Georgiana Darcy. The hosts, Mr Bingley and Mrs Gardiner helped Mr Wickham choose a wife from the three single women. However, Miss Elizabeth Bennet made a feminist statement halfway through and stormed off the stage!

This event was followed by musical entertainment in the Oval Room. Firstly, Diani played a piece by Bach on the flute and then Olivia and Sophia sang a Latin duet. We then went outside to play a **Pride & Prejudice** version of charades. We were split into small groups and created a freeze-frame from an extract from the novel. We then showed them to the rest of the year who had to guess the scene.

Finally we all lined up outside the marquee and learnt a dance; Overall we had a very enjoyable afternoon in the sunshine and beautiful surroundings, and it brought the novel to life.

Abi, Year 10 and Annabelle L, Year 10



"We all formed pairs and danced in circles as well as each pair running through an arch made by our arms. This is just the kind of dance in which Elizabeth Bennet and her sisters might have participated in the early 19th Century".

Abi and Annabelle L

SENIOR SCHOOL



GCSE Art Exhibition

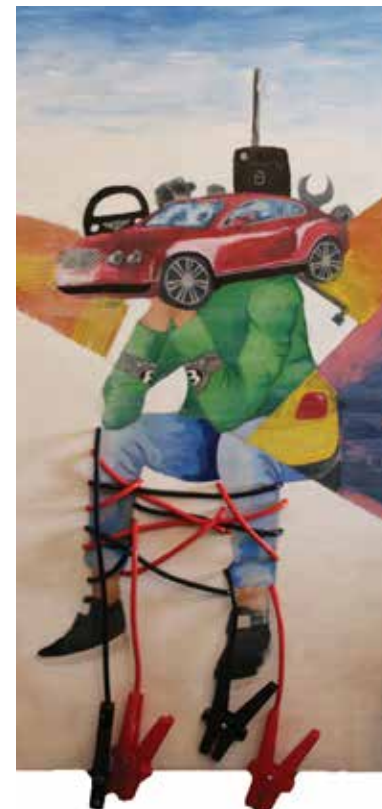
This year's exhibition celebrated the incredible amount of hard work our Year 11 Art, Photography and Textiles students have put in over the past two years.

A wonderful range of creativity and talent filled the Square Hall and Art Department and was met with lots of praise and admiration from all who visited. The girls in Art produced plenty of daring outcomes including large scale oil portraits, mixed media architecture, turtles made of rubbish, intricate drawings of broken toys, distorted still life and car inspired paintings.

Our Textiles students had a fantastic variety of pieces on show as well. Lucy and Jodie both showcased tapestries, dresses and headdresses, each demonstrating incredibly high levels of detail and intricacy. Finally our many photographers filled the Square Hall with an excellent range of work.

The girls' chosen themes were personal and thought-provoking, with projects ranging from abuse and bullying, to celebrations, horse shows to historical buildings, fantasy and surrealism to personal journeys and texture to dance and movement. Miss Hunter, Miss Keenleyside and Mr Spurrett are incredibly proud of all the girls' efforts this year.

Mr Spurrett, Head of Art



SENIOR SCHOOL

Textiles

This term, Year 7 have thoroughly enjoyed designing and making their fabulous patchwork diary covers, pictured below. At the start of the project, many girls had never used a sewing machine before.

Year 9 have undertaken a wrap skirt project in the Summer Term, they learnt valuable life skills in making their own clothing using a commercial pattern. They were challenged to select an appropriate fabric, create a layplan and cut out the pieces, before machine stitching their skirts together. It was a technical challenge with facings, interfacing, tailor's tacks, darts and tie bands, but the girls rose to the challenge and created some lovely outcomes.

In their Year 10 coursework Clem and Georgia have produced some beautiful work during the first year of their Art Textiles GCSE course. Their sketchbooks are full of colour, pattern and ideas, in response to their 'Flora and Fauna' theme,

Year 11 GCSE students, Lucy and Jodie have worked tirelessly throughout their Art Textiles course, and their beautiful and extremely skillful outcomes speak for themselves.

During the course they created a wall hanging and a sculptural fashion dress, as well as a concept hat, based on water and flowers for their examination project. Wonderful work girls!



Mrs Hunter, Textiles



Design Technology

This picture above shows an assembly of the Stereo Amplifier project work created by our Year 9 pupils in Product Design. The full gallery can be viewed on our website.

www.stgabriels.co.uk/y9stereoamplifiers

Laser Quest



Friday, 11 May marked both the end of GCSE courses for Year 11 and the start of study leave. In recognition of all of the hard work Year 11 have put into their studies over the past few years, we went on a fun and stress releasing trip to Laser Quest. Each form had the opportunity to engage in team games against other form groups, with Year 11S controversially awarded the title of overall winners, having accumulated the most team points.

Having expended a huge amount of energy at Laser Quest, we then headed to Pizza Hut where we enjoyed a buffet lunch - the highlight of which was unlimited pizza. We then headed back to school for some fun group photos and a final assembly in the Theatre.

Mrs Hammons, Head of Upper School

SENIOR SPORTS

We have had a tremendously busy term in the PE department with interhouse events such as the Swimming Gala, league matches and Sports Day. The girls have been extremely busy with fixtures for athletics, tennis and rounders. The Year 7 rounders team remained undefeated for their league fixtures and became West Berkshire champions.

Year 9 won the district rounders tournament at The Downs. All other squads developed as the term went on and achieved a very commendable second or third places in their leagues. A very successful term and I would like to thank all the girls and PE staff for their hard work, determination and good humour!

Cricket

With cricket being introduced into our enrichment programme in the Senior School and lessons from Year 9 upwards we will be ready for some fixtures next summer. We have several girls who are now regularly playing at local clubs and Falkland Cricket club are always looking for new recruits.

Athletics

The under 15 and 17 area athletics was held at Palmer Park in Reading. All the girls performed admirably with Poppy, Year 9 and Izzy M, Year 11 being recalled to represent the Berkshire team in June.



Izzy went to the national championships in July in Birmingham. Other notable results from the area athletics include Emma, Year 9 - 4th Long Jump, Poppy, Year 9 - 4th 200m, Brooke, Year 8 - 6th 100m, Olivia, Year 9 - 7th 100m, Gabby, Year 9 - 5th 800m and under 15 relay team 6th.



Equestrian

The St Gabriel's Equestrian Team were very well represented at the first NSEA One Day Event of the season on 21 April at Calmsden Horse Trials near Cirencester. We had individual competitors representing St Gabriel's in both the 80cm Araminta R, and 100cm (Alice M) sections and a team of four riders; Abi W, Phoebe F, Mia A, pictured below right and Olivia A in the 90cm event.

Each horse and rider combination had to complete three phases; Dressage, Show Jumping and Cross Country over nearly 2000m with 20 jumping efforts to be completed within an optimum time.

The objective is to complete all three disciplines with the lowest penalty points possible. We were up against 17 excellent school teams competing over two days and finished in third place and thus qualified for the NSEA Eventing Championships at Crown Farm near Burford in July. In addition, Mia and Olivia finished 7th and 8th respectively and qualified for the Championships as individual competitors. Well done to all team members.



SENIOR SPORTS

Sports Day

Well the sun shone down on us for our 2018 Sports Day held at Crookham Common Athletics track. With events adapted to take into consideration the searing heat we had a fabulous day with every girl taking part. We started the day with our field events with records being taken by Minty, Year 7, (32.77m) and Emily W, Year 8, (29.11m) in the vortex and in the triple jump to Jemima, Year 10 (7.79m) and Joanna, Year 9 (9.12m). The house relay was won by the Chad in 59.75 and the overall house cup this year was won by Bede.

The department would like to give a special mention to the fantastic Sixth Form who supported the younger years throughout the day and put on a masterclass of Javelin throwing with next year's games captain Sophie B, Year 12 throwing 29.64, and relay expertise with Bede coming in first place. The three legged champions of 2018 were Alice M, Year 12 and Anisa, Year 12. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Anne and Dwayne Stewart Power for their help and support, they have worked tirelessly with the Running Club over



the year, provided shelter on cold wet cross country competition days and shade on our heat-wave sports day 2018.

Cheerleading

At the start of the Summer Term Year 9 competed in the Cheerleading World Championships in America. Their first competition was against 5 teams from around the world and they performed excellently.

A special mention goes to Daisy who's performance was described as clean and dynamic. Team **Crimson Heat** progressed through to the national cheerleading finals. Well done everyone.



Swimming



The sun continued to shine for the Senior Swimming Gala this year with some excellent swimming on show all round.

In the Senior School it was Chad who won the day after some highly competitive races in every year group. This term we have had the expertise of Sophia, Year 9 coaching our senior swimmers on a Tuesday morning. After two competitive galas against Downe House the results are getting closer with this term's gala being decided on the final race.

Mrs Pasternakiewicz, PE Department



SENIOR SPORTS



Netball

Congratulations to School Sports Captain Mitzi, Year 13 who has gained a place in the England under-21s NETS squad. NETS is a fast paced version of the game of netball played in a netted court and Mitzi will be training towards potentially playing at a World Cup in 2019.

Mitzi's younger sister, Darcey, Year 11, also represents Hucclecote under-16s in Gloucestershire and they have enjoyed a strong season, going undefeated in the South West Region.

We had a visit from the Newbury Weekly News who reported on the phenomenal success of sisters Mitzi and Darcey. The report outlined the resilience needed to become a top class athlete.

We wish Mitzi every success as she proceeds with her training and moves on to university.

"At the beginning of the season, I had quite a tricky time and it knocked my confidence, when I didn't get selected for a team which I had trialed for a year ago. I never thought I would be in this position and now I need to keep working hard to make the squad of 12 that will go to the World Cup in 2019".

Mitzi, Year 13

Both girls who have given so much of their time to St Gabriel's netball team. We also thank mum Su Porter Scott for her tireless support.

Mrs Pasternakiewicz, PE Department

SENIOR MUSIC



Music

It is always surprising to look back at the end of the Summer Term and see just how much our musicians have managed to achieve. The term began with an afternoon of recording GCSE and A level compositions with a visiting professional string quartet, who also did workshops on some Year 10 quartet compositions.

Our music scholars were treated to a lunch-time concert at the Newbury Spring Festival, we all really enjoyed and were inspired by Mi-sha Mullov-Abbado's jazz improvisations. Year 7 also enjoyed listening to the fabulous Tashi Lhunpo monks chanting, pictured above.

Throughout May and June music classes were busy composing and recording their own songs and our music ensembles met as usual, with Big Band working towards a performance at Newbury Show in September, and a group of St Gabriel's Singers practising hard to learn music for an epic performance of Benjamin Britten's War Requiem at The Anvil in Basingstoke on 9 June.

It was heads down, with pupils preparing for Associated Board and Trinity music exams (practical and theory) as well as GCSE and A level written papers. Musicians also entertained us in a lunchtime concert. They performed brilliantly for the Year 6 production of Matilda, Elizabeth E, Year 10 on bass and Annabelle G, Year 11 on flute.

Our final event was a wonderful Strawberries and Cream concert, which provided memorable, outstanding performances and a very appreciative audience. The department's huge thanks go to all musicians who have performed this year, and the parents, friends and teachers who have supported them. To all our leavers - we will miss you!

We are sad to be losing two of our visiting music teachers this term. Eleanor Gregory has taught singing at St Gabriel's for five years, and will be

greatly missed; Sian Monaghan is a relatively recent member of the department, teaching drum kit, but the lure of rock'n'roll stardom proved too much and she too has decided to move on to focus more on her performing.

We are very lucky to have a new singing teacher, Lys Hayles, who is an experienced local singing teacher and ABRSM examiner, and Nathan Cole, joins us on percussion. He has great experience of teaching in schools and until recently was Head of Percussion at Berkshire Maestros. We welcome them both and wish them well for the Autumn term.

Dr Tebbs, Head of Music

Music Examination Results

Name	Instrument	Grade	Result
Sienna Asser	Piano	1	Merit
Rachel Berkley	Music Theory	3	Pass
Anneliese Brown	Cello	6	Merit
Imogen Brown	Music Theory	4	Merit
Rosalie Coffey	Singing	6	Pass
Rachel Cohen	Singing	3	Merit
Sophie Donnelly	Piano	1	Pass
Emily Ducker	Singing	5	Merit
Tayisha Flower	Violin	8	Distinction
Jemima Garner	Violin	6	Pass
Matilda Heywood	Cello	3	Merit
Olivia Marsh	Violin	3	Pass
Isobel Moore	Oboe	5	Merit
Penny Page	Singing	2	Distinction
Penelope Russell	Guitar	3	Merit
Libby Stewart Power	Alto Saxophone	7	Distinction
Anna Stirk	B Flat Cornet	6	Merit
Isabella Thorne	Singing	3	Merit
Elsy Williams	Singing	1	Distinction
Tara Young	Saxophone	3	Merit



SIXTH FORM

World Challenge Expedition

Our excited Sixth Form students accompanied by Miss Pearmine headed off on their World Challenge Expedition on 7 July. Highlights included a day trekking in Kubah National Park and a visit to the Semenggoh Nature Reserve.



SIXTH FORM

Sixth Form Induction

In the week beginning 25 June we welcomed our new Sixth Form students for Induction. During the week they attended lessons in their chosen subjects for A level, alongside study skills sessions to address some of the different, more independent skills needed for studying at this level. There was also an introduction to the Young Enterprise Scheme and the Extended Project Qualification. Later that week the students went to Nuffield Health Sports Centre, where they were able to use the pool, gym and participate in an exercise class.

They also joined our current Year 12 students to visit the Monet and Architecture exhibition at the National Gallery. An exciting end to a week which gave a real flavour of life in the Sixth Form at St Gabriel's.



Watch out for interviews with the expedition team in our next newsletter.

Leavers' Reception

On Friday, 28 June Mr Smith hosted a reception for Year 13 leavers, their friends and families. It was a splendid occasion to celebrate the end of an era for these students, some of whom have been at St Gabriel's since they were very young!

In his speech, Mr Smith spoke of how welcoming the students had been to him and he was looking forward to results day when we will see them embark on the next stage of their careers at universities around the country.



Young Enterprise

On 1 May 2018 the Young Enterprise team, **Montague Jewellery**, went to the County Final at Oracle's Business Conference Centre in Reading. It was the accumulation of the team's hard work throughout Year 12. We presented our business and spoke about our decision to choose jewellery as our product and explained our choice to link our product to the advocacy of women's education.

As students in an all girls Sixth Form we felt it was important to draw on the history of the school, deriving our name from Lady Elizabeth Montague, and from the values that our school holds today, to promote strong and independent female leaders.

"We named some of our pendants after female heroes that we look up to, my choice was Malala Yousefzai".

Victoria, Year 12



The judges were impressed by our strong team unity and clear values within our business, so impressed that they gave us the award for **'Best Company Report'**, which we can add to the five awards that we have already won in the West Berkshire Area Finals.

Young Enterprise was an incredible experience for us all, giving us knowledge of running a business and developing many skills such as communication, teamwork and a determination to succeed that we will all take forward into whatever we do in later life.

Victoria W. Year 12

SIXTH FORM

The Importance of Being Earnest

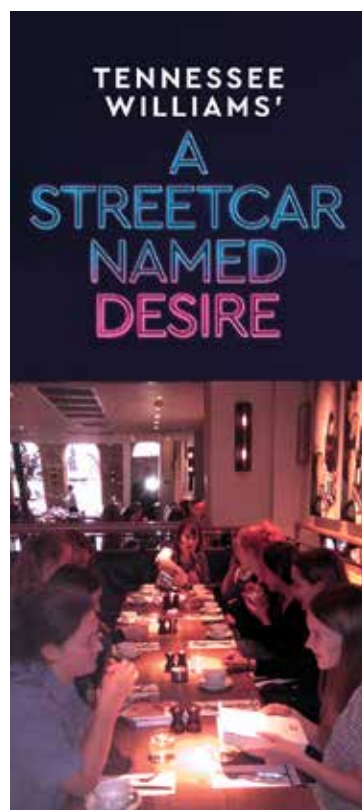
At the end of the Spring term, I was thinking how lovely it would be to put on a Sixth Form production in our beautiful Capability Brown grounds: we had the marquee, an outstanding backdrop and a hugely enthusiastic Lower Sixth. The English A level group plus literary friends from across the year group were already acquainted with Oscar Wilde as we had taken them to the production of 'An Ideal Husband' which they had enjoyed enormously so the choice of play was easy: the dazzling verbal wit of **'The Importance of Being Earnest'**. Hijacking a Friday evening debating club session, we watched the Rupert Everett film and the girls fell in love with the play.

The girls rehearsed at every opportunity, culminating in a glorious June Sunday rehearsal where the play became a fully fledged production: the set was enhanced by our magnificent priory gardens and vast grounds sweeping down to the lake. Costumes were gathered, cucumber sandwiches made and by the 19 June we were able to delight our audience of over 80 guests with an impressive, professional production.

The Year 12 cast was splendid and all deserve special mention: Anisa, Cosima, Anna, Alice, Charlotte, Erin, Rosalie, Vicky and Sophie all performed with style and confidence, manipulating Wilde's verbal fireworks with ease. Charlotte C, was an outstanding director, working tirelessly to bring the play together and Rowan, was a brilliant producer ensuring that everything worked perfectly. Our thanks also go to Libby, as an excellent pianist; Gabby, Amber, Evie, Sofia and Izzy, who were super Front of House and Clem was a talented photographer of the production. It was all tremendous fun, but would have been impossible without such an outstanding Lower Sixth Form. Well done girls!



'A Streetcar Named Desire'



Our Sixth Form English Literature group was studying the genre of tragedy for one of their A level examination papers.

In particular they studied **Arthur Miller's 'Death of a Salesman'** so we were keen to see other productions of modern American tragedy; consequently, we set off together with friends from across the year group, to see a dynamic production of Tennessee Williams' play, **'A Streetcar Named Desire'** at the Oxford Playhouse.

We were not disappointed as the production explored the brutality of modern America set against the loss of the values of a fading past which itself was founded on slavery. The complexity of Williams' play explored the psychology of characters trapped in an unforgiving society which enhanced our understanding of Miller's tragedy. We also had time to visit the Ashmolean exhibition on modernist America, pop in to the exhibition at the Weston, 'From Sappho to Suffragettes', check out the latest novels in Blackwells Bookshop and have a fabulous cream tea in the Old Bank hotel, pictured above. Our Sixth Formers certainly know how to combine education, culture and pleasure!

Mrs Archer, English Department

CHALLENGE & EXTENSION

External Visitors

We have been delighted to welcome two external speakers this term; Sophie Macfarlane-Smith an engineer at Rolls-Royce and Nafeesah Ikram an IT professional of 20 years.

Sophie Macfarlane Smith came to talk to some of our Senior students about her role as an engineer for Rolls-Royce. This was a thoroughly engaging talk with Sophie first giving the background to Rolls-Royce as a company and then describing how her education at school and University led her to working there.

She discussed what it was like to be a woman in what has often been seen as a male environment and also spoke of the changing nature of her role in the company over the last 20 years. This was an excellent opportunity for the students to think about what a career in engineering entails and gave lots of food for thought to all those who attended.

Nafeesah Ikram came to St Gabriel's to discuss her career in IT as the Service Design, Transition & Change Manager at De La Rue. She has been in the IT industry for over 20 years. The talk gave the students the chance to hear first-hand how hard work and determination can help you progress. She also discussed how the role of women in the IT industry is gradually changing. Nafeesah encouraged our students to seize any opportunity that they are given and to meet challenges head on. This was certainly an inspirational talk and a great opportunity for the students to find out more about this career path.

Mrs Chicken, Director of Curriculum

Higher Project Qualification

On 24 April our Year 9 candidates provided an entertaining and thought provoking insight into their Higher Project Qualification research and findings. The standard of presentations was particularly impressive. The titles below illustrate the diverse range of projects undertaken by our most able students this year.

- How does the horror genre impact society's health?*
- How will London look in 20 years' time?*
- Is animal hydrotherapy an effective way of managing medical conditions?*
- Why is there an increase in obesity in small animals?*
- Does gender make a difference to pay potential?*
- How does social media impact on the way that teenagers feel about themselves?*
- How has our understanding of gravity developed?*
- Why is the Great Barrier Reef dying?*
- How does poetic form influence the reader's interpretation of a poem?*
- Does the use of energy drinks enhance sporting performance?*
- How can history predict what will happen during the exploration & colonisation of space?*
- The Ancient Greek Gods: Heroes or Villains?*
- Who was the bigger political giant: Alexander Hamilton or Thomas Jefferson?*



ALUMNAE & PTA

Charlotte Brind



We are always delighted when alumnae connect and that is exactly what Charlotte Brind did in June. We took the time to ask her about her career developments and what fond memories she has of her time at St Gabriel's, 2004 - 2013.

How did St Gabriel's help you in your chosen career?

It created an atmosphere that promoted commitment and hard work from students. I found my time at St Gabriel's fun and rewarding. I also achieved excellent exam results in a supportive environment.

This allowed me to study English Literature at Southampton University followed

by a Masters in Rural Land & Business Management at Reading University.

Any special anecdotes you would like to share?

I always enjoyed representing St Gabriel's at NSEA inter-school show jumping events. We often had naughty ponies which would on occasion buck off the future Olympians, much to our amusement.

Also, it certainly wasn't ideal to part company with my horse and break my collarbone just weeks before my final A level exams, much to the despair of my teachers! As a team we always had great fun and I still see lots of my ex-St Gabriel's team mates when I am competing.



"I am now working as a Graduate Rural Surveyor with one of the UK's leading property companies and have an incredibly varied and interesting workload".
Charlotte



ST GABRIEL'S PTA

BONFIRE NIGHT & FIREWORKS DISPLAY

2 November 2018

Tickets

£7.00 Adults

£5.00 Children/Senior Citizens

BBQ included in ticket price

ST GABRIEL'S PTA

Christmas Fair

Sunday 18 November
10.30am - 3.00pm

at St Gabriel's, Sandleford Priory, Newbury, RG20 9BD

**Festive Shopping
Craft Stall
Food
Santa's Grotto
and much more**

Admission £2.00 Adults,
Children free, Concessions £1.00

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