

Newsletter

Summer 2019

St Gabriel's

NEWBURY



Message from the Principal

Quite rightly, a great deal of academic work has taken place over the term in preparing our pupils for their public examinations. We have high expectations for our Senior School girls and look forward to celebrating their success in August.

However, St Gabriel’s is about more than academic excellence; we strive to achieve an educational balance. There are a remarkable number of clubs and activities that take place across the school to fuel our pupils’ intellectual curiosity and broaden their horizons, which alongside our appropriate academic rigour help develop confidence and self-belief.

This term has seen a vast array of trips and visits, from Year 5’s week of immersion in French culture, food and language in Normandy, to Year 7 pulling on their waders to carry out river studies. There were sporting successes, too, including Daisy and Emma and the Crimson Heat Cheerleaders gaining fifth place in the World Cheerleading Championships in Orlando, USA. This latest edition of the St Gabriel’s newsletter is packed full of highlights, do read on to gain a small snapshot of some of the activities that have taken place over the Summer Term.

The end of the school year is always a time of reflection, too, and while we wish all our Year 13 leavers good luck for the future, I would also like to draw your attention to the retirement of Mrs Rumbol and Miss Hall, and to thank them both for being tremendously loyal servants to the school.

The Oval Room, Senior School Library and Junior Playground have been transformed over the summer months and will provide enhanced teaching and learning spaces for everyone to enjoy at the start of the new academic year. There really is no such thing as a quiet time at St Gabriel’s!

Mr Ricki Smith, Principal

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Hive of Activity

Editor’s Note

If you have any stories you would like to see featured, please do get in touch.

bevans@stgabriels.co.uk

Goodbye to Miss Hall and Mrs Rumbol

Goodbye and best wishes to Miss Hall and Mrs Rumbol who retired at the end of the Summer Term.

Miss Hall has led the English Department for the last 10 years, promoting a passion for English and reading with her enthusiastic approach.

Mrs Rumbol has given us 15 years of inspirational language teaching. Her roles have included Head of MFL, Director of Studies and, more recently, Director of Educational Partnerships.

We wish them both a fond farewell.



NURSERY



Barnardo’s Big Toddle

Sandleford Nursery and Reception children dressed up for the ‘Go Wild’ themed annual Barnardo’s Big Toddle. Even an oversized unicorn joined the children as they rambled around the lake, passing by the beautiful rhododendrons in full bloom. Many thanks to everyone who supported this event; we raised an amazing £922 for this worthy charity, which supports vulnerable children in the UK.

The Baby Room

The babies have been making the most of the warm sunny weather, playing outside in their garden area as well as splashing and paddling in the water to keep cool.

Inspired by the ‘Go Wild’ theme of this year’s Barnardo’s Big Toddle, the children have created a lovely jungle themed display board and have started to recognise many wild animals and learn their names.

The youngest children have enjoyed their weekly visit from Mrs Borzoni, our school librarian, who has captivated their attention with her story telling and singing sessions.



Dads and Grandfathers Stay and Play

Sandleford Nursery welcomed many of the children’s daddies and grandfathers who were invited to spend quality time with their little ones in the nursery to celebrate Father’s Day. They experienced the Sandleford Nursery magic their children enjoy every day.

Top Accolade

Sandleford Nursery is delighted to be recognised as a daynurseries.co.uk top 20 Recommended Nursery 2019.



“I am very proud to achieve this award for the fourth year in a row! It is a true reflection of the hard work and commitment given by our team.”

Katie Noonan
Sandleford Nursery Manager



NURSERY

Teddy Bears' Picnic

In June, we held our annual Teddy Bears' Picnic for the new children joining Reception in September. The children had a fabulous time playing teddy bear games, making new friends and getting ready for the excitement of starting Reception in September.

Toddler Room

The outdoor learning environment really came into its own during the Summer Term.

The toddlers have been on mini-beast hunts in the garden, made their very own beach and, on extra hot days, cooled down in the paddling pools.

They have enjoyed role-play in the outdoor classroom, pretending to take a train to London for the day.

The toddlers have enjoyed playing with a selection of new puzzles and books to help with their counting and number skills. They had the added excitement of a new mark making area and a special spot designated for lovely messy soil play!

Pre-School Room

As some of our pre-school children start to prepare for their move to Reception in September, they have enjoyed a wonderful last Summer Term in Sandleford Nursery.

Along with their younger Pre-School Room friends, they have really embraced our amazing outdoor space enjoying walks in the woods to hunt for animals and listening carefully for different environmental sounds, the wind in the trees, birds singing, a plane flying over head and children playing in the distance.

The children have also enjoyed designing and making their own obstacle courses in the playground and making dream catchers and mobiles using natural materials sourced from the grounds.

We wish all our older pre-school children well as they continue with the next step of their educational journey.

Mrs Lawrence, Sandleford Curriculum Manager

JUNIOR SCHOOL

Caterpillars and Bluebells

The Reception children were very excited to receive a special delivery; a pot of five tiny little caterpillars for them to observe at close quarters and learn about the wonder that is the lifecycle of the butterfly.

The children saw the caterpillars munch their way through their food, growing very quickly. Four out of the five spun their cocoons overnight, so the children keenly watched hoping the last one would spin its little case during the school day!

After several weeks of being incredibly patient, the children were rewarded as the magic started to happen and five pretty painted lady butterflies emerged from their chrysalises.

Continuing to develop their knowledge of the natural world in OWL time, Mrs Bloxsom took them to the woods on a bluebell hunt. The children discovered our woods are full of mainly native English bluebells, which they thought looked like a beautiful blue carpet.

Mrs Lawrence & Mrs Bloxsom, Reception Teachers

Mathematics Wizards

of objects and counted to find out how many there were altogether. The children were shown how they could record this on paper, by drawing a picture, a bar model or writing a number sentence.

The children have used all these methods to record their work, individually and in small groups, and some were even found practising their adding in free-flow time.

They also had lots of fun using the hopscotch in the Junior playground, finding doubles of different numbers.

Mrs Lawrence, Reception Teacher

Reception Mud Monsters

Year 2 Den Building in the Woods

JUNIOR SCHOOL

Year 1 in the Rainforest



Yew Tree Garden Centre

Our green-fingered Year 1 children had a fantastic trip to the Yew Tree Garden Centre, where they consolidated their learning on plants and growth.

They have already grown cress and sunflowers in school, so it was a wonderful experience for the children to view such a wide variety of plants, including trees, flowers and herbs.

The children enjoyed a tour, which showcased various plants in the garden centre, and recorded their findings on 'I-Spy' sheets.

“ I learnt that when you put flowers in different soils they can change colour.”

Isabelle, Year 1

Miss Bloomfield, Year 1 Teacher



Living Rainforest

Year 1 children visited The Living Rain Forest in Hampstead Norreys. The trip was linked with their learning on Bangladesh and they certainly picked up some interesting facts.

“The armadillo had keratin on its body and lots of hair.”

Henry

“Snakes stay still and wait for their prey to come close, then pounce.”

Milly

“One gold dart frog can poison 20 adults or 40 children.”

Siddhi

“When pygmy monkeys are born they are the size of your little finger.”

Pierce

Year 1 and 2 Art



JUNIOR SCHOOL

Lulworth Cove

In June, Year 4 headed to Lulworth Cove for their first overnight trip. On their arrival, everyone donned their waterproofs and set off for a picnic lunch on the hillside at Durdle Door.

The rain began as they walked down to see the Door up close, and by the time they got there it was torrential!

Undaunted, Year 4 continued to the beach for fossil hunting, beach art, looking at ways to save the environment and to study coastal features.

After the weather adventure, the

children thoroughly deserved a warming hot chocolate in Lulworth before walking to their hostel, where they enjoyed a hearty supper.

Year 5 Art

Year 5 have been learning about the famous British artist David Hockney, his unique style and especially his landscapes. The children watched a short film about Hockney's career as an artist and his exhibition at Tate Britain in 2017. This inspired our young artists, who chose to work on a much bigger scale than usual, to try and recreate Hockney's large scale paintings. The results were fantastic.

Mrs Stoyanova, Art Teacher



Dynamo Dance Day

Dance enthusiasts from across Hampshire, West Berkshire and Wiltshire took part in a fun and exciting day of dance at St Gabriel's in July. Our own Year 4 children made new friends as they worked alongside keen dancers from seven local primary schools.

Everyone tried their hand at new dance styles and worked together creatively. Participants made an entire dance in a single day, which they performed to their parents at the end of the afternoon. The day was led by Katie Hastings, Head of Dance, who put the children through their paces and worked with them to take their favourite dance moves to another dimension.

Miss Hastings, Head of Dance

JUNIOR SCHOOL



Korky Paul Visit



Everyone, from Reception to Year 6, was delighted to meet and work with illustrator, Korky Paul. Famous for illustrating such books as Winnie the Witch and the Sir Scallywag series of books.

Korky gave a series of workshops where he read and illustrated his stories, gave tips on cartoon drawing, guided the children so that they produced their very own characters and drew personalised Winnie the Witches for each class. It was great fun and very inspiring to hear him talk of his career path, and to watch a master at work! Everyone developed new skills as well as being incredibly proud of their drawings.

Mrs Davidson, English Teacher



Year 5 Visit Normandy

Year 5 had a brilliant week in Bosville, Normandy. We stayed on a wonderful farm with horses, goats, chickens, alpacas, llamas and pot-bellied pigs. We enjoyed delicious food cooked by our host and chef, Olivier, practised speaking lots of French and the best bit, we all agreed, was finally meeting our penpals!

We visited the bakery with the scary baker, where we learnt how to roll croissants and bread; the chocolaterie; Étretat where we saw the

amazing cliffs painted by Monet and visited the Maison d'Arsene Lupin and the goat farm, where we learnt about milk production, cheese making and met the goats.

Not only have we improved our confidence in speaking French, we have learnt how to make bread, croissants, cheese, sailing knots and chocolate. We also discovered that a lot of us actually do like goats cheese!

We were so busy in France there simply was not time to miss anyone back home! Sorry!

Mrs Davidson, English Teacher

Junior Science Activities



Year 3 grew plants from seeds as part of their Science topic, and they revelled in showing their amazing outcomes toward the end of term.

The Science Department also hosted an external event in June, when they welcomed children from nine local Primary Schools to experience a hands-on afternoon of scientific and technological exploration.

JUNIOR SCHOOL



Music

It has been a pleasure to be more involved with Junior School music, since Ms Gunn has been on leave with her new baby. There is always a lot going on and it has been great to see the results of pupils' hard work. As well as an outstanding Junior Lunchtime Concert, which showcased the full range of Junior School talent, there have been some delightful performances at the end of term.

In June, the string group, led by Mr Bott, gave a great performance in Junior Assembly along with Year 4, who demonstrated their pBone (plastic trombones) skills. Mr Bott then gave parents a taste of what he and Year 1 have been doing in their lessons, with a demonstration of beginner violin playing. This was a good practice run for the fantastic violin performance they went on to give on Celebration Day.

Also keeping busy in class have been Year 3, who learnt to play the Fife and Chalumeau. We are very grateful for the continued support of the PTA in providing musical instruments for Junior School class music.

There were outstanding solo and group performances from Junior School pupils this term, not least in the Year 6 production of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. On the Junior Celebration Day, there were some wonderful musical contributions from whole year groups as well as the Chamber Choir and the whole school.

Outside of school, Penny, Year 5, was invited to sing as 'Guest Artist' at a concert with The Cromwell Singers, performing five songs from memory. Well done, a fantastic achievement.

Dr Tebbs, Director of Music



Cross-Curricular Week

As part of their cross-curricular learning Junior School pupils had a special visitor; they met Milly a larger than life T-Rex.

Other dinosaur related activities for Reception to Year 5 included a Life Long Ago workshop and a visit to the Natural History Museum in Oxford. Pupils also learnt about fossils and Year 2S made a life-sized dinosaur and Year 2G made baby dinosaurs.

"I liked the papier-mâché part because it was gloopy!"

Jesteena

"It was all really fun!"

Alexa



Year 6 Chessington World of Adventures



After the rescheduling of sports day, the much anticipated trip to Chessington arrived a day earlier than expected for our incredibly excited Year 6 children.

After being split into three groups we set off to find rides to suit our comfort level. Tuk Tuk Turmoil, Monkey Swinger, Kobra and Vampire were just some the children had a chance to ride. Much fun was had by all and a few lessons were learnt about trying to win prizes!

Miss Pearmine, Year 6 Teacher

JUNIOR SCHOOL

It was a Summer Term of torrential rain and gales which threatened cancellation of our major events; but the sun shone through on both our Swimming Gala and Sports Day and both events were enjoyed by pupils and parents alike. Aidan were victorious in the pool with a win in the House Relay.

This term, inspired by the Cricket World Cup, we trialled cricket alongside rounders and loved the

kwik cricket format. We will certainly be looking to develop cricket further next year.



JUNIOR SCHOOL



Tennis

Manydown Tennis coaching is continuing to flourish with numbers for the Thursday club rapidly increasing. The term started with a chance to turn up and play with mum, dad, grandma or grandpa with great supportive play in evidence all round.

QuadKids



With over 600 competitors and 28 schools, it was a morning of fantastic competition in vortex, standing long jump, sprint and distance running. Clare, Year 6, gained first place in the Girls Year 5-6 competition with a massive score of 247 points. Neve and Mia just missed out on the top positions with a commendable 4th and 6th place, respectively. These points then went on to help our team of seven girls and Oscar gain 6th place overall in the QuadKids team competition.

Sports Day

Led by House Captain, Ellie, Chad were the worthy winners at Sports Day this year. School records tumbled during the day with Connie, Year 2, breaking the 300m record in a time of 1.10. Adam took the Year 4 boys sprint record, Clare, Year 6, threw a huge 35.68m and Neve achieved 2.14m in the standing long jump.

The House Relay included all children; it was lovely to see the camaraderie and support in each of the House teams. House Relay winners were Aidan. Victrix Ludorum winners from each year were Nancy, Alex, Lilia, Poppy, and Clare and Victor Ludorum winners were Adam and Oscar.

Mrs Pasternakiewicz, PE Department



Race for Life

Huge congratulations to the Year 5 Race for Life team, who raised £550 for Cancer Research UK. They each ran a 5k course, supporting each other along the way. What a super team effort.

5K

Football

We entered four teams of girls into the Newbury and Thatcham Football Competition, with all age groups enjoying the chance of competitive play against other

schools. The Year 1-2 team developed as the tournament progressed, finishing with two wins with cracking goals from Amelia.

The two Year 5-6 teams met in the semi-finals with the gold team progressing through to the final, where they were narrowly beaten 1-0.



JUNIOR SCHOOL



Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

In June, Year 6 took to the stage to perform the much loved musical 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' directed by Head of Drama, Mrs Chaplin.

During the performance the audience saw Charlie, Veruca, Violet, Mike and Augusta journey into Willy Wonka's factory. The children visited the Chocolate Room, Inventing Room, Nut Sorting Room, Fizzy Lifting Room and TV Room.

The pupils showed dedication and strong commitment throughout the rehearsal process right up until the final curtain.

Gabriella, who played Mr Willy Wonka performed to an exceptional standard, using her voice and facial expressions to offer an exceptional all-round hilarious character.



Charlie, played by Tilly, showed a mature level of characterisation highlighting the sensitive, timid yet loving character of Charlie.

Throughout the show the audience witnessed a wide selection of talent from all the pupils involved.

Mrs Hastings, Head of Dance, choreographed a selection of dances that really brought the ensemble numbers to life, while Dr Tebbs, accompanied by Gabrielle and Talia, Year 10, enraptured the audience with their delivery of the well known musical classics.

Mrs Chaplin, Head of Drama



JUNIOR SCHOOL



RNLI Charity Day

What a fantastic nautical day of RNLI fundraising we had this Summer Term in the Junior School.

The day started with a special visitor from the RNLI, Iain Cox, delivering an informative and interesting assembly on the wonderful work the RNLI does to keep us all safe when at sea. Iain then launched our fun RNLI charity day, which included a cake sale, a cute RNLI teddy raffle and ended with a Year I class assembly.

The Year I children had learnt about the RNLI Penlee lifeboat station in Mousehole, Cornwall, and were keen to share their knowledge.

There was even a surprise video message at the end from Coxswain 'Patch' Harvey, who personally thanked all the Junior School children and parents for their support.

Patch and his crew are in awe and incredibly appreciative as St Gabriel's raised £350 across the day, which makes a grand total of £1,500 of fundraising over the past few years.

The money will be put towards crew kit, training and maintaining the lifeboat. Well done Junior School!

Mrs Webb, Year I Teacher

Building Buddies



Year 6 pupils and staff were delighted to receive a Building Buddies award in July from David Wilson Homes.

"The scheme really engaged our pupils and provided them with knowledge and skills to complement their curriculum learning. The activities have also been great fun."

Mr Dove, Head of Junior School

Mill on the Brue

Year 6 enjoyed an amazing trip to Mill on the Brue in May. Split into two teams, they were challenged with a variety of problem solving activities including: the crate stack, high ropes, canoeing an assault course and a wall challenge.

The class described their trip to Mill on the Brue as an incredible, unforgettable experience.





Ann Borzoni, Librarian, talks about her role and the evolution of the library facilities

What is your role as school librarian?

My overall role is one of promoting literacy in the form of books, magazines and providing information literacy. The latter may simply involve helping to find information for a piece of homework or something a little more involved such as helping students work on their Higher Project Qualification.

One day I might be reading stories to children in Sandleford Nursery, the next I could be supporting the English Department in a session on myths and legends. One thing is certain, there is a lot more to being a librarian than just stamping books!

Do you have fond memories of books from your childhood?

I read all kinds of books when I was a child. 'Black Beauty' by Anna Sewell was one of my favourites, I read it so many times that the book fell to pieces in the end. At school I was a sixth form library prefect. I knew then that I wanted to be a specialist children's librarian (or a nun!). When I had completed my degree, I worked in library services for the elderly and housebound and eventually secured a position as a school librarian before joining St Gabriel's some 10 years ago.

Can you tell us about any extra activities?

I have always loved making up stories, so one of the things I really enjoy is helping to run creative writing sessions. Sometimes we work on a particular form of poetry or creating believable characters for a story. Other times we play writing games, where we follow certain rules and have to come up with a piece of prose. The hardest one is to write without using the letter 'e' - it is quite a challenge!

During Senior School Activities Day, I host a Detective Day for Year 7 to tie in with their English module on detective fiction. Pupils devise and act out their own criminal capers. It is hard work but lots of fun! There is also an annual Book Fair and I am usually involved in writing the staff pantomime.

How do you encourage children to read?

One of the things that can make so much difference is finding an author or a genre that really grabs a child's attention. For instance, picture books that are popular in Sandleford Nursery and Key Stage One include the 'Winnie the Witch' series and books by Alex T Smith. The illustrations are so bold and bright and the stories are interactive. I am also a great believer in reading aloud to pupils. Literature of all kinds has never been easier to access.

Can you tell us about the library facilities?

I look after two school libraries, a smaller Junior School Library and the main one in the Senior School. It is very exciting as this summer the Senior Library is getting a complete makeover.

The room will be decorated and refitted with improved lighting and new ICT provision. Everything had to be packed away and moved out ready for the work to begin.

It is quite a challenge, as although we will update the library, we need to be mindful of the restrictions as it is in a listed building. I think the Senior Library will look absolutely stunning and I am excited to see the end result!

What extra benefits do you think these changes will provide for everyone?

Not only will the library be more aesthetically pleasing in terms of its décor, but I think it will be a much more useful space for our pupils. It will be a flexible working space, offering seating for more students to work or read in both a formal and informal environment.

The ICT will be improved, offering technical equipment for presentations and other audio-visual resources. I think teachers will want to bring many more groups to the library and I am sure it will encourage everyone to get involved in reading.



SENIOR SCHOOL

Park Astérix

The French sunshine provided a gorgeous backdrop to Year 8's three-day excursion in June. The trip began with a visit to the Étapes Military Cemetery, where the group had the opportunity to look at the wide variety of names, nationalities and inscriptions on the graves.

The next day we descended upon Parc Astérix, with many opting to enjoy the eye-watering roller-coasters while others took in the gladiatorial shows and braved the cold water of the rapids.

Our final day was spent at the Samara Archaeological Park, where we picnicked on French cuisine and watched a demonstration of how Stone-Age civilisations lived in an authentic longhouse.

Throughout our travels we all had the opportunity to practice our French and learn about the culture, as well as having many brilliant memories to take away.

Miss Halstead, Classics Teacher



Mini Production Plant

GCSE Product Design, Business and Computer Science students from Year 10 enjoyed an exclusive tour of the manufacturing facilities at the Mini plant in Oxford. They experienced first-hand the logistics and equipment used to manage a just-in-time production line.

They observed autonomous robots using laser welding techniques to complete body shell production and learnt that a state of the art camera visioning system was used to check for quality control.

The final part of the tour allowed Business students to see the plant's proximity to its own railway loading area. This allows for over 60% of production to be transported



with ease to Southampton, and then exported to 110 countries around the world.

The plant was certainly like nothing they had seen before and the students gained a real appreciation of the awe-inspiring scale and sheer level of automation in mass production.

Mrs Evans, Head of Business

Murder Mystery

Well done to Year 7 pupils who took on the role of super sleuths, with great enthusiasm, in June. They certainly got into character by following the clues to solve the mystery of an unexpected death at Sandleford Priory. Many thanks to our Librarian, Mrs Borzoni, who organised the Murder Mystery Day.

SENIOR SCHOOL



Rushall Farm River Study

“My favourite part of the trip was learning about owls, especially when we had to dissect an owl pellet and find all the bones to identify the animal they had eaten. I also enjoyed tasting the honey and learning about bees.”

Ava, Year 7

“I enjoyed wading in the river and learning about different types of fish. We also found out about how the Egyptian Pharaohs covered people in honey to keep the flies away from them and we got to try this. They also used honey, which is an antioxidant, as a natural healing agent on cuts.”

Elsbeth, Year 7

“Rushall Farm was a brilliant experience: we learnt lots. My favourite part was the talk about the bees, their role and how honey is made.”

Josie, Year 7



SENIOR SCHOOL



“We spent time helping the children practise Spanish, create animals using Play-Doh and navigate an obstacle course. It was enjoyable to support them with their learning.”

Heidi and Phoebe

Community Link

“We were surprised by the number of cans and plastic bottles that had been discarded which should have been recycled.”

Oluchi and Anneliese

As part of their PSHE programme Year 9 and 10 tutor groups were active in the community in May.

Year 10S visited Thatcham Court Care Home, which specialises in caring for people with dementia, where they chatted to residents and found out about their lives and interests. Talia and Millie also provided a short musical interlude.

Year 9G and 9T visited Gracewell Care Home to entertain and chat to the residents. The girls arranged a musical interlude with Rachel and Isabella on guitar and piano, respectively.

Year 9S used their time to carry out a litter pick in Victoria Park, Newbury, and Year 10T visited John Rankin Infant School.

terra / earth

In April the Drama Scholars took to the stage at the Theatre Royal, Bath, to perform their show terra / earth as part of the NT Connections festival.

They also took part in a Drama workshop, where they discussed dramatic tensions on stage and how to take their audience on an emotional journey. This was an experience of a life time and gave the girls a lot to think about.

The audience were delighted, giving excellent feedback. "A mesmerising performance using an excellent selection of both naturalistic and physical elements". Laura, the NT Connections Manager, was highly impressed by the talent of the St Gabriel's pupils and commented on the girls' progression and dedication.

LAMDA Examination Results

Name	Grade	Result
Rachel Berkley	Acting Grade 5 Solo	Distinction
Rachel Cohen	Acting Grade 6 Solo Bronze Medal	Distinction
Grace Cunliffe	Acting Grade 3 Solo	Distinction
Ismay Gallup	Acting Grade 1 Solo	Distinction
Madeline Goss	Acting Grade 1 Solo	Distinction
Charlotte Hamilton	Acting Grade 1 Solo	Distinction
Madeleine Herd	Acting Grade 2 Solo	Merit
Millie Jones	Acting Grade 4 Solo	Distinction
Josephine Keen	Acting Grade 2 Solo	Distinction
Molly Montague	Acting Grade 6 Duo Bronze Medal	Distinction
Ella Newborough	Acting Grade 3 Solo	Distinction
Sophia Newborough	Acting Grade 1 Solo	Distinction
Shivani Nimmagadda	Acting Grade 2 Solo	Merit
Vaibhavi Nimmagadda	Acting Grade 2 Solo	Merit
Amelie Pinchin	Acting Grade 1 Solo	Merit
Pollyanna Smith	Acting Grade 6 Solo Bronze Medal	Merit
Olivia Violet	Acting Grade 2 Solo	Merit
Sophie Willcocks	Acting Grade 6 Duo Bronze Medal	Distinction
Zara Williams	Acting Grade 4 Solo	Distinction

Addams Family

Auditions have taken place for next year's school musical of 'The Addams Family'. The show will be held at Arlington Arts on 3 and 4 March 2020 and is guaranteed to be a frightful night.

Mrs Chaplin, Head of Drama

SENIOR SCHOOL

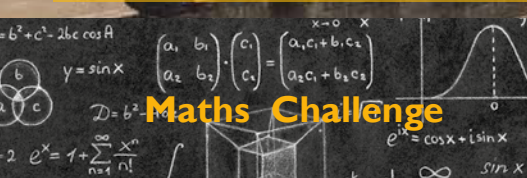


In June, Year 10 geographers set off for a sunny day of fieldwork in Swanage. They carried out a

number of tasks including a traffic count, land use mapping and an environmental quality survey.

“In order to test how successful the defences on Swanage beach are at reducing longshore drift, we carried out beach profiling and sediment accumulation measurements. It was an informative day of fieldwork and we even had some time for a little relaxation and a game of skimming stones on the sea.”

Milly, Gabby, Sophia and Rysa, Year 10



Maths Challenge

In April, girls in Year 7 and 8, alongside 270,000 other children in the UK, entered this year's Junior Maths Challenge competition. Only the top 6% were awarded Gold, the next 13% Silver and 21% Bronze. We would like to congratulate the following girls for their excellent achievement.

Bronze Certificates

Charlotte, Year 7
Eve, Year 7
Josie, Year 7
Millie, Year 7
Sareena, Year 7
Elsbeth, Year 7 (Best in Year 7)
Isabella, Year 8
Zara P, Year 8
Ellen, Year 8
Charlotte B, Year 8

Silver Certificates

Jessica, Year 8
Zara W, Year 8 (Best in Year 8 and Best in School certificates)

Well done to all those who took part.

Mrs Sim, Head of Mathematics

Laser Quest

In recognition of all of the hard work Year 11 have put into their GCSE studies, we went on a fun trip to Laser Quest to mark the start of study leave. Each form had the opportunity to engage in team games against other form groups, with Year 11G accumulating the most team points to be named

overall winner.

Having expelled a huge amount of energy at Laser Quest, the girls enjoyed a buffet lunch at Pizza Hut. We then headed back to school for a final assembly in the Theatre and shirt signing.

Mrs Hammons, Head of Upper School

A Taste of China

Ms Zhang's Year 8 Mandarin Chinese Beginners' class recently experienced a traditional Chinese tea ceremony. They learnt about the role of a tea master, and how to distinguish different teas by smell, shape and taste.

The session was a recap on recent topics covering drinks, countries and places in a lesson format they will not forget.

“We found it really fun to learn how they make tea so differently, it was very interesting.”
Year 8 Mandarin Pupils



Teen Tech



A team of Year 8 students enjoyed the opportunity to challenge themselves and find out more about STEM careers at this year's TeenTech. They explored the idea of a super-computer with Fujitsu and popped balloons using their own robot with AWE.

The team won a certificate for best design for their idea of a 'Soover' (from Sea Hoover), an octopus-shaped machine for removing plastics from the oceans.

Mrs Rayner, Physics Teacher

SENIOR SCHOOL



Music

It was another busy term in the Music Department with lunchtime concerts, ABRSM and Trinity examinations, Senior School performers accompanying the Year 6 production, and much creative work by GCSE and A level musicians. In addition, we ranged two trips for scholars to the Newbury Spring Festival.

Senior School Music Scholars and three enthusiastic musicians from the Junior School went to the Corn Exchange to watch the Tom Millar Quartet, who played a set of their own original jazz pieces. There was a pianist, a double bassist, a guitarist and a drummer. Their music was imaginative and a very modern form of jazz with strange time signatures and virtuoso solos. We all really enjoyed the experience of listening to this very different sort of music!

Another Music Scholar and GCSE Music trip was to see 'Figo', a quartet who specialize in Baroque music, using period instruments and techniques to bring to life the music of composers working in London in the early 18th Century. A very different experience compared to the jazz performance, but a

Examination Results

Name	Instrument	Grade	Result
Helena Bunce	Piano	P	Prep Test
Abbie Coulson	Piano	01	Distinction
Elizabeth Ferneley	Clarinet	07	Distinction
Elizabeth Ferneley	Music Theory	6	Pass
Charlotte Hamilton	Trombone	01	Merit
Poppy Havercroft	Violin	01	Distinction
Sarah Hogge	Flute	07	Merit
Lilly Hughes	Piano	P	Prep Test
Amelia McCabe	Clarinet	7	Merit
Amelia McCabe	Piano	3	Pass
Lois Ocquaye	Singing	03	Merit
Penny Page	Singing	3	Distinction
Laura Phillips	Vocals (Rockschool)	5	Pass
Isla Pullen	Violin	01	Pass
Talia Saltmarsh	Flute	06	Merit
Pollyanna Smith	Singing	04	Merit
Sophie Why	Piano	P	Prep Test
Tara Young	Saxophone	4	Pass

valuable reminder about just how lively, inventive and interactive the music from this era is. We thoroughly enjoyed it!

The highlight of the Summer Term was the Strawberries & Cream concert on 2 July. This event featured performances from Music Scholars

in all year groups, including some final outings for our Year 11 and Year 13 leavers, and two world premières of compositions by students. A Year 13 group provided a thoughtful finale with their own arrangement of Pachelbel's Canon, a happy-yet-sad end to an outstanding concert.

Dr Tebbs, Director of Music



SENIOR SCHOOL



Sports Day

Summer 2019 delivered an extremely unseasonal Summer Term with rain affecting matches on a weekly basis. Fortunately, the sun shone for both our major events, Senior Swimming Gala and Sports Day, with Chad victorious in both the swimming pool and on the track.

Sports Day highlights included Minty, Year 8, who was the one to beat with a phenomenal 35.10m vortex throw. Sprint winners were Maddie, Year 7, Mei and Alice, Year 8, and Rysa, Year 10. Brooke, Year 9, stormed

through in the 200m final with a time of 29.06 seconds.

The distance races were dominated by Amber, Year 9, Gabby and Elizabeth, Year 10, and, following her success in the county athletics this season, Izzy, Year 12.

In the staff events Mrs Harvey had success in the discus throw and Mr Ives in the triple jump.

Final Results

Chad - 254
Alban - 244
Bede - 222
Aidan - 216



SENIOR SCHOOL



Swimming Gala

The Swimming Gala celebrated not only our excellent club swimmers, who train hard on a weekly basis, but also our developing swimmers, who gave races a go and gained valuable points for their Houses.

Once again Chad were victorious ably led by Team Captain Sophia and House Captain Jess.

Equestrian News

In April, St Gabriel's was represented by Minty, Year 8, and Olivia, Year 10, at the Schools Equestrian Games One Day Event series.

Minty won the 80cm section with an excellent dressage score and a clear in both the show jumping and cross country phases.

Olivia also ended on her dressage score with a lovely double clear over the two jumping phases earning her 7th place in the 90cm section.

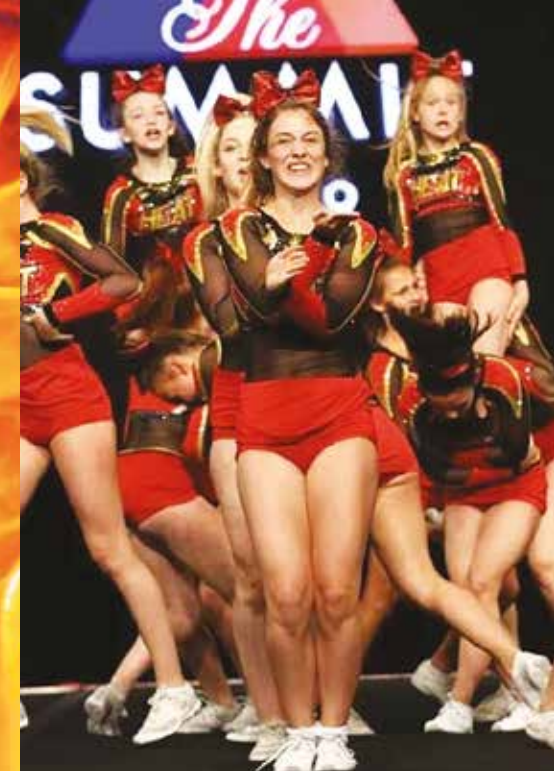
We wish Minty and Olivia good luck competing in the Championship final at Broadway in October.



Cheerleading

Emma and Daisy, Year 10, competed in the Summit World Championships in Orlando, USA, with their cheerleading team, Crimson Heat Tigers.

After three days of intensive training, Crimson Heat were one of only 20 teams go through to the final, where they gained a very commendable fifth place and finished first out of all the European teams. Well done girls; it



take a lot of hard work to get to this standard.

Judo Club

Mr Small and Judo Club would like to say thank you and goodbye to their long standing Club Captain Jessica, Year 13, and wish her success for the future.



Football

Kirsten's team, Winchester City Flyers U15, won the Hampshire Girls Youth League Plate Trophy this season. Kirsten joined the team a year ago so it was a great way to end the football season.



Year 12 student, Izzi, achieved a place in the Team GB U18 Junior Nations Cup team. After trials in Chepstow, Izzi had to perform well to impress the selectors, who monitored progress across three days.

On the first two days she competed over 1.35m fences and on the final day 1.40m and achieved two clear rounds.

Izzi triumphed and qualified for the Junior Nations Cup in Austria in May, where she impressed the selectors to gain a place in the team for the European Championships in July.



SENIOR SCHOOL

Activities Day



Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award

Year 9 enjoyed two days of practice for their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award. They were blessed with glorious weather as they learnt how to put up their tents and use their Trangia stoves. Following an overnight camp in the grounds they set off for a long walk across Greenham Common in the bright sunshine.



Be the Best

Sian Thomas, Senior Talent Lead Recruiter for the army, delivered an eye-opening talk on army careers to Year 10 and 12 before students participated in an action-packed morning of outdoor teamwork activities.

“The instructors were good at answering our questions and developing our understanding of what the army does.”

Joanna, Year 10

“The army training was great fun and made me consider joining the army in the future.”

Grace, Year 10

“The activities were a great way to share ideas and it was a good team building exercise.”

Eloise, Year 10



SENIOR SCHOOL



Masked Ball

Year 10 enjoyed a Romeo and Juliet inspired masked ball. Having made their masks, Year 10 acted out tableaux from the play and Elizabethan dancing ensued.



Capture the Flag

Year 9 enjoyed a teamwork game to support their PSHE topic. Split into two teams, they played a competitive game of Capture the Flag in our beautiful grounds.



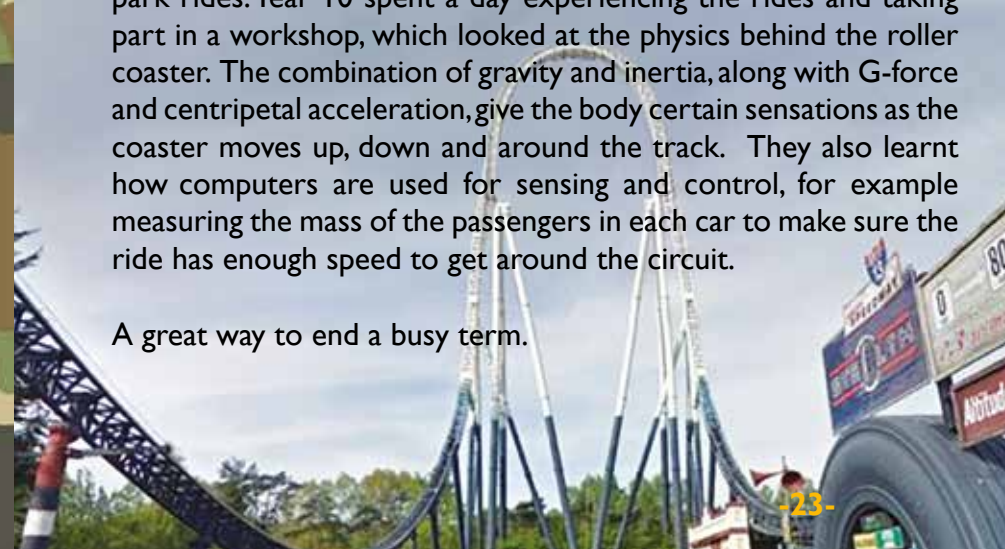
Thorpe Park



Why is Physics Important at Thorpe Park?

You need physics for designing and building thrilling, yet safe, theme park rides. Year 10 spent a day experiencing the rides and taking part in a workshop, which looked at the physics behind the roller coaster. The combination of gravity and inertia, along with G-force and centripetal acceleration, give the body certain sensations as the coaster moves up, down and around the track. They also learnt how computers are used for sensing and control, for example measuring the mass of the passengers in each car to make sure the ride has enough speed to get around the circuit.

A great way to end a busy term.



SENIOR SCHOOL



Student Business Competition

In May, Year 10 GCSE Business students participated in the inaugural Student Business Competition, set up for Year 12 students in West Berkshire by local business people.

As part of their mission to reduce the consumption of single use plastic water bottles in school, the team set up a small business called HYDReau to sell reusable stainless steel bottles at affordable prices.

Sourcing, selling and marketing their bottles helped

the team develop key business and social skills, including leadership and teamwork.

In the final, the team delivered a confident, composed and well timed presentation in front of other teams, parents and judges. Despite being two years younger and entering the competition after their Year 12 opponents, the team triumphed to win "Best Presentation Award".

Mrs Evans, Head of Business

Duke of Edinburgh Success

Congratulations to the Year 10 Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award candidates who all passed the expedition element of their award in May. They walked from Woolton Hill to Linkenholt, near Facombe,

cooked their supper on Trangia stoves before camping overnight. On Sunday, they loaded their backpacks and utilised their map reading skills to walk to Hungerford.



Game Star Awards

Congratulations to Pollyanna, Year 10, and Selina, Year 8, who competed against more than 80 students from across the country to develop their own game recipe as part of the School Game Changer project.

The top 18 participants, including Pollyanna, will see their recipes published in a book, available to purchase at events and game fairs across the country, to raise the profile of cooking with game.

Pollyanna's dish of poached pheasant with choux farcis, parsnip purée and a crisp parsnip chip, looked delicious. Selina also achieved a Game Star Bronze Award for her excellent venison recipe.



SENIOR SCHOOL

This year's GCSE and A level Art Exhibition was a wonderful celebration of the talent of Year 11 and Year 13 Art students. Visitors were wowed by the strength and variety of the work on show. Many commented on how each student produced some

Art Exhibition

exceptionally unique outcomes. The girls' hard efforts were clear to see and their passion for important and personal issues resulted in mature and professional work. The Art Department is so proud of the girls' achievements.

Mr Spurrett, Head of Art



Year 9 Sculptures

Year 9 pupils created impressive ceramic animal sculptures inspired by the 3D work of Picasso and his bull series of prints. The pupils abstracted their original drawings into semi-realistic clay forms, which they then decorated to resemble bronze pieces.

Year 9 Stereo Amplifiers



Textiles Taster

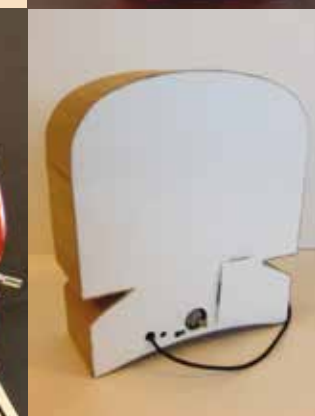
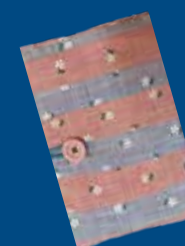
Several Year 10 students put their creative talents to the test when they selected the Year 12 Textiles lesson on their A level taster day.

Ms Hunter's design brief was to create a dress; they certainly rose to the challenge.



Year 7 Textiles Project

Year 7 pupils have developed their sewing skills by designing and creating protective covers for their school diaries. They have also experimented with tie-dyeing, making some very colourful t-shirts and scrunchies.



ENRICHMENT

Young Enterprise Finals

Our Year 12 Young Enterprise team, Fizz 'n' Mix, participated in the West Berkshire Area Showcase Final in May, where they competed against seven teams from Downe House, Pangbourne College and St Bartholomew's School.

Fizz 'n' Mix's environmentally friendly, no plastic approach to selling pick and mix bath bombs, using glass jars reminiscent of a traditional sweet shop, proved a hit with the judges. The team collected the award for 'Best Trade Stand', which they had won at the Kennet Centre event and they also won 'Best Company Report' for their review of their Young Enterprise business and entrepreneurial learning experience.



The team were poised and responded well to the judges' questions which, coupled with an excellent presentation, secured them as runners up and a place in the County Final.

Then later in May, at the County

Final in Reading, the team presented the Fizz 'n' Mix idea with confidence and impressed the judges with their teamwork and creative use of social media.

Mrs Evans, Head of Business

Year 10 Mock Trial

As part of the Year 10 PSHE programme, we were honoured to welcome Julia Hardy, JP, from the Magistrates Association. Julia outlined the workings of the criminal court system and spoke about her role as a magistrate in Berkshire.

Following Julia's presentation, Year 10 pupils conducted a mock trial concerning section 139 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988, the offence of having an article with a blade or point in a public place.

All pupils played their parts extremely well, and at the end of the trial the overwhelming consensus was that the defendant was not guilty.

Mrs Hammons, Head of Upper School



Tim Woodard

We also welcomed Mr Tim Woodard into the Senior School during the Summer Term.

Tim, a chartered surveyor by trade, talked about his journey through life and offered lots of excellent advice to our Year 10 pupils, emphasising the importance of skills for life and how you should make the most of every opportunity that is offered to you. We all take different paths but at the end of the day it is about being happy.



AWE Engineering Challenge

Year 12 Physics students enjoyed a visit to Park House School to participate in a morning of innovative activities related to careers in engineering.

The event was organised by AWE and involved making an amplifier and designing a safety capsule for an egg, which was shot into the air in a bottle rocket.



SIXTH FORM

Leavers' Reception

On a beautiful summer's evening in June, Mrs Reseigh, Head of Sixth Form, hosted a reception for Year 13 leavers, their friends and families. The beautiful lawns made for a perfect setting to bid farewell to our splendid group of students.

Mr Smith, Principal, took time to reflect and celebrate the end of an era for many girls who have been at St Gabriel's since they were very young. We wish them every success and look forward to welcoming them back on results day in August.



Head Girl and Deputy Head Girl

We interviewed Head Girl, Ellie, a competitive swimmer for over nine years, and Deputy Head Girl, Jennifer, a self-professed bookworm, about the new roles they have taken on for 2019. For the full interview visit: www.stgabriels.co.uk/headgirl



"In this role it is important I am approachable, inclusive, ambitious and determined, as well as a good communicator. I look forward to working with others."

Ellie, Head Girl

"We are looking at a battery recycling drive for the Junior School as we are keen to introduce more sustainability to the school across the coming year."

Jennifer, Deputy Head Girl

Sixth Form Induction Day

At the end of the Summer Term, girls joining the Sixth Form in September attended our Sixth Form Induction Day.

They took part in a range of introductory A level sessions and Sixth Form enrichment activities, which included learning how to cook on a budget, before preparing a variety of salads to enjoy at their picnic lunch in the Sixth Form gardens.



After games of Jenga and croquet on the lawns, our incoming Year 12s headed off to use the gym at Nuffield Health. A great end to a busy year for our hard-working Year 11 girls.



Year 13 leavers celebrated the end of examinations in style with a ball at the Esseborne Manor Hotel.



SUMMER PROJECTS

Hive of Activity

As pupils and teachers departed for the summer holidays, the maintenance team, supported by key contractors, started on a busy programme of works. The Oval Room and Senior School Library have been restored to their former glory, a new climbing frame and outdoor play area have been installed in the Junior Playground and Sandleford Nursery has had all its bathrooms refurbished.

The Oval Room & Senior School Library



The Junior Playground



The transformation of these facilities is part of our ongoing plan to improve and develop our facilities to ensure they meet the demands of today's learning environment.

Celebrating

90

Years

1929 - 2019

14 September 2019

12.30pm - 3.30pm

Open Morning

Saturday 5 October 2019
9.30 - 12.30

To reserve your place, please contact
admissions@stgabriels.co.uk

ST GABRIEL'S PTA

Christmas Fair

Sunday 24 November 2019

10.30am - 3.00pm

Festive Shopping

Santa's Grotto

Food

Tombola

Craft Stall

Games

and much more

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

Adults - £2.00

Children - Free

Concessions - £1.00

ST GABRIEL'S PTA

BONFIRE NIGHT
& FIREWORKS DISPLAY

8 November 2019