

Newsletter

Spring Term 2014

St Gabriel's

Your Route to Success



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Much to the amazement, amusement, and I think considerable embarrassment, of the Senior School girls, I informed them at the end of term that I was going to start tweeting! Having told them that I had 344 connections on LinkedIn, made up largely of our parents at St Gabriel's and alumnae, they probably felt life couldn't get any worse!

We had a different end of term assembly to usual and I gave them a smattering of words to take away; little nuggets of life affirming advice that might just promote that light-bulb moment over the holidays – an inspirational tweet, if you like! I reminded the girls that:

“Life is what happens to you, but living is what we do about it”

“Life is 10% what happens to us and 90% how we react to it!”

If we look at all that our pupils have achieved in such a short space of time this term, we can see first-hand their determination to seize and live every moment and react so favorably to all the opportunities afforded to them.

This newsletter recalls many individual and group achievements, as well as an insight into the vast range of activities that enrich our pupils' academic and extra-curricular lives.

It was Coco Chanel who said, ***“Don't spend time beating on a wall, hoping to transform it into a door!”*** Our pupils have certainly opened some doors this term. Be they the girls who attended the superb events during Politics Week, our able scientists at the lecture given by Professor Geoffrey Smith from Cambridge University, our students who presented Scholastic Essays or those who gave HPQ and EPQ presentations.

I am still reeling in amazement by the quality of the girls' art at the recent exhibition inspired by Pip McGarry, being joined by so many supporters at Birmingham NEC to watch Jenny Bracey's success and who will ever forget the girls' production of *Godspell*!

As our public examination candidates enter the final lap of revision we look forward to even more dreams coming true this summer. Bearing this in mind, I closed the term reminding the girls that, ***“If their dreams didn't scare them, they are not big enough.”***

Follow me on twitter @alunstgabriels



St Gabriel's Gets Active



This term has very much been about Health Related Exercise (HRE) and getting fit. During the first half of term, the Senior School followed a six week programme in HRE and we assessed pupils' fitness levels through various tests. In the second half of term, the PE Department set all pupils and staff a Get More Active Challenge.

In assembly, everyone was given a pedometer to wear and the number of steps taken was then recorded each week. Ian Rose, GB Paralympic Medallist for Judo, addressed our assembly, giving an inspirational talk on the importance of being active and also telling us about his journey into sport. He spent the rest of the day with us running a number of masterclasses for our sport and dance scholars. He also coached our Junior Judo Club and dropped into Sandleford to meet some very excited little ones!

We are now in the final week of the Pedometer Challenge and, as I write, I am thrilled to tell you that as a school we have walked around the world – over 24,906 miles! We still have one week to go and I very much look forward to seeing just how far we have all managed to clock up together! The form group who have taken the most steps will win a team building day out of school and there will also be prizes for leading individuals.

Mrs Smiles-Cooke, Executive Director of Sport



Valentine's Day Fun

In February, Sandleford thoroughly enjoyed a whole week of activities with a red valentine theme. They hunted high and low for hearts in the woods and a shiny box of treasure (chocolate, of course) was waiting for them once all 10 red hearts had been found. The children also decorated heart-shaped biscuits and **made beautiful valentine's cards for loved ones.**



Pancake Day

Shrove Tuesday was celebrated in the warm sunshine with a café serving pancakes and a pancake tossing competition, where, unsurprisingly, the majority of pancakes went sailing through the air and ended up on the floor! Great fun was had by all!



Drop & Stay Morning

Sandleford parents spent an enjoyable morning with their children in the classroom. The art tables were a hive of industry with a flock of fluffy spring lambs being made and a beautiful spring blossom printing activity. Charlotte enjoyed playing in the water with mummy, filling and emptying containers. Penny and Kara enjoyed creating pieces of art on the computer with their parents, while others got creative with the spring coloured playdough. Sienna and her mummy persevered for a long time constructing a complicated windmill design with the plastic straws and Sophie and her mummy enjoyed making silly sentences to read together.

All of the children enjoyed looking at their Learning Journals with their parents, sharing progress and achievements made over recent months.

Little Television Stars

The television made by the children in our role-play living room has provided fabulous opportunities for the children to become broadcasters, telling their own news and making up spring weather forecasts. They have also been the audience, tuning in **to listen to each other's programmes** – wonderful for developing those key speaking and listening skills.



Gym Club

Sandleford have enjoyed six weeks of gymnastics with Chris from KD Gymnastics. He will be returning in September when we start our new Gymnastics Clubs for Sandleford and the Junior School.

Mothering Sunday

To celebrate Mothers' Day, the children made gifts and cards for their mothers. We learned a song to sing to them on Mothers' Day morning. We also spent time thinking and writing about what makes our mummies so fantastic.

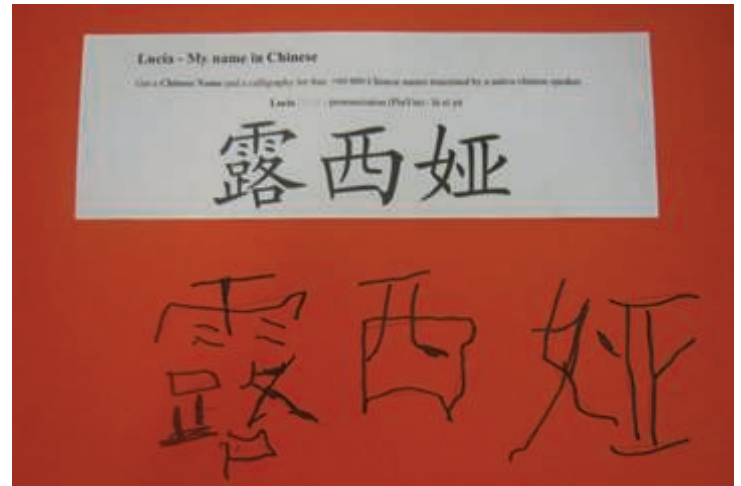


Sport Relief

On 21 March, Sandleford children and staff joined the rest of the school for a day filled with lots of physical exercise and fun, with the aim of raising money for Sport Relief. Everyone looked amazing in their red outfits and the youngest children really enjoyed being the official cheerleaders for Year 1 – Year 6 as they took part in the mile run around the school field. Sandleford then spent time in the afternoon completing challenges, including jumping as many times as you can in a minute, who can jump the highest and furthest and, finally, how many laps of the playground can you complete in a minute – phew, exhausting! After all the exercise we finished the day with a lucky draw in which Emily won a cuddly Sport Relief mascot. Well done and thank you for all of your donations.



Chinese New Year



To celebrate Chinese New Year, the Nursery children made a beautiful dragon and took it with them to their dance lesson where, along with Reception, they made up a dragon dance to a piece of Chinese music. We also tasted some delicious Chinese **noodles and prawn crackers** and **looked at what the children's names looked like written in Chinese symbols**.

Spring Flowers



The children, inspired by the lovely spring flowers appearing in our flowerbeds and in the woods, produced some beautiful art work. The Nursery children used finger prints to make snowdrops and the Reception children chose to either paint or make a 3-D picture of bright daffodils.



Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service



Year 1 listened avidly to a fire safety talk by firewoman, Nicola Clark, from the Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service. She explained what to do in case of an emergency and she has made the class very fire safety aware.

"Nicola told us that you should never go near fire unless you are with a grown up." *Emma Kitching*

"Nicola told us to test our fire alarms once a week." *Aran Thomas*

"If you have fire on your clothes you should stop, drop and roll. Nicola wore a special uniform." *Julia Gardner Calle*

Their exemplary behaviour was complimented on by various members of the public and the Newbury librarian even said, 'they were so quiet I didn't know they were here!'

RNLI Fundraising

Year 1 had a fantastic, fun-filled fundraising time at school on the annual RNLI SOS Day. A huge thank you to our parents for the wonderful cake making and to Emma Kitching, who held her own cake sale at home. With pupils and staff dressed up in nautical or spots and stripes outfits, St Gabriel's raised an incredible £358.52! Year 1 embraced the challenge of organising the day and were very enthusiastic selling cakes and buns during break. Lucky Alice Rawlins won the legendary RNLI teddy in the raffle. The children enjoyed their week learning about the RNLI's work, their bravery and the first RNLI heroine, Grace Darling. Monies raised will go towards new helmets for the RNLI Penlee inshore lifeboat crew based in Mousehole, Cornwall.



Newbury: Our Local Area

The Geography focus for Year 1 has been 'Our Local Area'. The children spent a morning in Newbury looking at local landmarks and seeing, first hand, places that they had been learning about in the classroom.



Equipped with their clipboards, ever the eagle-eyed, our very enthusiastic children played an I Spy quiz identifying buildings of interest. The class even interviewed a traffic warden about his job!

After a relaxing time reading in the library, 13 very tired children had a welcome stop at a tea shop for juice and a scrumptious fairy cake!

Jungle Frames

Year 1 have thoroughly enjoyed exploring the woods in the spring sunshine. Their mission was to find suitable sticks for their jungle frames and then decide the best way to make a sturdy frame using string alone.

A fun and messy session followed as the children created their frame backdrops for their jungle pictures, which they had printed off in their IT lesson.

Well done, St Gabriel's jungle warriors!



JUNIOR SCHOOL

Grace Wins Bronze at IAPS Judo Nationals

At the beginning of February, five girls from St Gabriel's were in action at the Independent Schools & IAPS Judo Tournament at the High Wycombe Judo Centre. The event was well supported by schools from across the south of England – a really competitive challenge to all who took part.

This was the first Judo competition St Gabriel's has entered and we came away with a very respectable set of results: bronze for Grace Glitz (Year 5), 5th places for Emily Hamilton (Year 5) and Eve Glitz (Year 4) and 7th place for Chloe Balls (Year 5). The girls showed great composure and performed superbly well.

I am also delighted to announce that following Jessica Palfrey's (Year 7) display in the competition I have chosen her to be our Judo Club Captain.



Year 5 Become Tudors for the Day

Year 5 have been studying the Tudors in History. To bring to life what we have been learning, we spent a day at Ufton Court.



Gabrielle Stewart-Power explains...

At Ufton Court we had to dress up as Tudors and bring a Tudor lunch, which meant no chocolate, crisps or biscuits. We had to re-enact a Protestant raid on a Catholic family. We found Catholic relics and a priest hole. At the trial we had to plead our case but we were found guilty. It was great fun!

During the day we discovered Tudor ice-houses, clues in the building to show the creation of priest holes and escape routes, hidden Catholic signs and symbols, and got a real feel for life in those times. We also learned and performed several Tudor dances.

Days like this are great fun and really help us understand the people, places and times that we read about!

Author, Debi Evans, Visits the Junior School

It was a pleasure to welcome author, Debi Evans, back to St Gabriel's to learn more about her new series, *The Secret Adventures of Rolo*.

Rolo is a Jack Russell terrier who, when adopted from a rescue centre, discovers that he is a very special dog indeed. With the help of some tiny woodland folk, Rolo finds himself travelling through time, meeting famous figures from the past and popping up in all kinds of exciting moments in history.

Debi read us an extract from the book, which really captured the **girls' imagination and they began to suggest time periods that Rolo could visit and situations in which he might find himself.**

Debi also told us that Rolo is a keen blogger and keeps a diary of the everyday life of a little rescue dog and the things he sees in **nature and the world around him. We also got to see Rolo's own selfie, which had the girls in fits of giggles.**

There was plenty of time for questions. Several girls wanted to **know where Debi's ideas came from and she talked about the importance of keeping a notebook and jotting down anything interesting or unusual as that is a good starting point for writing.** Others asked how long it took Debi to plan and write a book, who reads the first draft and checks for spelling and punctuation. Debi encouraged the girls to read their writing aloud to themselves when they have finished their stories, because that is a great way to check that you have written what you think you have written!

The big surprise came when a number of girls got to meet Rolo! **The star of Debi's books was delighted to meet them and even though he could not talk as he does in his stories, the wagging tail said it all!**

Debi's visit has inspired our young creative writers and encouraged them to let their imaginations fly!



National Quiz Club Competition

Two teams of pupils travelled to Elstree School in March for the regional heat of the National Quiz Club Competition.

Answering questions with such diverse answers as Tchaikovsky, Vatican City, Katy Perry and Roosevelt, the children enjoyed watching their scores increase on the big screen after each round.

Well done to Isabelle Law, Selina Day, Tiggy Pollard, Rose Clark, Sophia Tweedie, Elizabeth Ferneley, Poppy Adams and Connie Pope.

Junior Football



The Junior football team has been in action this term, recently returning from the West Berkshire 7-a-side tournament with runners-up medals. Having progressed through the group stage undefeated and without conceding a goal, the team raised their game in the semi-final and defeated Speenhamland 3-0 with a superb hat-trick from Elizabeth Hutton. The final against Falkland was a very even match, which we lost to a single goal. Mr Dove will now be working with players from Year 3 – Year 6 to prepare them for the next tournament in May.

Running Club

Mr and Mrs Stewart-Power have now signed up 30 girls to Running Club and it is lovely to see them start their week muddy and red faced as they join us in assembly on Monday mornings.

During the mile for Sport Relief, children in Year 1 – Year 6 ran, walked or skipped the distance dressed in their fabulous costumes. Issie Burn was the first to complete the course.

Running Club culminated with an Easter egg hunt on the field, the appealing mixture of exercise and chocolate was a great hit! Running Club will continue after the Easter holidays and new members are always welcome.

A huge thank you to Dwayne and Anne Stewart-Power for their tireless planning and support for the girls with their running.

West Berkshire & North Hampshire Cross Country

Around 1,000 enthusiastic runners took part in this year's cross country at Newbury Showground. Our Year 3 and Year 4 team

were in the first race and the first three of our girls scored points to earn them second place. Well done to Brooke Asser, Kate Newman and Amber Cowan on their outstanding performance. In the Year 5 and Year 6 race, we just missed out on a podium position, despite some excellent running by the whole squad.

Our next challenge will be the Inter-Schools Marathon Relay at Wellington College, where pupils will be sharing a marathon distance to help raise money to buy sport wheelchairs for disabled children.



Junior Gymnastics

We have been joined this term by Chris and Russell from KD Gymnastics and girls from Years 1, 2, 3 and 5 have all benefitted from their expert coaching.

St Gabriel's took part in the First Steps Gymnastics Competition, which was held at Denefield School. Our squad had not competed before so did not know what to expect but they worked hard to memorise their routines and body management skills. There were 12 teams competing and our two squads managed a commendable third place in both age groups.

Congratulations to Lily Chislett, Olivia Clark, Emma Scott, Fenella Jones, Imogen Strong, Amber Cowan, Aggie Rose and Brooke Asser.



JUNIOR SCHOOL

Year 2 Visit St Nicolas' Church

On 26 February, Year 2 visited St Nicolas' Church, Newbury, as part of their Religious Education study on 'Special Places'.

The children were given a guided tour of the church by the curate, **John Aldis**, and the Children's Minister, **Rosie Davis**. They were able to explore first hand the many special areas that we had found out about in the classroom, which really brought our learning to life. Standing in the pulpit and singing in the choir stalls, certainly brought this 'Special Place' to life.

'We saw the font, the pulpit, the vicar, the pews, the stained glass windows, the Bible, the golden eagle on the lectern and the organ.' Jennifer Barratt

The children were also able to 'dress a vicar' and they surprised the curate with their knowledge of the vestments. The class were **amazed to discover that John's clerical collar, was removable and that it did not go all the way around his neck.**



Thankfully, the sun shone on our trip so we were also able to **explore the outside of St Nicolas' Church, keeping a watchful eye out for any gargoyles.** The children soon noticed as they walked around that there is more than one door into the church and that the main door is on the west side. Standing on the north and south side of the building we noted the difference in temperature and the weathering that had occurred on the walls. Who said this trip was all about Religious Education!

Year 2 had a wonderful time exploring St Nicolas' and the visit certainly brought our RE lessons to life. Our thanks must go to John and Rosie for making us so very welcome.

Ten Pin Bowling Competition

After school on 28 January, Year 2 went to a bowling competition. **In their lane, they were playing against St Finian's School.** Grace bowled first and she knocked down about seven skittles. Then, it was Lucy's turn, she knocked down six skittles. Madeleine managed to knock down nine skittles and Emilia got a strike!

There were 14 schools taking part in the competition and the **St Gabriel's team came third and received bronze medals.** The



children were delighted with their performance and extremely proud of their bowling.

Year 3 Science

Year 3 have been learning about materials and their properties in Science. We discovered that some are natural (wood, cotton, stone) and some are man-made (plastic, polyester, nylon).

We then designed shoes for a superhero, a policeman, an athlete and a bride, thinking carefully about the materials we chose. We used plastic because it is waterproof and flexible, leather because it is strong and comfy, and metal because it is rigid and light. We used Explain Everything on our iPads to demonstrate our understanding.

Year 3 Romans

Year 3 have had a fantastic time learning about the Romans. We have baked Roman food, researched Roman roads, watched Roman films and read Roman books. We are especially interested in all the gruesome things they ate, including dormice, snails fed on **milk and cows' udders.** **We do not think we would enjoy a Roman dinner party very much!**



Year 3 Water & Mathematics



Year 3 have been learning about measures in mathematics. In February, we focused on capacity – very appropriate, since there was so much water around! The capacity of a container is the amount of liquid it can hold. We learned that capacity is measured in millilitres and litres, and that there are 1000ml in a litre.

We brought in some containers from home to see how much water they could hold. The largest container held 3.1 litres. It was very big! The smallest container held 20ml. It was tiny!

We used measuring cylinders to measure the volume of liquid. When we had poured the liquid into the cylinder, we took a photo with our iPads, which we used to make e-books about capacity.

We all really enjoyed messing about with water, and we now have a much better understanding of what capacity is, and what a litre looks like. We would love to share our books with you, just ask!

Year 3 Turn Out Picasso's

In our Art lessons, we have been looking at works by Picasso. We have enjoyed making some portraits of people in his style with pictures from magazines. These are on display in our classroom.

We liked the way that Picasso tried to see things differently; we thought we might try looking at things in this way. After studying some landscapes, we tried to recreate them using unusual and unexpected colours and angles. We used different coloured paper which we ripped into shapes to create a collage of a landscape. We have also been creating pictures based on the view from the Art Room windows.



Year 4 Learn About Post-War Britain

Year 4 have been studying life in post-World War II Britain. We have looked at the changes in clothing, technology (there was no Wi-Fi, can you believe it!) and how the morale of the country changed. It has been quite difficult to comprehend how different growing up in post-war Britain was compared with today.

To help us understand these changes, we were fortunate to be visited by Mr Steve Jennings who was born during WWII and is the self-confessed super cool Granddad of Kate in Year 4. He told us the fascinating story of how he was born in London, just around the corner from a weapons base that was attacked by a bomber.

He brought along a typical week's food ration. The children were amazed at just how small a quantity it was. It really helped Year 4 put into perspective and appreciate how much they have today.



Year 4 Raise Money for WaterAid

On a glorious March afternoon, six Year 4 children took to Greenham Common with their bikes and running shoes to take part in a biathlon to raise money for charity. Devised and planned by themselves, Amber, Brooke, Tayisha, Kate, Amelie and Tiggy cycled round the perimeter of the common, stopping part way to run a mile, before heading back to the start.

They raised £370.28 for WaterAid, a charity which provides clean, **safe and accessible water to thousands of people in the world's poorest communities.**

Delighted with their achievement, WaterAid sent sashes, stickers, posters, balloons and certificates as a thank you. Well done girls!



JUNIOR SCHOOL

Reading Rockets

This term we welcomed Ivan from Reading Rockets Basketball Club and basketball is certainly becoming a sport which is appealing to girls of all ages. Monday Basketball Club will continue next term under the direction of Mr May and is open to all girls from Year 3 – **Year 6. The girls have certainly benefitted from Ivan's expert advice and passing accuracy, which has been transferred to our netball games.**

Junior Netball

The Year 3 and Year 4 girls have continued their Friday training with Mrs Conway and their skills have most certainly benefitted from the extra court time they have been given. The Year 3 team have continued the season unbeaten and are showing tremendous promise for future years.



The Year 5 girls have competed fiercely for team places and the competition for positions has increased their determination to train hard. Their commitment has paid off with a fantastic win by 15 goals to 1 against a side from Cheam. Several girls have been making the journey over to Maidenhead to train with the Eagles Netball team. Newbury Netball trials are on Saturday, 7 June, and more information about this will follow shortly.

The Year 6 and Year 7 netball teams have continued to train very hard every Tuesday morning before school. The Year 6 team were **placed third in the Prince's Mead Tournament, third in the league** and were semi-finalists in the Newbury Netball Tournament.

As a team they have impressed me with their determination to improve their general court play. They also volunteered their services to support the younger girls in developing their netball on a Thursday lunchtime.



Junior House Netball

1st Aidan 2nd Bede 3rd Chad 4th Alban

Junior Drama

We have had a busy and exciting term in the Junior Drama Department. Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 took part in an imaginative workshop by Perfrom4Schools. The girls were taken on a dangerous journey across the wild prairies in search of the wondrous horse with the golden mane. The company were very impressed with the confident performances of the children and will be returning next term with an *Under the Sea* workshop.

Later in the term, the Junior School took part in National Shakespeare Week to celebrate the anniversary of the Bards 450th birthday. We devised an interactive adaptation of *Macbeth* and used the process drama technique of creating conscience alley.

We made two lines - one side representing his moral side and the other his murderous ambitious side. As Macbeth walked down the centre, brandishing his sword, the voices of good and evil competed to persuade him what he should do next. It was a **chilling and atmospheric way of learning about Macbeth's inner torment.**

It was not just about tragedy though, Year 2 studied and performed Sonnet 18, ***Shall I Compare Thee to a Summer's Day***. They quickly spotted the rhyming pattern on every other line and learned how rhythm is dictated by iambic pentameter.

Year 1 and Year 2 enjoyed listening to the story of *The Tempest* and we had great fun creating the storm scenes using movement, voice and loud percussion instruments. We also borrowed the immortal line blow, winds, and crack your cheeks from *King Lear* to lend a little authenticity!



Many more of Shakespeare's plays were read and explored during the week and it was a wonderful way for both the staff and children to recognise and celebrate the links between English and Drama. We are hoping to make it an annual event.

Year 5 ended this term with a superb performance of *The Snow Queen*. Ten individual groups took a section of the story and devised their own scenes. The whole piece was then brought together with narration from the original story. They also created a **dance to depict Gerda's difficult journey across the 'Frozen Wastes' to rescue her brother Kai from the Snow Queen's palace of ice.** We finished with an emotional rendition of the song *Let It Go* from *Frozen* (and, yes, there wasn't a dry eye in the house).

Wendy & Peter Pan

In January, Year 7 enjoyed a very exciting evening at The Royal Shakespeare Company's Christmas Show, *Wendy & Peter Pan*. The play was a re-working of the J M Barrie classic, telling the story from Wendy's point of view.

From the moment we arrived at Stratford the girls were intrigued by the magnificent new building and by the fact that there was more to see than just the play. The accompanying exhibition on fairies made a huge impression.



'There were holograms of fairies in jars and flying. There was another amazing display of the Queen Fairy's haunted dress which had images projected on it.' *Lauren King*

'The dress told the tragic story of the fairy's love for a hunter, who betrayed her and killed her.' *Georgina Jackson- Day*

The play itself certainly justified the anticipation:

'When the lights went off we were all bubbling with excitement. The music was amazing. There were some very funny scenes and some very clever stage props. They showed the flying very well; sometimes they were attached to wires and at other times Peter's shadows carried him around. Captain Hook's ship looked as though it really was on the sea, gliding across the stage.' *Emma Goodyer*

Ellie Goes Gold

Ellie Cowan (Year 7) had a string of successful swims at the Berks and South Bucks County Swimming Championships in March, winning the top girl award for her age group. Swimming for Newbury District Swimming Club, Ellie won 11 gold medals, two silvers and four 4th places, as well as breaking two county age group records in the 50m backstroke and 50m breaststroke events.



Taking place over two weekends at the Magnet Leisure Centre in Maidenhead, Ellie won gold in the 50m, 100m and 200m butterfly; 50m, 100m and 200m breaststroke; 50m and 100m backstroke; 50m freestyle, and 100m and 200m individual medley. She also **won a bronze medal in the girls' 11-14 years medley relay team.**

Year 7 Netball

The Year 7 Netball team convincingly won the West Berkshire Area Tournament and have been selected to represent West Berkshire in the Berkshire Games.

Year 7 Go to Wales

Towards the end of term, Year 7 went on a Humanities trip to Wales. My favourite activity was visiting St Fagan's National History Museum. During the last 50 years, over 40 original buildings from different historical periods have been re-erected in the 100 acre parkland at St Fagan's, among them houses, a farm, a school, a chapel and a splendid Workmen's Institute.

I particularly liked the Rhyd-y-Car Ironworkers' Houses, where you could travel through time as you see six homes, their contents and gardens changing from 1805–1985. It was amazing to see how life got better and easier as time went by. I liked the 1980s house – I was shocked by how similar it was to mine!

Kitty Byfield

Emerald's Success at Alex Strachan Cup



This term, Emerald Cundy (Year 7) competed in the Alex Strachan Cup at the Surrey Sports Institute. This is the first of three national competitions for aerobic gymnastics and Emerald bagged herself a bronze medal for her individual routine in the Group 1 (age 12-14) National Section. This was particularly special as she had so many months off last year through illness and injury and she is still not back to full fitness, so she had to work really hard!

Year 7 Hockey

The Year 7 Hockey team have had a good term playing matches across the district. There has been consistent participation in morning and lunchtime clubs, which has helped their game. The highlights of the term were our A team beating The Abbey 2-1 and narrowly coming second in the District Tournament. After a successful term, the PE Department hope that our top players will benefit from Berkshire nominations to train with elite coaches ready for next season!

Cook of the Term Awards



Once again, the Food & Nutrition Department has been busy, but creative, with practicals to mark the end of rotations within the subject. Those students who have, over the last 10 weeks, steadily shown improvement and confidence gain a Cook of the Term Award. This means they get 10 house points as well as their **own chef's hat. This is now the second phase of this reward** competition with Year 8 and Year 9 completing a two course meal conducted like a masterchef cook off. Year 7 have worked along similar lines with one dish completed as a skills test and the other to demonstrate sequential organisation. Here are the proud winners:

Year 5	Kirsten Steel
Year 7G	Isabel Doherty
Year 7S	Darcey Scott
Year 7T	Allanah Weaver
Year 8	Charlotte Dick
Year 9	Megan Clark

Year 7 & Year 8 Scholastic Presentations

On 12 March, we held a Scholastic Presentation Evening at which 25 Year 7 and Year 8 students spoke about their recent research on the topic of communication.

This was an excellent event and, once again, the quality of the projects and the presentations from all the girls involved was exceptional. Parents, students and staff were treated to well-researched and interesting talks on subjects ranging from how animals and humans communicate, to code breaking at Bletchley Park and how to use a Raspberry Pi to decipher Morse Code.

All those involved should be extremely proud of their achievements and those who attended the event certainly enjoyed themselves. Many thanks also go to the girls' mentors for their help and support.

Year 8 Hockey

The Year 8 Hockey team have had a mixed term due to several cancelled fixtures and a lot of changes but we have a very positive outlook for the future. When all players have been available, the group have competed well across the district. We also have a large number of players who are learning and competing for the first time for their school so well done to them, too.

Team Maths Challenge at Horris Hill

On 21 March, four Year 8 and Year 9 students went to Horris Hill to compete in the Team Maths Challenge. We had an excellent day out with many interesting problems to solve including a cross-number, a shuttle round and finally a relay, which involved running backwards and forwards across the room whilst solving maths puzzles!

After a great day the team were delighted to have come 9th out of 32 schools.

Well done to Sophie Lupton, Alice McGonnell, Anna Stirk and Lauren Swain.

Ceramics Club

In Ceramics Club, we have been making an under the sea mosaic featuring weird and wonderful creatures from the deep. We have made one tile each and, eventually, all 12 tiles will be placed together. We are painting the tiles at home to allow the colours to show slight differences. We have built the tiles up to show foreground and background.

Ceramics Club takes place after school on a Tuesday and is open to Year 7 and Year 8. I really enjoy it.

Alicia Perkins



A Midsummer Night's Dream

In English, Year 8 has been studying ***A Midsummer Night's Dream***. All three classes enjoyed presenting their own versions of *Pyramus and Thisbe*.



Year 9 Business Club

This term, Year 9 Business Club students have been following a £10,000 portfolio of shares on the London Stock Market. Both teams have made a gain on their original virtual investment and amazingly there was only a £53 difference between the two portfolios. Winners, by a whisker, were Savina and Georgia.

This year's Young Enterprise company, Banned, is busy clearing stock and preparing for its AGM before the company is dissolved. Students gave a confident presentation at the Area Cup Final and they have all learned many useful lessons during the year for their future business careers.



Year 9 Hockey & Netball

The Year 9 Hockey team have had a very successful term and have progressed in each area of the field. After a slow start, they went

on to win one side of the district tournament with wins over Trinity, The Downs and Downe House, reaching the final against Kennet. The final was a very competitive game with chances for both sides in the first half with great efforts from Mitzi, Lily and Lauren in the midfield. The team went into the break still at 0-0 but the wind turned on us and so did the pressure from the Kennet attack, causing Phoebe, Antonia, Mackenzie and Tishy to do some last **gasp tackling**. **In the end Kennet's attack broke us** down four times although Philippa Clifford-Jones did manage to get a goal back later in the game after some good play from Mary-Emma, Lottie and Savina. Unfortunately, we ended up losing 4-1. We will be back next year to avenge that loss.



The Under 15 Netball Squad, which is a combination of the Year 9 B and Year 10 team players, won two league games this year. Although this side is a development squad, they have begun to gel and are making great progress.

In May, the St Gabriel's Netball teams are off to Barton Hall PGL Centre in Devon for a weekend of team-building and netball tournament play.

Maths Department News

In February, a number of girls from Year 9 – Year 11 entered this **year's Intermediate Maths Challenge**.

The Maths Department would like to congratulate the following certificate winners:

Bronze Certificates: Sophie Lupton & Lauren Swain (Best in Year 9 Certificate), Madeline Ashman (Best in Year 10 Certificate), Louise Barlow, Anisha Malli, Laura Beardmore-Gray, Agatha Bebbington, Katherine Freeman and Emily Meredith.

Silver Certificates: Abigail Dillon, Holly Griffiths, Jessica Griffiths, Isabelle James, Lucia Mitchell and Ione Robinson.

Gold Certificate: Eloise Weeks (Best in Year 11 and Best in school). Eloise also qualified for the next stage of the competition, The Pink Kangaroo, so well done, Eloise!

Eight girls also represented St Gabriel's at the regional rounds of the Maths Team Challenge competition held at Horris Hill and The Downs School.

Certificates were presented to Anna Stirk, Alice McGonnell, Lauren Swain, Sophie Lupton, Madeline Ashman, Louise Barlow, Charlotte Cockle and Anisha Malli.

Angelis Dance Company

Our newly formed Angelis Dance Company took to the stage for **the first time on 25 March at this year's Spring Equinox dance platform** at the Corn Exchange. Performing with 10 other dance groups in a showcase of local talent, the company performed a piece called, *Warped Speed*. With only five weeks of intensive rehearsals the girls were enthusiastic about the project and worked professionally as a group. Performing to a packed audience the girls danced beautifully and were all pleased with their performance.

"An experience I would love to repeat." *Louisa Mannion*

"The dance was really fun and I enjoyed the experience." *Savina Sangha*

"Amazing!. I would love to take part again next year." *Olivia Barr*

Angelis is the St Gabriel's in-house dance company that girls audition for in September each year. Throughout the school calendar they are invited to perform in a variety of local performances as well as in school productions and the biannual dance show.

"I am extremely impressed with the way in which Angelis have rehearsed and performed so far this year. The current group was auditioned and formed in September and already they dance together with the maturity and understanding of a long established youth dance company."

Mrs Humphreys, PE Department



HPQ Presentation Evening

An audience of parents, teachers and pupils recently enjoyed a fantastic evening of illustrated talks given by the five Year 10 girls who are in the final stages of submitting their work to achieve a Higher Project Qualification (HPQ). Each girl spoke for 10 minutes on her chosen research topic and outlined the skills she had learned throughout the project process.

Louise Barlow: To what extent can individual sports help those with ADHD?

Laura Crook: Was Lee Harvey Oswald really the killer of JFK or was he 'just a patsy'?

Holly Hathaway: A comparison of different equestrian riding surfaces and how they affect a horse's performance and physiology.

Anisha Malli: To what extent was Mahatma Gandhi a spiritual leader as well as a politician?

Abbie Osborne: The history and making of Venetian carnival masks. Abbie also made two beautiful Venetian-style masks.



All the girls spoke confidently and with flair, demonstrating a high level of knowledge and understanding of their topics. They also took questions from the floor, which they answered competently.

The HPQ is equivalent to a Short Course GCSE. This qualification is unique in that it is student-led and requires no formal classroom teaching. Candidates choose an area of academic interest, conceive a title and conduct academic research under the guidance of a Project Supervisor (a trained member of the teaching staff). The final outcome may either take the form of a 2,000 word fully Harvard referenced report/essay, or an artefact, performance or production accompanied by a similarly referenced 1,000 word report.

The HPQ is excellent preparation for the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) which is equivalent to an AS level and is increasingly highly valued by the top universities, as a positive discriminator for entry onto popular courses.

Wendy Rumbol, Centre Co-ordinator for HPQ & EPQ

Year 11 Netball Squad

The Year 11 Netball Squad played in the West Berkshire League. They won most of their matches but lost to Park House for the first time in five years. They also lost to Park House in the Area Tournament. Due to other commitments by our regular players new girls had an opportunity to play. Congratulations and thanks to Olivia Rutherford, Charley Evans, Aggie Bebbington, Lucia Mitchell and Isabel Vile for stepping in.

Model United Nations

Have you ever wondered what really goes on at a United Nations conference? Well, now, with the help of Model United Nations, we know!

On 15 March, we participated in our first ever Model United Nations conference at Highgate Wood School in North London. Every delegate was allocated a country to represent, ranging from France to Tajikistan, and each committee discussed a different **topic relating to this year's issue of world poverty.**

Clutching our position papers tightly and armed with a welcome letter from Ban Ki-moon, six smartly dressed Year 11 girls ventured into the unknown as we entered our committee rooms for the first time.

Although we were newcomers to MUN we soon found our feet and our confidence blossomed as we got more involved with the debate. We thoroughly enjoyed the experience and were able to enhance our negotiation and communication skills, as well as improve our ability to compromise over issues with other individuals.

We thoroughly recommend this great opportunity to other students and we look forward to continuing with our MUN journey in the future.

Olivia Rutherford, Aggie Bebbington, Holly Griffiths, Flora Clarke, Katie Freeman & Becky Scarfe



An Evening with Terry Waite



Solitary confinement is a horrendous experience for anyone to endure. However, for Terry Waite this nightmare lasted for nearly five years.

Captured in Lebanon, whilst trying to negotiate the release of four hostages, he was imprisoned between 1987–91. Yet, what we realised when we listened to him talk at Downe House was how very brave and strong he must have been to have coped mentally with this terrible situation. To listen to such an incredible person speak about their experiences was truly humbling and his positive attitude to life is an inspiration for us all.

Olivia Rutherford

Film Review of 300: Rise of an Empire

Year 11 and Sixth Form classicists went to see the classically inspired film *300: Rise of an Empire*.

Based on Frank Miller's latest graphic novel, *Xerxes*, and told in the breathtaking visual style of the blockbuster, *300*, for many viewers this new chapter of the epic saga is an absolute must see and a visually thrilling action-packed film. The epic storyline is based on the Greek general, Themistocles, who attempts to unite all of Greece and to stop the invading Persian forces. The role of Artemisia was played by *Eva Green* who gave an exceptionally powerful performance as the female villain and there was also an unforgettably modernised Xerxes!

The film was gripping and I would recommend it to anybody who loves action movies and has a passion for the classical legacy and **its fundamental importance and influence on society; you won't be left feeling disappointed as this film really demonstrates a thorough use of justice and a thirst for vengeance and glory.**

A particular favourite quotation of mine, paraphrased from Aeschylus' *Agamemnon*, was **'we choose to die on our feet, rather than live on our knees!'**

Phoebe Dewbury

An Evening with Pip McGarry

In January, St Gabriel's welcomed one of Europe's leading wildlife artists, Pip McGarry, who talked to students and parents on his recent safari work. He also demonstrated painting techniques and produced a small painting of an elephant, which was later presented to Emily Drury in Year 7. Pip has an international reputation for oil paintings of big cats and African game. He brought one of his paintings to show us, 'Playful', which depicts a baby lion cub (24"x28") and is currently on sale for £16,800.



Pip McGarry returned later in the term to judge an art competition on the theme of animals. Students from Year 7 – Year 13 were invited to enter an artwork in the media of their choice in response to this open theme.

The Art Department was astounded by the amount of effort students had put into the competition and by the diverse range of styles and mediums used. Pip McGarry said that it was the hardest competition he had ever had to judge and he was extremely impressed by the quality of all the entries.



Congratulations to Emily Walsh, who received first prize with her lovely oil pastel study of her family dog (pictured). Emily is now taking commissions for animal portraits and has already completed her first commission, Miss Dillon's King Charles Spaniel, Maggie!

Lord Crisp

To encourage students to engage more with the political and parliamentary process, on 17 January St Gabriel's hosted a talk from a member of the House of Lords. This was a fantastic opportunity for our girls to interact with someone who knows the parliamentary system inside out, as it can sometimes seem far removed from their daily lives. Lord Crisp met with girls in Year 10 – Year 13 to talk about the work and role of the House of Lords. This was followed by a lively question and answer session in which the girls questioned Lord Crisp on healthcare and various aspects of the parliamentary process.

The visit was arranged through the Lord Speaker's Peers in Schools programme, which has been running across the UK since 2007 and has so far involved around 50,000 young people. This outreach programme sends members of the House of Lords into schools to give talks in support of the curriculum.



Holocaust Survivor: John Fieldsend

On 20 January, parents and students gathered to hear a talk from John Fieldsend, a Holocaust survivor from Czechoslovakia. John spoke to us about some of the dreadful, and eye-opening, experiences he had to endure as a Jewish child growing up during the war. He talked about his evacuation, his separation from his family, and how he narrowly missed suffering the same fate as millions of others. He spoke with passion and emotion and once he had read a final letter from his parents that he only found decades after the war, there was not a dry eye in the house.

The talk made a huge impact on the younger generation as John emphasised our responsibility to look after the world, and make sure we do not mess it up as previous generations may have done!

This talk was truly inspirational, heart wrenching but warming at the same time.

Emily Thompson

Richard Benyon MP

On 31 January, girls from the Senior School were given the opportunity to question Mr Richard Benyon, Conservative MP for Newbury. Following an informal discussion over lunch with A level Government & Politics students, Mr Benyon spoke about his experiences as an MP to a group of girls from Year 7 – Year 13.

It was a thoroughly engaging talk in which many pertinent questions were raised about the participation of women in party politics, the future of the Conservative Party, the current coalition, the Scottish referendum and the European Union.

We would like to thank Mr Benyon for taking the time to share his views and political experience with us.

Judith Bunting, Liberal Democrat



On 27 February, girls from the Senior School were given the opportunity to have lunch with Judith Bunting, the Liberal Democrat parliamentary candidate for Newbury. Judith Bunting delivered an insightful talk, in which she discussed her reasons for going into politics and why she chose to join the Liberal Democrats. There was plenty of discussion about the internal democracy of the Liberal Democrats, and also about the issue of education. During the talk, the girls revealed the issues they are most concerned about in the run up to the next election, which included membership of the European Union and opportunities for graduate employment.

We would like to thank Judith Bunting for sharing her views and her priorities for Newbury and West Berkshire with us.

Samantha Burley-Jackson

On 27 February, we welcomed Samantha Burley-Jackson, who came to speak to students about the issues and ethics in her job as an embryologist.

It was great to hear from somebody so passionate about their work and particularly interesting for those students considering a career in medicine or a related discipline. Samantha also discussed some of the science involved in her work and how the ethical issues she deals with have evolved over the last few decades as our society becomes more diverse. It was an extremely interesting talk and a valuable insight for students into the work of an embryologist.

Geoffrey Smith, Professor of Pathology

On 3 March, we were delighted to welcome Geoffrey Smith, Professor of Pathology at the University of Cambridge, who came

to speak on the topic, Viruses: Friend or Foe? He looked at the history of vaccinations, including the eradication of smallpox, and went on to explain the cutting edge technology we use today, the research of which he is heavily involved with.

We were very privileged to hear from an expert in this field and it was an extremely enjoyable evening for students, parents and teachers alike.

Making the Set for Godspell

On Saturday, 22 March, St Gabriel's Art Department created the set design for Godspell. Art students from Year 8 – Year 13 collaborated on this project, experimenting with graffiti, stencils and techniques. We really let our imaginations go wild. Some of the girls had prepared and made their own stencils, which they were then able to use on the set. There was real enthusiasm for the project and the outcome was amazing. I thoroughly enjoyed the workshop; it was filled with laughter and we all had tremendous fun. The production of Godspell was a huge success and I feel honoured to have been part of the team behind the set.

Phoebe Dewbury

We had a big canvas and loads of spray paints. I used my bulldog stencil and it turned out really well. We used lots of different stencils and spray painted whatever we wanted. I found this really fun and different as I had done nothing like this before!

Ashleigh Sirs

I really enjoyed creating the set for Godspell, I had so much fun spending the day spray painting with my friends and I really liked our finished product. The thing I loved the most was being really creative and when I made a mistake it just didn't matter, you just painted over it. We also wrote our names somewhere on the board and some of the song titles from Godspell.

Aisha Werker



Poetry by Heart

St Gabriel's conducted an in-house competition to select competitors for the regional round of Poetry by Heart. It was a really exciting evening and Megan Kerrigan and Holly Barrett were the winners who went on to represent the school at The Old Fire Station in Oxford.

Holly recited her three poems beautifully in the regional round and was commended by the judges. Megan Kerrigan went on to win the regional round, reciting her poems with great style and confidence. She deserves huge congratulations for getting to the finals as a great deal of hard work went into the preparation.

The finals, which took place at the National Portrait Gallery in London on 13 March, opened with a welcome by Sir Andrew Motion. **Once again, Megan represented St Gabriel's with considerable distinction.**

Year 12 Geographers to Calshot



For their AS level fieldwork, Year 12 Geography students travelled to Calshot to carry out an urban and a river study. As we are such a small group we teamed up with Mary Hare School for the trip.

On a bright morning we met Richard, our teacher for the urban study, in Southampton. We had to visit a range of districts and fill out an assessment sheet for each ward having made our predictions about what we thought it would be like from census data, which we had looked at previously. We visited Basset, Redbridge and Millbrook, Bargate and Bevois, with each ward varying greatly on their scores for environment, service provision, **crime and liveability**. **After a long day's work, we travelled on to Calshot for supper and then analysed the data we had collected and researched more secondary data.**

The next day we carried out a river study on the River Lymington in the New Forest and investigated the changing river characteristics from the source to the mouth; these included width, gradient and wetted perimeter. As we were going to be outside all day in the river we wrapped up warm and put on welly boots and waterproof trousers. At the first site, none of us were too keen on getting into the freezing cold river but once we got started we had a great time even though our hands were so cold they went numb. We had predicted in our hypothesis that the river channel would get wider, deeper and have increased velocity as we travelled closer to the mouth and we were quite right in saying this as it became increasingly hard to roll up our many **layers of sleeves far enough so that they didn't get wet and by the last site we were lucky if we escaped without getting wet feet.**

By the time we got back we were looking forward to a long shower and a hot meal but first we had to analyse the data we had collected and plot some graphs. Having practised both our physical and human geography skills, on our last day we looked at some statistics that we would need to use for the skills paper in our exam which was really useful.

Charlotte Cundy

Politics Revision Day at the Emmanuel Centre

On 19 March, AS Politics students attended a revision day at the Emmanuel Centre, in London. Luckily for us, the venue was near Westminster, so we got off at this tube station to see the Houses of Parliament, Big Ben and Westminster Abbey – the day was off to a good start!

We heard talks on the key topics that we have been studying this year and we also received advice on how to write good answers. The lectures were given by key examiners, including Neil McNaughton and Andrew Colclough, making the talks interesting and useful.

With just an hour break for lunch, we were then laden with even more information. At the end of the afternoon our brains felt overloaded and exhausted and we definitely needed that Starbucks on our way home!

All in all it was an extremely informative and useful day, and definitely worth going to.

Hannah Short

Sixth Form Charity Ball

The Sixth Form Charity Ball took place at the Donnington Grove Hotel on 7 February. Over 90 guests were present for the dinner, charity auction and dancing which followed. We would like to thank all of those who bid for the auction prizes both before and on the evening – we were very excited to have a telephone bidder for the F1 Experience Day! Although we do not yet have a final total yet, we are delighted to have raised several thousand pounds for Living Positive Mlolongo.

We would particularly like to thank Mr Sheikh from Shakey's Disco who provided the disco free of charge. It was a wonderful evening with everyone looking fabulous. To have raised so much money to help women and children living with the effects of HIV in Nairobi is the most satisfying aspect of the evening.

Megan Kerrigan & Grace Carøe



National Oceanography Centre

On 6 March, Sixth Form biologists said Au Revoir to St Gabriel's and Ahoy to the National Oceanography Centre in Southampton. Being budding biologists, we were excited to have **a day out on one of the centre's research vessels. This was an interactive and hands-on trip collecting biological, physical, chemical and environmental data from five different experiments at various locations along Southampton Water. We were using both new and historic sampling techniques. Samples were taken and compared for salinity, temperature and light penetration. We got our hands dirty searching through mud and seaweed to find and identify the various different types of aquatic species; most notably Crepidula Fomicata (the Slipper Limpet), spider crabs and various sea squirts. Despite the blustery sea breeze, we all had a great time and gained a lot from having a qualified and experienced marine biologist on board to answer our many questions about the deep blue sea!**



Once back on dry land, we received a lecture on marine alien species, which was fascinating. It was certainly a tiring day but we all had a great time and very much appreciated this brilliant opportunity! Our thanks to Mr Scobie for arranging this fieldtrip and for getting us back in one piece.

Emily Thompson

Psychology Trip to London Zoo

With our hearts set high on an amazing trip, we definitely were not disappointed. On 30 January, we caught a train to Paddington station and crossed London to Regent's Park and ZSL London Zoo.

We split up into groups and wandered around the different animal kingdoms, seeing giraffes, okapi and zebras. We then entered a blistering hot building, a simulated rainforest. Taking off our waterproofs and jumpers, we saw monkeys jumping from branch to branch, piranhas and a tarantula which, to be fair, we all screamed at.



But this was soon to change. We headed on over to a lecture theatre for a half hour talk on phobias. We learned about many of the available cures for phobias, including hypnotherapy, which we focused on, as the lecturer was a hypnotherapist. However, we also learned about systematic desensitisation (a form of cognitive behavioural therapy), flooding, disputing, beta blockers and benzodiazepines. This was the introductory lesson; it was just preparing us for what was to come...

After lunch, we realised there was one crucial thing we had not seen: the penguins! After taking loads of selfies with them, we **went to visit the gorillas (Miss Dadds' favourite). We definitely** should not have gone there straight after lunch as one was picking its nose and eating it! Nice!

Then, we headed to our second talk. This was a very interesting experience as we got hypnotised by the hypnotherapist. He was trying to cure arachnophobia (fear of spiders). When we woke up, after 20 minutes apparently, but I am certain it was only 5, the hypnotherapist got out Lucy, a tarantula (thankfully, it was the laziest one out there!). We all expected ourselves to run and **scream, but actually... in the end... we all managed to hold the tarantula!** Looking back, I'm not sure how I did it, but perhaps our fear of spiders has gone...

This trip is certainly one I will not forget and, hopefully, now we can all get rid of any spiders we may come across in our own houses without a fuss. I am really looking forward to learning more about phobias later on in the Psychology A level course.

Hannah Short

Museum of Computing

The Physics AS level at St Gabriel's requires that students carry out a visit to somewhere interesting, which links to their coursework subject, electricity. As computers use electricity, we went to Swindon's Museum of Computing. Although small, the museum contains many examples of computing equipment from the Colossus machine built at Bletchley Park during the war, to the games machines of the 1980s and 1990s, through to our modern day PCs with access to the internet.

Kate Gridley and Grace Carøe particularly enjoyed the exhibition of Apple computers through the ages and competing on a Nintendo 64 (Super Mario). Ms Rayner enjoyed a nostalgic trip, remembering those halcyon days playing Horace Goes Skiing on the ZX Spectrum. Seeing the history of computing collapsed into a small space reminded us just how rapidly computing technology has advanced, largely due to the ability of physicists and technologists to squeeze more and more transistors onto a silicon chip.

Twelfth Night

Year 12 and Year 13 A level English Literature students enjoyed an entertaining visit to the Oxford Playhouse to see a performance of *Twelfth Night*. It involved a great deal of humour and audience participation and we were certainly left with some interesting alternative interpretations, which are so useful in the A level English Literature course. It was, without doubt, a very modern **take on Shakespeare's comedy of love.**

Tower of London

We set off extremely early for the Tower of London. On our arrival, we walked through the vast corridors and passages looking at the various armour of the kings, including our favourite, Henry VIII. We walked through many chambers, and even made our way into the torture chamber, imagining how various historical figures had gazed upon the ghastly torture instruments. Having taken selfies with the ravens of the Tower and bought feathery Tudor hats, we proceeded to Westminster Abbey. This really proved to be an overwhelming visit, as we found ourselves looking at the tombs of people we had been reading about in our history classes, such as Henry VII, Anne of Cleves and Charles Dickens. Finally, after a brisk walk down Whitehall, we visited the National Portrait Gallery where we could look at portraits of the Tudor monarchs.

Aisha Sheikh

Dr Zimbardo Philosophy Conference

Dr Wilson, a criminologist and lecturer at Birmingham University, gave the first presentation on levels and rates of crime in the UK and worldwide. He talked a lot about what he did, such as visiting inmates in prisons, and why someone may be more likely to commit a crime. He spoke passionately about contributing factors and the potential rewards crime offers – even if only short-lived.

After the lunch break, Dr Philip Zimbardo talked about his Stanford Prison Experiment, which has become a legend in the world of psychology (and is a key study in our A level syllabus). He talked about how any normal person, when put in the right situation, can become evil. His experiment in 1971 shaped social psychology today and his results shocked both America and the rest of the world. He described how he put ordinary undergraduate students into a mock prison in the basement of Stanford University. He assigned them to either be a guard or a prisoner (half and half). After a few days, the guards started to



become aggressive, making the prisoners clean their own toilets at 2.00am and put bags on their head to go to the toilet – the aim being to dehumanise them. Prisoner 416, who arrived late, retaliated and went on hunger strike as he saw the experiment as unethical. Other prisoners then started to turn on him, and left him in isolation for two days. Prisoner 819 mentally broke down after three days, and demanded to go on parole, not leave the experiment! Everyone became completely engulfed in their roles due to the context they had been placed in.

The study had to be shut down after six days. Dr Zimbardo's wife, Christina (who was also at the conference), talked about how demeaning and unethical the study was and told us that the experiment changed her husband – he had got so sucked in to the study that he could no longer realise what was right or wrong.

Finally, Dr Zimbardo spoke about his current research. He has set up a charity, the Heroic Imagination Project, which talks to schools not about how people become evil but how the ordinary person can become a hero. If we are all capable of evil, we are also all capable of good. Just a simple compliment or a smile to someone in the street can make us a hero, yet many of us pass by these opportunities.

At the end of the afternoon there was a book signing by Dr Zimbardo.

We walked away from the philosophy conference hoping that we would be able to take up an opportunity to become a hero sometime soon!

Philosophy & Ethics Revision Camp



On 28 March, Year 13 Philosophy & Ethics students attended a revision conference at Bloomsbury Baptist Church in central London. The day was run by chief examiners and university lecturers, with the aim of providing further insight into the topics we have been studying and giving us an advantage in our A level exams this summer. We listened to presentations on all the topics we have studied this year and were given model exam answers.

The day was really helpful in terms of revision, giving us the opportunity to ask lots of questions to the people who have actually written our exam paper! All in all, it was an extremely beneficial and enjoyable day out and will hopefully contribute to our successes this summer.

Year 13 Particle Physics Masterclass



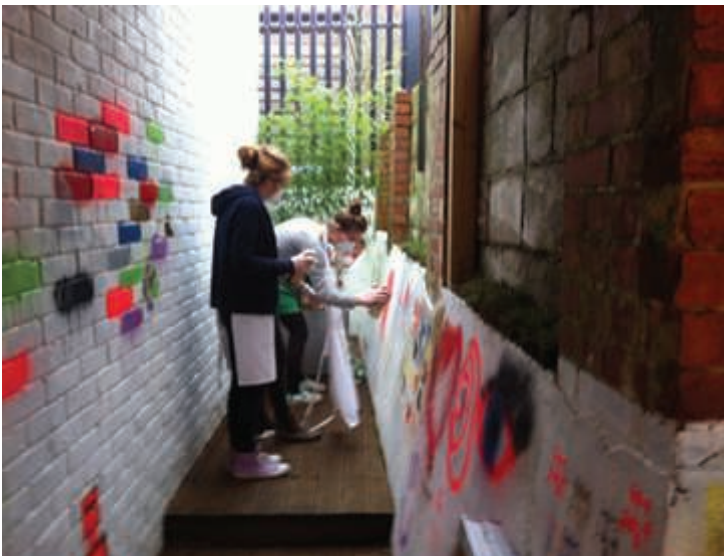
Quarks, mesons, bosons, leptons, baryons... there are a lot of particles to keep track of when studying A level Physics! That is why the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory holds its very popular annual Particle Physics Masterclass, attended this year by Ellie Armstrong and Louisa Lai, accompanied by Ms Rayner. We heard lectures by particle physicists, which reviewed much of our study of the topic, and we tried our hand at hunting the Higgs boson by looking at events within particle detectors at the Large Hadron Collider. We also toured the ISIS facility, which generates neutrons to probe matter and is used by groups as diverse as pharmaceuticals companies and archaeologists. It was an intensive and highly worthwhile day.

St Gabriel's Students in the Studio!

Sixth Form art students visited a new screen printing facility in Newbury, Squeegie and Ink, which is run by local printmaker, Francesca Rosier. The screens were all pre-exposed so they were ready to print. We took it in turns to pull our prints and in no time were experimenting and mixing the colours together. We had fun printing onto different materials. Everyone mucked in trying out a few techniques. We then coated a screen together and exposed it to show the whole process.

We even managed to get the spray paints out to decorate the alley a bit! We had a fabulous afternoon and really enjoyed the experience.

Esme Benson, Katie Fitzpatrick, Freja Majlund Westh & Phoebe Dewbury



Jenny Wins Future Music Showcase Award

Congratulations to Jenny Bracey in Year 13 who recently took part in the final of the Open Mic UK singing competition. Jenny battled her way through three rounds coming in the top four on each occasion to become one of the final 24 competitors out of the 10,000 entries. A large number of family, friends and staff were at the NEC to support Jenny.

Jenny won the Future Music Showcase Award, which means that she will have the opportunity to play in front of producers and musicians with the expectation of being signed to their labels. Jenny will also be able to tour and play at festivals and as support **for other artists. She has been invited to play for Birdy's manager** and has had letters from talent spotters asking to meet her.



Oxford Union Debating Finals

The Oxford Schools' Debating Competition is an international event that is run annually. It follows the British Parliamentary style with four teams debating a motion that they receive 15 minutes before the debate. Teams consist of two members, each of whom makes a five minute speech. The St Gabriel's team consisted of Eleanor Oretti and Lily Erskine who took part in the regional final in Oxford in February. Our team won a place in the final alongside three teams from Eton and teams from Magdalen College School and Cheney School, who hosted the regional round. It was an impressive achievement to win a place in the final against such experienced competition.

The finals took place at the Oxford Union in March. Lily and Eleanor debated throughout the day engaging in four debates. It was an exciting experience and the girls have started a **St Gabriel's tradition in competitive debating.**



SIXTH FORM

Spectroscopy Workshop

In February, Sixth Form chemists discovered a little more about the methods of spectroscopy when we visited the Department of Chemistry at Reading University. During the course of the day, we explored the undergraduate chemistry labs and had a quick peek around the CAF (Chemical Analysis Facility) lab. We were given the opportunity to interpret some spectrums of aspirin produced by NMR, IR and mass spectroscopy, which allowed us to examine aspirin on a molecular level, looking at its arrangement of bonds and the atoms that make up the structure. This enabled us to see what a degree in chemistry really entails. We were also fortunate enough to listen to some of the teaching staff at the university who gave us expert views on the machines and their uses in everyday life, particularly forensic science. It was a lot more complicated in real life than CSI leads us to believe!

We really enjoyed our, which gave us a real insight into student life as well as extending our knowledge beyond the A level syllabus. A big thank you to Dr Carrington-Smith for organising the trip!

Abi Wooden



HOUSE DEBATING

The House Debating Competition gave Senior School girls the opportunity to practise their debating skills. Eight students represented their Houses and debated in Oxford Union style, rebutting points and making points of information. Four judges marked the girls on their style, strategy, points of information and their argument. Whilst the judges were making their decision, we were entertained by a staff v Sixth Form debate in which Ellie Oretti and Lily Erskine challenged Marc Ives and Ben Lewis. It was a lively and amusing debate, where the girls showed their skill in debating and conclusively won the vote.

The House winners were Chris Olive and Melissa Dawes representing Aidan. Megan Kerrigan was named best speaker and Emily Meredith was also an outstanding debater.



Stevensons

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Thursday: 8.00am—9.30am

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DRAMA DEPARTMENT



There can be no doubt that for the Drama Department, *Godspell* was the climax of the term and I think it was for many of the girls, too.

Rehearsing and preparing for *Godspell* was challenging and hard work, but the effort was amply rewarded by the quality of the end **result and by the audience's appreciative comments.**

It is a true ensemble show, with the whole cast on stage for most of the time. How many lines an actor has is not the issue, it is about understanding that everyone has responsibility for the success of the whole, and an equal share of the satisfaction. It was especially pleasing that the cast, musicians, dancers and crew numbered almost 100 and all year groups were involved. I have no doubt that new friendships have been formed and barriers crossed.

But enough of the benefits. The show itself was a huge success. All of the girls worked hard and it showed! They were confident, polished and energetic and took real pride and pleasure in entertaining their audience. I hope they are proud of what they achieved – they should be.

Mrs Baxter, Drama Department



LA THUILE 2014

After a long coach journey to the Aosta Valley, Italy, we finally made it to our lovely hotel where the first thing we did was look longingly at our beds – all we could think about was sleep! However, we had to unpack and go to ski hire where we were given our boots, skis and poles. Then we had a wonderful dinner, which definitely put a smile on the faces of those who had been craving Italian food since we left England.



The next morning was an early rise but we finally managed to get out of our beds and left for La Thuile, our ski resort. The adrenaline rush of skiing brought us back to the hotel in the evening in a very happy mood. This was followed by pizza night in a local restaurant.

The next two days brought some hilarious skiing incidents with **people falling off button lifts, chair lifts and just general 'face plants'.** The improvement in all the groups was outstanding and we looked like completely different skiers compared with the day we arrived. We also had fantastic après ski activities such as an ice cream night and karaoke. On the last three skiing days, we spent a lot of time wiping away snow and mist from our goggles but we all pushed through and showed our true skiing abilities, with all groups skiing at least one red in these conditions! We also **had a great time 'bum boarding' after skiing on the Thursday.**

Leaving the mountain on the final Saturday was very hard as none of us wanted to leave the snow or our amazing instructors. But we said our goodbyes, received our certificates and left La Thuile until next year!

It was an amazing experience and we have fantastic memories of **the trip from the 'you've been framed' moment falls to the coach driver's interesting taste in music.** We did not stop laughing the whole way through the week. We all had the most fantastic time and could not be more thankful to everyone who made it possible.

Mary-Emma Parker

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Junior School Music

This term, we have had two informal concerts, which showed, once again, the range of instruments that pupils play. The warm reception from the audience was a real encouragement to all. Pupils continue to perform to each other in lesson time as well, and I think it has become one of their favourite activities! Our Year 3 are enjoying the challenge of learning a new instrument; they have a session with Mr Parker or Mrs Frith once a week, where they have been exploring the chalumeau and the fife. String Group also continues to flourish as demonstrated by an assured performance in assembly.

The term culminated in a Music Assembly for pupils and parents and we were treated to a whole host of performances. Junior **Orchestra gave a confident performance of Dr Tebbs' *Piece with No Name* and an arrangement of the Beach Boys' *Sloop John B***, both of which showed how much their ensemble skills have developed. Year 1 & 2 Recorders delighted us with a seasonal *Hot Cross Buns* and Year 3 Recorders showed their dexterity moving from *Night Lights* to *Shrimps on Tour*. The three choirs sang with gusto and poise, from Year 1 & 2 Choir who reminded us of the stress of trying to get out of the door on a Monday morning, to Junior Singers who transported us to the highlands of Scotland with their rendition of *Touch the Sky*. Chamber Choir have come on in leaps and bounds and they demonstrated beautiful tone and expression in *Sing with Joy* and *Thank you for the Music* – a lovely way to round off the spring term.

Senior School Music

The main focus for performers this term has been the challenge of our school musical, *Godspell*, learning its songs and dances, and gaining the confidence to bring energy and enthusiasm to the show. Everybody involved found this an exhausting but **exhilarating process, and we are both sad that it's over, and** relieved that there are no more rehearsals! The performances showcased some excellent singing, both solo and group, and benefitted from the excellent accompaniment of the all-pupil band. Everybody is to be congratulated on a superb effort.

While all this has been going on, we have been running rehearsals in most groups, preparing girls for ABRSM and Trinity music examinations, as well as working on music for the Jazz and Rock Night (normally at the end of the spring term, but because of *Godspell* moved to Thursday, 8 May). Lunchtime concerts and a day of Associated Board examinations added to the fun, as did a

ABRSM Results (Spring 2014)			
Madeline Ashman	Cello	08	Distinction
Holly Aufiero	Descant Recorder	03	Pass
Elizabeth Barratt	Descant Recorder	01	Merit
Bryony Bedingham	Singing	05	Pass
Anneliese Brown	Cello	01	Merit
Nicola Brown	Singing	06	Distinction
Martha Croggon	Singing	03	Distinction
Eve Glitz	Flute	01	Pass
Elizabeth Ferneley	Piano	01	Merit
Grace Glitz	Descant Recorder	02	Merit
Sasha Hartley	Cello	01	Pass
Erin Horne	Descant Recorder	05	Pass
Katherine Lazarus	Flute	01	Merit
Louisa Mannion	Singing	05	Pass
Giorgia McCann	Singing	03	Pass
Eleanor Oretti	Singing	08	Distinction
Isobel Peacock	Singing	05	Pass
Ione Robinson	Theory	05	Merit
Rowan Saltmarsh	Theory	05	Merit
Darcey Scott	Flute	01	Distinction

Singers trip to the Basingstoke Music Festival. St Gabriel's impressive ABRSM results are shown above and pupils are to be congratulated on their hard work this term.

On the last Monday of term, GCSE and A level musicians, plus Music Scholars and Challenge & Extension musicians, took part in a composition session, where a professional string quartet played and recorded exam compositions. This was an inspiring event, which gave pupils a real sense of their writing coming to life, and introduced the younger ones to the rigours of writing effectively for string instruments. Everybody involved came away deeply impressed with the quality of the compositions.

Finally, we say goodbye to Miss McQuitty, who has been an inspiring teacher for pupils ranging from Nursery to Year 13, and a wonderful colleague. We welcome Miss Miranda Gunn to the Music Department next term.

Dr Tebbs & Miss McQuitty, Music Department

ALUMNAE NEWS

Poppy Martin, **who started playing hockey at St Gabriel's, has been selected for England Hockey's Advanced Apprenticeship in Sporting Excellence programme (AASE)** as part of the new National Age Group Squad (NAGS) Academy.

Throughout the 14 month programme, Poppy will attend five centralised national camps during the school holidays, where she will receive coaching and performance support. She will also benefit from around 20 high quality technical and tactical sessions.

Poppy continues to play club hockey at Reading, training regularly with seven GB internationals and receives coaching from current GB captain, Kate Richardson-Walsh. This season Poppy made her debut for Reading Ladies First XI in the National Premier League against Canterbury.

