

Newsletter

Summer Term 2014

St Gabriel's

Your Route to Success



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

During our recent review of the year with our IBM Sixth Form mentors, our students were referred to as typical “Millennials” - a workforce of the future who will know no boundaries! Perhaps that is just as well as so many of our students will not be seeking a job for life - that just is not their world. Our alumnae will progress within their organisation and move on; St Gabriel’s will continue to prepare them to face that world of constant change with optimism. Our students will always “buy the future”; this newsletter will give you insight as to how we prepare our students, as they grow towards independence.

In a world where mentors and sponsors are now commonplace within an organization, I continually encourage our pupils of all ages to grasp every opportunity afforded to them and to seize with enthusiasm any offers of help, advice, guidance or perhaps just other people’s time and expertise.

At the same time, I want them to have the confidence to switch off! Our students need to know that it is alright to switch off the Blackberry or iPhone. I hope they gain the confidence at St Gabriel’s to know that they do not always have to be part of a conversation stream.

The most up-to-date research confirms that chatting to friends through social media will most certainly *not* improve relationships and will have no bearing whatsoever on the quality of their relationships in adult life.

No matter how long young people spend on social networking sites, there will never be a substitute for face-to-face



communication and eye contact, where they learn to pick up on visual clues, the smiling and the nods. Together, we will ensure our students are able to communicate and mix well, both in school and in their adult lives.

Please do read on and enjoy just a few examples of how our students do just that!

Have a wonderful summer

A handwritten signature in blue ink, likely belonging to the Principal, written below the text 'Have a wonderful summer'.



The Big Bash

It rained on Saturday; and it rained on Monday. Thankfully, the Bursar appears to have friends in high places, and so it did not rain for our end of term extravaganza, The Big Bash.

For those of you who were washing your hair, this included MiloMax (with guest appearance from Miss Gunn), two enormous hog roasts, quad bikes, a bouncy castle, a Pimms tent, bar, football, cricket, rounders, story-telling, circus skills and flower garlands. Never mind Woodstock, what with the music playing and the children with flowers in their hair, this was Gabstock. Hmmm... now there's an idea for next year.

Many thanks to all those who supported The Big Bash by bringing themselves, their friends and family, and also to (in no particular order) the kitchen staff led by Alison 'Call Me Jamie Oliver' Cheeseman, the maintenance men, with Tim 'Jimi Hendrix' Britten on lead guitar, Noel 'Jefferson Airplane' Erskine (sorry Bursar, no naval jokes), the staff who worked the bar, and, of course, the PFSG. (For those of you who have not yet come across this

wonderful organisation, the PFSG are the Party Folk of St Gabriel's and they certainly know how to make an event swing!)



New Beginnings at Sandleford

The start of the Summer Term brought lots of thoughts about new beginnings and things growing and changing. The children in Sandleford have enjoyed sunny walks to look at the beautiful bluebells flowering in the school woodland.



As part of this term's topic on minibeasts, some very exciting post arrived! We took delivery of five very tiny caterpillars, which the children have been watching closely to see signs of them starting to grow and change into cocoons and then, of course, butterflies.

Nursery has been busy with arty activities, making snails, spiders and other minibeasts for their group display. They have also enjoyed learning songs and rhymes including, *Wiggly Woo*, *There's a Tiny Caterpillar on a Leaf* and the funny story of *Superworm*.

Reception have designed and made their own junk model minibeasts and then completed a homework project (thank you parents for your help) to find out a 'wow' fact about their chosen minibeast.

Did you know...

There are 5000 different types of ladybirds!

Moles eat up to 50 worms a day!

Centipedes come in many colours, even blue!

Bees cannot see the colour red!

Stag Beetles can live for up to 7 years!

Ants can float on water and Peacock Butterflies have pretend eyes on their wings to scare away birds!



Sports Day & Teddy Bears' Picnic



The Nursery and Reception classes, along with some children who will be joining us in September, had a fantastic afternoon at our annual Sports Day and Teddy Bears' Picnic. The little ones ran, skipped through hoops, bounced on hoppers, collected 'shopping' and dressed up in hats and scarves. The races were brilliantly coordinated, as ever, by the fantastic Mrs P. We definitely spotted a few future sports stars but, most importantly, all the children took part enthusiastically, behaved beautifully and had great fun! They were cheered on by their proud parents and rewarded afterwards with ice lollies and some bubbles to blow.



We then made our way to the gazebo on the front lawn with our teddies, of course, to enjoy picnics, cups of tea and cake.



Barnardo's Toddle

A great big thank you to everyone that came along and **toddled** with us. We raised an amazing £296.00 for Barnardo's.



A Day Out at Bucklebury Park Farm



Towards the end of the Summer Term, Sandleford enjoyed a day out at Bucklebury Park Farm. We had a very bumpy tractor ride and saw four baby deer that were less than a week old. The children fed the deer and found out about the different breeds of deer at the park by asking lots of questions. Despite the damp



conditions, we followed the woodland trail, had a play on the castle and whizzed down the bumpy slides. We also held and fed the rabbits, goats, guinea pigs and other farmyard animals, which was great fun. Mrs Porter Scott nearly brought an adorable baby goat back to school with her! The children behaved beautifully and were a real credit to both the school and their families.

A Firefighter Visits Sandleford



Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 thoroughly enjoyed a visit from Mr Bickers, 1st Defense Fire, and his fire engine. The children learned about the role of a firefighter and discovered what all the different pieces of equipment on the fire engine are used for. They were able to climb up and sit in the cab, switch on the sirens and make the blue lights flash. The hoses were unrolled and everyone had great fun squirting water across the grass and at anyone who happened to be standing in the wrong place!

A wonderful afternoon with lots of hands on learning and a super question and answer session with Year 1 and Year 2. We are not sure who enjoyed the afternoon more, the children or staff! However, the highlight for Sandleford was when Mr Bickers gave them all their very own firefighters helmet to take home.

Sandleford Swimming

Swimming has proved a big hit with Nursery and Reception. The fabulous weather has made the school pool look, and hopefully feel, like a Mediterranean lido! All the children have made excellent progress with their skills in the water, with some now swimming completely independently or just with a flotation aid. The shrieks of delight brought a smile to the face of anyone who walked past the pool. It has been lovely to watch the improvements they have made and their confidence grow.



Egg...citing Visitors for Year 1!

Year 1 had the company of 10 cute and chirping friends this term. Fun learning at its most exciting..... On day one, 10 very ordinary eggs arrived in an egg carton. Over the course of the next few days, Year 1 witnessed in awe multiple hatchings during maths and literacy lessons! In science, the children were busy looking after the chicks, learning about the lifecycle of a hen and recording all the day's events in their iBook chick diaries. Mrs Davidson kindly provided a home for our new feathered friends.



Art Club

This term, the Year 1 and Year 2 Art Club focussed on Van Gogh and Impressionism. The children learned about Van Gogh's unique style and the way he used colour and the free movement of the painting brush. Our young artists were not afraid to try and create their own version of *Starry night* and *Sunflowers* and here they are in the glorious sunshine with their beautiful pieces of art!



World Cup Fever

Year 1 has children from five different countries in its midst. To celebrate this uniqueness, we have been following and supporting the World Cup. The children have been researching the country they would like to support on their iPads and finding out lots of interesting facts. In Geography, their great challenge was to find all 32 competing countries on the world map, which is by no means easy!



The children have also have been painting their national flags on Tizzy software, learning a Brazilian dance, practising a World Cup football chant and even doing World Cup football table sums!

Grace: *I chose Australia as I have a boomerang and a didgeridoo. We tried throwing my boomerang on the field but it did not come back. It nearly hit Mrs Webb's head!*

Julia and Claudia: *We are proud to be from Spain. Spanish is the world's second most common language, spoken by 400 million people, just ahead of English. We found out that Spain is the world's largest olive oil producer.*

Vaibhavi: *I chose Mexico because India have never played in a World Cup. Fried grasshoppers are a popular snack here and the Caesar Salad was invented in Mexico.*

Alice: *I am from Brazil and this is the host country. They love football in Brazil and during the World Cup people stop working and banks shut down.*

Zachary: *I was born in Germany but have lived in the USA.*

Mia: *England is ranked 11th and is the worst team on penalty shootouts! My Dad is from Wales but they have only played in the World Cup once in 1958 (sorry, Mr Jones!)*

Year 1 History

In History, we have been learning about kitchens and the different cooking equipment people used in the olden days. We had a visitor called Daisy the maid (Miss Russell) who showed us her kitchen artefacts. We liked handling and learning about the flat iron, the bellows and the range. Cooking was a lot more difficult in those day because they did not have electricity.



Sandleford — Year 4 Go Wild Outdoors



The week before half term, Sandleford - Year 4 went 'Wild Outdoors' as, once again, we took our lessons outside for cross-curricular week.

Our aim was to develop the pupils' teamwork and practical skills and expand their knowledge of the natural world through participating in a variety of games and activities in the woodland.

We are incredibly fortunate to have such a diverse landscape for our pupils to explore, from woodlands to wet areas, streams to gullies. This special week enabled us to immerse our pupils in our wonderful surroundings, allowing them to discover, first-hand, the flora and fauna that is right on our doorstep.

The highlights of the week included cooking on a campfire, den-building, creating wild art, building a bug hotel and discovering the North Pole!



Year 3 Record a Great Success

Over the last term, Year 3 have been learning to play the recorder, the fife, and the chalumeau. It has been very exciting to have the chance to learn to play some of the more unusual instruments. Mr Parker taught the chalumeau players and Mrs Frith has been teaching the fife.

All our hard work was put to the test when we performed a concert for our parents. Mrs Black was very impressed by our efforts and said that we performed brilliantly. The highlight, for her, was **Limbo Recorder**. You will have to ask Year 3 what special trick we did during that piece!



Healthy Eating Talk by Mrs Scott

Mrs Scott, Sophie's mother, came in to talk to Year 3 about healthy eating, our Science topic. Mrs Scott is a specialist diabetes nurse. She talked to us about why it is important to follow a healthy balanced diet. She showed us how our body gets its energy from glucose, which is another word for sugar. She then explained that people with diabetes are unable to get the glucose out of their blood because they do not have the right amount of insulin. Mrs Scott explained that there are different types of diabetes and told us about the symptoms you might have if you had diabetes. Mrs Scott was very impressed with the Year 3 girls, as they knew such a lot about eating healthily and the different food groups. We really enjoyed her visit, and would like to say a big thank you to Mrs Scott for coming to speak to us.

Who has the Greenest Fingers?

In Science, we have been learning about living things and how plants grow. Earlier in the term, we were each given either sunflower or strawberry seeds to grow. We planted them with some magic peat, and now the waiting game begins! We are going to have a competition to see who can grow the best plant. The seeds have germinated and now that our seedlings have grown a bit we have planted them in our gardens at home. Mrs Black has asked us to send her a weekly update on the progress of our plants and then, when we return in September, we will be able to see who has the greenest fingers!



Carnival Time in Year 3

In Geography, we have been learning about South America. Every year, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, there is a huge carnival which takes place over four days and nights at the beginning of Lent. It is like a party and everyone is invited. Everywhere you go, people are celebrating. Thousands of people watch the performers parading the streets. Everyone wears bright and colourful costumes, which can take up to a year to make. People dance to samba music, which is energetic and lively. The Rio Carnival has been described as the greatest show on earth. The first carnival took place in 1723.

Year 3 have made carnival masks, which we hope we might be able to wear at the carnival one day!



Imogen Strong's Dancing Success

In November 2013, Imogen successfully auditioned to perform alongside the Stuttgart Ballet Company at the Sadler's Wells Theatre. More recently, she has performed at the Royal Albert Hall with the North Hampshire Academy of Dance.

This December, for the second year running, Imogen will be dancing in the pantomime at The Anvil in Basingstoke, where she will be performing on stage alongside Keith Chegwin.

Imogen has also completed her first year with the English National Ballet, where she attends weekly ballet classes in London. The year culminated in her gaining a commended grade in her assessment and she has been asked to go back in September.



Year 4 to Lulworth Cove



On 16 June, Year 4 arrived at school feeling really excited because we were going on our school trip to Lulworth Cove. After a long two hours, we finally arrived at the youth hostel to drop off our bags. Then, we got back on the coach to go to Durdle Door. We did some sketching of the arch and then spent some time at Man 'O' War Bay, looking at the coastal features and creating beach art. Our group made a picture of Durdle Door out of rocks. Then, it was time to walk up the big hill – we got an ice cream when we reached the top!

The next day, we went to Lulworth Cove Heritage Centre and had a tour with Christine. We learned about the different types of rock in the area, which are Portland stone, Purbeck rock, Wealdon rock, greensand and chalk, and how they are formed.

Brooke Asser

From the Dance Studio

The Dance Studio has been buzzing with an array of new and exciting activities this year. Children from Nursery right through to Year 6 have had the opportunity to experience yoga, body balance, pilates and zumba alongside their usual dance training.

Miss Wilson has been really impressed by the positive way in which St Gabriel's children have embraced new ways of moving. Sandleford and Junior children alike have enjoyed perfecting their cobra poses, aeroplane balances and butterfly stretches. Namaste!



Year 5 Go To France

Year 5 enjoyed an unforgettable week in France before half term. Here are some of their diary extracts:

Tuesday: We woke up feeling very excited and had to wear clothes that we did not mind getting dirty because we were having a tour of Olivier's Farm. After breakfast of hot chocolate, pancakes and croissants, it was time for the farm, where we saw horses, donkeys, cows, goats, a dog and a rabbit. *Evie Williams*

Wednesday: This was our busiest day. First, we went to the chocolaterie to see how chocolate is made. Then, all very hungry, we had a delicious lunch at the crêperie before heading to the home of Maurice Leblanc, the famous author of the Arsène Lupin Gentleman-Thief books. *Abie Rutter*

Thursday: It was an early start for us. After a scrumptious breakfast it was time for our room inspection!

We then got on the coach and headed to Bacqueville-en-Caux to visit the school. It was exciting meeting our penfriends and we spoke lots for French with them. When we went outside, it was really interesting to see what games French children play at break time. *Hana Ikram*



Friday: My favourite day was Friday, our last day in France. We set off early for the market and, having been split in to two groups, we walked around, touched and admired the clothes, played with the bracelets, smelled the cheese, tasted the delicious honey and tried on cool scarves. I nearly bought a tshirt with bright colours and cool writing but decided on big dots and small dots and a black and white scarf. It was so different from the English markets, and so much better! *Issie Burn*

Television Fame for Rysa

Rysa (Year 5) has already taken part in a lifestyle photo shoot for Apple products and is currently the star of a TV commercial, which is being aired on Star TV and Sony TV in the UK, Europe, the Middle East and Asia. Rysa was at another commercial shoot recently and this advertisement will be aired in September.

Earlier in the term, Rysa was interviewed on Kennet Radio, where she talked about the charity work she is doing to raise funds for the Rainbow Child Foundation, a charity which supports under-privileged children.

Year 6 Visit Legoland

On 30 June, Year 6 went on a trip to Legoland, we had a great time and really enjoyed the rides.

We were split in to four groups to explore Legoland. Most people found Viking Rapids the most exhilarating and exciting ride, but some enjoyed Pirate Falls the best. I think most groups spent around half their time dripping wet from the water rides! We even saw Mrs Neal, Mrs Harding and Mrs P having a great time on some of the rides.

It was lovely to spend a really nice day with our friends who are leaving. It was definitely a trip no one will forget.

Hannah Lawrence & Olivia Jackson

Mill on the Brue

On 19 May, Year 6 headed off to Mill on the Brue in Somerset to learn about conservation, teamwork and how to have FUN! When we arrived we met our instructors and then found out our dorms. We had a tour and a fire drill, then started our activities. I think that we all agreed that crate stack, rafting, leap of faith, zip wire, high all aboard and slide and glide were the best activities. In our free time we were allowed to chill out in the dorms, play outside or go to tuck. On Thursday we had a talent show and found out that it is not a good time to tell ghost stories just before bedtime! On Friday, it was a very emotional day for Year 6 as we had to say goodbye to our instructors. We had a great week and will miss Mill on the Brue so much. Luckily, we got vouchers at the end inviting us back during the summer holidays.

"It was an amazingly fun week and we had the best time ever."
Hannah Lawrence

"We learnt a lot at Mill on the Brue, especially about sustainability and how to work as a team." *Saba Khorassani*

"We all enjoyed Mill on the Brue especially the activities set by our amazing instructors." *Olivia Jackson*

"A fun and exciting activity trip. My favourite activity was the high all aboard." *Connie Pope*

We will remember this trip for a very long time and hope the girls next year enjoy it as much as we all did.



Year 6 Experience a Victorian School Room



As part of our study of the Victorians, Year 6 visited the Victorian School Room at Reading Museum. This trip gave pupils the opportunity to explore first-hand a school room in a late 19th Century Board School and to view the many artefacts we had looked at online, including the dunce's hat and finger stocks! The children experienced a range of lessons, used slate boards and dip pens, and considered a range of Victorian punishments for disobedient children. To enhance the experience further Year 6 dressed up as Victorian girls or boys for the visit. They even adopted Victorian names for the occasion.

Whilst the pupils all agreed it was great fun travelling back in time they would rather be 'seen and heard!'

A Midsummer Night's Dream

The Year 6 production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* was a huge success. The play was a modern musical adaptation of this well loved tale with the addition of some of the original Shakespeare.

The girls performed beautifully, and flawlessly moved from modern day speech to the iambic verse. Their comic timing was impeccable, with the mechanicals played as country bumpkins and the young lovers as disgruntled teenagers. The set comprised of long swathes of green chiffon draped from the ceiling, which were used imaginatively to create both the magical forest and the majestic court.

Well done, Year 6! It was a fitting culmination of all your hard work in Performing Arts and a truly charming and magical evening of drama, music and dance.



More Success for Cineclub

Our young film makers in Year 6 have enjoyed another hugely successful year and recently attended a premiere screening of their second short film, *iTeacher*. This sci-fi inspired film, which they wrote, filmed and edited, features a strange parallel school where all the pupils are taught by a robotic teacher who controls them via iPads, which are strapped to their backs. Is it all a dream, or is this the new reality? It is a very clever and well-constructed piece of film-making and the girls were thrilled to hear that it has been shortlisted for two national Cineclub awards: Best Homage and Best Primary Film. The children will travel to the awards ceremony at the British Film Institute on 8 July to find out if they have won.

Stop Press..... Our Year 6 girls returned from London with a Silver Star for the best film by a primary school at the national awards. The category was judged by a panel of experts, including Hugh Bonneville and Theo Stevenson of *Horrid Henry* fame.



From the Junior Library

This term has been busy in the Junior School Library: finding a home for resources for Year 1 and Year 2, who will be making use of the library from September; working on existing books for the Junior School pupils, and preparing for an automated library provision for Year 3.

Oliver, the computerised system for lending and return has been in use in the Senior School Library for some time. Now, the Junior School Library is being brought into the same system. This will offer more efficient monitoring of loans and will allow pupils to use an online search to see what books are available for borrowing. They will be able to keep a check on what they have borrowed and what they have read and enjoyed.

To round off the term, the Book Fair arrived. As usual, there was a good deal of excitement among our enthusiastic readers. I felt rather like the shop security guard opening the doors on the morning of the January sales - it was hectic to say the least. Everyone from Nursery to Year 6 came along to browse and choose from some excellent stock. Popular titles included *Ssh - Don't Wake the Royal Baby!*, *The Scruffy Puppy* and *World Football Skills*. We sold a whopping £750 worth of books and stationery, raising £390 in commission. This money will give us additional stock for the Junior and Senior School libraries as well as some new picture books for Sandleford. I am delighted to report that this is the best ever total in all the time I have been organising Book Fairs at St Gabriel's and I would like to thank our pupils and parents for their fantastic support. I hope everyone who chose a book will enjoy a good summer read.

Ann Borzoni, Librarian

Year 7 Visit the Jewish Museum

In May, Year 7 were very excited to be going on a trip to the Jewish Museum in London to learn about Jewish life and their festivals. The two topics we looked at were Change and Responsibility and a weekly Jewish observance, Shabbat Shalom.

During the morning workshop we looked at Change and Responsibility, otherwise known as Bat and Bar Mitzvah. I found this very interesting, and fun, because we got to dress up and play the role of a 12 year old Jewish girl who was having her Bat Mitzvah. This event occurs when a girl turns 12 and is considered an adult in Judaism, becoming responsible for her faith and the choices she makes. A Bar mitzvah is when a boy turns 13 and becomes responsible for his faith.

We also looked at some important Jewish objects such as the Torah, which is the holy book. We looked at how it is written, discussed how it is treated with respect and read aloud in services.

In the afternoon workshop, we learned about the weekly Shabbat Shalom, which was very interesting as it is very different from events we might be used to.

We were given some newspaper and sellotape and had to make something related to Judaism with it. My group made a Torah. Jews are not allowed to create anything or do any work on Shabbat, which means they would not be able to make anything out of paper like we had just done.

The reason Shabbat is celebrated is because in the creation story, God rested on the seventh day. Jews rest on the seventh day of the week to show respect, faith and to keep it holy. There are many rules on Shabbat, including you cannot drive a car, turn on a light, play a musical instrument – I would find it very difficult to stick to all of the rules!



We were then given a demonstration of what happens on Shabbat and how it is remembered. Our teacher, Ruth, spoke in Hebrew and explained the blessings made at Shabbat. We were shown and told about some of the objects that are used when celebrating Shabbat, such as challah bread and Kiddush cups.

Finally, before we left, we each made our own Havdalah candle by rolling out some wax and plaiting three colours together, which was great fun. We were also shown how Jews end Shabbat by waking up all of their senses. We then said our goodbyes and left the museum.

Isabelle Ryder

Art Trip to the National Gallery



On 20 June, Year 7 went to London's National Gallery. We took in some of the sights from the coach, Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament, before arriving at the gallery. We then hung up our bags and went off in our groups to sketch some beautiful paintings. We looked at two paintings, which focused on our topic, Animals in Art. We looked at *Whistlejacket* by George Stubbs and *Surprised!* by Henri Rosseau.

We then picked out two paintings that we would like to draw and produced detailed 30 minute sketches of our choices. Year 7G drew *Sijtghen Duck* by Aelbert Cuyp and *Whistlejacket* by George Stubbs. Year 7T drew *Still Life with Fish and Cat* by Alexander Adriaenssen. And Year 7S drew *Whistlejacket* and *The Milbanke and Melbourne Families* by George Stubbs.

After lunch we had a very interesting talk on the history of the gallery and some of its paintings. The tour guides selected several artworks with animals and told us more about the paintings, which made us understand and appreciate them further. They also gave us some interesting facts about the paintings, which I found really useful.

My favourite paintings in the National Gallery are *Whistlejacket* and *The Milbanke and Melbourne Families* by George Stubbs because of the realism and cleverness of colour balance. I also loved how *Whistlejacket* had a very simple background to make the horse really stand out.

My least favourite painting was *Surprised!* because it was a bit too busy for my liking.

The trip was a huge success and everyone enjoyed it. Miss Dillon, Mrs Hunter and Mrs Vines made it an incredible experience and such fun.

Izzy Akroyd

UKMT Maths Challenge

In May, girls in Year 7 and Year 8 were given the opportunity to enter this year's Junior Maths Challenge competition.

We would like to congratulate the following girls for their excellent achievement.

Bronze Certificates: Lauren Ashworth-Donn, Alice Bayford, Kitty Byfield, Charlotte Culley, Emerald Cundy, Amber Evans, Holly Fielding, Evangeline Gallup, Lauren King, Victoria McAlister, Giorgia McCann, Alicia Perkins and Hannah Scarfe.

Silver Certificates: Charlotte Brash, Tara Conway, Martha Croggon, Gabriella Jones, Isobel Mannion, Connie Pike, Isabelle Ryder, Anna Stirk, Lottie Swainston and Victoria Williams.

Gold Certificates: Katherine Lazarus, Alice McGonnell, Anjelika Ryder and Rowan Saltmarsh.

Rowan Saltmarsh and Alice McGonnell also entered the Maths Olympiad and we look forward to receiving their results shortly.

Well done to all those who took part!

Year 8 Visit the National Portrait Gallery

On 22 May, Year 8 went to London to visit the National Portrait Gallery. We looked around the gallery in the morning and did a few sketches. I sketched a painting of John Henry Newman by Emmeline Deane. I chose this picture as I liked the way the light was angled and there was a lot of detail on his face to show his wrinkles.

One of my favourite paintings was *The Man with Red Eyes*, a self-portrait of Lowry. I liked this painting because it was very bold and bright. The eyes were massive and stared out at you. Lowry is my favourite artist so I enjoyed looking at a piece by him that I had not seen before. I also liked the *Duchess of Windsor* because it looked very realistic and the brush strokes were smooth.



We had lunch sitting around the fountain in Trafalgar Square, where we saw the Cockerel on the Plinth; it was massive and an electric blue.

We then went back into the gallery and did some more sketches and talked about the paintings. I preferred the paintings we looked at before lunch as they were more historical. Before we left, we had time to go to the gallery gift shop to buy a few things. I bought a new sketch book and a postcard to sketch at home.

I really loved our day at the National Portrait Gallery and enjoyed sketching the paintings I liked. It was also nice to look at new paintings I had not seen before.

Ashleigh Sirs

Parc Asterix



What happens if you put 44 overexcited Year 8s, five teachers and countless amounts of sugar on a coach?

This year's Parc Asterix trip, that's what. At 7.00am on 20 June, the coach left St Gabriel's and headed for France. The journey was filled with hilarity and temporary bursts of insanity, as shown by the multiple renditions of *Happy Birthday* to Juliette and the screaming when we hit French soil. The first proper stop, at Samara Parc, was particularly interesting because the blacksmith decided to give Mr Ives the knife that he had made! Then, we were shown how people from the Stone Age would hunt, using a spear and throwing device. Ms Kinsella was very good at this, and Rowan and Charlotte demonstrated how Stone Age people would start a fire.

When we got to the hotel there were two options: watching an incredibly fast car race outside, or, as an alternative form of entertainment, we could watch France beat Switzerland 5-2 in the World Cup!

Parc Asterix was equally, if not even more, exciting. We arrived about 20 minutes early, so were forced to stand in a large crowd before the park properly opened. A group of us ran straight to Goudurix, closely followed by the teachers. Mr Jones was persuaded (probably against his better judgement) to go on this ride, which resulted in loud screaming from all. A group of eight girls were stuck on Le Grand Splatch for over twenty minutes.

It was an amazing experience that was greatly enjoyed by all - thank you to Mr Ives, Mr Jones, Miss Ferretti, Miss Kinsella, Miss Dadds and Mrs Causer (even though she didn't go)!

Meteorological Office at RAF Odiham



Back in April, both Year 8 and Year 13 were studying weather and climate. Thanks to the kind invitation of Mr Zarecky, we were able to visit the meteorological office at RAF Odiham. We started by puzzling over the code and jargon used by met offices throughout the UK to describe the weather at certain times throughout the day. Like every other met office, Odiham has a range of weather instruments that have to be read and reported at certain times, 365 days a year. We were also shown the weather predictions, using satellite and other information. The helicopter pilots, in particular, need some information, such as cloud base levels, that is very specific but does not make the national weather forecast. We then had a brief tour of the base and a talk from Mr Zarecky about past weather incidents. We had a fascinating day, seeing how weather is measured and predicted in the real world!

BBC School Report

At the very end of the Spring Term, a team of intrepid reporters were busy putting together a variety of stories from around St Gabriel's.

From *What have you given up for Lent?* to the school production of *Godspell*, our newshounds were there with iPads, notebooks and huge amounts of enthusiasm. Photographs were taken, copy and scripts were written and everything had to be done for a deadline of 2.00pm.



Videos were edited and uploaded with the help of Mr Mannion, while Mrs Borzoni helped with copywriting and proofreading.

The girls did a great job of putting everything together and making their reports look very professional.

Well done to the reporting team of Maia and Rosalie in Year 8, Megan, Georgia and Louisa in Year 9 and Emma in Year 10. And, thank you to all the students and staff who participated in our News Day. The reports can be viewed and read on the school website.

One bonus of the day was a video conference with Mrs Berthold in Germany. Asked about useful tips for anyone thinking of emigrating she replied, "Learn the language, be prepared to make mistakes and do not hide!" Similar, then, to the qualities shown by our excellent team of reporters throughout the day.

Next year we are aiming for an even busier newsroom - a wider variety of news items provided by more reporters with real hunger and a keen eye for that news story!

Community Link Project



On 27 June, Year 9 took part in a community link project, in which all three forms either visited a school or had a school visit them.

Year 9S decided to work with The Willows School in Newbury, as its pupils are less fortunate than us. We visited the school and learned a bit about its history. The Year 5 and Year 6 classes gave us a tour and told us what the school was like from their point of view. After that we went back to St Gabriel's with the children from Year 3 and Year 4 from The Willows. We divided them into four groups to do different activities with our form. These activities were arts and crafts, dance, drama and PE. We also provided them with a picnic lunch, which we all enjoyed. This was followed by a tense football match: St Gabriel's vs The Willows. Unfortunately, we lost... The day was a complete success, with all the students fully involved and the children from The Willows thoroughly enjoyed their day, too.

As a form, we hope to continue to work with The Willows and their pupils in the future, possibly for our Duke of Edinburgh Award. We would like to thank Mr Lewis, our form tutor, for making this great day possible and The Willows for coming along and taking part!

Amelia Fielding & Hannah Bowley

Year 9 Outward Bound to Aberdovey

On 16 June, 37 excited Year 9 girls and four staff (Mr Scobie, Mrs Trevis, Miss Wilson and Mr Williamson) boarded a coach bound for Aberdovey or Aberdyfi Outward Bound Centre in Wales. Once Mr Scobie had finished trying to convince us that a passport was needed to get into Wales (he managed to convince two in the coach), we settled down to the six hour journey (with an hour at Telford Services), and watched some educational films; *The Backup Plan*, *Just Go With It* and *She's The Man!* Much to the disgust of our male teachers, who were expecting car chases and bullets flying! Mrs Trevis was happy though.

Upon arrival, we were taken up to our rooms, unpacked and met our instructor. We were divided into four groups named after explorers: Churchill, Drake, Raleigh and Tullis. The first challenge was getting to our rooms. Our block, *Pen-Y-Bryn*, was at the top of one of the steepest hills I have ever climbed, much steeper than any you would find in Newbury. The next challenge was changing into our swimming costumes for the curiously named activity, Jog and Dip. This entailed running down to the sea and submerging ourselves as a group - the point? Well, apparently, so that we could go from being 10 warm and dry individuals into one freezing, wet unit. This was immediately followed by seaweed tasting!

On Tuesday, with a non-existent rule of ease them in gently, we prepared for our 15 - 20 mile hike up and around Cadair Idris (seat of the giant), carrying everything we would need for a two day and one night wild camping experience on our backs. Tents, Trangia stoves, fuel, food, spare clothing, roll mats, sleeping bags and liners all had to be packed and carried. Altogether, the massive rucksacks weighed more than our school bags and were even taller than some of us! At the drop off point, a car park in the middle of nowhere, we waved goodbye to the minibus and realised that we were on our own. I was elected navigator (I do not know why as I am hopeless with maps) and we set off on one of the hardest walks of our lives, though Mr Scobie did say later that he does that sort of thing for fun! Certainly, he was one of the few left with a smile on his face at the end of the day. On the walk we had many intellectual conversations, ranging from identifying local flora such as the types of mosses and grasses found in the mountains to sampling wood sorrel, which tastes a little like apples, to Mrs Trevis' anthropology stories.

To give you an idea of what we looked and felt like after three hours of walking to our camp site, we were sweaty, tired, hungry and above all thirsty. No rest for the wicked, however, when we got there, we had to set up our tents, collect water from the stream to cook our boil in the bags and, more interestingly, purify water. When the stoves had begun to boil we put our food in. It was a new experience for us to eat out of a packet and, to be honest, the food did not taste that bad; I had meatballs and pasta in a ragu sauce with fruit cake to follow. Not everyone was convinced though.

At 6.00am the following morning, we were woken up by Chris yelling at us to get up. This was way too early! We then had to pack everything up and eat our all day breakfasts in time for a 9.00am start, it was pretty tight. Then, there was an exciting six hour walk ahead of us, up the steepest parts of the mountain, right to the summit! It was exhausting work - not helped by other walkers (who did not have backpacks) overtaking us and making us feel really slow. The relief we felt when we eventually got to the top of *Cadair Idris* was something I have never experienced before. The sheer joy of being able to take that rucksack off was so immense and made me feel taller. However, this feeling was cut short by the decision to go up this tiny bit more - as Chris said - just to get a good view of the sea and eat lunch. When we got to the top of the tiny bit though we realised that there was another massive hill in front of us, but mildly we were not happy!



Nonetheless when we got to the top, the view was amazing, and we saw just how far we had hiked, which was a really long way. It was incredible!

The descent was as difficult as the ascent, with less breaks and more pressure on our knees and ankles. The relief in the other girls' faces and mine however at 2.15pm when we saw the minibus at the end of the track was quite unique to the moment and everyone pretty much ran to the bus, shoved their bags in the trailer and breathed the biggest sigh of relief as they sank down in to their seats. An unbelievable, yet achieved feat!!

Relief was short lived, however, as once back at the centre we only had time to unpack, store our gear and have something to eat before the next challenge was thrown at us, The Great Wall. This is a massive wall that you need to get all of your team mates over. We were spared some embarrassment when we were told that we just had to get 10 bodies over, i.e. that we could send the same people over twice. Mitzi and Phoebe went over first (Philla and Liv doing the lifting) then Emmie and I had to go over three times each and Georgia twice. We managed to complete it in just under three minutes which we felt quite proud about.

On Thursday, our group went sailing on the Aberdovey estuary on board a cutter, it was so much fun. We were divided into three groups; one at the bow (front), middle and stern (back); at the front they (Emmie, Philla, Mitzi) had to control the main sail so that when we tacked they would lower and dip the sail to make us turn, it looked like very strenuous work. In the middle Lily, Amelia, Sophie and myself had to keep the said sail taut and had to hold on to this sheet (rope). My hands by the end of it were stuck in that holding position! At the back Liv was steering and Georgia and Phoebe were doing what we were doing, but on the mizzen sail. Mrs Trevis sat happily at the back whilst we sailed around the estuary. It was a really enjoyable day and we got to have an ice cream afterwards! The last activity was pier jumping, where we all had to take turns to encourage each other to jump from the thirty foot jetty into the sea.

At the end of the week everyone was saying that they were looking forward to their beds and relaxing, but I felt upset because Outward Bound was one of the best experiences ever and I want to go again! A huge thank you must go to Mr Scobie, Mrs Trevis, Miss Wilson and Mr Williamson for making this week simply brilliant.

Philippa Lazarus

Green Park Wind Turbine



The British are well known for their interest in the weather, and forecasts were scanned anxiously before this visit. Would we need the sunhats, sunglasses and sun cream, or would it be the raincoats? In the end it was dull but dry and the wind blew, which was just what we wanted when visiting a wind turbine. Year 9 are studying energy generation and getting up close to a turbine was an opportunity to see if they really are noisy (it wasn't) and if they cause visual pollution (that's in the eye of the beholder).

Thank you to Reading Borough Council for hosting the visit.

Sophie Stone

This summer, Sophie has been taking part in the World Aerobic Gymnastic Championships in Mexico. Her trio came 10th. Their routine went very well, achieving the highest British score in group one (age 12–14) for all categories.

The Glamour of Italian Fashion

In May, a group of Year 10 girls went to the *Glamour of Italian Fashion 1945-2014* exhibition at the Victoria & Albert Museum in London. Whilst we were waiting for the exhibition, we visited the fashion section of the museum and were inspired by the traditional patterns and textures of the clothes throughout the years.



The exhibition itself provided a detailed historical insight in to the development of fashion from post-war Italy through key pieces worn by Hollywood stars and members of the jet set. The girls learned how fashion changed from the austerity of the Fascist period to the birth of the supermodels. The importance of Cinecittà, re-named 'Hollywood on the Tiber', in the 1950s allowed Italian craftsmanship to become synonymous with luxury and glamour around the world.

One of the best moments was watching the short video clips of designers and seeing designs up close and personal. Year 10 would like to thank Miss Ferretti and Mrs Vines for organising a trip we will never forget!

The Duke of Edinburgh Expedition



Over a sunny weekend in June, the girls taking part in the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award departed on a 26km walk over two days. We had previously spent some time at school planning our route.

We started at the car park in East Ilsley at about 11.00am and walked along the Ridgeway for a while admiring the beautiful scenery. We then turned off onto a path with lots of puddles, which were hard to avoid, making it into some woodland without getting too much water in our boots! We then encountered a problem; we had to walk down a path that was totally unrecognisable as a path (as it was completely covered by muddy water and was criss-crossed by an army of nettles). We battled our way along the path that seemed as if it would never end, eventually triumphing over the nettles. We then proceeded to the campsite.

We pitched our tents and started to cook our supper, which was in fact very tasty. After dinner we had a game of cards before bed. Breakfast was a good, sustaining meal of bacon and pancakes. Then we were on our way. During our journey we encountered another nettle covered path and, as before, we battled our way through it.

Overall, the Duke of Edinburgh expedition was great fun and it felt good to win our war against the relentless nettles. I would definitely recommend it to others because it is an amazing experience and gives you a real sense of independence.

Finally, I would like to thank Mr Lewis, Mr Scobie and Mrs Harding for organising the expedition, giving up two of their weekends to come with us and for making it possible for us to achieve the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Charlotte Cockle

Civic Award Ceremony

The Newbury Town Young Person's Civic Award ceremony took place on 7 April at Newbury Town Hall. Congratulations to Lizzy Miller, who came second, having been nominated by the school for her extensive voluntary work.

At St Gabriel's, Lizzy helps to deliver the Minimus Junior Latin Club, Junior Dance Clubs and also runs the Christian Union. In the local community, Lizzy volunteers at the Hampstead Norreys annual village arts festival, Free Fest (where, this year, she is running a dance workshop), and is a shop assistant at the Hampstead Norreys Community Shop, where she makes drinks and shops for elderly customers. Lizzy is also a member of the Youth Theatre at the Watermill, where alongside preparing for shows, she runs games and stalls at their annual fete.

This shows a remarkable amount of dedication and commitment, especially since Lizzy is also studying for her GCSEs. Well Done Lizzy!



it such a fantastic and exciting trip as well as managing to keep us all in order for the whole five days.

Grace Caröe

Creative Arts Evening

On 18 June, the Art Department held a very successful Creative Arts Evening, hosting artwork from GCSE to A level. Artwork was displayed throughout the school, including the Oval Room, where musical performances by girls in Year 7–10 were also taking place.

There was a conceptual Art Installation performance by Charlotte Culley, Emily Drury and Megan Kerrigan, who took their feet to paint in an exciting artistic performance! We were also lucky enough to listen to Jenny Bracey perform tracks from her album.

Overall it was a fantastic event and a big thank you to everyone who came along and to Miss Dillon, Dr Tebbs and Ms Highton for all their hard work.



Pompeii 2014

On 1 April, 45 girls and five teachers left school at a ridiculous time in the morning bound for Italy. After a long day of travel, we quickly settled in the hotel and got ready for the trip of the year!

The next day, we travelled to Pompeii in the morning and Herculaneum in the afternoon. The hot weather was much-loved until we had to sit in the non-air-conditioned coach on the way back. The day after - sunny Capri. Lots of sun, lots of shopping and a little bit of seasickness made it a day to remember. Photos were taken, ice creams were eaten, and interestingly shaped pasta was bought. That night the teachers entertained us with their mostly in-tune singing and the traditional Classics trip quiz.

Vesuvius was not so sunny... in fact it was mostly rain. Luckily, with the aid of copious selfies and some fantastic pizza, the day ended well. The last night in Italy ended on a great note as we performed in groups our favourite memories of the trip, including an encore from The Pyroclastic Flows.

Thank you to Bee for organising the Pompeii hoodies, we are very grateful! We would also all like to say a massive thank you to Miss Ferretti, Mrs Willetts, Mrs Trevis, Mrs Sams and Mr Ives for making

Challenge & Extension: Alex Langlands



On 28 April, we were delighted to welcome Alex Langlands to talk to us about his experiences as a TV historian and his career in archaeology. Alex was an inspirational speaker and was already known to many of us from his TV series on the BBC, Victorian Farm, Edwardian Farm and Wartime Farm. He spoke to us about how he ended up in television from an initial background in history and archaeology. He also gave us an insight into what it was really like to work on programmes such as Edwardian Farm. His talk was thoroughly enjoyed by all and Alex was kind enough to sign a number of autographs, too!

Sixth Form Induction Week

Sixth Form induction week took place in June. Students had a week of induction lessons in their chosen subjects for A level, where they were given an outline of the course, text books and some holiday reading in preparation for September. There were



also study skills sessions which addressed some of the different, more independent skills needed for studying at A level.

On Tuesday the girls spent the day in London visiting the Italian Glamour exhibition at the V&A and on Thursday evening they saw a performance of Dirty Dancing at the Mayflower Theatre in Southampton. Friday afternoon was spent at the Nuffield Health Centre.

We really enjoyed getting to know the girls and look forward to working with them over the next two years.

Mrs Sim & Mrs Archer (Year 12 Tutors)

IBM Mentorship Programme

This year, for the first time, every student in Year 12 was offered the opportunity to work with a mentor who is a senior executive at IBM. The students have met regularly with their mentor and have also been in frequent contact by email. Topics covered have varied according to the individual interests and needs of students but have included time management, presentation and interview skills and help with organisation and CV writing. Ten students chose to participate in the programme and all agree that they have benefited greatly from such specialist, individualised mentoring. They feel that they have grown in self-confidence, gained an insight into how global business functions and understand the importance of first impressions and social skills. In addition, they have all been offered work experience at IBM headquarters in London.

We are so grateful to the mentors who give so generously of their time, despite their busy schedules, and are delighted that they have agreed to offer this quite unique opportunity to every student in Year 12 again next year.



IBM Mentorship Programme Evaluation

Taking part in the IBM mentorship programme has really helped to develop my weakest skills; some of my aims for the programme were to improve my organisational proficiency, communication skills, and time management but, predominantly, I wanted to discuss my career choices. I found the IBM interview workshop and the career interview beneficial as not only did they provide me with the opportunity to express my aspirations and relevant work experience but they also gave me the chance to experience what a corporate business interview might be like. I have really enjoyed taking part in this programme as it has broadened my knowledge and understanding of the competitive business world and allowed me to become more self-confident.

Phoebe Dewbury

Leavers' Ball

On 30 June, 80 students, guests, staff and parents gathered at the Newbury Manor Hotel for the leavers' ball. It was a very moving occasion, with staff and parents paying tribute to a wonderful group of students who have worked and played hard and looked out for each other at all times.

We now await results day with great excitement, hoping that the students will all be successful in achieving the grades that they need for their chosen courses and universities, which include Mathematics at Warwick; Medicine at Bristol; Spanish at Hertford College, Oxford; Classics at UCL, and Graphic Art at Falmouth.

Mrs Reseigh (Head of Sixth Form)



MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Junior School Music

Junior Music has been a hive of activity with preparations for Speech Day! The students have been practising their year group items as well as the whole school choir songs.

The Juniors have been working hard in music lessons, too. Sandleford explored the sounds around us, as well as trying new instruments such as the xylophone. Year 1 and Year 2 enjoyed their *Underneath the Ocean* project, singing in up to three parts! Year 3 have been extending their learning in the woodwind family by taking on the fife and chalumeau with Mr Parker.

Further up the school, Year 5 have enjoyed composing live underscoring to a film clip from *Mr Peabody and Sherman*, testing their skills in timing and creating different moods. Year 6 produced a fantastic musical production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with a live band. What a fantastic way to inspire the younger students and leave their mark on the Junior School.

The Summer Lunchtime Recital had a wonderful variety of instrumentalists, performing some challenging repertoire that the girls have been learning this term. The audience thoroughly enjoyed the confident performances. Well done to everyone that took part!

Junior Orchestra performed an exciting rendition of *The Flintstones* in assembly and we hope to welcome some new members in the Autumn Term.

Have a fabulous musical summer!

Senior School Music

Once the *Godspell* withdrawal symptoms had worn off, students got their heads down for an early summer concert of jazz and rock music, featuring soloists and groups performing in a huge range of styles to a packed theatre. It was great to see musicians pulling together so effectively to produce this event, and also lovely to hear the final performances at St Gabriel's by some of our most experienced musicians, including Ellie Oretti, who demonstrated her sparkling saxophone playing one last time.

Later in the term, we were treated to a performance by another Year 13 leaver, Jenny Bracey, who graced the Creative Arts Evening with a highly professional set in Gabbies. The Creative Arts Evening really showed what a wealth of musical talent there is in the school, with performances also happening in the Oval Room throughout the evening.

The girls have also worked hard to prepare for lunchtime concerts, ABRSM and Trinity Guildhall examinations, all of which culminated in our traditional end of term feast of music, the Strawberries & Cream Concert. The evening was a stunning success and our Senior School musicians are to be congratulated on their exceptional performances.

Although the majority of our music examination results have not yet come through from ABRSM, here are some results from earlier in the term.

ABRSM Results			
Georgina Jackson-Day	Piano	01	Merit
Inisa Sangha	Piano	03	Merit
Savina Sangha	Piano	04	Pass
Libby Stewart-Power	Piano	06	Merit
Trinity Guildhall Results			
Olivia Barr	Clarinet	02	Merit
Olivia Berringer	Classical Guitar	01	Merit
Anna Bickers	Singing	01	Pass
Flora Clarke	Alto Saxophone	07	Merit
Charlotte Dick	Saxophone	03	Merit
Sophia Gilks	Clarinet	04	Pass

Well done to everyone. And, don't forget to keep practising over the summer holidays!

Dr Tebbs & Ms Gunn, Music Department

Junior Sport Report

After a very wet start to the Summer Term, we have been lucky with the weather with only a few matches being cancelled.

It was a gloriously sunny day for our Junior Sports Day and, for the first time, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils were given House allegiance – it was lovely to see them working so enthusiastically to gain points for their Houses. Congratulations to Aidan, the winning team.

Running

Running Club has continued to flourish and has concentrated on sprinting technique and relay running. The final club of the season was a musical extravaganza organised by the Stewart-Power's. Many thanks to them for their tireless support of the Running Club.

Rounders

What a fantastic season we have had with rounders, where we have managed to field five teams on many Wednesday afternoons. The Year 5 and Year 6 teams both managed a very respectable 3rd place in their tournaments and in the Winchester Rounders League, we managed four wins with only one loss. Many of the current Year 5 girls have been playing up a year, which has given them a great opportunity to develop the speed of their play. For any of the girls who may be looking for winter training, Falkland Cricket Club are always on the look out for suitable players.

Swimming

Swimming has been surprisingly uninterrupted this season, with no lessons cancelled due to bad weather or a drop in pool temperature. Children from Nursery to Year 6 have made the most of our beautiful facility to improve their water confidence, water safety and stroke technique. With only two galas planned on the fixture list this summer, we were disappointed when Cheam cancelled, but had a lovely Friday afternoon at Prior Park., with a win for the Year 4 and Year 5 teams and a narrow defeat for the Year 3 and Year 6 teams. Our overall points score was just greater than Prior Park giving us the team win.

For the very first time, Year 1 and Year 2 joined the Junior Swimming Gala, showcasing their water confidence and stroke



development. The winners of the Year 1–Year 4 Swimming Gala was Aidan followed by Chad, Bede and Alban. The Year 5 and Year 6 Swimming Gala was closely fought. Bede remained in the lead for the duration of the afternoon and just piped Aidan, Chad and Alban. The overall winner, taking in to account Sports Day and the Swimming Gala, was Aidan.

Netball

Monday evening netball with Mrs Grimstone-Jones has meant an uninterrupted development of our netball skills and we are hoping to start the new season with a vengeance. Eight girls have gained places in the Newbury Netball team with training starting in September. Several girls are now training with the Squall, Eagles and Blades netball squads.

Athletics

Notable results were achieved in the athletics' Quad Kids Competition, with Kate Newman and Brooke Asser achieving 4th and 5th places in their age group. Following an exhausting day of athletics on Sports Day, the relay team then continued to race at Newbury Relays, achieving a commendable 6th place in the finals.

Tennis

The Year 3 and Year 4 tennis players took part in a mini tennis competition at Greenacres. All the girls played extremely well, achieving 2nd place behind Hermitage School.

Senior Sport Report

We have had a tremendously busy term in the PE Department with the last half of term being packed with Inter-House events. The girls have been extremely busy with fixtures for athletics and rounders and we have also fitted in a mini netball tournament in Devon. All in all, a very successful term and I would like to thank the girls and PE staff for their hard work, determination and good humour! I very much look forward to the Autumn Term and the new opportunities we have for the girls, including rowing, trampolining, triathlon and the Young Ambassador programme.

Rounders

Year 7 were undefeated, winning all their matches and the Area Rounders Tournament. The Year 8 team reached the semi finals at

the St Helen's & St Katherine's invitational tournament and also won all their matches.

Year 9 have had a good summer, with fixtures for both the A and B squads. The girls have made a regular commitment to practices and there has been a noticeable improvement in their play. The squad had a difficult first match of the term against St Swithun's, coming up against a very fast bowler. However, they were soon back on track, narrowly missing out on qualification for the finals in the St Helen's & St Katherine's tournament but beating Kennet (the district champions) by 6 - ½ rounders. Good effort Year 9!

This summer has been a sharp learning curve for Year 10, who have come up against some very strong teams. After a few hard fought matches at the District Tournament they managed their first win against Trinity with some great team work in the field.

Athletics

This summer has seen some outstanding individual performances in athletics and, as a department, we hope this will inspire greater participation next year. Lucy Rochford (1500m) and Philippa Clifford-Jones (high jump) achieved county invitations. The team who attended also had some personal bests which is very important. In the U13 category we had four top three finishers. Good luck to Isobel Mannion, Connie Pike and Darcey Scott when they attend the county event. St Gabriel's is routing for you!

Dance

The Dance Studio has been buzzing with an array of new and exciting activities. Girls from Year 7–Year 11 have had the opportunity to experience yoga, body balance and pilates alongside their usual dance training. Flexibility has improved and even the most stressed of girls have been floating out of the studio!

In May, our Dance Scholars and other dance enthusiasts visited the Corn Exchange to see the Central Ballet perform their latest programme of ballet, contemporary and jazz dance. The dance company is part of the Central School of Ballet's graduation festival for pre-professional dancers and St Gabriel's girls took delight in seeing a fantastic live performance.

'I really enjoyed the performance; it was inspirational and it gave me loads of ideas for my own choreography.' **Megan Clark**

Equestrian Team

Elizabeth Hutton, Tori McAlister, Holly Hathaway and Amie Payne all had tough competition at the Stonar School one day event. Unfortunately, the team did not get placed but Amie came 3rd in the individual competition.



GSA Swimming Gala

On 29 April, we took a squad of U13 and U15 girls to the GSA Swimming Gala at St Catherine's, Bramley. The squad members were: Ellie Cowan, Lucy Wilkins, Martha Croggan, Louise Barlow, Jessica Palfrey, Camilla Graterol, Charlotte Dick, Michaela Graterol, Victoria Williams, Carli Nicholls, Olivia Barr and Esther McElvenny.

The squad performed extremely well and were excellent ambassadors for the school. Particular mention should go to Ellie Cowan for her victory in the Individual Medley and Michaela Graterol who broke a GSA record for front crawl only for this to be broken again by another school!

Netball Tournament: Barton Hall

In May, netball players from Year 7–Year 9 went to Barton Hall for a netball weekend. On our arrival, we had a tour and then played team games against the other schools, cup stacking, water bomb volleyball and ultimate frisbee. On the first day of the tournament, Year 8 and Year 9 played four matches in the morning and did activities in the afternoon, whilst Year 7 did activities in the morning and four matches in the afternoon. On the second day, we played two matches in the morning, followed by the finals. St Gabriel's took four teams, the Year 7 A, a combined Year 7/8 B team, the Year 8 A, and the Year 9 A. Our Year 7 and Year 8 A teams won their tournaments, with the 7/8 B's coming 6th. The Year 9 A team missed the finals by one goal, coming 3rd overall. On behalf of everyone who took part, I want to say thank you so much to all the staff that took us (especially Mrs Smiles-Cooke for the doughnuts).

Verity Benson

Trampolining

A huge thank you to the PFSG who purchased a trampoline for the PE Department. We have been running a turn up and try session on Fridays with our coach, Debbie Saw. We now have a training squad, who will enter some County and National competitions over the coming terms. This squad will evolve over time and there will be trampolining running throughout the next academic year, where girls can bounce for fun or train more seriously to enter the squad.

The following girls have made the squad for September: Ferren Robinson, Carli Nicholls, Verity Benson, Olivia Berringer, Maia Steel, Megan Clark, Olivia Clark, Olivia Barr, Lauren Swain, Hannah Smith, Jessica Gill, Libby Stewart-Power and Ellie Cowan. Congratulations to you all and we look forward to seeing you compete in the future!

Swimming Gala

The Senior School Swimming Gala enjoyed high levels of participation. The quality of the swimming was fantastic and for



SPORT

the first time school records were introduced, which means girls now have more to compete for. Ellie Cowan and Victoria Williams are both to be congratulated on their outstanding performances.

Sports Day

Well the sun shone and the heavens opened for our 2014 Sports Day at Crookham Common Athletics Track. However, nothing dampened the spirits of the competitors and staff – we had a fabulous day with every girl in the Senior School taking part.

We were joined by Dean Macey, a Commonwealth champion, who presented the girls with their certificates and medals. Having

competed for the country in athletics, he had one wish for our day and that was to be in charge of starting some races! His wish was granted and he started all the relays, including the staff inter-House relay.

Congratulations to Lucy Rochford (800m) and Izzy Mannion (1000m) for breaking the school records.

I want to thank all our competitor's for their tremendous effort and spirit and all the staff who rallied together to make the day possible.

Mrs Smiles-Cooke, Executive Director of Sport

ALUMNAE

Hannah Bown: BSc (Hons) Diagnostic Radiography (1st), University of Hertfordshire. Hannah is now working at the Basingstoke & North Hampshire Hospital.

Helen Broadbridge: BA (Hons) Modern & Medieval Languages (2:1), Jesus College, University of Cambridge. Helen was President of the university's athletics club, winning the Varsity match in May 2014. She has got two vacation schemes in London at international law firms for the summer and then will return to Cambridge to do a year of Management Studies followed by a law conversion.

Rebecca Brown: BSc (Hons) Biochemistry (2:1), University of Manchester, and MSc in Immunology, Imperial College, London. Rebecca is currently doing a PhD in Medical Research at Cardiff University.

Chantelle Davison: BA (Hons) English Literature (2:1), University of Exeter. Chantelle is now on the graduate fast track programme at Nestlé.

Lexi du Sart Murray: BA (Hons) Music Management (1st), Buckinghamshire New University.

Henrietta Fenton-Smith: BMid (Hons) Midwifery, University of Southampton. Henrietta then decided to change career and is now weeks away from completing an MSc in Real Estate and starts a job as a Surveyor in London in September.

Lorna Fisher: BA (Hons) English Literature (2:1), University of Brighton. Lorna is now working for the University for the Creative Arts as a corporate marketing coordinator. She also volunteers for the Samaritans.

Nicole Fowler: BSc (Hons) Business & Management (1st), Oxford Brookes University. Nicole is off to work in Singapore for six months.

Jo Franklin: BSc (Hons) Biological Sciences (2:1), University of Leeds, and MSc in Molecular Biology, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. Jo is currently living in California.

Charlotte Keast: BA (Hons) French & Spanish (2:1), Gonville & Caius College, University of Cambridge. Charlotte is now working on the trading floor at Citigroup, selling equity and rates derivatives (who would have thought!). She says this is a very exciting job but a bit stressful at times. Charlotte has gone from an all girls school to being the only girl in meetings of 30 men!

Rachel Knight: BSc (Hons) Maths & Physics (1st), UCL. Rachel also won the prize for outstanding student in Maths and Physics! She has a job starting in September with Fidelity Asset Management.

Polly London: BA (Hons) Classical Civilisation (2:1), University of Nottingham.

Claire Nicoll: After graduating from Lady Margaret Hall, University of Oxford, with a 2:1 in French & Linguistics, Claire spent six months volunteering in Kenya, working with women and children

affected by HIV. After a successful internship, she is now working for the Emergency & Disasters Committee of the Save the Children Fund and expects to be sent to the Middle East in the near future. We are tremendously proud of all that Claire is doing.

Chelsie Paul: BSc (Hons) Physiotherapy (2:1), Cardiff University. Chelsie is now working for the NHS.

Lucy Peacock: Works for Cognolink, a primary research firm based in London, working as a Research Associate. The company works with investment funds and consultancies, putting them in touch with industry experts who can give them insight into the sector they are looking at and help them make better decisions when it comes to their investments. She speaks Spanish and French almost every day and has learned a lot already. It is a young company that is growing very quickly, so an exciting place to be.

Rachel Phillips: BSc (Hons) Fashion Retail (2:1), University of Manchester. Rachel is a business development sales executive for Pareto Law, the UK's largest graduate careers organisation. Do get in touch with Rachel if you are looking for a job.

Catherine Ramsbottom: BA (Hons) Classical Past (2:1) Durham University (2011). Following university, Catherine wanted to do a law conversion but thought she should get some legal experience under her belt first. She secured a job as a family and children's law caseworker in London and worked there for almost two years. Following this she had time off to do a law conversion. She started the GDL at Oxford Brookes University in September 2013 and, this summer, found out that she had got a distinction. Catherine is going on to do the LPC (Legal Practice Course) at Guildford School of Law in September (and will then, fingers-crossed, qualify as a solicitor after two further years in a firm).

Naomi Rowe-Gurney: BSc (Hons) Astrophysics (2:1), University of Leicester. Naomi is now at Shanghai University, where she is studying Chinese. She tutors in Physics, Maths and Geography to high school students and in English to adults. Naomi also does some events promotion and DJing on the side. She is a director of the Shanghai Roller Derby team.

Kate Stainthorp: BSc (Hons) Pharmacology, University of Portsmouth. Kate is now conducting clinical trials on chemotherapy at St James's Hospital, Leeds.

Amy Talbot: BA (Hons) Social Work (2:1), Bournemouth University. Amy is working as a social worker in West Berkshire.

Maddy Weeks: BA (Hons) Maths with Management (1st), University of Surrey.

Holly Woodhead: BA (Hons) Social Policy (2:1), University of Bristol. Holly then did a MSc in Real Estate at the University of Reading and is now training to be a chartered surveyor at Knight Frank.