

# Newsletter

Autumn 2016

## St Gabriel's

Your Route to Success



Mr Smith, Principal, with the Head and Deputy Head Girls

As the new Principal of St Gabriel's, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the Autumn 2016 Newsletter, a chance to celebrate and share all that has been going on in the school community.

As you would expect, the Autumn Term, like all terms, has been hugely productive and busy. It has struck me in my first months at St Gabriel's that there is a tremendous breadth and wealth of activities and enrichment available to all our pupils. One of the highlights for me has been the Sandleford and Reception nature walks that sometimes find their way to outside my office. The look of wonder and amazement on the young faces as they enjoy and learn from our beautiful surroundings is a joy to see. Another highlight has been the clear levels of learning that are evident in all areas of school, but learning with a difference; the St Gabriel's way of making sure that learning is fun and engaging has been clearly evident whenever I have entered a classroom. The leadership shown by the Sixth Form in the end of term House Dance Competition was fabulous to see – young people making the most of the opportunities that have been given to them and doing themselves, and their Houses, proud. (Congratulations to all but particularly to Chad for their victory!). I could go on...

Schools can never stand still. With the success of Sandleford and its growing reputation, over the summer the Pre-School Room was expanded in to the Reception classroom. As a consequence of this, we have relocated Reception to The House, which in turn has undergone considerable refurbishment. The Reception children and staff

have thoroughly enjoyed their first term in their own dedicated space with larger indoor and outdoor learning environments.

It has been exciting to see the plans progress for the transformation of the Sandleford Farm House. The necessary permissions from the Local Authority are now in place for it to be converted into a bespoke Sixth Form Centre. We have now consulted with a Senior School pupil focus group on the proposed plans and we will now finalise the details for the development. Contracts will be tendered shortly with a view to opening the new centre in September 2017. We look forward to sharing further details as they progress over the coming months.

Whilst the term may have finished for pupils in the Junior and Senior Schools, St Gabriel's is still a hive of activity. New Wi-Fi is being installed, with significantly more access points, which will enable pupils to have far greater coverage when they return in the new year. We are also continuing our programme of refurbishment in the Senior School, with the Geography classroom being completed during the Christmas break.

I do hope that you enjoy reading about all that has been going on in the school this term and if you would like to come and visit, be you a current parent, an ex pupil, or a prospective parent, then please do get in touch and come to see it all for yourself.

**Mr Ricki Smith, Principal**

# CURRICULUM FOCUS



As we race through another school year, those of you who have children in Year 11 will know that they will be the first cohort to sit the new, and differently graded, system at GCSE. In fact, they will sit in an in-between world of having letter grades for some subjects and numbers for others, as the UK education system embraces curriculum change (again!).

Since 2015, English Language, English Literature and Maths have been taught with the new number grading system of assessment and this summer's cohort will be the first to be awarded these grades. The majority of other subjects will follow with awarding taking place in 2018; Business Studies, Design & Technology, Italian, Mandarin and Classical Civilisation should complete the transition in 2019.

In reality this means that for the next few years we will have pupils who will be coming to the end of the GCSE stage of their education

with a dual currency of grades and numbers. While the majority of the public have an understanding of the current A\* - E grading system, the numerical 9 - 1 is new to us all. What we do know is that 9 is the top of the system and that, currently, the government have said that anyone achieving a level 4 (and above) in English or Maths will not have to resit that subject to show a competency (old grade C). However, what lies between is less clear. We are told that the 9 will be awarded to very few students: the days of all bright pupils getting 10 A\*s are over. A tally of 10 grade 9s really will be exceptional. Exams regulator, Ofqual, has said, "around 20% of all results at 7 or above will be given a grade 9," confirming that it will be awarded to the very top performers. They go on to say, "the change will mean about 5% of pupils will get a grade 9 on average across all GCSE subjects in future, compared with about 8% who get A\* grades today."

To me there are at least a couple of issues that arise from the change of system. Firstly, we have been preparing our current Year 11 for this grading change, making clear the expectations that we have for them. A strong GCSE profile will be a mixture of letters and numbers, not just a row of 9s. Secondly, parents need to be aware of the change and understand that there will be this mixed currency on their daughter's CV.

Then, we need to make sure that the change is also made clear to universities and employers. Universities are coming up to speed with the new system, even though it is something that will not directly impact on them for several years. However, employers also need to be aware of the change, and not just dismiss something that on paper looks different as something that they do not understand.

Indeed, as with any new system, we do not know how it will play out until the first cohort come through, and we know exactly what level of work has been awarded which numerical grade. At present the exam boards are not able to say where each level will sit...

I am also concerned that in the pressured world in which our young people are growing up, the perceived necessity for perfectionism is not healthy. The new system needs to be handled carefully so that it does not add pressure to those who tend towards perfectionism, and we should not stand by and let this happen. At St Gabriel's, I am comfortable that the outstanding pastoral care means that the pupils are well supported and led through their school years with care and compassion. Not all are so fortunate.

 @stgabrielnews

 @stgabrielnewbury

## HEAD GIRL'S REPORT

Two terms into my year as Head Girl, and it seems to have gone past in a blur. When I applied for the position, I could not have imagined the great number of experiences I would be fortunate enough to take part in. The Year 7 BBQ at the end of the summer holidays, Speech Day and Open Mornings have been among the highlights.

I have had the opportunity to interact with students of all ages, from the Junior School through to the Sixth Form, as well as their parents. Moreover, meeting and working with a headmaster who is equally as enthusiastic as me to see a move towards expansion of student perspective has been thoroughly enjoyable. Mr Smith and I hope to start a Social Ethics and Awareness Society in the new year

with the purpose of broadening the minds of students in school to consider what happens outside of our lives. When I applied to be Head Girl, I was eager to help others think about the world beyond our own lives of privilege and stability, whether that be regarding Feminism, the Black Lives Matter Campaign or a whole host of other social and cultural issues.

My role as Head Girl, whilst being hard work at times, has been full of incredible opportunity and I feel extremely fortunate to have been afforded such an experience. I am eager to see what will unfold in the new year!

**Anisha Malli**





It has been another busy term in Sandleford. The Pre-School Room children and staff have settled into their new larger space and are really enjoying all the opportunities it is providing to further enhance the learning environment and experiences for the children.

The mud kitchen area in the garden continues to be developed and is a real favourite with the Toddlers and Pre-School children; they have been constructing dens, which is developing their teamwork skills, and they thoroughly enjoy creating a real feast for everyone of mud pies and mud tea!

Early in the term, we welcomed mothers and grandmothers in to Sandleford to spend time with their children and grandchildren. They enjoyed carrying out a wide range of activities alongside the children, from biscuit decorating and hand painting to reading stories and building with the construction toys. Our guests also had the chance to meet and chat over a coffee in Gabbies.



Sandleford continues to take part in fundraising events, many of which run alongside the rest of the school. In November, everyone donned their superhero outfits for Children in Need and were treated to a visit from some real life superheroes when two members of our local police force came to see us. All of the children, from the babies up to the children in Year 2, had the opportunity to see the police car, sit in it if they wanted to, and make the lights and siren work. The officers told the children about their jobs and answered lots of questions. A fantastic morning of learning as well as raising money for less fortunate children.

Our Open Week was a huge success with parents coming in to Sandleford to meet with their child's key worker to discuss progress and to observe the children in action. This is a really positive experience, creating an extremely important link between parents



and staff as we work together to plan and move forward each child's learning and development.

The Toddler Room have had lots of fun with their new storyboard and have looked at some of their favourite stories, including **Room on the Broom** and **Dear Zoo**. The children have also been finding out about the weather and, as the temperature dropped, they made the most of the icy cold days by investigating frozen water outside in the water tray and puddles, delighting at the frost which had turned everywhere white.

Over recent weeks Christmas really has arrived in Sandleford. Children in all the rooms have been busy with Christmas craft activities; they have worn their Christmas jumpers; shared their favourite Christmas stories and have had a lovely Christmas dinner together. The Baby Room enjoyed a sensory play activity with artificial snow. The Toddlers have enjoyed some Christmas cooking, baking Christmas biscuits and making chocolates to go inside their Christmas crackers. Meanwhile, the Pre-School children have been busy writing letters to Father Christmas and they have had a new member of the room join them in the form of Buddy, a mischievous elf sent from Father Christmas, who is keeping them all entertained.

The Pre-School Room parents were given a real Christmas treat with a truly magical performance of the nativity, **A Nursery Rhyme Nativity**. The children took part enthusiastically and looked great in their costumes as the Christmas story was narrated for them by Year 3 pupils.

The Sandleford community came together to finish off the festivities on 15 December, when parents joined children and staff for a carol concert. The children were accompanied by two Senior School musicians, Elizabeth Edwards and Annabelle Gibson, as they sang their favourite Christmas songs and carols by the Christmas tree.





# JUNIOR SCHOOL

## Autumn Term in Reception

The Reception class has had a wonderful start to the school year and they are really enjoying their new classroom and outdoor area. The children love having the opportunity to immerse themselves in free-flow learning between the classroom, covered decked area and playground space.



Reception children have been busy learning and developing their phonics and maths skills with our Jolly Phonics scheme and daily maths activities. Mrs Bloxsom and I are very proud of their superb progress – well done!

We have really enjoyed reading the Funnybones stories and making skeletons. The children have loved being able to join in and retell the stories; the repetitive phrase 'in the dark dark ...' has been applied to all sorts of situations and areas of the classroom during their independent learning time. The children's skeleton pictures gave them the opportunity to develop their fine motor skills and to learn the names of some of the bones that make up the human skeleton. They loved deciding what their skeletons were going to be doing, can you spot those that are waving, dancing, jumping?



Exploring the school grounds during OWL Time, has given the children the opportunity to become familiar with the woodland and lake area, spotting some of the wildlife we are lucky to have on our doorstep. During the beautiful sunny weather we had earlier in the



term, the Reception children sat really quietly by the lake and watched the enormous dragonflies darting over the water. Other favourite OWL Time experiences have been learning how to climb trees safely and making mud pies in the mud kitchen.

In the second half of the term, our topic has been Festivals of Light, the children have learnt about lots of celebrations that happen at this time of year. We started with Bonfire Night and the story of Guy Fawkes, with many of the class attending their first St Gabriel's Firework Evening, where they watched the wonderful fireworks with their families. We then found out about the traditions of the Hindu festival of Diwali. The children retold the story of Rama and Sita, dressing up in costumes and using puppets to bring the story to life. They also made their own 'diva' lamps from clay.

We have ended the term learning about Advent and Christmas traditions, some the children were familiar with whilst others were new facts and stories such as the story of St Lucia.



The last week of term has been the usual whirlwind of tea-towels and tinsel! The children all took part confidently in this year's nativity play, they have eaten a delicious Christmas lunch, thoroughly enjoyed their class Christmas party, which included a visit from Father Christmas, had a wonderful time at the pantomime and have had lots of fun with glitter making cards and decorations.

Although inevitably tired after the first term of full-time school, the children are still full of enthusiasm and have been giving 100% to all their specialist lessons, Mrs P (PE), Miss Gunn (Drama & Music), Mrs Hastings (Dance) and Mrs Joseph (PE) have all commented on how well the class have settled and are participating in their lessons.

We are looking forward to the New Year and lots more exciting learning experiences – well done Reception!

**Mrs Clare Lawrence & Mrs Sarah Bloxham**



## A Miracle in Town

Pupils in Reception to Year 2 commenced the Christmas festivities in the Junior School with aplomb in their version of the nativity, **A Miracle in Town**. You know Christmas has arrived when the tinsel comes out of storage, tea towels are refashioned as head dresses and wings becoming de rigueur. This rite of passage in the Junior School has enabled countless youngsters to find their feet, quite literally, on the stage and to find the resilience to overcome stage fright. As teachers we know to expect the unexpected and when Mary needed a moment to take in the news from the Angel Gabriel, Joseph stepped up to the plate and showed us all the team spirit of St Gabriel's. The pride the children felt as the cow got up to do her solo shone from their faces — you see they knew she could do it. This support continued throughout the performance with everyone willing the narrators to remember their many lines, and remember they did. Mention, too, must be made of the Camels who led us in a merry song and dance, reminding us all of our unique qualities. By the end of the performance you could feel the great sense of team spirit and pride shining through the children and staff alike.



## Year 1 Journey Back in Time

When they visited the Milestones Museum in Basingstoke, Year 1 stepped back in time to the early 19th Century. They spent the day exploring the historic streets, visiting a 1940s sweet shop and seeing how people used to live in the olden days. However, the main focus of the day was to support this term's learning in the classroom, where Year 1 have been looking at toys in the past and comparing them to the toys they play with today.

Our young historians were very engaged exploring the museum's toy collections through fun activities. The most popular game was the fictional toy box, where they had to choose which toys to give to



a museum, which to give to a car boot sale and which were so precious they could keep. It was no surprise that they did not throw any away and wanted to play with them all! The day finished with the children dressing up and playing The I Spy Trail. At the end of the day, Mrs Webb was very proud that the Milestones guide commented on how observant and careful the class were, asking lots of questions and handling the precious toys carefully.

'It was great fun dressing up as a little girl from the 1930's!'

**Emmeline**

'We had to put new and old toys on the toy timeline and there was a doll which was 100 years old!' **Grace**

## A Celtic Adventure for Year 3

This term, Year 3 visited the Iron Age Museum in Andover. This was a fantastic way to consolidate our classroom learning.

'When we arrived we got to share all that we have already learned at school. Then we dressed up as Celts and chose a Celtic name. I chose Kennis meaning beautiful.' **Poppy**

We then did some activities, which were great fun, including building a miniature roundhouse, learning about Celtic food, decorating a shield, weaving and discovering what animals meant to Iron Age people.

'I learned that the Celts spent so much time fighting against each other that when the Romans invaded, they found it hard to work together and the Romans won.' **Sienna**



## Language Olympics

Children from five local primary schools recently came together at St Gabriel's to enjoy a fun day of linguistic challenges organised by the Modern Foreign Languages Departments at St Gabriel's and Park House School. Working in cross-school groups, the children were presented with a selection of brain-teaser activities designed to encourage them to look for patterns and similarities in a variety of languages including Italian, Spanish, German, Catalan, Basque and Bambara. One of the many highlights of the day was the Jungle Book Eurovision, where the children were split into three groups and given one hour to learn a verse from a song featured in the Disney film of the same name. They were then asked to perform it! **Colonel Hathi's March**, sung in Italian won the day over **The Bare Necessities** in Spanish and **I Wanna Be Like You** in German, although it was a tough call! The teachers would like to say a huge thank you to all the children involved for being so enthusiastic and working well together.



# JUNIOR SCHOOL

## Year 4 & Year 5 Visit Neasden Temple



In October, Year 4 and Year 5 visited Neasden Temple in London as part of their study of Hinduism.

When we arrived everyone was stunned by the beautiful view of the temple and the stunning white decorative limestone that covers it.

There was a great deal of security, a bit like an airport, and we had to hand in any sharp items, such as the scissors in our pencil cases. We also had to take off our shoes and place them in racks before we entered the temple. We went in to the Mandir, where we saw lots of lovely statues of Hindu gods, including Vishnu, Rama, Sita and Shiva. Miss Matthews asked us to choose our favourite god or goddess to draw. After a while the praying ceremony (Arti) started; it was really stunning. At the end of the ceremony we took blessings from a lamp before going to look at statues of key leaders.

In a big hall in the Haveli we learnt how the temple was built. We also discovered why we were not allowed to wear shoes; it is because they are made out of cow's skin and cows are sacred animals in Hinduism.

**Niyati Arigela & Rubi Maleham**

## Michael Rosen at The Corn Exchange

Year 2—Year 6 met the author, Michael Rosen, who has written many children's books, including *We're Going On A Bear Hunt*, *Mind Your Own Business* and *Don't Do It!* This was a really special event and The Corn Exchange was packed.

During a hilarious hour, Michael Rosen explained that he was born in the Stone Age, the early days of television with one channel and



two programmes. He regaled many stories about his childhood, eating chocolate cake at night, hiding the toothpaste lid in his Dad's shaving cream and lots, lots more. He then signed copies of his books, giving pupils the chance to meet a real literary hero.

## Cake-Tastic Fundraising for Macmillan

Pupils, parents and staff raised the fantastic sum of £960 for Macmillan through a huge cake sale in September. The competitive nature of the Junior School teachers was evident as they battled to impress pupils and Mr Smith with their home-made creations in a bake off competition. In the show stopper final a dog and a hedgehog cake were eventually beaten by Mrs Helen Moth's stunning rainbow creation.



## Sleeping Beauty: The New Theatre, Oxford

Year 6 went to see the English Youth Ballet performing *Sleeping Beauty*. This beautiful production is a combination of professional lead ballet dancers performing alongside a supporting cast of over 100 local young dancers, including Martha Croggon (Year 11).

This magical full length traditional ballet, with music by Tchaikovsky and an array of wonderful costumes, was thoroughly enjoyed by Year 6, who have returned to school bursting with fresh ideas and energised imaginations for their own choreography and costumes.

"I loved the cat dance and cat costumes." **Claudia**

"My favourite thing was seeing Martha on stage." **Zara**

"I really liked searching for Martha in the corps de ballet" **Charlotte**

"I just loved it all!" **Imogen**





## Junior School Council

The Junior School Council have led by example this term. As many of you know, our Pillar of Character is 'Caring' and my word do the Junior School Council and our school community care. Just before half term the Council helped the PTA organise the Star on a Stick competition, which was eventually won by Lilia (Year 2), who had the enviable task of pressing the button to ignite the bonfire on fireworks night.

The Junior School Council then turned its attention to raising funds for the British Legion by encouraging their classmates to donate to this worthy cause and wear a Poppy with Pride.

But their good deeds did not stop there, they organised an assembly to inspire others to pack gift-filled shoeboxes for children less fortunate than themselves. They then helped collect and sort these Christmas shoeboxes that had been arriving in their droves. The generosity of our community is second to none. It was with delight that we packed 83 parcels into Miss Smith's car for delivery to our nearest collection point.



When one project ends it seems this Council are ready for the next. On 18 November, our pupils were all heroes for Children in Need. There seemed no better way to demonstrate our heroic efforts throughout the term other than by turning ourselves into real and imagined superheroes. Nancy in Year 1 invented her own kindness hero that really epitomised our Pillars of Character. She was delighted to take home her very own Pudsey Bear, as a reward for her imaginative design.

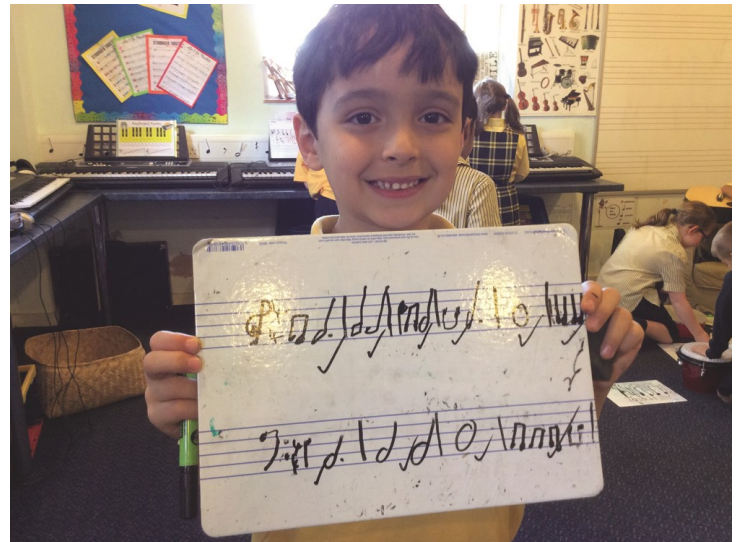
The Council also selected the charity for the retiring collections at both the Nativity and Junior School Carol Concert. Once again the



Council did not shirk from their responsibilities and debated at some length where our money would be best received. It should come, therefore, as no surprise that they could not choose just one charity but instead decided to lend their support to two local charities, The Rosemary Appeal and Friends of Young Carers, West Berkshire.

Thanks to your kind donations we raised £242.94 at the Nativity and £326.17 at the Junior Carol Concert. The total raised from all of our fundraising this term is a staggering £1,781.40.

Thank you for your continuing support of the Junior School Council and the events they organise in school.



## Junior Music

The Junior Music Department has been extremely busy this term, with many pupils in Year 3 to Year 6 performing in a wonderful lunchtime concert to showcase their efforts in instrumental and vocal lessons.

In November, the Junior School took part in a whole day Singathon to raise money for Heart Research UK. The final total was a fantastic £1,393.00. The day involved singing in lessons, singing in assemblies and a special lunchtime Karaoke Club.

The Pre-School children performed a Nursery Rhyme Nativity with live music from some of the Senior School girls. Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 performed their Nativity, **A Miracle in Town**, in the theatre and sang their hearts out.

In December, children in Year 3 to Year 6 performed some beautiful Christmas carols, including the **Star Carol** by John Rutter, in the Community Christmas Concert. They were joined by the Parent and Teacher Community Choir. It was a brilliant evening and the children performed like true professionals.

Well done to all for a very busy and musical term.





# JUNIOR SCHOOL SPORT

As I sit here thinking of the past term, the weather is beginning to feel cold and Christmassy and I have the Christmas activity, Hunt Rudolf's Nose, sitting on my desk. It is lovely to be able to reflect on the fantastic term of sport we have had in the Junior School. We have played against schools as far afield as Stubbington in Hampshire and Warwick Prep in Warwickshire and have competed in everything from swimming to boccia, enjoying developing our skills along the way. We have welcomed more boys into the Junior School and this has helped to boost our competitive play in a positive way and they have supported us in many of the West Berkshire mixed events this term.

## Year 2 Indoor Alternative Sports Competition

We had a fantastic evening of alternative sports at Park House School. We replicated Robin Hood's skills in the archery competition; once we had learnt to load the arrows quickly we soon improved our aiming and shooting prowess. In the Boccia and Curling competitions we had to work out how to play tactically as a team; Issie Stride delivered several killer shots to remove the opposition's stones during the last play of each game. The children were thrilled to be awarded medals for their efforts.

## Thatcham Tornadoes 5-A-Side Football

After a term of football with Kyle, our football coach, we enjoyed a morning of 5-a-side against a number of local schools. We each took it in turns to try the goalkeeper position with Nathan Rond brilliant in the role. We soon realised that we had to get our tackles in quickly and, as the morning progressed, we started to pass with more accuracy. We all managed to meet the Tornadoes' mascot and were given medals for taking part.



## U9 Netball Festival at St Swithun's

The emphasis at the festival was on playing and enjoying the game with no overall winner and no scores taken. This allowed the girls to play without undue pressure and to enjoy the competition. At the end of the afternoon, the coach, Mrs Joseph, selected Clare McGonnell as the player of the match for her outstanding performance during the festival.

## St Hugh's Cross Country Relays Competition

Mr May has taken over the cross country coaching of the team from Mr and Mrs Stewart-Power, and so he was absolutely delighted when the teams took 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> medal places in the St Hugh's Cross Country Relays. It was particularly pleasing to see the children supporting one another as well as their determination to compete to the best of their ability. They certainly deserved their hotdog at the end of the afternoon!

## St Hugh's Netball Tournament

An afternoon of fierce competition against 12 schools from Oxfordshire and Berkshire, culminated in both the Year 5 A and B teams reaching the semi-finals at the St Hugh's Tournament. This is

the second year running that we have fought through some very tough opposition from The Manor, Rupert House and Oxford High. In the semi-finals, the teams played very closely fought matches, losing by just one goal.

## Swimming Gala V St Swithun's and Portsmouth High School

After a summer of squad training, we entered two galas at St Swithun's this term. Despite competing against schools who have year round provision, the girls swam well with commendable performances from Bella Castle, Rubi Maleham, Poppy Russell and Georgia Teeluck. We thoroughly enjoyed our first outing as a swimming team and would like to thank Mrs Teeluck for all the work she does with our teams.



## Year 5 & Year 6 Indoor Athletics

Congratulations to our Year 5 and Year 6 athletes who competed in the West Berkshire Indoor Athletics Competition at Park House. This is always a very tough competition and our team came 7<sup>th</sup> out of the 23 schools that were taking part. Jess Collett had the second highest jumping score of the day with a standing jump of 1.92m. We are hugely proud of the team's achievement!

## St Francis Hockey Tournament

With the help of Mrs Porter-Scott, the Junior School has been developing its hockey under the guidelines from England Hockey. The improvement in our play was noticeable as we took on Marlston House, St Francis and Thorngrove at the St Francis Hockey Tournament. With Issie Cunningham stepping up to the goal keeper position, we worked very hard to only allow one goal in, whilst managing to score 6 goals against our opposition. At the end of the afternoon we remained unbeaten and were the overall winners in our section.





## The Manor & Hampshire Collegiate Tournaments

Year 6 continued their netball successes from last season with finals places in both The Manor and Hampshire Collegiate Tournaments. Coming across teams from Hampshire, Berkshire, Oxfordshire and Warwickshire they are proving to be a formidable force.



## Football Round Up

Our football teams have been busy this term with several games in the Newbury District Primary Schools FA Cup Competition and friendlies with other schools. In the first round of the Tony Mosson Cup, we came up against Curridge Primary and progressed with a very comfortable 6-0 home win, which included a hat-trick for the captain, Jolie Hartland. In the next round, we were drawn away at John Rankin School, where we took an early lead and scored in the last minute – unfortunately John Rankin scored five in between!

In the English Schools FA 7-a-side competition, we finished as runners-up in the group stage and qualified for the finals, where we had two draws and a loss to a very strong Burghfield St Mary's team, who went on to win the tournament.

In friendly games we have played against Fir Tree Primary and Our Lady's Abingdon.

Mr Dove and Miss Pearmine have continued to work on developing the players' skills this term and are delighted that a growing number of pupils are joining local football clubs as they enjoy "the beautiful game" so much.



I would like to thank the children and staff for their enthusiasm and commitment to sport this term. During the Spring Term we already have bowling, archery, key steps gymnastics, cycling, county netball and swimming in the calendar; it's going to be a busy term.

**Mrs Alison Pasternakiewicz, Assistant Director of Sport**



# Stevensons

## Term Time Opening Hours

Tuesday: 2.30pm - 4.30pm  
Thursday: 2.00pm - 5.00pm

Tel: 01727 814369 (during shop hours)  
email: [stgabriels@stevensons.co.uk](mailto:stgabriels@stevensons.co.uk)



# SENIOR SCHOOL

## Year 8 Explore Coastal Defences



In September, Year 8 went on a Geography field trip to Hengistbury Head to investigate coastal defences and consider the causes of erosion. We climbed to the top of Warren Hill to practise our observational skills by sketching Mudeford Spit. Following this, we undertook a range of data collection and fieldwork tasks including measuring longshore drift, wave frequency, beach shape and pebble size. We calculated the longshore drift by throwing an orange into the sea, waiting for three minutes and then measuring how far to the side it had travelled. We measured the wave frequency by counting the number of waves in a minute and we worked out that if there were 12 or more in a minute they were destructive waves and if there were less than 12 they were constructive waves. We measured the angle of the beach at a few different sites by using a clinometer. The data we collected will be used in our Geography lessons to develop our understanding of coastal erosion.

*Emily Hamilton & Heidi Francis*

## Year 8T Charity Cake Sale

8T decided to raise money as a charity Christmas present for Parkinson's UK and Epilepsy Action. We held a cake sale and a Christmas Jumper Day, which together raised £232.19 and will be split between these two charities.



## AWE Engineering Challenge

In October, a team of Year 9 pupils undertook the annual AWE Engineering Challenge at their Aldermaston Campus. Competing against other local schools, each team was given the same items

with which to build a siege engine. The machines were then assessed for distance, power and accuracy and the students were questioned on their engineering design and general physics knowledge.

Our team chose to make a large crossbow and managed to send their load the second-longest distance.

Although they did not win the challenge, they thoroughly enjoyed the experience and got a better understanding of the wide variety of careers that studying science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects can lead to.



## Year 9 to the Roman Baths

The Year 9 trip to Bath was eagerly anticipated and certainly lived up to expectations. Students excelled in the study session, identifying Roman objects such as the strigil (sweat-scraper) and translating the Latin inscriptions left by Roman visitors to the baths. They learned about the construction and geographical significance of the baths, as well as their more recent history and archaeological significance.

The girls had the opportunity to look around the baths, aided by the audio guide, and investigate the aspects they had been learning about in class. The Year 9 Latin group, having written their scripts in lessons the week before, recorded sound bites for a historical documentary with the Roman baths as a backdrop.

Finally, everyone, including the Classics Bear, made a visit to the gift shop and the infamous fudge emporium before heading home.





## There Are No Pom Poms!

I never thought I would do anything like this, and sometimes I cannot get my head around it — my team is going to the Cheerleading World Championships.

We are called Crimson Heat Tigers and we are the first team to represent GB at the World Championships, which will take place in May 2017 at the Walt Disney World Resort.

We do tumble, jumps, dance and stunts in perfect time to music. I am a base and lift flyers up into the air. You need to be quite strong as otherwise you might drop somebody, and that would not look good!

I have to commit to training and feel incredibly lucky to have made it on to the team. I have always worked hard in sport and this has now paid off.

**Daisy Tolhurst**

## 500 Years of British Art



500 years in a day....Year 9 and Year 10 artists explored 500 Years of British Art at the Tate Britain, London. Year 9 were investigating the different interpretations of urban and rural environments in paintings across the centuries. Meanwhile, Year 10 took the opportunity to explore the exhibition for inspiration and help with



interpreting their current project, Journey. Sketchbook pages were filled and imaginations captured....a really enriching day.

## Programming Club

In Programming Club we have been testing a new product called the Edison, a programmable LEGO compatible robot. It has several sensors to detect objects in its path, as well as light and dark, and it also has a sound detector and can output light and sound. Students tested how the Edison's sensors responded and how well it ran pre-set programs. They also used its programming software to create their own programs using the device's online interface. The students programmed Edison to follow a path, respond to claps and avoid obstacles. They also programmed it to play a tune and follow a light.

Next term, we plan to build our Raspberry Pi computer and to take part in the Raspberry Pi organisation's Pioneer Challenges.

## The Knitting & Stitching Show

At the beginning of October, GCSE Textiles and Art students went to the Knitting & Stitching Show at Alexandra Palace, London, with Miss Keenleyside and Miss Hunter.

Throughout the course of the day we met a large number of practising textile artists, including Anne Kelly, Catherine Fox and Dionne Swift, and asked them lots of questions about their work. We also looked around the textile galleries within the exhibition, taking lots of photos to use as inspiration for when we returned to the Art Studio.

In the first part of the exhibition, there were several textile responses to the gardens landscaped by Capability Brown, who designed our school grounds.

We also saw a live demonstration from well-known textile designer, Anne Kelly, who was making an appliqué and hand-stitched beetle postcard. It was really useful and interesting to understand the techniques she used and how we could use them in our work.

It was a very useful and enjoyable day.

**Lucy Melling & Jodie Scott**





# SENIOR SCHOOL

## Big Science Presentation

Joe Woodford and Silvia Zorzetti gave an extremely informative presentation on their work on the Large Hadron Collider at CERN, Europe's biggest particle physics experiment.

Ms Zorzetti spoke about her work keeping the LHC in alignment on the nanometre scale and how magnetic fields are used to do this. She went on to explain that even being out of alignment by a few nanometres makes a huge difference. Students were able to measure their hands and height in nanometres to see just how tiny one is (one billionth of a metre).

Ms Zorzetti encouraged students to consider a career in science and emphasised how enjoyable it is to work in the international arena at CERN.

## Berlin: Bringing History to Life



At 3:30am on 24 October we set off from St Gabriel's for Gatwick Airport. After a two hour flight we reached Berlin and made the most of the afternoon by visiting the Checkpoint Charlie Museum, which is packed with exhibits and accounts of escapes over the Wall. For supper, Mr Lewis took us to the spectacular Sony Centre, where we also took pictures of the beautiful architecture within the centre. Then, it was a quick visit to the Topography of Terror with its striking collection of images of Berlin under Nazi rule.

Our second day was spent at Potsdam, the location of the final meeting of the Grand Alliance. After a tour we set off for the Sachsenhausen concentration camp, which is situated 20 miles north-west of Berlin. It was a huge eye-opener for us, detailing the ordeals suffered by the minorities under the Nazis. Once we felt we had spent enough time at the camp, we set off for the TV Tower, which was built in Communist East Berlin to show off its superior technology during the Cold War. The tower gives you a fantastic vantage point over Berlin and when it is dark you can discover just how busy the city's nightlife is.

On our third and final day, we visited the Holocaust Memorial. We began by making our way through the maze of stone pillars on the surface before descending into the museum, where we read accounts of some of the many Jewish victims of Nazi rule. We then made the short walk to the Reichstag, where we explored the dome and took in the views over the city. Our last stop was the Brandenburg Gate.

**Charlotte Dick**

## St Gabriel's Heads to a Curious Incident

In November, a large group of mathematicians and students of English Literature headed for London for an exciting adventure. We began at the beautiful Gielgud Theatre where we were delighted by

a workshop on aspects of the mathematics to be found in the play, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time*. It was an entertaining workshop packed with prime numbers, probability and Pythagoras! We were also given an illuminating insight into the way in which mathematics was used in the design of the production which suggested interesting career paths.

In the afternoon, we set off through the Christmas crowds to the National Gallery and enjoyed a stroll around glorious art, from Botticelli to Renoir. It was then time for supper so we made our way to a restaurant, taking in the dazzling Regent Street Christmas lights on the way. Happy and replete, we returned to the theatre and were thrilled by the production which made us laugh a lot, but also moved us to tears. What a wonderful day!

## Senior UKMT Maths Challenge

In November, a number of Year 11 and Year 13 Maths students entered the Senior Maths Challenge. The following girls are to be congratulated on their achievement:

**Bronze:** Louise Barlow, Emily Pickett, Tara Conway & Lottie Brash

**Silver:** Anisha Malli, Holly Hathaway, Anjelika Ryder, Alice McGonnell, Victoria Williams & Rowan Saltmarsh (Best in Year 11)

**Gold:** Colette Bell (Best in Year 13 & Best in School)

## House Dance 2016

After a fortnight of careful planning, secret rehearsals in any empty space around the school and some energetic jiving in the corridors, the Senior School absolutely wowed their audience with this year's House Dance competition. The judges (Mrs Hastings, Miss Matthews, Dr Tebbs and Mrs Sharman) were treated to a truly terrifying version of *Thriller*, an explosive *Dynamite*, a riotous *I Predict a Riot* and an absolutely rip-roaring *Party Rocking*. Trying to choose a winning house was an incredibly difficult decision due to the fantastic level of energy and enthusiasm flying around the Sports Hall from all who took part. After much heated discussion, the judges finally concluded that girls in Alban who, performed *Timber*, would win the Year 7—Year 9 category and girls in Chad, who performed *Thriller* would win the Year 10—Year 13 category.

Further congratulations go to Chad for winning the overall House Dance Competition with Alban a very close second (a mere ¼ of a point behind).

Well done to the Sixth Form who managed and directed the entire event – your choreographic skills are extremely impressive!





## International School Award

We are very proud to announce that, in recognition of its work to bring the world into the classroom, St Gabriel's has been awarded foundation level of the British Council's prestigious International School Award. This award celebrates the achievements of schools that do exceptional work in international education. Fostering an international dimension in the curriculum is at the heart of the British Council's work with schools, so that young people gain the cultural understanding and skills they need to live and work in today's world.

Every year, we welcome to the school four modern languages assistants from French and Spanish speaking countries, China and Italy. Working with these young adults provides our Junior and Senior students with first-hand experiences of foreign cultures and languages in the classroom.

Stephen Hull, Senior Project Manager at the British Council, said: "St Gabriel's international work has earned the school well-deserved recognition in the form of the British Council International School Award - Foundation Certificate. The school's dedication to internationalism is enriching education for its pupils by bringing an essential global dimension to learning and encourages the development of skills children need to be global citizens of the future. Embedding an international ethos across a school can lead to full International School Award accreditation."

## Australian Exchange

The exchange program has been an invaluable experience and I have made friends that I will keep for life — I have had the most amazing time. One of the highlights of the six weeks was going to London, where we made the most of everything the city has to offer. We visited M&M World, indulging in four floors of chocolate heaven and personalising our own M&Ms. We ate in some amazing restaurants and cafés; my favourite was Cocomaya, which does the catering for Liberty and Selfridges. I had the best pistachio and chocolate croissant ever!

Having heard so much about Harrods and Liberty, it was amazing to visit these stores. The gift shop and the Christmas shop in Harrods were extremely tempting; just so many Christmas baubles and teddy bears.

We also visited Westminster Abbey. I am a huge fan of the Royal Family and having watched Prince William and the Duchess of Cambridge's wedding on television in Australia, it was lovely to see in person where they got married.

We also went to Oxford, visiting some of the university's colleges, and Reading for a shopping trip.

One of my favourite days in England was spent exploring the beautiful town of Windsor. We visited Windsor Castle and saw Queen Mary's Dolls' house. We toured the State Apartments and an exhibition displaying some of the outfits the Queen has worn over the years — this was my favourite part of Windsor Castle.

To conclude, I would like to thank everyone who has been part of my exchange experience and made it so memorable. Thank you to the girls and teachers at St Gabriel's who have made me feel so welcome. I have some fantastic memories of the past six weeks that I will keep for the rest of my life. Thank you.

**Amelia Connolly**

I signed up to the exchange to experience a different way of living and education, to meet new people and, ultimately, to gain self-confidence. The time I have spent in England has been incredible and I will never forget it.

I have made so many new friends at St Gabriel's. This was quite hard for me because I am naturally an introverted person. However,



the girls made it easy for me to be myself. Lucy Tulloch, Kitty, Zoe, Emma, Jen and many more lovely people have had a huge impact on me and will be friends for life.

I found it fascinating to be a part of a different education system and to experience the British way of life. One thing I found amazing was the school's cafeteria and the delicious food it served. At my school in Australia, we take in packed lunches every day. Another thing that struck me was the weather. In Australia it is mainly hot, we rarely get cold weather unlike in England where it is cold every day.

This exchange has been an incredible experience. I did miss my family but I was able to put that to one side and get on with the day quite easily thanks to my friends. I would definitely encourage other students to sign up for the exchange because if I can do it, anyone can. I was anxious at the thought of spending six weeks away from my family but to put myself out of my comfort zone was the best thing ever!

**Carla Tulloch**





# SENIOR SCHOOL

## University College, Oxford



In October, a number of Year 11 students from the academic Challenge & Extension Programme visited University College, Oxford. This was an opportunity for them to find out more about applying to Oxford or Cambridge and what it entails as well as what it is like to study at either of these institutions. They were given a talk by a former student, who now works at the college, and she was able to answer a wide range of questions and tell the girls about university and college life, including the annual inter-college tortoise race. I think we all left Oxford feeling inspired and excited about the future, whether it be our A levels choices for next year or plans for university.

**Charlotte Culley**

## From a Science Degree to Business

Former pupil and current parent, Julia Carter, came in to talk to Senior School pupils interested in careers in medicine, science and business about her career. Mrs Carter outlined her journey from a pharmacy degree to running her own international leadership development and training business, Zestfor, which specialises in technical industries such as Pharmaceutical, IT, and Life Sciences. She emphasised that your choice of degree should not send you down any one particular route as there is a wide variety of careers available within the pharmaceutical industry as her experience shows.

The final part of Mrs Carter's talk considered emotional intelligence and the role of women in leadership. She highlighted a pertinent quote from Sheryl Sandberg, CEO of Facebook, which resonated with many in the room, *"I want every little girl who*



*someone says 'they're bossy' to be told instead, 'you have leadership skills' because I was told that and because every woman I know who's in a leadership position was told that."*

## Dr Maria Stamatopoulou, Lincoln College

As part of the on-going enrichment programme in the Classics Department, we held a careers talk for GCSE and A level students. Dr Maria Stamatopoulou of Lincoln College spoke about the courses on offer at Oxford University and the careers her past students have followed on graduating (including video game development, super yacht sales and writing fiction), as well as the interview process that students can expect during their Oxford application.

In addition, William Clarke and Kelly Braund discussed how a degree in classics led them into their fields of finance and law. Students had the opportunity to ask questions and topics raised included UCAS statements, practical archaeological aspects of Classics courses, and how the speakers chose the universities they wanted to apply to. The talk gave students a broader understanding of university and career paths, as well as the doorways that studying Classics can open.

**Miss Eleanor Halstead, Classics Department**

## November

Throughout the month of November, our male teaching, support and maintenance staff participated in Movember. However, this wasn't just a case of growing a moustache for a month.... Oh, no, the staff had the style of moustache selected for them using a wheel of fortune style app; from mutton chops to handlebars to horseshoe styles the challenge was set.

To raise funds for the valuable work Movember supports, pupils were able to vote to keep their favourite member of staff in the competition with one person being eliminated each week. Itchy faces, the world of male grooming and moustache shaping quickly became hot topics in the staff room!

The winning teacher was revealed in a whole school assembly at the end of Movember; Mr Havercroft romped to victory with Dr Tebbs, Mr Dove, Mr Smith, Mr Scobie and Mr Ives as runners up.

To add to the fun and raise further funds, both the Junior and Senior Schools held a Moustache Day. Pupils across the school sported an array of stuck on or hand drawn moustaches with prizes for the best in each year group. So far the total raised during Movember is £432.00.





## Year 12 Study Skills Weekend



Our story begins in a Priory near Newbury, where students and teachers gathered together in the early morning sunshine to set sail on the good ship **Ford Transit** for Southampton. Here, they boarded another good ship, the **Red Falcon**. This free bird of the Red Funnel Line was to take us down the often stormy Southampton Water and across the pirate-infested Solent for the largely unexplored environs of the port known as East Cowes.

Travelling intrepidly to the heights of the Island brought us to Carisbrooke Castle, where the ramparts were scaled. The massive embankments and redoubts, and even the flower gardens, provided ample opportunities to explore the rationale for such a structure. The donkey powered water lift proved a great hit as did the model ballista in the museum.

Saturday dawned windy and wet so an indoor study session followed breakfast. Then, later in the morning our party travelled to the Brading Roman Villa complex, where our team was treated to a fascinating treatise on the life and times of the rich Roman tax collector who had the villa built and maintained in a luxurious style. The quality of the decorative mosaic floors, still in exceptional condition, gave evidence of this.

In light drizzle, our intrepid team then entered the Island's attraction known as Dinosaur Isle. This exhibit has a wealth of original and copy dinosaur skeletons and reconstructions of the animals themselves. Our scientists revelled in the exposed animatronics and the microscope specimens on display.



Sunday dawned bright and sunny, which heralded an after-breakfast walk to the nearby Dimbola Lodge, the original home of the Victorian photographic pioneer, Julia Margaret Cameron. Of particular interest were her original works with explanations of her favoured photographic techniques. Also of interest was the modern photographic exhibit by the camera company, Olympus, of contemporary comedians. There was also considerable interest in the 1972 Isle of Wight Festival artefacts and many photographs were taken with the statue of Jimi Hendrix at the front of the house.

Following a daring ride down from the cliff tops in a chair lift, lunch was taken on the beach at The Needles. Some paddling ensued and then the faithful bus was regained and used to transport us to Osborne House, where Queen Victoria spent her final years. The stunning panoramas back over to North Island entranced our party as did the opulence of the interior.

Tired but happy, the team headed home to the Priory, which marked the end of the adventure.

*Mrs Nichola Archer, English Department*

## Margaret Atwood Interview



English Literature students went to the Sheldonian in Oxford to hear Margaret Atwood speak about her new book, **Hag-Seed**; she was interviewed by Emma Smith, Professor of Shakespeare Studies at Oxford University. The talk covered diverse topics such as which Shakespeare character was the best representation of the playwright himself, influences of Atwood's own childhood on her writing and her contribution to the Future Library Project in Norway.

The talk was a hugely educational and entertaining experience; we all learned a lot about a wide range of topics.

*Mrs Nichola Archer, English Department*

## Safe Drive Stay Alive

Year 12 attended the Safe Drive Stay Alive presentation at the Hexagon in Reading. It had a very powerful impact on everyone due to the first-hand experience of the speakers, who all had their own stories to tell, including a fireman, a policeman, a paramedic, a doctor, someone who was involved in an accident and suffered life changing injuries and a mother of a young man who died in a road traffic accident. The speakers opened our eyes to the importance of wearing a seatbelt, not using your phone while driving, not being under the influence of drink or drugs and driving within the speed limit. The message that hit everyone the hardest was definitely the recount of the mother of the son who had died as it was so real.

Overall it was an incredibly useful and insightful presentation and will definitely make us think about driving carefully in the future.

*Lottie Hutton*



# SIXTH FORM

## Houses of Parliament & the Supreme Court



Year 12 and Year 13 Politics and Business Studies students travelled to Westminster for an exciting day of activities. First, we entered the Houses of Parliament and received a guided tour of the Palace of Westminster. This included being shown around the two chambers, the House of Commons and the House of Lords, and walking along the route the Queen takes to the Lords at the State Opening of Parliament. We also saw the statue which Suffragette, Marjory Hume, chained herself to in protest in 1909. As we were leaving the Palace, we had a surprise appearance from none other than the former Prime Minister, David Cameron!

We then visited the Jewel Tower, one of the only buildings that survived a devastating fire in Westminster in 1834.

After a picnic in St James' Park, we walked past Downing Street to the Supreme Court, where we were shown two of the courtrooms and learnt about some of the cases that have been passed to the Court. After having an obligatory photo in the justices' chairs, we left the Court and re-entered the Houses of Parliament where we sat in the public gallery in the Commons and watched an interesting debate on education and grammar schools. This was a great conclusion to a fascinating and informative day.

**Emma Lack**

## ESU Debating Competition

Having developed their debating skills in the Sixth Form Debating Society, Philippa Lazarus and Louisa Mannion represented the school in the ESU Debating Competition at Bradfield College. They were cordially welcomed by the Bradfield team and enjoyed a fiercely fought competition between four Sixth Form teams. The two motions debated were: 'This House Believes that the Voting Age Should be Lowered to 16' and 'This House Believes that Sports' Salaries Should be Capped'. Both motions were defeated. Philippa and Louisa presented excellent arguments, putting points of information across and rebutting superbly. We look forward to the next competition debate which will be at the Oxford Union Schools' Debating Competition in January at Headington School, Oxford.



## Animal Psychology at Marwell Zoo

Year 13 Psychology students attended a lecture on animal psychology and psychological research involving animal behavior at the Science & Learning Centre at Marwell Zoo. We then designed our own observational research and carried out a pilot study using either event or time sampling. The design involved first creating our own behaviour categories, then watching rats and recording their behaviour at certain time periods. Once the pilot study was completed, we began our main research. The task was to observe two different species of animal who are related, for example giraffes and zebras, and make comparisons between them. This was a test to identify similarities and differences in behaviour between related species. The outcome of our research was that there were distinctive contrasts in inter-species behaviour. The opportunity to freely walk around the zoo and see all the animals was an enjoyable end to an engaging and interesting day, in which we combined learning about observational research methods with the psychology of animal behaviour.

**Emma Lack**





## Smiles with Grace



In November, my family and I held a charity day to raise money for Smiles With Grace, a charity set up by my cousin, Grace, at the age of 14, when she was suffering a serious brain tumour, the second in a seven year battle that started in 2007. Unfortunately after two brain tumours, two brain haemorrhages and a stroke, Grace passed away two years ago.

Thankfully, the work of Smiles With Grace continues by supporting families with relatives suffering from tumours, strokes and other cancerous diseases. Even though not everyone can win their battle, Smiles With Grace works to ensure that what time they have left, be it long or short, is lived to the full and that not one day is wasted.

To help support the exceptional work of this charity, we held a bake sale and Purple Day (Grace's favourite colour), raising over £710. This will be put towards funding research in to tumours and be put towards helping people achieve things they want to do before they no longer have the chance.

Thank you for your support; it was wonderful to have such generosity and smiles for Grace!

**Ellen Reed**

## The Physics of Surfing

Cleverly disguised under a new title, The Science of Surfing, 10 unsuspecting Sixth Form scientists were taken from landlocked Newbury to the tropical coastal waters off Bournemouth. Pupils were taught applied physics on the beach by an advanced skills teacher, Neil Atkin, who is renowned for inspiring young physicists with his imaginative teaching techniques. The physics behind projectile motion and aerodynamics was explored using fruit and vegetables, whilst Newton's laws of motion were placed into a surfing and then a paddleboarding context.

Following a morning of theory, which included firing catapults across the beach, our 10 willing volunteers were let loose on paddleboards to practically explore what they had been taught. Gravity, buoyancy, surface tension, the properties of waves and the ability of balance using Newton's laws were certainly reinforced during a tiring day.



## Innocent Smoothies

Year 13 Business Studies students attended a tutor2u course in London to support their new linear A level. After a productive day of learning from experienced examiners, we travelled across London to the Head Office of Innocent in Ladbroke Grove. Our tour of the offices was fascinating and allowed the girls to consolidate their classroom learning. They will now be able to use Innocent, with its quirky organisational culture and forward thinking approach to managing and motivating staff, as a practical example in their essays. Students left with a desire to work for Innocent or a business with similar values. The complimentary smoothies at the end of the visit rounded off an excellent day.





# SENIOR SCHOOL MUSIC

There have been plenty of musical highlights in the last three months, both in terms of key performances and on-going pupil successes. The Year 7 music and drama piece, **Tribal Encounter**, performed before half term, showcased the creativity of the whole year group. They devised the story, based on a meeting in the jungle between two initially hostile communities; composed the songs, and acted and sang with great energy and focus. The group showed strong singing skills and some of them have now joined the newly regrouped St Gabriel's Singers, who performed to much acclaim at the Harvest Festival service and Senior Speech Day.



Throughout the term we have been treated to regular performances in both Junior and Senior assemblies, with music of impressive quality ranging from Rosie Rostron's steel panning, to a polished rendition of the first movement of Bach's Double Concerto played by Lottie Swainston and Georgina Wilkins. And, there were many other performances to enjoy, including some stunning piano playing from Libby Stewart-Power in a recent lunchtime concert.

The Carol Service again exceeded expectations, both in the range of performances from all the year groups, choirs and orchestra, and in the excellent attendance and singing of the huge audience. What an exciting and festive end to a busy term!

It has been great to see several new groups forming this term and these, the new String Quartet, Flute Group, Jazz Flutes and Rock Band, will all perform at next term's Senior Concert.



## Individual Successes

We were delighted to learn over half term that Lottie Swainston, one of our music scholars, has been selected for the National Youth Orchestra. Lottie achieved Distinction for both Grade 8 Violin and Grade 6 Singing during the Summer Term, having obtained a Distinction for Grade 8 Piano this time last year. She also secured



the top grade for Music at GCSE whilst in Year 9. As a member of the St Gabriel's Singers and our school orchestra, Lottie contributes widely to the musical life of the school.

Against tough competition from some of the country's top performers, Juliette Ashman's talent and hard work has resulted in her being selected to sing with the National Youth Choir of Great Britain. Juliette has always played a full role in the musical life of the school, playing trumpet in the Oval Orchestra, trumpet soloist in the Jazz Band as well as being a key singer in the St Gabriel's Singers. Juliette acted and sang in the Senior School production of Godspell in 2014, and played a leading role as the plant in the 2016 production of Little Shop of Horrors. Juliette has also performed regularly as a soloist in lunchtime and evening concerts, as well as in assemblies and other whole school events. Along with four other students in her year, she achieved an A\* in GCSE Music in Year 9.

## Music Examination Results

Jennifer Barratt	Singing	Prep	Pass
Rachel Berkley	Singing	02	Merit
Megan Bradd	Piano	03	Pass
Molly Cazaly	Clarinet	02	Merit
Elizabeth Ferneley	Clarinet	04	Distinction
Amy Findell	Piano	01	Merit
Ismay Gallup	Piano	Prep	Pass
Jolie Hartland	Piano	Prep	Pass
Georgia Kynaston	Singing	02	Pass
Clare McGonnell	Flute	01	Distinction
Molly Montague	Flute	03	Merit
Zara Peel	Descant Recorder	02	Distinction
Ellen Reed	Piano	05	Pass
Araminta Roskill	Piano	Prep	Pass
Bethany Rushton-Taylor	Singing	08	Distinction
Lydia Russell	Violin	01	Pass
Rowan Saltmarsh	Piano	05	Merit
Eve Saunders	Singing	05	Pass
Libby Stewart-Power	Piano	08	Distinction
Anna Stirk	Piano	07	Merit



## Condoever Hall

The netball season started with a weekend netball tournament for over 50 girls at Condoever Hall in Shropshire. It was a fun-filled two days with the girls enjoying plenty of netball as well as teambuilding challenges, which encouraged them to conquer their fears through a range of outdoor activities.

Eight teams represented the school with each team displaying good teamwork and leadership qualities. Our U16 squad battled through to the final where they lost by one goal to St Mary's Ascot, whilst our U15 team reached the semi-final.

As usual the girls were a delight and great ambassadors for the school. They returned enthusiastic and highly motivated for the busy season that lies ahead.



## Equestrian

The Equestrian Team took part in the annual Inter-Schools One Day Event at Stonar School. The girls had to compete in all three disciplines, dressage, show jumping and cross country, the latter was a 2.5km course over 18 fences and water complexes.

St Gabriel's had a team in both the 90cm and 100cm classes and an individual in the 80 cm class. All of the girls rode extremely well and were a credit to the school.

Our 90cm team just missed out in the placings in a very competitive section. In the 100cm class our team of Holly H, Millie M and Anna M came 4<sup>th</sup>, with Anna M winning individually on a 27.8 dressage and double clear.



Everyone in the Equestrian Team thoroughly enjoyed the experience of competing at such a large event.

## Cross Country

The first round of the ESSA Cross Country Cup took place in October at Reading Blue Coat School. The Inter Girls (IG) team was made up of Year 9 and the Junior Girls (JG) was made up of Year 7 and Year 8. The Junior Girls were required to run a 2500m course through woodlands and different terrain; there were many hills which made the course quite challenging. The Inter Girls ran a similar 3000m course, with an extra hill added on! The rules of the competition are that each school can have up to six runners, but only the top four runners' scores count. The school with the lowest score and therefore the highest placings wins. The Junior Girls finished in 4<sup>th</sup> place with outstanding performances from Gabby Stewart Power (Year 8) and Brooke Asser (Year 7). The Inter Girls finished in 5<sup>th</sup> place.

## Netball

We have had a successful term with netball and huge progress has been observed in all teams. The standard of competition has been tough, with the teams playing against other GSA schools, but this has resulted in a significant improvement in the girls' game.

Congratulations to the Year 7 and Year 8 netball teams who both finished the term on a high as runners-up in the District Netball Tournament, which is a fantastic achievement for these girls who give so much time to training and are extremely enthusiastic. A huge improvement has been seen in both teams' play since the start of term. A thoroughly deserved result.

Congratulations, too, must go to the Year 9 netball team who were runners-up in the District Netball Tournament.

We entered an U19 team into the County Netball Tournament, although the team were all U16 apart from one! The team did very well; winning against Bradfield College and Downe House and coming 4<sup>th</sup> out of 6 in the section. This team also entered the ISNC Cup and progressed through to the second round, beating Godolphin & Latymer. The team travelled to Hertfordshire to play St Albans High in the second round. They had a very close match, narrowly losing out on a third round spot. A very good experience for the girls who have huge potential for next year.

We have a large number of girls participating in local clubs such as Newbury, Weston Park Blades and Eagles. A special mention must go to Darcey Scott (Year 10), Sophie Bundock (Year 11) and Mitzi Scott (Year 12) who have all been selected for the Regional Academy and Regional Performance Academy, which are part of the England Netball talent pathway.

The Netball Academy on a Monday night has been a success and all the girls have been pushed hard to improve their ability.





# SENIOR SCHOOL SPORT

## Hockey

Traditionally, this has been the hockey term for Year 10 and Year 11 with both year groups participating in the West Berkshire League. The U14s and U16s also represented the school in the County Hockey Tournaments as well as in some of the District Indoor Tournaments, with Year 11 winning theirs in the penultimate week of term. Mr May has worked extremely hard with the girls, regularly taking them to Horris Hill to train and play. Next term is action-packed with hockey fixtures for all year groups with Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 taking part in the West Berkshire League.

## Football

Mr Ives has run the lunchtime Football Club throughout the term and it has been attended by a large number of girls from across the Senior School. All year groups have been taking part in the District 5-a-side Tournament with the Year 11 team being runners-up in their category. This club will continue next term with more football fixtures in the diary. Thank you to Mr Ives for his support and enthusiasm; his efforts are much appreciated.

## Gymnastics

The Gymnastics Squad have been busy training and recently had a competition against Downe House. The junior girls scored 56 points with Downe House scoring 65. The senior girls scored 66.2 with Downe House scoring 66 points. Holly Hake, Amy Findell, Jemima Garner and Liv Berringer all achieved individual awards.

## A Level PE to Bath University

In November, our two A level PE students joined forces with Park House School and travelled to Bath University. The girls took part in numerous fitness tests, went into the state of the art sports science lab to look at anaerobic threshold testing and had a tour of the university's elite sporting facilities.

## Individual Achievements

There have been many individual achievements throughout the term but a few key performances are mentioned below.

**Horse Riding:** Izzi Ryder (Year 10) has added a gold medal with Team England to her show jumping achievements over the summer. She has been jumping on her two 138cm ponies, The Agent (Eddy) and Castlehill Ka La La (Baloo) and her 148cm pony Woodfield Five Star (Rory).

In July, Izzi competed both her 138cm ponies at the Royal International Horse Show at Hickstead in the Winter 138 Final class. This is a national final for which Izzi had previously qualified. Izzi and Baloo took 5<sup>th</sup> place in the competition.

Izzi was also selected to ride for Team England on Eddy at the Welsh Home Pony International in early August. Teams of four riders from England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales compete in this

competition. Izzi rode two clear rounds, helping Team England win the gold medal for the 138cm class.

**Rugby:** Congratulations to Abi Wilson who has been selected to play for the U18 Berkshire County Rugby Squad. Abi has been starting matches which is an excellent achievement for someone who is actually an U16! Congratulations also to Lauren Patrikios and Anisa Khorassani (Year 11), who were selected for the Berkshire U18 Rugby Development Squad.

**Ice Skating:** For the second year running, Jess Gill (Year 10) qualified for the British Championships, which took place in Sheffield at the end of November. Jess scored 28.03 and came 28<sup>th</sup>. Jess continues to work extremely hard balancing both her academic work and training commitments.

## Dance



St Gabriel's pupils collected a host of prizes at the JLD School of Dancing Presentation Day. Fenella Jones and Annabelle Gibson (Year 9) won the Senior Choreography Prize. Their debut piece was their own work and was the result of many hours of lyrical dance creativity in their spare time. Martha Croggon (Year 11) was awarded the Senior Ballet Cup and Imogen Strong (Year 6) the Junior Ballet Cup.

Martha Croggon also successfully auditioned for Berkshire County Dance Company Youth (BCDCY).

Congratulations to them all — we look forward to seeing their work in the Dance Showcase in March.

