

Newsletter

Summer 2017

St Gabriel's

Your Route to Success



Year 1 enjoying Peakabee, the Year 12 Young Enterprise business venture

We have heard a great deal of the words **strong** and **stable** over recent months and if hearing them has done anything to our world view, it is to confirm that what we thought we knew and expected, is not what we thought we knew or expected. This, of course, can be applied both politically and in a broader sense. It is at times of uncertainty that we turn to things that are reliable and dependable; things that have a constancy about them. However, there needs to be a balance between reliability and evolution.

As we reach the end of another school year, it is clear that St Gabriel's is a place of dependability and at the same time progression. Many times this year I have been asked, as the new Principal, if I was going to change the ethos of the school. My reply has always been the same, "Why change something that is so good? Why change something that works? Why change something that produces balanced, successful young people who have the confidence and ability to achieve what they want, without the arrogance and affectation that sometimes goes with independent education?" St Gabriel's manages to educate without these afflictions.

At Junior Prize-giving it was poignant to hear the Head Girls, while offering thanks to teachers and friends, pause to thank their parents for '**sending us to a school that is calm and not stressful.**' These words struck a chord with me. It is too easy for us to expect our children to grow up too quickly and to have to deal with the

stresses that are part and parcel of the adult world at too young an age. There is a need to prepare, certainly, but not at the expense of spoiling the natural pace of individual development and fulfilment.

No school can stand still, and over the course of the year, we have been evolving our teaching and learning to ensure that the new curriculums that all schools are facing are delivered in the most appropriate way. We look forward to celebrating the academic successes of our Year 11 and Year 13 students.

In June, I welcomed back a number of our alumnae. This was a wonderful way to reconnect with a vital part of our community and for them to see how the school is evolving. Much was reassuringly familiar to them, but as one alumna said to me '**it's so much better than when I was here; aren't the pupils lucky!**' All were excited to hear about the purchase of Sandleford Farmhouse and its development as the new Sixth Form Centre. Personally, I greatly enjoyed hearing many stories of high jinks and fun, some involving the police, many involving nuns, and some involving both! #onlyatstgabriels! It was also lovely to receive so many offers of help with careers; we are always keen to link up our students with alumnae (or parents) who might be able to offer assistance with work experience or insight into specific fields of work. If you feel that you can help in any way, please do get in touch with the school office.

Mr Ricki Smith, Principal

SANDLEFORD



To celebrate Father's Day, Sandleford children invited their fathers and grandfathers to join them for a superhero-themed activity morning. Everyone had a lovely time dressed as superheroes; the adults got involved in a variety of activities from den building with the older children to getting messy making handprint pictures with the younger ones.

A big thank you to all the fathers and grandfathers that came along for the morning, and especially the ones that entered into the spirit of the event and really did dress the part!

This term saw the return of one of our favourite annual fundraising events, the Barnardo's Big Toddle. Sandleford children, parents and staff joined up with the Reception children to 'toddle' around the school grounds to raise money for children less fortunate than themselves. The weather was perfect as everyone dressed in their brightly coloured outfits completed their sponsored walk, before enjoying a picnic tea in the school grounds. The sponsorship money has now been collected and we are delighted to announce that we raised over £550.00; an amazing amount for such a worthwhile cause. Thank you to everyone for your support.

The Baby Room enjoyed taking part in Healthy Eating Week. The children not only tried eating and tasting different types of fruit and vegetables but they got arty with it too, making fruit and vegetable print pictures.



The babies have also spent some time exploring the wider school facilities, which included having lots of fun in the dance studio where they practised their moves and dancing with brightly coloured ribbons. The children really enjoyed exploring this new space.

With the onset of the lovely sunny warm weather, the Baby Room's favourite activity by far has been having fun in the paddling pool. The noisy giggles, beaming smiles and considerable splashing is just lovely to see as you wander past.

The babies have been creative with lots of summer-themed craft activities. They have created pieces for a display board with sand castles, ice creams, buckets and spades, and of course lots of sunshine.



The Toddler Room has been learning about the emergency services, with the fire brigade being a particular favourite with the children. The staff have been really creative, setting up a wonderful activity using hose pipes, watering cans and 'fire' (shaving foam dyed with orange food colouring). The children, dressed up in their firefighter hats, enjoyed putting out the 'fire' in one of their dolls' houses.

The children have been talking about how to be safe in the summer and why we put on sun cream and wear hats. This proved particularly important and timely advice with the arrival of several spells of extremely hot weather in June. The staff have also talked with the children about why we have to be careful around barbeques and swimming pools, which linked nicely to finding out about where everyone is going on holiday this summer. The children really enjoyed finding out about the different ways they will be reaching their holiday destinations and explored the transport theme, learning about planes, cars, trains and boats. The role-play corner turned into a camping holiday complete with tent and outdoor backdrop. The children have loved packing their bags and going camping.



The Pre-School Room children have been busy in the garden planting beans, carrots and herbs, including lavender, which they particularly like with its bright purple flowers and strong aroma. The children are becoming very green-fingered and really enjoy looking after their plants, watering them regularly and watching for signs of growth.

The older pre-school children have had swimming lessons in the outdoor pool. On a bright sunny day, there really is no where better for them to develop their swimming techniques and build their water confidence.



The children have been practising for Sandleford Sports Day in both their PE lessons and outside in the nursery garden. They have been working on the skills needed to be part of a team, as well as familiarising themselves with the exciting events that Sports Day will involve, running, skipping, jumping and, of course, balancing those tricky eggs on spoons.

The pre-school children love cooking and regularly don their aprons and chef hats to create culinary treats in the kitchen area. This term they have made quiches and rocky road biscuits.



The school grounds, and the woods in particular, are a favourite place for the pre-school children to visit. During the hot weather, the woods have provided a cool and shady environment for the children to spend time in as well as a place for them to develop key outdoor learning skills. A group of pre-school children and staff enjoyed an outdoor education session with Mrs Bloxson (Reception/Year 2 Teacher). They climbed trees, discovered new areas of the woodland and enjoyed lots of cross-curricular fun in the outdoor environment.

The Summer Term naturally brings a period of change for the older pre-school children as they start to think about moving up to their new Reception classes. The children joining Reception at St Gabriel's have visited their new classroom and met their teachers on several occasions during the term and Sandleford has welcomed Reception teachers from local primary schools, who have visited the children that will be joining their schools in September.





OWL Time in Reception

In May, Reception became bluebell detectives, straying off the paths and exploring some of the secret parts of our school grounds to hunt for bluebells. When we finally located some, Mrs. Bloxsom told us that there were two different types of bluebells that grow in British woodlands; the native British bluebell and the non-native Spanish version. The difference between the two, amongst other things, is the colour of the pollen. Reception learnt to carefully lift up the bells and find the pollen hiding inside. If the pollen was white, the bluebell was British and if it was blue or purple the bluebell was Spanish. Reception were pleased to find that most of the bluebells in our school grounds are the native British version and we have added this information to the national survey of bluebells on the Woodland Trust website

Growing & Changing

Our most recent topic in Reception has been finding out about growing and changing. We started by planting beans so we could learn how to look after them and watch them grow. We planted them in clear pots so the children could see the roots emerging and the shoot starting to grow. Once they were big enough, we planted them out in the garden and have been monitoring how tall they have grown. The plants have now reached the top of the wigwams and are in flower. The children are keen to see if they will get as tall as Jack's beanstalk and reach the clouds so we can hunt for giants! The children also planted two sunflower seeds each; one was planted in our class flowerbed and the other taken home. We are looking forward to discovering who can grow the tallest. Reception, remember to take a picture and email Mrs Lawrence with the height of your sunflower plant when it flowers. There will be a prize for the tallest!

Caterpillars in the Post

We have also had a very special delivery; it isn't every day that five very small caterpillars are received in the post! They arrived with their own supply of special caterpillar food and we enjoyed watching them closely over the following weeks as we learnt about the lifecycle of the butterfly. After two weeks they all changed into cocoons; the children then had to wait patiently for a further two weeks before our five Painted Lady butterflies finally emerged and were released into the school grounds.



There have been many highlights for the Reception children this term as they have taken part in and experienced many of their 'firsts' at St Gabriel's. A first cross-curricular week, where they absolutely loved learning about the Egyptians and taking part in activities with the other year groups; a first Sports Day, where they were so excited to be representing their Houses for the first time, and, to round off an amazing year, their first performance in the Junior School's Celebration & Prize-Giving.

Have a wonderful summer, Reception, you have truly blossomed this year into well-rounded little people who are more than ready for the next stage of your St Gabriel's journey as you move to Year 1.

Mrs Clare Lawrence & Mrs Sarah Bloxsom

Egg-citing Times in Year 1

At the start of term, Year 1 had an egg-citing time when nine sweet little fluffy chicks joined their classroom.

One of the highlights of Year 1 is the Living Eggs experience. Our young, engaged learners have witnessed nature at its best. Maths lessons have been halted for hatchings; science lessons spent learning about the lifecycle of a chicken; pupils have enthusiastically cared and looked after our tiny, fragile visitors, and chick-themed poems and songs have been recited.

This unique experience has been confidently recorded by the girls and boys on their iPads in chick iBooks, through diaries, photos and video footage, which have been keenly shared with their parents at the end of each day.

'A woman walked into the room and she held a box. In the box were 10 eggs and she told us how to look after them. I think Living Eggs is really good and I like them!' **Harrison**



The Living Rainforest

During the short heatwave this Summer Term, Year 1 learnt about Bangladesh in Geography lessons. The children compared our local area to the human and physical geography of this Asian country. During very humid conditions, under our marquee on the back lawn, Year 1 pretended they were visiting their new friend, Musa, and wrote imaginative letters to their parents back home. Continuing this tropical theme we had a fun and informative visit to the Living Rainforest in Hampstead Norreys.

'We saw a black monkey and a huge sloth up a tree! We went on the playground and played on the roundabout.' **Sophia**

'We saw rainbow fish, a pretty butterfly and a stingray. It was warm and humid in the rainforest just like in Bangladesh, the country we are learning about in Geography.' **Charlotte**



Year 1 Visit Yew Tree Garden Centre

Spring officially arrived in Year 1 with the annual planting of Mrs Martin's flower boxes. In science, our young gardeners sowed and watered sunflower, poppy, cress and nasturtium seeds in their



individual gardens. Our learning was reinforced by a visit to the Yew Tree Garden Centre in East Woodhay, where the children had their own personal tour and took part in an iPad photo hunt!

Year 1 & Year 2 Art Club

Art Club has had a busy term finding out about Van Gogh and his sunflowers. The children have also been sketching outdoors, and have painted some beautiful mixed media summer themed pictures.



Year 4 to Lulworth Cove

Year 4 spent the Summer Term looking at how our coastline has evolved and been shaped by the effects of erosion from the sea, weather and humans. We did a great deal of classroom learning but the climax of our topic was the trip to Lulworth Cove, where we were able to see for ourselves how the land has changed and how our classroom knowledge can be applied to the real world. It was the children's first residential trip and had been eagerly anticipated.

'I loved it because I had fun in the sea.' **Shivani**

'We had a lovely time at Lulworth Cove. We had ice cream and it was very yummy.' **Clare**

'I loved it because we got to paddle in the sea.' **Tilly**

'I enjoyed my dorm, it was called Durdle Door but Mrs Black called us Durdle Dorm! The views were beautiful.' **Ellie**

'The arch at Durdle Door was so big! I loved drawing it.' **Zara**

'Doing the beach art was really good fun.' **Elsy**

'I loved seeing Durdle Door in real life instead of in a book.' **Eleanor**

'When we saw Durdle Door for the first time, it was very exciting!'

Vaibhavi





Cross-Curricular Week

The Junior School (Reception — Year 5) thoroughly enjoyed every aspect of Cross-Curricular Week. They loved dressing up and taking part in History Off The Page and visiting the Ashmolean Museum.

We have been really impressed with how many facts the children have learnt and remembered about ancient Egypt. They had great fun getting creative, too, making amazing scarab beetle pictures and learning to write their names in hieroglyphics.

'When History Off The Page visited, Aidan House did a dance at the pharaoh's banquet and on the River Nile. We drank grape juice and ate apricots, apples, pears and cheese. A lot of the boys dressed up as Tutankhamun, a pharaoh who died when he was just 18. We used tissue paper and a wooden peg to make a mummy with Mrs Lawrence. I loved Egyptian week!' **Isla Pullen**

'We went to the Ashmolean Museum; the best bit was the Egyptian artefact hunt. We had to find lots of Egyptian things. Then we saw a big building called a temple. I wore a necklace and a crown and became an Egyptian king. We had a delicious picnic lunch and a fun and very interesting day out.' **Nancy Redmond**

Year 3 started Cross-Curricular Week by learning all about the gruesome side of ancient Egypt. They listened to the story of the land of two fields, learning about death and the afterlife. They discovered that not everyone was allowed into the afterlife and that there were many conditions that needed to be met in order to be allowed to sail on Ra's boat to paradise. First, you had to have your name written down and Year 3 had fun creating their own cartouches on real papyrus paper. Secondly, they found out that you had to have a preserved body. Here's where the gruesome bit comes in, Year 3 had a go at mummifying each other (not for real of course), taking out the correct organs and putting them in the right



canopic jars! And finally, to enter the afterlife you had to have your heart weighed. If you had led a good and honest life your heart would be light and you would be free to pass on to the land of two fields. If your heart was heavy, however, Ammut the devourer would imprison you in your tomb for eternity.

Year 5 performed an Egyptian based play in a day on the Friday of Cross-Curricular Week. Individually they all worked very hard throughout the day to perfect their acting, and do the best they possibly could. It was great to see Year 5 working together and helping each other to achieve what was a fantastic show. The performance was reminiscent of the children's TV program, **Horrible Histories**. Historically correct, short, humorous and extremely gruesome!

A fantastic week was had by children and staff alike.





Year 5 Visit Bosville

In June, Year 5 visited Bosville in Normandy. We had sunny (but very windy) weather; a wonderful farm to stay on with horses, goats, chickens, alpacas and donkeys; delicious food cooked by Olivier, our host and chef; many exciting trips; lots of French to speak, and, not forgetting, a talent show on our last night!

We spent ages trying to decide the best bits... Our first choice was finally meeting our pen pals. We played games with them, including a hilarious sack race, then spent some time sharing local food that their parents had generously provided, artisan cheeses, breads, apple tarts and ciders. It was excellent practice for our French.

Hotly contested second choices were the bakery, with the scary baker, where we learned how to roll croissants and bread; the chocolaterie; Étretat, with the amazing cliffs painted by Monet and where we visited the Maison d'Arsène Lupin; the snail farm where some of us were brave enough to hold the snails and even rub them on our faces—their slime is apparently very good for the complexion, our farm, and the French market where we managed to spend our remaining euros!

Not only have we gained confidence in speaking French, but we have learnt how to make bread, croissants, butter, sailing knots and chocolate. We have had to manage our belongings and friendships, sharing rooms and food – in fact we were so busy in France that there simply was not time to miss anyone back home!

Year 5 Science Enrichment Afternoon

Year 5 were given the challenge of creating a balloon rocket that would travel quickly over a long distance. They designed their rockets carefully choosing the type of balloon and then adding nose-cones and fins to streamline and stabilise the craft. The rockets were duly decorated and named.

The effectiveness of each design was tested as the rockets were encouraged to 'fly' along a washing line of over 10m in length. Some rockets were barely launched before disaster struck, others flew greater distances, and the winner flew the full length of the line.

The rocketeers then prepared presentations on their experiments. Well done, Year 5, you can be rocket scientists!

Mrs Helen Porter & Mr Callum White, Science Department



JUNIOR MUSIC

The Junior Music Department has been a hive of activity. Year 1 performed a concert on their violins to parents, confidently using their bows. As a class, Year 2 enjoyed learning nursery rhymes on their ukuleles, which they performed to parents. Year 3 managed to play five instruments in their final concert, the recorder, fife, chalumeau, clarinet and flute — a record for a class concert! Further up the school, Year 5 learnt two Egyptian songs for their play in a day, including a Cleopatra themed rap! Year 6 sang beautifully in their production of **Hoodwinked** and were true professionals in their delivery in both performances.

Year 4 and Year 6 enjoyed a spectacular concert at the Newbury Spring Festival by Kathryn Tickell and her band, The Side. They thoroughly enjoyed seeing a live performance.

Orchestra has been working hard in rehearsals and performed their rendition of **Defying Gravity** to the school. Chamber Choir has doubled in size following the successful music tour to Italy. They are now rehearsing for a performance at the Royal Berkshire Show on Saturday, 16 September.

And, finally, well done to all who took ABRSM and Trinity instrumental and vocal exams.



JUNIOR SCHOOL



Year 6 to Mill on the Brue

Year 6 were blessed with fine weather for their week long residential visit to Mill on the Brue in Somerset. On their arrival, the children were introduced to their instructors and wasted no time breaking the ice with some fun warm-up games. Over the next five days, they were kept busy with a wide range of challenging activities, including canoeing, raft building, zip wiring and a high ropes course, which were aimed at developing self-confidence as well as strengthening leadership, teamwork and communication skills.

Much of the visit tied in with the Year 6 Geography topic, sustainability, and we were proud to be awarded Zero Hero wristbands at the end of the week to signify that not one gram of food had been wasted.

Year 6 enjoyed every second of their week as "Mobsters" and it would be impossible to pick out a highlight as there were so many. The children certainly came away from Mill on the Brue with a sense of pride, accomplishment and a unity that they will never forget.

Hoodwinked

At the start of May, Year 6 embarked upon rehearsals for their end of year play. They worked tirelessly to create an accomplished promenade indoor and outdoor performance of **Hoodwinked**, a musical written by Margaret Carpenter, based on the traditional tale of Robin Hood. With fantastic acting, dancing, singing and rapping, this show really did have it all. It included greedy friars who were pulled around in a trolley by a servant with a limp and a lisp, emerging from St Gabriel's very own Sherwood Forest, to a tournament in the marquee with some humorous slow motion and an arrow to the aforementioned servants forehead. Then there was Marian being serenaded in her bedroom by the whole cast who emerged from under her bed, whether she liked it or not. The question is, how many actors can you fit under a bed? The answer is two friars, Robin Hood, his merry men and a villager!

On being asked to write about their favourite moments, one pupil wrote "I loved seeing the teachers' faces when we finally got it right!" And they did. Oh, boy, they did. The audience were laughing so hard that they could barely catch their breath. Mr Dove remarked, "I haven't laughed so much in ages!" The Performing Arts team are all hugely proud of what Year 6 achieved and we hope that they will take away some very special memories from the show.

'I loved it when we performed with the set for the first time because the play really came alive.' **Claudia**

'I have learned how **NOT** to be a Blank Frank!' **Jolie**
'When you say a joke in the script you don't get it for ages. Then you suddenly get it and understand why everyone is laughing.' **Zara**
'It was so exciting when we finally did a dress rehearsal and did the whole play all the way through without stopping. The quick costume changes were fun!' **Lara**
'The first dress rehearsal was my favourite part of being in the play.' **Charlotte**
'When we rehearsed it all the time the jokes weren't very funny. Then, when we had an audience, they just couldn't stop laughing and it reminded us of all the humour in the play.' **Jess**



Chessington World of Adventures

Year 6 visited Chessington World of Adventures to celebrate the end of their time in the Junior School. The weather was perfect for a day of rollercoasters, water rides and animals. Each group chose what they wanted to do. Two groups started on the extreme rollercoasters, which had dramatic sharp corners and unexpected endings. The vampire was definitely the favourite ride, with Mr Havercroft and Miss Pearmine even agreeing! The other group chose to look at the sea life and go on the safari. Everyone had lots of fun and the day came to an end far too quickly.



As the school year draws to a close, it's lovely to reflect on another fantastic year of sport in the Junior School. We have competed against schools as far afield as Stubbington and Warwick Prep, in everything from swimming to boccia, developing our skills and fitness along the way. We have welcomed some more boys into our Junior School and this has helped boost our competitive play in a positive way, and they have supported us in many of the West Berkshire mixed events.

St Hugh's Cross Country Relays Competition

Ten girls took part in the St Hugh's Cross Country Relays in November and with our new coach, Mr May, picking up from the excellent coaching of Mr & Mrs Stewart-Power, the teams all ran in to 3rd and 4th medal places. I was particularly pleased to see the support the team gave each other and the determination that they should compete to the best of their ability. They certainly deserved their hotdog at the end of the afternoon!

West Berkshire Cross Country

What a great display of committed running was shown by our 16 pupils who took part in the West Berkshire cross country event at Newbury Showground. With over 1200 children running, in four separate races, the competition was extremely tough. Every child ran to the very best of their ability and there were some fantastic performances. A special mention must go to Clare McGonnell, who finished 3rd in her race of over 250 runners, and Poppy Russell, who was 6th. The Year 3/4 team narrowly missed out on a top three placing; while the Year 5/6 girls, with four runners in the top 25, achieved 3rd place and were only 10 points behind the winning team.

IAPS National Finalists

The Year 6 netball team have had phenomenal success this year, reaching the National Netball Finals for the first time in five years. This is no mean feat and required a season of committed determination and practice. We had a very early start to attend the finals in Basildon, followed by a full day of top class netball. Every member of the team played their best, impressing not only their parents but many of the coaches who were there with other teams. After six wins, two losses and a draw they came third in their pool, achieving the accolade of being in the top 12 teams in the country.



U9 Netball Festival at St Swithun's

Once again we enjoyed playing at the St Swithun's Netball Festival, where the emphasis is on playing and enjoying the game with no overall winner and no scores taken. This allows the girls to play without undue pressure and to enjoy the competition. At the end of the afternoon a best player from the team was selected by Mrs Joseph; Clare McGonnell proved to be outstanding throughout the competition.

St Hugh's Netball Tournament

Following an afternoon of fierce competition against 12 schools from Oxfordshire and Berkshire, the Year 5A and B teams both reached the semi-finals at the St Hugh's tournament. This is the second year running that we have fought through some tough opposition from The Manor, Rupert House and Oxford High. In the semi-finals, after two very closely fought matches, both teams lost by just one goal.

The Manor & Hampshire Collegiate Tournaments

Year 6 continued their netball success with finals places in both of these high profile tournaments. Coming across teams from Hampshire, Berkshire, Oxfordshire and Warwickshire the team is proving to be a formidable force. All the girls are adaptable and can play in any position on the court which makes them an asset for their future teams.

Area High 5 Netball Champions

After a challenging afternoon of netball, where at the end of every half game the team change bibs, the Year 6 team took on Year 5 to become area champions. Although the Year 5 team started very well and managed to keep the score to 1-1 at half time, the more experienced Year 6 team upped their game in the second half to win 5-2. They went on to represent West Berkshire at Bisham Abbey in a tournament which had to be abandoned due to torrential rain.

Newbury Netball Tournament

A fantastic morning of netball was had by both of our teams as they competed in the Area Netball Tournament. All the children played at the top of their game with both the Year 6B and Year 5A teams winning through the early group stages only to be narrowly beaten in the quarter-finals.

House Netball Winners: Chad

An afternoon of fiercely fought matches culminated with Chad being crowned House netball champions. Great leadership was shown by our sports captains who organised their teams, took the warm up and coached during the afternoon.

Players of the tournament: Charlotte Bedford, Grace Lewis, Luisa Jennings, Vaibhavi Nimmagadda, Charlotte Hamilton, Maddie Goss, Millie Jones and Eloise Taylor.

Newbury Netball Team

I am proud to announce that the following girls have gained a place in the Newbury Netball team for the 2017/18 season: Poppy Russell, Georgia Teeluck, Jessica Collett, Claudia Pope, Jolie Hartland, Charlotte Bedford, Charlotte Hamilton, Maddie Goss, Bella Castle, Ella Newborough and Ava Elverson.

Congratulations to Jolie Hartland, Year 6, who was awarded the coach's Player of the Year by Newbury Netball this season.

St Francis Hockey Tournament

With the help of Mrs Porter-Scott, the Junior School have been developing their 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 goalkeeper position, we worked very hard to only allow one goal in, while managing to score six goals against our opposition. At the end of the afternoon we remained unbeaten and were the overall winners in our section.

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 7th out of the 23 schools that were taking part. Jessica Collett had the second highest jumping score of the day with a standing jump of 1.92m.

QuadKids

Once again we have adopted the QuadKids athletics programme during our athletics lessons and for our Junior School Sports Day. Each pupil competes in a distance race, sprint, standing long jump and vortex throw. The children enjoy trying to beat their personal

JUNIOR SCHOOL SPORT

best times and distances and aim to beat the school record in each event.

In the Area QuadKids competition, with over 100 girls taking part, special mention must go to Georgia Teeluck (2nd), Jess Collett (3rd), Neve Wright (1st), Clare McGonnell (1st), Mia Wright (2nd).



Year 2 Bowling

Our terrific team of bowlers from Year 2 took part in the Key Stage 1 Schools Competition. Their technique improved with each game and there were spares and strikes aplenty.

Unfortunately their score total was not enough to finish in the top three but their positive attitude and behaviour were excellent. The children thoroughly enjoyed their afternoon. Well done to Abigail Hick, Lilly Hughes, Lucia Tedeschi, Elsie Genko and Stijn Sissons.

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.

Gymnastics

After a clean sweep in the Area Gymnastics Competition held at St Gabriel's in March, with gold medals for all, a clash with the Dance Showcase meant that we could only send our Year 1 and Year 2 squad to the County Finals at Reddam Gymnastics Club. The squad memorised their three routines and greatly enjoyed performing on the specially sprung floor. As the results were announced the squad was very nervous but the children were thrilled to learn they had been placed 2nd, behind a very disciplined team from Windsor.

West Berkshire Cycling

For the second year running we were asked to host the West Berkshire cycling event. Making the most of our lovely grounds, the team of six children mounted their bikes and practiced the course in advance of some strong competition from eight West Berkshire schools. The team competed in sprint, distance and endurance races. After an afternoon of cycling, Minty Roskill and Max Maleham won the final race to become West Berkshire champions.



Junior School Sports Day

The Junior School enjoyed another glorious Sports Day with children from Reception to Year 6 taking part in the events, which included a sprint, middle-distance run, standing long jump, vortex throw, obstacle race and relays. As well as the fun of taking part, there were some highly competitive races in each year group and many of the school records were broken. At the end of a wonderful afternoon, it was Bede who lifted the trophy.



Junior School Swimming Gala

An excited crowd gathered poolside for this year's Junior Swimming Gala. Year 1 and Year 2 began the programme of races which offered something to swimmers of all abilities. There was some superb swimming on display with the House Relay being won by Aidan; the Individual Medley winners were Max Maleham and Georgia Teeluck. The House Cup was won by Chad, who were just one point ahead of Bede.

Many thanks to all the Swimming Squad parents who have helped with swimming this term.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Junior School staff, Ali Grimstone Jones, Nicky Asser, Tara Pinchin, Jules Teeluck and, of course, the Junior School pupils for their hard work and enthusiasm this year. Have a well deserved rest over the summer break ready for more action-packed sport next season.

Mrs Alison Pasternakiewicz, PE Department



Sister Act

Year 7 were excited to go to the New Theatre Oxford to watch a new production of the Broadway and West End smash hit musical comedy, ***Sister Act***. Directed and choreographed by Craig Revel Horwood, *Sister Act* is based on the movie starring Whoopi Goldberg and Maggie Smith. The songs gave Year 7 disco fever and Miss Gunn could barely catch her breath from laughing so hard at the intentionally awful singing of the choir of nuns!

Yellow Day

On 16 June, Alaina Anidjah (Year 7) organised a Yellow Day in memory of her mother. Pupils and staff paid £1 to dress in yellow and there was also a cake and bracelet sale to raise money for the Institute for Cancer Vaccines & Immunotherapy. The school raised an incredible £493.00, which has been very gratefully received and will be used to fund research to make a difference to the lives of patients coping with this terrible disease.

Alaina would like to thank Anneliese, Brooke and Scarlett for all their help on the day. We are really proud of Alaina for raising such a fantastic sum of money for this very worthwhile charity.

Mrs Rebecca Wright, Head of Lower School



UKMT Junior Maths Challenge

In April, pupils in Year 7 and Year 8, alongside 250,000 others in the UK, entered this year's Junior Maths Challenge Competition. The top 6% are awarded Gold Certificates, the next 13% Silver and the next 21% Bronze.

We'd like to congratulate the following girls on their achievement.

Bronze: Emily Woodford, Olivia Corbett, Chloe Balls, Evie Williams

Silver: Tara Young, Milly Ducker, Amy Struthers-Semple, Sophia Tweedie, Emily Hamilton, Joanna Evans, Lily Williams (Best in Year 7)

Gold: Talia Saltmarsh (Best in Year 8 & Best in School)

Hands-on in the Science Museum



As an end of term treat, Year 7 went to the Science Museum in London and rounded off their visit with an evening performance of ***Matilda The Musical*** in Covent Garden.

Whilst in the Science Museum, we learnt about the power of energy (in the photograph you can see two of the girls feeling a small electric current for themselves). In the Materials Gallery, the students were able to feel and touch a variety of materials and try to guess what they were made from. We were awestruck to see Tim Peake's actual descent module from his recent trip into space, and we also spent time exploring the Who am I? Gallery, the Atmosphere Gallery and the Engineering our Futures Gallery.

Supper at Pizza Express was a big hit with Year 7 and, refuelled, we headed off to Covent Garden for the award-winning show. As one of the best theatre shows in London, *Matilda* did not disappoint. The girls thoroughly enjoyed experiencing the fictional school life of the lead character, and the heart-warming end to the story. What a great day out to end a very productive term.



TeenTech 2017

In June, a team of Year 8 students travelled to Basingstoke for the annual TeenTech event, where they were presented with a series of challenges which would give them a taste of what it is like to be an engineer.

The team started with an architectural task from Atkins: to build a geodesic dome from poles and fasteners using a drawing as their guide. Then Air Products challenged them to supply gas to customers using a pipeline or bottles. Next, the team had to come up with an invention to make life better and they invented an app to help people to not lose their phones or keys. After lunch the group met engineers from a number of local companies, including De La Rue, who manufacture banknotes, and the racing team, McLaren.



Rysa to Play Young Natasha in Oculus

Congratulations to Rysa Saujani (Year 8), who is one of the child actors in the official adaptation of the American horror film, **Oculus**. Rysa plays the role of young Natasha in the Bollywood remake, named **Dobaara - See Your Evil**, which was released on 2 June.



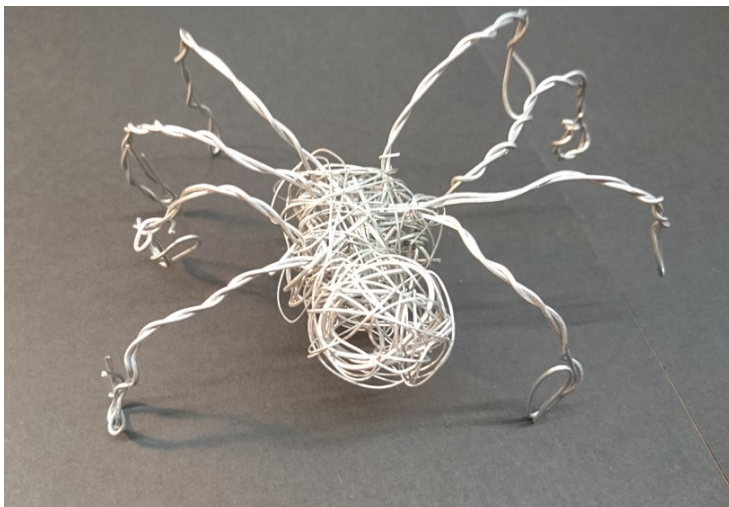
Rysa said, "I was really excited to see the finished film and it was amazing. My role was really fun but also very intense and very challenging since I had to portray lots of different emotions."

Rysa enjoyed working alongside some of Bollywood's leading actors. She said, "They were really genuine and down-to-earth, so nice and so sweet there were no egos and everyone was really supportive".

Year 8 3D Art



This term, Year 8 have made some beautiful 3D insects out of wire in Art. The girls first took photographs of the insects, then did some observational drawings, before the final pieces were made out of wire and beads.



Stevensons

Term Time Opening Hours

Tuesday: 2.30pm - 4.30pm

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



Parc Astérix 2017

On 29 June, 47 girls from Year 8, five teachers and Jupiter the Bear boarded a coach for France. This trip had many competitions! When we were half way to Dover we stopped at the services to do some shopping. As it was Tara's birthday, Mr Ives bought us some brownies which we really enjoyed. After leaving the services our first competition began — we had to write down the time we thought the coach would hit French soil. Olivia A eventually won the competition but lots of us were really close. Once off the ferry, we drove to Étampes, a WW1 memorial that has many graves of soldiers who fought so bravely. We had around an hour to look around the military cemetery and found graves belonging to soldiers of many nationalities. We had to write down how many nationalities we found and the oldest and youngest age. The winning group won some chocolate bars. We then drove to Flunch for dinner; the ordering was confusing but the food was really nice. We then did some shopping in the supermarché next door, where, in pairs, we had to try and buy the weirdest thing we could find for a euro, with the winner getting some more chocolate! We finally arrived at our hotel at 9:10pm, very tired but ready for the next day at Parc Astérix.

As expected Parc Astérix was absolutely brilliant; everyone really enjoyed it. We had two more competitions that day: a best selfie competition and a best classical photo competition. The rides were amazing, with many favourites, including Oziris, Goudrix, the water rides and Tonnerre de Zeus. One group managed to get a hilarious picture with Mr Ives on the log flume. Many other people got really good pictures, including excellent selfies. Some girls managed to get Jupiter on almost every ride! Everyone really enjoyed Parc Astérix and we would love to go again.

The next day, we brought a picnic lunch and headed to Samara, an archaeological park, where we learnt amongst other things why iron tools are the best, how to start a fire and that Mr Ives is really good



at throwing spears! After our picnic lunch we got back on the coach and headed to Calais. We watched Grease and had some great singing from Miss Lawson and Mr Ives! Before we got to Calais we had our final competition: guessing the time we thought the coach would turn into the drive. The prize was an Astérix book that the whole year and teachers had written in. As we got closer to school the winners of the competitions were announced. Eloise, Olivia M and Emma won the weird item competition with their shrimps. Molly M won the time we would get back to school competition as she had put the latest time. Then a group of girls handed presents and cards to the teachers and thanked them for taking us on such a fantastic trip.

We all had an amazing time and would recommend this trip to next year's Year 8. Finally a huge thank you to Miss Halstead, Miss Ferretti, Miss Lawson and Mr May. Also an even bigger thank you to Mr Ives for organising and making this trip possible. We all really enjoyed it.

Gabby Stewart-Power

A Poem Inspired by Étampes by Jorja King

A forest of stone, a flood of flowers,
When it comes to war, there are no superpowers.
This is reality, not fiction, hand grenades and guns.
Britons and Irishmen, Nazis and Huns.
Gas plagued the villages like a layer of toxic cloud.
Heavy green jackets like a camouflaged shroud.
The planes flew so high, the submarines dove so low,
The bombs hit the ground like tornadoes of smoke.
Right in the firing line, comrades were shot.
Charging in to battle as the horses canter and trot.
The cavalry had fallen, disease had spread.
The commander was captured and the generals are dead.
Now all that's left is an empty field,
With stone marking the lives greed had stole.
Long lost soldiers, forgotten sins,
But with a death toll this large who cares who wins?



AWE Master Class Success

Congratulations to Ellie Heywood (Year 9), who was part of the winning team at the AWE master class in June. She will now visit the amazing Orion Laser Centre belonging to AWE in September, one of the biggest capital science projects in the UK in the last 25 years.



Year 9 Community Link

Year 9G visited Mencap in Newbury for their Community Link Project. On their arrival they met Mark, who explained that West Berkshire Mencap aims to provide information, support and services for adults and children with learning disabilities, their families and carers. The girls had a tour of the centre, the sensory room and soft play area as well as the large bespoke playground outside, which allows disabled children and their siblings to enjoy playing together. The girls spent the morning tidying up the sensory garden and several collected volunteer forms as they were interested in helping with the children's activities in their spare time.

Meanwhile, Year 9S visited Gracewells Residential Care Home in Newbury. The girls entertained the residents with a variety of performances from singing, classical guitar and ukulele solos to a ballet duet. They chatted to the residents, played board games and enjoyed getting to know the people who live in the home. At the request of the residents, the visit ended with an encore of the singing.

'Playing Scrabble with the residents was really fun!' **Katie Hooper**
'The residents were singing along with us and were really good fun.' **Sophia Jennings**

Year 9T worked with pupils from Calcot Junior School for their Community Link Project. They decided to capitalise on the good weather and created an action-packed morning of outdoor team-building exercises, which would get the children working together



and having fun. Ball games, plank races and blindfolded assault courses were just a few of the activities planned. Our girls were polite, patient and helpful. A great day was had by all.

Year 9 to School of Rock

Drama Scholars and students in Year 9 visited London's New Theatre to watch Andrew Lloyd Webber's **School of Rock**.

The new musical did not disappoint and we all agreed that it was as good as the film it was based on. Most students ended up buying a cd of the songs which we listened to on the journey home!

Whilst at Drury Lane, Emily Drury (Year 10) told us that she is a descendant of Sir Robert Drury, who built a mansion called Drury House on the lane in around 1500. We also had with us Ruth Gurdon (Year 8) who is the godchild of Andrew Lloyd Webber himself. It seems that at St Gabriel's, it's not merely what you know but who you know that counts!

Duke of Edinburgh Award Experience

At the end of June, Year 9 spent two days experiencing the expedition element of the Duke of Edinburgh Award. In the morning, Mr Scobie and Mrs Willetts introduced us to basic map reading skills, including the differences between 1:25000 and 1:50000 maps, bearings and six figure grid references. We also learnt about route planning and route cards in preparation for the hike later on in the day.

In the afternoon, we split up into our walking groups and, accompanied by a teacher, were sent on routes around Newtown Common. For some of us (Mr Scobie's group) this meant a near perfect 12km hike. For others, who misread the maps, it was closer to 16km! One group got very lost and returned to school over an hour and a half later than the other groups. Mrs Wright's group also managed to navigate in circles despite resorting to Google Maps! Meanwhile there were stories of being chased by a herd of cows and being 'attacked' by a badger!

Back at school, Mr Scobie showed us how to use the Trangia stoves and we cooked a pasta and frankfurter dinner. It was definitely an interesting experience.

Later in the afternoon, we set up our tents and enjoyed a relaxing evening. The night was definitely an experience as we had some unexpected visitors, 'wild bears'. However, this transpired to be Mr Scobie trying to scare one of the tents, which had not gone to sleep. In the morning, we woke up at 7.00am for breakfast in Gabbies and then started planning our actual DoFE routes for next May.

Overall, it was a fabulous experience and we are looking forward to doing the real expedition next year.

Isabella Peel & Hannah Lawrence



Romeo & Juliet at The Globe

After a wonderful but exhausting camping experience, Year 9 set off to London to see a production of **Romeo and Juliet** at The Globe. It was not the traditional, predictable staging that we might have expected. Instead, we were treated to an extraordinarily powerful, and as Paul Taylor wrote in The Independent, 'emotionally fierce' production which reduced many of us to tears as the two star-crossed lovers were destroyed by a violent and brutal society. The innocence of their love, shone clearly through the horror of a corrupt society that had no place for such purity of emotion. Daniel Kramer's direction left us in no doubt about the inevitability of the young lovers' impending deaths through 'fearlessly confronting the darker themes in the play'. The use of a compelling blend of musical styles, including classical and popular music, and the vast range of cultural references from **A Clockwork Orange** to the Cuban Missile Crisis, gave us a modern interpretation which has enhanced our GCSE study, confirming once again that Shakespeare is 'for all time'. We cannot wait to go back to The Globe!

Mrs Nichola Archer



Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh Award

Over the Summer Term, 14 girls from Year 10 completed the expedition section of their Duke of Edinburgh Award.

The first weekend away was the practice walk completed in the Andover area, where the girls got to grips with key skills, including cooking on a stove and pitching a tent – whilst also completing a 25km walk carrying heavy backpacks!



The second weekend away was the assessed expedition, which took place in the Wantage area. The girls had to contend with steep hills, tricky navigation and some of the highest temperatures of the year... but they kept going and ultimately triumphed. They all passed this section and went home tired but proud. Congratulations to all who took part—you are all winners!

Many thanks to the DofE team of Mr Justin Scobie, Mrs Jenny Shillaw and Miss Becca Lawson for making it possible.

Mr Ben Lewis, DofE Coordinator

Jane Austen Tea Party

The stage was set: the marquee was decked out with bunting; the tables covered with crisp white tablecloths and pretty china; the girls in Year 10 dressed in an array of authentic, and in some cases inventive, Austenesque costumes. We had quite a few chaps this year, in hacking jackets, sporting improbable moustaches, but the girls mainly arrived in elegant and pretty dresses to complete the scene.

Whilst consuming cakes and sandwiches, served tea and squash by willing skivvies (Mrs Rumbol plus a few Year 7s), girls provided suitable entertainment for refined and accomplished young ladies. To begin, we promenaded to the Oval Room, where Lottie Swainston delighted us with singing Mozart, accompanied by Dr Tebbs on the piano.

Later, girls performed a dance on stage, organised and choreographed by their dancing tutor (or possibly Zoe, Georgie and Immy!). We then took part in a parlour game, presenting tableaux of various scenes from **Pride and Prejudice**, with the other tables guessing which point in the novel was being depicted. This activity caused much amusement and jollity amongst the assembled company; a high point for me was Emily posing as a portrait of Darcy at Pemberley, and the character acting undertaken by Anna and Izzy's moustaches.

Girls took a turn about the lawn, ate their own weight in cake, and then returned to the marquee for a fantastic performance of Regency Blind Date, where Georgiana Darcy (shy and sweet), Lydia Bennet (flighty and flirty) and Elizabeth Bennet (rational and reasonable) competed for the attentions of George Wickham. He ran off with Lydia, inevitably.

Our small slice of the life of Regency folk, against such a brilliantly Georgian backdrop of the school building and grounds, was as enjoyable as ever: thanks to all who took part.

Ms Sally Hall, Head of English



SENIOR SCHOOL

Year 10 Geographers to Swanage

In June, Year 10 geographers ventured to Swanage (in 26°C!) to collect fieldwork data; this is an essential skill required for GCSE.

On beaches busy with tourists and sun-seekers, the girls quickly settled to the task in hand, which involved measuring the groynes and beach profiling to assess the direction of life longshore drift.

A short drive further down the coast took us to Lulworth Cove, where the girls experienced a different type of coast. However, testing here was mainly of ice cream flavours with cookies & cream and chocolate fudge brownie proving the most popular!



The girls participated in a range of physically and mentally challenging activities; many of which could only be resolved by working together. The girls were a credit to themselves and the Outreach Team commented on the motivation and determination shown by all who participated.

Year 11 Laser Quest

Friday, 12 May, marked both the end of GCSE courses for Year 11 and the start of study leave. In recognition of all of the hard work Year 11 have put into their studies over the past two years, we went on a fun and stress-releasing trip to Laser Quest. To give us energy for the afternoon ahead, we had lunch at Pizza Hut - the highlight of which was unlimited pizza and the Ice Cream Factory. We then headed to Laser Quest, where each form had the opportunity to engage in team games against the other form groups.

Well done to 11G who were the overall winners!

Mrs Emma Hammons, Head of Upper School



Resilience, Leadership & Team Work

Towards the end of term, Year 10 participated in a resilience, team building and leadership activity with the Army's Schools Outreach Team. The aim of the day was to develop resilience, leadership, teamwork, confidence and communication skills, as well as to give Year 10 the opportunity to learn more about careers in the Army.



GCSE & A Level Art Exhibition

This year's exhibition showcased a wonderful array of work by our students in a wide range of disciplines. Many pupils, parents and staff attended the evening viewing and were hugely impressed by the volume of work and the amount of time and commitment that was clearly spent on the students' projects.





Our GCSE photographers worked tirelessly throughout the course, and it is great to be able to acknowledge this and show off all the fabulous work they have created. They produced stunning black and white prints, often combining these with digital shots to create complex outcomes, as well as many sophisticated digital outcomes using Adobe Photoshop. Sophie worked in 3D transforming her digital images into dramatic structures. The girls explored light drawing, toning, Photoshop, combining drawing with photo cut-outs, layering imagery and mixed media textiles outcomes. India created a range of thought-provoking work surrounding issues affecting teenagers; Juliette focussed on movement through dance in her photographic responses, while Izzy's examination work explored the clutter of everyday life – a very poignant topic in the current climate.

The GCSE artists created tonal, pencil drawings, mono and lino prints, on paper and fabric, exploring colour and pattern. They painted with acrylics and watercolours, worked in 3D with ceramics, explored pastels and bleach and ink. Evie worked with inks, acetate and fine liner, creating space like constructions to make you think. She also explored cells, creating a vibrant series of petri dishes.



Tyra produced some stunning and thought-provoking self-portraits using Brusho powders, inks, acrylics and pen highlights. Ashleigh worked with mixed media to explore natural and man-made forms. Her architectural studies are superb. Alicia stunned us with her wolf studies in pastel and acrylic—you felt you could stroke the wolves' faces as they are so realistic. Alice created beautiful prints on fabric, stitching into these in response to Rosie James' work. Meanwhile, Maia's colourful expressive, energetic works stood out, reflecting her personality.

Our A level Graphics students explored typography, print (stencil and screen), illustration, logos and packaging. The students used photography and drawing as the basis of their work, developing an exciting range of outcomes, including adverts for airline food, rebranding for Harrods and an advertising campaign to encourage a range of ages to engage with ICT. For their exam outcomes they created very professional looking magazines, illustrated cookery books and travel brochures.

Charlotte demonstrated her passion for architecture in her AS photography work, exploring the work of the Russian Constructivists and current affairs. She manipulated her superb photos using Photoshop and created mixed media outcomes.

Lauren experimented with a range of printing and stitching techniques in her A level textiles, along with silk painting, batik and quilting. She made three beautiful quilted 'paintings' reflecting her visit to Florence, her connections with Africa and her family life. Her sensitive use of colour and enhancement of detail with hand and machine stitching made for beautiful, informative outcomes.

Miss Annie Keenleyside, Art Department

Politics Revision Conference

In April, A level Politics students travelled to the Emmanuel Centre, London, for a revision conference. The Centre is located in Whitehall, amongst many government departments — particularly close to the Department for Education which was especially fitting.

The revision day was presented by Neil McNaughton, Andrew Colclough and Toby Cooper, who are all experienced examiners of Politics at AS and A level. The speakers covered all of the AS topics and gave an insight into what to include in our exams to help us stand out from other candidates, which we all found useful for the upcoming exam season. It was also extremely helpful to have the speakers' expertise to help us revise throughout the course of the day. All of the students who attended enjoyed the day and found it a great opportunity to aid revision.

Emma Lack



SIXTH FORM

Sixth Form Induction Week

We were delighted to welcome our new Year 12 in to the Sixth Form for a week at the end of June. Students had taster lessons in their chosen subjects, discovered more about the independent study skills needed to succeed at A level and had fun at the Balenciaga exhibition at the V&A (as well as catching a glimpse of the Duchess of Cambridge, who was visiting on the same day). We spent an afternoon at Nuffield Health, where the students used the gym, played squash and swam. The week finished with a visit to see **Grease** at the Mayflower Theatre in Southampton.

We are all delighted to be Sixth Form tutors and look forward to working closely with a great group of students!

Ms Sally Hall, Mrs Rachel Dadds & Mrs Jenny Shillaw



Young Enterprise Success

This year, our Year 12 Young Enterprise team designed and created a colourful children's book, **Peekabee**, which through the careful inclusion of keywords in French aimed to help develop an inquisitive love of languages in young children. The narrative tells the story of Peekabee, who is on a journey to find Miss Ladybird's spots.

The team faced hurdle after hurdle but successfully overcame them to present their book at the Young Enterprise Area Final. Their hard work was recognised with awards for the Most Innovative Product as well as the Best Business Plan. However, seeing the children in Sandleford enjoying the book at story-time has been one of the most satisfying features of their Young Enterprise journey.

Mrs Diana Evans, Young Enterprise Coordinator



Royal Holloway Visit

In June, Rosie, Philippa, Savina and I visited Royal Holloway University. Having heard so many of Mrs Archer's fond memories of her alma mater, it was marvellous to put a place to the stories she had told us and it quickly exceeded all our expectations!

We began our day with a talk from current students, who spoke highly of the opportunities available to them and about the societies and teams you can get involved with. Afterwards, we attended a talk by the Principal of Royal Holloway, who gave a really useful

presentation about student life at the university. Then, we split up and went to some taster lectures, which provided us with a wonderful insight into studying our chosen degree courses: History, International Business Management and Law. This was an invaluable experience because we met some of the lecturers on our courses, and got a feel for what the learning environment is really like. We also had a tour of the campus with its stunning buildings and the student accommodation.

It was a wonderful day and we would definitely recommend the university to any prospective undergraduates!

Louisa Mannion

Leavers' Dinner

Early in July, staff and students gathered at Sandford Springs Golf Club for a fabulous Leavers' Dinner. A beautiful summer's evening was the perfect setting to bid farewell to a wonderful group of students. They have acted as inspiring role models for younger pupils, as well as giving generously of their time to lead and contribute to school life and also to volunteer in the wider community.

We wish them every success on results day and beyond at their chosen universities and with their future careers.

Mrs Clare Reseigh, Head of Sixth Form





Emotional Intelligence

We were delighted to welcome Julia Carter back to talk to a number of students and parents about the importance of emotional intelligence. Julia started by discussing the definition of emotional intelligence, the capability of individuals to recognize their own and other people's emotions, discern between different feelings and label them appropriately, use emotional information to guide thinking and behaviour, and manage and/or adjust emotions to adapt to environments or achieve one's goal(s). She went on to explain what an important factor it is in all areas of life. She also discussed how it can be improved, and how doing this can help you not only in your career but also in your personal life. The talk was very much enjoyed by all who attended and I would like to thank Julia again for coming in to speak on such an important topic.

Mrs Anna Chicken, Challenge & Extension (Senior School)

Drama Scholars' Breakfast

Laura Newborough came in to talk to our Drama Scholars about the realities of performing on the professional stage. Laura has just finished a run in **Legally Blonde** at The Haymarket in Basingstoke, where she played Elle Woods in the musical. Laura revealed that playing the lead was the most demanding role she has ever taken on. With 13 costume changes, being on stage throughout the performance, plus challenging songs and dance routines and a hefty script to learn, she has had to live and breathe this role. She is mother to two of our pupils, Ella (Year 5) and Sophia (Year 3), who are hugely proud of their mother's talents. We are so pleased she managed to find time to talk to our budding young actors and we hope to arrange a theatre visit to see her next show.



Women In Business

Dance Scholars were in for a real treat when local dance studio owner, Hayley Pitts, JLD School of Dancing, popped in for breakfast and a discussion about running your own dance business. The theme of the discussion was women in business and Hayley gave everyone a fascinating insight into what goes on behind the scenes in order to run a highly successful dance school. Hayley trained at Laine Theatre Arts and was truly inspiring in how she has taught herself to run, direct, market and develop her school.

Ballet Central

In May, Dance Scholars and dance enthusiasts watched the dress rehearsal of a ballet performed by the Central School of Ballet, who were touring the country performing five very different dances each of which had their own story to tell.

The first dance was a scene from **Romeo & Juliet** and was by far our favourite. The dancers portrayed the plot through an array of different dance movements showing how the young lovers fell in love.

The next dance was called **Mya**, which was interesting because the costumes were similar to sleeping bags. When the dancers stretched out their arms or legs it looked very amusing and unusual.

Then, dressed in colourful Arabic outfits with long pieces of silk, they performed a dance called **La Bayadère**. The music was more upbeat and uplifting than for the previous dances — it was almost street dancing.

The fourth dance, **Indigo Children**, had some very good movement in it. The dance company moved very smoothly; there were no sharp movements in the choreography.

The final piece was called **Dracula** and it was very dark. The music was dramatic and the dance itself portrayed the story very well. There were a lot of imaginative props which made it really spooky.

We greatly enjoyed the performance because of the variety of dance styles and the different stories being told.

Molly Montague & Milly Ducker



SENIOR SCHOOL MUSIC



Looking back on the term, it is surprising that our musicians have been able to pack so much into such a short amount of time. We have taken several groups of pupils out on music trips, with Year 7 enjoying **Sister Act** in Oxford and Year 9 **School of Rock** in London. In addition, there have been two Music Scholars' trips to performances at the Newbury Spring Festival.

GCSE and A level pupils have been working hard to complete their composing and performing coursework for the year, and other classes have produced their cover versions and original songs as part of the Summer Term band projects. A selection of Senior School musicians performed at a lunchtime concert shortly after school exam week, showing great dedication and determination to keep practising despite their many other commitments.

Diani Flower played a beautiful composition of her own in our communion service, and it has been a joy to see the whole of the Year 9 fast track GCSE Music group developing their composing skills so creatively this year.

There have been some outstanding individual achievements: Lottie Swainston continues to perform with the National Youth Orchestra and is preparing to perform at the BBC Proms this season, and Jess Gill has been recording a CD with the National Youth Wind Ensemble.

In the background, music activities have continued with Theory Club, choir and orchestra, in particular, working towards exams and performances next term. Amongst other events, we greatly look forward to performing with Senior and Junior School choirs at the Royal Berkshire Show on Saturday, 16 September.

Later in the term, Senior School musicians played in the excellent band for the Year 6 play, and my thanks go to Elizabeth Edwards, Annabelle Gibson, Jess Gill and Lucy Tulloch for their dedication and polished performances. In the same week, around 30 pupils took Trinity and ABRSM music exams and the results received so



far are given below, as well as results received since the publication of the Spring Term newsletter.

The final Senior School music event of the year was an outstanding Strawberries & Cream concert. An hour and a half of stunning music and many memorable performances (with refreshments, just out of reach, on the lawn outside).

Have a restful summer and keep practising!

Dr Philip Tebbs, Director of Music



Individual Successes

Jess Gill won both the 16 and under and 18 and under Own Choice Woodwind Sections at the Ealing Music Festival in May.

Lottie Swainston was accepted into the Junior Department of the Royal College of Music for September. She also won the 18 and Under Piano Class (with distinction) at the Wantage Music Festival, and was a runner up in the final. She gained a distinction in the Under 18 Song Recital at Wantage. In addition, Lottie was a runner up to the overall string prize at the Basingstoke Festival of Music and Arts.

Lottie and Jess were among a small group of soloists that played at the Basingstoke Gala Concert.

Music Examination Results

Anneliese Brown	Cello	05	Pass
Imogen Brown	Piano	02	Distinction
Abigail Buckley	Alto Saxophone	04	Pass
Jessica Collett	Clarinet	03	Merit
Isabella Cunningham	Piano	02	Pass
Phoebe Foxley	Singing	02	Pass
Jessica Gill	Harp	05	Distinction
Sarah Hogge	Flute	06	Merit
Philippa Lazarus	Violin	05	Merit
Tilda Leach	Singing	05	Pass
Isobel Mannion	Piano	07	Merit
Lauren Mukono	Singing	06	Pass
Laura Phillips	Singing	04	Merit
Poppy Russell	Guitar	01	Distinction
Anna Stirk	B Flat Cornet	05	Pass
Isabella Thorne	Singing	02	Merit

This term's focus has been tennis, athletics and swimming. We have had excellent numbers, across all year groups, representing St Gabriel's at the District Athletics Championships. We also entered the English Schools' Track & Field Cup for Girls in Years 7-10. All year groups have been developing their tennis, with a number of matches as well as a Strawberries & Cream Tennis Tournament for each year group. Swimming started after half term; we have had a number of fixtures against other schools and the term concluded with the annual Swimming Gala.

Tennis

The term started with the Year 7 Strawberries & Cream Tennis Tournament. Well done to Oluchi Akosa and Emily Woodford, who were the worthy winners of this competition.

The Year 9 and Year 10 tennis teams travelled to Cranford House for the first tennis fixture of the term. St Gabriel's was represented by four pairs, one being made up of Year 8. We won the fixture, 20 games to 15 with three of our pairs winning. Eight pupils from Year 8 also played in this fixture with some girls playing both singles and doubles. Well done to Ellen Hill, who won her singles set 6-1, and also to Evie Williams, who won her singles game 2-1. All pairs played well with Olivia Marsh and Sasha Hartley winning one of their games 3-2.

The Year 7 and Year 8 teams had a tough match against Cheam, where we were able to play 16 girls. It was a big learning curve for all and the girls benefited hugely from this experience. There were excellent performances from Sophia Tweedie, Elizabeth Ferneley, Phoebe Foxley and Emily Hamilton (Year 8).

The Year 9 and Year 10 team played St Helen & St Katharine's, with Year 9 having a tough fixture, losing 1-8, but there were some very close matches. The Year 10 team drew 4-4 with Inisa Sangha and Izzy Mannion as well as Darcey Scott and Izzy Ryder winning two out of their three matches.

Following half term, the Year 7 and Year 8 tennis team played against St Swithun's. The girls played some great tennis and huge improvement was seen throughout the fixture. Sasha Hartley and Olivia Marsh (Year 8) played some great shots and Kirsten Steel and Evie Williams (Year 8) played well together. Well done to Scarlett Hale and Isabella Thorne (Year 7) who also played some good tennis. The Year 7 & Year 8 team also travelled to St Helen & St Katharine's again and had some excellent matches. Evie Williams (Year 8) won two out of her three matches playing singles against a doubles pair. Kirsten Steel (Year 8) and Scarlett Hale (Year 7) drew two out of their three matches. Oluchi Akosa and Isabella Thorne (Year 7) progressed well throughout the fixture.

The term ended with the Year 8 Strawberries & Cream Tennis Tournament, with 20 girls taking part. There were some competitive matches and they all gave it their absolute best. Well done to Olivia Marsh and Olivia Ashfield (doubles winners), Emma Scott and Maddie Simpson (doubles 2nd), Evie Williams (singles winner), Ellen



Hill (2nd singles), Kirsten Steel (3rd singles) and Eloise Bennett (4th singles).

Athletics

In the U15 and U17 District Athletics Championships there were excellent performances from Poppy Simpson (Year 8), Anna Rose (Year 10), Darcey Scott (Year 10), Isabel Doherty (Year 10) and Ellie Cowan (Year 10). The performance of the day was from Izzy Mannion (Year 10) who came 2nd in the 1500m and progressed through to the County Competition where she came 2nd. This qualified her for the English Schools Championships in Birmingham on 7 & 8 July, where she came 3rd in her heat in a time of 4.45. This took her through to the final where she ran brilliantly to be placed 5th overall in a fantastic time of 4.39.39. A new personal best for Izzy. Many congratulations!

St Gabriel's also entered the English Schools Cup Competition. This is a tactical competition where every competitor has to compete in two events with a maximum of 12 athletes being selected. There were excellent performances from Izzy Mannion (Year 10) and Connie Pike (Year 10).

At the Year 7 District Athletics Championships, 12 girls travelled to Palmer Park in Reading to compete against seven other schools from West Berkshire. There were some strong performances from Scarlett Hale (Javelin), Brooke Asser (long jump) and Alice Hake



SENIOR SCHOOL SPORT

(75m). The performance of the day was from Brooke Asser who won the 600m, she progressed through to the County Championships at the end of June, where she represented West Berkshire and came in 8th in Berkshire. An outstanding achievement.

The term ended with the annual Sports Day; it was a fantastic event and the girls were in excellent spirit, cheering on girls in their House from other year groups. There were some outstanding performances from Brooke Asser (Year 7) who equalled the 150m school record with a time of 22 seconds. Izzy Mannion (Year 10), who broke a record that had been held for 20 years in the U17 long jump with a distance of 5m.

Sports Day concluded with a new event, the Three-legged Challenge Cup, which was hosted by Mr & Mrs Stewart-Power, who donated the trophy. A fantastic end to a fabulous day.

Congratulations to Bede, who were the overall House winners.

Swimming

At the start of term, we competed against Downe House. There were standout performances from Amber Cowan (Year 7), Sophia Tweedie (Year 8), Ellie Cowan (Year 10), Ella Teeluck (Year 8) and Chloe Balls (Year 8).

Year 7 and Year 8 had some excellent performances in the swimming gala against Cheam in the second half of term. Well done to all the girls involved. Brooke Asser (Year 7) came 1st in breaststroke and Amber Cowan (Year 7) came 1st in the individual medley and butterfly.

The annual swimming gala took place at the end of June with girls in Year 7—Year 10 taking part. It was great to see so many girls representing their House and putting themselves outside of their comfort zone. There were excellent performances from Brooke Asser, Amber Cowan, Eve Glitz and Bella Harry (Year 7), Chloe Balls, Ella Teeluck, Evie Williams, Sophia Tweedie and Grace Glitz (Year 8), Clem Woodard & Olivia Kynaston (Year 9) and Ellie Cowan, Darcey Scott and Georgina Wilkins (Year 10).

Chad were the overall House winners.

Cricket

A group of Year 7 and Year 8 pupils have started a lunchtime Cricket Club led by Mr May. The girls had their first fixture against St Swithun's where they played an indoor match. St Gabriel's batted first and scored 75 runs off 8 overs, St Swithun's then chased it down scoring 78 on the last over — a very close match.

After half term a joint Year 7 and Year 8 team travelled to St Helen & St Katharine's for their second match. The girls played 12 overs, with each team member bowling an over, and managed to score 34 runs. It was great to see the girls enjoying a new sport that they have been training hard for each week. However, on this occasion, they narrowly lost with St Helen & St Katharine's scoring 36 runs.



It has been really encouraging to see a good number of girls training each week; definitely a sport to develop in future years.

Equestrian

Congratulations to all the girls who represented St Gabriel's at the Stonar ISODE. A special mention to Olivia Ashfield and Phoebe Foxley (Year 8) who came 4th and 9th, respectively. A very positive day for all girls involved.



Sport & Dance Presentation Evening

This is the occasion where we celebrate all the successes that have taken place across the year, including many individual achievements.

Well done to Scarlett Hale (Year 7), Sasha Hartley (Year 8), Saba Khorassani (Year 9), Izzy Mannion (Year 10) and Sophie Bundock (Year 11), who won Sports Personality of the Year for their year group. To be nominated for this award pupils needed to show a high level of performance in sport, regularly performing with consistency and excellence and displaying an excellent attitude across the board. For example, in addition to competing for school teams, Sophie Bundock has played in the national netball finals with her club team. Whilst Izzy Mannion has competed in the English Schools Athletics Cup, in addition to representing the school in hockey, cross country, netball and swimming.

Team Person of the Year was awarded to an individual in each year group for showing selfless attributes, supportiveness and a willingness to work hard for the team. Well done to Eve Glitz (Year 7), Evie Williams (Year 8), Olivia Jackson (Year 9), Anna Rose (Year 10) and Tara Conway (Year 11) for leading by example.

There were also awards given for the most improved player in hockey and netball. Netball awards were presented to Lily Goss (Year 7), Kirsten Steel (Year 8), Clem Woodard (Year 9), Isabel Doherty (Year 10) and Helen Adams (Year 11) and hockey awards to Georgia Kynaston (Year 7), Joanna Evans (Year 8), Lily Rostron (Year 9), Maddie Simpson (Year 10) and Lauren Patrikios (Year 11).

Breaking with tradition the Year 6 Netball team were awarded Team of the Year for their success in reaching the IAPS Finals!

Well done, also, to Milly Ducker (Year 8), Fenella Jones (Year 9), Martha Croggon (Year 11) and Sofia Gilks (Year 11) who were all presented with Dance awards. Martha's award was for her dedication to dance and Sofia's for her excellent choreography. Fenella won Dancer of the Year and Milly was the most improved dancer.

Whilst the awards focused on Senior School Sport and Dance, the hard work and ultimate success of Moggy Strong (Year 6) in securing a place at The Royal Ballet School should not be forgotten.



Newbury Netball League

Mrs Joseph entered a team into the adult Newbury Netball League this summer, which enabled Year 9 and Year 10 to play some netball out of season in preparation for the Autumn Term. Playing against adults has been a big learning curve for the girls; they have had to develop their skills each week and become stronger as a team. Results have been mixed but in the penultimate week of term, the team narrowly lost out to Hungerford Ladies by 4 goals, despite being ahead at half time, with a final score of 19/15. The Player of the Match was Maddie Simpson (Year 10).

In their final match in the Newbury Ladies League, St Gabriel's secured a great victory winning 23—11. Player of the Match was Darcey Scott. Well done to Poppy Simpson (Year 8) who stepped in as a last minute replacement and put in an outstanding performance.

Individual Achievements

Our Sports Presentation Evening celebrated the many individual sporting successes by Senior School girls outside of school, including:

Ellie Cowan — Swimmer

A massive congratulations to Ellie Cowan (Year 10) who competed at the British Swimming Championships at the beginning of the term. Ellie came 1st in her heat in the U17 200m Individual Medley with a new personal best of 2.20.13. This qualified Ellie, with the 5th fastest time, through to the final. Ellie came 8th in the final which places her in the top eight U17 girls in the country, an amazing achievement. Ellie still maintains the highest ranking for a British swimmer in the 15 years age group for this event.

Ellie also has five other top 10 British rankings in her age group for 100m, 200m Breaststroke, 100m, 200m Butterfly and the grueling 400m Individual Medley. She is now training hard towards the British Summer Nationals, which are at the end of July in Sheffield, where she will swim in her age group as a 15 year old.

Ellie continues to be a role model for all the girls in the school and it was excellent to see her competing for St Gabriel's against Downe House, as well as in the Senior School Swimming Gala.

Isabelle Ryder — Show jumper

Izzi Ryder (Year 10) added a gold medal with Team England to her show jumping achievements, which include competing at the Royal International Horse Show and the Horse of the Year Show. More details on www.stgabriels.co.uk/showjumpingsuccess.

Jessica Gill — Figure Skater

Jessica Gill (Year 10) was nominated for the Young Sportsperson/Junior Ladies Award at the Basingstoke & Deane Sports Awards,

which is organised by the voluntary Basingstoke Sports Council.

Jess has obtained her Level 10 Field Moves Test, this is the top level and competed at Skate Copenhagen in Denmark back in April. Jess has reduced her training to three times a week in preparation for exams.

Sophie Bundock — Netball

Sophie (Year 11) captained Western Park Blades Netball U16 this year. She was a key player in taking them to the National Finals. Sophie trains with the team twice a week in addition to matches.

Mitzi Scott — Netball

Mitzi (Year 12) is a South Regional Performance Academy athlete. In March, she captained a South of England U19 team and is currently a training partner for the Severn Stars U21 squad. Severn Stars is a Netball Superleague franchise and Mitzi is aiming to play for their U19 team in a national performance league next season. Mitzi has recently been selected for the U19 Loughborough Lightning Long Squad and hopes to be selected for a tournament at the end of August. An amazing achievement.

Darcey Scott — Netball

Darcey (Year 10) is a Netball South Regional Academy athlete, playing alongside her sister, Mitzi, in the South U19 team. She is part of the Surrey Storm Development Squad and has been invited to trial for the Severn Stars U17 team. Darcey was also selected for Berkshire Hockey's U16 Academy Centre.

Victoria Williams — Hockey

Victoria (Year 11) has represented Wiltshire at U17 level for hockey and plays for Marlborough Ladies 1st Team.

Daisy Tolhurst — Cheerleading

Daisy (Year 8) recently returned from the Cheerleading World Championships in Florida where her team, Crimson Heat Tigers, won the World Summit Junior Champions title. It was a fantastic achievement to beat American teams in their own gymnastics based sport in the USA! Daisy and the team have recently been crowned European Champions and will compete in America again next year.

Molly Cazaly — Sailing

Molly (Year 8) has qualified for the British Sailing National Championships.

Abigail Wilson — Rugby

Abi (Year 11) has represented Berkshire at women's rugby and is aiming to play for Berkshire and Newbury again next season.

I would like to thank both the girls and the PE staff for their enthusiasm and commitment to sport this term. It has been a very busy 10 weeks with lots to celebrate, including many individual achievements as well as team successes.

Mrs Laura Turner, Director of Sport



PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REVIEW

This year has been an eventful year for the PTA. The start of the year saw a number of new members (and officers) being elected on to the committee and our rebranding to being an organisation for parents, friends and staff has seen a much closer collaboration with the school.

The calendar has featured a number of extremely successful events: Bonfire Night and the Christmas Fair in the Autumn Term; the Comic Relief Disco in the Spring Term, and the return of the PTA Quiz and the Summer Party towards the end of the year. We have also continued our Bags2School programme and the running of the extremely successful Second-Hand Uniform Shop.

As a Committee, we have had the privilege of supporting diverse departments in the school by funding numerous projects, including Sport (gymnastics AirTrack, team leotards and shorts, equestrian silks and a table tennis table); Music (trombones and choir folders), Reception (playground equipment and gazebos), the Sixth Form Centre (outdoor furniture) and the Dance Show.

2017/18 promises to be another exciting year for the PTA, starting with a spectacular Bonfire Night on Friday, 3 November, followed by the Christmas Fair two weeks later on Sunday, 19 November. We hope to see you there! Next year will also see the launch of a 200 Club, several new events, a PTA App and a revamped website.

Finally, we said farewell this year to Lorraine Croggon, who has served on the committee for many, many years, and has turned the second-hand shop into the institution it is today. Her wisdom and counsel will be sorely missed! We wish Lorraine and her family every happiness in the future.

None of this would be possible without the hard work of parent and staff volunteers who generously give of their time, either on the committee or in project teams, or simply helping at the various events. Thank you all for your support.



ST GABRIEL'S PTA

BONFIRE NIGHT & FIREWORKS DISPLAY

Tickets:

£7 Adults

£5 Children/OAPs

BBQ included in the
ticket price

3 November 2017

St Gabriel's
Parent Teacher Association

Christmas Market

Sunday 19 November 10.30am – 3.00pm

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

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St Gabriel's

Your Route to Success

From September we will be offering pupils in Year 5—Year 6 and Year 8—Year 10 Trinity College London Speech & Drama lessons.

These lessons encourage self-confidence and promote creativity, imagination and teamwork as well as developing an ability to speak and to express views and opinions with confidence. The solo and pair graded exams are fully accredited in the UK and are recognised internationally in many other countries.

Contact Isharman@stgabriels.co.uk for more information.

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