

# Newsletter

Autumn 2017

## St Gabriel's

Your Route to Success



Year 10 Australia Exchange with Pupils from St Hilda's School, Gold Coast

Last term, I attended a meeting in London that took me out of school for a day. To get there I did what I am sure many of our parents do on a daily basis, I went on a train journey - a nostalgic experience for me. As I sat in the carriage - far emptier than many of the carriages that I imagine commuters battle with each morning - I settled down to do some work. Before long I was distracted and found myself looking out of the window at the countryside rushing by. It made me think a little of how life is full of journeys that we make to get from A to B, and the various devices, search engines, sat navs that we use to tell us how quickly and efficiently we can get there. In a modern world, where everyone is busy, there is clearly an attraction to getting through things as quickly as one can; getting things done, but paying scant attention to the process and the experience, in order to get on to the next thing. To me education can be a little like this. I remember when I was at school always wishing to be at the next stage: junior to senior school, to sixth form, to university...and while I thoroughly enjoyed my education, it might have been better to have participated in the experience a little more, rather than seeing each stage as a level we have to mine for badges and awards in order to move on to the next.

As I look at the educational experience of young people today, this race to the next stage is something that I can see clearly. There is every reason to get the most from your time at school; every reason

to come out with the best results you can possibly achieve. However, what I think is vital, and perhaps tied into the level of achievement that ultimately will be gained, is the ability to have an awareness of the process and to learn from it, not just taking away the facts and information. Education is cyclical and I am reminded of the opening of the Charles Dickens' novel, *Hard Times*, where the 19<sup>th</sup> Century children in the education process are likened to vessels in a factory being filled up with facts. Of course, facts and information are important; we need these to evidence our opinions but we must allow young people the opportunity to look out of the train window and enjoy the journey. After all, you remember far more about a journey if you look out and take in the landscape that you are passing through.

To that end, I was delighted with the number and variety of experiences and opportunities our pupils were engaged in during the Autumn Term, allowing them to metaphorically look out of the window during their learning experience. I am pleased that you will have the chance to read about some of them in this newsletter.

As we start the new calendar year, my hope is that we will all - young and old - take the time to look outwards more than perhaps the pace of our world often allows us to.

**Mr Ricki Smith, Principal**



# SANDLEFORD

In September, Sandleford welcomed parents for our termly Stay & Play morning. The children really enjoyed sharing their favourite activities with their mummies and daddies and showing them around the rooms and garden.



Over recent months, the Baby Room has enjoyed lots of activities that focussed on developing the children's physical, communication and social development. They looked spookily splendid as they dressed up for Halloween, enjoying pumpkin carving and messy play with the toddlers. They got out and about in the grounds, either walking or in the buggies, to see the changing colours of the autumn leaves and experience the frosty mornings.

With Christmas approaching, the staff added mixed spice to one of the babies favourite activities, play-doh; the children loved the Christmassy scent that was released as they squashed it.



The children in the Toddler Room have had a very busy few months learning about autumn and observing the spectacular display of autumn colour that surrounds us. The toddlers collected lots of beautiful coloured leaves on their autumn walks in the grounds and made leaf rubbings and collages for a display. Never ones to shy away from getting messy, the toddlers joined forces with the babies for some pumpkin fun; they loved playing with the squishy insides and seeds as well as carving shapes to make lanterns.



As November arrived, the children learnt about Bonfire Night and fireworks. Using spray bottles, they created bright and colourful firework pictures and made delicious chocolate and sprinkle covered apples,







To mark the start of December, the elves visited the Toddler Room to decorate it for Christmas; the children were so excited to find their own tree and grotto to play in. The festive feel continued with the children merrily making hats, cards, gifts and decorations. The toddlers enjoyed lots of special Christmas events, including an exciting trip to the school's theatre to watch the Pre-School Room children perform in their brilliant nativity play; wearing their Christmas outfits for a yummy Christmas lunch, and a wonderful party with a surprise visit from Father Christmas. There was not a Christmas story left untold as the toddlers brought in their favourite seasonal stories to share with their friends during our group times. The children spent time busy practising Christmas songs and carols ready to perform to our families at the Sandleford Carol Service. The children's favourite songs are ***When Santa got stuck up the chimney*** and ***Jingle Bells***.

The Pre-School Room children beavered away with festive activities for Christmas. They enthusiastically rehearsed for their nativity play, performing with amazing confidence to an excited audience of parents — it was an absolutely perfect way to get Christmas at Sandleford and St Gabriel's underway.



Elvis the cheeky Christmas Elf moved into the Pre-School Room at the beginning of December; he wrapped the Christmas tree in toilet paper, ate some of the children's cookies and decorated the door with elf stickers!

Along with the other children in Sandleford, the pre-school children wore their Christmas jumpers, read their favourite Christmas stories, enjoyed a wonderful Christmas lunch and had a party full of fun and festive games.

The Christmas festivities concluded when the children joined their friends, staff and families for the Sandleford carol concert under the twinkly lights of the Christmas tree.

The children have continued to enjoy getting out and about in the grounds whatever the weather, going for walks in the woods and looking at the seasonal changes as they take place. Cooking and craft activities are always popular and the children have made tasty mince pies and resembled Santa's little helpers as they busied themselves making Christmas gifts and decorations. You really cannot have too much glitter and sparkle with little people about!

The children and staff in Sandleford have supported several charities this term, raising money through wearing Jeans for Genes and dressing up as superheroes for Children in Need.





# JUNIOR SCHOOL

## Autumn Term in Reception

Reception have had a wonderful start to their school year. The children started the term getting to know each other through their treasure boxes, which they had decorated and filled over the summer with items about themselves, including family, pet and holiday photos, favourite books and toys, certificates showing achievements in hobbies, and a whole host of other interesting items. Looking at all of the boxes provided lots of opportunity for the children to talk to their friends about the things they like and enjoy. We found out lots of interesting facts about each other.



We have also welcomed two new teaching assistants, Mrs Brown and Mrs McAlister, who have joined Reception this year.

The children spent the first half of term familiarising themselves with the school environment. They really enjoyed exploring the school through a mystery tour and even managed to surprise Mr Smith when they popped in to his office.



The main academic focus for Reception has been getting to grips with phonics, which the children have all done brilliantly, helped by the fun and interactive nature of our Jolly Phonics scheme. The children now have the necessary skills to launch in to independent reading and writing at the start of the Spring Term.

The second half of the term saw the children start an exciting topic, Festivals of Light. We learnt about the celebrations and traditions associated with Halloween and Bonfire Night. Reception had lots of fun pretending to be ghostbusters and witches in their dance lesson and made firework pictures in the woods using natural materials. The children's fine motor skills have been developed through pumpkin carving and creating wooshing rocket and sparkly firework decorations for the classroom. We also learnt about how to stay safe and still have fun on Bonfire Night with the help of a **Fireman Sam** story.



We learnt about the Jewish festival of Hanukkah and found out about many of its traditions and customs. The children made their own Star of David and worked together to make a beautiful collage of a menorah for our display. Learning how to play the dreidel game reinforced the children's counting and maths skills whilst having lots of fun.

The focus in December moved inevitably to the Christian celebration of Christmas and the Nativity story; with rehearsals getting into full swing and excitement mounting in anticipation of The **Wriggly Nativity**, which I am sure everyone will agree was a triumph.

The children also learnt about the meaning of Advent as we started the countdown to Christmas. This inspired the design of Reception's Advent candle crowns, which they wore for their Christmas lunch.

We have had lots of festive fun to end the term, wearing Christmas jumpers for Christmas lunch; a very festive OWL Time in the woods, with some surprise visitors; a trip with the whole Junior School to the pantomime, and we also joined Year 1 and Year 2 for an afternoon of party games and dancing. At the end of term, we followed a trail of stars as we went on a hunt for our cheeky elf, Elfie, who had gone exploring, only to discover Father Christmas waiting for us by the Christmas tree in the Square Hall and Elfie having a lovely time with the tinsel in Mr Smith's office!

**Mrs Lawrence, Mrs Bloxsom, Mrs Brown & Mrs McAlister**





## The Wriggly Nativity



Pupils in Reception to Year 2 were delighted to commence the Christmas festivities in the Junior school with their traditional retelling of the Christmas story, which never fails to enchant audiences both young and old.

This year the children put on not one but two performances of ***The Wriggly Nativity***, in addition to their dress rehearsal in front of the older Junior School pupils. The term "dress rehearsal" is certainly a misnomer, as the pupils ranging in age from 4 - 7 years, delivered their lines word perfectly in front of their first live audience. No mean feat for the Year 2 narrators, who appeared to know the whole script off by heart. The songs were sung with great gusto and with some very catchy hand-actions, no one was in any doubt that this really was ***The Wriggly Nativity***. The Head of Drama, Mrs Ruth Chaplin, was particularly impressed with the confidence of our young actors.

When the time came to perform in front of their parents, the children were more than ready. Laughter filled the theatre as the donkey yawned upon finally reaching its destination and when Mary sang to Baby Jesus there was not a dry eye in the house! Yet again, our youngest pupils raised the bar and shone like the Christmas star itself!

## Year 1 Go Back in Time

The Year 1 history topic was brought to life during their visit to the



Milestones Museum. The children were transported back in time to the Victorian days, where they walked the cobbled streets and explored the old shops and houses. Throughout the day, Year 1 took part in lots of activities, including Toy Shop Timeline, playing with old toys and games and toy sorting. For the children, the highlight of the trip was pretending they were at a Victorian school playing traditional games, such as hopscotch and dominoes. Year 1 agreed that although it was fun going back in time for a day, they preferred living in the 21st Century as they would miss their televisions, cars and iPads!

'The old toys were very interesting to look at.' **Amelia Beechey-Smith**

'I liked sorting the games in to the ones you would keep, give to a museum or throw away. We wanted to keep them all!' **Connie Hornsey**

## Bark Rubbing



Earlier this term, Year 1 bounded into the woods for some fresh autumnal air and bark-rubbing. Mrs H-S demonstrated to our young artists how to create lots of colourful crayon patterns with different wood textures.

## Year 1 & Year 2 Art Club

Our Year 1 and Year 2 artists, assisted by the Senior School Art Scholars, have enjoyed working in clay, making beautiful Christmas themed coil pots and painting them in shiny pearlescent colours.





# JUNIOR SCHOOL

## Year 1 Buddies



In their PSHE lessons, Year 1 had some very special visitors - their new Year 3 buddies! Much to the delight of the younger children, Year 3 shared both their wisdom and iPad skills. Mrs Webb is also very happy that our new role models are keen to be there for their little buddies if they ever need a helping hand in the playground.

## Museum of the Iron Age

On their visit to the Museum of the Iron Age in Andover, Year 3 dressed up as Celts and were given a Celtic name. The children impressed their group leader with their knowledge of the Iron Age



before being split into tribes. Each group then got hands-on experience of what life would have been like in Iron Age Britain. They learned how to build a roundhouse (although on a much smaller scale), about the importance of animals to the Celts, how to weave cloth and found out what people ate during the Iron Age. Did you know that all Celts, including children, consumed beer rather than water on a daily basis!

## Alban Win House Quiz

Pupils in Year 3 to Year 6 took part in the annual Junior School House Quiz. There were several rounds of fiendish questions on topics including, famous places, collective nouns, film titles and name the vegetable. As always, it was a closely fought contest with the winning team being Katie-Rose Verney, Josie Keen, Vaibhavi Nimmagadda and Sienna Asser. They are pictured below with Alban House Captain, Ava Elverson, who lifted the trophy on behalf of the winning House.



## Language Olympics

Everyone enjoyed a fun day of language learning at the start of term, when children from Falkland Primary School, Burghclere Primary School and John Rankin Junior School joined some of our Year 5 pupils for the 2017 Modern Languages Olympics.

Working in cross-school groups on a number of linguistic challenges, they learned how to count in Bambara and spot links between Latin-based languages using their existing language awareness skills.

The most popular part of the day was undoubtedly the Disney Eurovision Sing-Off, in which all groups performed Colonel Hathi's March from **The Jungle Book** in either Italian, German or Spanish.

Lottie from Burghclere Primary School summed up the day beautifully, "I would definitely recommend the Languages Olympics to others as it is a great way to communicate with other schools and learn new languages."



## Year 5 Carnevale

In October, Year 5 took part in an exciting morning of Italian culture, learning about Carnevale. They discovered that different regions of Italy have different carnival traditions, and looked at some of the most famous: the carnival parade at Viareggio, the Battle of the Oranges in Ivrea and, of course, the Venetian festival of masks.

The children then made their own carnival masks, using different coloured paints, glitter and feathers, and enjoyed some traditional carnival chocolate pancakes.

They also learned about some famous Italian carnival characters: Arlecchino, Balanzone, Colombina, Gianduia, Brighella, Pantalone and Pulcinella, and made a carnival poster.



## Holme Grange Performance Poetry

In November, Year 6 took part in the performance poetry competition at Holme Grange School, competing against other prep schools in the south east.

When we arrived and saw the programme we realised that it would be a long afternoon — there were so many entries, a large audience and our group poem was the very last performance of the day!

Competition was strong, but Millie Jones and Charlotte Hamilton got the audience giggling and applauding their wonderful rendition of ***The King's Breakfast***, complete with character voices and actions.

Eventually it was time for our choral piece, ***Talking Turkeys***, and the group of 15 gave a storming performance, full of verve and vigour!

It was a fantastic afternoon and, to crown it all, we came second, receiving a highly commended certificate and a medal each.

## History Cadets

In September we saw the first of this year's History Cadet sessions. Pupils in Year 5 and Year 6 experienced hands-on history by marking out and excavating their own archaeological dig. This was

followed by a session dissecting some organic remains. When looking at the ancient poo, pupils were able to date the samples by considering which character from history would have access to different foodstuffs and narrowing down their research.

The next session will be in January and will look at written sources through the ages. Pupils will make their own Roman ink and will communicate in pictographs.



## NWN Primary Schools Quiz

Early in November, two Year 6 teams took part in the annual quiz, organised by the Newbury Weekly News, to raise money for the Over 80s Christmas Parcel Fund. Hosted by last year's winners, Chieveley Primary School, over 20 teams battled it out answering questions on a range of topics from current affairs to sport and geography. At the end of an entertaining evening, our teams finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> positions.





# JUNIOR SCHOOL

## Year 6 Self Portraits

Year 6 have been studying portraits and learning how to draw the human face, using cross hatching and tone; we have looked at proportions and attempted to draw self portraits. By examining the works of numerous artists we have seen how portraiture has changed over the years.

Inspired by the Modigliani exhibition, which is currently running at the Tate Modern, we looked at his portraits and discussed what makes them unique: the long necks, almond shaped eyes and how he constructed his portraits. We then created our own portraits in Modigliani's style.



## Junior School Council

The Junior School Council has been exceptionally busy fundraising for a number of charities. At the start of September we joined forces with the Senior School to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support with our now traditional cake sale. This is an incredibly popular event with staff and students testing their culinary skills with some amazing results. As a community we love nothing better than eating cake for a good cause!

At the end of the month, the Junior School Council supported Genes for Jeans. Staff and pupils happily donned their jeans for a donation and in doing so helped raise awareness of a charity that funds support services for children affected by genetic disorders. Alongside Sandleford, we raised nearly £200 for this worthy cause.

On 17 November, the Junior School Council held a dress-up day in aid of Children in Need. Pupils in Sandleford and the Junior School were invited to come to school dressed as their favourite superhero or a real life person they admired. Once again, we were amazed by the creativity of the pupils. In the morning one may have been forgiven for thinking that you had arrived at a school for superheroes! We also had two Juniors dressed as Mr Havercroft, albeit with a little more hair; there was a mini Mr Dove running around the playground and we even had a royal visitor or two! The Junior



School Council were delighted to be able to send funds totalling £223.96 to Children in Need to help disadvantaged children across the United Kingdom.

At the end of the Autumn Term, there was much deliberation over which charity to support for our Christmas events. After much discussion, the decision was made to support not one but two local charities. With the incredible generosity of our school community we raised a staggering £543.27 at the two nativity plays and the Junior School Carol Concert. This will be shared between The Rosemary Appeal and Naomi House and Jacksplace.

## Year 5 Superheroes

Ahead of Children in Need, Year 5 created their own superheroes. They had to decide on their superhero powers, how they got their powers, their personality and their costume. The pupils let their creativity loose and some of the results were amazing. We had Smiley who can fly when she wears a special cap, Super Shift who can copy the shape of objects around her, Molly Slater who has the power to heal people and Leopard Lady who has super speed. Their next task was to produce a newspaper article about an act of heroism that their superhero had completed, thinking about the correct language to use and what features they needed for a successful front page article. We had superheroes preventing all kinds of disasters, including the usual cat stuck up a tree! The last task was to create a live news report including an interview with their superhero. The pupils are using apps such as iMovie, Explain Everything, Tellagami and Morpho.





Looking back over the term, we have competed in so many different events, from netball to archery, and have enjoyed improving our skills along the way. With the number of boys increasing throughout the Junior School, we have been developing our football, tag rugby and basketball. We had our first boy's team in the cross country at St Hugh's and took part in the Elstree Football Tournament back in October. Once again, the clubs and fixtures could not run without the support of the Junior School staff and our parent volunteers, who are out every Monday morning helping with Running Club.

## Cross Country

Training has really taken off with the return of super coach, Anne Stewart-Power, ably assisted by Mrs Pinchin and Mrs Asser. A special mention has to be made to Year 4, who regularly have nine children at the club.



On one of the coldest days in November, four teams competed in the St Hugh's relays. This was the first time we have been able to field a full boys' team. In the Year 6 race, Rubi Maleham took on the first leg, fighting it out on a packed start line. She ran a storming race around the 1.3k route, breaking the school record which had been held by Sophie Bundock since 2011. Clare McGonnell blasted around to equal the Year 5 school record and now holds one of the top three fastest times by a St Gabriel's girl. In the Year 4 team, Phoebe Shelley flew around the course, clocking the 5th fastest time for that age group since the school records began. This was supported by a strong run by Sophie Donnelly who also ran herself inside the top 10 of all time. Neve Wright also ran well and got herself in to the top 10 Year 5 times on the record board.

Rubi Maleham gained first place at the St Swithun's cross country event, with overall second place going to the Year 5/6 team of Eloise Taylor, Neve Wright and Rubi Maleham. Training will continue on Monday, 8 January.

## Football

We had a fantastic first outing with the Year 3 and Year 4 footballers at Elstree School. We were mixed in with eight other schools and learnt how to play with children we did not know. Nathan Rond scored a cracking goal, dribbling from the half way line, and all seven children made progress with their attacking and defensive play over the course of the afternoon. We hope to be able to take the Year 2 team next term. Our Year 5/6 girls qualified for the local finals of the national ESFA 7-a-side tournament after two wins and two draws in the group stage; their 1-0 defeat of Fir Tree was the highlight of that day. In the finals in Hungerford, they came across tougher competition but their determined, energetic play gave them



a win and two draws which meant they were crowned Champions of West Berkshire. Well done to Charlotte Bedford, Rubi Maleham, Evie Dancer-Bown, Grace Havercroft, Ava Elverson, Ellie Abbott, Clare McGonnell and Julia Gardner-Calle. Next stop: County Finals!



## Netball

Year 6 continued their netball successes from last season with a finals win at Hampshire Collegiate School. All the players are adaptable and can play in any position on the court which will make them an asset for their future teams.

Year 5 took part in a competitive tournament at Portsmouth Grammar School taking on 18 different teams from Hampshire, Berkshire, Surrey and Dorset. This is one of the biggest





## JUNIOR SCHOOL SPORT

tournaments in the Year 5 calendar with high profile boarding schools, some of whom play every day. After what can only be described as a fairly slow start, we picked up the pace of our play and, with solid shooting from Mia Wright and secure circle play from Viabhavi Nimmagadda as goal keeper, we moved through the first rounds in second place in our group. Every team then played a final game against the equivalent team in the other section. We came across a very fast team from Farleigh School to decide the overall third and fourth places. In a tight game, it was 0-0 at full time with Mia managing to get a goal after two minutes extra time. All the girls had a very successful afternoon and learned a lot from each game as they progressed.

### Swimming

Year 4 - Year 6 competed against St Swithun's and Portsmouth High School's A and B teams. After an afternoon of competitive races we were placed second just behind the A string from St Swithun's.

Head Boy, Max Maleham, has recently broken several Newbury District Swimming Club records:



Boys 100m IM—1.20.32, previous record set 2009  
Boys 200m Breaststroke—3.15.27, previous record set 2009  
Boys 200m Freestyle—2.29.91, previous record set 2009  
Boys 200m IM—2.51.68, previous record set 2003  
Boys 100m Breaststroke—1.34.25, previous record set 1999

The boy who set the top three records in 2009 is now swimming for the British Junior Squad so Max is certainly one to watch in future years.

### KS1 Indoor Sports

I am not sure if it was the ride in the minibus or the competition itself that made 14 Year 2 children extremely excited on their trip to Park House School. They all had a wonderful afternoon of activities, including tunnel ball, boccia, archery, kurling, Frisbee and target throwing. There was great teamwork on display and at the end of the day we were presented with very shiny silver medals.



I would like to thank the children and staff for their enthusiasm and commitment to sport. Next term, in addition to core sports, we have bowling, archery, gymnastics, cycling, county netball and swimming fixtures in the calendar; it's going to be a very busy term.

**Mrs Pasternakiewicz, PE Department**

## JUNIOR MUSIC

The Junior School celebrated Christmas in style with our Carol Concert at St Nicolas Church in Newbury. Well done to all the children in Year 3 - Year 6, who sang and read beautifully.

Chamber Choir sang with power and feeling, while Speech and Drama students gave their first public performance with a fantastic rendition of ***The Night Before Christmas***. It was also wonderful to have the Community Choir of parents, teachers and family join us again this year.

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 sang beautifully in their nativity play ***The Wiggly Nativity***, with the Pre-School Room children giving a fantastic performance and singing with joy in their nativity play, ***It's a Baby***.

Many Junior School pupils performed in the termly lunchtime concert to friends and family, with some confident and well practised performances.

Junior School music exam results can be found towards the end of the newsletter.

**Ms Gunn, Music Department**





## Year 7 Team Building at Calshot



In October, Year 7 visited the Calshot Activity Centre, where they took part in a number of outdoor and team building activities including high ropes, climbing, the initiative course and team swing. The activities, led by Calshot's highly qualified and experienced staff, pushed the girls outside of their comfort zones so they gained a real sense of achievement. The trip forms part of the PSHE programme and is designed to help Year 7 get to know each other (and their tutors) better outside of the school environment. The girls embraced the challenges they faced with enthusiasm and returned to school as a cohesive unit with lots of tales to share with their parents!

"Calshot was a really great experience as it helped us to make new friends and to get to know our form tutors better. The activities I enjoyed most were high ropes, team swing and the initiative course. Although a number of people hated high ropes, I really enjoyed the experience. I found it quite scary when we had to stand up on the seesaw but apart from that it was great fun. Team swing was amazing; who knew that being dropped from 25 feet, with only a piece of metal and your harness to hold you, would be so incredible. I really enjoyed the initiative course as you had to solve problems; one of the hardest things for the group was going through a dark tunnel as some people got claustrophobic and it was really hard to get out. The two day trip was a fantastic experience and I made lots of new friends in a very short space of time." **Charlotte Bishop**

"My weekend at Calshot was a great opportunity to get to know the other girls in my year through teamwork. I was pleased that I managed to get through the tunnel on the initiative course because I get quite claustrophobic and it was a real challenge. I enjoyed the team swing because it was scary. Our instructor Zophia was really helpful and encouraged our group to give everything a go. Overall, I had a great time at Calshot and the activities were amazing!" **Ellen Phillips**

## Year 7 Corinium (Cirencester)

In September, Year 7 travelled to Corinium to support their Roman Britain topic. They learned about the people who inhabited military towns like Corinium, as well as doing their own investigations using artefacts. The students had the opportunity to handle Roman



jewellery, wax tablets and weaponry before donning authentic Roman tunics and sandals. They also paid a visit to the site of the Corinium amphitheatre where they could appreciate its size and scale. Once back at school, Year 7 used this experience to help with their projects on the buildings and lifestyle of Roman Britain.

## Newbury Rotary Young Chef Competition

Selina Day (Year 7) and Poppy Adams (Year 10) competed in the Newbury Rotary Young Chef Competition. The girls had to produce a two course meal for two people, for under £12, in an hour and a half. After weeks of preparation, planning and practice, Selina and Poppy confidently dealt with the pressures of cooking in a professional kitchen, whilst under the watchful eye of the two judges, who were professional chefs. It was a close call when it came to announcing the winner, with only a few points between the top places. Selina was delighted to come third with her dishes of an Asian inspired salmon and a lemon tart.



## Pitt Rivers & Natural History Museum

Year 8 started their Cultural Artefacts art project with a visit to the Pitt Rivers and Natural History Museums in Oxford. The purpose of the trip was to engage with the thousands of artefacts from around the world that are on display; these range from weapons to masks, tools to jewellery and clothing to instruments. The girls saw some wonderful examples of artistic sketchbooks that have responses to the artefacts and these inspired their own drawings. The girls then took their ideas and inspiration back to the classroom to design and create their own cultural artefact.





# SENIOR SCHOOL

## Farnham Sculpture Park

Year 9 were on top form during our visit to Farnham Sculpture Park in September. The park hosts a diverse range of sculptures from wooden horses to Perspex squares, bronze skeletons to steel flowers and so much more. The girls engaged with the sculptures on display by studying them closely and sketching responses for potential ideas to take back to the classroom for their own clay sculpture project. The students were encouraged to look at sculptures that were created in a more minimal and abstract form in order to make the subject for their project less obvious. Once all the girls' sculptures have been crafted, students will select a range of colourful glazes to decorate them in, which will make their creations last for many years!



## Kew Gardens & the Frieze Arts Fair

Year 10 and Year 11 GCSE Art, Photography and Textiles students visited Kew Gardens and the Frieze Arts Fair to support their current coursework project and future exam projects. It was a beautiful autumn day at Kew with lots of botanical wonders on show. Year 10 found this beneficial in supporting their respective natural forms and floral projects.

The Frieze Arts Fair hosts artwork from over 700 galleries across the world and took three hours to walk around. This annual event proved a great opportunity to show the girls what the modern art



world is showcasing today, whilst giving them lots of creative and presentation ideas for future final outcomes. In a few galleries we enquired about the price of certain artworks and one was priced at £350,000!! The event is also held in Tokyo and New York and gives the wealthy and famous a chance to buy artwork. Sadly, we didn't spot any celebrities this time though...

## Charity Events



This has been another successful term of fundraising and support for a wide range of charities. The Macmillan Cake Sale, supported by the whole school, raised an impressive £1187.43. This was followed by Harvest Festival, where pupil contributions enabled us to donate 231.5kg of food to the West Berkshire Foodbank.

Year 8 - Year 10 have organised a variety of charity events, which started with 8S's Halloween themed healthy snack sale in aid of Save the Children and then 9S held a non-uniform day in aid of Children in Need. Other forms have organised a Christmas Tombola, a festive gift sale, a sale of postcards picturing the Greenham Common banners, a Christmas jumper day and various healthy food sales. 9G organised a collection of shoeboxes for Launchpad in Reading and other charities we have raised money for include The British Heart Foundation, The Rosemary Appeal, Alzheimer's Research, The Salvation Army and The Donkey Sanctuary. The term concluded with an inter-form competition to produce a gift hamper for the West Berkshire Foodbank, which led to a car full of goods being donated to this worthwhile cause. The competition winners were 11S and 12T.

Thank you to everyone who has donated and participated in this wonderful selection of fundraising activities.

**Miss Matthews, RPE Department**





## 100 Years of War & Peace



Pupils, parents and staff from St Gabriel's, past and present, featured in the Greenham: 100 Years of War & Peace event on 8 & 9 September. Anisa Khorassani, Year 12, and Sophie Willcocks, Year 8, performed in Beth Flintoff's spectacular production on the Common's surviving segment of runway. Anisa starred as a peace campaigner from the 1980s encampment and Sophie as a 1930s school child.

That square of concrete boasts a truly incredible 100 years of history. Take your pick from General Eisenhower, D-Day, Operation Market Garden, the Berlin Airlift, the Cuban Missile Crisis, the arrival of Ugandan Asians expelled by Idi Amin, the stationing of cruise missiles or the 19 years of the women's peace encampment. The Common has seen it all and the production, which told its story, was witnessed by approximately 8000 people over the two nights. Being a part of it was a huge commitment and congratulations go to all



members of the St Gabriel's community who sang, danced, performed, marched and supported over the two days. Over 30 pupils from the school were involved in the creation of two of the 10 banners that formed a magnificent backdrop to the production. The banners were presented on stage at the start of each evening's main event by parents and staff from the school, including Mrs Tulloch, Mr Williams and Mr Mannion.

One legacy of the event is that the banners have become historical artefacts in their own right. They will be displayed in the West Berkshire Museum before being found a permanent home in the new arts centre at Greenham Common Business Park.

We have now produced some wonderful postcards of our two banners, which are being sold in aid of The Rosemary Appeal. To date we have raised over £100 which will be matched by the Greenham Common Trust. If you would like to buy any cards, please talk to a member of 10T.

## Confirmation Service

This term, four girls in the Senior School joined confirmation classes led by the school's chaplain, Joy Mawdesley. We followed the CY course, which led us through the basic principles of the Christian faith. We then came together on Sunday, 5 November, to confirm our faith at St Nicolas Church in Newbury.



# Stevensons

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## Term Time Opening Hours

Tuesday: 2.30pm - 4.30pm

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



## Australian Exchange 2017



Fenella Jones and Freya Carter from Year 10, and their families, were exceptional hosts to our two Australian exchange students, Georgie and Kristy, from St Hilda's School on the Gold Coast.

This was the first time that Georgie and Kristy had visited England, a country they saw as being very cold but green. From day one, the girls were involved in lessons and activities across the school; they particularly enjoyed learning new subjects such as Classics. The Australians found it fascinating to be a part of a different education system and to experience the St Gabriel's way of life.

Although Georgie and Kristy were not used to the cold (despite it being a relatively mild 10 degrees) they did enjoy wrapping up and seeing the beautiful countryside we have to offer.

Away from school Fenella and Freya entertained their counterparts with trips all over the UK and abroad which Georgie and Kristy felt were fabulous experiences. They were taken aback by the brilliant shopping opportunities in London and are determined to visit again at some point. It has also been fantastic to see Fenella and Freya act as such kind hosts throughout the six weeks of the exchange and they are now incredibly excited for the next leg of their journey - their visit to Australia, which starts straight after summer exams.

In March, we will commence the application process for Year 9, who can apply for the 2018/19 Australian Exchange Programme.

"I had always wanted to be part of the Australian exchange programme and, after writing my application and being interviewed by Mrs Chapman and Mr May, I was lucky enough to be selected. Time went by surprisingly quickly and in September I was at Heathrow Airport waiting for Georgie to arrive. During the six weeks

she was here we went on lots of trips to places such as Oxford, Jane Austen's House, Brighton, London and Highclere Castle. I feel I appreciate these places more now I realise countries such as Australia do not have the history that we have in England (Australia was only discovered in 1788). It was a truly amazing experience and I cannot wait to visit Georgie in Australia in the summer."

**Fenella Jones**

"Taking part in the Australian exchange has been a fantastic experience and is one that I will never forget. Kristy and Georgie were both so amazing and Ella and I have formed lifelong friendships with them both. At the start of the exchange process, I was very nervous as to who I would end up having to stay and spend time with. However, after getting to know Kristy, I realised that I had nothing to worry about! In fact, I am pretty sure that I enjoyed her time here even more than she did!! It was amazing how quickly Kristy and Georgie integrated into our year group and friendships flourished. I am unbelievably excited to be going out to Australia in the summer and cannot wait to see Kristy and Georgie again." **Freya Carter**

## GCSE History Workshop

In November, GCSE historians took part in a workshop to cover the content of the Edexcel GCSE Historic Environment Study. The workshop was supported by hundreds of authentic artefacts, hands-on and role-play activities and carefully chosen period images and film; and – most importantly – were based entirely upon the actual experiences of those who served Britain during the Great War.

## NYO & NYWE Success for Lottie & Jess

Congratulations to Lottie Swainston, Year 11, who has won a place in the National Youth Orchestra. Lottie, who has been learning the violin since she was 7 years old, auditioned for the orchestra alongside more than 800 musicians who were battling it out for one of the 164 places. This will be Lottie's second year with the orchestra having successfully performed with them in 2017.

Lottie is now looking forward to the nine performances she will be making with the orchestra, which is considered to be one of the world's greatest orchestras for teenage musicians. The first performances will be in January in Manchester, London and Nottingham where Lottie will be performing Bartok's **Bluebeard's Castle** and Dukas' **The Sorcerer's Apprentice**. Lottie has also successfully auditioned for the Junior Department at the Royal College of Music.

Many congratulations, too, to Jess Gill, who not only won the Rotary Club Young Musician Competition for the second year in a row but also got in to the National Youth Wind Ensemble again for 2018.





## Opening of the New Sixth Form Centre



The Sixth Form moved into the Farmhouse with great excitement earlier this term, and it feels like home. Walking up the path each day, often bathed in sunshine, we imagine ourselves (or possibly it's just me) sauntering up to be welcomed into a Jane Austen novel: the glowing terracotta brick, the pretty white porch, the generous, gleaming windows all contribute to the friendly aura of the house.

Inside, the girls gather in the kitchen, sitting around the table to work, drink tea and eat a somewhat puzzling array of snacks. The classrooms feel homely; spaces where work is collaborative, ordered and supportive. We enjoy the new furniture and technology available there, making lessons a pleasure to teach and learn. It is such an advantage to have a haven where the Sixth Form girls feel the difference from Senior School; as they step up to the challenges of A levels, they step into an eminently suitable space to nurture their studies.

We look forward to the spring and summer when we can take advantage of the garden, and the outdoor tables and chairs currently perched, upturned, outside the barn. Personally, I feel the girls should be gathering flowers to make posies and sipping homemade lemonade, but more likely they will be setting up impromptu games of football and rounders. Whatever the future brings, the team are all relishing the shaping of the new Sixth Form experience this year.

**Ms Hall, Sixth Form Tutor**

## World Challenge Training Weekend

In July 2018, 11 of our Sixth Form will head to Borneo on an adventure of a life time. The students will spend a month trekking



through jungles, working in local communities and climbing Mount Kinabalu. This is no easy task and the girls will have to be prepared for the challenges which will come their way.

In September, we spent a weekend in Ashdown Forest to prepare ourselves for the types of challenges which we will encounter on our trip. With kit on our back and walking boots on, we were introduced to our expedition leader and had the first task of setting up camp. The tents were the easy bit, it was the hammocks which proved a little more tricky. The weekend was made up of treks through the woods, whilst learning safety measures and understanding what we should expect on our trip to Southeast Asia. We had a huge amount of fun and are now super excited for the challenge July will bring!

## Parliament & the Supreme Court



We started our trip by visiting the Supreme Court where all the important constitutional cases have been decided since it was established in 2001. Since the Court was not sitting that day, we were able to go inside the court room, where we learnt about why the Supreme Court was established and how a typical case is treated. We were even able to sit in the Justices' chairs, although we were banned from sitting in the President's.

After visiting the Supreme Court we walked to Parliament, where later that day MPs would vote on the Brexit Bill. We were given a tour of some of the most interesting parts of the building, including the House of Commons, which looks much larger on television. As MPs were beginning to arrive for the Brexit Bill debate, we had the privilege of visiting a Committee Room where we held our own debate on "should Euthanasia be legalised", a topic the Commons debated in 2015. We then went to the Parliament Education Office, where we participated in a fun and informative workshop on electoral systems.

Overall I thoroughly enjoyed the trip, it has sparked my interest in the Supreme Court and has encouraged me to want to go back and watch a debate in the House of Commons.

**Evie Gallup**

## Talking Science

The James Webb space telescope is due to be launched in 2019. Part of the telescope's instrumentation, the Mid Infra-Red Instrument, was built at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory. We went to a talk by Paul Eccleston of RAL Space who explained some of the engineering behind it. We found out that the telescope's mirror (constructed in several hexagonal pieces) is over 6m in diameter and the heat shield is as big as a tennis court!

**Rowan Saltmarsh & Lucy Byrne**



# SIXTH FORM

## Insight Day at Vodafone



Recently the Sixth Form enjoyed a fantastic Insight Day at Vodafone. The programme involved teamwork in the ever popular marshmallow and spaghetti tower challenge, a session on managing your digital footprint and acceptable social media use, guidance on CV design and preparing for video interviews, using VR headsets and culminated with an app design challenge. Our teams excelled in the app task with convincing pitches to the judges from all groups. Despite tough competition from other schools, the St Gabriel's teams triumphed in each subgroup to win goody bags of Vodafone merchandise.

We are very grateful to the Future Talent Team at Vodafone for facilitating such a worthwhile and action-packed careers event.

## The Wakefield Shepherds' Play

We had a real treat on the last day of the term when Year 12 presented their version of The Wakefield Shepherds' Play. This was organised by our English Literature Prefect, Charlotte Culley, who also designed the posters, created the programme and made the sheep! Charlotte writes, "Our script for The Wakefield Shepherds' Play is adapted from one of the few remaining examples of a mediaeval mystery play. The play is a mixture of farce and the retelling of the birth of Christ. Many Year 12 are currently exploring aspects of Marxism and noted the possibility of a Marxist interpretation of this mystery play that deals with the plight of oppressed impoverished shepherds who are suffering under the weight of taxes imposed by their feudal lords. The plight of Mary and Joseph, which reflects the story of many refugees in 2017, was a parallel that was not lost on our actors and audience."



Year 12 gave a splendid performance which entertained with hilarious moments, but also became intensely profound at the birth of the Christ child. Huge congratulations to Charlotte Culley, Alice McGonnell, Rosalie Coffey, Anisa Khorassani, Erin Horne, Victoria Williams, Anna Stirk and Cosi Woodard. They ended their performance with a rendering of The Coventry Carol with a beautiful solo by Rosalie Coffey. This was an excellent start to Christmas and the audience and staff very much enjoyed the experience.

## Parliamentary Work Experience

In the summer, I went up to the Palace of Westminster to take part in three days of work experience with Alberto Costa, MP for South Leicestershire. It was an especially exciting time to be at the heart of government as things were still finding their balance following the General Election.

My Extended Project Qualification was entitled, Who Won the Vote for British Women in the Period 1866-1928. One of the highlights of my three days was being able to see the place where Emily Wilding Davison hid on census night, very exciting for me but others would just see a cupboard!

In the office, I was able to contribute to the research that Narinder, Alberto Costa's Head Researcher, was working on. I learned about the role of the constituency representative, how constituent complaints are dealt with as well as how the election campaign was run back in South Leicestershire. However, I spent most of my time with Ruth, Alberto's Private Secretary, and saw how she arranged his diary and events – too many for him to attend.

I went on a tour of Parliament and was shown around the House of Commons and the House of Lords as well as Westminster Hall, where Henry VIII played real tennis. I saw the two types of lions on the floor of Parliament: ones with their eyes open and others with them closed so that they would not see up ladies dresses – Victorian propriety in action!

However, my greatest achievement was being able to get into Prime Minister's Questions; it was a really feisty debate and exciting to watch. My seat was also upgraded twice and I found myself sitting in the Special Gallery looking directly at the Government Bench, although you could definitely hear the opposition benches as well!

This was such a great experience and I loved every minute of it.

**Philippa Lazarus, Head Girl**



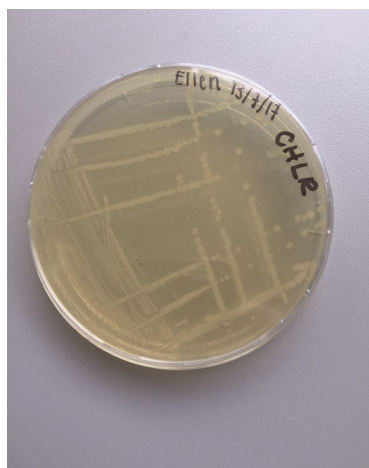
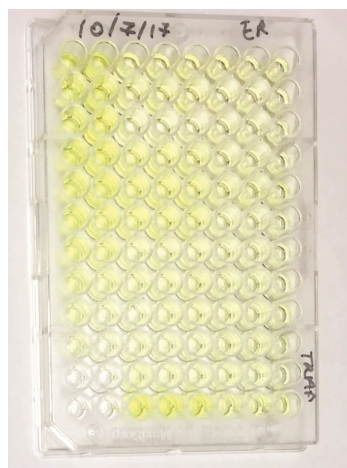


## The Jenner Institute, Oxford

Over the summer, I undertook some laboratory work experience at the Jenner Institute in Oxford. I was shadowing a team of immunologists in the vaccination lab, who work on multiple diseases such as TB and HIV. They were at the forefront of the Ebola vaccination.

The main focus of their work is finding a new cure for malaria. I had the chance to observe and get hands-on experience in many of their experiments and tests, which are carried out to target and understand malaria and how it affects the human body. Over the course of the week, I used serum to do an ELISA (enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay); I carried out a qPCR; observed Flow Cytometry; prepared Leucosep tubes and digested a plasmid with a restriction enzyme. I also saw the insectary where the mosquitoes are bred.

Over the week, I gained a great insight into the impact scientific research has on the world; I am now even more excited to pursue a career in this field.



**Ellen Reed, Deputy Head Girl**

## Young Enterprise: Montague Jewellery

It has been a very exciting and productive first term of business for the Year 12 Young Enterprise team. In September, we were given the task of creating a product and starting a business, which was a little daunting to say the least, as most of us had very little



experience in the world of business.

Following an hour-long brainstorming session, we settled on producing and selling handcrafted necklaces, utilizing the expertise of our wonderful Operations Manager, Evie Gallup. We then proceeded to build a brand around our products, designing a logo and setting up various social media platforms.

In order to get our business up and running, the PTA very kindly allowed us to set up a glow stick stall at the school's bonfire night. We used the funds we made here to buy stock, in order to make jewellery to sell at the school's Christmas Fair.

One of the highlights of our team's journey so far was having the opportunity to pitch our products to a panel of local business 'dragons'. From this experience we received some invaluable advice and a £30 investment in our business! I am very proud of the team's commitment and subsequent achievement throughout this first term of enterprise.

**Charlotte Culley**

## Year 13 History Lectures

Year 13 historians attended a day of lectures by notable historians of the Tudor period. Professor John Morrill discussed the significance of Henry VIII's break with Rome and Dr John Guy delivered two lectures considering the reigns of Edward VI and Mary Tudor. The highlight was meeting Dr David Starkey, who spoke about the issues surrounding interpretations of Henry VII in his own very distinct way. The day really enhanced Year 13's study of the Tudor period.



## Senior UKMT Maths Challenge

In November, our Year 12 A level Maths students entered the Senior Maths Challenge and the following girls were awarded certificates:

**Silver:** Alice McGonnell, Katherine Lazarus & Rowan Saltmarsh.

## Maths Olympiad for Girls 2017

Alice McGonnell and Katherine Lazarus have also received certificates for taking part in the Maths Olympiad for Girls.

Rowan Saltmarsh was awarded a distinction in this new competition.

Well done to all who took part.



## CHALLENGE & EXTENSION

### A Day in the Life of an Auctioneer

In October, Sarah Dance came in to speak to Senior School students and parents about her career as an auctioneer. This was a fascinating talk and it was interesting to learn how she became an auctioneer of horse-drawn carriages. Sarah spoke about her career path and also touched on the difficulties that she had to overcome to be recognised in what was, and still is, a predominantly male dominated world. The talk was enjoyed by all who attended and really inspired students to seize every opportunity and be prepared to do things that put you outside of your comfort zone.

### Where Classics Meets Neuroscience

The interesting thing about the world is that whatever people say, it is still dominated by men. Approximately 5% of world leaders are female, 32% of the British MPs are female, 7% of the FTSE 100 have a female CEO, the average pay differential for men versus women in the UK is about 24% and so on and so forth. So imagine how thrilled we were when one of the women who has broken this mould came to speak at St Gabriel's, a woman who in 1994 was the first woman to be invited to give the Royal Institution Christmas Lecture, adding her name to a list that includes the likes of Michael Faraday, David Attenborough and Richard Dawkins, a woman whose profile features alongside the likes of Stephen Hawking and James Lovelock, a woman described not only as 'the foremost female scientist in Britain' but as 'one of the best of any gender, anywhere, at getting complicated ideas across', and a woman who has published some of the most 'go-to' books on the brain currently on the market.

Baroness Susan Greenfield is a neuroscientist whose achievements read like a Who's Who of how to succeed. She is a writer, broadcaster and member of the House of Lords, whose research has included work on Parkinson's disease and Alzheimer's disease. She has published extensively on the neuroscience of consciousness and her most recent book discusses the impact of technology on the brain. As an academic, she has held a number of positions, including Senior Research Fellow at Lincoln College, Oxford University, Professor of Synaptic Pharmacology, Chancellor of Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh (2005 - 2013), Director of the Royal Institution of Great Britain (1998 - 2010), and, in September 2013, she co-founded the biotech company, Neuro-bio Ltd, where she is Chief Executive Officer.

The theme of her talk, Where Classics Meets Neuroscience, covered the most incredible range of ideas. Whether you were a classicist, a biologist, a psychologist or pretty much of any academic persuasion, there was something to test and tease the brain. A particularly spirited panel discussion centred around views on social media and its effects on the brain, with Miss Halstead and Mrs Dadds providing the teacher angle, whilst Sofia Gilks, Abigail Wilson

and Head Girl, Philippa Lazarus, demonstrated a fearless willingness to put forward their views in front of an audience of well over 150 people.

A large sum was raised for the charity, Classics for All, and those who attended were left with as fine an example as any of what can be achieved with ambition, creativity and courage.

### Debating Society



The term began with an Oxford Union Debating Society workshop at Didcot School, where we practised our debating skills in preparation for the first heat of the Oxford Union Schools' Debating Competition, which takes place in January 2018. We are entering three teams: Anna Stirk and Alice McGonnell, Charlotte Culley and Rowan Saltmarsh, and Victoria Williams and Sophie Bundock.

This was followed by the Newbury Council debating competition, where Charlotte Culley, Alice McGonnell and Rowan Saltmarsh debated the motion "This house believes that political parties are bad for democracy", with Sophie Bundock an excellent time-keeper. They debated impressively winning some extremely heavy Newbury Council debating medals.

This was followed by an English Speaking Union debate at Bradfield College, where Anna Stirk and Alice McGonnell debated the motion "This house would include e-sports in the Olympic Games". Alice and Anna opposed the motion and presented a beautifully argued case winning them a place in the next round which will be held at Wellington College in January 2018.

Throughout the term our debating prefect, Rowan Saltmarsh, has been inspiring at encouraging our younger debaters to take on the challenge of formal debating. Notable debaters such as Tara Young, Jorja King, Heidi Francis, Emily Hamilton and Lucy Hambidge have tackled demanding motions from "This house believes that animals should not be kept in captivity" to "This house would lower the voting age to 16". For all of the motions, the girls adopt an Oxford Union approach having 15 minutes to prepare and then taking the floor. Members of the floor such as Lucy Stirk, Harriet Turner, Lauren Scanlan and Anna Spence always offer exciting challenges to the speakers.

We concluded the term with our Christmas Party where the Sixth Form and Year 9 teamed up to debate the motion, "This house believes that Harry Potter is the best character in children's fiction". The debate was ably chaired by Ellie Heywood who kept the House in order despite some incisive rebuttals concerning Harry's morality. It was a splendid end to the term and the evening finished with tea, the centrepiece of which was Alice McGonnell's magnificent Father Christmas cake.







St Gabriel's Singers got the term got off to a lively start with a performance at the Newbury Show, singing a challenging arrangement of Stevie Wonder songs, as well as giving a moving rendition of **Beautiful City** from **Godspell**.

The department settled into a purposeful rhythm of lessons and practices for choir and instrumental groups rehearsing for Christmas, the January concert and rehearsals for our forthcoming musical, **Beauty & the Beast**. Pupils also attended theory and aural practices, and worked hard towards their Associated Board and Trinity examinations. Year 7 enjoyed a fantastic trip to the New Theatre, Oxford, to see Mamma Mia in November: they were almost (but not quite) as excited as Dr Tebbs and Ms Gunn.

Moving on through the term, such was the popularity of the Senior Lunchtime Concert we had to run it over two lunchtimes. Both events were highly enjoyable and it is lovely to see increasing numbers of parents, staff and friends supporting our performers.

Later in the term, our Big Band with Ellen Reed on vocals recorded five songs at Studio 91 in Newbury. The programme included **Sway**, **Feeling Good** and **Beat It** with the full band, plus **Valerie** (with Elizabeth Edwards on guitar) and **The Nearer of You** (with Dr Tebbs on piano). The day went very smoothly, with the band responding very professionally to the need to do multiple takes of the songs, and picking their way carefully around the usual coils of wire, expensive-looking equipment and piles of doughnuts, sandwiches, apples etc.

As term drew to a close, it was all systems go for singers and instrumentalists in the Senior Carol Service, when the severe weather hit, sadly forcing a cancellation. However, some of the items in the programme were performed on the last morning of term, and performers are to be congratulated on their beautiful singing and playing at this event. Zara Williams and Lottie Swainston sang solos, there was a lovely performance of **A Spotless Rose** by Bethany Rushton-Taylor, Rosie Rostron, Elizabeth Edwards, Elizabeth Ferneley and Lottie Swainston, and Tayisha Flower played solo violin beautifully in a delightful Year 7 and Year 8 performance of **That First Nowell**.



We are looking forward to presenting the Spring Concert, on 30 January, as well as **Beauty & the Beast** on 6 & 7 March.

## Music Examination Results

Rachel Berkley	Piano	01	Distinction
Rachel Berkley	Singing	03	Merit
Anneliese Brown	Cello	05	Pass
Imogen Brown	Cello	05	Merit
Abigail Buckley	Alto Saxophone	04	Pass
Sophie Butterworth	Singing	02	Pass
Molly Cazaly	Clarinet	03	Merit
Jessica Collett	Clarinet	03	Merit
Grace Cunliffe	Piano	Prep Test	Pass
Gabriella Dance	Flute	01	Merit
Elizabeth Edwards	Viola	06	Merit
Elizabeth Ferneley	Alto Saxophone	05	Merit
Elizabeth Ferneley	Piano	05	Distinction
Elizabeth Ferneley	Theory	05	Merit
Heidi Francis	Piano	02	Pass
Jessica Gill	Flute	ARSM (diploma)	Distinction
Grace Glitz	Singing	02	Pass
Alice Hake	Flute	02	Pass
Holly Hake	Flute	02	Pass
Lucy Hambidge	Classical Guitar	04	Distinction
Grace Havercroft	Cello	03	Pass
Poppy Havercroft	Piano	01	Merit
Kitty Heywood	Violin	01	Pass
Matilda Heywood	Cello	02	Merit
Millie Jones	Piano	01	Pass
Misty Leach	Singing	04	Pass
Clare McGonnell	Flute	02	Pass
Ella Newborough	Piano	Prep Test	Pass
Lois Ocquaye	E flat horn	02	Merit
Penny Page	Piano	01	Distinction
Penny Page	Singing	01	Merit
Penny Page	Violin	02	Distinction
Laura Phillips	Singing	04	Merit
Lily Rostron	Piano	04	Merit
Sophia Rostron	Cello	06	Pass
Poppy Russell	Guitar	01	Distinction
Rowan Saltmarsh	Clarinet	08	Distinction
Talia Saltmarsh	Flute	05	Pass
Emilie Shepherd	Singing	02	Pass
Pollyanna Smith	B flat cornet	01	Distinction
Lottie Swainston	Singing	08	Distinction
Isabella Thorne	Singing	02	Merit
Daisy Tolhurst	Guitar	04	Pass
Daisy Tolhurst	Theory	03	Pass
Lucy Tulloch	Drum Kit	03	Distinction
Georgina Wilkins	Theory	05	Pass
Lily Williams	Flute	01	Pass



# SENIOR SCHOOL SPORT

## Condover Hall Netball trip



The first weekend of the new school year saw a trip to Condover Hall in Shropshire. Over 50 girls took part in this busy two days of netball and team building challenges, which encouraged pupils to conquer their fears through a range of outdoor activities.

Five teams represented the school with each displaying good teamwork and leadership qualities. Our Under 16 squad battled through to the final where they lost by one goal to St Mary's Ascot. A special mention has to be made to the eight new Year 7 pupils, who joined the trip after just three days in the Senior School.

As always the girls were a delight to take away and were great ambassadors for the school both on and off the court.



## Scholars' Breakfast Debate

Hannah Joseph, who left St Gabriel's in 2010, and is now WA for Loughborough Lightning and an England international at netball, joined our scholars' breakfast debate. During the discussion, Hannah raised some important questions about resilience in sport and how to cope with disappointment and setbacks. Hannah underwent surgery after an Achilles injury during training and is now recovering from successful reconstruction surgery. We hope to see her in the England squad for the Commonwealth Games in 2018.

## Equestrian Team

Our team of Olivia Ashfield, Phoebe Foxley, Minty Roskill and Lucy Towle had a super day at the Stonar School One Day Event on 23 September, and were placed fifth at the end of the day. Olivia Ashfield did especially well to win her section individually. The girls had to ride a dressage test, complete a show jumping round and



then negotiate a tricky cross country course, jumping 16 fences over a course approaching 2kms in length.

All of the girls rode extremely well and were a credit to the school. The Equestrian Team had a great weekend and thoroughly enjoyed the experience of competing at such a large event.

## Cross Country

Mr Stewart-Power is extremely pleased with the turn out at Monday morning Running Club. He is preparing the girls for the West Berkshire cross country event which will be held at Newbury showground in January. Well done to all the girls who attend come rain or shine.

## Netball

We have had a successful term and huge progress has been made by all teams. The standard of competition across the term has been tough with the netball teams playing against other GSA schools but this has improved their play significantly.

Year 7 started the term with a win at the West Berkshire Versatility Tournament, where they remained undefeated for the duration of the afternoon. This same team finished the term on a high as the winners in the District Netball Tournament.

We entered an U14 and U19 team into the County Netball Tournament; the standard of competition was very high and both teams did very well. The U19 team had four very good wins in the first round and were drawn against an extremely impressive Wellington side in the semi-finals where they were defeated 6-2.





Congratulations to the Year 9 netball team who were runners-up at the District Netball Tournament.

Netball Academy has been a huge success and the girls have been pushed hard every Monday evening.

## Hockey

The Hockey season started with some closely fought matches against Cranford House and Downe House. This was followed by County Tournaments for the U14, U16 and U19 teams. Mr May has worked extremely hard with the girls, regularly taking them down to Horris Hill to train and play.

Next term is action-packed with hockey fixtures for all year groups. In addition, Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 will take part in the West Berkshire Leagues.

It is great to see so many of our girls competing for local clubs in Marlborough, Newbury and Thatcham. Meanwhile, Olivia Marsh has gained a place in the U14 Berkshire Training Squad.



## Football

One Day One Goal promotes the power of football to unite people, give hope and strengthen peace-building efforts whilst raising awareness of Peace Day, Thursday, 21 September.

Our UN Peace Day match saw a team from the Senior School take on the Sixth Form. The Senior School team, was 'managed' by Mr Spurrett and the Sixth Form by Mr Mannion. It was miserable weather, however, everyone played hard and had a good time.



There was some impressive tackling and even a spectacular header from Kirsten Steel.

The first goal went to the Sixth Form much to Mr Mannion's delight and although the Senior School girls fought hard, and had many attempts at goal, they did not quite manage to score. The match finally came to a close at around 1.30pm, with Mr Spurrett cheering loudly for his team, though unfortunately the final score was 1:0 to the Sixth Form.

## Football Club

Mr Ives continues to run the extremely popular Friday lunchtime Football Club. Year 8 and Year 9 have been taking part in the District 6-a-side Tournament, with the Year 9 team undefeated until their final game where they lost to Mary Hare on penalties.

This club will continue next term with more football fixtures in the diary. Thank you to Mr Ives for his support and enthusiasm in running this club.

## Gymnastics

The Gymnastics Squad have been training this term with our coach, Janet Alibush, and recently competed in the Santa Cup Competition against SHSK and Cranford House. Gymnasts had to perform a technical routine requiring flexibility, control and core strength. Both the Junior and Senior teams performed extremely well on the floor and vault, with Daisy Tolhurst and Holly Hake our top scoring gymnasts of the evening. Daisy also took the third place medal for her faultless performances over the course of the competition.



## West Berkshire Indoor Athletics

We gained a commendable third place in the West Berkshire Indoor Athletics Competition with wins for our relay team and fantastic distances gained on the standing long jump by Georgia Teeluck and by Brooke Asser in the triple jump.



# INDIVIDUAL SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS

## Netball

Many congratulations to Darcy Scott who has secured a place in the Seven Stars U19 squad in the National Performance League. Darcy trains every weekend and also supports netball in school, training regularly with her year group and with the 1st VII. This is a huge achievement and we wish Darcy every success.



## Gymnastics

Emerald Cundy travelled to Bulgaria to compete for Great Britain in the Plovdiv Cup. The British team was made up of competitors from three UK aerobic gymnastics clubs. It was Emerald's first overseas competition and she thoroughly enjoyed the experience of competing against, and watching, some of the top gymnasts from across Europe.



## Ocean Diving

Kirsten Steel, Year 9, has qualified as an ocean diver with 17 dives under her belt. She is looking forward to travelling around the world and increasing her dive experience.

## Hockey

Many congratulations to Olivia Marsh who, after an evening of trials, has been selected to train and play with the Berkshire U14 hockey team. Olivia is a sports scholar and regularly plays for the school teams in all sports.

## Cricket

Scarlett Hale, Year 8, has been selected for the U13 Winter Training Squad by Hampshire County Girls Cricket. She has also received a number of trophies this season, including the North Hampshire Girls



Cricket League bowler with the highest number of wickets taken in the season. Scarlett has recently been awarded Junior Player of the Year for her club.

## Rugby

Congratulations to Abi Wilson, who has been selected to play for the U18 Berkshire County Squad, and to Fran Winchcombe and Ellen Hill, who have been selected for the Berkshire County Squad.



## Athletics

In the summer holidays, Izzy Mannion competed for Berkshire in the English Schools Athletics Competition in Bedford. She ran 1500m gaining 3rd place overall.







## Beauty & the Beast

This term we held auditions for the Senior School production of ***Beauty & the Beast***. The girls have been rehearsing on Wednesday and Thursday evenings, blocking the script, learning songs and choreographing dances.

The performances will take place on 6 & 7 March at the Arlington Arts Centre. Belle will be played by Charlotte Culley and the Beast by Sophie Willcocks.

## Shakespeare in Schools Festival

On 8 November Drama students took part in the Shakespeare in Schools Festival. The girls worked incredibly hard to achieve a performance to be proud of.

Following the show, a parent commented, "I thought the performance from the girls was sensational. They were so focused and had clearly worked incredibly hard to produce such a powerful, professional and memorable production. The modern interpretation of the play was brilliant. The use of the hoodies as part of the storytelling, the flashlights, the contemporary music and dance/movement were all so innovative and effective. It really did make a 400 year old play feel so current."



## Drama Scholars' Breakfast

Heidi Bird from The Watermill joined us at our Drama Scholars' Breakfast. The discussion revolved around working in the performing arts industry and the best routes to take when considering working as a performer on stage or behind the scenes. The girls asked a range of interesting questions testing Heidi on her knowledge of the theatre and finding out about her role at The Watermill.

## Year 7 Play in a Day

As an introduction to the performing arts at St Gabriel's, shortly before half term, Year 7 produced a play in a day. They took their audience on a spooky adventure around the school grounds, finally ending up in the mysterious play room full of broken toys. The girls used a selection of devised music and choreography to enhance their spooky script. Parents were gripped with the performance from start to finish.

## Mrs Chaplin, Head of Drama





# DANCE DEPARTMENT



For those who are passionate about dance, the festive season always starts with a performance of **The Nutcracker**. Dance scholars got into the spirit of Christmas with an analysis of three different versions of the iconic Sugar Plum Fairy solo. This most famous of ballets, using Tchaikovsky's magical score, gave the girls an opportunity to compare some of the world's finest performances and to choose their ultimate Sugar Plum Fairy solo.

First we watched Francesca Hayward of The Royal Ballet perform a truly classical rendition of this famous work. Scholars noted the beautiful costuming, classical form and lines and her stunning pointe work. Next we saw Maurice Bejart's unusual staging in which the fairy wore a black tutu! The third and final contender was the famous Bolshoi Ballet with their grand and glittering version using traditional choreography. Dance scholars were animated and lively in their analysis of all three versions and the debate became quite heated as to which version was the best one. Scholars then had an opportunity to see and hold a real pair of pointe shoes and discover how they are made; they are baked in an oven like a cake!

Following the Dance scholars' breakfast debate, dance enthusiasts in Year 7 - Year 11 went to see the world famous production of The Royal Ballet's version of **The Nutcracker** by Peter Wright. Performed live at The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, the production was streamed to local cinemas across the UK, including Newbury's Vue Cinema. The story of **The Nutcracker** begins when

the young Clara creeps downstairs on Christmas Eve to play with her favourite present, a Nutcracker, but the mysterious magician Drosselmeyer is waiting to sweep her off on a magical adventure.

After defeating the Mouse King, the Nutcracker and Clara travel through the Land of Snow to the Kingdom of Sweets, where the Sugar Plum Fairy treats them to a wonderful display of dances. Back home, Clara thinks she must have been dreaming – but doesn't she recognize Drosselmeyer's nephew?

The girls were treated to a festive night of dancing snowflakes, waltzing flowers, enchanting stage magic and wonderful costumes. Darcey Bussell introduced the performance and gave a short synopsis of the story before the curtain finally opened on a thrilling mixture of lively dancing and Christmas sparkle.

**Mrs Hastings, Head of Dance**



## St Gabriel's

Parent Teacher Association

### Second-hand Uniform Shop

Thursday 2.00pm—4.30pm  
(Term time only)

We supply Junior School book bags, rucksacks and PE bags as well as pre-loved uniform, including football boots, trainers and hockey sticks.

We are always looking for good quality, clean uniform to be donated, please indicate if you wish the full funds to be donated to the PTA or 50% to PTA and 50% to yourself.

Donations can be dropped off at the second-hand shop every Thursday or to the school office

[2ndhandshop@stgabrielspta.co.uk](mailto:2ndhandshop@stgabrielspta.co.uk)