

Newsletter

Spring 2018

St Gabriel's

Your Route to Success



Geography & Classics Trip to Sicily, March 2018

As the weather improves and we again find ourselves at the examination time in the school cycle, our thoughts are drawn to assessment. However, education is also about the journey we take to gain the knowledge that will help us lead fulfilling and rewarding lives. This makes us rounded individuals who are caring and proactive in what we do; people who take note of others and engage with what is going on around us. Yet we cannot get away from the fact that we need to jump through the educational hoops — internal assessments, GCSEs and A levels. I take this opportunity to wish every success to all those who are facing assessments or exams in the coming months, but particularly our public examination candidates. I know they will do brilliantly!

As we move further into the 21st Century, I am growing increasingly aware of the role of technology and science in the careers of the future. You only have to look at the recent events in Salisbury to see that there are whole industries of support teams that spring into action, as and when required; people who would otherwise be anonymous scientists, vital but quietly getting on with their work. The death of Stephen Hawking shows how much can be achieved and equally how much there is to be achieved, things that we have little comprehension of now but, in years to come, will be more

mainstream and understandable. I am so proud to lead a school that pushes forward in all areas of study, and the school's commitment to science is clear for all to see as we embark on an upgrading of our science facilities over the summer months.

Before I finish, a couple of dates for your diary; the annual alumnae reunion will take place on Saturday, 16 June, to which all alumnae and former staff are warmly welcome. The PTA Summer Party for parents and pupils will be held on Saturday, 23 June. Further details will be sent out shortly, but keep the dates free!

Finally, I receive a large number of emails during the working week, but there was one that recently caught my eye. It was from Jon and Eleanor Hoare, who wanted to share with me their experience of driving past the school on their way to Basingstoke Hospital; Eleanor was in labour. Babies have a knack of keeping to their own schedule, and an emergency stop was made in the St Gabriel's driveway so that baby Harriet could come into the world when she wanted, rather than at a more fitting or appropriate time or venue! All are doing well and Harriet will forever have an association with the school!

Mr Ricki Smith, Principal

Room Bears



Each of our rooms now have a bear or soft toy that the children can take home with them for a visit or perhaps even to join their family on an adventure. The Pre-School Room's bear is called Freddy; the Toddler Room have named their bear, Tod, and Maisie the Mouse is loving her time with the youngest children and their families in the Baby Room. It is lovely to see the photos of the cuddly friends' exploits displayed in the rooms and to hear the children chatter excitedly about what they have enjoyed doing with their furry friends, or are eagerly anticipating and planning for when it is their turn.

Easter Egg Hunt

The children, staff and parents thoroughly enjoyed the annual Sandleford Easter Egg Hunt in the school grounds. The Sandleford team organised a fantastic event and were blessed with a dry Saturday morning. The children had previously decorated a picture of an Easter egg, which also had a photo of them on one side for easy identification. The staff became Easter bunnies and hid all of the children's eggs in the school grounds along the Easter trail. The children excitedly headed off into the grounds with their parents and



siblings eagerly searching for their eggs. Once they had successfully located their egg it was time to return to the nursery and receive their reward; an egg this time of the chocolate kind.

Our thanks to the PTA for providing the chocolate eggs for the children.

Baby Room

The babies have had their first experience of cold snowy weather and enjoyed wrapping up in their warm suits and bravely venturing outside for some snowy fun.

More recently, our youngest children have got creative with activities ranging from cookery to making cards and craft items linked to spring festivals and celebrations.

A visit from our local fire station enthralled the children, who were able to climb up and explore the fire engine, see and talk to the fire fighters, watch the flashing lights and hear the siren. A fantastic multi-sensory learning opportunity.

Toddler Room

The children in the Toddler Room have been fascinated by the very wintry weather of recent weeks. They enjoyed playing outside in the real snow; this was a first for many of them. The children, wrapped up warmly, made footprint trails around the garden in the snow and enjoyed the cold and wet sensory experience of playing with the snow. The children's learning continued indoors through reading lots of snowy stories and having fun with winter-themed playdough activities. They are now little experts at rolling snowballs and making snowman.



During their dance and music lessons, the toddlers have been learning the **Hokey Cokey** and now get very excited when they hear the song being played and run to hold hands in a big circle. Circle games and songs, such as this, are a fantastic way of developing lots of skills with this age group whilst having fun. The children learn to co-operate and work together to form a circle, they have to listen to and follow the instructions within the words of the song, it also reinforces learning the vocabulary of parts of the body and being able to move them in a controlled manner at the right time.



As Easter approached, the toddlers enjoyed getting hands on with a cookery activity, making cornflake nests ready to hold yummy chocolate eggs. They keenly observed the chocolate melting and all had a good stir to mix in the cornflakes, trying hard to keep them in the bowl, before shaping their own nests.

Pre-School Room

The pre-school children love to cook. This term staff have linked many of their cooking experiences to seasonal celebrations. The children have made delicious heart shaped biscuits to celebrate Valentine's Day, shamrock shaped biscuits for St Patrick's Day and baked tasty hot cross Easter scones.

The children develop a wide range of cross-curricular skills through cooking: there is a huge array of language and communication opportunities, from learning and using new culinary terminology to listening and carefully following instructions and a recipe, and their math's skills are developed as they weigh and count out the ingredients. The bit the children enjoy most is refining their fine motor skills with all that hands on stirring, sieving, whisking, rolling and, of course, the tasting!

The weather plays a huge part in a child's learning experiences. Over recent months we have seen every single kind of weather imaginable from very dramatic freezing cold winter days, with exciting opportunities to play in the snow, to days where it feels as if spring could be coming, with warm sunshine and showers. The pre-school children really enjoy time outside in the garden and the wider school grounds. They had a lot of fun playing in the snow and for many it was their first real experience of significant snowfall, deep enough for them to try and build snowmen and go sledging.

Recently, the children have enjoyed watching the spring bulbs start to pop up in the Sandleford garden. They have identified and learnt the names of daffodils, tulips, and crocuses. Whilst on a walk to the woods and lake, the children were very excited to come across frogspawn. They are keen to revisit regularly over the coming weeks to try and observe the next stages of the frog life cycle. Perhaps they will spot tadpoles, froglets and, finally, some frogs!

The children have been learning about healthy eating and enjoyed sorting familiar foods into groups, those which are good for us and those we should not eat too much of! The children all agreed that fruit and vegetables are something we should all eat a lot of. So, with spring approaching, this has provided the children with the perfect opportunity to get planting. They have sown carrots, tomatoes and beans and they are looking forward to learning about

how to care for their plants and watching them grow over the next couple of months. Hopefully, they will be able to taste the fruits of their labour later in the summer. The children have also planted sweet peas and a mix of seeds which will produce flowers that attract butterflies. The Sandleford garden should be full of colour in the summer with lots of beautiful winged visitors for the children to admire.



All the children enjoy being creative and they are always busy developing their artistic and fine motor skills through the range of daily activities available to them in the free-flow environment. For example, rolling and shaping playdough, cutting, sticking and drawing when designing a junk model and mark making in glittery shaving foam.

The children also enjoy and enhance their skills by taking part in adult-led creative tasks. The thumb print canvases they made as presents for Mother's Day are a delightful keepsake and will be treasured by their mummies. More recently, the children have been getting very crafty in preparation for Easter; there are eggs and chicks everywhere you look.



In the second half of the Spring Term, the children joining Reception at St Gabriel's in September made several visits to see Mrs Lawrence and Mrs Bloxson in the Reception classroom. This has allowed them to start familiarizing themselves with their new classroom and staff before the start of the Autumn Term.

This transition process will continue throughout the Summer Term and will include a Teddy Bears' Picnic (Tuesday, 12 June) for both children and parents and the Junior School Induction Day on Thursday, 21 June.

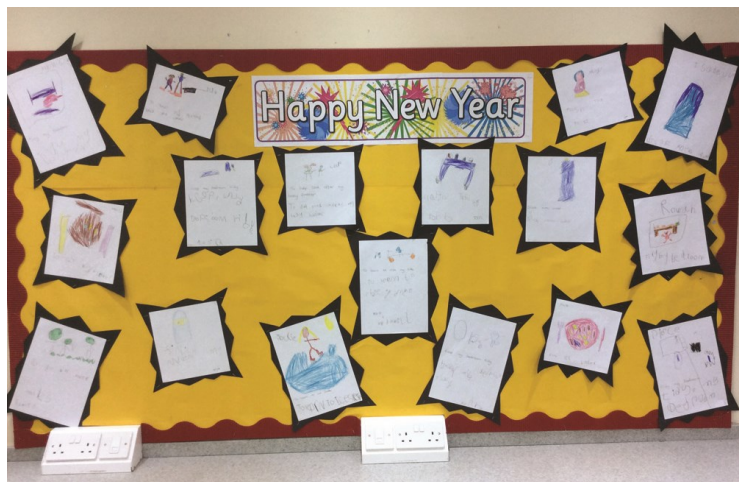
Mrs Lawrence, Sandleford Curriculum Manager

JUNIOR SCHOOL

Spring Term in Reception

The term started with the Reception children finding out about the tradition of making a New Year's Resolution. We discussed, as a class, some of the things people often choose to give up or try to improve on throughout the year. The children had great fun coming up with their own resolutions; they drew pictures and wrote sentences to describe them to go on display in the classroom.

Their resolutions ranged from some you might expect to some more unusual and ambitious ones, including keeping their bedrooms tidier, drinking more water, going for more walks and learning to ice skate. It will be interesting to see how many of the children's resolutions are stuck to and achieved or if, like many of us, they have lots of good intentions but find it hard to fulfil them for the whole year!



Over recent weeks the children have been exploring lots of new things in their English lessons. We spent a long time during the Autumn Term learning the first 42 sounds, with the help of lots of fun actions, songs and stories, and now we are using this knowledge to start to read and write. We begin each week talking about all the exciting things we have been doing at home over the weekend. Everyone is brave enough to speak in front of the whole class and we are trying hard to speak using full sentences. We have then drawn a picture and written a sentence or two about what we have done. We now know that sentences begin with a capital letter, end with a full stop and we can even put finger spaces between each word. In our phonics lessons we are finding out that English is a really tricky language when you are learning to read and write.



We continue to play lots of games to help us to become more confident with new sounds and tricky words. In addition, we are trying to use writing in our play, whether we are writing a register on the whiteboard, whilst pretending to be a teacher, or writing a label for a model we have made. Our confidence is soaring and we are all very willing to give writing a go.



The Reception children returned after the half term break full of enthusiasm for our new topic, Space. We built a space shuttle area in the classroom and it is always full of excited astronauts finding out about the Solar System. The children have even bumped into a few friendly aliens! Reception have also been developing their knowledge of the planets, the sun, the moon and space travel. We have had lots of positive feedback from parents about how keen the children are on this topic.

We launched a creative home-school space project towards the end of the term, which gave the children and their parents the opportunity to work and learn together. The results have been amazing and everybody has really enjoyed taking part. We have absolutely loved looking at all of the beautiful pictures, 3D models, homemade books and watching the video clips of the children talking about their planets. We clearly have a class of astronauts and super scientists in the making!

Mrs Lawrence, Mrs Bloxson, Mrs Brown & Mrs McAlister

Exciting News for Year 1

What exciting news! We have a new member of staff in Year 1, Miss Adams. She is our new afternoon teaching assistant and also the After School Club Supervisor. Year 1 have enjoyed getting to know Miss Adams, who has qualifications in Norwegian Woodland Training, including creativity in the natural world and bush craft and campfire cooking.



World Book Day in Year 1

Year 1 enjoyed World Book Day as Mr Men and Little Miss characters — what a lot of happy Little Miss Sunshines we have in our class!



Year 1 Visit Newbury & Donnington Castle

Year 1 had a fantastic learning trip to Newbury town centre and Donnington Castle. Our 18 young geographers and historians, accompanied by Mrs Webb, Mrs Martin and Miss Adams, enjoyed walking around the town and spotting lots of landmarks along the way. The children have been learning about Newbury, what jobs people do and how they spend their leisure time. The highlights of the morning were definitely visiting the Desai's shop, travelling on the school minibus and eating chocolate cake in our favourite cafe!

'I loved running up and down the hill at Donnington Castle.' **Lily R**
'I like History lessons in Year 1 and have learnt lots about castles.'

Noah B

'We went to Akshar's shop.' **Charlotte R**

'We saw lots of landmarks like the Kennet & Avon canal.' **Helena B**



Art Club

The children from Year 1 & Year 2 Art Club were very excited by the weather we had recently. Everything looked so beautiful covered in snow that the children were inspired to paint some wonderful snow themed pictures, including a fox on a snowy night and smiling snowmen. They were particularly proud of their fox paintings and we hope you enjoy them, too.

Year 4 Visit Ufton Court

We arrived at Ufton Court and were met by our guide, Charlotte. Once we had dropped off our bags, we went down to the Celtic round house, where Charlotte taught us how to make fire using a flint and steel; it was very challenging. After that we learnt how to make thread for clothes. It was great fun. Our next challenge was to make a gate for a Tudor fence by weaving sticks in and out. We then met our other guide, Neil, who made us dress in Tudor clothes and act out a Tudor court scene. Phoebe was the judge; Kara, Sienna, Oscar and the teachers were the jury; Sophia, Penny, Kitty and Maia were the witnesses and the rest of our class were criminals. After lunch we looked at some paintings and discussed the Tudor symbols that we saw in them. We then went outside to play some Tudor games and learn a pavane, a Tudor dance. It was tremendous fun. We really enjoyed our day at Ufton Court.

Phoebe S & Lydia R



Horrible Histories

Year 4 & Year 6 spent a fantastic morning at the Corn Exchange watching a production of Horrible Histories. The performance covered **Barmy Britain** and was led by two actors on stage. They took us through the barmy bits of British history, starting as early as the Stone Age. There were some very funny moments and some pretty disgusting ones, too! Did you know that Victorians didn't realise the importance of clean water until they built the sewage networks, which are still in place in London today.

We all had a barmy day out which was made even better when Max was asked to go on stage and dress as a Tudor pauper—he ended up in prison!



Year 5 Go Back in Time

"What was life like for children in the Victorian times, Miss Pearmine?"

"Well, why don't we go and find out!"

Year 5 soon realised how tough life was for children in Victorian Britain, as they took a trip back in time. Arithmetic, reading and writing took place under very strict conditions, with the children only speaking when they were asked to and sitting up with their hands behind their backs. Very different to the modern day classroom!

The children thoroughly enjoyed the experience but were definitely relieved that they no longer had to be subjected to lines, the dunce's cap and the cane!



The afternoon was spent exploring Reading Museum and visiting the Huntley & Palmers exhibition. There was a huge variety of biscuit boxes on display and we even found out that Ellie's great great grandmother used to work for Huntley & Palmers!

All in all we had a fantastic day out but I do not think the children will be asking to return to the Victorian classroom in a hurry!

Textiles Projects

This term in Textiles, Year 5 have been busily engaged in learning how to weave using paper, fabric and wool. These are their very skilful and attention-grabbing 3D outcomes, which are created from a recycled plastic bottle, bottle tops, beads and buttons, as well as their brightly-coloured woven fish tail and fins. Great work!



Number Crunching Fun

In February, 350 enthusiastic young mathematicians from 36 local schools, battled it out in two exciting Maths Challenges. Against the clock, the children were challenged by Douglas Buchanan to find the solution to a variety of teasers, including What Next, Make 24? Curly Cycling, Sudoku and Broken Calculators. This was a fun way for the children to put their maths skills into practice

After over an hour of fast-paced number crunching excitement, the Year 4 Maths Challenge was won by John Rankin School and Elstree School, while Curridge Primary School and Falkland Primary School were victorious at the Year 5 Maths Challenge.

Some of the Senior School girls helped with the marking and they thoroughly enjoyed supporting pupils from their old primary schools.



The Big Bang Science Fair

During National Science Week, Year 6 went to the annual Big Bang Fair in Birmingham. This is the largest celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) in the country. The fair shows young people (primarily aged 7-19) the exciting and rewarding opportunities that exist using STEM subjects. It really brings classroom learning to life.

We watched a show called the Quantum Mechanical Chocolate Factory, which was the wildest, weirdest, most delicious STEM show on earth, with Gastronomer Stefan Gates, Anna Ploszajski and Shirley the Sugarbot. Chocolate Factory was a fantastical Wonkaesque STEM show in which maths was beautiful, science was amazing, technology was spectacular and engineering was wrapped in chocolate. Stefan and his team tackled both simple and complex STEM using visual/edible spectacles to make it easy to understand and totally unforgettable. The show featured glowing quantum mechanical drinks, edible insects and chocolate fountain physics!

We had a brilliant day looking at and exploring all the different interactive workshops and exhibitions. Year 6 now have lots of ideas and thoughts on careers in STEM and this will really drive them on in their lessons!



Winchester Science Museum

There are many amazing exhibits at the Winchester Science Museum and, following our visit, we have picked a few of our favourites to tell you about.

Do you find basketball easy? If yes, then have you ever tried shooting after doing an obstacle course in a wheelchair? It is all to do with forces. You cannot use leg power as you are sitting down so it is up to your arms to get the ball in the hoop. We all tried this and found it much harder than we thought it would be.

We really enjoyed the activity that involved reaction speed. A screen recorded you jumping and gave you an estimated sprint time for the adjacent track. Then, you raced against three people with the aim of beating your estimated time — every second counted!

The Colon Café was where you pretended to be a piece of food travelling down a colon-like tunnel. At the end you got to feel some poo-like substances and this taught us all about the function of the large intestine, which is to absorb liquid. We also learnt how different foods affect the composition of our solid waste.

The aim of Mind Ball was to move the ball into your opponent's goal using your mind! You had to wear a band around your head and then really focus to move the ball. We had lots of fun trying to beat Miss Pearmine and Mr Havercroft.

The highlight of the trip was our visit to the planetarium. We went into a massive dome, sat back, and had an amazing flight around our universe. We learnt so many things as the person giving us the tour was very knowledgeable. We saw what it looks like on Venus when all the clouds were gone and we learnt how far man-made objects and radio waves have travelled into space. Some of the facts we learnt were mind boggling as the size of the universe is just too big to get your head around!

Kinetic Theatre

During Science Week we had a visit from the Kinetic Theatre who performed their new science show, Down To Earth. This was specially put together for St Gabriel's so Reception to Year 6 could enjoy watching the show together. There was some great audience participation with the highlight being when Mr Dove, Head of the Junior School, made a surprisingly realistic appearance as a tree.

There was a question and answer session at the end which gave the pupils the opportunity to ask questions about the science from the show as well as find out more about the actors themselves.

The show told the story of how aliens wanted to steal all the water from planet Earth and take it back to their own world. They tricked a rather greedy young woman into helping them using a Dalek pretending to be a rubber duck making machine. It all turned out alright in the end as the Dalek was solar powered and there was a solar eclipse at the very moment the Dalek's dastardly plan was due to be put into action.

The show covered lots of physics, including night and day, orbits, seasons, eclipses, the Solar System, energy and shadows.



Sport Relief Disco

On Friday, 23 March, pupils in the Junior School took to the dance floor in their droves and showed just what moves them! This hugely popular PTA event in the school calendar raised a staggering £600.00 for Sport Relief. Working alongside the PTA were the Junior School Council, who had organised a lucky dip sweet bag sale, with supplies kindly provided by parents. The stall, ably run by our Head Boy, Max Maleham and Head Girl, Niyati Arigela, proved a massive hit with advanced sales rocketing before the disco even started. The Senior School Young Enterprise team was also keen to show its support and donated hundreds of glow-sticks for the Junior School Council to sell at the disco. The biggest decision of the night appeared to be whether to create bunny ears, glasses or day-glow flowers! The Junior School certainly know how to have fun raising money for charity.

Our thanks go to Carolyn Bedford, Helen Cole and Sean Scaplehorn for their help with the disco.

JUNIOR SCHOOL

Junior School Council

This term, the Junior School Council has been raising money for Sport Relief. We have been doing lots of fun activities that include sport in some way; having fun and raising money at the same time.

Sport Relief raises money to help vulnerable people in both the UK and in some of the world's poorest countries. We have raised money by buying and wearing Sport Relief wristbands; taking part in a netball shooting competition; playing beat the goalie and trampolining.

Our teachers even took part by having a step competition, where they tried to do as many steps as they could in a week, and a men versus women netball match.

We finished the week by wearing something red and having a school disco. The ticket sales raised money and we also sold bags of sweets for 50p each.

We have really enjoyed raising money for Sport Relief!

Kara Scaplehorn

Spanish Dance Performance

The final day of the Spring Term was an exciting one for the Junior School. Their Easter assembly was the platform for a beautiful and vibrant performance of traditional Flamenco dancing, music and singing.

Conchita and José Areas, friends of Nerea (Year 6) and Alicia (Year 9) Halley-Martin, are from Seville. Conchita has performed as a professional Flamenco dancer and when they visited St Gabriel's they demonstrated their Sevillanas (a form of Flamenco with graceful turns and intricate wrist turns). Conchita wore a traditional long Flamenco dress with frills and layers, which are used within the dance movement. The Junior School audience were captivated by this piece of traditional Spanish culture.



David Wilson Homes Poetry Competition

In celebration of World Poetry Day on 21 March, four creative pupils from St Gabriel's were crowned winners of a poetry competition organised by David Wilson Homes Southern.

The winning entries from Pippa Barribal in the Senior School, Grace in Year 6, Jasmyn in Year 5 and Luke in Year 2, were all selected by the leading developer as part of its poetry competition based on the topic, Homes.

A presentation was held at the school to announce the winners and Danica Trim, a former pupil of St Gabriel's and now a David Wilson Homes Sales Office Manager, awarded each of the prize winners with a £20.00 book token. Their work is now on display in the David Wilson Homes Marketing Suite at Newbury Racecourse.



Young Voices at the O2

After months of rehearsing and learning the repertoire, in February, 53 children and their teachers sang with joy and power at the O2 Arena as part of the Young Voices concert series. They were joined by 7580 children from around the South, singing classics such as ***Anytime You Need A Friend*** and a cartoon themed medley.

As always, the children's behaviour was impeccable despite the long journey, intense afternoon rehearsal and evening concert.

A particular highlight for Year 4 was getting to see Andy from Urban Strides. "He was as funny as on the TV," said Penny Page.

Performing with upcoming stars like Natalie Williams; beatbox legends, The Magnets, and 16 year old Alfie Sheard was so inspiring for our young singers, and an experience that they will never forget.



Searching for Extra-terrestrial Life



Our Academic Scholars participate in a programme of activities, mentoring and talks designed to nurture their talents and foster intellectual curiosity. They also meet termly for breakfast, where they are joined by the Principal, to discuss topical issues.

After the highlight of the Year 7 & Year 8 Scholastic Essay Presentation Evening, our scholars ended the half term "searching for extra terrestrial life" as recounted below.

Year 7 & Year 8 Academic Scholars enjoyed an incredibly interesting lunchtime seminar from our Head of Science, Miss Hammett. We were exploring 'Searching for Extra-terrestrial Life,' which was a really interesting topic. We covered various aspects, including theoretical physicist and cosmologist Stephen Hawking's amazing discoveries and theories, as well as discussing Mars and how close we might be to finding life there. Personally, I found it intriguing as I am really interested in space and how life forms live in certain conditions. As we looked into these subjects, we were encouraged to develop our own ideas about life on other planets. Hopefully in our lifetime, we will find life on another planet and maybe our technology will develop enough for us to be able to communicate with it and to visit other solar systems. I have definitely taken in all this information and I am really looking forward to the next seminar. **Pippa Barribal**

Basingstoke Music Festival Success

Pippa Barribal, in Year 8, entered her scholastic essay play, **Fire**, into the creative writing section of the Basingstoke Music Festival and won the Year 7 to Year 13 script category and the Jane Austen Steventon Trophy with a commended score. This is the second cup Pippa has gained at this year's festival as she also won the Year 7 to Year 13 Shakespeare monologue section with a commended score. Pippa was placed 3rd in the Grade 2 piano section.

Pippa and Zara Williams (Year 7) received certificates of achievement in the final assembly of term for submitting and presenting the best Scholastic Essay projects this year.

Tomorrow's Engineers

Following on from last year's success at the EEP Robotics Challenge, a team of 11 students from Year 8 & Year 9 were tasked with designing and developing a new improved robot to complete a series of challenges founded on aviation and sponsored by the RAF in their centenary year.

Team Daedarus headed off on 23 February to participate in the regional heat at Richard Taunton Sixth Form College. In preparation for the day, the team had been meeting regularly to find solutions to a series of challenges.

They had to design, build and program a robot that would travel over 4m as fast as possible; their robot was awarded 17/20 points as it travelled 4m in 3.15 seconds. A great achievement as they had pulled their robot apart and rebuilt it only minutes before the launch.

They were also required to design, build and program a robot to



cover a range of tasks including scaling a ramp, retrieving engine parts, opening gates to retrieve and transfer an aircraft to a loading area, delivering humanitarian aid parcels to the designated point and, finally, collecting a Lego engineer and transporting him to a designated place. These were all to be completed in a five minute timeframe. The team attempted each of the challenges and were successful in all but one, which was a fantastic achievement.

The teamwork challenge, which they had to complete in between all of the other challenges was to design the most effective paper aeroplane to cover the furthest distance. Their solution was very successful and was launched off the stage by Evie Williams and hit the back wall of the hall.

In preparation for the presentation task, the students had chosen to research the topic, **Drones and how they could be used as an engineering solution to a humanitarian aid problem**. Emily Woodford had even gathered first-hand aerial footage with her father's drone flying over the school as part of the presentation! All students spoke confidently and with interest, wowing the judges with their impromptu discussions at the end of the presentation. The team were delighted to win the best research presentation award.

It was a busy and fun-filled day, during which the students worked well together and demonstrated resilience, problem solving, teamwork, independent thinking, and effective communication and leadership skills. Well done to all the girls involved, Talia Saltmarsh, Emily Woodford, Evie Williams, Molly Montague, Emily Hamilton, Anneliese Brown, Rachel Berkley, Rhiannon Cogan, Lisea Weissenberger, Yao Yao Wang & Molly Cazaly.

Mrs Knott & Mrs Haywood-Smith



SENIOR SCHOOL

Women in Leadership

On 7 March, six Year 9 students travelled to Didcot Girls' School to attend an inspirational Women in Leadership Conference.

Three excellent speakers gave presentations on their climb to the top of their industry. The first speaker was Suzie de Rohan Willner, CEO of lifestyle and womanswear brand, Toast. She shared her experience in senior roles for global brands, including Timberland, Dockers, Levi Strauss, Puma and FitFlop, as well as her passion for Toast. Whilst at FitFlop, she built a strong leadership team and took it from a start-up business to a global brand. The second speaker was Amanda Hassell, a Deputy Garrison Commander and Lieutenant Colonel in the Armed Forces. Her achievements and willingness to take on new challenges was inspiring. The third speaker was Dr Jo Nash, a research fellow at Imperial College, London. She is a world-leading scientist in her field of genomic epidemiology. Her account of her career progression and her work on the drug resistant *Aspergillus fumigatus* pathogen, using nanopore sequencing technology to improve diagnosis and treatment of patients, was enthralling. Overall, this was a fantastic day and we left the conference feeling very motivated to achieve.

Hana Ikram & Gabrielle Stewart-Power

"I found this conference really interesting and it was inspiring to hear the stories of the different women who have made it to the top of their fields. They have all overcome so many challenges to get to where they are today." **Heidi Francis**

"I really enjoyed the experience and have learnt that in order to succeed you need to overcome challenges. It was amazing to find out about women that are at the very top of their field and the steps that it takes." **Grace Glitz**

"The talks were interesting and introduced me to lots of new ideas about leadership and how to achieve my goals. The women were inspirational because they have each excelled in their individual fields." **Tara Young**

"The speakers were very interesting and they made me feel more confident about speaking out. They also talked about feminism and encouraged us to always follow our goals." **Talia Saltmarsh**



Maths Department News

In February, students from Year 9—Year 11 entered the Intermediate Maths Challenge. Over 250,000 pupils across the UK entered this year, with roughly the top 6% receiving a gold

certificate, the next 13% silver and the next 21% bronze.

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

Bronze Phoebe Ainslie, Kitty Byfield, Isabel Doherty, Milly Ducker, Elizabeth Edwards, Jessica Gill, Sophia Jennings, Jorja King, Izzy Mannion, Lucy Melling, Molly Montague, Jessica Palfrey and Connie Pike.

Silver Jessica Cossar, Ellie Cowan, Emerald Cundy, Emily Hamilton, Olivia Kynaston, Talia Saltmarsh, Lauren Scanlan, Anna Spence, Lottie Swainston, Evie Williams, Tara Young (Best in Year 9)

Gold Jemima Garner (Best in Year 10 & Best in School), Annabelle Gibson, Emma Goodyer, Izzi Ryder (Best in Year 11).

Tara, Jemima, Izzi and Emma have also qualified for the follow on rounds called Kangaroos. We look forward to learning how they get on with these!

On 9 February, a team of Year 10 mathematicians took part in a Maths Feast run by the Further Maths Support Programme at The Downs School. They had a very enjoyable morning and the following girls were awarded certificates: Annabelle Gibson, Annabelle Lyndon, Olivia Kynaston and Anna Spence.

This term, Tayisha Flower, Holly Hake, Jorja King and Molly Montague enjoyed a whole day of competitive maths at the Junior Team Challenge.

Urban Regeneration in Bristol

On 5 February, Year 11 geographers went to Bristol city centre to undertake fieldwork for our GCSE exam.

Whilst in Bristol we investigated whether urban regeneration had been successful. We took photos of what the city looks like now so we could compare these with old photos of Bristol. Other primary methods that we carried out to investigate our hypothesis were a sustainability index and an environmental quality survey. We visited five different sites in Bristol to help us judge the success.

On our way home we drove through a business park and visited Cribbs Causeway shopping centre. We had a very good day in Bristol and enjoyed visiting Cabot Circus, especially the shops during our lunchtime!

Jess Hake & Izzy Doherty



Scholarship Success for Annabelle

Congratulations to Annabelle L, Year 10, who has won a place on the Endurance GB Spotlight Scholarship Scheme. This is a huge achievement for Annabelle as she was up against very stiff competition with more than 150 applicants from across the UK. It is a three year scholarship which will include one lesson a month from a top UKCC coach, goal planning with some of the top riders in endurance, completion of the BHS Horsemanship scheme, training courses on horse nutrition and sports psychology, as well as guidance from the international team of physiotherapists and vets.



GCSE Art, Art Textiles & Photography

During the penultimate week of term, our Year 11 Art, Photography and Textile students put in a phenomenal effort for their final exams, which lasted for 10 hours over two days. Particular congratulations need to go to Jodie Scott, who sat through 20 hours over four straight days in order to finish her Art and Textile final outcomes.

The level of creativity, imagination and quality was exceptional with ideas ranging from surreal car paintings to warped still life studies; Notting Hill Carnival to plastic awareness, and the architecture of Oxford to the memories and stories of local buildings.

Lucy Melling and Jodie Scott took their GCSE Art Textiles examination. Over two days they brought to life their creative plans and ideas, with the construction of a sculptural, textile head-piece.



Lucy chose to respond to the exam topic of Watercourses, and Jodie responded to the topic, Wild. Both head pieces were fashioned from wire and various fabrics, and included transfer printing, free machining and other experimental techniques.

Jess Hake created this impressive three-dimensional outcome in response to her chosen exam topic of Celebrations. Jess took photographs of Chinatown in London and attended a Chinese New Year Celebration, where she captured many candid images of the lion and dragon dances in the streets. She combined many techniques to produce her final outcome, including darkroom photography, digital photography, laser-cutting and stencil printing.



Holocaust Survivor Talk



On 21 February, students studying history attended a talk given by Holocaust survivor, Rudi Oppenheimer. Rudi, along with his parents, older brother, Paul, and younger sister, Eve, was deported to the Bergen Belsen concentration camp in Northern Germany as 'Exchange Jews'. Rudi talked us through many of the horrors that he endured, such as the death of both his mother and father in Bergen Belsen, but he also projected an uplifting message as he finished the talk by sharing all that he has accomplished in his post-war life, including travelling the world with his job. Seeing how somebody can be so successful after having lived through the hardships that Rudi endured was truly inspiring.

With Rudi's simultaneously heart-warming but heart-breaking stories about his life in the concentration camp and the years leading up to his family's deportation, we were all reminded of the importance of listening and learning from survivors, like Rudi, in order to prevent such atrocities from ever happening again.

Sofia Gilks

A Day in the Life of Richard Benyon MP

In March, Richard Benyon MP visited St Gabriel's to talk to politics students about his job as Member of Parliament for Newbury.

The session was extremely interesting; we had the opportunity to discuss a range of political topics with Mr Benyon, notably the 'special' relationship between the US and the UK. We also gained a valuable insight into the life of being an MP, and discovered more about why Mr Benyon chose to join the Conservative Party. It was clear to us how passionate Mr Benyon is about his job, especially when he was talking about constituency Friday and meeting members of the electorate.

Vicky Williams & Evie Gallup



History Trip to Poland

In February, we visited two Nazi concentration camps near the town of Oświęcim in Poland. First, we went to Auschwitz I, which initially housed political and religious prisoners. What perhaps surprised us the most was that all the buildings were still standing, and the emptiness of the streets between them, but for piles of snow, was all the more shocking.

At Auschwitz I, there were many reminders of the scale of the Holocaust – six million murdered Jews – such as rooms full of shoes, suitcases with names and addresses painted on the sides, and even hair. We were encouraged to personalise this tragedy, as well as acknowledging its scale, by remembering the names of a few of the people whose photographs lined a long corridor in one of the buildings. We finished our visit to this camp by going into a gas chamber, where thousands of people had died. It was a chilling experience, especially when we noticed the scratches on the walls made by suffocating Jews more than 70 years ago.

We then visited Auschwitz-Birkenau. This is the site of one of the most iconic photographs associated with the Holocaust – the railway tracks leading up to the building. However, this image is misleading because it does not show the sheer length of the tracks, which go on for a kilometre inside the camp itself. As we walked around Birkenau, the sun was setting, which seemed fitting for the discovery of a place in which 1.2 million people died, either through starvation, overwork or suffocation by Zyklon B gas. The temperature was also dropping to below freezing, but the Rabbi travelling with our group reminded us that we were not cold, wearing several layers and having eaten recently: prisoners in Auschwitz were cold, dressed in only thin clothes in -30°C and sometimes eating less than a thousand calories a day.

We ended our visit with a memorial ceremony outside one of the crematoria, with readings of poems written by survivors of these camps and the laying of candles by all members of the group in the near-darkness. The sight of hundreds of small candles flickering in the wind was a fitting one with which to end our journey, demonstrating that we must stand up to injustice and intolerance wherever we see it, however great the opposition, for those who cannot fight themselves. As the Rabbi said, 'never again' is an empty phrase. What we actually mean is 'always remember'.

Anna Stirk

Sixth Form Psychology Conference

In March, Year 12 & Year 13 Psychology students travelled to Westminster, London, to attend a sold out and long awaited conference, featuring psychology legend, Dr Phillip Zimbardo.

When we arrived, we first listened to a talk by Phil Banyard entitled, "Can Psychology save the world?" Next was a presentation by our textbook writer, Cara Flanagan, who discussed the Nature vs Nurture debate, then came Professor Sergio Della Sala's original and entertaining lecture on Neurobollocks!

After lunch we returned to our seats and Dr Philip Zimbardo and his wife, Professor Christina Maslach, took to the stage. They first talked to us about the infamous Stanford Prison Experiment — explaining to us how it worked and what happened which was really interesting to hear first hand. We then listened to Christina talk about her research on burnout in the workplace. Finally, Zimbardo opened up about how he had created evil in the past and was now dedicating all his time to inspiring heroism. This was a really fascinating talk telling us about his latest projects all over the world.

At the end of the day we had the opportunity to ask questions and found out more about his thoughts on his lifetime's work. Overall, it was a really interesting and fascinating experience.

Erica Ramsden

Sixth Form Charity Ball

On 24 February, Sixth Form students organised a charity ball at the Elcot Park Hotel to raise money for Epilepsy Action. More than 90 guests attended a really entertaining evening — with an auction, a raffle, a photo booth and dancing. A great time was had by all.

The students worked tirelessly to source auction and raffle prizes and were extremely grateful to those parents throughout the school who donated some amazing items, from bespoke cakes, a hamper and a magnum of champagne to a week in a fabulous French farmhouse.

The event raised over £2,500, which was an amazing achievement. Many congratulations to students and parents and thank you to the local businesses who so kindly donated prizes.



Young Enterprise

Following successful Christmas and Blue Monday sales, on Saturday, 3 February, Sixth Form students headed to the Young Enterprise Trade Fair at the Kennet Centre, Newbury, to sell necklaces for our Young Enterprise company, Montague Jewellery. The stall was set up by 9.00am and ran until 4.00pm. During the day we overcame many obstacles, for example attracting customers to our stall in an area with relatively low footfall to handling the issue of running out of our most popular necklaces. We were competing for business with eight other teams from Downe House, St Bartholomew's School, The Willink and Theale Green School.



In addition to managing our stall, we were assessed by representatives from West Berkshire Young Enterprise and the Kennet Centre. The judges asked the team members on each stall lots of questions, including describing our roles within our business, any weaknesses we encountered and how we dealt with them, and how we sourced the components of our necklaces. The Kennet Centre trade fair was our most successful sales event so far.

Erin Horne, Sales & Events Manager, Montague Jewellery

In March, the Year 12 Young Enterprise team attended the West Berkshire Young Enterprise Area Finals at Arlington Arts. As part of the event, the team had to prepare a company report, a presentation and were interviewed by the judges about their business.

Our business, Montague Jewellery, is named after Lady Montagu, who lived in Sandleford Priory before it became a school. The competition was fierce, with nine teams attending, all of which had varying business ideas, from terrariums to head scarves. After a four minute presentation made by members of our team Victoria Williams, Erin Horne, Charlotte Culley and Cosima Woodard, and the other teams' respective presentations, the judges deliberated over the winner. After much suspense, the judges' decisions were announced, and Montague Jewellery was amazed to discover that it had received four prizes: best presentation, best business plan, best company report, and overall runners up. We were also highly commended for our Dragon's Den pitch and our trade stall in Newbury. This means that we are through to the Berkshire Area Final, which will take place on 1 May in Reading.

Cosima Woodard, Co-Managing Director, Montague Jewellery

Lady Windermere's Fan

This term, Year 12 English students went to see a screening of the Vaudeville Theatre's production of **Lady Windermere's Fan** by Oscar Wilde. After a quick pit stop at Nando's, we made our way upstairs to the Vue cinema and were handed programmes, which caused much general excitement at the discovery that a family friend of one of the girls was actually performing in the play. The production itself was marvellous – it was extremely witty, but at the same time held a poignant message of morality and selflessness. A particular highlight for me was a hilarious rendition of the song **Don't touch my fan** by the Duchess of Berwick, played by Jennifer Saunders, with some rather peculiar dance moves by other members of the cast.

We all left the screening feeling very jolly, and look forward to the next Oscar Wilde production, **An Ideal Husband**, in October.

Cosima Woodard

DEBATING

This has been another busy and exciting term for the St Gabriel's Debating Societies.

Everyone is welcome to come and join our regular debaters and speak in a debate, offer questions from the floor or even chair a debate. We debate a range of topics from the controversial to the light-hearted; spending 20 minutes researching our topic and then 40 minutes holding a formal debate with two speakers from the "government" benches and two from the "opposition". Each speaker talks for five minutes during which the opposition will put points of information. The government's first speaker will define the motion and all following speakers will begin their speeches with rebuttals and end with a summary of their points. The Sixth Form debate in Parliamentary style with two teams on the government benches and two teams speaking for the opposition.

Debating is tremendous fun and develops skills in logical thinking as well as introducing our girls to current social and political topics. It is an excellent way to increase confidence; Sixth Form debaters have also noticed how debating skills have helped them to structure formal essays more effectively.

Competition News

This term we have competed in the Oxford Union Schools' Debating Competition; the English Speaking Union (ESU) Debating Competition and the International Young Debaters' Competition. Alice McGonnell and Anna Stirk took us into the second round of the ESU competition. Their debating in the first round at Bradfield College won them a place in the second round at Wellington College, where they debated the motion "This house would allow upper-rate tax payers to redirect a significant proportion of their taxes to the charities of their choice".

Alice and Anna debated very effectively and are looking forward to entering the competition again in the autumn.



Victoria Williams, Sophie Bundock, Alice McGonnell, Anna Stirk, Charlotte Culley and Rowan Saltmarsh represented the school at Magdalen College School, Oxford, in the heats for the Oxford Union Schools' Debating Competition debating motions such as "This house would legalise prostitution". Over 800 teams across the UK compete for a place in the Oxford Finals Day and just 108 get through. We were delighted when the winners were announced and Charlotte and Rowan progressed through to the Oxford Union Finals



Day in March. Rowan and Charlotte had a thrilling day taking part in four debates, one of which took place in the actual Oxford Union chamber. We are looking forward to entering the competition again next year. Eton won this year but they are in our sights!

A new venture for us was the International Debating Competition for Year 10 and below which took place again at the Oxford Union. Tara Y, Lois O, Anna S and Jorja K represented the school in a gruelling four debate day and both teams secured a 1st and 2nd place in their final debates which was very exciting.

Our Debating Prefect is Rowan Saltmarsh, who has not only represented the school in competitive debating but also runs the Debating Club, guiding our debaters as they develop their skills.

Debating Clubs

Tuesday:	4.00pm—5.00pm	Year 7 & Year 8
Thursday:	4.00pm—5.00pm	Year 7, Year 8 & Year 9
Friday:	4.00pm—5.30pm	Sixth Form

Mrs Nicky Archer, English Department





The Classics and Geography Departments joined forces this Easter to visit Sicily, giving pupils a first hand experience of some of the island's fascinating cultural sites and amazing physical geography. Mount Etna and Alcantara Gorge offered geography pupils the opportunity to explore physical processes and examine the links between humans and the physical environment. The brilliantly preserved temple sites of Segesta and Selinunte supported religion topics for both GCSE and A level classicists.

On our first day, we set off from Palermo and headed to Segesta, where we met our guide. She told us how, and by whom, the temples at this site were built. The Trojans were believed to have inhabited the surrounding area first, followed by the Elymians. After this we walked to the site's highest point — the theatre. The shape allows for enhanced acoustics, which we decided to test by displaying a wide variety of talents; this ranged from a monologue by Euripides performed in the original Greek to a rendition of the contemporary classic, *Man's Not Hot*.

After lunch we travelled to Selinunte, where we saw the grand temple dedicated to Hera and the remains of Zeus' temple. The way the temple of Hera had been reconstructed gave it a highly authentic feel. We then visited the ruins of the Carthaginian village to learn how those who worshipped at the temple would have lived, including



their baths and shopping centre. However, there was no Topshop to be seen!

On the second day, we set out to visit the Valley of the Temples. Our guide took us up a hill and explained that temples were built on high ground so that they can be admired from afar, as well as describing the different rooms in a temple and their purposes. We then walked on and visited the ruins of a temple dedicated to Zeus, which was incredibly large and grand. Lastly, we took some selfies next to the fallen Icarus. At Piazza Armerina, we learnt about the mosaics and how they were made. We were surprised to discover that the tiles in the mosaics were not coloured by hand, but found as coloured rocks. Some of the most memorable images were of the royal family, the exercise room and Cyclops. These particular mosaics were impressive because they used different shades to create a 3D look.

The following day, after an early start watching the sunrise on the beach, we took a bus 1380m up Mount Etna and then a car up to 2900m. Despite the freezing temperatures and several complaints about cold ankles, the views were fantastic. After that, we went to a bee farm for honey tasting and then to Taormina to see the ancient theatre and browse the town centre, stopping for ice cream and to admire the view from the top.

After dinner, we held *The Great St Gabriel's Talent Show*, where a variety of talents from classic hymns to Shakespeare monologues were performed. The image below shows Charlotte performing a speech from Henry VI on the moonlit beach.



On our last morning we woke up at 6.30am and walked to the beach to watch the sunrise. After breakfast we drove across to the Alcantara Gorge. A 6D cinema experience taught us about the gorge's formation and geological origins, and we then walked through the citrus groves to look out onto Venus' Pool. Once our guide had shown us around the top of the gorge, we took a lift down to the beach which lies between the cliffs. Our group quickly discovered how cold the water was in the river (despite the beautiful sunshine) and so we settled on the bank to enjoy the warmth and the surroundings. Back up at the entrance to the park, we enthusiastically sampled some more Sicilian cuisine from the restaurant and sat in the sunny picnic area where an accordion player serenaded us. Finally, we boarded the bus for the last time and made our way to Catania airport for our flight home.

Evie Gallup, Gabby Jones, Lauren Scanlan, Jennifer Skelly & Anna Spence

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

The Junior Music Department has been extremely busy. Year 4 performed in assembly on their P-Bones, showcasing the pieces they have been learning in lessons. Orchestra performed Russian Dance to the Junior School, it is the fastest piece they had ever attempted and it was a huge success. Moving on from the recorder, Year 3 have started learning the Chalumeau and Fife with our instrumental teachers. Meanwhile, Year 4 to Year 6 had the most fantastic experience performing as part of Young Voices with over 7000 school children and special guests at the O2.

Our Junior School instrumentalists performed with style and confidence in the termly lunchtime concert to parents, friends and family.

In the Senior School, it has been an exciting term in music, balancing the normal activities of the department with the many additional rehearsals needed for our production of **Beauty & the Beast**. The show was a great success and learning experience for singers, both in the chorus and in the lead roles; it was also a challenge for the student band, who rehearsed and performed with total professionalism. The picture shows the band (minus star drummer, Alice McGonnell, who is hiding behind Dr Tebbs's right shoulder), all working hard in the dress rehearsal. Excellent role models for musicians further down the school.



Earlier in the term the department put on a concert of instrumental and vocal music, with some delightful performances by soloists and ensembles throughout the Senior School, including St Gabriel's Singers. Two lunchtime concerts and a packed day of Associated Board exams followed more recently, as well as several performances from pupils at both Senior School and Junior School assemblies.

The discussion at the Music Scholars' Breakfast focused on how musicians memorise their parts, what happens when they forget, and how to get rid of annoying ear-worms from **Beauty & the Beast**.

In other news, Bethany Rushton-Taylor won her class at the Basingstoke Music & Arts Festival, singing Handel's **Farewell, Ye Limpid Springs** for which she gained distinction and won the



Powell Cup. Jessica Gill won the 15-18 Harp Class at the Basingstoke Music & Arts Festival playing **Blue River**. She also came 3rd in the string recital class playing a concone study and **The Pink Panther** (a very unusual piece for the harp but she had fun with lots of peddling shown off). Jessica also arranged and performed in a recital at Sherfield School in January, displaying her excellent musicianship in an extensive and varied programme of favourite pieces, including a number of duets and trios. Lottie Swainston, as well as continuing to play in the National Youth Orchestra, also led the Royal College of Music Junior Department Sinfonia this term, a fantastic achievement.

Music Examination Results

Mei Amorelli	Violin	03	Pass
Imogen Black	Clarinet	01	Pass
Imogen Brown	Piano	04	Distinction
Abigail Buckley	Piano	01	Pass
Abigail Buckley	Saxophone	01	Pass
Abbie Coulson	Piano	Prep test	Pass
Grace Cunliffe	Singing	03	Merit
Elizabeth Edwards	Piano	04	Merit
Elizabeth Ferneley	Clarinet	06	Distinction
Julia Gardner-Calle	Piano	02	Distinction
Jessica Gill	Harp	06	Distinction
Madeline Goss	Flute	01	Pass
Alice Hake	Flute	03	Pass
Holly Hake	Flute	03	Pass
Matilda Heywood	Piano	03	Merit
Clare McGonnell	Piano	03	Pass
Clare McGonnell	Flute	03	Pass
Lois Ocquaye	E flat horn	03	Merit
Penny Page	Music Theory	01	Distinction
Zara Peel	Flute	01	Pass
Ellen Phillips	Clarinet	03	Pass
Phoebe Shelley	Flute	01	Merit
Pollyanna Smith	Singing	03	Pass
Elsy Williams	Flute	01	Distinction
Lily Williams	Flute	02	Pass
Zara Williams	Piano	01	Distinction

Stevensons

Term Time Opening Hours

Tuesday: 2.30pm - 4.30pm
(until Tuesday 19 June)

Tel: 01727 814369 (during shop hours)



On 6 & 7 March, St Gabriel's took to the stage at Arlington Arts Centre to perform the Senior School production of ***Beauty and the Beast*** directed by Ruth Chaplin, Head of Drama. During the performance, the audience was taken on an enchanted journey as Belle was held prisoner in the Beast's castle. We saw Belle befriend its magical staff along the way, while being treated to a selection of well-known songs such as ***Be Our Guest*** and ***Beauty & the Beast***.

The students' performances were outstanding. They showed dedication and commitment throughout the rehearsal process right up until the final curtain. Charlotte (Year 12), who played Belle, performed to an exceptional standard, showing her talent across all three art forms. Lumière, played by Milly (Year 9), was a firm favourite with the audience offering witty jokes and excellent comedy timing while Gaston, played by Molly (Year 9), held the audience's attention with her charm and charisma. Sophie (Year 9), who played The Beast, grasped the audience by her claws with an outstanding vocal solo of ***If I can't love her***.

Throughout the show the audience witnessed a wide selection of talent across the school. The Year 10 GCSE dancers helped Mrs Hastings, Head of Dance, choreograph classical ballet numbers that complimented beautifully the emotion on stage, while the student band played alongside St Gabriel's very talented Director of Music, Dr Philip Tebbs, to deliver the entire score of this well-known classic tale to an exceptionally high standard.

At the end of the performance, Ricki Smith, Principal, said 'I am very proud of all the talented performers. The production was enchantingly vibrant with captivating choreography, sparkingly supported by the student band.'



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

SPORT

This term, we have continued to grow and have success in our key sporting fixtures of hockey and netball but have also had girls representing the school in cross country, gymnastics and swimming.

After school clubs continue to flourish with the Sports Hall being used for judo, tennis, gymnastics, trampolining and climbing. If you would like a place for your son or daughter for the Summer Term we do have some available spaces.

Sport Relief week was a resounding success with a selection of activities every day. We started with the staff women vs men netball match, which was narrowly won by the men with Mr Spurrett transferring his basketball experience onto the court and hardly missing a shot. Jolie Hartland won the Loughborough Lightening signed netball and, in the Junior School, Charlotte Bedford won the goals in a minute competition with a phenomenal 23 goals. Thank you to the PTA, parents, staff and pupils for your support, which helped to raise over £1,000 for Sport Relief.

Cross Country

Thanks to the dedication and enthusiasm of Dwayne & Anne Stewart-Power, Tara Pinchin and Nikki Asser, both the Junior and Senior School Running Clubs start their week with a run. The Spring Term was supposed to culminate with the Question of Sport Relief mile but sadly the mini 'Beast from the East' prevented this from taking place.

In late January, St Gabriel's took part in a county cross country event at Newbury Showground closely followed by the area cross country on the same course. The Senior School girls, who have been training on Monday mornings, battled horizontal rain and gales to complete the arduous course and we are proud of them all for taking part. Izzy Mannion ran particularly well in both races to become West Berkshire District Champion and was also placed third in Berkshire. She went on to represent the county in the inter-counties race. Izzy has since competed in the English Nationals in London, where she was placed a very commendable 26th. We were extremely proud to be able to field one of only two Sixth Form teams in the county event and this shows the "have a go" attitude and team spirit displayed by our older pupils.



The Junior School competed in The Manor School cross country event. All those involved completed the course in personal best times with Nathan Rond, Max Maleham and Oscar Dove running into gold medal positions. Rubi Maleham was just pipped to the post in a tightly fought run with a competitor from The Manor.

The West Berkshire & North Hampshire Cross Country Championships saw 26 pupils from the Junior School compete against runners from 50 local schools. With fields of around 350 children in each of the four races, our runners did themselves proud. The Year 3 & Year 4 A team of Poppy Havercroft, Sienna Asser and Phoebe Shelley were the stand-out performers of the day and were



placed equal second overall. Sophie Donnelly led the B team home to a fabulous second placing overall with Penny Page, Lily Hughes and Lilia Hartland supporting. The Year 3 & Year 4 girls showed that regular training can impact performance; they have all improved immensely since September and have demonstrated incredible mental strength to get on a packed start line without being phased by it. To see such a large group of runners at the front in their navy and gold tops was a very heartening sight. In the Year 5 & Year 6 race, Rubi Maleham, once again, showed what a great runner she is when she secured third place overall. The runners got off to a blistering start and she was nudging her way into the top 10 quite early on. When she pulled herself up into 5th, our money was on her to get on the podium as Rubi consistently demonstrates strength, determination and endeavour in sport. Not to be outdone by Rubi, Clare McGonnell's placing of 6th was outstanding for a Year 5 runner and bodes well for next year when Clare will no doubt be looking to get on the podium. In the last race of the day, Max Maleham ran brilliantly in to 6th place in a highly competitive field of 350 boys.

Netball

We started the term with another visit from ex St Gabriel's and England netballer, Hannah Joseph. She shared her defensive knowledge with the 1st team and gave the Year 7 girls a session on attacking play. Both groups gained so much from their hour sessions and we thank Hannah for giving her time to us.

The St Gabriel's 1st Netball Team won the U18 District Tournament and are the District Netball Champions. Although the 1st team





players have many commitments outside of school, and for most public examinations are looming, they have shown huge commitment to training, the team and to the department. Occasionally, we have had to ask for support from the younger year groups, who have truly stepped up to the mark. Meanwhile, Mitzi Scott has supported the department as both a Sport Scholar and Games Captain, coaching the younger year groups and supporting the Sport Scholars in their training on Friday mornings.

The Year 11 netball team have been undefeated all season in the league and we were delighted when they won the District Netball Tournament to be crowned District Netball Champions. This squad of girls set the bar high during their training sessions to achieve this success.

The Year 10 netball team won all of their first round matches against St Bartholomew's, Park House, Trinity, Kennet and Little Heath, in the District Netball League. However, sadly they lost their final match by two goals to John O'Gaunt finishing as runners-up in the District Netball Tournament. I would like to congratulate this squad for their determination to turn around their season, training hard and finishing on a winning streak.

Darcey Scott's U16 Hucclecote Netball team won the South West Championships and will be heading to National Clubs Finals in April. Darcey has been starting regularly at centre for Severn Stars U19s who take on Northumbria in the National Performance League in Newcastle at the start of the Easter holidays. We wish Darcey every success with her forthcoming fixtures.

In the Junior School, we have had a string of successes on the netball court. Year 5 were the plate winners at Queen Anne's and were then victorious at the St Hugh's Netball Tournament in February. The Year 6 High Five netball squad took on schools from across West Berkshire to be crowned champions at the tournament held at Park House School.

The Junior School played in over 90 netball matches this term and had in excess of 65 wins. Thank you to all the pupils and coaches for their hard work and commitment.

Hockey

The Spring Term was the hockey season for our Year 7 — Year 9 teams and all teams were outstanding both in their training and development. The Year 7 and Year 9 teams remained unbeaten throughout the season and both teams fought their way to becoming District Champions. The Year 8 team really picked up their training over the season and competed very well in some extremely close competitive matches to gain second place in their league. Considering that most of our training is done on grass or in the Sports Hall, our girls adapted extremely well and enjoyed playing their matches on AstroTurf.

We were pleased to hear from Marlborough Hockey Club that Molly Cazaly was awarded their Most Improved Player, Evie Williams

Players' Player and Kirsten Steel was the runner-up for Coaches' Player. Olivia Marsh has settled into her position as back for the Berkshire County Squad and Charlotte Bedford, Year 6, has been nominated by her hockey club to attend the Berkshire U13 Development Centre in May.



Judo

Our Judo instructor Martin Small, with Grace Glitz acting as assistant coach, took a team of eight girls to an open judo competition at Brockhurst & Marlston House. The team performed brilliantly and they all came away with medals. Mr Small said, "The girls were so good, an amazing bunch; their helpfulness and brilliant manners are a huge credit to you as a school and their parents." Well done to you all. Judo Club continues in April and newcomers are welcome to have a trial session prior to signing up for lessons.

Group B	Penny Page	Silver
Group I	Grace Cunliffe	Gold
Group F	Evie Dancer-Bown	Silver
Group L	Emily Hamilton	Bronze
	Chloe Balls	Bronze
	Rysa Saujani	Bronze
	Jessica Palfrey	Silver
Group K	Eve Glitz	Bronze



SPORT

Swimming

Once again, we were invited to Downe House for an U12/U15 Swimming Gala. There were close races all round with excellent swims from Georgia Teeluck and Eve Glitz. The final score was neck and neck with Downe House just winning by two points.

In the Junior School a team of eight was put forward to the time trials for the IAPS national competition; we are currently awaiting the national positions. Congratulations to the squad who put in sterling performances in their relays and individual races with special mention to Max, Rubi, Bella and Julia for their well-deserved first places.



Team Gym

Congratulations to the 18 children who represented the school in the Team Gym Competition. They had to perform on the floor, springboard and vault, showing team unity, discipline and, of course, the ability to perform with poise and control. At the county finals the KS1 and KS2 teams came 3rd and 4th, respectively, taking on some extremely strong teams from across the county. May I take this opportunity to thank our Senior Gymnastics Squad, who spent the morning judging and team managing the younger children.



The Senior Gymnastics Squad continues to flourish under the expertise of our coach. We are always looking for new members so if you would like to audition, please come and arrange a trial.

Cycling



Congratulations to our team of six riders who competed in the West Berkshire cycling event. Overall our team took third place with Rubi (Year 6) and Clare (Year 5) coming 2nd and 3rd, respectively. Max (Year 6) was named the West Berkshire champion.

Ellen (Year 7) won the U12 Wessex League Cyclocross event in Abingdon this term.

Mrs Pasternakiewicz, Head of PE

