



LIFE

LENT 2017



His Royal Highness visits *Remembering 1916*

Remembering 1916 gets a Royal seal of approval, an 'off-the-charts' *Hamlet* run, Old Whitgiftian Olympian pays the School a visit, UK #3 IB ranking, rugby success, Italy music tour, a special visit by the Chelsea Pensioners, and much more...



Royal review

Remembering 1916 – Life on the Western Front was honoured to receive a visit from His Royal Highness The Duke of York, KG, in October. Whitgift's Patron viewed the Exhibition for the first time since its launch, in March this year. He received a warm welcome from Whitgift Headmaster and Exhibition Director, Dr Barnett, together with Whitgift students, Exhibition staff and guests.

Dr Barnett led the tour through *Remembering 1916*, introducing Exhibition Consultants – Douglas Flower, Michael Baldwin and Johnny Dobbyn – along the way, and His Royal Highness took a keen interest.

Midway through the Exhibition, in the Edwardian Room, the tour party stopped for a short trio of performances; Upper Fifth Form student and music scholar, Alex Ciulin, performed a movement from Elgar's *Cello Concerto*; Senior

Prefect, Jean-Baptiste Lefèvre, read *La Petite Auto*, by Guillaume Apollinaire, the renowned French poet of the First World War; and the popular Whitgift Barbershop Ensemble rounded off the interlude with *It's A Long, Long Way To Tipperary*.

During the second half of the tour, The Duke of York met aviation artist, Alex Hamilton, painter of the magnificent, specially-commissioned piece depicting the historic 'dogfight' between former Whitgift student, Lionel Morris, and the famous German pilot, Manfred von Richthofen, in the skies above Northern France.

His Royal Highness exited the Exhibition garden, on a beautiful autumnal day, to the strains of *Good-bye-ee!*, once again sung by the Barbershop Ensemble. He described *Remembering 1916* as 'a brilliant exhibition'.

'A brilliant exhibition'



Big School played host to the annual Autumn Collection Concert, due to the temporary closure of Fairfield Halls, and together with an earlier performance for local primary schools, it was one of the School's finest in recent years. As is traditional, the Brass Ensemble opened the concert, with a rousing rendition of the *Triumphal March* from Verdi's *Aida*, while the String Orchestra featured a number of First Form boys from the instrumental scheme, many of whom had been playing for a mere six weeks. A number of superb soloists tackled virtuosic repertoire, with violinist Bardh Lepaja giving a thrilling performance of Sarasate's gypsy fantasy, *Zigeunerweisen*, while BBC Young Musician of the Year Category Finalist, Hristiyan Hristov, brought out the Mediterranean suavity in Claudio Santangelo's captivating marimba work, *Music for You*. Whitgift's A Cappella group paid tribute to three 'stars' who had died in 2016, combining songs by Prince and David Bowie with Gene Wilder's iconic *Pure Imagination*, while the Soul Choir performed their vivacious and impassioned arrangement of *Ain't No Mountain High Enough*.

The Symphony Orchestra reacted with enthusiasm to the surprise appointment of a new maestro, when Dr Barnett, in his 26th and final Autumn Collection Concert, stepped up from the audience to conduct Purcell's Rondo from *Abdelazer*, with not a little precision and authority! The concert was rounded off with the First Form choral project, as they gave a superb performance of the *Goldfinger* theme and Journey's *Don't Stop Believin'*, featuring Charlie Barber on solo guitar and 'Shirley Bassey' vocals from Mrs Rosanna Whitfield. Regardless of venue, any future Autumn Collection Concert will be hard pressed to top a fabulous night of entertainment.

A new maestro!





Hamlet

December 2016 will go down in Whitgift history as being a triumph for Whitgift drama, as our young thespians joined forces with professional actors and put on a breathtaking account of Shakespeare's greatest play. The cast, ranging from Upper First to Upper Sixth Form, fearlessly took on the task of acting in verse, and made it look effortless. It was especially exciting to have experienced film, television and theatre actors, Keith Bartlett (Polonius), Marcus Gilbert (Claudius) and Wanda Opalinska (Gertrude), raising the bar with the already talented students and ensuring the relevant contrast between youth and maturity in the play was apparent.

Indeed, while it was not Whitgift's first foray of performing *Hamlet* – renowned actor and Old Whitgiftian, Martin Jarvis, took on the title role in the 1960s as an 18-year-old – it was Director, Mr Daniel Pirrie's, first play at Whitgift. The actor-turned-English teacher drew upon his invaluable experience at Shakespeare's Globe to turn the Headmaster's ambitious vision into reality; a particularly special undertaking close to Dr Barnett's heart, ahead of his retirement in 2017.

This choice of play from Shakespeare's repertoire is also fitting, as it marks not only the 400th anniversary of the death of Shakespeare, but also an interesting connection between our School Founder and The Bard. John Whitgift had chief responsibility for censorship in the late 16th century, and it was due to his clemency that Shakespeare's most important works escaped possible suppression.

History aside, it was a great pleasure to see Big School transformed into the unusual traverse stage set-up, with 'The Hamlet Company' interacting with the audience, and making use of every corner of the space, including the balcony. There was a full Whitgift Chamber Orchestra on stage; making Whitgift the first school to perform British composer, Walton's, brooding score, created at Sir Laurence Olivier's request for the Oscar-nominated film version. The role of Hamlet was shared between Upper Fifth Former, Jude Willoughby, and Lower Sixth Former, Oscar Nicholson, each with many a Whitgift production under their belts. Both were superb, commanding the stage and leading a talented cast. The successful collaboration between Whitgift, Old Palace and Caterham School, together with the orchestra and the creative masterminds behind the production, made this *Hamlet* a hugely memorable affair for each and every audience member.

*'superb performances
...enhanced by
innovative staging'*

Charles Barber, The Croydon Citizen





Hamlet – a triumph for Whitgift drama





WHITGIFT HONEY



Creating a buzz

Launched in September 2016 by Design and Technology Technician, Mrs Angela Nicholls, the Apiarist Society is the latest addition to Whitgift's co-curricular offering. The Society has given boys the opportunity to visit the Whitgift apiary, open a hive and observe the bees, and understand the critical relationship between bees and our world.

In its first year, Whitgift Apiarist Society has produced 60 jars of honey, which sold out in just 25 minutes, during a lunchtime, in September. At the National Honey Show at Sandown Park, at the end of October, Whitgift's honey was awarded second place, out of 46 entries, in the Open Class (for the British Isles) for Medium Honey.

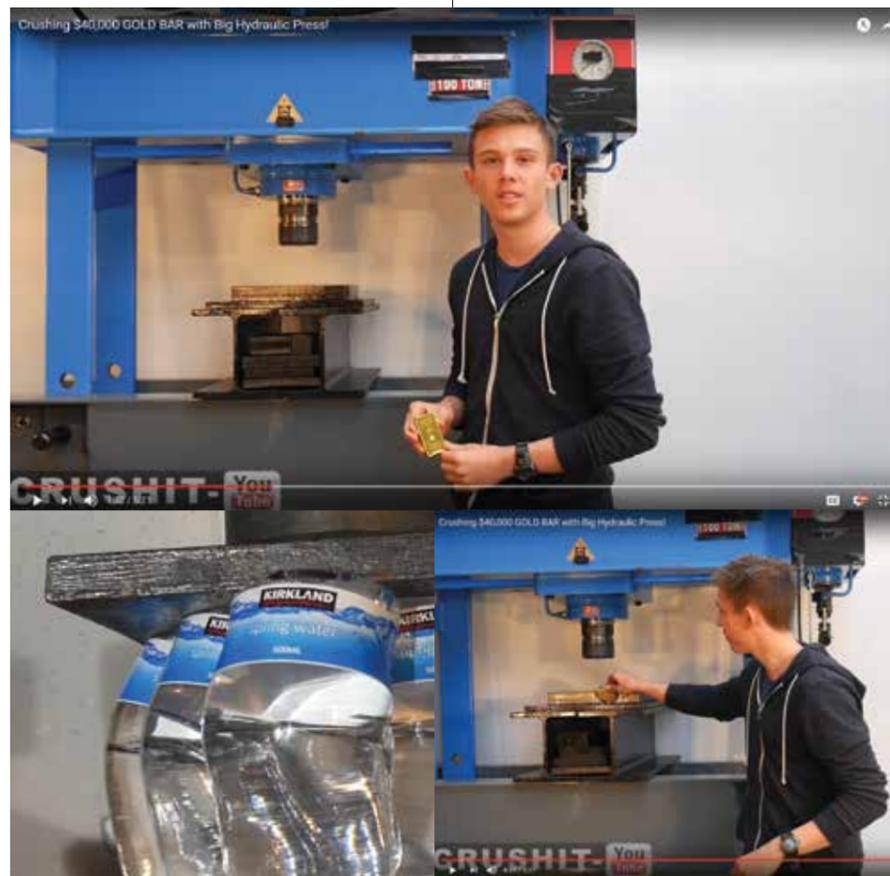
During the winter months, the boys will be making hive parts ready for next year and will be learning about bee anatomy, their life-cycle and hive management.

Crushed it

Upper Fifth Former, Anton Iwaniuk, has become somewhat of an internet sensation. The 15-year-old has been an amateur film-maker for a number of years, and gained an impressive following on *YouTube*.

Inspired by this popularity, he came up with the idea of launching his own *YouTube* channel, called 'Crushit', in April 2016. With the proceeds of his earlier *YouTube* success, he purchased a hydraulic press, and, tapping into the public's curiosity for all things novel, set about creating videos of various objects, from the mundane to the more unexpected, being crushed by his heavy-duty equipment. Items which have undergone his special treatment include golf clubs, water bottles, AAA batteries, shells and even French boules.

His most recent exploit, which has been viewed over 10 million times, sees him crushing a \$40,000 gold bar from Baird & Co. Bullion Merchants, and he has since received a flurry of interest from the media as a result.



Michaelmas Literary Enrichment

Whitgift's annual Junior Literary Festival, now in its third year, took place in November. The First Form boys enjoyed visits from a number of prominent authors, playwrights, musical artists and poets. The event is designed to bring the spirit and ethos of the internationally-famous Hay Festival to Whitgift. The authors who took part were Margaret Bateson-Hill (*Dragon Racer* series and storyteller at museums such as V&A, British and Horniman), Nick Cook (*Cloud Riders* trilogy), Stephen Davies (*Outlaw*), Karl Nova (a leading UK poet and hip hop artist), Sam Gayton (*Herculeas*) and Ciaran Murtagh (*Dinopants* and contributing writer of much-loved children's programmes such as *Mr Bean: The Animated Series* and *Shaun the Sheep*).

The Michaelmas literary enrichment extended to the Whitgift Section Française as well, with popular French author, Timothée de Fombelle, giving an inspiring talk and answering many questions from the audience. His debut novel, *Tobie Lolness*, achieved international success and has been translated into 29 languages.





Living Dahl

Whitgift celebrated the centenary of Roald Dahl's birth in fine style with a concert given by the decidedly up-market 'girl band', the London Myriad Ensemble, featuring Whitgift's very own Miss Fiona Myall.

Francis Poulenc's delightful *Sextet for Piano and Wind Quintet* made a perfect curtain-raiser, displaying the virtuosic qualities of the Ensemble to perfection. The three other works were all based around Roald Dahl's light verse. Martin Butler's settings of *The Pig*, *The Tummy Beast* and *The Crocodile* from Dahl's *Dirty Beasts*, for narrator (Mr Paul Wilson), wind quintet and piano, are composed in an uncompromisingly modern idiom, but with great potency and acerbic wit. Paul Patterson's *The Three Little Pigs* was more conventional, unfailingly charming and good-natured, even when describing the frightening wolf, and a surprisingly self-serving and ruthless Little Red Riding Hood! Perhaps the highlight of the concert was the 'world première' of *Little Red Riding Hood*, devised by the entire Lower First Form, with assistance from the tireless and charismatic Music Department, delighting a large audience.



Chelsea Pensioners visit



In October, *Remembering 1916*, Whitgift's First World War exhibition, was privileged to welcome an iconic group. The renowned Chelsea Pensioners, retired soldiers of the British Army, were greeted by *Remembering 1916* Exhibition Director, Dr Barnett, and Exhibition staff. They began their tour with Exhibition Deputy Manager, Mr William Wood.

The lively veterans were greatly impressed by all aspects of the Exhibition. They were particularly intrigued by the French tunneller diorama, and how the team had managed to re-create such a realistic scene. They were also very taken with Alex Hamilton's painting of 'The Historic Dogfight', depicting Old Whitgiftian, Lionel Morris, and the Red Baron in aerial combat.

A short parade by the Whitgift Corps of Drums followed, in Founder's Garden, adjacent to the Whitgift Exhibition Centre. At the end of the tour, they were met by members of Whitgift's Combined Cadet Force (CCF), and enjoyed a cream tea in the Edwardian Café, where many jokes and tales were exchanged. Dr Barnett presented a signed copy of the catalogue to each Pensioner.



Meet the relatives

In September, relatives of Manfred von Richthofen, the 'Red Baron', and his first victims were brought together for the first time, at Whitgift's *Remembering 1916* exhibition. 100 years ago to the day, the Red Baron, the 'ace of aces' of aerial warfare in the Great War, shot down a British plane in the skies above Northern France, piloted by former Whitgift student, Lionel Morris, with Tom Rees as Observer.

To mark the Centenary of the aerial dogfight, relatives of the three airmen came together to remember and respect this historic event at a special commemorative dinner: Jill Bush (a cousin of the 19 year-old pilot, Lieutenant Lionel Morris); Dr Meriel Jones (great-niece of 21 year-old Observer, Tom Rees); and Baron Donat von Richthofen (great-nephew of the Red Baron, who was just 24 years old in 1916).

Von Richthofen had a personal tradition of ordering a small, engraved silver cup to commemorate each of his victories. A replica of the No. 1 Victory Cup, the original of which is now lost, commissioned by von Richthofen from his silversmith in Berlin to mark this, the first of what would be 80 'kills', has been produced by London silversmith, Mark Fenn, for the Exhibition, and was used to toast the fallen comrades. A painting was also specially-commissioned for *Remembering 1916*, a large canvas in oils by the aviation artist, Alex Hamilton, depicting the 'dogfight'.

The poignant meeting of the relatives of these historic figures took place in the Whitgift Exhibition Centre, and was covered by ITV London Tonight, BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme, BBC Radio Wales, *The Daily Telegraph*, *The Times* and the *Daily Mail*, as well as in the German media.



'The exceptional Remembering 1916 exhibition represents the victims on both sides of the War'

Baron Donat von Richthofen, great-nephew of the Red Baron



From Paris to the Ritz

Following a hugely-successful concert tour to Paris in the summer, the Whitgift Choristers and Chamber Choir set to work preparing for the Michaelmas Term's concerts and cathedral services. In October, the Chamber Choir sang Evensong at St Albans Cathedral, with highlights including Charles Villiers Stanford's *Evening Service in G* and Jonathan Dove's *Seek Him That Maketh The Seven Stars*.

In November, the Chamber Choir performed Claudio Monteverdi's monumental *Vespers of 1610*, at Croydon Minster. The event featured the Choirs of the Minster, as well as His Majesty's Sagbutts and Cornetts – one of the leading early music ensembles in the UK.

Mr Ronny Krippner, Whitgift's Director of Choral Music, commented, "I would like to congratulate our boys for mastering this infamous musical 'beast', and for performing for nearly two hours to the highest standards. This is an excellent achievement and one which has not gone unnoticed in Croydon and beyond!"

The Choristers started the festive season singing carols at the world-renowned Ritz Hotel, a great privilege for all involved. The next event was the annual Christmas Concert at St George's, Hanover Square, which featured both the Whitgift Chamber Choir and the Whitgift Chamber Orchestra presenting a wonderful selection of seasonal classics. The Whitgift Music Department has been blessed over the years to boast some immensely talented composers amongst its ranks, and works by two of these were performed to great acclaim at the event. Mr Alan Weakley's enchanting setting of *Balulalow*, a beautiful Christmas cradle song, was sung with

great sensitivity and finesse by the Whitgift Chamber Choir. This was followed by a piece composed by Mr Jack Oades, Whitgift's resident Organ Scholar, who was specially commissioned, on the occasion of Dr Barnett's final year as Headmaster, to write a carol based upon text from Spenser's *Faerie Queene*. The resulting piece, entitled *Crimson Dawn*, was a triumph, blending North Indian classical music and traditional folk song melodies, to make serene music in the magical setting of St George's.

During the Christmas holidays, the Whitgift Minster Choristers performed their festive duties at Croydon Minster, which included the Town Carol Service (in the presence of the Lord Mayor of Croydon), the particularly popular Candlelight Concert, the Midnight Mass and the Christmas Day service.





*Festive carols at the
world-renowned
Ritz Hotel*



Cricket Academy

In October this year, Whitgift launched a Cricket Academy for boys at the School in Years 8-13. Those participating are able to access four hours of cricket training a week, over a 28-week period. The first cohort of 20 boys will enjoy specialist support in all areas of their game, including physical conditioning, technical and tactical development, and mental resilience training.

With a dedicated team of expert coaches – including Head Coach, Mr Paul Hindmarch (Level 3 ECB Head Coach, Durham CCC) and Head of Cricket Performance, Mr Neil Kendrick (ECB Level 4 Coach, Surrey CCC) – combined with Whitgift’s multi-million pound facilities, the Academy is a unique opportunity in South East England for talented young cricketers.

The Academy aim is to deliver a County Academy programme in a school environment, with the hope of developing future county and international cricketers, who can follow in the footsteps of Old Whitgiftians Jason Roy (England, Surrey) (pictured, right), Laurie Evans (Warwickshire, Surrey), Rory Burns (Surrey) (pictured, below right), Dominic Sibley (Surrey) (pictured, below left) and Matthew Sprigel (Surrey, Northamptonshire).

Whitgift was delighted to welcome Dominic Sibley and Rory Burns, in October (pictured, top), who dropped in to an academy session to meet the students and talk about their training. The pair shared some tips for the aspiring cricketers and answered a number of questions from the boys.



Olympic life

Old Whitgiftian, Joseph Choong, visited Whitgift, in September, to share his recent Rio Olympics experience. Although still a junior athlete, he was selected to represent Great Britain, and was the youngest member in the Team GB pentathlon quartet. He performed outstandingly on his Olympic debut, securing a top 10 finish.

During a day which included taking his first-ever assembly, signing shirts and fielding a Q&A session, Joe took some time out to be interviewed by Whitgift modern pentathletes, Josh Coniglio (Upper Sixth Form) and George Simpson (Lower Fifth Form). The full interview can be viewed on the Whitgift website’s News section.





Hockey news

This term's hockey programme concluded, at the beginning of December, with the indoor divisional finals, held at Canterbury Hockey Club. Both U16s and U18s had qualified through previous rounds, having beaten, at U18 level, Reeds School, Ardingly College and Sir William Borlase's Grammar School, and, at U16 level, St George's College, Kingston Grammar School, Simon Langton Grammar School and Portsmouth Grammar School. The regional finals are hugely competitive, with ten of the top hockey schools from the South bidding to reach the national indoor finals. In a gruelling day, both Whitgift teams played outstandingly, and were triumphant in the Divisional Final against KES Southampton and Kingston Grammar School, respectively, seeing them through to the Boys U16/U18

Schools' National Indoor Championship finals, which will be hosted at Whitgift for the sixth consecutive year, in January.

Congratulations to Lower Sixth Form pupil, Zach Wallace, and Upper Sixth Former, Lekan Ogunlana, who have been selected to play for the England U18s; and Lower Fifth Form students Matt Blood, Josh Gravestock and Max Lowrey, who have been selected to play for the England U16s.

Old Whitgiftians Jonty Griffiths, Rhys Smith and Jack Waller were chosen for the England U21 squad, and will be competing in the Junior World Cup in India, in December 2016. Held every four years, the event is hailed as a showcase for future Olympic athletes.



Rugby round-up

A strong rugby season began with the 1st XV retaining the Esher Present's Cup for a consecutive year. Fergus Donnelly, the Whitgift captain, collected the Cup, after a challenging game against St John's Leatherhead, who made their debut in the competition.

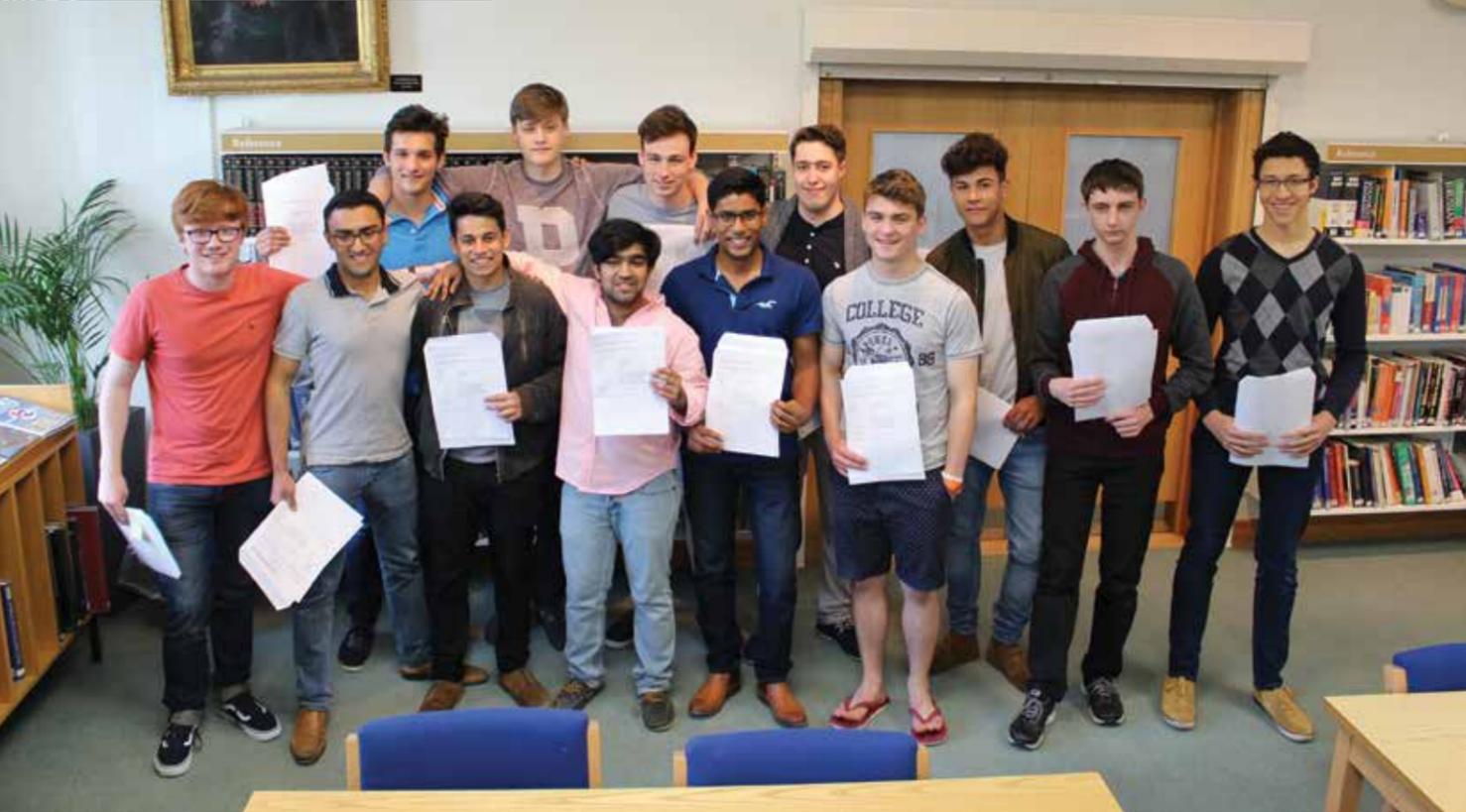
Whitgift won the inaugural Seb Adeniran-Olule Trophy, at the end of September, beating Wellington College 15-14, on Big Side. Seb attended Whitgift, before moving to Wellington, after which his professional career took off with Harlequins. Tragically, the 20-year-old died, in May 2016, in a road accident.

The 1st XV progressed through to the last 16 of NatWest Cup, having defeated Caterham School, Eltham College, Chislehurst and Sidcup GS. Unfortunately, the squad lost 8-10, to Felsted School, in a last 16 match, following a string of injuries to key players. In the Daily Mail Trophy competition, Skinners' School, Wellington College, John Fisher School, RGS High Wycombe and Dulwich College have been defeated so far. The U13s are still in the running for the National Cup, playing RGS High Wycombe in the next round, and likewise the U15s are in the NatWest Cup Round 5 after beating Harrow 24-8.

Two Whitgift alumni were in the starting line-up for the England U20s in the Junior World Cup final, in Manchester, in June. Stan South and Matt Gallagher helped their team to victory against Ireland, with a resounding 45-21 scoreline.

Whitgift's long-term investment in every aspect of rugby at the School is evident in the nine Old Whitgiftians who have played in the Premiership this season: Marland Yarde, Henry Cheeseman, George Merrick (all Harlequins), Matt Gallagher (Saracens), Harry Williams (Exeter), Neville Edwards (Sale), Adam Thompstone (Leicester), and Elliot Daly and Danny Cipriani (both Wasps).





Top ranking

Whitgift was ranked #1 all-boys school in the UK's 2016 IB league table.

Whitgift was delighted to be ranked as the 3rd best school in www.best-schools.co.uk's 2016 International Baccalaureate League Table (for a large cohort, 20+ students). Girls-only and co-educational day schools were in first and second place, meaning that Whitgift is the #1 all-boys school

offering the IB diploma, as well as the #1 boarding school.

This year's Upper Sixth Form IB results broke many School records. The average points total, of 41 points, is the highest ever at the School, and two thirds of the group scored 40 points or more, putting them in the top 5% of candidates worldwide. Six students scored 44 points, a feat only achieved by the top 1%. Four boys (Patrick Middleton, Abbas Khan,

Leith Farhan and Vishnu Patel) are off to Oxbridge universities.

Particular congratulations go to Thomas McDonald, who scored the maximum 45 points, a feat achieved by only 146 students worldwide in this exam session. He matches Daniel Alsoof and Kavish Shah, who, in 2014, achieved the same accomplishment of 45 points.



Business award

Aminder Dhillon, hot on the heels of having been the youngest person ever to secure investment on BBC's *Dragons' Den*, has received the Young Achiever of the Year prize at the fifth annual English Asian Business Awards. The black-tie event, held in September at the Mercure Manchester Piccadilly Hotel, acknowledges the 'accomplishments, determination and hard work of professionals and organisations from the Asian business community across England'. Aminder was nominated due to the success of his invention, the Boot Buddy, an environmentally-friendly, portable boot cleaning device.



Charity

Last year, Whitgift raised a total of £7,287 which was split between two international charities – Soweto Kiptown Youth and Help the Cambodian Children. Mrs Laura Reeves, Charities Co-ordinator, commented, "Thank you to all staff, parents and students for your time, generosity and support at the fundraising events throughout the year."

The charities that Whitgift supports alternate between international and national charities from one year to the next. This year, all pupils and staff were able to nominate and vote for the charities for which to fundraise. The two charities which received the most votes from staff and students were The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity and Campaign Against Living Miserably (CALM), a charity which aims to prevent male suicide in the UK.

Mrs Reeves explained, "This year we will be donating 40% of all monies raised throughout the year to each of these charities. The remaining 20% will be donated to Mary's Meals, a Scottish-based organisation which provides meals to school children in some of the world's poorest communities. Keith Bartlett, one of the professional actors in the School's production of *Hamlet* in December, is donating all of his annual income to Mary's Meals and Whitgift wants to support this extraordinary individual act of charity."

Volunteer rewarded

Whitgift Sixth Form student, Nathan Bambroffe (*pictured, second from left*), has been presented with a Jack Petchey 'Outstanding Achievement' Award in honour of his volunteer work at local charity, Waggy Tails. The charity is a dog activity club, in South Croydon, which gives young people aged 13-18, with special needs and disabilities, the opportunity to train and interact with dogs.

The 17-year-old had been volunteering at Waggy Tails in Lower Sixth Form, as part of his Duke of Edinburgh Award, but found it so rewarding that he continued in the Upper Sixth Form as well.

Nathan was surprised with an award ceremony attended by club members, staff,

volunteers, parents, and of course the dogs and their owners, in October. Associate Vicar, Ben Jones, from Emmanuel Anglican Church in South Croydon, presented Nathan with the certificate.

The Jack Petchey Award Scheme was set up to enable schools and youth organisations to reward and recognise the contributions and achievements of their young people.





La Serenissima

In September, 26 boys, a coterie of music staff and an assortment of giant percussion instruments embarked on a 24-hour drive to Venice. They arrived at their hotel, via winding Venetian canals, by *vaporetto*. A concert on the first evening in the impressively grand surroundings of the Scuola di San Giovanni Evangelista set the standard for the rest of the tour. After a session of busking in the square in front of the Accademia, the final Venice concert took place at the Conservatorio Benedetto Marcello, where Fifth Form cellist, Alex Ciulin, mesmerised the audience with his interpretation of the slow movement of Marcello's *Concerto in D minor*. Students and staff gave a more relaxed concert for Lower First Form students and other hotel guests on the terrace of Hotel Poiano, Lake Garda, before the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity

to perform at the awe-inspiring Teatro Olimpico in Vicenza, Palladio's final architectural masterpiece, and a UNESCO world heritage site. This spectacular concert combined music by English composers, from William Byrd to Edward Elgar, with dramatic readings from the works of Shakespeare (in both English and an Italian translation), in honour of the 400th anniversary of The Bard's death. The final concert of the tour featured a rousing rendition of Vivaldi's *Gloria* with a local Italian choir, alongside other music by the Whitgift Symphony Orchestra and soloists, including Sixth Form student, Ion Moşneaga's, captivating unaccompanied performance of *Zigeunerweisen*. A beautiful church venue, set in the scenic hilltop village of San Briccio, and a vast and appreciative audience, made a perfect end to a memorable tour.







Boys keep swinging

Congratulations to Lower Sixth Formers, Harry Plowman Ollington (*pictured, middle*) and Alfie Fox (*pictured, below*), and Upper Sixth Former, Harvey Byers (*pictured, top right*), who have been selected to play in the Friendship Trophy, an annual quadrangular golf match between Surrey and a provincial representative team from Catalunya (Spain), Midi-Pyrenees (France) and Nordrhein Westfalen (Germany). Each team comprises six junior international players – four boys and two girls from each country. It is a highly competitive tournament, which Surrey have won for the last three years. They will be defending their title in Spain, at the El Prat Golf Club, at the end of November.

In October, Whitgift took part in the annual HMC National Singles Championship, hosted at the Berkshire Golf Club. Congratulations to Alfie, who won with the boys individual event, with a score of 71. Teammates Harvey and Harry were placed 4th and 5th respectively. The Whitgift team of Fox and Byers won the team event with a combined score of 146.



Piers Bellman, who had never considered ski racing seriously until he came to Whitgift, aged 11, took up the sport with Whitgift's Outdoor Education co-curricular programme. Fast forward a few years and Piers was starting to win medals at the annual Independent School Ski & Snowboard Championships, at which the School participates annually in the

French Alps. Piers was part of the team that won Whitgift's first-ever medal at the competition, in 2012 – a bronze in the Giant Slalom. In the School's most recent outing in the competition, in December 2015, Piers won silver in the individual U16 Giant Slalom, and gold with the Senior Giant Slalom Team.

2016 has seen Piers' hard work and dedication pay off, with a call-up to the Welsh national team. The 17-year-old is looking forward to his first national competition at the Welsh Championships, in Champéry, France, in January.

Mr Ben Green, Head of the School's Outdoor Education programme, commented, "Piers shows what can be achieved in life when an ambitious goal is followed up with hard work, dedication and a supportive environment. He should be immensely proud of the progress that he has made."



Poles apart



World Hockey star is new coach

Whitgift is delighted to welcome international hockey star, Ashley Jackson, to the School's hockey coaching team. The England and Great Britain hockey player has competed in three Olympic Games and is his county's all-time leading goal scorer. The 29-year-old joins fellow East Grinstead Hockey Club (EGHC) players, Martin Scanlon and Dom Bowden, who have also joined Whitgift's hockey department this term.

In addition to sponsoring EGHC, Whitgift has further links to the Club, with Dr Karl Stagno, Whitgift's Director of Hockey, also heading up the coaching for the EGHC Men's 1st XI. A long line of Whitgift pupils, past and present, have represented the Club, including boys who have gone on to represent England, including Jonty Griffiths, Rhys Smith, Tendo Kimuli (all England U21), and Ed Treece (England U18).

Jackson, named FIH World Young Player of the Year in 2009, commented, "There has been a great link between East Grinstead and Whitgift over the years and now it's good to be part of both sides of it. I've seen some talented kids since I've started coaching at the School, and I'm excited by what I can contribute."



Top gear

Lower Sixth Former, Ruairi Bell, and Latvian co-driver Edgars Svencis, won the Rallijs Latvija 2WD Open Rallysprint category, in October, in their Whitgift-branded car. They managed to win the last stage by nearly 14s, giving an overall victory by 3.83s – a very close finish indeed.

Ruairi had competed in the New Year Stages rally in January, and the Euro Cables Stages rally in February, which formed parts of the Northern Irish Championship. He achieved two top 3 class finishes in each. Both were important practice events towards his current Baltic

Rally Championship campaign (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania), which sees him competing in a much more powerful Ford Fiesta R2, and on various surfaces: tarmac, gravel and snow. His first event in Lithuania also saw him achieve a class win and a top 20 finish overall.

The 2017 championship consists of seven events, starting with two snow and ice events in January (Aluksne, Latvia) and February (Sarma, Latvia). Practice for these events may include a visit to Rovaniemi, in Finland, which boasts 200km of ice rally tracks on lakes and in forests.





The Michaelmas Term was, as usual, full of school trips designed to enrich and enhance academic and co-curricular life, experiencing a different country's culture, language, history and geography. The following articles offer an insight into some of the boys' exploits.

Highlights included sailing on Lake Garda



Whitgift at Lake Garda

The Lower First Form embarked on Whitgift's annual week in Northern Italy. "The aim of the trip is three-fold," explains Mr Jonathan Thomas, Acting Head of First Form, "Firstly, it catalyses the process of rooting down into a new school. Strong friendships are forged, and boys get an understanding of the 'Whitgift way' of tackling life. Secondly, it presents boys with the challenge of growing up, as they find themselves representing their school and country. For some, it is their first extended period of time away from home; for others it is their first time abroad. Thirdly, boys are encouraged to branch out, as they experience a new culture, new food and a new language."

Highlights of the trip included re-living the clash of gladiators in Verona's amphitheatre; exploring the maze of streets and squares in Venice; sailing on Lake Garda; hill-walking amongst vineyards; and traversing the peak of Monte Baldo. Perhaps the most spectacular moment of the trip was watching the Whitgift musicians performing at the world-renowned Teatro Olimpico, in Vicenza.





CERN trip

A group of 28 Sixth Form physics students travelled to Geneva, Switzerland, to visit the world's largest physics research laboratory, CERN, where they learned about the most recent discoveries being made in the scientific community. They witnessed the technology and equipment used in the operation of the Large Hadron Collider, as well as the four particle detectors which were used to prove the existence of the elusive Higgs Boson, in 2012.

The group also took time out to visit the United Nations Office for a guided tour, learning about current issues confronting the UN, and appreciating the art donated by all UN member states.

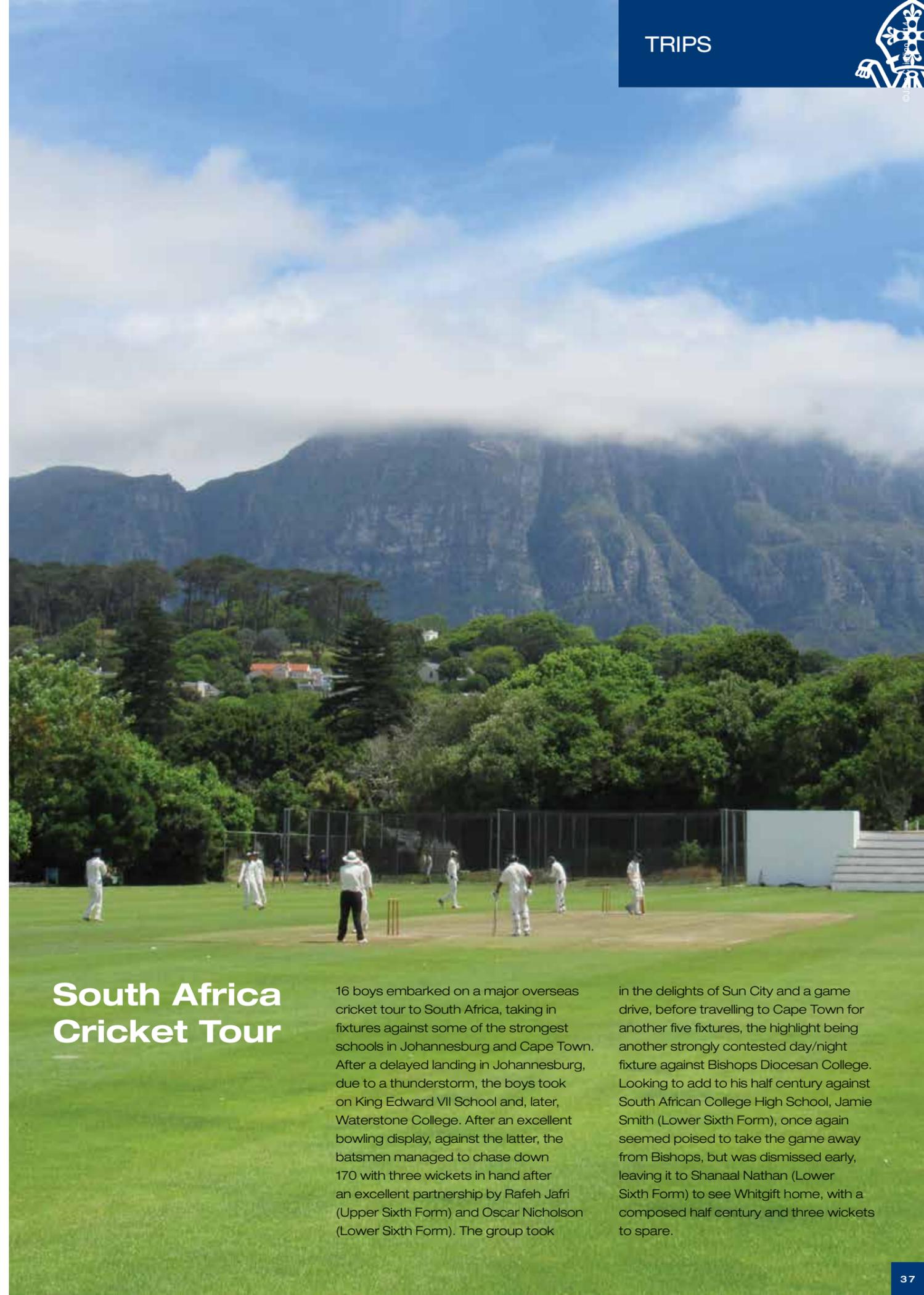
Omar Choudary commented, "Our visit to CERN not only helped develop our understanding of the physics involved, but also gave us an appreciation of how a huge scientific community can work together to achieve such an awe-inspiring feat."



Urawa exchange

20 students from the Upper Fifth and Lower Sixth Form set off to Japan to visit long-term exchange partner, Urawa High School, where they attended lessons, learned the school song and introduced themselves, in Japanese, in front of 1,200 boys in an assembly. In addition, the boys were envoys in Year 1 to Year 6 classes in a local Primary School, and their visit made it into the local news. For many boys who

had experienced exchanges in European partner schools, this exchange was very different, due to the unfamiliar culture and conventions. Their stay with Japanese host families enabled them to sample family culture and culinary delicacies. The trip also included a visit to Nikko, with its famous waterfalls and temples, and finally, Tokyo, a melting pot of tradition and technology.



South Africa Cricket Tour

16 boys embarked on a major overseas cricket tour to South Africa, taking in fixtures against some of the strongest schools in Johannesburg and Cape Town. After a delayed landing in Johannesburg, due to a thunderstorm, the boys took on King Edward VII School and, later, Waterstone College. After an excellent bowling display, against the latter, the batsmen managed to chase down 170 with three wickets in hand after an excellent partnership by Rafeh Jafri (Upper Sixth Form) and Oscar Nicholson (Lower Sixth Form). The group took

in the delights of Sun City and a game drive, before travelling to Cape Town for another five fixtures, the highlight being another strongly contested day/night fixture against Bishops Diocesan College. Looking to add to his half century against South African College High School, Jamie Smith (Lower Sixth Form), once again seemed poised to take the game away from Bishops, but was dismissed early, leaving it to Shanaal Nathan (Lower Sixth Form) to see Whitgift home, with a composed half century and three wickets to spare.



First Form tales

In the Michaelmas Term, First Form drama enthusiasts took on a collection of tales by the Brothers Grimm. Written in the early 19th century in Germany, the stories are familiar and much-loved worldwide, having been translated into over 100 languages. The brothers had an early fascination with German traditional stories, which turned into a lifelong passion for collecting folk tales.

Adapted for the stage, the tales chosen to disturb and delight audiences were *Iron Hans*, *The Hare and the Hedgehog*, *The Musicians of Bremen*, *Brother Scamp* and *Snow White*. The boys grasped the challenge of the sometimes macabre subject matter with glee, and managed to transport those in the Concert Hall into a fantastical land.





Whitgift v Whitgift

Whitgift's Headmaster, together with the Director of Rugby, and other colleagues, attended the Premiership rugby match between Wasps and Harlequins, in October. Four Old Whitgiftians were playing, a rare accomplishment for any school to see so many alumni competing in one top-level game.

Elliot Daly and Danny Cipriani represented Wasps on their home ground, Ricoh Arena, facing Marland Yarde and George Merrick of Quins. It was not to be the Quins day however, with the home team comprehensively beating them 47-18 to return to the top of the Premiership.

The alumni are a cherished part of Whitgift's sporting history. Daly was part of Whitgift's winning side in the ERFSU *Daily Mail/RBS National Schools' Cup* in both 2010 and 2011, at Twickenham, with Yarde and Merrick in the 2010 and 2011 squads respectively. Cipriani was fly half in Whitgift's national cup-winning U15 side at Twickenham in 2003. He, Daly and Yarde have all received England call-ups in recent years.

It was a great source of pride for those staff and boys from Whitgift to see the quartet on the pitch.

(From left to right: Mr Daniel Webb, Mr Adrian Norris, Elliot Daly, Marland Yarde, Danny Cipriani, Dr Barnett, George Merrick, Whitgift 1st XV Vice Captain Cameron Wilkins, Whitgift 1st XV Captain Fergus Donnelly, Mr Chris Wilkins and Mr Chris Kibble)

Football focus

October was a highly eventful month for Whitgift footballers, past and present. Old Whitgiftian, Callum Hudson-Odoi (*pictured, main*), now playing full-time for Chelsea FC Academy, took part in the England U17 UEFA Championship. He was in the starting line-up against Romania, where England won 3-0, and later that month set up passes which helped to beat Austria 3-2. The squad's three wins out of three in their group ensures qualification to the Elite Qualifying Round.

Upper Sixth Form pupil, Emmanuel Okorougo, has signed for Crystal Palace FC Academy. His Palace profile describes him as a 'tall, powerful striker...very good with his back to goal and causes defence problems with his pace'.

Upper First Form student, Morgan Williams (*pictured, right*), was selected to attend an U12 Wales training camp, in Dragon Park, the national football development centre in Newport. He has been invited to six

camp throughout the year, depending on performance. Morgan helped secure an unbeaten season for the Whitgift U11s last season, with Whitgift winning both Surrey Cup and ISFA Cup. The 11-year-old scored in both the semi-final and final of the ISFA competition, and is currently on the books at Arsenal FC.

Upper Third Form pupil, Jamal Musiala, has also been selected for an England training camp, at U15 level. The national selection camp took place at St George's Park, Burton upon Trent. The Chelsea FC Academy player has been top scorer at Whitgift for the last two years and has scored in both the 2015 and 2016 ISFA Cup Final wins, plus helped last year's U13s reach the ESFA final. Whitgift Director of Football, Mr Andrew Martin, pointed out, "This is particularly impressive, as Jamal is not 14 years old until after Christmas, so is playing an age group up."

It was good news all round, in December, when the U13s and U15s took part in their ISFA quarter-finals. Both teams

had resounding wins – 6-1 and 5-1 respectively – against Royal Russell School and Millfield School. Whitgift U13s have won this national cup for a staggering six consecutive years. Whitgift wishes both teams the best of luck with their final push to get to the finals.





November saw an impressive two Old Whitgiftians in the starting line-up against South Africa. Elliot Daly and Marland Yarde donned the England jersey in front of an

80,000-strong crowd at Twickenham, helping to secure England's first victory over South Africa in a decade.

It was Daly's turn to shine; in his first start in an international, the 24-year-old executed a long range kick from just inside South Africa's half, securing three points and giving England an 11-point lead with one minute left on the clock before half time.

Daly made his debut against Ireland, in February, in the RBS Six Nations Championships. The Wasps centre, who was cut from the training squad ahead of the 2015 World Cup, is now clearly benefiting from international experience.

In less than ideal weather conditions, England concluded the match with a resounding 37-21 victory against the South Africans. A week later they faced Fiji, and with Daly once again in the starting line-up, managed a triumphant 58-15 win, with the help of a try from the Old Whitgiftian. It was Yarde's turn to take the helm in the match against the Australians, in December, with an exhilarating touch down in the second half, to help take England to a record 13th straight win under coach, Eddie Jones.

Rugby

Internationals



The highlight for many in the Michaelmas Term is the Lower Sixth Form play. It holds its ground in the drama calendar with its show of talent, with minimalist props and moody lighting. In past years, boys have experimented with satire, entrapment and twisted tales. This cohort continued with a dark theme, with four self-directed performances focusing on tales of crime, falling under the umbrella title of *The Call*.

The audience were taken from *Unearthed*, where a pair of brothers digging a grave is not what it seems, to *A Captivating Situation*, which showed how a bad day can have a tragic, domino effect. *In Memoriam* was a murder mystery party with the emphasis on murder. A highlight of the show was *Promises*, written and directed by 16-year-old Whitgiftian George Jaques, who held his own amongst the professional playwrights.

Head of Drama, Mrs Miranda Merrett, commented, "It has been an absolute pleasure to see a group of passionate, dedicated students take control of every aspect of these performances."

Well done to Oscar Nicholson, Ashwin Gobiraj, Daniel Horsley, Sam Webber, Harry Seager, George Jaques, Macauley Keeper, and, from Croydon High School, Charlotte Clapperton, on setting the bar so high.



The Call





OW rivals!

In September, an impressive four Old Whitgiftian professional cricketers played in the 2016 Royal London One Day Cup Final, at Lords. Dominic Sibley, Rory Burns, Jason Roy of Surrey CCC, faced Laurie Evans of Warwickshire CCC. In what was described as a 'match-defining' moment, Evans dismissed England cricketer Roy, and helped Warwickshire win by eight wickets, with 118 balls remaining.

Fencing update

Upper Fifth Former, Tarriq Roach (pictured, below), started the fencing season on a high, competing in the second part of the U17 British fencing ranking series, in Canterbury, in September. He performed outstandingly and won the competition against 48 competitors from across the UK, moving up into 1st place in the Cadet Epée rankings.

Tarriq defended his British U17 #1 position at the second U17 ranking competition of the season, in London, before the October half term. He was then invited to represent Great Britain on the U17 international circuit. Two world circuit competitions followed: Tarriq came 25th in Austria – a fine achievement considering it is one

of the strongest on the U17 international circuit, with 240 fencers competing worldwide this year. The second instalment, in France, in November, saw Tarriq fall just short of the quarter-finals. His 11th place was a terrific achievement, placing him 29th in the World Ranking.

A very busy term, with many fencers attending a half term training camp, also saw Connor Head perform outstandingly to be placed 3rd in the U20 British Ranking Competition, in Manchester. Connor also continues to impress amongst the seniors; he was part of the Salle Boston A team, winning a silver medal at the British Team Championships, in foil. Omari Campbell-Okolo also won a U12 Leon Paul Junior Series competition, in Manchester and then in London, and is now #1 on the U12 circuit in Britain.



Pro cycling

Congratulations go to Old Whitgiftian, Joshua Haasz, who, after an outstanding 2016 season, has recently been signed to a British professional cycling team. The 20-year-old will be part of the CatfordCC Equipe/Banks 2017 Elite Team, one of only eight or so UK based elite teams. There will be 13 members in the squad, with a mixture of youth and experience, to help develop the younger cyclists.

Head of Whitgift Outdoor Education, Mr Ben Green, commented, "Josh was already a very talented runner, but, upon joining the cycling program at Whitgift, he quickly realised that was where his passion lay. In a very short space of time, he has achieved his dream of joining an elite professional team. Josh is a prime example of can be achieved with hard work, dedication, planning and raw talent."



Keep on running

In October, the U13 and U15 teams attended Round 1 of the ESAA Cross Country Cup competition. Both teams impressed, with the U13s finishing 1st and U15s 2nd, both making it through to the Regional Finals, in November. Individually, in the U13 category, Thomas Blake came 2nd and Lorenzo Mihanian 3rd. In the U15 category, Rowan Fuss came 1st and Harley Norman 2nd.

Whitgift's Inter boys team stepped up admirably at the South East Final, achieving 3rd place and taking the last qualifying spot to progress to the National Final – an impressive feat considering the team is predominantly a Year 9 team

in Year 10 competition. This is the third consecutive year that this age group has progressed to the final, having also won the U13 competition last year. Team captain, Harley, was Whitgift's highest finisher, in 4th place. The U13 team put up a tough fight, but ended in 8th place. Lorenzo was the highest individual, achieving 12th place amongst the best runners in the South East.

Next up, the U12, U14 and U16 teams competed at the Croydon Schools' Cross Country Championships. The U14s came 1st, and the U12s and U16s finished second. Individually, in the U12 category, Martin Van Domselaar gained 6th place and Tom Penniceard 7th. In the U14 group, Rowan Fuss came 1st, and Harley 2nd. Jai Patel finished 4th and George Simpson 5th in the U16 category. All are likely to qualify

to represent South Croydon in the Surrey Schools' Cross Country, in January.

At the ESAA Cross Country Cup Final, in December, in Liverpool, the predominantly Year 9 team competed in the Inter (Year 10) competition (pictured). They performed well to finish 7th as a team, out of 23 of the best cross country schools. Harley was Whitgift's highest individual finisher with 5th place out of 134 runners.

- Team list**
- U13s** – Thomas Blake, Calum MacKinnon-Smith, Lorenzo Mihanian, Fionn Mooney, Arun Stanley and Morgan Williams
 - U15s** – Gon Declercq, Rowan Fuss, Seth Mack, Harley Norman, Jai Patel and Tom Rees
 - U12s** – Martin Van Domselaar, Tom Penniceard, Max Penniceard, Quentin Aude-Lange, Sonny Hill
 - U14s** – Rowan Fuss, Harley Norman, Gon Declercq, Johnnie Sunderland, Eugene Bevilacqua
 - U16s** – Jai Patel, George Simpson, Tom Oswald



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WHITGIFT

EUGENE ONEGIN



Getty Images

Eugene Onegin

Sunday 12 March 2017, matinee 2.30pm

Tuesday 14 March 2017, 7.30pm

Thursday 16 – Saturday 18 March 2017, 7.30pm

Big School

Tickets: £8, Concessions £4*

(Ticket price includes a drink during the evening)

For more details and information on how to book, please visit:

www.whitgift.co.uk/events

*Children 16 and under, Over 60s, Students (17-25 in full-time education)

These performances are given by permission of Boosey & Hawkes Music Publishers Limited
Composer: P.I. Tchaikovsky
English translator: David Lloyd-Jones

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

HOUSE MUSIC COMPETITION

Wednesday 1 February

6pm, Big School

FREE admission (no reservation required)

LENT COLLECTION CONCERT

Thursday 9 February

7.30pm, Concert Hall

FREE admission (by reserving on WisePay only)

EUGENE ONEGIN

Sunday 12 March, matinee 2.30pm

Tuesday 14, Thursday 16 – Saturday 18

March, 7.30pm

Big School

Tickets: £8, Concessions* £4

WIMC 2017 OPENING CONCERT

Sunday 2 April

7pm, Concert Hall

FREE admission (by reserving on WisePay only)

WIMC 2017 OPEN ROUNDS

Monday 3 – Wednesday 5 April

10am – 4.30pm, Concert Hall

FREE admission (no reservation required)

WIMC 2017 WINNERS GALA CONCERT

Thursday 6 April

7pm, Big School

FREE admission (by reserving on WisePay only)

BOOKING INFORMATION

Please visit www.whitgift.co.uk/events for information on how to book.

*Concessions:

Children 16 and under, Over 60s, Students (17-25 in full-time education)

Front Cover image: His Royal Highness The Duke of York, KG, visited Whitgift's *Remembering 1916* exhibition in October 2016

Photo: Robert Chadwick

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