



Our World Cup winner

ISI Inspection 'excellent' rating A special visit from a FIFA U17 World Cup champion **First Form tech whizz goes viral** A stellar *Government Inspector* production **An outstanding Autumn Collection concert** **Trips galore and much more...**

Football's coming home

Old Whitgiftian, Callum Hudson-Odoi, recently highlighted by *The Guardian* in the '60 of the best young talents in world football' list, enjoyed jubilant celebrations in October, after defeating Spain 5-2 in the FIFA U17 World Cup Final.

Following a 3-1 win against Brazil in the semi-final, England found themselves facing their old rivals in the closing match, hosted in India. Many of the team had featured in the U17 European Championship final, in May, when Spain had beaten England on penalties. England found themselves 2-0 down early in the game, but came back after half time scoring five without reply, with Callum taking the role of chief goal creator.

Callum joined Whitgift in 2012, having been with the Chelsea Academy since the age of eight. He played a significant part in Whitgift's Investec Independent Schools Football Association (ISFA) Cup glory. In 2013, his long-range goal in the final led Whitgift to a 5-0 win. The following year, Callum scored a hat-trick, thus ensuring a fourth consecutive ISFA U13 victory for the School. Callum left Whitgift in 2015 – having scored an exceptional 113 goals in three years for the School – to pursue a full-time career with Chelsea FC.

In November, Callum visited Whitgift to meet staff and boys wishing to congratulate him on his World Cup win. During this visit, after meeting key staff involved in his sporting and

academic development, Callum joined a group of (very excited) Upper First Form footballers in the Marlar Halls. Director of Sport, Mr Alistair Osborne, introduced him to the boys, impressing upon them that in addition to Callum's natural talent, part of his success to date has been down to his willingness to apply himself, the respect he shows his coaches, and being a good example to his peers. Callum was then surprised with a video featuring his sporting highlights whilst at Whitgift. A Q&A session followed, where he recounted his best memories of Whitgift (winning trophies!) and he gave some great advice to the boys: be well-behaved, work hard, enjoy your football, and make the most of the opportunities available to you.

Callum met up with his classmates, now in Lower Sixth Form, and headed to Edridge Field to enjoy an U13 ISFA Round 3 match between Whitgift and Brighton College. His presence was definitely a lucky charm for the day: they won 7-0!

'Callum took the role of chief goal creator'





Academic Highlights

Whitgift students had great exam success across IB, A Level, BTEC and GCSE examinations in 2017. The IB cohort achieved fantastic results, the students performing exceptionally well to achieve an average score of 39.7 points. Luke Hatteland-Dunn and Milo Basak Whitbread both scored the maximum total of 45 points; an extra special accomplishment given that last year, only 146 candidates in the world managed this incredible feat. Whitgift achieved the top IB results of any all-boys school in the UK and were 7th best overall in the league tables.

86.4% of all A Level grades were awarded at A*/B. These impressive results are testament to the hard work and determination of students and staff, and most students were able to secure their first-choice university.

Following on from the Sixth Form results, Upper Fifth Form students achieved an A*/A success rate of 84%, in their GCSE and IGCSE exams.



Highlighting the superb all-round ability of Whitgift students, a total of 51 boys achieved 9 A* grades or better, of which 19 students obtained straight A*'s in all of their subjects. The strength of the year group as a whole can be seen by the 90 pupils who managed to achieve a straight set of A*/A grades.

The Headmaster and the staff at Whitgift would like to congratulate all boys on their achievement. The boys can be very proud of these results and we wish them all the very best in their future studies.



'Excellent' Whitgift

The Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) carried out an inspection of Whitgift in May 2017. The results were published in June and the School was delighted with the outcome. The Compliance Report required a straightforward pass/fail mark, and we are very pleased to confirm that every area of the School passed inspection. The Educational Quality Report findings serve as a superb commendation for the School, reflecting as they do the outstanding quality of Whitgift's overall provision. Staff and students can be truly proud of their achievements.

In the two categories on which the School was assessed, we obtained the top rating of Excellent, in both the quality of pupils' achievements and the quality of their personal development. It is a testament to the hard work of all the staff and pupils at Whitgift that the key findings of the report acknowledge not only that pupils' achievement is outstanding across a wide range of activities, but also that the relationships of pupils with each other and staff display a high degree of respect and tolerance, also reflecting an appreciation of diversity.

The following statement encapsulates the findings of the report: "The excellent achievement of pupils is underpinned by the commitment of leadership, management and governance to ensuring an environment of ambitious expectation which promotes in pupils the desire to aim high and work for success." Whitgift will continue to strive for excellence in all aspects of school life.

'Staff and students can be truly proud of their achievements'

news

Pizza the action

Upper Sixth General Studies focused on practical 'life skills' in the Michaelmas Term. Every two weeks, students have been enjoying a variety of activities: pizza-making with local company, the Pizza Project; (practising) saving lives on a first aid course; self-defence martial arts; and various DIY skills with Mr Stuart Peach, Head of Maintenance at Whitgift, and his department.

Pizza Project delighted the boys (and staff) with their two wood-fired ovens built into a Land Rover. They taught the students about the dough-making process, from the sourdough 'starter' through to the best part of the session, firing their pizzas in the oven and then devouring them!

In the Sixth Form Centre, boys were ably taught by Mr Peach and the Maintenance team about plumbing, electrics and carpentry. After interactive sessions on problems like wiring a plug, boys were given the task of building new flat-pack furniture for their Common Room.

In Big School, boys were taken through vital first aid skills with Nurse Practitioner Josephine Tyrell. They learnt the basics of dealing with breaks, critical wounds and resuscitation techniques.

The most energetic session was reserved for martial arts and self-defence. Devon Ffrench and David Sagoe put the boys through their paces.



STEM problem-solving

The annual Lower Third Form STEM challenge consists of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics -based projects. Half the students in this year group took part over the Michaelmas Term, and the second half will do the same in the Trinity Term. The students were able to choose from a variety of topics: Bridge Building, Chemical Clock, Codebreaking, Coin Sorter, Hydraulic Arm, Hydro Power, Make Your Own Ecosystem, Raspberry Pi, and Squashed Tomato Challenge.

The last challenge was set by the charity, Practical Action, with the aim of addressing the problems faced by tomato growers in Nepal. Tomatoes are grown at high altitude and have to be painstakingly carried down the mountain by hand. The boys investigated a variety of mechanical methods to quickly and safely bring the tomatoes down a mountain without squashing them.

The project culminated with all groups presenting their projects

to fellow students and staff. Head of STEM, Mr Matthew Taylor, announced, "I'm glad to say that the Lower Third Form students more than stepped up to the challenge of taking on the technically-complex projects, with many staff agreeing it was the most successful group of projects they had seen. Everyone who attended the presentations was able to vote for which they deemed to be the 'best project'. The winner of this accolade was the Hydraulic Arm group, closely followed by Hydro Power.

We wait with anticipation to see what the remainder of Lower Third Formers create in the Lent Term."



Passion play

performing arts

In October, Upper Sixth Form students George Jaques, Macauley Keeper and Harry Seager, along with former Whitgiftians Gus Flind-Henry and Byron Easmon, performed in three sold-out performances of *Dilate*.



The play, by Athenaeum Theatre Company, is a cautionary tale about youth drug culture. The company, which focuses on current issues relevant to adolescents today, was set up earlier this year by George and his fellow Whitgiftians (also

including Sam Webber and Oscar Nicholson) and soon expanded to welcome other young people with a passion for acting, all aged between 15 and 18.

The current Whitgiftians, all Drama Scholars (Macauley has

been a professional actor since a young age), have appeared in numerous Whitgift productions, including *Hamlet*, *Spamalot*, *Bugsy Malone* and *Journey's End*. 19-year-old Old Whitgiftian, Henry Parritt, a veteran Whitgift stage and technical crew member

(and now at RADA studying Technical Theatre), did a fantastic job as *Dilate*'s Technical Director.

Not only is Athenaeum Theatre Company George's (pictured, third from right) brainchild, but he also wrote and directed *Dilate*. The

enterprising 17-year-old's first foray as a playwright came about in 2016 when he wrote *Promises* – featuring George, Macauley and Harry – as part of Whitgift's Sixth Form plays.

George plans on working with the Daniel Spargo-Mabbs Foundation

– which helps educate young people, parents and schools about drug and alcohol issues – to bring the *Dilate* message to a wider audience.



To find out more about Athenaeum Theatre Company or to donate to the Daniel Spargo-Mabbs Foundation, please visit www.athenaeumtc.com or www.dsmfoundation.org.uk

co-curricular

Ski racing success

Several talented Whitgift pupils represented the School at the 2017 British Independent Schools Ski Racing (BISS) National Indoor Championships. The event took place at the Hemel Hempstead Snow Centre, in September, and Whitgift enjoyed podium finishes.

third left), who won bronze in the U16 Special Slalom, and Upper First Former, Augustin Bozzeto, with an U12 silver finish.

The junior team of Bertie Robinson, Augustin Bozzeto, Xavier Shamlian and Luke Holland performed superbly to win gold, seven points ahead of their closest rivals.

Well done to Upper Fifth Form pupil, Kit Bellman (*pictured below*,



X-treme biking

Fifth Former Mathias Salin competed in the 'Steady Eddy X-treme' enduro bike racing competition, in November. The event is aimed at riders wanting to gain extreme enduro experience, as well as being open to more seasoned racers. In the first of a series of three events, Mathias raced at Cowm Quarry, Greater Manchester, where 160 entrants took part in the course. They had to navigate their way around rocks, logs, tyres and a water-filled tunnel.

The 15-year-old performed outstandingly to win the Youth Class, and finished 13th overall. With riders at various stages of completion of the course, it took a lot of grit and determination to pass his fellow competitors and get to the top position.

In the second leg of the competition, in Wales, he won the Youth Class again, by some distance, and came 12th overall.

Whitgift wishes Mathias all the best for the Extreme Enduro British Championship season, which starts mid-January.



More ups than downs

15-year-old mountain biker, Luc Roux, competed in the South East England Rogate Downhill Race, in West Sussex, in October. One of the most difficult downhill races in England, the terrain is steep with large jumps and tight technical corners, all to be navigated at high speed.

Out of 175 competitors, which included several pro-racers, such as two-time world champion Brendan Fairclough, Luc came an impressive 17th place. In his Youth Category (for 15-16-year-olds), in which he was competing against Luke Williamson (ranked No. 3 in the UK), the Upper Fifth Former performed outstandingly to finish 3rd.

Luc's passion was sparked in Lower Third Form when he joined Whitgift's Outdoor Education co-curricular programme. In addition to the Mountain Biking Club, he takes part in Wakeboarding and the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme. Luc explains, "The Mountain Biking Club was where it all started for me, so without it I couldn't possibly be where I am now. I do seven or eight different training

sessions per week, whether that's mountain biking, BMXing, or a turbo or gym session at the Whitgift Elite Performance Centre. I'm planning, in 2018, to go on the Outdoor Education trip to Morocco."

Future goals also include possible entries into the British Enduro Series competitions and Megavalanche, in the French Alps. The latter, described as a downhill marathon-style event, is especially gruelling; starting on a high altitude, glaciated summit and finishing some 30km down in a lush valley.

Mr Ben Green, Head of the School's Outdoor Education programme, commented, "Luc is another example of a Whitgift pupil who has found his passion and is pursuing it with maximum enthusiasm and endeavour. It is amazing to have witnessed his progress over the last two years, and I look forward to seeing him in mountain biking magazines in the very near future."

Class winner

Upper Sixth Form Prefect and rally driver, Ruairi Bell, had an action-packed summer, competing in the Lithuanian Viekšniai Rally. The event is part of his Baltic Rally Championship campaign, which takes place in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania each year. The 17-year-old repeated his performance from last year, winning his class, and coming 7th in the competition.

He followed that up with the two-day Rally Liepāja, in October, driving his Whitgift-branded car, a rally-prepared Ford Fiesta, specifically for his R2 class (classes range from R1 – R5).

The course, on gravel roads in Latvian forests, is twice the length he is accustomed to. In extremely challenging conditions, he came 13th overall and 4th in class on the first day, and 11th overall and 3rd in class on the second.

Fellow Sixth Form pupil, Henry Kerr, will be joining Ruairi next year as his co-driver, responsible for the logistics and the calling of the pacenotes (detailed instructions to help navigate the route effectively). After a training session in Wales during the December holidays, the pair will continue in the Baltic Rally Championship with two rounds in snowy conditions in Latvia, in January and February.



CCF medals

The Whitgift CCF team took part in the annual Elworthy Trophy competition, in October, and performed excellently to come away with an award. The event, which took place at Keogh Barracks, Aldershot, is a tri-service cadet military skills competition, and is fiercely contested each year. The competition tests the physical and mental agility of cadets, focusing on first aid, archery, command tasks, navigation, casualty evacuation and observation skills. Teams comprise eight participants aged 12-18 years.

The Whitgift team of Ashwin Gobiraj (team captain), Toby Osmond (vice captain), Clement Li-Raphael, Jacob Murray, Lucas Sayers, Theo Chambers, Tofunmi Lala and Joseph Bainbridge were triumphant in the navigation aspect of the competition, and were presented their trophies by Colonel Ian Dennison.

Whitgift CCF Contingent Commander, Mr Keith Smith, commented, "It was a great honour for Whitgift to be selected to represent the national CCF in this competition, and it was tremendous to win the navigation medal. The boys were an excellent team and really enjoyed the day."





'Femi ran workshops targeting hundreds of young people from disadvantaged backgrounds'



One to watch...

In November, Upper First Form pupil, Femi Owolade-Coombes, fronted a campaign by ARM, an international FTSE 100 technology company, launching their 'Made Possible by ARM' campaign.

The campaign raises awareness of how technology can benefit future generations and, according to a spokesperson, is a 'homage to people who look beyond restrictions and use technology to explore the boundaries of what is possible'. Femi was selected as someone who embodies the 'those that dare to dream' ideology, and fronted the video campaign that appeared across their social media channels this week. At last count, the video had been viewed over 437,000 times on ARM's facebook page.

Femi was presented with the Diana Award's inaugural Legacy Award, by The Duke of Cambridge and Prince Harry, in May. The award, in memory

of the Princess of Wales, was created to mark the 20th anniversary of her death, and is aimed at inspirational youngsters from around the world, selected specifically for their exceptional qualities of kindness, compassion and service.

Femi then crowdfunded a trip to Bangladesh, in July, to run workshops targeting hundreds of young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. The sessions entailed building robots and using micro:bits as an introduction to coding. Through generous sponsorship from the Microbit Foundation, Femi was able to gift 100 micro:bits to the participating groups so that they could continue learning.

Apart from running regular coding workshops with his South London Raspberry Jam initiative, Femi has also recently:

- Set up his own business with two successful 'Femi's Coding Bootcamps' to date
- Received his Diana Award at Barclays' Bank head office
- Attended a reception at the House of Lords as a Diana Award recipient
- Spent two days at Price Waterhouse Coopers learning about cyber-security, and led a micro:bit robot challenge workshop for the team
- Toured Google UK's headquarters by invitation
- Given a speech with the CEO of Mozilla and hosted his micro:bit robot challenge workshops at MozFest (a subsidiary of Firefox)

We congratulate this 11-year-old Whitgift Design Technology and Engineering Scholar on an incredibly busy year.

visitors

Fully booked

The annual Junior Literary Festival took place in November, always a popular event with the Whitgift First Formers. The impressive line-up of authors included Steve Cole, Ciaran Murtagh (pictured, top), Nikki Sheehan, Karl Nova (pictured, bottom right), Kieran Ekeledo, Jamie Thomson aka 'The Dark Lord', and Stephen Davies (pictured, bottom left). The Festival had something for everyone: Steve Cole's stand-up comedy; Ciaran Murtagh's tips on Mr Bean cinematography; Kieran Ekeledo's practical advice on both book creation and money management; Nikki Sheehan's creative stimulus for poetry; Stephen Davies's infusion of history into fiction; Jamie Thomson's ruthless voice coaching on how to speak like



a Dark Lord; and last but not least, Karl Nova's Spoken Word Workshop and enthusiastic Grand Finale Concert!

Upper First Former, Bakari Leon, echoed the feeling of many boys when he enthused, "I never want this day to end"; thankfully, it hasn't, as the boys have taken the ethos of the Festival into their day-to-day curricular and co-curricular activities at Whitgift.

'The Festival had something for everyone'



Whitgift hosts Hockey Conference with Olympic gold medallists

Whitgift was delighted to host the MT13 Hockey Conference at the beginning of October. Founded by ex-England international, Matt Taylor, the organisation runs high-quality training for coaches and players. This year, the conference featured Dutch ex-international

Teun de Nooijer, who has over 450 caps for the Netherlands, two gold and two silver Olympic medals, and numerous World Cup and European National Competition medals. He was joined by Kate Richardson-Walsh OBE and Helen Richardson-Walsh MBE, both of whom

have represented England and Great Britain on more than 300 occasions, winning gold at the Rio 2016 Olympics Games. A selection of U14A Whitgift hockey players were put forward for the training session, during which they were lucky enough to be coached by Taylor – who has four national league championship wins and three national cups with Cannock HC under his belt – as well as the esteemed Richardson-Walsh duo.



Whitgift welcomes sporting legends to raise awareness of meningitis

Whitgift was privileged to welcome Olympic Gold medallist, Sally Gunnell OBE, and former England Rugby player, Matt Dawson MBE, during September, as they visited the School for Meningitis Awareness Week, to speak to Upper Third Form students. Matt's son, thankfully now fully-recovered, contracted meningitis earlier this year.

The two sporting legends then took numerous questions from pupils. It was a thoroughly engaging lesson, and an inspiration to have two spokespeople who have achieved so much throughout their careers, take the time to promote this initiative.

Whitgift's Scientist-in-Residence



Whitgift greatly enjoyed having Dr Jonathan Hare for a six-week residency at Whitgift, over the second half of the Michaelmas Term, when he ran a series of workshops and projects for the School's Science Enrichment Programme. He has an impressive CV: his PhD work with Sir Harry Kroto led to a method of making the football molecule, Buckminsterfullerene (C₆₀); he has worked as a 'Time Lord' at the National Physical Laboratory, working with atomic clocks; and developed a gas-powered car with British Gas. Alongside this, he has presented two major television series, exploring how science is relevant in our everyday lives (*Rough Science* and *Hollywood Science*).

Dr Hare ran a series of workshops for Lower Fifth Form students, exploring a diverse range of topics, including: the structure of geodesic domes; the possibility of a 2000-year-old electric battery; light beam communication; and the science that might come in handy to work out where in the world you are, if you crash-landed like Tom Hanks in the film *Castaway*!

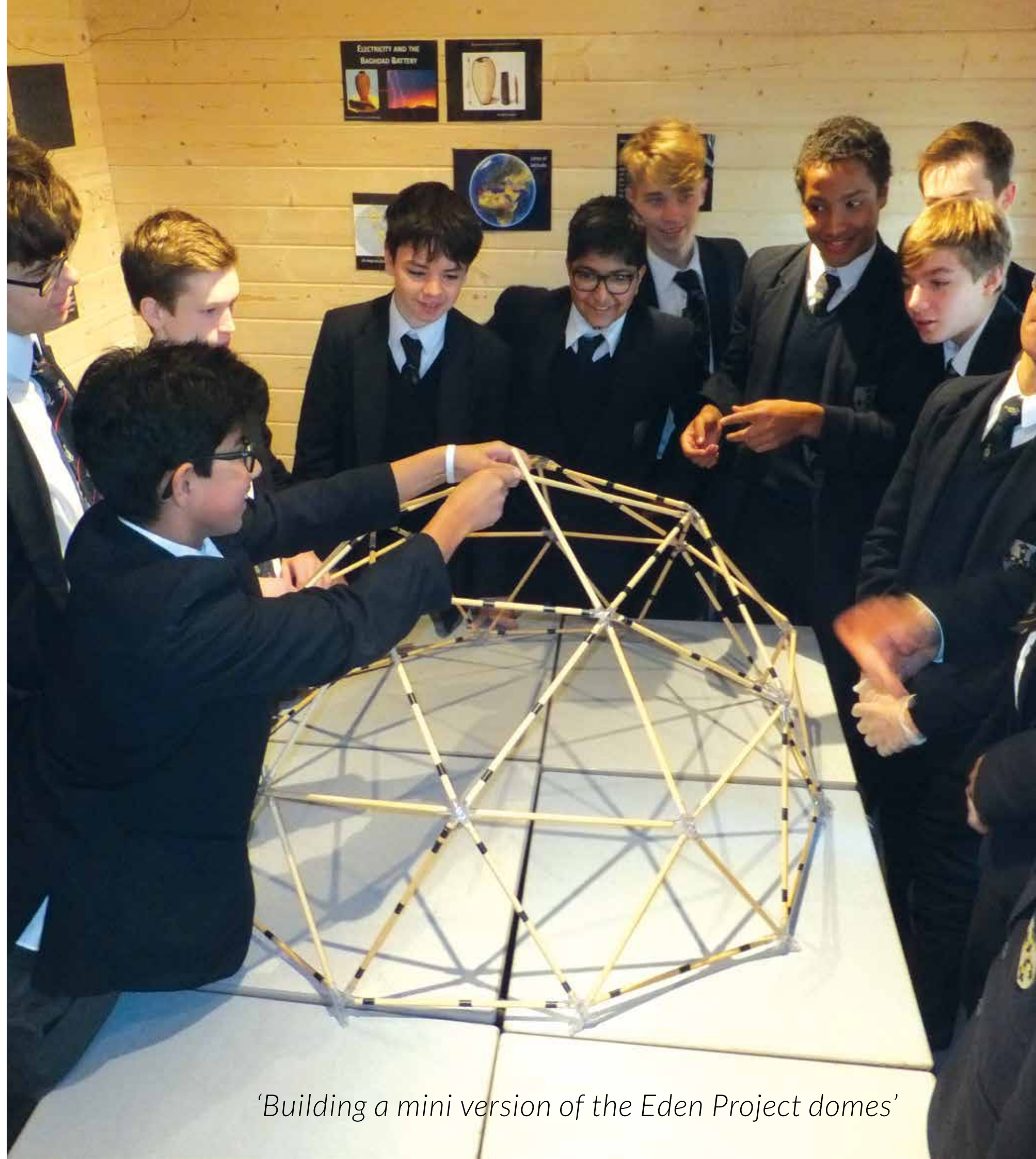
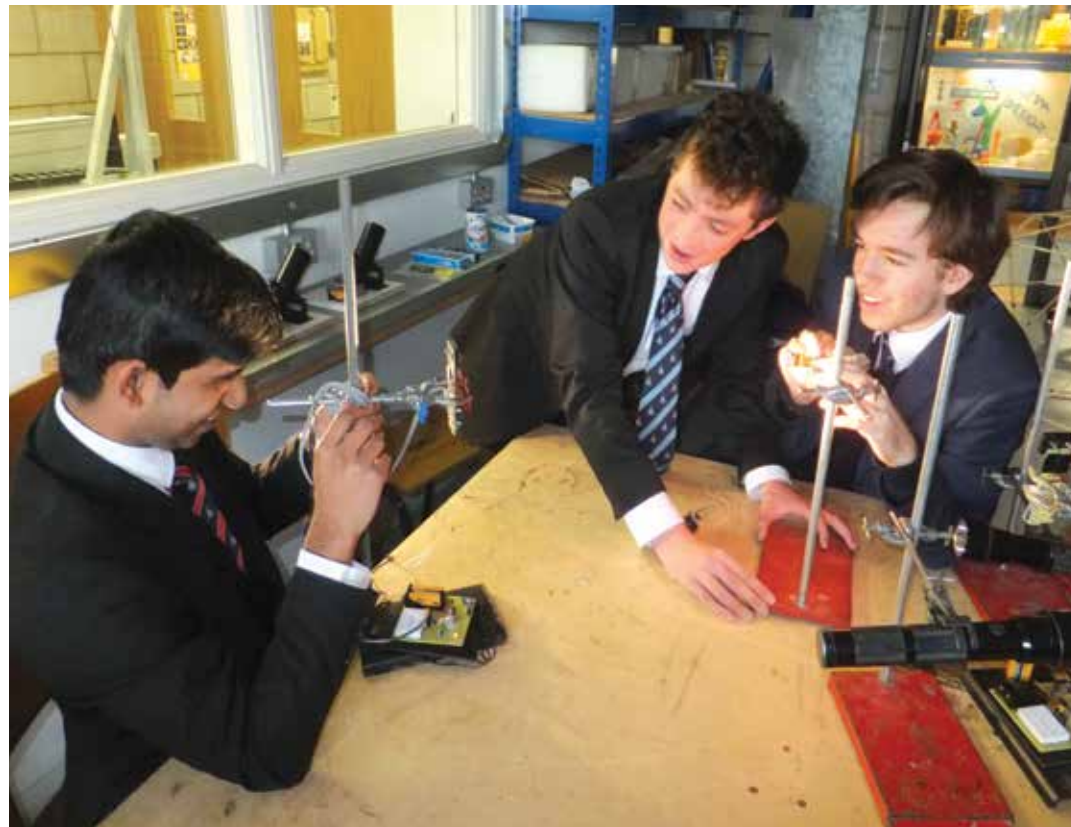
With a smaller group of keen Upper Third and Lower Sixth Form students, Dr Hare ran two more in-depth, six-week projects on geodesic domes and light beam communication. Each of these projects went from the foundation science, to building a large, 5m-diameter dome (a mini version of the Eden Project domes), and a fully-functioning two-way communication system, using a beam of light to 'transmit' the students' voices.

Dr Hare was impressed by the enthusiasm of the students, especially considering much of the work was done after

school and during lunchtimes, commenting: "These projects required a creative approach to science, and the outcomes of these projects have been fantastic."

In addition to all of the above, Dr Hare also built an interactive permanent exhibition that will go on display in the Science corridor, consisting of a set of five experiments that explore the electromagnetic spectrum. These experiments range from radio waves, light beam transmitters and receivers (that can also pick up lightning from storms), and a thermal imaging camera, as well as experiments with ultraviolet, and a detector to pick up cosmic rays and natural background radiation.

Whitgift would like to say a tremendous thank you to Dr Hare, for a jam-packed, thoroughly engaging and informative term, and wish him well in his future projects.



'Building a mini version of the Eden Project domes'

Autumn Colle

This annual event is always one of the highlights of the Michaelmas Term, and this year's concert did not disappoint, welcoming a sold-out audience

The Corps of Drums kicked off the evening's proceedings with a series of stirring numbers, culminating in their ever-popular glow-in-the-dark number, followed in swift succession by a selection of show-stoppers

Spirits remained high as the talented members of the A Cappella Group performed the Billy Joel classic *Uptown Girl*, and the audience were then treated to a lightning-quick performance of Rimsky-Korsakov's famous

(and fiendishly-difficult) *The Flight of the Bumblebee*, by trumpeter and music gap student, Albert Baciú. This was followed with a performance by the Whitgift String Orchestra, some of whom had only been learning their instruments for

Sixth Form student, Alex Ciulin, brought a moment of calm to proceedings, enchanting the crowd with a skilful performance of the first movement of Dvořák's beautiful *Cello Concerto*, accompanied by the full Whitgift Symphony Orchestra and directed by Mr Philip Winter. Whitgift's ever-popular Soul Choir, accompanied by an accomplished band formed of Whitgift students and staff, delivered a charming version of the R&B classic, *Stand By Me*, complete with their customary choreography routine.

Whitgift's vast First Form Choir took centre-stage for the grand finale, ending the evening's line-up on a high note with their upbeat and moving renditions of Pharrell Williams' infectious anthem *Happy*, and the Lion King classic *The Circle of Life*, directed and arranged by Mr Daniel Smith.





To the point

The first tournament of the new fencing season, in September, yielded some great results for Upper Sixth Form pupil, Connor Head, who reached the finals of the U20 British Ranking Competition. After gaining 2nd place in the British

Championships earlier on in the year, this achievement looks promising for selection for the U20 GB team.

In November, Connor came a fantastic 10th place at the World Cup series event, in Guatemala (*pictured above*). Mr Pavel Rynes, Head of Fencing, commented,

“We’re proud that Connor’s hard work and dedication is paying off. This outcome should move him closer to the Top 50 world ranking. He is the highest seeded British fencer at the moment.”

On the domestic front, Omari Campbell-Okolo claimed 2nd place in the U13 category, at the Elite

Épée series, in Manchester. Hal Jones finished in 7th place in the U15 category. The Lower Third and Lower Fifth Formers have both received the fantastic news of their selection for the England Épée team for the 2018 season.

Golf success leads to US Scholarships

Harry Plowman Ollington and Alfie Fox continued the School’s golfing success at the HMC Schools Singles Championships, in October. In an exceptionally strong field of 40 boys, competing from all over the country, Whitgift won both the team and individual events.

Harry shot an impressive 2 under par score of 70 on the Red Course at the Berkshire Golf Club, bringing Whitgift’s individual event-winning tally to three years in a row. Alfie finished in 3rd place (on countback) in the individual, shooting a 1 under par score of 71.

With the best golfing schools in the country taking part, Whitgift won by 5 shots in the team event; all the more impressive

considering the average handicap of the starters was 3.5.

The two Sixth Formers also went on to win the South East area league, with the Surrey Men’s 1st team. The following month, Alfie competed in the Telegraph Vitality Junior Golf Championship, in Algarve, Portugal. The 18-year-old played outstandingly to finish 3rd in the competition, an England U16 squad member taking the title.

The duo were also selected to take part in the 2018 British Independent Schools Golf Tour to the USA, out of only eight boys. They will play on some of the finest courses on the Eastern Seaboard, covering some 2,500 miles.

Alfie and Harry both have further reason to celebrate, having signed National Letters of Intent for golfing scholarships in the US: at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and the University of Minnesota, respectively. The ‘Blazers’ and the ‘Golden Gophers’ have proven track records in national championships, and scholarships are highly contested. A representative of the University of Minnesota commented, “Harry will provide

our program with another elite presence from England. He will bring to Minnesota an impressive international résumé, that will allow our program to compete at the highest level.”



Slam dunk

Whitgift Basketball can look back with pride at a very successful Michaelmas Term. By December, each age group was either first or second in their respective leagues. Both U15 and U16 teams lost only one match, against Whitgift’s biggest rival, City of London School.

The U15 squad has pleasantly surprised their coaches; after winning only three matches last season, they defeated last year’s champion Dulwich College, as well as runners-up KCS Wimbledon. Both victories, by a margin of at least 10 points, proved that their hard work and commitment paid off.

The coaching staff’s high expectations for the 1st team (U19s) were exceeded. A convincing 121-37 win in the first league match against Sevenoaks School, and the 101-38 victory against the previously undefeated St. Paul’s School, in the LISBA Cup quarter-final, mean that Whitgift are the favourites to win both LISBA League and Cup this year, an unprecedented achievement.

The U19s continued to impress in their inaugural participation in the Dynamik National Schools Competition. They were leading their group, at the end of the term, with three fantastic wins against Norwood School, Dulwich College and Barking Abbey Academy. They suffered only one loss, in an away match at the prestigious St. Bonaventure’s.

Congratulations are due to co-captain and top scorer, Josh Uduje (*pictured, main*), who has been invited to the U16 England training camp, thanks to his national competition performances.



OWs in action

Whitgift was proud to have two alumni – Elliot Daly and Harry Williams – playing for England in the 2017 rugby Autumn Internationals. Daly, of Wasps, had the honour of selection to the British and Irish Lions earlier this year, whilst Williams, of Exeter Chiefs, received his first cap against Argentina during England's summer tour. Their inclusion in the autumn test matches saw Harry appearing against Argentina, Australia and Samoa at Twickenham. The highlight of the Old Mutual Wealth Series was a 30-6 victory over Australia, by the home nation, in front of a crowd of over 80,000. It was a fifth straight victory for England over the Wallabies, with 25-year-old Daly contributing to the scorecard with a fantastic try.



'Daly contributing to the scorecard with a fantastic try'



Tennis aces

Upper First Form pupil, Kai-Luca Ampaw (pictured, with Heather Watson), continues to follow his passion. The 11-year-old is part of the Team GB junior programme, which involves taking part in national camps, aimed at the top 12 players in their respective age groups. At the beginning of the term, Kai-Luca won the Surrey County Closed Championships, in the U12 age group. He also took part in a special demonstration for the Duchess of Cambridge, in October, and the following month, as his country's #2 seed, he helped his side win against Ireland, facing contestants up to 14 years old. He played at the national finals, in Bolton, at the end of December.

Raffaello Papajcik also had a jam-packed 2017. Currently the highest-ranked 14-year-old in Surrey, he won the County Championships in his age group, in September, and delivered impressive results towards the end of the Michaelmas Term, despite injury problems. In the last national-level tournament, he made it as far as the semi-finals, thereby qualifying for the national championships, in February 2018. He also won a major regional tournament at the Woodford Wells Club, in Essex, in the 16-and-under age category, as well as two county-level competitions in the 18-and-under age group. In the summer, the Upper Third Former was lucky enough to be among a select number of 14-and-under players, nationwide, who qualified for the Road to Wimbledon tournament, held at the prestigious All England Club, in August. He was also one of two top juniors selected to participate in a coaching workshop run by tennis data and analytics expert, Craig O'Shannessy.



'The U11, U13 and U15 teams have been in fine form'

Football focus

As ever, Whitgift football is having a jam-packed term, with 22 teams having played 133 fixtures, and 330 boys enjoying competitive football at the School; the largest participation to date. At the time of writing Whitgift footballers were having a fantastic season, reaching all three *Investec* Independent Schools Football Association (ISFA) quarter-finals. Whitgift's Director of Football, Mr Andrew Martin, commented, "The U11, U13 and U15 teams have been in fine form so far, scoring a combined total of 56 goals and only conceding six."

He went on to say, "The U18s, U16s, U14s, U13s and U12s all continue to carry the flag in the English Schools' Football Association (ESFA) competition, looking set to make it past the half way stage (of 10 rounds), in the New Year."

The Whitgift footballers will hope to emulate recent years' successes: in 2017, the U15s enjoyed their third victory since the School started entering the competition; the U13s have won their category six consecutive times in the past, and the U11s have been victorious twice. The U12B team played outstandingly to be crowned champions of the ESFA *PlayStation* Schools' Cup festival, in 2017.

Well done to those Whitgiftians selected for national training squads: Fionn Mooney (Crystal Palace FC) for England U15s; and Jadan Raymond (Crystal Palace FC) and Morgan Williams (AFC Wimbledon) for Wales U15 and U13. Former pupil, Jamal Musiala, is set to play for the England U15s versus Holland, in December. Jamal signed a full-time contract with Chelsea FC earlier in 2017.

Table Tennis Team bounce into World Championships

Table Tennis England announced, in October, their teams for the 2018 International School Sport Federation (ISF) World Schools' Table Tennis Championships, due to take place in April, in Malta. Whitgift is delighted that George Hazell, James Smith, Jason Kwok and Reiss Vydelingum (pictured, below) were chosen, against fierce competition, as the England boys' school team.

The 16- and 17-year-olds, who make up the Whitgift U19 table tennis team, have been

some of the best table tennis played on the day.

Mr Simon Beck, Whitgift's Master in Charge of Table Tennis, commented, "The team, under the guidance of Whitgift's Head Table Tennis Coach, Mr Goran Maric, have trained diligently for a number of years to gain this fantastic honour."

The news followed the announcement earlier in the term, of Table Tennis England's 2017/18 national Youth Squad



unwavering in their desire to realise their national title ambitions. After winning the London South Championships (without dropping a match), they then competed in the Jack Petchey National Zone Finals, at the beginning of this year. In March, the boys qualified for the U19 ESTTA Regional Championships, followed by qualification for the coveted national finals. Whitgift won 5-3 against the 2016 U19 ESTTA winners, Harefield Academy, with

selection, with Whitgift's James Smith in the line-up. James was named in the 11-strong Junior team, having advanced from last year's Cadet level. London South League matches have also seen many thrilling wins, but most pleasing has been the great success of the U11, Y16 and U19 teams. All have reached their respective London South Region Cups and now go onto to the National Zone Finals, in January, at the University of East London.

Karate kid

Upper Fifth Form pupil, Ethan Charlton, who has been practising martial arts since the age of seven, took part in a trial, in November, with the aim of being awarded an adult black belt in Seido Karate. The discipline is a traditional Japanese style of martial art that is an excellent form of self-defence and that aims to maximize physical and mental skills. Ethan's Whitgift coach, Jun Shihan Brandt Leitch, who holds a 6th dan black belt, helped prepare him for the challenge.



The 15-year-old endured a gruelling 3.5 hour test, consisting of self-defence, fitness and sparring. The sparring was particularly difficult, with approximately 40 bouts in total, against competitors mostly

double his age. Even though the experience pushed him to his limits, the reward was achieving the amazing accolade of being the youngest person in the UK to achieve the adult black belt.

Cross country

Well done to the U15 Whitgift cross country team – Harley Norman, Rowan Fuss, Tom Rees, Matt Grove, Alex Findlater, Gon Declercq – for their efforts at the ESAA Cross Country Cup Final, held at Sevenoaks School, in November. The boys had won the South-East regional round to secure their place

in the final, amongst the top 24 schools in the country.

Miss Laura Gomersall, Whitgift's Head of Cross Country, commented, "The boys raced incredibly well, giving absolutely everything on the day to secure a creditable 6th place. Harley Norman was Whitgift's highest individual finisher in 5th place."



Hockey

The indoor hockey season started in earnest in September, with the Whitgift Indoor Hockey Festival providing the first test for the boys. Whitgift's Director of Hockey, Dr Karl Stagno, summarises: "This year's invited schools included Millfield, Ipswich and Oakham, all of whom travel a long way to participate in what is proving to be a hugely enjoyable and valuable tournament."

"Both our U16s and U18s look in good shape going into their respective national campaigns. The U16s have performed remarkably well thus far, with the team convincingly winning the county rounds and brushing off all opposition in the divisional finals, to secure a place in the national finals, in January 2018."

"The semi-final match against Cranleigh School was a great performance against our toughest opposition. The boys showed remarkable character to

overcome an early goal and went on to win 5-1. The 1st team have qualified for the divisional finals by winning the county rounds with ease."

Outdoor hockey teams are simultaneously embarking on a tough fixture card, going head-to-head with some of the best schools in the country. Home matches versus Millfield and

Kingston Grammar School, and away trips to The Perse and Portsmouth, provided strong tests in the Michaelmas Term. These fixtures were supplemented by challenging games against Oxford University, Durham University and GKT University. By the time the national rounds of the outdoor competition take place, in January, the teams will have extensive competition experience under their belts to set them in good stead.

Congratulations are due to the large number of Whitgiftians, past and present, who have achieved representative honours this term. Old Whitgiftian, Luke Taylor, has been selected to play for Great Britain in the Hockey World League finals, and fellow alumnus, Jonty Griffiths, has been given a full-time contract with Great Britain and England. Current Sixth Form student and Hockey Captain, Zach Wallace (pictured), is now a regular in the GB U21 team; an amazing feat considering his age. Max Denniff, Adam Buckle (both Upper Sixth Form), Max Lowrey, Josh Gravestock (both Lower Sixth Form) and Matt Blood (Upper Fifth Form) have all been selected for England U18s. Upper Fifth Formers Dylan Holland, Alex Findlater, Jake Phillips and Steven Rich were selected for the U16 squad.

'Current Sixth Form student, Zach Wallace, is now a regular in the GB U21 team'



Modern Pentathlon news

Girls and boys

Whitgift Modern Pentathlon Academy had a fantastic start to the season. The School's Modern Pentathlon offering, which was granted Pentathlon GB academy status in 2014, has been open to external members, as of November 2016, enabling girls to take part for the first time. Athletes competed in swimming and laser-run (combined running and shooting) at the British Modern Triathlon Championships, in September. Remarkably, in the U13 individual titles category, the girls' and the boys' competition were won by Whitgift's Modern Pentathlon Academy athletes (*pictured, top left*); Lower Third Form pupil, Martin van Domselaar, became the new British champion, whilst Gabrielle Holland (sister of Dylan and Luke, in the Upper Fifth and Upper Third Forms) secured the title for the girls. The U13 boys achieved team gold. Overall, a record 35 athletes competed for Whitgift (22 Whitgiftians and 13 external pupils who are part of the Academy), 12 of whom were competing for the first time. Four British titles - plus a further five additional podium finishes - was a great result for the School.

Laser Runners

In October, four Whitgift Modern Pentathlon Academy members travelled to South Africa to

take part in the 2017 Laser Run World Championships. It was the first time that Great Britain was taking part in the event, now only in its third year. It was a great honour for Luis Grainger and Sebastian Sparshott (U13 boys), Gabrielle Holland (U13 girls) and Connie Penlington (U11 girls) to represent Great Britain, as part of the 29-strong Pentathlon GB contingent. For all Whitgift athletes, save for Gabrielle, this was their debut competition for Great Britain.

With individual competitions taking place on the first day of the championships, and mixed relays on the second, Gabrielle (Cophthorne Prep) started the weekend with an outstanding race, holding her nerve in the shooting discipline to cross the line first and become U13 World Champion; the only British athlete to win an individual World Title over the tournament. Luis and Sebastian joined up with another U13 boy to win team silver for Great Britain. U11 Connie (Ardingly College) was part of the team that collected the silver medal for U11 girls. Following on from the World Title, Gabrielle also took part in the mixed relay event, pairing up with one of the U13 boys. They were very tenacious, and at one stage of the race moved into gold, but just missed out on 1st place.

Olympics Hopes

Upper Fifth Form pupil, George Simpson (*pictured, main*), was selected by Pentathlon GB for the Olympic Hopes competition, held in Prague, in October. It was a great honour for George, who at 15-years-old was one of only four boys to represent GB at U19 level. The event carries Youth Olympic Games World Ranking Points and allowed George to gain valuable international experience against the top European youth athletes. This is his last season at U17 level, during which he is targeting the European Championships, in 2018. George made his international debut, in April 2017, gaining a bronze medal in the U17 Portuguese Open Championships, and followed this by winning the title at the British U17 Modern Pentathlon Championships, at the end of June.

National titles

28 pupils represented the Whitgift Modern Pentathlon Academy at the British Biathlon Championships, in November. With over 4,000 athletes entering preliminary rounds to qualify for the British final, it was fantastic to have so many achieve the qualifying standard.

The U12s and U13s kicked off the first day of the competition with the running discipline, followed by the swim. For the

U12s, Conrad Norman posted the second fastest time, with 2:26.47, with a pack of Whitgiftians close behind him. After a top effort from the whole squad, with many personal bests, not only were the A team rewarded with the team title, but the Whitgift B and C teams (*pictured, bottom*) also joined them on the podium for a Whitgift takeover. Both Conrad Norman and Liam Beveridge secured top 10 finishes. The U13s highest finisher was Martin van Domselaar, in 14th place, with the rest of the team closely following.

11 more pupils represented Whitgift in U14, U15, U16 & U17 age groups, on the second day of the competition. The U15 boys won the team title convincingly, with solid performances and personal bests in the run and swim events. Rowan Fuss was Whitgift's highest-placed contestant, in 9th place. George Simpson was Whitgift's sole qualifier in the U16 boys' competition, and delivered a strong performance to finish inside the top 10. The U17 boys finished high up the placings, with Dario Kan picking up individual bronze, Jai Patel in 6th, and Lucas Jones in 7th; their team taking the national title. Academy member, Matt McCarty, added to the medals with an U19 individual bronze.



'Upper Fifth Form pupil, George Simpson, was selected by Pentathlon GB for the Olympic Hopes competition'



sport



Rugby round-up

Pre-season rugby preparation started during the summer holidays, with voluntary training sessions for the U14 squads and above. There were also tours to Europe and further afield: the U15s had a training camp in Biarritz, France; and 50 1st and 2nd XV squad players enjoyed a tour to South Africa. The latter teams shared identical records (Played 5: Won 3, Drew 1, Lost 1). All involved had fantastic experiences on and off the pitch, with schedules action-packed with activities.

The 1st XV started the season retaining the Presidents Cup for the third consecutive year, and then forgoing a narrow defeat to Sedbergh School, in the *Daily Mail* Trophy competition. Apart from one other defeat against Wellington College (20-24), they had won all the other games (at time of print), defeating Hampton

School (twice), Langley Park School for Boys, KCS Wimbledon, Sutton Valence School, Haileybury, Felsted School and Millfield School. The squad played outstandingly against Bishop Wordsworth's School in the quarter-final of the national Schools Cup, winning 48-15. They now face Warwick School, in the semi-final at Allianz Park, at the end of February.

The U15s are also progressing well in the national Schools Cup. They played Trinity School in Round 4, winning 19-10, and will play Hurstpierpoint College away on 18 January, in the last 16 match.

Mr Chris Wilkins, Whitgift's Director of Rugby, summarised, "I have been pleased with our block results against other schools, across various age groups, particularly against Wellington,

Warwick, John Fisher, RGS High Wycombe, Dulwich and Millfield. The outcomes show good all-round development, and give us long-term consistency. The juniors (U11s/U12s/U13s) are also playing a good brand of rugby; it is fantastic to see their sheer enjoyment and to follow their progress. I would like to thank all the staff who put in so many hours to help the boys, as this is the bedrock to everything we do."

'it is fantastic to see their sheer enjoyment...'



choral treats

A term-full of

Michaelmas Term was an incredibly busy, yet rewarding, few months for Whitgift's Chamber Choir.



The Whitgift Chamber Choir travelled to Coventry Cathedral to perform Evensong, and later in the term, joined forces with the Choirs of Croydon Minster, the Whitgift-Minster Choral Society and the Academy of Haling Park, for a special concert featuring Brahms' *Ein Deutsches Requiem* (A German Requiem), led by Director of Choral Music, Mr Ronny Krippner.



Whitgift's Christmas season started, as has become tradition, with the choristers' annual carol performance at The Ritz London, followed by a concert at St George's, Hanover Square, featuring the Chamber Choir and members of the Whitgift Chamber Orchestra. The Croydon Minster Carol Service was the Michaelmas Term finale and was, as always, a highlight of the choral year.

Whitgift singers also performed at a number of other stunning choral services and concerts at Croydon Minster; including the Civic Service of Remembrance, the Advent Carol Service, the Town Carol Service (in the presence of the Lord Mayor of Croydon), the particularly popular Candlelight Concert, as well as Midnight Mass and the Christmas Day service.

In addition to the above performances, five of our Whitgift Minster Choristers were invited to participate at *The Feast of the Boar's Head*, at Cutlers' Hall. This ancient Christmas dinner, rooted in medieval history and hosted by The Cutlers' Company, saw the boys process into the hall in their red cassocks, carrying lamps and singing the *Boar's Head Carol*, for guests including the Lord Mayor of London. Lower Third Form choral scholar, Ben Duffy, recently won the coveted 'Christmas Treble Award 2017' and performed with the London Mozart Players at their Christmas concert.

performing arts

Pulling out all the stops

Miss Martina Smyth, Croydon Minster Organ Scholar and Whitgift Graduate Music Assistant, received the wonderful news, in October, of her appointment as the Guildford Cathedral Organ Scholar elect.

Martina completed her Organ Performance degree at the Royal Irish Academy of Music, passing with first class honours. She held organ scholarships at both Christ Church Cathedral, and St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, while studying for her degree. Martina took up her Graduate Music Assistant role at Whitgift and her Organ Scholarship at Croydon Minster at the beginning of the Michaelmas Term. Assisting the Whitgift Music Department in the mornings, she then spends the latter part of the day at Croydon Minster, training junior choristers and playing the organ for services.

pool to five candidates, who were put through their paces with an interview and series of practical auditions. Whitgift will benefit from Martina's expertise for the school year ahead, until she starts her placement for 2018/19, when she will be immersing herself in the day-to-day running of the Cathedral, playing the organ for services and assisting in the training of the choirs.

The selection process for such roles is highly competitive; the Cathedral narrowed down the



Diplomatic duties

Earlier this month, a group of Whitgift musicians were privileged to perform a concert at the Embassy of Bulgaria ahead of the upcoming Bulgarian Presidency of the European Union. Whitgift were specially invited to take part in this event, hosted for the diplomatic corps with guests including Attachés from a number of EU and Eastern European embassies in London.

The programme featured six solo pieces by renowned European composers, including Karadimchev and Vladigerov of Bulgaria, fittingly played by Marian Bozhidarov, Whitgift International Music Competition (WIMC) 2017 winner, on the

clarinet, and violinist Hristo Dunev, former Whitgift pupil and winner of the inaugural WIMC 2013, now studying at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire. Also performing were three students who recently joined the School following the WIMC 2017: cellist Kosta Popović, of Montenegro; violinist Krystof Kohout, of Czech Republic; and Albert Baciú, from Romania, on the trumpet. Each performance was accompanied by acclaimed pianist, Mr Simon Lane.

During the evening, Director of Music, Ms Rosanna Whitfield, presented a brief history of the School and the Competition, highlighting the value of the

cultural links achieved between both institutions. The event represented, and reinforced, our longstanding relations with Bulgaria, and we look forward to more exciting cooperation in the future. We also wish all the best to Bulgaria in their European

Council Presidency. The audience expressed high admiration for the musicians, hugely impressed by the talent and passion with which they played. Mr Svetozar Dimitrov, Third Secretary at the Embassy, described them as 'amazing'.



Animal magic

At the beginning of October, Whitgift hosted professional wind quintet, the London Myriad Ensemble (LME), for a day of music-making with the whole of the Lower First Form, beginning with morning workshops and culminating in an evening concert.

Together with the LME and Whitgift's Graduate Music Assistants (GMAs), boys worked in groups to compose incidental music to Edward Lear's *The Duck and the Kangaroo* poem, with an array of instruments at their disposal, including djembes, guitars, trombones, saxophones, glockenspiels and percussion. To conclude the workshop, they learned a song composed especially by Choral Scholar, Mr Liam Connery.

The LME, which features Whitgift's Head of Woodwind, Ms Fiona Myall, started the evening concert with Saint-Saëns's *The Carnival of the Animals*, a series of miniature pieces depicting various animals, interspersed with Mr Paul Wilson's sparkling readings of Ogden Nash's accompanying verses (as well as his dancing in the spirited finale!). This was followed by Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf*, a symphonic fairy tale for children, for which the players donned eye-catching animal masks. Mr Wilson once again narrated the well-known verse. After the interval, the entire Lower First Form gathered on stage and performed the world première of Mr Connery's *The Duck and the Kangaroo*, with Mr Wilson lending his voice for the poem recital.



'Boys worked in groups to compose incidental music to Edward Lear's *The Duck and the Kangaroo* poem'



The Government Inspector

The Michaelmas Term culminated in three performances of the satirical play by the Russian dramatist and author, Nikolai Gogol.

Published in the early 1800s and exploring contemporary themes of corruption, greed and stupidity, the play is a supreme comedy of errors. Behind Gogol's highly-entertaining characters and hilariously-unfolding plot is a social commentary that holds a mirror up to society, be that 200 years ago, or today. Director of Drama, Mr Daniel Pirrie, purposely chose an abstract set and forwent elaborate period costume, in order to emphasise the disturbing ease with which the moral issues of the play can apply across the centuries.

The storyline shows how a case of simple mistaken identity can have great consequences. A small provincial town Governor (Oscar Nicholson) and his top officials – all despicably corrupt – hear news of an 'incognito' Government Inspector, travelling from the mighty St Petersburg to investigate the administration. Extensive and ridiculous efforts to hide the rotten goings-on in the town ensue. The coincidental arrival of an insignificant, yet unscrupulous and self-important Government Clerk (Ben Goldby), sets the cogs of misunderstanding and comedy in motion.

These disparate characters were all well interpreted: the commitment and immersion was compelling. From Macauley Keeper's waspish and devious Governor's wife, a character thankfully confined to fiction, to Ben's foppish Clerk, who escalates his fantastical lies brilliantly before the aghast and rapt townspeople.

Whitgift's champions of drama were out in full force: Oscar, Ben, Macauley, Sam Webber (the Clerk's servant), Edouard Nelson (Schools Superintendent), Jude Willoughby (Judge), Charles Barber (Postmaster), Daniel Horsley (Charity Commissioner), Harry Seager and George Jaques (Landowners) in particular, have delighted audiences in numerous school productions over the years. With many of the cast in their final year at Whitgift, having mastered the art of comedy, they will turn their talents to the Sixth Form play, in March – the courtroom drama *A Few Good Men* – for a last curtain call.

'Whitgift's champions of drama were out in full force'



performing arts

Narnia comes to Whitgift

It is perhaps ironic that, during some of the hottest weather Britain has seen in the past 40 years, Whitgift's Big School was transformed into the land of Narnia, where it is always winter (but never Christmas)!

This version of C.S. Lewis' classic tale, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, dramatized by Adrian Mitchell, music by Shaun Davey, was first performed by the Royal Shakespeare Company in 1998 at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, and from the packed-out audience each night, it was clear that the story has not lost its appeal. With something for everyone – action, adventure, fantasy and even humour – it was not only the acting and singing that was impressive, but also the masterfully-executed stage design, incorporating Whitgift's first-ever revolving stage.

The enchanting tale of the Pevensie children (played by Edward Volley, Scarlett Peachey, Leo Castledine and Suciyanra Saragih), finding an entrance

army. With some truly catchy musical numbers, the audiences no doubt found themselves humming 'Turkish Delight' and 'Swiggle Down the Lot' in the days following the show.

The high-quality production is even more impressive considering that the majority of the cast had not performed in a major Whitgift production before, and it is hoped that their experience encourages them to continue their involvement with future performances. This year's cast included a significant number of boys and girls who are also a member of Whitgift Academy of Visual and Performing Arts (WAVPA).

Director and Head of Academic Drama, Mrs Miranda Merrett, praised all those involved: "I am enormously proud of the cast for everything they did to make the show so special. They perfectly captured the magic of Narnia and even managed to convince the audience that it was 'always winter' in the hottest week of the year!"



to the magical land of Narnia at the back of a wardrobe, was a great choice to showcase the developing talents of one of the largest Lower School casts Whitgift has seen in recent years. The endearing Mr Tumnus the faun (Sam Kelly), the likeable Mr and Mrs Beaver (Kit Connor and Millieyanna Saragih), and the majestic Aslan (Sami Haddour), joined forces to defeat the White Witch (Sasha Willoughby), her dwarf aid Grumpskin (James Desmier), and the rest of her



trips



It's a jungle out there

In June, 33 intrepid Upper Fifth and Lower Sixth Form boys departed on their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award expedition to the Costa Rican rainforest. Participants embarking on a Gold expedition must plan for, train and complete a journey in 'demanding wild country', with the emphasis on exploring.

Jude Ratnayake commented, "In the jungle, we learnt various survival skills, for example how to set up hammocks and tarpaulins in a safe area within the rainforest, and how to start a cooking fire in such wet conditions."

Another aim of the trip was to explore the natural world of this Central American country. Benjamin Lindsay said, "The sheer number of plant species and animals we came across was breathtaking. These included three-toed sloths, howler monkeys, white-faced capuchins, glass frogs, and a huge range of different birds."

Apart from trekking in the jungle, Thomas Giaque also particularly enjoyed zip-lining through the tree canopy, white water rafting and surfing, to name a few.



Mr Adam Hedges, Teacher of Biology and expedition leader, concluded, "Our trip was a roaring success. Many of the boys returned to the UK saying they had had the time of their lives – trips don't get better than that!"





Obichamte Bulgaria!

In July, the Music Department took 60 boys and staff on a 10-day tour to Bulgaria, to perform a series of concerts in a range of venues across the country. The cohort of musicians included the Whitgift Symphony Orchestra and Whitgift Brass Ensemble, as well as the Whitgift Chorale and A Cappella Group. Starting in the capital, they performed their opening recital at the First Baptist Church of Sofia, followed by a major concert at the prestigious Bulgaria National Hall, in partnership with the Sofia Philharmonic Orchestra. The programme included Old Whitgiftian Dan-Iulian Druţac's dazzling rendition of the Sibelius *Violin Concerto*, and Third Former Marlon Barrios-Araya (*pictured, right*) with a highly-accomplished performance of Saint-Saëns' *Third Violin Concerto*. Before the next phase of the journey, the group had some time to enjoy the famous Bulgarian cuisine (and dancing!) in a traditional restaurant, and to visit some of the sights of Sofia, including the awe-inspiring Alexander Nevsky Cathedral and Vitosha Mountain.

A highlight of the tour was performing outdoors in the grounds of the King's Vrana Palace, on the outskirts of Sofia. It was a unique experience for the boys, performing to an especially warm and appreciative audience, including members of the Bulgarian royal family, on the lawn of the Palace, against the backdrop of the stunning residence.

Next stop was the seaside resort of Kamchia on the Black Sea, where the group enjoyed some free time on the beach. There wasn't much let-up, however, as word soon got round that there were musicians from the UK on site and they were asked to perform a concert for an excited assembly of schoolchildren, who were captivated and inspired by what they heard!

The popular seaside town of Varna was the final destination of the tour. Here, they took part in the Summer Varna International Music Festival, performing two concerts in one day: at the Varna Baptist Church, and in the evening at the



The tour was a huge success and reflective of the strong links between Whitgift and Bulgaria, and in particular the schools and organisations with which the School has shared mutual support over the years. There was much media interest throughout the trip, with boys taking part in interviews, featuring on TV news

and performing live on Bulgaria's largest national television channel.

Ms Rosanna Whitfield, Director of Music, commented, 'Boys and staff were outstanding ambassadors for Whitgift Music, and we are grateful to have been able to share one of our great passions with such a welcoming country.'

China in our hands

In October, Upper Fifth Form pupils embarked on an exchange to Beijing, a great cultural and linguistic opportunity for all. Any nerves – in relation to the quality of their Chinese and the distance from home – were soon assuaged with the welcoming nature of the exchange families.

The first week entailed visiting the Olympic stadium, exploring an arcade, enjoying sand-painting classes, and (very importantly) sampling Chinese cuisine. The second week was filled with

school-led trips to the famous historical sites in and around Beijing, including the Forbidden City, Summer Palace and, most famously, the Great Wall of China. Luke Wyles commented, "Despite having never climbed so many steps in my life, the Great Wall was truly a wonder to behold and my favourite of all the places we visited. I am extremely grateful for what was a once-in-a-lifetime experience and I cannot wait for my exchange partners to come back to England."



Hot stuff

26 Lower Fifth Form geography pupils travelled to Sicily to explore the volcanic and historical landscape. The boys visited the active volcanic crater of Mount Etna; going up in a cable car and then continuing in

a 4x4 vehicle to 3000m. River tubing in volcanic gorges was a highlight for many. The trip also included the ancient cities of Taormina and Syracuse, set against the beautiful backdrop of the Ionian Sea.



City Art Gallery. With a third of the group coming down with a virus and unable to participate, the boys did incredibly well to adapt the programme and stage a wonderful performance, receiving a standing ovation from the sold-out crowd.



Frozen

39 members of the Upper Third and Lower Fifth Forms embarked on a voyage to Iceland, eager to embrace the physical and cultural wonders that the geographical mecca, known as the 'Land of Fire and Ice', has to offer. Notable highlights included: walking up the Sólheimajökull glacier with ice axes and crampons; caving through an ancient – and fortunately extinct – lava tube in the Gjábkakhellir caves; visiting the Eyjafjallajökull volcano, responsible for the closure of Europe's air space in 2010; travelling to Jökulsárlón, Iceland's largest glacial lake where action scenes for *James Bond* and *Games of Thrones* have

been filmed; and last but not least, the highly-impressive spouting hot spring, Geysir, that erupts every seven minutes. The boys gained an immense understanding of Iceland's unique geography, and gained the confidence and skills required to travel to diverse and extreme environments.



'The boys gained an immense understanding of Iceland's unique geography'



Getting to know you

Whitgift's annual Lower First Form trip to Lake Garda, Italy, took place in September. The trip has been a tradition for many years as a way for new boys to get to know each other, form strong friendships through varied activities, experience a different culture, and learn what it is to be an ambassador for Whitgift. Using Lake Garda as a base, the 68-strong group of boys day-tripped to Verona, with visits to the beautiful amphitheatre, cathedral and Juliet's balcony. Next up was Venice, with boat trips, mask-making and a walking tour. Sailing on scenic Lake Garda was also on the agenda the following day, during which the teamwork skills they had learned during the week were put into practice. On the final day, the boys finished off their trip with a raft-building competition before heading back to Whitgift.



'New boys learn what it is to be an ambassador for Whitgift'



Toulouse trek

As part of Whitgift's tradition of consolidating classroom learning with cultural trips, 20 boys from the Upper First to the Lower Fifth Forms took part in the annual Section Française trip to Toulouse. The students greatly enjoyed the vibrant city, famous for its architectural history, gastronomy and unique industries. Outings included: a guided tour of the Airbus aeronautical factory; a bicycle ride through the historical city centre; a presentation on the history of Toulouse rugby, at the Ernest-Wallon Stadium; and interactive workshops and exhibitions at the Cité de l'Espace space museum.



trips

'Open water swimming was also a first for many'

Beach boys

26 pupils, ranging from Upper First to Upper Fifth Form, enjoyed a sports trip to Mallorca

during the half term, which included road cycling, open water swimming, running and gym sessions. Each day, all the boys got up for a 6am morning run and then split into groups for their day's activities. The most

experienced group of boys were training for up to six hours a day.

For many of the boys, the highlight was cycling in such a picturesque setting; Mallorca boasts some of the best roads in the world for cycling, with many professional teams going there to train, including *Team Sky*. Open

water swimming was also a first for many, the Puerto Pollensa bay being a rather different experience to the swimming lanes in Whitgift's pool!



In the Navy

Six cadets from Whitgift's CCF had the privilege of travelling with the CCF Royal Navy Section, on board their flagship *HMS Ocean*.

The boys enjoyed their experience of a life very different to what they are used to. They adapted quickly, however, getting to grips with how the ship was run and waking up early for physical training in the ship's hangar before breakfast.



A highlight of the trip for the cadets was the opportunity to ride in an LCVP (Landing Craft Vehicle Personnel), and also observing a Merlin and Chinook flying and carrying out practice landings.



Big Bang theory

Over half term, 36 Sixth Form students travelled to Geneva for a three-day trip to the prestigious European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN). Over the course of the trip, they learnt about some of the current research being undertaken and the key landmark discoveries that have come out of CERN, as well as developing their knowledge across all realms of Physics, from Particle Physics to Astrophysics.

The main event was a visit to the infamous Large Hadron Collider (LHC), a 27km-long loop in which protons are collided at 99.99% of the speed of light, producing new sub-atomic particles, such as the Higgs Boson. CERN researchers also gave a tour of both the data centre (with computing power comparable to hundreds

of thousands of off-the-shelf computers) and Antimatter Factory. The latter was a highlight of the trip for many, being the hub used to create anti-protons, positrons (anti-electrons) and anti-hydrogen (an anti-proton and positron combined).



Cricket big-hitters

Congratulations to Lower Sixth Form boarder, Nyeem Young, on his West Indies' squad selection for the 2018 ICC U19 Cricket World Cup. The 17-year-old, who is from Barbados, will take part in an 11-day training camp on the Caribbean island nation of St. Kitts and Nevis. The tournament will take place in New Zealand, and the team, who are in Group A with the host nation, South Africa and Kenya, will kick off the competition, on 13 January, hoping to retain their title.

Well done to U15s Trishan Patel and George Roberts, on their inclusion with Surrey's

Elite Player Group. They were selected from County Age Group squads across the club, 'showing the potential to merit further coaching and development from the Academy coaching staff'.

Upper Sixth Former, Jamie Smith, who is also part of the Surrey Academy, has had regular batting sessions at the Oval with ex-England international and Surrey 2nd team coach, Vikram Solanki.

Old Whitgiftians are making an impression on the professional cricket scene. Matthew Spriegel has gone full circle and taken up

the role of Performance Manager at Surrey, having played for them from 2008-2012. Michael Burgess recently joined the list of alumni to have scored a first-class century. The 23-year-old scored his maiden 100 against Nottinghamshire in the final game of the season, for Sussex. Dominic Sibley (pictured) has been made Vice Captain of Warwickshire, after officially transferring from Surrey, following a period of being on loan, earlier in 2017. Jason Roy of Surrey, hailed as one of England's 'most promising young cricketers', was selected for the England ODI team against Australia, set to start mid-January.

'Dominic Sibley has been made Vice Captain of Warwickshire'



Picture this

In the Michaelmas Term, Whitgift students took part in a 'Faith Togetherness'-themed photography competition, run by Faiths Together in Croydon. The exhibition and awarding of prizes coincided with Inter Faith Week in November. A panel of professional photographers judged the categories, which were: 5-10 years, 11-18 years, and Adults.

Well done to Upper Fifth Form pupils, Gavin Murugan and Umer Yar (pictured), who were awarded 1st and 2nd place, respectively, in the 11-18 years category. They were presented their certificates by the Mayor of Croydon, Councillor Toni Letts OBE. The Bishop of Croydon was also in attendance as a representative from Inter Faith UK.

Whitgift's Chaplain, the Reverend Alan Bayes, who is on the committee of Faiths Together in Croydon, commented, "I was delighted that Whitgift boys were able not only to take part in this first-ever Inter Faith photography

competition, but also to win prizes. As a school, we work hard to develop a culture of tolerance and respect between pupils and staff of all faiths, and those without. We also seek to encourage boys who are religious to be confident in being able to express that faith and, as Chaplain, I am keen to support them in this. This competition provided an excellent opportunity for our boys to reflect more deeply on issues of interfaith cooperation through the medium of photography, and I hope that we can do more such events in the future."



'As a school, we work hard to develop a culture of tolerance and respect'

Charity

This year, Whitgift's Charities Committee are pleased to announce they have selected the following two charities to support, from a list of submissions nominated by pupils and staff: **The Magic Bus** and **Bees for Development**.



The Magic Bus is based primarily in India, working to enable some of the world's poorest families to escape poverty. Through their use of a mentoring model and sport-based curriculum, children are engaged in learning and supported in their journey from childhood to livelihood, through better awareness, better life skills and better opportunities. **Bees for Development** promotes sustainable beekeeping, in order to combat poverty and build a maintainable, resilient income. The charity supports beekeepers worldwide to maintain environments that are good for bees, for biodiversity and for people.



Whitgift's Charities Committee will also seek to support a range of local charities through Duke of Edinburgh Award initiatives, including: the gift bags for local homeless people at Christmas; collections for Syrian refugees, through Reverend Bayes and 'Samara's Aid Appeal'; and any other ad-hoc appeals that suit the requirements of the Duke of Edinburgh Award.



GUYS & DOLLS

Wednesday 7 – Saturday 10 March 2018
7.30pm, Big School

Tickets: £8, Concessions £4

For more details and information on how to book,
please visit www.whitgift.co.uk/events

GUYS AND DOLLS - A Musical Fable of Broadway - Based on a Story and Characters of Damon Runyon - Music and Lyrics by FRANK LOESSER
Book by JO SWERLING and ABE BURROWS - This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International (Europe)
All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI Europe - www.mtishows.co.uk

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

HOUSE MUSIC COMPETITION

Wednesday 31 January
6.30pm, Big School
FREE admission (no reservation required)

FIRST FORM PLAY – ALICE IN WONDERLAND AND THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS

Wednesday 7 – Friday 9 February
7.30pm, Performing Arts Centre
Tickets: £8, Concessions* £4
(reserve on WisePay)

LENT TERM COLLECTION CONCERT

Thursday 22 February
7pm, Concert Hall
FREE admission (reserve on WisePay)

STRICTLY COME BRASSING

Friday 2 March
7pm, Concert Hall
FREE admission (reserve on WisePay)

GUYS AND DOLLS

Wednesday 7 – Saturday 10 March
7.30pm, Big School
Tickets: £8, Concessions* £4
(reserve on WisePay)

SIXTH FORM PLAY – A FEW GOOD MEN

Thursday 15 – Saturday 17 March
7.30pm, Performing Arts Centre
Tickets: £8, Concessions £4
(reserve on WisePay)

SPRING SELECTION CONCERT

AT CADOGAN HALL

Wednesday 28 March
7pm, Cadogan Hall, London
Tickets: £12/£10, Concessions* £8/£6
(all Whitgift boys free**, booking via Cadogan Hall)



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: Old Whitgiftian and FIFA U17 World Cup Champion, Callum Hudson-Odoi, visits the School
Photo: Mark Hakansson

WHITGIFT
Haling Park
South Croydon
CR2 6YT
United Kingdom

Telephone: +44 (0)20 8688 9222
Email: office@whitgift.co.uk
www.whitgift.co.uk

Find us on
Twitter: @WhitgiftSchool1
Twitter: @WhitgiftSport
Facebook: Whitgift School,
South Croydon
YouTube: Whitgift School

