



LIFE

MICHAELMAS 2016

Remembering 1916

World-class First World War centenary exhibition; 25 Years of Whitgift Music celebration; excellent exam results; Fifth Former on *Dragons' Den*; The Bard's 400th anniversary; a sizzling football season; and much more...



REMEMBERING 1916

LIFE ON THE WESTERN FRONT

The story so far...

Remembering 1916 – Life on the Western Front, Whitgift's major First World War exhibition, is dedicated to the 251 staff and boys who attended the School, but who sadly lost their lives in the conflict; a 252nd Whitgiftian has now been identified since the Exhibition opened. The Exhibition was conceived, written and directed by the Headmaster, Dr Barnett, and produced by a Whitgift team led by Mr Graham Maudsley, as Designer, and Mr Stuart Peach, as Director of Construction.

The transformation of the Performing Arts Centre to house a world-class museum exhibition took place over the course of six months. The Whitgift Exhibition Centre now holds over 600 original artefacts, many of which have never been on public display before, most generously on loan from private collectors; some come from museums, including the major French museum, the Musée de la Grande Guerre du Pays de Meaux. Alongside these rare items are first-hand accounts and perspectives from Britain, France and Germany. Re-constructions of trenches and an Edwardian-style drawing room bring the visitor a vivid picture of conditions experienced, both on the frontline and at home, re-creating the lost world of 1916.

Remembering 1916 was opened, on 10 March, by Guest of Honour, Professor Margaret MacMillan, Professor of International History at the University

of Oxford, with a warm and thought-provoking speech. An Opening Concert followed, with Lower Fifth Form cellist, Alex Ciulin, accompanied by the Whitgift Chamber Orchestra, beginning a reflective first half of the concert, with Elgar's *Cello Concerto in E minor, Op. 85*. Whitgift's Choral Scholar, Mr Adam Jones, sang Butterworth's '*Loveliest of Trees*', and Mr Phillip Winter led the Chamber Orchestra in a rendition of the composer's '*A Shropshire Lad*' *Rhapsody*. The fact that Butterworth was himself killed in the fighting in 1916 gave added poignancy to a beautiful performance. The music was interspersed with moving readings (in English, French and German) by members of staff, and current and past pupils, giving the audience an insight into that harrowing and sad period, through 'distant voices'.

The second half of the Concert featured more light-hearted songs which were popular at the time. The singer, Patricia Hammond, delighted the audience with a number of much-loved classics, such as *Somewhere in France* and *If You Were the Only Girl in the World*. Mr Paul Wilson performed a hearty version of maritime favourite, *Sons of the Sea*, and Director of Music, Mrs Rosanna Whitfield, a spirited *I'll Make a Man of You*. The Whitgift Barbershop Ensemble proved very popular; the finale of the show, *Goodbye-ee*, with boys and staff in period costume, was a fitting pinnacle of the night.

On the morning of Friday 1 July, a very special ceremony and service took place, to commemorate the Centenary of the first day of the Battle of the Somme. At 7am, a small number of staff and pupils gathered on the terrace as Whitgift's Corps of Drums played *It's a Long Way to Tipperary*. The Revd Canon Boswell, Vicar of Croydon, gave a short speech, and British, German and French flags were raised as a mark of respect to all of those that gave their lives during one of the bloodiest battles in history.

Everyone gathered to observe a one-minute silence inside the Exhibition, and Dr Barnett gave an introductory talk about 1 July 1916, including the names of the eight Old Whitgiftians who lost their lives that day. German, French and British poems were read by staff and Upper Third Form pupil, Edouard Nelson, and Upper First Form pupil, Jerry Lin, gave a beautiful piano recital. Whitgift students were joined for the morning by German students from Deutsche Schule London.

So far, the Exhibition, which has been featured on BBC TV, in a wide range of national newspapers and also live on the BBC *Today* programme, has welcomed 20,000 visitors, and 5,000 schoolchildren, attracting critical acclaim from historians, specialists and members of the public alike; the closing date has now been extended to April 2017.







EVENTS



*'...one of the best exhibitions
of the year so far'*

Londonist

*'A fascinating...
extraordinary exhibition'*

The Sunday Telegraph

'...a truly wonderful exhibition'

Professor Margaret MacMillan

*'a resounding success, brimming
full of memorable stories,
and wonderful exhibits...
it is a "gem"'*

The Western Front Association

*'This remarkable and
superbly-presented exhibition
is not to be missed'*

Professor Peter Doyle

*'...a truly professional exhibition
that both educates and amazes'*

Medal News



*'An immensely impressive,
imaginative and dignified
exhibition, greatly superior
to anything at the re-vamped
Imperial War Museum'*

TripAdvisor review







EVENTS




To celebrate 25 years of stellar music at Whitgift, the School hosted a special event at the end of the Trinity Term. The guest list at the black tie event was full of people who have supported the talent and vision of Whitgift Music over the years: Old Whitgiftians who have benefited from a Whitgift education; staff who have helped shape their journey; and friends of the School eager to celebrate the milestone, including the Ambassadors of Costa Rica and Moldova, His Excellency Mr Enrique Castillo Barrantes and his wife Mrs Olga Echeverria, and His Excellency Mr Iulian Fruntaşu, respectively.

Old Whitgiftians put on a series of outstanding performances. Grig Cuciuc set the tone at the start of the evening, playing an exquisite Ravel's *Tzigane* on the violin, and later, Tim Posner, with sensitivity and depth, gave a rendition of Paganini's *Moses Variations*, on the cello. Dilyan Todorov played Liszt's devilishly-difficult *Mephisto Waltz No. 1* with great aplomb. Geddy Stringer, who starred in many Whitgift musicals, sang 'Gethsemane' from *Jesus Christ Superstar*, which had been performed at the School in 2010 to rave reviews.

Fellow Old Whitgiftian Dan-Iulian Druţac, holder of the Junior Guildhall Violin Scholarship, and professional opera singer Mr David Durham, then brought back memories for many, of *Carmen*, one of the School's most ambitious productions, also from 2010. Mr Durham performed the 'Toreador Song', and Dan-Iulian followed with the beautiful *Carmen Fantasie* on the violin. Hristo Dunev continued to showcase the strength of string talent to come out of Whitgift, with Sarasate's *Habanera*.

25 Years of Whitgift Music



Current Whitgiftians and staff were not to be outdone; Hristiyan Hristov showed his flair with a dazzling marimba piece, and the Whitgift Barbershop Ensemble delighted the audience with their contemporary medleys. Head of Academic Music, Mr Alan Weakley, and Whitgift Music Scholars, Mr William Searle and Mr Adam Jones, gave beautiful vocal performances. Peripatetic teachers, Ivo and Lachezar Stankov, were joined by Ivo's wife Vania, captivating the audience with the Stankov Ensemble.

A silent auction ran throughout the evening, with Mrs Rosanna Whitfield deftly charming the audience into parting with their hard-earned cash in support of Whitgift Music and to further enhance the opportunities available to the School's talented young musicians.

The event was rounded off with Old Whitgiftian, Anthony Strong, and his band, who raised the roof with their fantastic jazz repertoire.

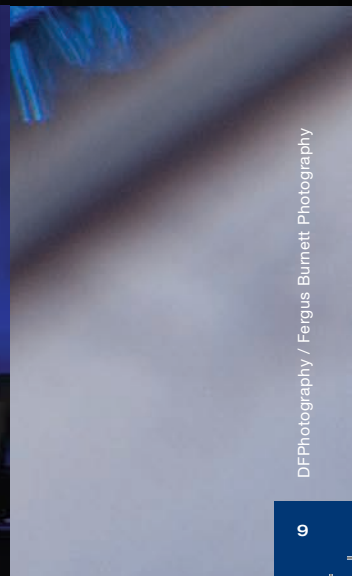
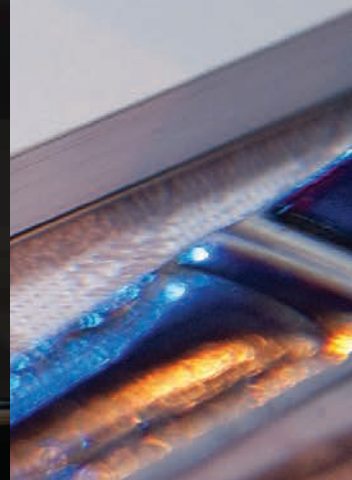
The entertainment for the evening was as close to perfection as one can hope for, a testament to Whitgift's guiding light over the last quarter of a century – Dr Barnett – and the passionate and dedicated Music Department.



*The entertainment
for the evening
was as close to
perfection as one
can hope for...*

23
YEARS OF WHITGIFT MUSIC







DRAMA

Shakespeare's Treasures



On the 400th anniversary of William Shakespeare's death, Whitgift joined forces with WAVPA (Whitgift Academy of Visual and Performing Arts), to pay homage to the world-renowned poet and playwright. The Headmaster hosted an intimate gathering of staff and parents, to enjoy an evening of music, drama and merriment, entitled *Shakespeare's Treasures*, to pay tribute to The Bard.

The acting of the young WAVPA performers was a testament to the value of the programme, which was launched at Whitgift in 2014. The interludes performed by the talented 'company of musicians' were complemented by the outstanding voices of Mr Alan Weakley, and resident Music Scholars, Mr Adam Jones and Mr William Searle.

Mrs Lisa Turner-Willoughby, WAVPA Drama Teacher, commented, "The young company of actors performed scenes from Shakespeare's plays with a great understanding of the text and with clear diction, wonderful energy and

commitment to their characters. The evening had the magic of the 16th-century Globe Theatre, where actors were, and still are to this day, encouraged to interact with their audience, which our young players were brave enough to do also."





DRAMA

Whitgift's stellar Sweeney Todd



Whitgift Drama never disappoints, and the collaboration with girls from Old Palace of John Whitgift School, and Croydon High School courtesy of Whitgift Academy of Visual and Performing Arts (WAVPA), topped off with a 40-piece orchestra, made for a production worthy of the West End. The audience was transported back to Victorian London with a vast array of colourful, and delightfully-dark, characters for the bone-chilling and rip-roaring performances of *Sweeney Todd*.

A barber is wronged by a judge, who robs him of his wife and child. After a period of exile, the barber returns with a new identity and is hell-bent on revenge. He finds an unlikely ally in a down-and-out pie shop owner. In a murderous twist, their scheming changes the humble pie business into a flourishing, and thoroughly macabre, enterprise.

Alex Buchanan transformed himself into the bitter, and very twisted, barber Sweeney Todd, and Blanche Brown, of Croydon High, was the simultaneously endearing and yet blood-thirstily thrifty Mrs Lovett. Todd and Lovett's escalating deviance draws in their surrounding characters – an excellent supporting cast – into their tangled web of deceit.

Head of Drama, Mrs Miranda Merrett, commented, "Sondheim's production is a complex and intricate work of art, and doing it justice was therefore a considerable challenge – yet these very talented students truly mastered the difficult music and brilliantly-eccentric characters."





Treasure Island

With the Clocktower's galleon standing tall over Big School, the evening's entertainment had a nautical theme. The Lower School had promised an 'evening full of swashbuckling, skulduggery and derring-do' with Stuart Paterson's adaptation of Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island*, and indeed they delivered.

Strong contributions from Kit Connor (Jim Hawkins), Henry Griffiths (Captain Smollett), Alex Painter (Squire Trelawney), Joe Eve (Doctor Livesey), and a commanding show-stealing performance by Sumatera Saragih-Simarmata as Long John Silver, made for memorable evenings in Big School.

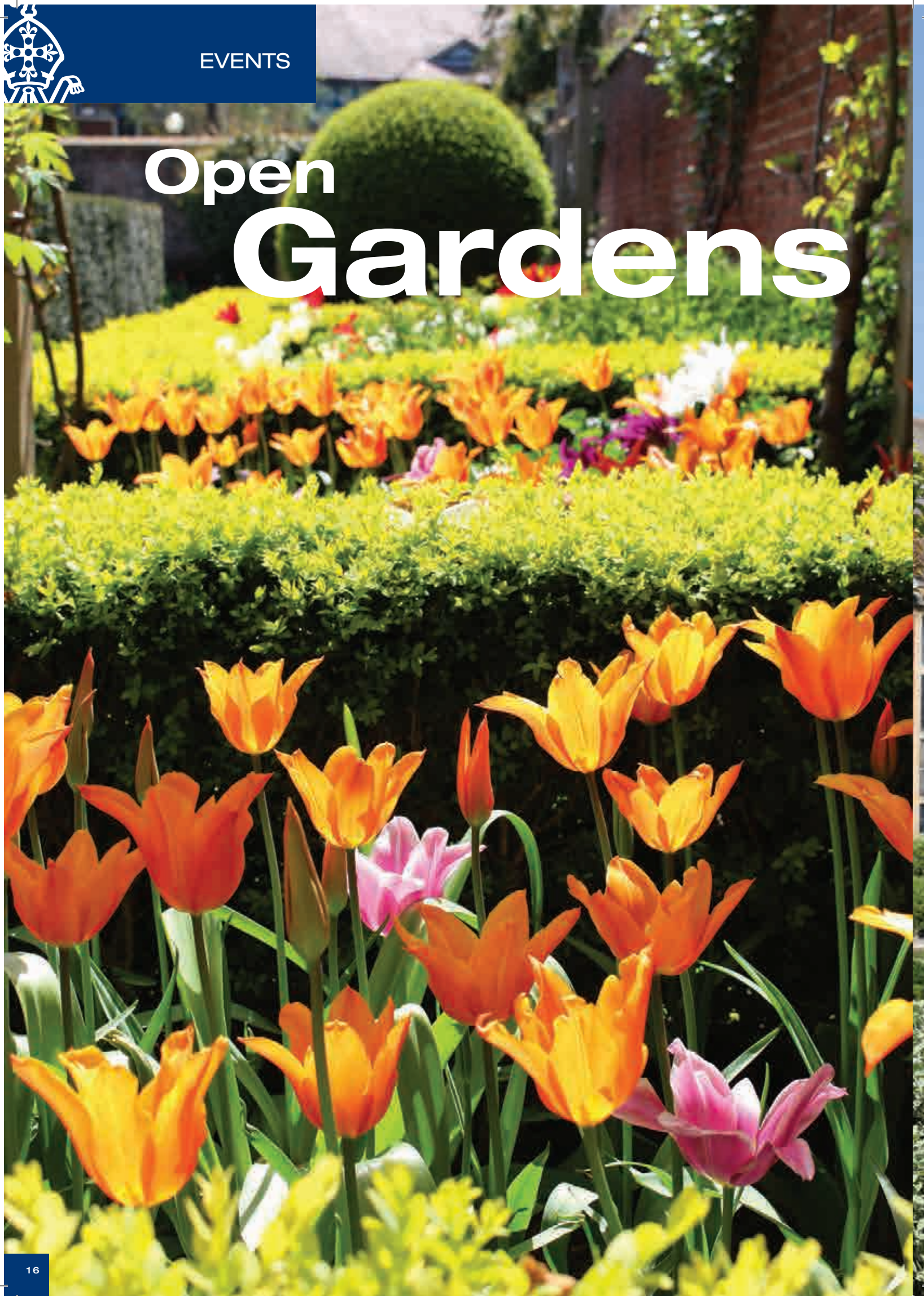






EVENTS

Open Gardens



Following on from the popularity of last year's Open Gardens, Whitgift once again opened up its grounds to the public in May and June, in the National Gardens Scheme and Open Garden Squares Weekend.

Months of hard work from the Garden and Grounds teams paid off; the gardens were immaculate and bursting with flowers, with emerald-green fields as a backdrop. There was something for everyone, with the wildlife areas and maze proving very popular with young and old alike.

The many return visitors from the previous year, as well as numerous Old Whitgiftians enjoying a walk down memory lane, helped exceed the previous year's attendance, with over 700 visiting. £2,800 was raised, from ticket and plant sales, towards the garden schemes' charities.

Penny Snell, the NGS London County Organiser, commented, "Visiting Whitgift is a unique experience not to be missed. How many school gardens can there be so rich in wildlife, with wallabies and birds abounding? The gardens themselves are stunning too – a joy for visitors who have helped The National Gardens Scheme raise record sums for deserving causes."





On parade



Whitgift's Combined Cadet Force underwent their Annual General Inspection, in April, the pinnacle of the cadet calendar. The whole of the 300-strong CCF, including partner schools Thomas More Catholic School and St. Andrew's CE High School, gathered for the inspection of the Guard of Honour and the Corps of Drums by Commander Chatwin RN OBE and Lt Colonel Birch 7 Para RHA, the latter an Old Whitgiftian.

Following a successful inspection, the guests of honour were taken on a tour of the CCF's Army, Royal Navy and RAF presentations, demonstrating their abilities in a variety of activities, including kayaking in the swimming pool, survival skills, orienteering, climbing, the obstacle course, and laser shooting.



James Ackerley







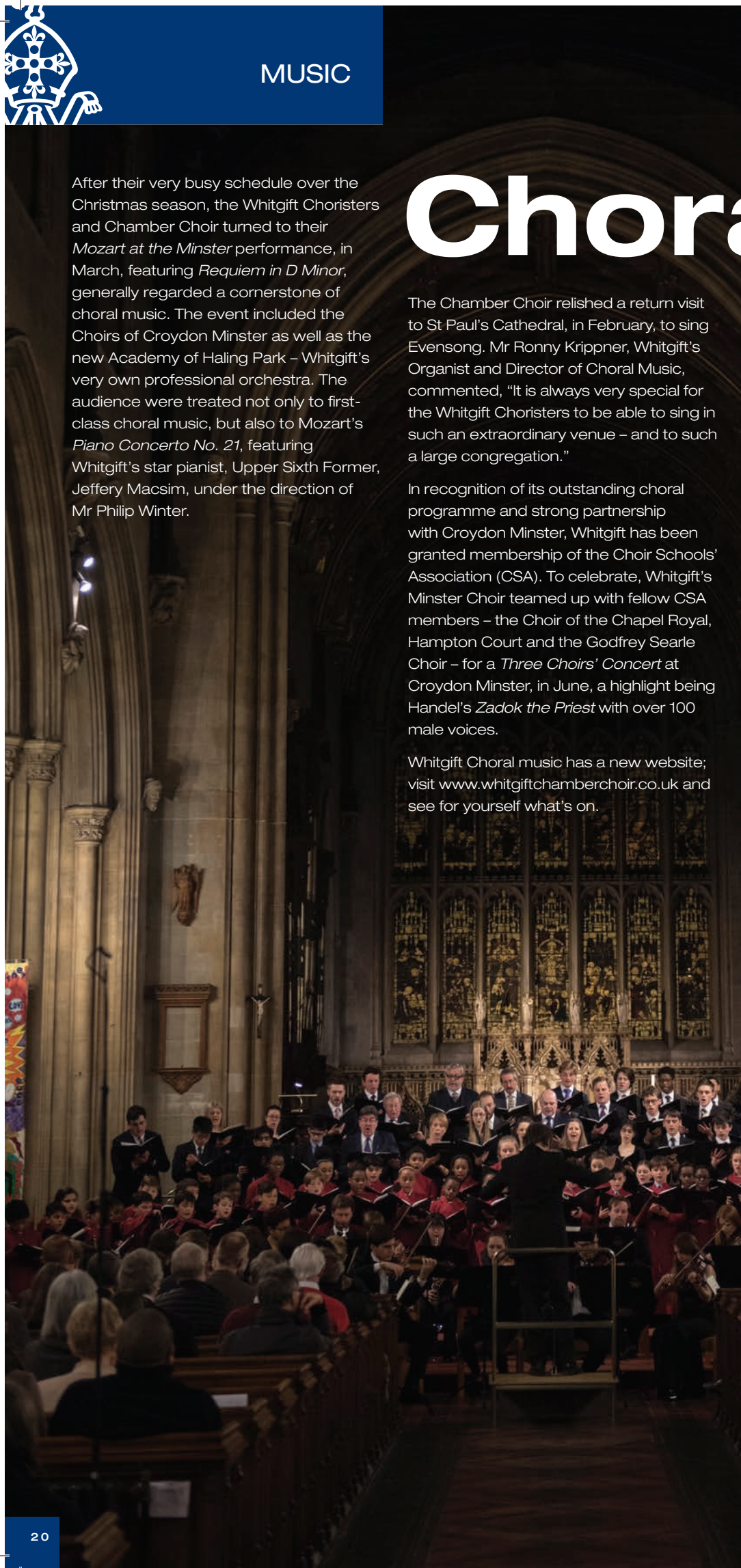
After their very busy schedule over the Christmas season, the Whitgift Choristers and Chamber Choir turned to their *Mozart at the Minster* performance, in March, featuring *Requiem in D Minor*, generally regarded a cornerstone of choral music. The event included the Choirs of Croydon Minster as well as the new Academy of Haling Park – Whitgift's very own professional orchestra. The audience were treated not only to first-class choral music, but also to Mozart's *Piano Concerto No. 21*, featuring Whitgift's star pianist, Upper Sixth Former, Jeffery Macsim, under the direction of Mr Philip Winter.

Choral perfection

The Chamber Choir relished a return visit to St Paul's Cathedral, in February, to sing Evensong. Mr Ronny Krippner, Whitgift's Organist and Director of Choral Music, commented, "It is always very special for the Whitgift Choristers to be able to sing in such an extraordinary venue – and to such a large congregation."

In recognition of its outstanding choral programme and strong partnership with Croydon Minster, Whitgift has been granted membership of the Choir Schools' Association (CSA). To celebrate, Whitgift's Minster Choir teamed up with fellow CSA members – the Choir of the Chapel Royal, Hampton Court and the Godfrey Searle Choir – for a *Three Choirs' Concert* at Croydon Minster, in June, a highlight being Handel's *Zadok the Priest* with over 100 male voices.

Whitgift Choral music has a new website; visit www.whitgiftchamberchoir.co.uk and see for yourself what's on.







The real thing

The Economics and Business Department ran a weekly 'Whitgift Apprentice', with Upper Third and Lower Fifth Form students, as part of the Coca Cola Real Business Challenge, whereby students formed their own companies and researched and created their own idea for a healthy fruit juice drink, which is both ethical and financially viable.

The Department ran an internal competition to pick one company to submit to Coca Cola. A talented and enthusiastic Upper Third Form company, called 'Nature's Gift', won and gained a place in the regional finals. This part of the competition was held at the Kia Oval Cricket Ground, in January. The boys' idea, as part of Coca Cola's Corporate Social Responsibility plan, was a way to reduce the amount of litter on the streets, by making bins a Wifi hotspot zone as people put litter into the bins (see poster, right). Coca Cola thought this an innovative and very well-presented idea, and the boys went through to the national finals, after having won 1st place at the London Regional Finals, out of 101 schools. Although the team were not placed in the national final, congratulations are due to Alex Shalless, Archie Donald, James Sheldon, Jonny Andrews, Joshun Naik, Markus Endler, Max Cooper and Rohan Bhupal, who placed Whitgift in the top 11 of the 892 schools which took part in the competition overall.





Spellbound

In July, Mihir Jagwani took part in the Year 7 National Spanish Spelling Bee Competition, organised by 'Routes into Languages' and sponsored by the European Commission, amongst others. Out of over 75,000 who started the competition, the final, held at Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge, saw the competitors whittled down to 103. Along with 35 other Spanish students from across the country, Mihir had to correctly translate and spell the most number of words in Spanish in just 60 seconds. A fantastic performance saw him crowned national champion. He was presented with the prize by Mr Tony Morgan (Director of Routes into Languages East), Mr Stephen Turkington (European Commission), Rt Hon Daniel Zeichner (MP for Cambridge) and Councillor Jeremy Benstead (Mayor of Cambridge).



Le journaliste

L'Echo, a magazine for French families living in London, ran their Young Journalist of the Year Award (Prix du Jeune Journaliste), open to British and French secondary school students, during the Lent Term. This year's subject was '24 hours in the life of a teenager in London' (24 heures de la vie d'un adolescent à Londres).

Jean-Baptiste Adams won first prize in the secondary school student category, for his article in French, 'Un adolescent franco-anglais à Londres'. The award ceremony took place in March at La Librairie La Page, in South Kensington. As part of his prize, Jean-Baptiste won a selection of books from The European Bookshop, as well as an invitation to spend one day's work experience at *BeALondoner* magazine.



War and Peace

Upper First Form student, Kit Connor, appeared in the BBC's adaptation of Leo Tolstoy's novel *War and Peace*. The first episode aired in January, and was watched by more than six million viewers, receiving rave reviews. Kit won the role after a rigorous audition in London, where he was up against more than 100 hopeful young actors. Filming took place over the course of six months, in chilly temperatures, in St Petersburg, Russia, and in Lithuania.

Kit appeared alongside household names: Ade Edmondson (playing his father); Gillian Anderson (playing his mother); and Lily James (as his sister). He said of the experience, "I'm really glad I got the opportunity to be a part of this drama and to work with some fantastic people; we bonded like a true family."

Dragons' Den

Whitgift's resident entrepreneur, Arminster Dhillon, had an eventful summer holiday. The Fifth Form pupil, together with his brother and mother, took his Boot Buddy invention on BBC's *Dragons' Den*, in July, and successfully secured three Dragons' investment. The 15-year-old is the youngest person ever to receive backing on the programme, having won the support of Peter Jones, Deborah Meaden and Touker Suleyman. The investment in the environmentally-friendly, portable boot cleaning device has gained much press attention, with interviews on *ITV London News*, *Good Morning Britain*, *London Live* and the *BBC Asian Network*. Whitgift wishes Arminster the best of luck with his venture.

To find out more about the Boot Buddy, visit www.bootbuddy.com





Away days

Norway Ski Touring

During the Easter holidays, a group of Outdoor Education boys headed out to Southern Norway, in the Hardangervidda mountain plateau, to take part in the School's first-ever ski touring trip. Two days of training at the start enabled boys to learn the skills needed for the environment, and soon they were confidently skiing long distances in the countryside. The highlight of the trip was on the last night when the boys expertly dug snow holes and slept there while a snow storm blew past outside.



Jurassic Coast

In May, the Lower Third Form boys embarked on a geological trip to World Heritage Site, the Jurassic Coast. A guided walk on the Isle of Purbeck showed exposed rock layers offering those in the know a glimpse of what was happening on Earth at the time of the rock's development. The boys enjoyed an orienteering course, fossil hunting and amazing views of the bays with impressive chalk formations.

Football Tour to Dubai

It was a double victory for Whitgift's footballers when they took part in the inaugural Arabian Cup, in Dubai, in May. Teams from around the world participated in the competition staged at the Jebel Ali Centre of Excellence. The U12s and U14s were triumphant, with Eddie Miller receiving the Top Goalscorer award, and Thomas Blake being named Player of the Tournament, and George Tye Best Player.



Shanghai & Hong Kong

Sixth Form Chinese and Economic students visited China for 12 days, consisting of three segments: Shanghai with its towering skyscrapers; Hong Kong and the interesting amalgamation of Eastern and Western culture; and the countryside town of Yangshuo, with its unique customs and mountainous geography. Travelling to one of the economic powerhouses of the world and immersing themselves in a totally new culture was a fascinating and exciting experience enjoyed by all.

Costa Rica July 2017

The Outdoor Education Department is excited to announce an 18-day expedition to Costa Rica in the summer of 2017. As with previous trips, there will be the opportunity to take part in many adrenaline-fuelled activities, including: zip-lining, white water rafting, mountain biking, trekking and surfing. The boys will also be taught about the amazing biodiversity of the country, as well as its unique geographical features. In particular, boys will have the opportunity to study tropical birds in the rainforest, take in the unique geology of the world-famous Arenal volcano, and take an active part in a turtle conservation project on the Pacific coast.





Paris Tour

Following last year's successful tour to Germany, the Chamber Choir embarked on a concert tour to Paris during the summer. The choir sang Mass at Saint-Sulpice – a church particularly well known to organists due to its connection with Charles-Marie Widor and Marcel Dupré – as well as the *Lacrimosa* from Mozart's *Requiem*, in memory of those who lost their lives in the terrorist attack in Nice a couple of days before. The boys enjoyed lunch in the shadow of the Eiffel Tower, a visit to the Palace of Versailles, and a trip to Disneyland Paris – where even Mr Krippner could be persuaded to go on at least one ride! The tour finished with the Chamber Choir giving a concert at Notre Dame Cathedral.

Iceland

Towards the end of the May half term holiday, 40 Lower Fifth Form Geography students embarked on a trip to marvel at the wonders of Iceland. Highlights included Reykjavik sightseeing, and, further afield, the Eyjafjallajökull flood plain (which was affected by a glacial burst during the 2010 volcanic eruption), a variety of waterfalls, glaciers and a volcanic beach with enormous basalt columns. The lucky group also visited the Great Geysir, which gave its name to all the geysers in the world, where they witnessed an eruption.





Record breakers

Whitgift pupils had another year of exam success. Upper Sixth Form IB results broke many School records, with an average points total of 41 points, the highest ever at the School, and a score of 40 points or more by two thirds of the cohort, putting them in the top 5% of candidates worldwide. Six students scored 44 points, a feat only achieved by the top 1% internationally.

The Upper Sixth Form A Level students excelled once again, with 89.2% of all the grades awarded at A*-B. The A*-B rate for A Level and IB combined is 90.2%.

The Year 11 students also had an excellent set of grades at GCSE and IGCSE, with an A*/A success rate of 81%. A total of 42 boys achieved 9 A* grades or better, of which 16 pupils obtained straight A*s in all of their subjects. The strength of the year group as a whole can be seen by the



82 students who managed to achieve a straight set of A*/A grades. The majority of subjects are now examined through the rigorous IGCSE papers, and with most Whitgift students taking at least 10 GCSEs, these results highlight the all-round ability of Whitgift boys.

The Headmaster and teaching staff would like to warmly congratulate the students on their success, following so much diligence and dedication. It is a great pleasure to see so many pupils fulfil their potential and secure their places at top universities.



Life hack

Pupils from the Upper Fifth and Lower Sixth Forms – Kelvin Zhang, Aleksandr Vorontsov, Jack Barber, Alistair Cook and Freddie Rawlins – attended a 24-hour coding competition, in March, their second 'hackathon' as a Whitgift team. The event was hosted by Qredo, a tech start-up, and the aim of the hackathon was to let developers try out, and give feedback, on Qredo's upcoming product, whilst competing for prizes. The team's entry project was to create an Android app that lets parents track the location of their children, and view their children's SMS messages remotely, without worrying about their data becoming compromised.

After staying up overnight to work on the app remotely, the team were delighted to come joint first.

In June, Kelvin took part in another hackathon, The Cambridge Bio-Hackathon, mostly aimed at undergraduates. After convincing the organisers to let him take part, his team built a software application which allows synthetic biologists to easily design, exchange and create synthetic gene circuits without requiring knowledge of programming. Kelvin and his team won the competition, beating many undergraduate teams. They are working to bring the product to market and are in discussions with investors to attract funding.

Not lost in translation

In November last year, Whitgift took part in Juvenes Translatores, an annual translation contest for 17-year-old students who study within the European Union. The contest is organised by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Translation, and the five candidates from each school can choose the language into which, and from which, they translate. The results were announced in January, and, out of the UK's 299 entries, two Whitgift boys received special mention, meaning they were in the top 33 in the country; well done to Jerry Amokwandoh (Spanish to English) and Jean-Baptiste Rioual (French to English). The other Whitgift entrants were Tom McDonald (Spanish to English), Patrick Middleton (German to English) and Grégoire Dubois (French to English).





Welcome to...

Whitgift is privileged to enjoy many visitors each term who enrich various areas of School life. During the Lent and Trinity Terms, we were pleased to welcome a number of high-profile guests:

Dr Patrick Ryan (*pictured, below top right*) visited Whitgift for National Storytelling Week in February. A storytelling veteran for 30 years, he regularly tours Europe and the US, performing and lecturing. He gave workshops and conducted a Q&A on writing with the English Society.



Mr Tim Flesher, who was Private Secretary for Political Affairs to Mrs Thatcher, came to talk about his experiences of working closely with a Prime Minister. He gave a fascinating insight into life at Downing Street and in Parliament, with many interesting anecdotes.

Dr Viv Newman, social historian and author, gave a lecture on the untold stories of some of the first female secret agents, in April. The lecture gave a fascinating insight into the lives of women, who bravely went undercover for what they believed in.



Ambassadors HE Mr Rolando Drago, and his Cultural Attaché, Mr Cristián León, of Chile (*pictured, top left*), and HE Mr Jose Enrique Castillo Barrantes with his wife, of Costa Rica (*main picture*), visited in January and April, respectively. The dignitaries were very impressed with the School and have been helping promote the Whitgift International Music Competition.

Old Whitgiftian, Dr Ollie Stoten (*pictured, centre bottom*), gave a lecture to the MedSoc, in April. The ultra-marathon runner and Army reservist was selected to embark on a South Pole expedition later this year. He will be the youngest person ever (at 26 years old) to reach the South Pole, and will be conducting research during the trip, into how the body functions under extreme circumstances. The expedition will be raising money for the Army Benevolent Fund. To donate to this cause, please visit: <https://www.justgiving.com/spear17>







Hockey silverware



Whitgift had another outstanding season of hockey. At the School's annual hosting of the Boys U16/U18 Schools' National Indoor Championship, in January, the U16s played against Worksop College. A strong Whitgift second-half performance saw the team emerge as national indoor champions. Dr Karl Stagno, Whitgift's Head of Hockey, commented, "In recent years, Whitgift's indoor hockey programme has yielded some spectacular results – four national U18 titles in five years! Although the U16 title has been somewhat more elusive, this year's U16s were determined to claim this title, and their resolve paid off."

In the Trinity Term, it was the juniors' turn to shine. The U14s started the winning streak with a 3-0 victory against Stamford, in April, at the Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre. The team earned themselves the England Hockey's National Schools Championships for Boys title, topping off an outstanding season. In the same competition, the 1st XI finished a respectable third place with a 5-1 win over Dean Close.

The U13s closed the hockey season at the U13 Schools In2Hockey Championships, which took place at Nottingham Hockey Centre, in May. In a tense national final,

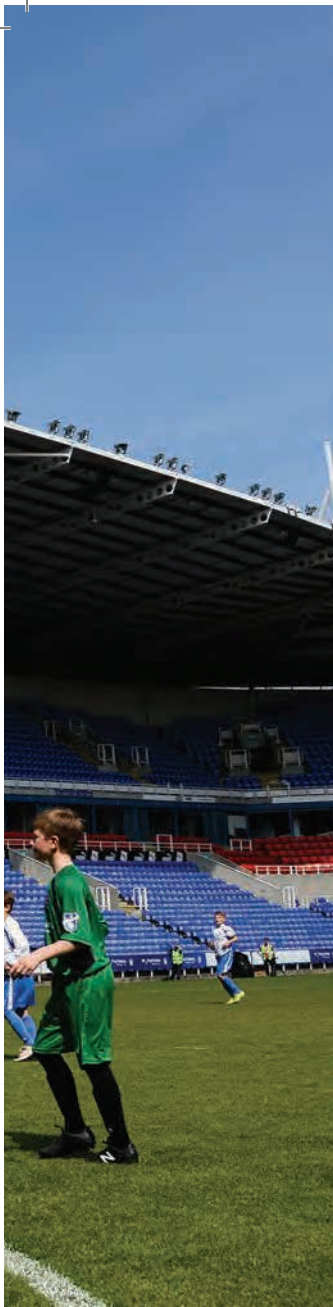
Whitgift drew 1-1 with Dean Close. It required a barrage of penalty flicks for Whitgift to be crowned national champions.

Whitgiftians old and current were selected to represent England in 2016. George Waller, Matthew Blood and Finley Newton were called up for the U16 side, and Marcel Hedman, Edward Treece and Josh Coniglio for the U18s. Rhys Smith, Jack Waller, Jonty Griffiths and Luke Taylor continue the success of Old Whitgiftians in the sport, with their inclusion in the England U21 squad and GB U21.

Football focus

3 National titles, 52 wins from 53 matches





An outstanding season at junior level came to a triumphant conclusion, in May, as the U12 side picked up the PlayStation Schools ESFA Cup, at Reading's Madejski Stadium, the sixth trophy won by the Lower School teams this year. The Whitgift team went unbeaten over the course of the season, claiming 16 victories from 16 outings, and their 3-1 win over Moorlands School in the ESFA final completed a county cup and national double.

The U11s won both the Surrey Cup and the National ISFA Seven-a-Side Tournament. The U13s followed in their footsteps, gaining their sixth consecutive National ISFA Cup title. Indeed, it might have been a full-house for the Lower Third boys, but they ran into a strong Thomas Telford unit in the ESFA national final, to come runners-up.

52 wins from 53 competitive games across the three year groups shows the exceptional success of Whitgift's young players. Mr Andrew Martin, who coaches all three sides, was delighted, "The boys' hard work, commitment and dedication through the season has enabled them to really shine."

Midway through the season, Upper First Formers, Jadan Raymond and Fionn Mooney, were selected by Crystal Palace FC to take part in the U12 LaLiga Promises International Soccer Tournament, in Miami. The tournament presents the best youth players from professional LaLiga and international clubs. Although Palace didn't get through to the group stages, Jadan was selected to represent the World VII team, and played in a showcase match alongside Real Madrid icon and La Liga's Global Ambassador, Raúl Gonzalez Blanco, and former Dutch international, Patrick Kluivert.

In other news, congratulations are due to current Upper Sixth Former Sixth Former Emmanuel Okorougo who has signed a one-year professional football contract with Crystal Palace FC, and former Sixth Former, Daniel Bowry, who signed a one-year contract at Charlton FC. Fifth Former, Sid Kerr, sadly leaves Whitgift to pursue a career at Everton FC.



Fives alive

Whitgift achieved some strong results in the National Schools' Fives Championships, in April, which had over 110 entries from 17 different schools. Six players represented Whitgift in the top 16 semi-finalists, in both the colts and senior competitions (more than any other school), with Upper Fifth Form pupils, Cameron Low and Sarath Prakash (*pictured below on the left, together with Hajane Anbukumar and Reece Etwaroo, the unbeaten Colts team*), reaching the U16 finals. Sarath also won the U16 1st singles plate, and Jussi Grut gained the U18 2nd singles plate.

These results came on top of a highly-successful regionals tournament, held in February, where Whitgift won the U18 singles cup (Charlie Mabbutt), U18 doubles (Mabbutt and Grut), U18 singles plate (Talha Aziz) and U16 singles (Hajane Anbukumar).

Master-in-charge of Fives, Mr Nick Morgan, commented, "This has been the best season since I started at Whitgift in 1990; winning 21/26 fixtures across all four teams. Credit to our coach, David Mew, who has seen the boys develop into superb players over recent years."



Keep on running

March was a busy month for Whitgift's cross country talents. Still a year young for the age group, Lower Third Form pupils Rowan Fuss (*pictured, holding trophy*) and Harley Norman (*pictured, furthest left*) did exceptionally well representing Surrey in the prestigious English Schools' Cross Country Championships. The pinnacle of the season, the event sees the top eight athletes from each county compete for individual and team positions, with the top six individuals qualifying to represent England in a Home Counties meet. Rowan had an outstanding race and made the grade. Harley unfortunately missed qualifying by a few seconds, finishing 11th. Miss Laura Gomersall, Head of Cross Country, commented, "Both boys are a credit to the School, having helped Surrey win team gold, ahead of 43 other English counties."

Harley continued his fine form winning at the British Athletics Inter Counties race in Birmingham, out of 311 runners; and helping Surrey to a bronze medal.

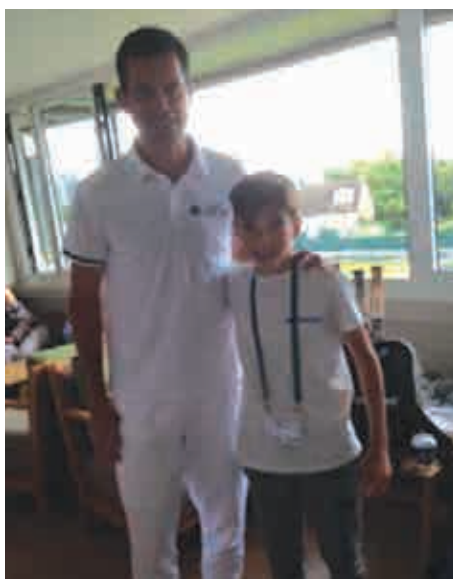
Rowan was selected for England U15 for the Home Counties Schools' Race. Against the top age group runners for England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland, Rowan finished the race in 11th place, helping team England take gold. This is the first time a Whitgift pupil has represented England at Cross Country – an exceptional achievement.



Tennis

Lower Third pupil and tennis aficionado, Raffaello Papajcik (*pictured, right*), reached the group stages at the hallowed ground of Wimbledon, following a victory at the HSBC Road to Wimbledon South East Regional Qualifier, in July. HSBC Road to Wimbledon is the biggest junior tournament in British tennis, with more than 10,000 youngsters taking part each year. Despite being knocked out in the group stages of the final, held in August at the famous SW19 address, Raffaello met with former British No.1 and HSBC Tournament Ambassador, Tim Henman, during the event.

The 12-year-old is, however, the Scottish National U12 Doubles Champion, having competed with his partner, Miles Groom, in the Scottish Junior Open, in July, with a winning score of 7-6, 6-3 in the final.



Raffaello also won the Independent Schools Tennis Association U13 team title, with Tommy Harrison, at Eton College, in July.



Rio Olympics

Since the excitement of seeing Old Whitgiftian, Lawrence Okoye, represent Team GB in the final of the discus at the London 2012 Olympics, it was again a great thrill to see fellow Old Whitgiftian, Joseph Choong, selected as part of the GB Modern Pentathlon team.

The 21-year-old, who studies Mathematics at the University of Bath, qualified for the Summer Games in Rio by finishing 7th at the 2015 European Championships. Still a junior athlete, and the youngest selected in the Team GB pentathlon quartet, Choong has made his mark on the senior circuit with a promising 4th place as his career best to date. 36 athletes lined up for the Olympic modern pentathlon final, and Joseph set the bar high from the off, with 3rd place in the swimming and 4th place in the fencing. His controlled riding round saw him start the final combined run/shoot in 2nd position, in striking distance of gold. In the final discipline, Choong started strong, but a slightly slower visit to the shooting range mid-race meant that he slipped out of contention, with a host of more experienced athletes moving up the field. On his Olympic debut, Joseph secured a top 10 finish, which bodes well for Tokyo 2020. Whitgift are very proud of his performance in Rio, and hope that his success inspires a new crop of Whitgift pentathletes.

The School also saw a former member of staff competing in Rio; Szandra Szogedi left her judo coaching position at Whitgift to concentrate full-time on the sport in preparation for the Olympics. In judo, the qualification period is two years, and during this period, athletes compete week in and week out across the world. Representing Ghana, she unfortunately was knocked out in the early stages by a Brazilian contestant.





Success on the table

During the Lent Term, James Smith (pictured, right) competed in the U15 National Cup, in Bristol, winning all nine of his matches, and earning the Cadet National Cup champion title.

In March, James joined fellow Lower Fifth Formers – Reiss Vydellingum, Jason Kwok and Isaac Fung – to compete in the ESTTA Team Regional Finals, also in Bristol. A fantastic performance in the U16 category earned them a place at the ESTTA Team National Finals, in April, in Hinckley. Despite playing well, the Whitgift boys were just edged out into the runners-up position.

At the Jack Petchey Individual London Schools' Finals, in June, Mikaeel Toosy and James were successful in the U11 and U19 events, respectively. This was closely followed by the London Youth Games, at which Jason and James teamed up, winning their group and qualifying for the finals. Jason and Reiss competed in the final in July, due to James representing England abroad, and were runners up.

Over the summer, on the gruelling international circuit, James represented England in the Cadet Six Nations, in France; the Lithuania Open; and the European Youth Championships, in Croatia. James won bronze and silver in the first two competitions, respectively, and for the last, was the only English player selected for the singles, doubles, mixed doubles and the team event – an ambition fulfilled.





On track

The Trinity Term saw some outstanding athletics performances. The highlight of the season was the Achilles School Relays, hosted by Oxford University, at Iffley Road. The Whitgift U17 team of Chuks Ajeh, Elliot Bailey, Eric Sarfo, Ade Lipede and Jonathan Lewis not only won the double of 4x100m and 4x200m, but also broke the meeting record for the 4x100m (44.23s), and were awarded the Roger Bannister Trophy for Most Outstanding Performance of the Day.

Whitgift's U12, U13 and U14 teams won the Croydon Schools' Championships, also in May, and the Surrey Schools' Individual Championships, in June, saw Lekan Ogunlana and Harley Norman win gold, in the U20 High Jump and the U15 800m, respectively. Whitgift won a trio of silver: Eric Sarfo in the U17 long jump, Rowan Fuss in the U15 1500m, and Josh Uduje in the U15 high jump. The U12, U13 and U14 squads also won the London Schools Simmonds Cup and the overall competition.

Following the South East Final, the U13 team qualified for the English Schools National Final, at Bedford International Stadium, in July, where they came 6th out of 12 schools. Harley won the 800m, and Malachi Opara and Daniel Ikezue-Clifford were 1st and 2nd in the shot putt, respectively.

Jude Russell (U15 80m Hurdles) (*pictured, below*) and Lekan Ogunlana (U20 High Jump) were both selected to represent Surrey in the English Schools National Championships, in Gateshead, in July, in which Surrey came 2nd overall.



Just give

Lower Third Form pupil, Harley Norman, competed in the Virgin Money Giving Mini London Marathon, in April. The mini marathon is a three-mile road event for young athletes aged 11 to 17. Previous winners of the Mini London Marathon include double London 2012 Olympic gold medallist, Mo Farah.

With some 250 boys contesting the U13 age group, Harley finished an outstanding 2nd overall, and 1st in the Borough challenge. He received his winner's trophy from Prince Harry.

Harley commented on the experience, "There was an amazing atmosphere on the day, with so many people having turned up to cheer us on. The best part of the day was being amongst elite athletes and being able to watch the race after I had finished."

Hoop dreams

Following the Whitgift U18 basketball team's exciting quarter-final Cup win versus City of London School for Boys in January, the team encountered their semi-final rivals on 'home-court' in February. Whitgift's first team defeated Farringtons School in a thrilling 54:41 win, bringing them through to the competition final for the first time.

Hosted at Whitgift, the LISBA (London Independent School Basketball League) Cup Final took place in March. The 'Allstars' were unable to overcome Alleyn's School, in an exciting game, but were rewarded with an extraordinary atmosphere.

Jerry Amokwandoh, team captain, commented, "It was a huge achievement to reach the final, and especially meaningful since it is the last year at Whitgift for some members of the team." Head coach, Mr Clemens Krammer, added, "I'm very proud of the whole team for their hard work, dedication and performance. I am very happy that such a fantastic Whitgift crowd came to support them; they absolutely deserved it."





Bowled over

It was a strong season for Whitgift cricket, with an impressive 75% win rate and well over 500 boys representing the School across all teams. The 1st XI played some great cricket, with excellent wins against Oxford and Southampton Universities, along with a very good run in the HMC t20, where they reached the quarter-final. The U15s, under the excellent guidance of Mr Will Challoner, reached the semi-final of the ECB/ESCA National Cup for only the third time in the School's history, and again reached the regional final of the ESCA t20.

Congratulations are due to Sixth Formers, Ryan Patel and Nick Welch, who were selected to represent Surrey 2nd XI and Sussex 2nd XI, respectively. Tyler Meyer, Rafeh Jafri, James Culff, Jamie Smith and Sam Hall played major roles in the Surrey U17 team who won both the three-day and one-day national competitions.

Whitgift bid farewell to 1st XI coach and Old Whitgiftian, Mr Sam Woodward, at the end of the school year, but welcome Mr Paul Hindmarch as the newly-appointed Head of Whitgift Cricket Academy. We wish him well in his new role.





Modern Pentathlon round-up

In March, Whitgift impressed at the South East Modern Pentathlon Championships. Many of the U13 team were competing in their first-ever triathlon, but individual podium positions went to Luis Grainger, Martin Van Domselaar and Jamie Flatley, which aided a convincing team win. Christopher Finch was the fastest in the pool, and Thomas Davy won the run/ shoot. Rowan Fuss managed to win gold, helping a U15 team victory.

The Pentathlon GB South Tri Series, a new initiative by Pentathlon GB to provide more grassroots competition opportunity, was hosted between Pentathlon GB Academy schools, Millfield, Whitgift and Wellington. With excellent results throughout the series, the highlight was Rowan Fuss collecting the 2016 cup for the U15 age category, at the final, in April.

At the British Triathlon Championships at the end of April, the U13s continued their promising progress; Luis Grainger and Martin Van Domselaar picked up gold and silver individually, and James Taylor joined them for the team gold. U15 George Simpson had an outstanding competition to pick up individual silver. He was joined on the podium by Rudi Bruijn-Yard and Jack Conroy for the team gold.

The season was concluded by a team win for the U15 at the British Pentathlon Championships (*pictured, top*). Rudi Bruijn-Yard collected individual silver, George Simpson won the medal for the fastest run/ shoot, whilst Tom Saran won the best ride – the latter two were competing in the riding for the first time since starting the riding programme at Whitgift.





Whitgift fencing

February saw the end of the U17 international circuit for Lower Fifth Formers, Connor Head and Tarrig Roach. Connor is ranked 50th in the world (out of 791 fencers who represented their countries on the international circuit), and Tarrig finished the season in 118th place.

In the annual Public Schools' Fencing Championships, the largest competition in Britain, in March, Connor (*pictured, right*) achieved 1st place in the U16 Foil – last won by a Whitgiftian in 1989 – and was crowned U16 Master at Arms (overall winner across all three weapons). Upper Third Former, Malvin Lingajothy, finished in 2nd place in the U14 Master at Arms. Whitgift came 3rd overall in the team trophies.

In March, Tarrig and Luka Peacefield represented England in Challenge Wratislavia, in Poland, an unofficial world championship of sorts for U15s. Out of 160 fencers, Tarrig won a bronze medal.

Connor competed in the Senior British Fencing Championships, in April, finishing 10th. His coach, Mr Pavel Rynes, commented, "This is a terrific feat as all the best British fencers were there, including the Olympic team. The coach of the British Olympic fencers came to congratulate him on his fine achievement."

Tarrig deserves special congratulations for his performance at the British Youth Championship final and the England Youth Championships, during the Trinity Term. He defended his title in the latter and achieved the season double by winning both.





Skiing medals

December's Independent Schools Ski Championships were without doubt Whitgift's most successful yet. Although the snow conditions in Les Deux Alpes were far from perfect, the team arrived in high spirits hoping to build on the success of 2014. After four days of intensive training, the racing began and immediately it was clear that the team had reached a new level in terms of technique and commitment. Over the two days of racing, the team won 17 medals across all of the age groups – a fantastic achievement. Special mention must go to the senior boys – Gideon Haffenden, Piers Bellman, Toby Thomas and Jussi Grut – who won the team Giant Slalom, and to Josh Daws who won the junior boys Giant Slalom. The junior boys – Bertie Robinson, Han Declercq, Josh Daws, Kit Bellman and Tom Rees – also retained their title in the parallel slalom event, which, as always, proved to be a highlight, with an excellent atmosphere on the slopes.





One may smile, and smile, and be a villain...

Hamlet

Hamlet by William Shakespeare

Starring top professional actors appearing alongside Whitgift students

Sunday 4 December, matinee 2.30pm

Monday 5 – Thursday 8 December, 7.30pm

Saturday 10 December, 7.30pm

Big School

Tickets: £6, Concessions £3

(Ticket price includes a drink during the evening)

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

www.whitgift.co.uk/events

Front Cover image: Whitgift's CCF boys commemorate the first day of the Battle of the Somme, pictured here in the *Remembering 1916* exhibition's Somme trench

Photo: Neil Cooper, Jet Studios

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

SIXTH FORM PLAY

Wednesday 19 – Thursday 20 October
7.30pm, Concert Hall

Tickets: £2.50, Concessions* FREE

FIRST FORM PLAYS

Thursday 24 – Friday 25 November

7.30pm, Concert Hall

Tickets: £2.50, Concessions* FREE

HAMLET

Sunday 4 December, matinee 2.30pm

Monday 5 – Thursday 8 December, 7.30pm

Saturday 10 December, 7.30pm

Big School

Tickets: £6, Concessions* £3

LONDON MYRIAD ENSEMBLE: ROALD DAHL CENTENARY CONCERT

Wednesday 5 October

7pm, Concert Hall

Tickets: £5, FREE admission for Whitgift students

AUTUMN COLLECTION CONCERT

Thursday 20 October

7pm, Big School

FREE admission (by reserving on WisePay only)

CHAMBER CHOIR AT ST ALBANS CATHEDRAL

Friday 21 October

5pm, St Albans Cathedral

FREE admission

MONTEVERDI: VESPERS OF 1610

Saturday 12 November

7pm, Croydon Minster

Tickets: £6, Concessions* £3

CHORISTERS AT THE RITZ

Saturday 3 December

3.30pm and 5.30pm, The Ritz, London

Tickets: Booking via The Ritz

(see events page for more details)

CHRISTMAS CONCERT AT ST GEORGE'S, HANOVER SQUARE

Friday 9 December

6.30pm, St George's, Hanover Square

Tickets: £6, Concessions* £3

CAROL SERVICE

Tuesday 13 December

7.30pm, Croydon Minster

FREE admission (by reservation 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)

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