

Top notes

Eugene Onegin opera, triple national hockey success, 35,000 visitors for Remembering 1916, 25 Years of Whitgift Sport, Whitgift International Music Competition 2017, Whitgift Water Gardens renovation, Headmaster about to 'pass the baton', and much more...



has stood the test of time.

The mammoth task of staging the opera centred on the combined efforts of the Whitgift Choral Society, an Old Palace of

of Chorus Master, Mr William Searle, and Director of Orchestral Music, Mr Philip Winter. WAVPA choreographers, Mr Shaun Henson and Mr Nick Searle, also

Joseph Eve and Matthew Munks playing the seconds to Onegin and Lensky in the duel scene; Xabi Geering opening the chorus contribution as Harvest Master; and Rhys Inward and Adam Haddour's

for a production that will live long in the annals of Whitgift arts.





Rugby review

A busy season for Whitgift Rugby started during the 2016 summer holidays – U14s and above had bi-weekly training available and the U15s enjoyed their customary pre-season training camp in Barcelona. The 1st XV also defended their title at the prestigious President's Cup, defeating St John's School, Leatherhead, in the final.



The A teams had fantastic seasons, with the U12s, U13s and U16s all finishing undefeated. The U13s overcame Winchester House to become School Sports Magazine Rugby Cup national champions, and the U15s reached the semi-final of the NatWest Cup. The 1st XV won 15 of their 20 games; notably against Wellington College (Seb Adeniran-Olule Trophy), John Fisher School, RGS High

Wycombe, Dulwich College, St Benedict's School (Ealing), St Joseph's College (Ipswich) and Hampton. The B, C and D teams also performed well and there was even a 4th XV this year, who won four of their five games.

The Sevens season was also excellent, with Whitgift winning the following tournaments: John Fisher 9s, London Oratory 7s and Reigate 7s (all U12 level); Surrey 7s for U16s; and the Haileybury 7s for the 1st VI. A benefit of the U13 and U15 cup competition success was that coaches have been able to give more boys the opportunity to represent the School at Sevens.

Individual achievements include: Upper Fifth Form pupil, Aristot Benz-Salomon (pictured, left), representing England U16s against Wales; Upper Sixth Form student, Cameron Wilkins, being selected for the England Sevens Academy training squad; Lower Sixth Former, George Hammond, who was selected for the England U17 squad against France; and Upper Fifth Form rugby player Piers von Dadelszen, who, in April, played for the Canada U18s against Georgia and USA.

In keeping with Whitgift's strong tradition of sports tours, 51 of the senior rugby squad are looking forward to their biennial tour, this time to South Africa, in the summer.



Old Whitgiftians

There has never been a better time for Whitgift rugby, on the professional national and international stage, than the present. It is gratifying for the School, and in particular the coaches, to see an impressive 12 Old Whitgiftians currently playing in the Premiership.

Wasps and England player, Elliot Daly, who had impressed during the recent 6 Nations success, was selected for the British & Irish Lions tour to New Zealand. He is the first Whitgiftian to be picked for the Lions since Basil Nicholson in 1938. He is also one of only a few sportsmen to have played both for and against the Lions, having appeared against them for the Barbarians in Hong Kong.

Harry Williams and Marland Yarde have also been selected to represent England in Argentina. It will be Williams' first cap. The Exeter Chiefs prop was part of the 2011 *Daily Mail* National Cup winning squad, alongside Daly and Harlequins' Yarde.









Memorial makes the Grade

In February this year, Whitgift's War Memorial was granted Listed Building Status, in recognition of both its historic interest 'as an eloquent witness to the tragic impact of world events on the School, and the sacrifices it made in the conflicts of the C20'.

The WWI memorial was unveiled in March 1922, in a ceremony attended by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Randall Davidson and Sir John Raynsford Longley, KCMG CB. It was designed and constructed by the Croydon-based funeral directors Ebbutt & Sons, with the assistance of local ex-servicemen. The memorial was moved from the grounds of the old School in North End, Croydon, to the current site in Haling Park, in 1931. Later, an adjacent mural for the Fallen of the Second World War was added, also designed by Ebutt's, and unveiled in May 1949 in a ceremony attended by the

Bishop Suffragan of Croydon, Cuthbert Bardsley and Major-General W S Tope, CB, CBE. The mural depicts two globes, one for each hemisphere, between which is a cross fleury.

The Memorial, which takes centre stage during the School's annual Remembrance Day Service, has now been listed at Grade II, having been added to the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest. The listing helps mark the Memorial's significance and brings specific protection in managing its future.









reached 3rd place in the league, where Myles Alcindor broke the scoring record by putting up 44 points in the last match. One of the highlights, according to Head

of Basketball, Mr Clemens Krammer, was the victory in the U16s' semi-final against Royal Russell School, with a nailbiting 1-point win in the last second. The team followed this with a very impressive comeback in the final against favourite, Alleyn's School, leading Whitgift to be crowned as league champions. Whitgift's U18s were also very impressive this season. After defeating last year's cup winners, Alleyn's School, in the cup quarter final and league semi-final, the

Despite being defeated in the league final by City of London School, Whitgift's U15s were fortunate to make amends a week later in the cup final, in front of a fantastic

only to City of London School for Boys.

home crowd. Whitgift ended up winning 57:48, thanks to great team defence, and Josh Uduje who scored 31 points. Mr Krammer recognises, "Two silver and two gold medals in one season prove that hard work certainly does pay off."



The white stu

SPORT

It was another bumper year for Whitgift's skiers at the annual Independent Schools Ski & Snowboard Championships, in the French Alps, in December. Despite some of the stiffest competition yet, with several participants from race clubs, there was great camaraderie on and off the slopes.

The Whitgiftians did a great job in the grand slalom, with Bertie Robinson coming 3rd in the U13 and Overall Junior categories; Angus Ritchie, 2nd in the U11; and Piers Bellman, 2nd in his U18 age group. Whitgift performed outstandingly to be crowned Junior Team Male Gold and Junior Team Overall Gold.

In the slalom event, once again the team showed great promise. It was a repeat performance for Bertie and Angus' results,

and Piers came 2nd in the U18 category, as well as 3rd Overall Senior. The boys missed out on gold in the team awards, finishing 2nd and 3rd in the Junior Team Male and Junior Team Overall, respectively.

In 2016, Piers (pictured) was selected to represent the Welsh national team. His first outing came in January, at the Welsh Ski Championships, held in Champery-Les Crosets, Switzerland. Three days of training was followed by four days of International Ski Federation (FIS) racing, where he competed against opponents

from Switzerland, France, Italy, Czech Republic, Sweden, Spain, New Zealand, Australia, Canada, Albania, Belgium and the Netherlands, as well as the GB team. To give an idea of how difficult ski racing is, on the last day's slalom event, 25 of the competitors did not complete the course, while Piers did finish, coming in



Valencia

An exchange took place to Valencia towards the end of last year, for Lower Fifth Form linguists. The boys greatly enjoyed sightseeing, with a guided tour of Mestalla football stadium, a boat trip in L'Albufera National Park, and visits to the Fallas Museum and Oceanographic Aquarium. Jack Antoniou, Lower Fifth Form pupil, enthused, "The trip was an incredible opportunity and most importantly, our Spanish improved greatly. I would thoroughly recommend this exchange to anyone who is considering it for the coming years!"







Almeria

In April, a group of Lower School cricketers travelled to the south of Spain for a five-day pre-season training camp. Based at the Desert Springs Resort, the group soon set about getting into a routine, enjoying the sunny weather and lush green pitch. Lower Third Form pupil, Ben Cleaver, explained, "Half of the group would play a game and the other half practise drills, and then we would swap over after lunch. It really helped us get ready for the big season ahead."





Lower Third Form students embarked on the annual exchange to Zaragoza for six days, in February. Apart from exploring Roman ruins, shopping, and laser tagging, the welcoming host families also made the trip special. Ismaail Khan found the experience extremely rewarding: "It was a mixture of fun, learning and excitement, especially when you meet your exchange partner and family. It taught me how people in Spain live, and what the atmosphere is like."

Seven students - from the Upper Third, Lower Fifth and Upper Fifth Forms - went on a week-long ski touring expedition in the Hardangervidda National Park, in Norway. After spending the first two days getting used to the new technique,

the group packed their rucksacks and left their base, heading for a remote mountain plateau. A simple hut, at the end of scenic 15km ski, felt like luxury. The conditions worsened overnight, with the sunshine replaced by wind and snow,

and the boys set about digging and building a snow hole to stay warm for the night. Although not conducive to the best night's sleep, it was a definite highlight of the trip.





Fundraising

As part of the volunteering work required for their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award, a group of Upper Third Form students chose to participate in Marie Curie Month, in March, selling daffodil pins to help raise funds for the charity.

The boys promoted the campaign, visited form groups and department offices to collect donations, and even donned daffodil hats and tabards to help raise awareness of the cause. With money collected totalling nearly £250, the Whitgift boys raised the most of any school in the Croydon area.

Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Co-ordinator and Acting Head of Charities, Miss Lucy Laycock, commented: "I am delighted with the charitable work the boys have completed this year. They have gone above and beyond the requirements of the Duke of Edinburgh programme, and I have had lovely comments from teachers and boys alike about the positive and entrepreneurial manner in which the boys approached this task. Their perseverance clearly paid off, based on the significant total they raised!"





Key skills

At the end of March, the School hosted its inaugural Whitgift Piano Competition, featuring 42 entries across all age ranges and abilities. Whitgift was pleased to welcome the distinguished pianist, Tom Poster, as a guest adjudicator.

In Class A (for performers up to Grade 3 standard), 3rd Place went to Stanley Johnson (Lower First Form), 2nd Place to Tom Parker (Upper First Form), and the top spot was awarded to Louis Myrie (Upper Third Form), who gave an atmospheric performance of *Gollum's Song* from *The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers*.

Class B (Grades 4-6) competitors were next, with recitals including those from David Strong (Lower Third Form) in 3rd Place, and in 2nd Place Oliver Rimington (Upper First Form), who also received the prestigious Barnett Cup, presented in recognition of the pianist with 'Outstanding Potential' across all categories. The winner of this class was Ben Deuchar (Sixth Form), whose performance of Chopin's *Raindrop* Prelude showed a high level of expression as well as technical skill.

Closing the day's proceedings were the 13 pianists competing in Class C (Grade 7 standard and above). Jerry Lin (Lower Third Form) and Sam Lam (Lower Fifth Form) shared 3rd Place in this category, and Theo Nisbett (Upper Fifth Form) was awarded 2nd Place for his rendition of Debussy's *Canope*. 1st Place went to Jeffery Macsim (Upper Sixth Form), who gave a superb performance of Ravel's iconic *Jeux d'Eau*.

Further competitors were awarded Commendations and Merits, with a high standard of playing displayed across all categories.



Music prizes

Pupils and teachers travelled to Györ, Hungary, at the end of April, for an International Music Competition that saw Whitgift win an impressive number of top prizes. Well done to all those who participated, with special congratulations to the following winners: Marlon Barrios Araya (1st Place, Category 1A), Andrei Mamarã (1st Place, Category 2), Maximilian Sitter (2nd Place, Category 1B) and Uriel Vilchez Meza (3rd Place, Category 1A).

Diana Award

In May, Lower First Form pupil, Femi Owolade-Coombes, attended a very special event at St James's Palace. The Duke of Cambridge and Prince Harry were presenting the Diana Award's inaugural Legacy Award, in memory of their mother, the Princess of Wales, to mark the upcoming 20th anniversary of her death.

Femi, a Design Technology & Engineering Scholar, received a Legacy Award for his work setting up a local 'Raspberry Jam' (a coding workshop where aficionados of all levels can share knowledge and meet like-minded people). His is a Raspberry Jam with a difference, however; aimed at 5-15 year olds, his South London Raspberry Jam,

set up with the help of his mother, is Autism and Tourette's friendly. 11-yearold Femi explains, "I found that I really liked coding events, and felt that the kids I know who are like me might also like them. We have partnered up with Tourettes Action and Ambitious About Autism to help spread the word about how much fun coding can be."

20 inspirational 11-18 year olds from all corners of the globe were selected specifically for their exceptional qualities of kindness, compassion and service. Femi was presented with the Award in the Palace Throne Room, where the Royal brothers took time to chat to each recipient, some of whom had travelled from as far as Belize and Canada. Femi commented, "It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. I enjoyed meeting the

other prize-winners, and William and Harry, who were so down-to-earth and friendly."

Femi, who appeared in an issue of specialist magazine, *MagPi*, earlier this year, has given interviews to Sky News and BBC News, and featured in articles in numerous media outlets.

Femi has been asked to attend an event in October, where he will receive his Diana Award, which recognises young people 'who carry out inspiring work without expectation of reward'. The Year 6 pupil clearly embodies this ethos, as he will be travelling to Bangladesh in July for a fortnight, to run Robot & Physical Computing workshops for 100 children from low-income families.





Silver Award

Lower Sixth Form pupil Jack Morgan-Faulkner has been awarded the British Science Association's CREST Silver Award for project work completed during a oneweek work experience placement with Atkins Global, last summer.

Jack was one of seven aspiring engineers from across the country to have their skills tested by a number of challenging projects set by the mentors at Atkins Global. A typical project might include analysing and interpreting local ground data, assessing site risks, weighing up feasible construction options and finally recommending a suitable solution. The students have to convey all this information in a final presentation or mini report.



And finally...

Whitgift took part in the 11th annual BBC News School Report day, when children from more than 900 secondary schools from around the country participated, in March 2017. The Journalism Club presented a varied and professional report about the latest Whitgift news and current affairs. Topical items included:

- The Southern Rail dispute
- A roundtable discussion on whether mobile phones are useful or dangerous in schools
- A report on the victorious Whitgift U13 National Schools Cup rugby team

And interviews with -

- Old Whitgiftian, Chris Trott, a UK Special Representative for Sudan and South Sudan, on the famine currently affecting South Sudan
- Mr Andrew Hunt, Head of Languages, regarding the aftermath of the UK's decision to exit the EU and the effect this will have on language learning in
- Lower Sixth Former, Dominic Alting von Geusau, to discuss the Dutch election result
- Old Whitgiftian, Ollie Stoten, who was part of a six-man team of British Army Reserves who reached the geographic South Pole unsupported

You can view the full report on Whitgift's *YouTube* channel.









Breaking Bard

At the beginning of February, every boy in the Lower Third Form participated in the annual Lower Third Junior Shakespeare Evening; the crowning event in a year of study devoted to the works of William Shakespeare. The boys began their journey in the Michaelmas Term, when they visited Shakespeare's Globe and participated in interactive workshops with Globe actors. In the new year, the boys turned their attention to their selected production. The culmination of their research and preparation saw Big School and the Concert Hall both packed with family, friends and staff as many boys made their first stage debut. The audiences were not disappointed. Head of Junior English, Mrs Katy Glanz, commented, "It truly was a defining evening for the boys in their Whitgift career and, as many of them left, they reflected on how they would remember this event for years to come."

STEM

After a seven-week period of planning and implementation, the Upper Third Form STEM enthusiasts presented their completed projects, in March, to both staff and students, with attendees voting for their favourite project. The work spanned Science, Mathematics, Computing and Design & Technology. Head of STEM, Mr Matthew Taylor, commented, "Discussing the projects with the boys quickly demonstrated the significant amount they had learnt, both about their chosen topic, and in developing their teamwork and communication skills." Two highlights were a bottle-flipping machine built out of K'NEX, which was able to occasionally complete a successful bottle flip, and the simple but highly-effective designs of the coin sorting group.











Whitgift golfers competed in the annual Independent Schools Golf Association (ISGA) national final, held at Royal St George's and Prince's Golf Clubs, in Sandwich, Kent.

Lower Sixth Form pupil, Alfie Fox, performed superbly to win the individual tournament, with a gross total of 136, 6 under par for the two rounds. Four shots behind him, in 2nd place, was Harry Plowman Ollington. Upper Sixth Former, Harvey Byers, brought Whitgift's tally of players to three in the top 6. To round off the competition, which took place on the 23-24 April, Whitgift won the team event with a score of 276 – 9 points and 18 points ahead of runners-up Birkdale and Millfield, respectively.

Both Alfie and Harry had never played golf before coming to Whitgift. As of 2008, the School introduced golf lessons for every boy in the First Form, delivered at the onsite golf facilities by PGA

Whitgift's Head of Golf, Mr Neil Kendrick, commented, "For the boys to shoot scores as low as they did, at two courses that have held the Open Championship, is something they can be very proud of. Alfie Fox's 7 under score of 65 was truly

In other golf news, Upper First Form pupil, Aidan Millham, won the Surrey U12 County Golf Championship, in May, for a second time in a row, something that has only ever been done once before.



Swing when you're winning



Spin

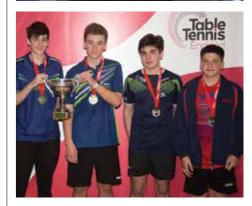
The Whitgift U19 table tennis team have been steadfast in their journey to realise their national title ambitions. After winning the London South Championships without dropping a match, they competed in the Jack Petchey National Zone Finals, in January. The boys then qualified for the U19 ESTTA Regional Championships in dramatic fashion, in Bristol, in March. Qualification for the coveted national finals, in Hinckley, followed for the team, consisting of James Smith, George Hazell, Reiss Vydelingum and Jason Kwok (pictured, above).

Whitgift faced Cardinal Newman College and Beckfoot School in the first two final matches, winning them both 8-0. This pitched Whitgift against 2016 U19 ESTTA winners, Harefield Academy. A 5-3 win for Whitgift was achieved, with some of the best table tennis played on the day. George's first match win over James Chappell, the Harefield No.1, set the tone for a brilliant all-round team performance, with James then taking a tight second match, 3-2, putting his side 2-0 up. Celebrations started after Reiss and Jason displayed great courage, bringing the match to a 5-1 conclusion. With all the boys either in Year 11 or 12, they have at least one more year together as their current powerhouse U19 team.

Next up on the fixture list was George Hazell (U19) and Mikaeel Toosy (U13), who represented London South Region at the ESTTA National Individual Finals, in Wolverhampton, in April. Both boys had already won the LSTTA Individual Champions in their age groups, in February, when the competition took place at Whitgift. Although playing well, unfortunately Mikaeel succumbed in the knockout stages; George, despite being a year young for the U19 category, reached the semi-final.

In May, James and George took part in the Table Tennis England Junior National Championships, with James winning two gold medals and a silver, and George a gold. The month saw further good news, with George being selected to represent England Schools at the British Senior Schools International competition, held in Jersey, in June.







WIMC 2017

The School was delighted to host its third Whitgift International Music Competition, in April this year, including woodwind and brass for the first time. Entrants from around the world – nine different countries – competed for the opportunity to achieve a fully-funded boarding place. The highly-prestigious panel of judges featured some new faces this year: renowned violinist and pedagogue, Mr Itzhak Rashkovsky, as guest string adjudicator; esteemed Moldovan clarinet soloist and educator, Professor Simion Duja; and Whitgift's own Head of Brass, Ms Lorraine Temple.

The Competition commenced with an Opening Concert featuring Old Whitgiftian, Dan-Iulian Druţac, winner of the WIMC 2013, and the Whitgift Symphony Orchestra. After an exciting performance of Verdi's Force of Destiny Overture, conducted by Director of Music and WIMC luminary, Ms Rosanna Whitfield, the Guildhall School of Music and Drama scholar captivated the audience with a sublime rendition of the Sibelius Violin Concerto, directed by Whigift's orchestral maestro, Mr Philip Winter.

After three days of competition rounds, which gave the judges much food for thought, it was time for the pinnacle of the week, the Closing Gala Concert. The evening's entertainment featured a selection of some of the most exceptional performances from the competitors, as well as two virtuoso works from rising star, Anita Chen. Equally talented as a pianist and violinist, her rarefied performances brought the competition to a rousing conclusion. After much deliberation, the adjudicators decided that Krystof Kohout (Czech Republic/violin), Marian Khirilov Bozhidarov (Bulgaria/clarinet) and Junyi Li (China/viola) were the category winners. Krystof, Marian and Luka Perazic (Montenegro/violin) were offere Headmaster's Scholarships, ar forward to welcoming them to September.

Warmest thanks go to all involved who worked tirelessly to make the competition a success.









Last post

In April, the Whitgift Exhibition Centre welcomed the last visitors to its major exhibition, *Remembering 1916 – Life on the Western Front*, having opened a year earlier, in March 2016, to mark the Centenary of the First World War.

Remembering 1916 was conceived, written and directed by Whitgift's Headmaster, Dr Christopher Barnett, and focused on events occurring in 1916, a pivotal year which saw a number of significant battles, including the Battle of Verdun and the Battle of the Somme, one of the most famous in British military history. Amongst the Exhibition features were detailed re-creations of a bombed-out cellar at Verdun, British and German trenches at the Somme, and an Edwardian drawing room.

An outstanding range of original artefacts were on display, the great majority of the public. Memorabilia included British, French and German uniforms, equipment and weaponry, memorabilia from the Home Front, and some incredibly rare objects, such as: a German light field wagon; two first issues of the famous trench newspaper, The Wipers Times; the train station sign from Verdun; and items associated with the German flying ace, the 'Red Baron'. The latter is of particular significance to Whitgift: the first victim of fighter pilot, Manfred von Richthofen ('Red Baron'), was an Old Whitgiftian, Second Lieutenant Lionel Morris, whom he shot down in September 1916; and another former student, George Barber, performed the autopsy on the Red Baron, when he was finally shot down in 1918.

A total of 35,250 people came to visit Remembering 1916, exceeding the numbers recorded for the first major exhibition hosted at Whitgift in 2009, Hidden Treasures from the Mary Rose. The School was honoured to receive a visit from its Patron, His Royal Highness The Duke of York, KG. Special guests Pensioners, who received a guided tour by the Headmaster along with the Exhibition Deputy Manager and Archivist, Mr William Wood. Keith Jeffrey of the Western Front Association had exceptionally high praise for the Exhibition following his tour: "It is a 'gem': based on a sound idea, produced to the highest standards, supported by one of the best exhibitions guide books I have seen."

Whitgift is very grateful to all those who contributed to the impressive success of the Exhibition, the staff at the School who were responsible for the outstanding design (led by Mr Graham Maudsley) and construction (led by Mr Stuart Peach), and other specialists who acted as Consultants for the content, including Mr Johnny Dobbyn, Mr Douglas Flower and Mr Michael Baldwin. Michael sadly passed away shortly before the Exhibition closed and the School would like to extend sincere condolences and appreciation to Michael's family.



















Hockey Champions

Preparations for the indoor season started in September, leading on to the Whitgift Indoor Hockey Festival, with some teams travelling great distances to participate. Both the U16s and U18s did well in this pre-season tournament. Prior to Christmas, both teams secured the county and divisional titles, but fell at the final hurdle in the nationals hosted at Whitgift for the seventh consecutive year.

The outdoor season saw the U13 and U15 teams win the inaugural Independent Schools National Hockey Competition, with outstanding performances in their finals, at Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis



Centre in March, against Princethorpe College and St George's College, respectively.

Whitgift teams won through to the England Hockey Schools' Championships, which took place again at Lee Valley, at the end of April. In an unprecedented week for the School, three national outdoor hockey titles were won by the U14s, U16s and U18s.

Just prior to the U16 triumph, the 1st XI, with an unbeaten season under their belts, were pitted against Repton in their national final, in a pulsating game which saw chances for both teams. Josh Coniglio put Whitgift ahead early on, converting a penalty corner. Repton levelled the score and with 10 minutes to go were awarded a penalty flick. Lekan Ogunlana, as he has on so many previous occasions, saved the powerful strike. Minutes later, Whitgift were awarded a penalty corner, from which Captain, Josh, scored his second goal of the final. The Whitgift team defended resolutely in the last five minutes and with the final whistle came an eruption of joy from players, staff and parents alike. It was fitting for all the boys involved in the competition to receive medals from England Hockey





In an unprecedented week for the School, three national outdoor hockey titles were won

Vice President, Christopher Todd, and, notably, Old Whitgiftian Luke Taylor, who had recently been selected to represent Great Britain at hockey.

The outdoor season concluded with Whitgift as National Independent Schools Champions at U13 and U15, and National Champions at U14, U16 and U18 level.









Whitgift hosted a special East meets West Arts Day at the historic Goodwood House, in West Sussex, at the end of April, for parents, staff, Old Whitgiftians and friends of the School.

A varied programme was presented in the beautiful stately home. Scenes from Summer's Last Will and Testament were performed by current students and Old Whitgiftians. Musical entertainment was provided by the Whitgift Brass Ensemble and Whitgift Symphony Orchestra, with some solo pieces. The Whitgift Choristers performed songs from their recent Tudor CD recording. Music journalist and acclaimed author, Jessica Duchen, fresh from judging the WIMC 2017 competition the month before, read from her new novel, Ghost Variations. Under the branches of a Senbazuru tree, adorned with 1,000 delicate and colourful origami cranes made by the Whitgift Japanese Club, visitors were taught the art of paper folding by expert (and patient!) young Whitgiftians. Valeria Duca, Whitgift's Artistin-Residence during the second half of the Trinity Term, directed a masterclass for pupils, alongside beautiful paintings of her own work and Upper Third Form student self-portraits. Esteemed Tea Sommelier, Giandomenico Scanu, took time out of his busy schedule at The Ritz to demonstrate fascinating Tea Ceremonies, surrounded by exquisitelyillustrated tea sets designed by Lower School Art students.

The entertainment was not limited to indoors; visitors who spilled out into the expansive grounds enjoyed Whitgift Corps of Drums performances and demonstrations by Whitgift fencers. Croquet was available, and Whitgift's resident PGA professional, Tim Trodd, was on hand to share golf tips to those of all ages. A fitting end to a day showcasing Whitgift's sky-high talents was an air display by Ultimate High's elite pilot, Mark Greenfield.

Congratulations to all of the students and staff who made the day such a special one.





















Net gains

Kai-Luca Ampaw has been blazing a trail in the world of tennis. The Lower First Form pupil competed in his first tennis tournament aged just five, and has been playing an age group above since then. Currently sponsored by *Wilson*, he is also a talented footballer, who was invited to join Chelsea FC Academy when he was eight years old, but unfortunately had to choose between tennis and football. Tennis it was, and he has been climbing the ranks and making an impact nationally.

In 2016, he was County Cup National Champion and No.1 seed for Surrey, the first national winner that the county have had in the U10 age group. More recently, Kai-Luca played three national tournaments, holding his top 3 ranking in each, for selection to the *Nike* Invitational national finals, in March. He played outstandingly, winning the competition, which was held at the National Tennis Centre (NTC), in south west London. This result put him at the No.1 ranking for his age group.

Kai-Luca then attended a trial at Loughborough, where the country's top 8 U11 age group boys were put through their paces to assess their suitability to represent Great Britain. After a gruelling weekend, he made the cut for Team GB, and made his debut playing in a friendly match against Belgium, in May. GB were victorious and Kai-Luca even got to spend a few days playing alongside his idol, Andy Murray.



SPORT

The beautiful game

It was a great pleasure to see both the U15 and U13 teams back at the Burton Albion FC's Pirelli Stadium, in March, for the *Investec* ISFA finals. The U15s had an unbeaten run in this season's competition. A nail-biting semi-final against Hampton School saw the teams go into extra time, following a 1-1 draw. The match ended in a penalty shoot-out, with Whitgift just pipping the opposition 5-4. They faced Forest School, Snaresbrook, in the final, securing a 3-1 victory, with Max Porter, Cal Hamilton and Jaan Stanley finding the back of the net. The squad did Whitgift proud, bringing home the U15 silverware for the third time since Whitgift started entering the competition, in 2011.

The U13s were striving for their 7th consecutive ISFA cup glory. The boys defeated Brentwood School, 6-0, with an impressive semi-final performance. In a repeat of last year's U12 ESFA national final, the team played Moorlands School, but were unable to turn the match to their benefit. Unfortunately, Moorlands put a stop to the boys' cups dreams at the last hurdle. The team's run to the final, however, was hugely impressive, amassing 45 goals in their five qualifying rounds.

After a strong season, the U11s performed outstandingly finals, by winning the South East Regional tournament, which took a third consecutive ISFA U11 victory The final rounds took place in May, in the aspirational setting of St George's Park, home of the English national team. A 'Croydon derby' in the quarter-finals saw Whitgift overcome Cumnor House, 2-1, and then Altrincham Prep, in the semi-finals, by the same score line. Unfortunately, having come so far, the team were defeated 2-0 by St George's, Windsor Castle, in the fina



In the ESFA PlayStation Schools' Cup festival, held at Pride Park Stadium, in May, the U12B team played outstandingly. Their opposition, Wright Robinson College, had reached the final without conceding a goal in the tournament. Ben Smith scored after just two minutes, and the team, though having had further opportunities to score, settled for a solitary goal, to be crowned champions with Whitgift's first B team title. The U13s featured in the second national final of the year, against Thomas Telford School, in the U13 ESFA PlayStation Open Schools' Cup. In atrocious playing conditions, due to heavy rainfall, the match went to penalties. Unfortunately the luck of the shoot-out was not with Whitgift on the day, after going to sudden death.





Making a splash!

Whitgift water polo continues to thrive. The U13 squad qualified for the national final, having defeated Dulwich College, Eltham College and drawing with Highgate School in the semi-finals. Well done to the U14 squad, who were unbeaten in the London League this year as well.

Lower Fifth Former, Kishen Patel, was invited to attend the Swim England Water Polo National Academy camp, in May. The camp is part of the new England Water Polo Player Pathway programme. Selection was made from seven different UK Regions, following trials at England Water Polo's Inter-Regional Assessment Competition, which took place in February. Toby Roberts also achieved this feat for the U16 age group as an Upper Third Form student.





Premier league

Old Whitgiftian, Victor Moses, has been an integral part of the Chelsea team in the 2016/17 season. After being on loan for several seasons, manager Antonio Conte has made him a regular member of the first team, cementing his place as right wing-back, and helping to ensure the team became Premiership champions.

Callum Hudson-Odoi, a member of Chelsea FC's youth team, was part of the England U17 squad who faced Turkey, in May. The Old Whitgiftian scored, helping his side to a victory and to the UEFA U17 European Championship Final. The Young Lions unfortunately lost to Spain on penalties in the final, despite a goal from Hudson-Odoi in the first half.

Upper Third Form pupil, Jamal Musiala, was selected for the England U15 team and played in a Double Header v Belgium U15, at St. George's Park, in February.

Morgan Williams and Jadan Raymond

squads at U12 & U13 level, respectively.
Jude Russell, who captained the U15
ISFA champions, represented the Crystal
Palace U18 team for their last four
matches of the season, performing well
against boys three years older than him.

both continue their international claims,

training with the Wales development

Getty Images

36



Aussie rules

Towards the end of May, Whitgift was delighted to host the Australian ODI cricket team. In weather conditions much akin to their homeland, the Australian team took advantage of the School's first-class facilities to prepare for the ICC Champions Trophy. Hosted in England and Wales this year, eight international ODI teams competed for the trophy, in

Head of Cricket at Whitgift, Mr David Ward, commented, "The day went extremely well and they were very impressed by the whole Whitgift experience."

For a large number of Whitgift boys, having the Australian Cricket Team practicing at their school was a fantastic experience, with the likes of David Warner and Mitchell Starc at close quarters. Tyler Meyer, Lekan Ogunlana, James Culff, Jake Monson, Billy Sewell and Shanaal Nathan were lucky enough to participate and join the Aussies for their team talk, in the field and at lunch.

The Australians expressed their gratitude for the day, "The facilities were as good as promised and the food was

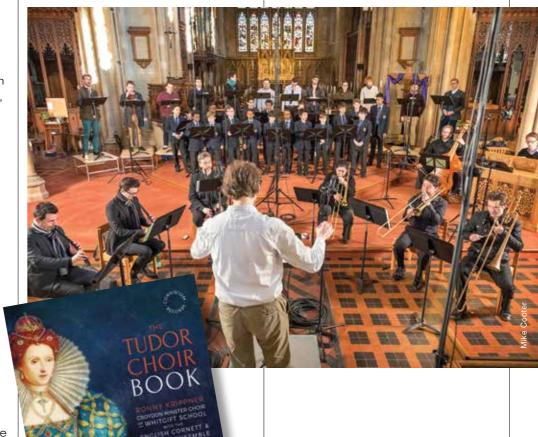


Tudor gold

Whitgift has partnered with the awardwinning English Cornett & Sackbut Ensemble (ECSE) to record a new album of Tudor music. Director of Choral Music, Mr Ronny Krippner, led the Croydon Minster Choir of Whitgift School and the ECSE, in Renaissance choral works by Tallis, Morley, Phillips and Batten, as well as rare renditions of Tudor instrumental items by Coperario, Bassano and Ferrabosco.

This new CD celebrates Archbishop John Whitgift, the School's Founder, who believed music was an integral part of divine worship and who played an influential role in securing the survival of the English choral tradition, during the late 16th century.

The Croydon Minster Choir featured on this record comprises the Choristers, Choral Scholars and Lay Clerks of the School. The album was released by Convivium Records in June and is available to purchase on Amazon and the Convivium Records website.



Fives alive

A part of Whitgift since the 19th century, Fives enjoys steady success on the circuit. This season saw numerous accomplishments: Cameron Low and Hajane Anbukumar became national Fives U18 Doubles Plate champions; Danial Ahmed and Philip Lam were national 2nd Plate U16 Doubles winners; Nathan Jerome-Armah and Sean Kendrick won the South East Regionals U16 Doubles; and Nathan also became the South East Regionals U16 Singles champion. To round off an excellent year, the Colts had an unbeaten season in school fixtures.







MP summary

Modern Pentathlon at Whitgift has a brand new dynamic, with the launch of the Whitgift Modern Pentathlon Academy as a club in November 2016. Miss Laura Gomersall explains, "The club enables Whitgift to provide quality training opportunities for talented biathletes in the local area. Since the launch, 18 external members train and supplement the Whitgift teams in competition, and not just boys either! It was a moment for the history books to have girls in Whitgift kit, representing the club at the British Tetrathlon Championships, with one stepping onto the podium for the U13 category."

The modern pentathlon squad has had many creditable achievements throughout the season – ranging from local to British Championship level – accumulating 14 national medals, seven of these gold. Stand-out season performances include George Simpson, who claimed the U15 British Tetrathlon title, in September 2016. The 2017 season saw George move to the U17 age group, where he made impressive progress over the year. After the conclusion of the U17 British ranking competitions, George was placed

5th in the country, narrowly missing out on selection for the British team for the European Championships this summer. He was, however, invited onto the Pentathlon GB Talent Programme and gained his first international cap for an invitational competition in Portugal, securing bronze and finishing as the second highest-placing British athlete.

U13's Martin Van Domselaar and Luis Grainger have also made impressive contributions to the teams, with Martin leading the U13 teams to three medals and Luis featuring in two of these. Martin started the year as runner-up at the 2016 British Tetrathlon Championships and in April 2017, became the U13 British Champion. Newcomers of note include Max Penniceard, who has done exceptionally well in stepping up to U15 competition, as well as Sebastian Sparshott and Quentin Aude-Lange, who have both contributed to U13 British Team Titles, all in their first year of competing.

Whitgift Pentathlon has also hosted many new events this year, increasing access to regular competition in various modern pentathlon events, including biathlon, triathlon and several Laser Run Time Trials.







Run, run, run...

In May, the U18 squad of Chuks Ajeh, Eric Sarfo, Charlie Goriup and Elliot Bailey travelled to Oxford's Iffley Road athletics track, made famous by Roger Bannister's 4-minute mile, to take part in the Achilles Relays. The Whitgiftians won the Achilles Schools Relays' 4x200m in 1min31sec.6, breaking the School record. In 2014, Chuks and Eric were part of the team who, as U15s, competed in the same race, and entered the history books as the only school relay team to hold a national record, beating the previous UK record by 0.7 seconds.

The U18s also broke the School record in the 4x100m, running 43.2secs, but finished 4th (with James Amachree swopping places with Charlie). The U15s won silver in the 4x800m.

Later that month, the U15 and U13 teams came first in the 'four schools meet' against Westcliffe Boys High, John Fisher School and Woodcote High School. The U14s won the Croydon Championships and, just before half term, at the London School's Simmonds Cup, Whitgift came out top in the U13, U14 and U15 age groups, as well as winning overall.

16 athletes qualified for the Surrey Schools Championships, and the U15 & U13 English Schools' Track and Field Cup competitors went through to the South East A Final, in June.







SPORT



25 Years of Sport

In the Lent Term, a dinner was hosted at The Ritz Hotel London to celebrate the 25 years of sporting excellence overseen by the Headmaster, Dr Barnett, who is retiring this year after 26 years at the helm. A special book was launched at the event, chronicling the last two and half decades of amazing sporting achievements and the evolution of sport at Whitaift.

Members of the Sports Department, past and present, gathered along with an array of Old Whitgiftians, including Danny Cipriani, Marland Yarde, Joseph Choong, Laurie Evans, Jonty Griffiths, Troy Brown and Adam Thompstone. Sporting alumni and former members of staff travelled from all over the country – with some even coming from the USA and South Africa. It was a momentous occasion to have so many significant people from the Whitgift sporting family together in one room.

The Headmaster had composed a touching grace in honour of the evening, and interspersed between courses, Mr Simon Beck led an amusing Q&A session, with Laurie Evans, JB Gill and Danny Cipriani gamely taking part. Dr Barnett concluded the evening with a poignant address, expressing his passion for Whitgift's sporting excellence, his gratitude to the sports staff, and his pride in the remarkable achievements of so many Whitgift students.

















Academic Enrichment

During the Trinity Term, Whitgift welcomed a number of special guest speakers, as part of the Academic Enrichment Lecture series.

At the end of April, Lower and Upper First Form boys were treated to a highlyengaging talk from Antarctic explorer, British Army reservist, medic and Old Whitgiftian, Mr Ollie Stoten. Ollie enthralled the students with the gritty realities of his extreme adventure, skiing over 800 miles to the South Pole and on through the Transantarctic Mountains, encouraging the boys to maximise their opportunities by combining their skills and interests: "If you want to push boundaries, it's not impossible", Ollie stated.

Whitgift also welcomed Jo Ruxton, producer of the recently-released documentary, 'A Plastic Ocean', who gave a lively talk, encouraging pupils to re-think our consumer relationship with plastic packaging.

Representatives from the research company, Benevolent Al, hosted another session, revealing some of the fascinating secrets behind the use of artificial intelligence in the development of drugs.

Whitgift Chaplain, Reverend Alan Bayes, spoke about the sometimes troubled relationship between science and religion, and Aardman Animations provided the final lecture of the year.

It's good to talk



A representative from The Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ), one of the UK's three intelligence agencies, along with MI5 and MI6, visited Whitgift at the beginning of the year, giving a presentation to students on the role of linguists within their organisation and their use of 'SIGnals INTelligence' to help protect the security of UK citizens and promote economic wellbeing.

The boys were informed how important a GCHQ language analyst can be, with data potentially feeding back to the Prime

Minister and impacting Government policy decisions, as well as the breadth of activities a linguist may get involved in, including upskilling in local dialects as part of employee's ongoing language development.

Whitgift students were encouraged to continue being well-rounded achievers; a linguist is not only required to have excellent language skills, but also needs to display teamwork and an interest in current affairs, as well as analysis and presentational capabilities.

A new era for Whitgift School

community bids farewell to the and welcomes Mr Christopher Ramsey.

After 26 years, Dr Barnett will no he outstanding, dedicated staff, so many brilliant events, wonderful music port and drama productions, the truly special grounds, to name just a of school life benefiting past, current and future Whitgiftians.

The School looks forward to welcoming 10 years having, prior to that, been Head at King's College, Taunton, for five years in Cambridge and Wellington College ir

When asked what he looks forward parents, as well as the wider communit of alumni and other friends. And seeing as quickly as possible!'



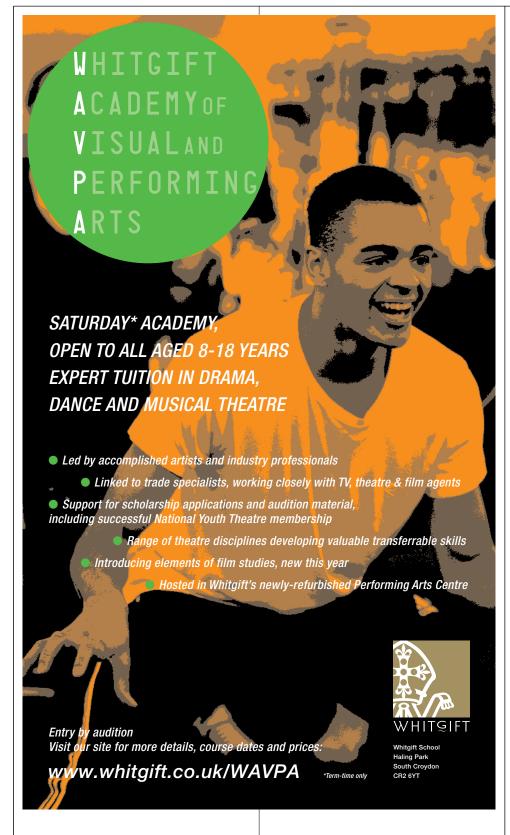
Whitgift has had another strong year and I am proud to say that the prefect team has remained an influential force which has helped the School to do what it does so well. Life is a balance, and the prefects are a prime example of this, excellently balancing their responsibilities with their school work, and managing to have fun along the way. It has been an honour to lead the prefect body as School Captain over this past year, and the opportunity has expanded my perspective of what is possible. My personal highlight of the year must be the prefect performance at the Whitgift Charity Concert, witnessing the hidden talents of many of the prefect body who created a polished, humorous act.

This year is unique as the Headmaster is joining my year group in the 2017 leavers. It has been a pleasure getting to know him, especially over this last year. The excellence, confidence and individuality which makes Whitgift and its pupils so special has been a result of the overarching influence of the Headmaster over the past 26 years. He has been unwavering in his commitment to making Whitgift excel, and I would like to thank him personally for the institution which he has played a great part in maintaining and developing.

As my year group move on, I am certain that Whitgift will continue to be the great School that it is, and so to the prefects of next year, I encourage you with these words: never underestimate the impact that you can have; as you take on this role of increased responsibility, you have a massive opportunity to not only develop the School, but also develop yourselves - so work hard and you will have a successful year.

Marcel Hedman





Front Cover image: Whitgift's take on Tchaikovsky's much-loved opera Eugene Onegin

Photo: Robert Chadwick

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

y





FORTHCOMING EVENTS

LONDON MYRIAD ENSEMBLE: PETER AND THE WOLF

Wednesday 4 October 7pm, Concert Hall Tickets: £5, Whitgift students FREE (by reserving on WisePay only)

HOUSE DRAMA

Friday 13 October

(see events page on Whitgift website for more details)

CHAMBER CHOIR AT COVENTRY CATHEDRAL

Monday 16 October 5.15pm, Coventry Cathedral FREE admission

AUTUMN COLLECTION CONCERT

Thursday 19 October 7pm, Big School FREE admission (by reserving on WisePay only)

BRAHMS: EIN DEUTSCHES REQUIEM

Saturday 18 November
7pm, Croydon Minster
Tickets: £10, Concessions* £5
(see events page on Whitgift website for

CHORISTERS AT THE RITZ

Saturday 2 December 3.30pm and 5.30pm, The Ritz, London Tickets: Booking via The Ritz (see events page on Whitgift website for more details)

THE GOVERNMENT INSPECTOR

Wednesday 6, Thursday 7 and Saturday 9 December 7.30pm, Big School Tickets: £8, Concessions* £4 (by reserving on WisePay only)

CHRISTMAS CONCERT AT ST GEORGE'S, HANOVER SQUARE

Friday 8 December 6.30pm, St George's, Hanover Square Tickets: £10, Concessions* £5 (by reserving on WisePay only)

CAROL SERVICE

Thursday 14 December 7.30pm, Croydon Minster FREE admission (by reserving on WisePay only)

BOOKING INFORMATION

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

*Concessions:

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