

WHITGIFT LIFE

A young boy in a red British Royal Guard uniform, complete with a black bearskin hat adorned with a red plume and a white sash, is playing a black flute. He is looking intently at the instrument. In the background, other members of the band in similar uniforms are visible, though out of focus.

LENT 2023

In Remembrance

Whitgift Grounds Team announced as Independent Grounds Team of the Year 2022
Whitgift holds its first Junior Poetry Recital Evening U16 and U18 Hockey teams
crowned Double Champions 330 Whitgift students perform at the Autumn Collection
Concert at Fairfield Halls and more inside...

DRAMA

THE CAUCASIAN CHALK CIRCLE

In December 2022, Big School was transformed into a theatre-in-the-round for Whitgift's enthralling Senior Drama production of *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*.

The play follows Grusha, a peasant girl who rescues a baby during a time of conflict and becomes a better mother than the child's wealthy biological parents. The play was performed over three nights, featuring a large cast of students from the Sixth Form, as well as some new and some familiar faces from Old Palace of John Whitgift School and the Whitgift Academy of Visual and Performing Arts (WAVPA).

This production showcased not only the students' incredible acting, but also displayed some phenomenal musical talent. Sixth Former Gibran Ahmed narrated through song this thrilling and explosive

drama. The spectacular Rock Band, Strange New Normal, also featuring Whitgift Sixth Formers (Samuel Burke, Patrick Thompson, Joss Hourigan, Miles Coppin, Tanmay Agarwal) played original music by Professional Musician Josiah Chamberlain especially commissioned for the play as well as additional songs by James Spence.

The staging and set design this year also did not disappoint. A revolving circle was placed in the middle of the stage to represent the 'chalk circle', as well as a variety of imaginative props which helped to aid the performance. The use of the handmade puppet for the character of Michael was a beautiful dramatic touch. Director of Drama, Mr Hammond and Graduate Drama Assistant, Miss Jupp directed Fourth Form students Joe Hill and Oliver Richard as to how to bring the puppet to life.

During the intermission, the cast interacted with the audience, making them feel as if they were the villagers. Guests were asked to hold props such as flashlights and were given traditional cakes whilst watching the engagement party of characters Grusha, played by WAVPA member Lucía, and Jussup, played by Sixth Form student Fraser Murray.

This year's cast were truly talented, and it was excellent to see so many students coming together to make the performance a success. With so many technicalities that went into putting this show together, thanks go to the AV team for all their efforts in creating the set, managing the lighting and special effects, not to mention Director of Drama, Mr Hammond and Graduate Drama Assistant, Miss Jupp for staging such a moving show.



DRAMA

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NEWS

NEW HYBRID PITCHES AND AN AWARD WIN

Whitgift has constructed two hybrid pitches to provide resilient and hardwearing winter games pitches and improve the student's access to sporting activities, no matter what the weather.

With an increased level of participation from the School's 1500 students, the new pitches on Big Side and Puntabout will benefit both Junior and Senior pupils and guarantee increased playing time and performance.

The pitches are built with a specified rootzone (sand/soil) overlying drainage, and the rootzone is stitched with millions of fibres that act to reinforce the playing surface. Whitgift is the first independent school in the UK to install a GrassMaster hybrid turf pitch, installed by White Horse Contractors. Pupils and visiting schools will be playing on the same elite surface used by many modern professional football and rugby stadiums around the world.

The Whitgift Grounds team, under the direction of Mr Ratling, has managed these high-end winter sports surfaces and along with an exceptional standard of summer sport provision. This is contributed to them being announced as Independent Grounds Team of the Year at the Grounds Management Association national industry awards 2022. The award was won by Whitgift in 2015, and the School was a finalist again in 2019. All of this demonstrates a level of consistency in excellence of Grounds Management recognised at a national level.

In January 2023, their fantastic work was also recognised with an article and front cover feature in [Turf Matters Magazine](#). Congratulations and huge thanks go to the entire team.

The Whitgift Grounds team was announced as Independent Grounds Team of the Year 2022



GREENPOWER INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONS

Whitgift Racing travelled to Goodwood Motor Circuit in October 2022, and after an exciting day of racing, was crowned Greenpower International Champions in the F24 kit car.

This was the culmination of six years' work of many different students making continual improvements to the School's electric racing car. The car competes in the F24 kit car category for 11-15 year olds, who have based their car on a pre-built chassis. Although one of the slower categories, it is the most highly contested with over 100 schools/clubs entering, only 40 of which qualify for the finals.



The race is a challenge to see which car can travel the furthest distance in 90 minutes on one set of batteries. As all teams use the same motor and batteries, teams strive to design and build the most lightweight and efficient car possible.

In the first race, a couple of slow pit stops resulted in us dropping back in the middle of the race and having to push hard to catch up with the other cars. Entering the last stages of the race, the car recovered to second place but did not manage to overhaul the leader as the batteries started to run low. With a couple of hours to spare before the next race, lots of practice around the pit stop choreography took place to ensure a quick driver transition.

In the final race, Whitgift's car quickly established a lead over the others, and the improved pit stops allowed the car to stay in the lead throughout the race. The final fifteen minutes of the race saw a decreased pace as the end of the battery's life approached. With two other cars closing the gap, the

car just managed to hold on to 1st place until the checkered flag.

Whitgift Racing is therefore now Greenpower International Champions in the F24 kit car. Congratulations to all the boys who have been involved in designing, building, and driving the car over the last six years. Head of STEM, Mr Taylor commented, "Well done to all the boys involved, both past and present, who have given up their free time to make continued improvements to the car. This result is a testament to their dedication and perseverance."

Thank you also to Mr Taylor and all the staff who have worked so hard on this project.



MUG PRINTING IN DTE

In October 2022, Fourth Form Design, Technology & Engineering (DTE) students were tasked with creating a customised mug by experimenting with a dye sublimation printer, under the direction of Head of DTE, Mr Seal.

The purpose of the lesson was to learn about polymers, graphics and how to use an online package which is used in the industry, Canva.

Mr Seal commented "We linked the lesson to our theory knowledge of new and emerging technologies, which was our topic for the term. The students discussed how the process could be used to start up

a company with just a few hundred pounds worth of investment. They looked at crowdfunding and then online retailing techniques such as Etsy. After all this hard work, they were keen to enjoy a nice cup of tea in their personalised mugs!"

Since the success of the experiment, staff in the DTE department have been inspired to create some Whitgift inspired mugs, with designs using peacock feathers.



NEWS

THE 'UP THE GREATNESS' PROJECT

Old Whitgiftian (OW), Oluwani Akintunde (2011-2018) launched the 'Up The Greatness' project in 2022, in which recent OWs returned to the School to share their experiences of being a student at Whitgift, and what they have accomplished since leaving.

Initially the project was aimed at reconnecting OWs with the School. However, Oluwani soon realised the importance for current students to be motivated and understand that greatness can be achieved by all, regardless of what subject or industry they choose to follow.

With the help of Pastoral Deputy Mr Kirby, Oluwani has hosted over eight panels for students across different year groups.

Oluwani led a Q&A with the OWs and then the students had the opportunity to ask them questions to explore their experiences and challenges in more depth. Many students highlighted the uniqueness and relevancy of the project to



OLUWANI INTERVIEWS THE HEADMASTER

They were able to hear from a wide range of OWs from entrepreneur to sportsmen, musician to journalist, filmmaker to Guardsman.

their current stages in life. They were able to hear from a wide range of OWs from entrepreneur to sportsmen, musician to journalist, filmmaker to Guardsman.

Whitgift also welcomed back *Dragon's Den's* youngest entrepreneur, Arminder Dhillon who shared his journey to inventing The Boot Buddy, which thoroughly engaged all the students. Callum Hudson-Odoi (Chelsea Football Club [on loan to Bayer Leverkusen] & England) also returned to speak to the students about his transition from being playing football at Whitgift to playing football in stadiums around the world.

Thank you to all the OWs who took the time to return to the School and speak with the students. Also to Oluwani for proactively engaging with the wider community and initiating the launch of a successful project. The School looks forward to the project continuing and welcoming back more OWs in the near future. Please do get in touch if you would be able to get involved.



ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT VISITORS

Every term, Whitgift has the pleasure of welcoming numerous visiting speakers to talk to students as part of the Academic Enrichment programme.

The aim is for students to engage with experts from a range of disciplines and backgrounds, hopefully to inspire them, but also to show the many forms that scholarship can take. This year, parents were also invited to attend the talks, alongside a number of local schools through Mr Marlow's work as Director of Partnerships & Community.

Over 200 students attended Alex Aiken's (Executive Director for Government Communication) talk on the realities of how government works. In December 2022 over 300 students listened to British environmental journalist, broadcaster and non-fiction author Gaia Vince as she talk about examining the Anthropocene Era.

External speaker Roger Sutcliffe visited Whitgift in September 2022 to engage pupils in discussion on global affairs. Author of the IGCSE on Global Perspectives and the Philosophy for Children (P4C) book 'Thinking Moves', Roger introduced some practical classroom tools and techniques to encourage critical thinking.

In January 2023, the first speaker of the Lent Term was British Historian, Professor Hakim Adi who spoke on the subject of 'Prominent Black Britons of the 19th Century'. The School looks forward to welcoming many more speakers over the coming months.



JUNIOR LITERARY FESTIVAL

On Friday 18 November, Lower First and First Form students participated in Whitgift's annual Junior Literary Festival. The day is inspired by the famous Hay Festival, a literature event, founded in 1988 which is held in Hay-on-Wye, Wales.

For the opening speaker of the day, Whitgift welcomed back author and black belt martial artist, Chris Bradford to come and speak to the students about his method of writing and his love for Japanese culture and martial arts. Chris explained that he trained to become a black belt for his most recent book series 'The Young Samurai.' His talk provided excitement and enthusiasm for all pupils, giving helpful writing tips to enlighten students how to create a story and ways to develop their writing skills.

Chris commented, "A true samurai welcome greeted my return to Whitgift. The pupils threw themselves into the show with black belt levels of enthusiasm. They demonstrated real ninja listening skills and asked incisive questions as sharp as a samurai sword. A huge pleasure to inspire such boys in the love of reading."

This year the School also had the pleasure of welcoming back Whitgift favourites Matt Whyman, Nikki Sheehan, Karl Nova and Stephen Davies, as well as a first time visit from Robin Price. The Junior Years' pupils engaged in interactive and creative workshops hosted by each author as a way of pupils collaborating to create their own writing.

Head of Junior English, Mrs Mason explained that, "As an English department we are committed to

encouraging and enthusing our students to engage in reading in all its forms and know only too well the importance of instilling a life-long love of reading. Reading is not only a passport to academic success but is also a vital part of our wellbeing and our ability to connect with others from varied cultures, pasts and futures."

It was a lively and interactive day in which all pupils were encouraged to get creative and think about the art of storytelling in all its forms.



The Junior Years' pupils engaged in interactive and creative workshops

RUGBY TOUR TO DUBAI

Following an outstanding Rugby season both on and off the pitch, 19 Upper Sixth Formers enjoyed a six-day Rugby tour to Dubai in December 2022.

Upon arrival, the students played their first match on Tuesday evening against Dubai Exiles U19s at The Sevens Stadium, winning 27-26 at the last kick of the game. The performance on the pitch was excellent and a fantastic way to start the tour, especially in the last 10 minutes as the players came back from 26-17.

The Sixth Formers thoroughly enjoyed their visit to the Burj Khalifa and to the Dubai Mall, which was topped off with an afternoon at Wild Wadi Water Park the following day.

On Thursday morning, the students met with the Director of Rugby and Director of Sport at Dubai College and enjoyed a tour of their facilities, before their second match. The game was a very tight affair initially, but the Whitgift players pulled away in the second half and won 43-14. A fantastic game, followed by dinner in the evening at local restaurants, courtesy of the students' parents as a thank you for putting on the tour.



Friday was a relaxing morning spent by the pool, before a fascinating City Tour of Old Dubai and the Souks in the afternoon. In the evening, back at the hotel, the End of Tour Dinner took place, and the following prizes were presented:

Forward of Tour – Max Hammond
Back of Tour – Sam Johnson
Most improved player of Tour – Harry Fitzgerald
Man of Tour - Will Von Dadelszen

The final day of the tour involved a trip to Jumeriah Beach Residents for students to enjoy some time at the beach, before heading out for a Desert Safari and BBQ.

All the Upper Sixth students thoroughly appreciated the opportunity to go on a tour, having missed out on a planned tour to South Africa in 2021. Thank you to all the staff involved for their support in making this a wonderful experience.



All the Upper Sixth students thoroughly appreciated the opportunity to go on a tour



WHITGIFT CONVERSATIONS

This action-packed term saw the start of Season two of the School's podcast, Whitgift Conversations, with eight speakers talking about different aspects of school life.

The term kicked off with an episode from the Headmaster, who wrapped up the events over the course of the Summer, including the success of the International Summer School, numerous sports camps as well as lots of exam results days! Next in line was Head of Languages, Mr Hunt who explained his passion for languages as well as the benefits of learning a language.

With high demands for some Alumni speakers on the podcast, the next episode featured Old Whitgiftians (OW) Oluwani Akintunde, George Hammond and Aristot Benz Salomon reminiscing about their time at Whitgift. Co-ordinator of EAL, Marianne Ofner touched on English as an additional language (EAL). She spoke about

why she enjoys working in this area and how she helps pupils at Whitgift.

Episode five's guest speaker was Mr Bates, the Director of International Education, who spoke about the success of the International Summer School and plans to open a school in India.

Mr Bhatti was next to inform listeners about his new role as Head of Ideatum, a new and exciting addition to the School curriculum. The episode shed light on what 'Ideatum' means and how this new subject helps the students.

Archivist, Mr Wood, took us back to the past and enlightened listeners about the history of the School and what his role at Whitgift consists of. The final episode of the season was with Director of Music, Mr Elsom and Assistant Director, Mr Morrison reflecting on the success of the Music department in 2022.

The School has lots of exciting speakers lined up for 2023... stay tuned for some more engaging 'Whitgift Conversations' with students, staff and OWs. Listen to the current episodes here: www.whitgift.co.uk/whitgift-conversations



CRIME SCENE LESSON

Lower First Form pupils started learning about Forensic Science in November 2022, with their first lesson providing a fun and exciting introduction to the topic.

Students were tasked with acting as Scenes of Crime Officers (SOCOs) which they thoroughly enjoyed. Sami Carroll commented, "It was good fun because it was as if we were real forensic scientists." Pupils were given clues to locate the crime scene and once found, they were tasked with collecting different powders and liquids, as well as taking measurements of mysterious footprints using a UV light torch.

Over the term, with the evidence collected, students tested the samples using various techniques such as filtration, chromatography and fingerprinting to allow them to identify the culprit!

Justin Kravets commented, "I can't wait to uncover more mysteries in further lessons and [to] learn more about forensics in the future."





CCF SUMMARY

Overview

The Combined Cadet Force (CCF) currently has 240 cadets from Whitgift and partnership schools, Old Palace of John Whitgift and Thomas More, with the Third Form programme welcoming 130 pupil volunteers to take part in CCF on Tuesday afternoons each week. Results from the various CCF training led to the promotion for Whitgift's three senior Non-commissioned Officers (NCO) and Upper Sixth Formers, Monty Arris, Ben Read and Archie Adlington, to the rank of Cadet Warrant Officer. All Fourth Form cadets who attended were also awarded the Basic Army Proficiency Certificate (APC) – this is signified by a red star worn on their arm patches.

OWs take part in last year's historic events

In September 2022, recent Old Whitgiftians were involved in Kings Proclamation ceremony and the late HM Queen Elizabeth II's funeral. This included at least one Guardsman who lined the route of the funeral, and four members of the Honourable Artillery Company Corps of Drums including the Drum Major (leading the London City parade). Most notably, Major Andy Dickinson, Coldstream Guards, was honoured with the role of Captain of the Kings Guard on the Proclamation Ceremony, leading the first 'Kings' Guard in 70 Years and providing the orders for the first '3 Cheers' for the new King. The School is immensely proud of all their contributions and it was an honour to see former CCF cadets in such prestigious roles.

CCF staff honoured for their service

Six Whitgift CCF staff were awarded the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal for more than five years' service and in honour of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Medals were awarded and presented in October 2022 to Major Glenn Hogben, Major James Stremes, SSI Gary

Docherty, Captain Paul Harrup, Captain Nick Cooley and Captain Kieron Strecker.

RAF cadets take to the skies

In October, three of Whitgift's Royal Air Force (RAF) cadets also took flight for the first time since the pandemic. Upper Sixth Formers Archie Adlington and Ed Crossland, and Fifth Former Tom Bennett each successfully flew gliders at Royal Air Force (RAF) Kenley and obtained their 'Blue' Pilots Wings. This was a great opportunity; all

the students were a credit to the School and really enjoyed the experience.

Looking ahead

Lots of activities have been planned for the upcoming year, to include an instructional training course for Fourth Form cadets and a 4-day residential camp for Third Form recruits. Thank you to all the staff who support or volunteer to help the CCF, enabling the School to deliver the activities and experiences the students require.



WOODWIND COMPETITION

In early October, Whitgift's annual Woodwind Competition took place. All students showcased high levels of musicality within their respective class: Class A (Grade 0-3), B (Grades 4-6) and C (Grades 7+).

Whitgift was lucky enough to welcome Chamber Musician, Hilary Dennis to adjudicate the competition. Hilary is an accomplished oboist and pianist and works for the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM), as an examiner. She commented on the level of maturity and expressive playing that was shown through each performance. She also conveyed how impressed she was, with the musicians playing at "such a high level." Her message to the students was to highlight the benefits of playing for learning and development; from social benefits to the intrinsic mental effects which grants aptitude and wellbeing.

Director of Music, Mr Elsom commented, "...how impressive it is that these young students are managing to fill a space with their playing." He expressed how hard the students have worked, "...and how beautifully [the] music came across." He also thanked Head of Keyboard Mr Lane for accompanying the fantastic performances.



Congratulations to all the winners, particularly those who achieved 1st place:

- > **Class A** – George Blench (First Form) (Saxophone)
- > **Class B** – Ashwiyn Sekaran (Fifth Form) (Saxophone)
- > **Class C** – Michael So (Third Form) (Clarinet)

A special mention to Fifth Former, Justin Fok who achieved the Jonathan Myall Music Award. This award is given to a pupil who shows outstanding potential within the Woodwind field.



JUNIOR POETRY RECITAL EVENING

In October 2022, to celebrate National Poetry Day, Whitgift held its first Junior Poetry Recital Evening. Every pupil in the Junior School was tasked with memorising a poem based on nature and the environment for this year's theme. A winning boy from each year was then selected to perform their chosen piece on the Big School stage.

Staff, students and parents were treated to choral recitals from the Junior and Second Form Literacy Society, and all students put huge effort and enthusiasm into learning their chosen literature.

On the night, the adjudicators were Sixth Form Poetry Captain Bakari Leon, and former Whitgift English Teacher, Mr Wilson, who had the difficult task of awarding a 'winner' for each year group.

Head of Junior English, Mrs Mason commented, "As an English



department and school, we value poetry and believe that having even a few lines of verse in your head and in your heart is good for the soul. The evening was extremely uplifting, which reminded us of the power of language and how brave and resilient Whitgiftians are – the whole department is very proud of them."

The final winners were as follows:

- > Rafael Sharma (Lower First Form) – *Save Our Earth*
- > Sam McIntyre (First Form) – *The Pig*
- > George Bennett (Second Form) – *The Electric House*



NEWS

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Whitgift staff and students have attended several conferences in the Michaelmas Term with other independent schools to discuss diversity and inclusion initiatives as part of a concerted push for better education experiences for all students. In October 2022, Whitgift's School Captain Team joined students from 22 schools across Greater London to participate in the inaugural Charter Student Leadership Conference, focused on diversity and inclusion, and held at Wimbledon High School.

Whitgift Afro-Caribbean Society

The Whitgift Afro-Caribbean Society (WACS) has continued to meet bi-weekly to discuss current and historical topics, with an emphasis on the Afro-Caribbean perspective. Many sessions are in the form of an open discussion but there have also been presentations delivered by members of the Sixth Form to younger students.



Head of Lower First Form, Mr Powell attended as a panelist and facilitator at the African Caribbean Education Network (ACEN) Annual Conference 2022. He met with fellow educators passionate about anti-racism and led a workshop discussing how to engage with the student voice within your school. The ACS continue to invite local community leaders to discuss efforts to improve the lives of young people in Croydon.

Harlequins Black History Month Creative Competition

In September 2022, Harlequins invited young artists and designers from London and surrounding areas to create a piece of artwork which represents and celebrates Black History Month for their Creative Competition. A range of entries were received, and



Third Former Dylan Mulvey was chosen as the winner of the competition.

The winning design, entitled 'Harlequins. This is The Stoop. This is our Home.' was hand drawn by Dylan using Posca Pens on A3 Paper. Dylan is a Harlequins fan and a member of the affiliate club Battersea Ironsides. He said, "As a Harlequins supporter I believe that we have a welcoming and inclusive club and that we need to continue to ensure that we celebrate diversity and recognise the importance that black players have had in the history of our club."

Dylan's design was showcased around the Stoop during the month of October, and across a range of merchandise which was available to purchase at the Harlequins v Leicester Tigers match-day on Sunday 16 October, where Dylan and his family attended as special guests. All profits were donated to the Harlequins Foundation. The team's warm-up shirts for the match also showcased the design.

Hindu Students' Forum

In January 2023, the Whitgift Hindu Students' Forum met for the first time in the School's 427-year



history, with 14 students from across all year groups sharing great ideas for creating a community with longevity and purpose. The group considered key events in the calendar, including Diwali – the Hindu New Year – with plans already afoot to mark the celebration as an entire community.

Chinese New Year

Whitgift celebrated the Year of the Rabbit with the annual Chinese feast in the dining hall! Students and staff thoroughly enjoyed the vast array of options, including sweet and sour chicken and Chinese spiced pork belly, alongside noodles, egg-fried rice and a fortune cookie. This was all topped off by delicious banana fritters served with toffee sauce. Thank you to the entire Chartwells Catering team for another memorable celebration for the whole school and especially Head Chef, Mr Karpinski and General Manager, Ms Harvey.



DOUBLE INDOOR HOCKEY CHAMPIONS

In January 2023, Whitgift was pleased to again host the Indoor Hockey School Super6s Boys' National Championship Finals 2023, with both the U16 and U18 teams making it to the finals following a great season and subsequently being crowned Double Champions.

Whitgift was last crowned Double Indoor Hockey Champions in 2019, and prior to that in 2011, and still remains the only school to have ever won the Double Indoors, now for the third time.

The U16 team played some fantastic hockey, scoring 110 goals over the 16 games played, and only conceding nine goals. After a convincing win against Caterham School, the team finished in 1st place and became National Champions.

The U18 team also played superbly the following day, winning a competitive semi-final match against the current Indoor Champions, Ipswich School. The players' hard work and dedication paid off in the finals against Repton School, winning 4:2 in the pool match, and 4:3 in the final to make it Double Indoor National Champions.

Congratulations to both the U16 and U18 teams on a successful victory, and to Director of Hockey Dr Stagno, universally accepted as the driving force behind this achievement.



Whitgift remain the only school to have ever won the Double Indoors



NEWS

OXBRIDGE OFFERS FOR 2023

Congratulations to the 11 Whitgiftians (some of whom are pictured with the Headmaster) who achieved Oxbridge offers for 2023 entry to courses including computer science, engineering, music and languages.

The focus, energy and determination of all students has paid off, with the ongoing support from Mr Alcock (Head of Higher Education) and the entire Sixth Form team alongside their tutors. Whitgift would like to wish all the offer holders the best of luck as they continue to secure their university placements.



WHITGIFT CAREERS CONVENTION

The annual Whitgift Careers Convention took place on Tuesday 15 November 2022 with approximately 400 Fifth Form and Lower Sixth Form students in attendance.

Advisers from a wide range of vocations came to Whitgift to share their experiences and expertise with the students, give practical, impartial advice and answer any questions. Students benefited from twenty talks from a variety of companies including Amazon, Sony, and Morgan Stanley covering a range of careers including Law, Finance, Medicine, Technology, Science, Sports and the Arts & Media.

82 advisers attended, including Old Whitgiftians and parents, with one adviser commenting, "[they were] the most levelheaded set of boys I have met during my time as an advisor. Good questions and clear interest in the business area I represented."

Another adviser explained, "The boys are such a credit to the school. Each one I spoke to was so polite, engaged and a pleasure to

speak to. I would happily have any of them as a work colleague!"

The School would like to thank all the advisers for giving up their time to help support students during this annual event.

Students benefited from twenty talks from a variety of companies



EPQ CELEBRATION EVENING

The Extended Project qualification (EPQ) is offered to A Level students in addition to their four A Level subjects, to help them earn extra UCAS points while learning highly valued skills. The qualification gives students the opportunity to write a dissertation, conduct an investigation, undertake a performance or produce an artefact on a subject of entirely their own choosing.

In September 2022, the much-anticipated annual EPQ Celebration Evening took place, hosted by Miss Cooper (Head of EPQ), with presentations from Upper Sixth students.

Students then took part in a Q&A session with a panel of staff judges: the Headmaster, Mr Kirby (Pastoral Deputy) and Ms Goldberg (Assistant Head – Learning & Innovation).

The Whitgift community had the opportunity to listen to Matthew Sayer's presentation on writing a hip hop album and listen to some excerpts from it. Matthew provided us with an insight into some of the influences he had drawn on while creating the tracks.

Joe Reynolds then presented a well-researched discussion around whether Mathematics is a discovery or an invention. Joe did a fascinating presentation, exploring many different disciplines in his project. Thomas Kiely's research focused on the question 'to what extent did the Scottish Independence Referendum create an informal style of independence after 2014, despite the no vote?' He explored the impact of contemporary events, the Scotland Act 2016 and Devolved vs Reserved matters.

Well done to all the students who completed their EPQ projects over the last year

After the interval, Arhaan Haridas provided insights around the topic of euthanasia, and whether assisted dying should be legalised in the United Kingdom, with proposed eligibility criteria. A particularly poignant moment on the night was Spike Wyatt's careful navigation of the debate surrounding the racism inherent in a childhood favourite, *Tintin*. And finally, Nifemi Bankole closed the evening with a presentation on the 'Black Identity', which showcased his ability to holistically analyse and respond effortlessly to some thoughtful questions asked of him by the panel.

Well done to all the students who completed their EPQ projects over the last year and for demonstrating excellent research and organisational skills.



ARKWRIGHT ENGINEERING SCHOLARSHIPS

Two Lower Sixth students, Angus Heasman Tree and Femi Owolade-Coombes, were awarded prestigious **Arkwright Engineering Scholarships** in October 2022. These scholarships are open to applications from students who aim to become future leaders in engineering, computing or technical design.

Angus and Femi were selected after a rigorous set of assessments including an Aptitude paper where they had to demonstrate creativity and technical prowess in responding to an engineering challenge. They were then selected to discuss their GCSE projects and engineering interests with a panel of interviewers.

The students now join last year's Upper Sixth student and Arkwright



scholar Ali El Sayed as Whitgift's future leaders in engineering. Each student received £300 to support their A Level studies and will have unique opportunities to spend time with like-minded scholars, participating in work experience, and be mentored by their respective sponsors, Rolls Royce, The Worshipful Company of Scientific Instrument makers and The Worshipful Company of Needlemakers.

**Future leaders
in engineering
computing or
technical design**

RETURN OF THE INFORMAL CONCERT

Michaelmas 2022 saw the return of the Informal Concert series at Whitgift. These concerts, held in the Song School, give students the chance to perform in a relaxed environment to a small, supportive audience.



Assistant Director of Music, Mr Morrison explained that "these concerts are a fantastic opportunity for pupils to experience performing

in front of an audience. For some, performing in exams can cause a lot of anxiety, so providing this platform can help ease their nerves of an exam or competition. The pupils have appreciated these opportunities and we already have two planned for the first half of the Lent Term. Head of Keyboard, Mr Lane has been instrumental in the organisation of these concerts, encouraging pupils to perform, and accompanying them for the performances."

The School looks forward to another successful year in the Music department, featuring many more Informal concerts.



THE NEW VIEWS WRITERS GROUP

Three pupils from the Sixth Form regularly attend the New Views Writers Group, a collective that meets fortnightly to acquire and deepen skills in writing scripts for live performances.

The New Views Writers Group aims to help pupils write in a supportive environment, with the purpose of creating a short 30-minute play, which can be submitted to the National Theatre's New Views Playwriting competition. The lucky winner of this will have their play performed at the National Theatre.



The New Views Writers Group aims to help pupils write in a supportive environment

On 14 September 2022, last year's New Views Writers Group had a successful rehearsed reading showcase. Sixth Form pupils Bakari Leon and Luke Ward were able to present their two short plays with a group of actors to an audience.

Recently the playwright, Ryan Craig delivered a professional playwrighting workshop to the pupils. As part of the National Theatre New View Playwriting competition, he will be mentoring the students in developing their short play.

PUPPETRY WORKSHOP

In October 2022, renowned puppetry experts from The Little Angel Theatre visited Whitgift for a full day of exciting workshops.

The Little Angel Theatre is passionate about the use of puppetry in theatre and has been using it to create stories with emotion since they opened in 1961. Their aim is to ignite an interest and excitement around this artistry, extending the limits of what puppetry can be, whilst retaining its heritage.

Drama Teacher, Miss Spedding explained "Students from First Form to Fourth Form were able to attend the whole-day workshop. They learnt essential skills and techniques needed to bring objects and puppets alive with movement and emotion.

They started with a variety of group activities on collaboration and synchronisation and went on to create routines puppeteering fabric bunraku puppets. The workshop was a great success and helped to enthuse students to take on the challenge of puppeteering in the school shows this year – both *Caucasian Chalk Circle* and *Feathers in the Snow*."

These skills were put into practice for the Senior production of *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*. Fourth Form students Joe Hill and Oliver Richard used their knowledge gained from this insightful workshop to bring the puppet of *Michael* to life.



Fourth Form students Joe Hill and Oliver Richard used knowledge gained from this insightful workshop to bring the puppet of Michael to life

MUSIC

CHORISTERS AT WHITGIFT

Director of Choral Music, Mr Miller has been working hard with the ensembles of singers within the Music department. They have performed in several local and prestigious venues over the last year such as the Croydon Minster, Fairfield Halls and Westminster Cathedral.

The Michaelmas Term kicked off with the choristers and choral scholars singing for the Civic Memorial for Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. This was a huge honour for Whitgift singers to be performing at, on such an important occasion.

In November, the annual Remembrance Service took place, led by the Chaplain, the Reverend Alan Bayes. The choristers created a beautiful atmosphere for the Whitgift Community, including Alumni and residents of Whitgift House, to reflect and remember those who were lost. Mr Miller is also Director of Music at the Croydon Minster, which allows students at Whitgift to be involved in various events at the Minster. On Saturday 12 November 2022, selected Whitgift pupils were involved in the *Lux Aeterna* Concert which provided an evening of reflective music. The following day the Advent Carol Service took place.

In 2022, The Minster launched a state primary school singing programme, in which four different schools attend each week. In December the schools came together in the Minster for 'Croydon Sings!', giving Whitgift choristers the opportunity to become Ambassadors, performing for and with the primary school pupils.

The Michaelmas Term was wrapped up in traditional style with the annual Whitgift Carol Service on Thursday 15 December 2022, at the Croydon Minster. Staff, and Third Form students and parents were welcomed to attend, with lots of family favourites being sung by the choristers.

The Choral Evensong broadcast took place over the Christmas holidays once again, live on BBC Radio 3. With an audience of 1.5 million listeners a week, being involved in this was a huge honour for the students.

Alongside these events, the Whitgift choristers have maintained their weekly choral output; three services of Choral Evensong each week at the Minster.

The School are looking forward to another busy year of choral events in 2023.



The choristers have performed in several local and prestigious venues over the last year

MUSIC



NEWS

CHRISTMAS AT WHITGIFT

Lots of festive activities and events took place around the School in the lead up to Christmas.

Wreath making

The Horticulture Club run by Biology Teacher, Mr Nicholls and Head Gardener, Mr Mallett helped students create Christmas wreaths for their families. Students also helped to make a beautiful wreath that took pride of place on the doorway to North Entrance.



Students created Christmas wreaths for their families



Performance of *The Snowman*

Students and staff were welcomed into the Concert Hall to hear the choristers perform songs from Howard Blake's, *The Snowman*, all accompanied by Head of Keyboard, Mr Lane. Photos from the movie were played on a slideshow whilst the performance was narrated by Drama Teacher, Miss Spedding.

Carol Service at Croydon Minster

The annual Carol Service at the Croydon Minster is always a highlight of the year, and it took place on Thursday 15 December. The Whitgift Chamber Choir sang carols to the congregation of Third Form students, their families and staff. A carol written by Whitgift's Director of Music, Mr Elsom was also performed for the first time.



Theatre comes to Big School

First and Second Form pupils welcomed the Quantum Theatre to Whitgift for a performance of 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens. It was an interactive and vibrant performance that ended the term on a high.

Carol singing

On the final day of the Michaelmas Term, staff and members of the Upper Sixth Form welcomed pupils by singing Christmas carols from the steps of the Concert Hall. A wonderful festive way to end the term.



SKI CHAMPIONSHIPS 2022

Winter sports are an integral part of Whitgift's Outdoor Education provision and the School offers two recreational trips per year, as well as taking a team to the Independent School Ski Championships and a ski touring trip in Norway. The team is well-established and has been racing and competing for around 15 years in international slalom, giant slalom and dual slalom events.

Training takes place in Holland over four days in October and students are put through their paces by expert coaches from Impulse Racing. Head of Outdoor Education Mr Green and Outdoor Activities Assistant Mr Gilkinson, both of whom have plenty of past race experience, also supported.

In the Trinity Term students sign up for trials at Hemel Hempstead so that the final team can be selected.

In 2022, 37 Whitgiftians (First Form–Upper Sixth) competed in the Independent School Ski Championships in France. They achieved Senior Team Silver in slalom and combined, and the Senior Team Gold in giant slalom, crowning them [National Champions](#).



The Senior Team were crowned National Champions

AQUATICS AT WHITGIFT

Whitgift welcomed a new cohort of Lower First and First Form students to the Aquatic sports programme in September 2022, which includes Swimming and Water Polo. Through early assessments the School has been able to identify the students who would benefit from the lunchtime progressive swimming lessons as well as those with the potential to join the competitive teams. It has been rewarding to observe the progress made whilst they learn this essential life skill.

Competitions

Whitgift's competitive swimmers participated in a variety of fixtures including the English Schools Swimming Association (ESSA) National Relay Championships, Year 7 & 8 London League, the Arena League, Crawley Winter Chaser, Swim England Winter Regionals, and the Swim England Winter Nationals. The team has achieved notable success, placing

4th in the National relay finals, gaining promotion in the Swim England Arena Swimming League. Fifth Former Alex Corver became a regional champion in the U16 category and placed 6th in the Swim England Winter Nationals in the U18 category despite being two years younger than the age group. The swimming programme's affiliation with the National Governing Body, Swim England, has significantly increased opportunities for competitive swimmers.

Water Polo achievements

Whitgift's Water Polo teams have performed exceptionally well with all age groups qualifying for the national finals, which take place in the Trinity Term. Water Polo is gaining in popularity as evidenced by the success of the October Water Polo camp run by Head of Aquatics, Mr Smith.

Congratulations to Matteo Antonelli (Fourth Form), Michelangelo Antonelli (Second Form) and Daniel

The team has achieved notable success

Rahnama (Third Form), along with the Head Water Polo Coach, Mr Palumbo who won the U15 National Water Polo Championships with their club, London Penguins. This is a great achievement for the students, who have transitioned from learning the game at school to winning a national title with a club.



NEWS

FIRST FORM HUMANUTOPIA WORKSHOP

In October 2022, First Form students took part in the annual Humanutopia 'Who am I?' workshop in Big School.

The workshop, part of the Whitgift 7 programme for First Formers, is focused on personal development and wellbeing. It aims to drive self-reflection in themes such as community and kindness, whilst developing critical life skills and encouraging students to have greater motivation and ownership of their education.

Third Form Junior Prefects also attended the workshop to guide their younger peers and help keep their discussions focused. Having experienced the programme themselves when they were in First Form, they had a strong affinity to the content. The Prefects were happy to share and reflect on how the workshop helped them, also talking about what they enjoyed most; from expanding their friendships to developing their confidence.



The workshop is focused on personal development and wellbeing



LAUNCH OF IDEATUM

In September 2022 Whitgift launched *Ideatum*, a unique addition to the academic curriculum and the pastoral programme.

Ideatum encompasses the values, attitudes and behaviours found in PSHEE, Citizenship, Modern Social Science and Critical Thinking in a weekly timetabled lesson for all students in the Lower First to Fourth Form and the Lower Sixth Form. Currently, students in the Fifth and Upper Sixth Form have fortnightly Tutor sessions dedicated to the subject.

Ideatum is delivered by a team of Whitgift teachers through age and developmentally appropriate means. The subject is designed to engrain a sense of challenge, personal reflection and collaboration. Under the direction of Head of Ideatum, Mr Bhatti, students benefit from this tailored programme, contributing to the development of truly well-rounded critical thinkers armed with the transferable skills to succeed.



YOUNG MINDS HELLO YELLOW CAMPAIGN

Whitgift marked World Mental Health Day on Monday 10 October 2022 with the theme 'Make Mental Health & Wellbeing for All a Global Priority', in support of the Young Minds Hello Yellow campaign.

The aim of the campaign is to show young people that how they feel matters, and that there are people around them who care. Given the potential effects of the coronavirus pandemic, wars, displacement, and the climate emergency, this year's theme aimed to rekindle efforts to make the world a better place by coming together as a community, however big or small.

The Whitgift community showed its support by wearing a splash of yellow, fundraising with yellow-themed bake sales courtesy of the First and Lower First Forms, running a mile around the School grounds and gardening on the Terrace with the Grounds Team.

As well as other activities, mindful colouring and doodling took place in the Art department and a film screening of *Inside Out* after school. Whitgift raised almost £1500 for Young Minds on World Mental Health Day. Thank you to everyone who took part and donated to this annual good cause.



Whitgift raised almost £1500 for Young Minds on World Mental Health Day

FOUNDER'S HOUSE FIREWORKS

In November 2022, the annual Founder's House fireworks display took place on Puntabout. Founder's House boarders and staff warmly welcomed visitors with sparklers, hotdogs and hot chocolate.



STRING COMPETITION

In December 2022 the annual String Competition provided a supportive and fun environment to showcase the talent of Whitgift's finest Violin, Viola and Cello players.

The competition was split into three different classes: Class A, B and C.

Graduate Music Assistant, Mr Ellson, adjudicated the Class A performances, with the second half judged by conductor, composer and musicologist Nigel Springthorpe. It was an honour to welcome such an accomplished professional in this field to Whitgift.

Mr Ellson commented, "It was a fabulous day of music and I feel very privileged to have adjudicated Class A and see the display of young string-playing talent at this school. As I said on the day, it is good to know that the future of Mr Winter's [Whitgift's Director of Orchestral Music] string groups is secure in the hands of these pupils. The standard of playing in the higher classes was just immense, and it was truly a treat to listen to them all play their instruments that they so clearly adore."

The winners of each class were as follows:

- > Third Former, Theeran Thirulinganathan (Class A Grade 1-3)
- > Second Former, Sam Bristow (Class B Grade 4-6)
- > Upper Sixth Former, Bryan Wong (Class C Grade 7+)

Congratulations to all the students who took part and a special congratulations to First Former, Austin Young for winning the Tim Posner Cup, which is awarded to a string player with outstanding potential. A further thank you to the adjudicators and the accompanists, Mr Winter and Mr Lane (Head of Keyboard).



NEWS

LOWER FIRST RESIDENTIAL TRIP

Lower First Form students embarked on an exciting weekend of team-building activities at the Surrey Outdoor Learning & Development facility High Ashurst in September 2022.

Whether involved in building fires, trekking through small caves or climbing high ropes, each activity was tailored to challenge and stimulate each student to go beyond their comfort zone.

Accompanied by the year group staff, this was a chance to begin their Whitgift journey by establishing and enhancing friendships through shared experiences in a supportive environment. It was a thoroughly enjoyable and rewarding trip for all involved.

Zach Bance

The experience will never leave me. A trip I will never forget

Seb Austin

I enjoyed the trip because it was fun to learn about tracking and survival. I like the songs we sang in the evening around the campfire

Jayveer Mehan

The residential was brilliant as it was a great way to bond with other pupils and the activities were a lot of fun

Rhean Patel

At the residential, I was really happy to have rooms with different forms. My favourite part was when we made shelters out of wood and I loved the campfire song

Musa Muhammad

I loved the trip, especially the high ropes. And I got to make new friends. The beds were also cool because they were bunked. This is something I will never forget

Teddy Lipscombe

I liked the trip because I enjoyed living with my friends and doing the activities, especially the high ropes





INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL – A GREAT WAY TO SPEND THE SUMMER

Student Hosts are pupils from Whitgift School and Old Palace of John Whitgift School from First Form to Lower Sixth who take part in the International Summer School (ISS) alongside international students.

The involvement of British students provides great benefit to the visiting English language learners' experience, helping them develop fluency and communicative confidence through meaningful collaborative activities.

The benefits are mutual in that Student Hosts are presented with a fantastic opportunity to develop their cultural awareness, communication and teamworking skills. They often end up with long-lasting friendships with students from all over the world. This is something that benefits their own language learning and future international connections, whilst having a great deal of fun!

Two Student Hosts from last year's ISS, Nifemi Bankole (Upper Sixth Form) and Zachary Underwood (Second Form) reflected on their experiences which are available to read in full on the Whitgift Short Courses website. Presented here are some of the abridged highlights from their texts.



Nifemi (Student Host)

Being a Student Host is an experience you won't be able to find in many places. The weeks I have spent meeting people from around the world, making moments I will fondly reminisce about, have been invaluable. This experience exposed me to a mutual exchange of cultures and a chance to learn more about the world.

Participating in the ISS is a way to enjoy your summer with the wide variety of activities available whilst also having a significant impact on somebody else's life. You get to make the difficult process of learning English far simpler for students, understanding a couple of phrases in other languages along the way.

This upcoming summer, I will visit my friends in Switzerland, Jordan and Italy from last year's course. I am very grateful to the ISS for teaching me the importance of being a global citizen.

This experience exposed me to a mutual exchange of cultures



Zach (Student Host)

I was at the ISS for two weeks and I worked on two projects: creating a new sport, with my friends from Saudi Arabia and Turkey, and designing and making a product to help with climate change with students from Germany, Turkey, and Japan.

I played Volleyball, Softball, Table Tennis and Football. We got to meet different students from different countries, and it was a great way to make and meet new friends.

I am a drummer and played a song I had worked on for months before, in the Concert Hall. It was a great opportunity for me as I had never played a song of this level before in a performance.

I have made many new friends in the ISS that I am still in contact with. It really is an amazing way to make new friends and was a very fun place to spend my summer.

For further information on becoming a Student Host at Whitgift Summer School 2023, please email Ms Morrison at: studenthost@whitgift.co.uk



WATCH THE VIDEO ▶▶

ROUND UP FROM THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF SPORT

The start of the Lent Term saw the Senior Rugby squad embark on a weeklong trip to Dubai, the first tour of its kind since 2019. Sports tours are a vital part of a Whitgiftian's development, providing unforgettable memories, experiencing new cultures and building relationships that last a lifetime, not to mention the chance to play sport! Students are looking forward to many more trips in 2023 with Golf, Hockey & Cricket, travelling to Spain, and the current U16 and U17 Rugby squads visiting South Africa in Summer 2023.

Participation in Whitgift Sport, particularly on Saturdays, has continued to thrive with a typical afternoon epitomising competition, challenge and community spirit. Last term a total of 1169 students have represented the School through multiple sporting activities, and it is always a pleasure to see numerous parents, students and alumni present to support. The endeavour, self-belief and happiness seen on the faces of the U12 Rugby F team during the 35-35 draw with John Fisher in December 2022 was a wonderful reminder of the power of sport for students of all abilities.

There have been several other sporting highlights this term including National representation for current Whitgiftians. Well done to Connor Yap, Thomas Mead, Louis Jordan, Freddy Pettifer, Ollie Bennett, Femi Owolade-Coombes, Jonathan Sturch-Hibbitt, Jack Murray, Sean Kerr, Adiy Siddiq, Amani Campbell-

Okolo and Jacky Lee who have all represented England in their respective sports. Kai Reece Coleman (Crystal Palace), Micah Mbick (Charlton FC) and Aidan Evans (Fulham FC) have also been offered academy scholarships. All of their achievements are certainly an inspiration to the Whitgift community.

Congratulations to the Hockey department who have just been crowned National Indoor 'Double' Champions at both U16 & U18, for the third time; an excellent achievement considering no other school has accomplished this feat. Several Old Whitgiftians (OWs) have recently also gained National recognition in Hockey with Wimbledon Hockey Club who were crowned Super 6 National Champions, as well as Jack Waller and Zach Wallace who recently represented England in the Men's Senior World Cup. A special mention also to OW, Jamal Musiala who has recently been voted DFB-Pokal German fans player of 2022, after

successfully representing Germany at the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

The School is extremely proud of the achievements of all these students past and present, most notably the spirit of community that is developed through sport at Whitgift. It is so pleasing to see many OWs return and give back to the School community. Recently Jack Waller ran a camp for Whitgift students developing their hockey skills and [Stefan Amokwandoh came into school to speak with students](#) about his experiences through A Levels and the American University system. The passion and love of sport that they developed at Whitgift is testament to the life-changing opportunities provided for every student.

Thank you to the entire Whitgift community for their contribution to the outstanding sporting provision.

Mr Shedwick
Assistant Director of Sport



REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

On Friday 11 November, Whitgift's annual Remembrance Day service, led by the Chaplain, the Reverend Alan Bayes, took place by the War Memorial to honour those who lost their lives at war.

A congregation of Lower First and First Formers joined with members of the wider Whitgift Community, including Old Whitgiftians, care home residents and staff, to take part in this deeply moving service.

As ever, the precision and professionalism of the Corps of Drums and Combined Cadet Force (CCF), meant that the event proceeded in perfect order. The CCF performed the duty of Flag Party, including the tradition of lowering the flags to half-mast, while Upper Sixth Former Ed Bowley played *The Last Post*.

Old Whitgiftian, Dominic Edwards laid a wreath on behalf of the OW community; Mr Chisolm on behalf of staff; and Upper School Captain Harvey Rendall on behalf of all students.

At the end of the two-minute silence, in a poignant moment, the flags were raised and at that exact moment the sun broke through the clouds to bathe those gathered in sunlight.

Both Harvey and Lower School Captain Marcos Byrne delivered thought-provoking readings. Everyone joined in the traditional ceremony of hymns and the service ended with the exit of the Flag Party and the Corps of Drums.



[WATCH THE VIDEO](#) »



The sun broke through the clouds to bathe those gathered in sunlight



CLUBS

CO-CURRICULAR AT WHITGIFT

The Michaelmas Term was full of lots of co-curricular excitement and engaging experiences to build on students' classroom learning. For more information about the 100+ clubs, societies and sports that are running, please visit our website and search for [co-curricular directory](#).



ANIMAL CLUB



KOREAN SOCIETY



ENHANCED CHEMISTRY SOCIETY



HORTICULTURE CLUB



WHITGIFT QUEER SOCIETY



JAPANESE CULTURE CLUB



JAPANESE CHESS 'SHOGI'



ORIGAMI CLUB

CHARITY UPDATE

The Whitgift community supports three nominated charities each year, all selected by students. In 2022/23 they are Sleep Pod, YoungMinds and Whitgift For All.

Sleep Pod is a local charity that provides shelters for homeless people. As well as raising money for this essential charity, the Whitgift Community has been pitching in to help construct and distribute shelters.

For the second year running, Whitgift is supporting **YoungMinds**, a nationwide charity that supports young people struggling with their mental health.

The final charity to be supported is one set up by the School to provides bursaries for prospective students. **Whitgift For All** (WFA) was launched in 2021 and it has already been making huge impact on the School community – helping to widen the access to a Whitgift education.

Throughout the term, students, staff, and parents raised money for these charities and several additional causes in numerous ways. Here is a summary of fundraising events that have taken place so far.

Harvest Appeal

Students collected generous donations for the Harvest Appeal at the Croydon Minster. The donations went to the Separated Child Organisation, a charity that gathers care packages containing essentials for child refugees.

CHS Netball Match

Whitgift's XV Rugby team enjoyed the excellent annual charity netball match against Croydon High School (CHS). All the money raised went to CHS' nominated charities. The evening provided great fun and entertainment for everyone involved.

WSPA Quiz Night

The Whitgift School Parents Association organised a quiz night in Big School for new parents, with proceeds from the raffle donated equally to Whitgift's three main charities.

Care4Calais Christmas Appeal

The Whitgift Community collected Christmas presents for refugees and asylum seekers in Croydon. The appeal aimed to "give as many children as possible in Croydon a Christmas box of joy or an adult bag of hope."



COMMUNITY UPDATE

With so much amazing community work being done by schools in the Independent Sector, Whitgift is humbled to have been awarded Independent School of the Year for Community Outreach 2022. The efforts of the Whitgift community, led by Director of Partnerships and Community, Mr Marlow and supported by pupils, staff and parents, has been critical to the success of the programme.

In addition, for the second year running, Whitgift has been featured in the Independent School's Council Celebrating Partnerships booklet for the strong partnerships that have been developed with local state schools over 23+ years. Primary Project Co-ordinator, Ms Letchford attended the launch event for the booklet at the House of Commons in November 2022. Attending as Whitgift's guest was Mr Rob Hyneman from Harris Primary Academy Haling Park, one of over 30 schools Whitgift works closely with.

Mr Marlow commented, "Ingrained in Whitgift's DNA, the School was founded as a 'Gift' to the people of Croydon 425 years' ago. Giving back is a natural and very important concept for the whole school community, especially for those who have benefitted from a Whitgift education. A programme of initiatives took place last year, built around the concept of giving back, and have all helped to strengthen community links and embed new partnerships." Here are some more initiatives that have taken place throughout the last few months.

The Whitgift Primary Project

The Whitgift Primary Project has welcomed over 26,000 local primary pupils in the last 23 years. Around 35 local schools continue to partner with Whitgift each year to send 30 children to the School for a full week of exciting lessons. Each pupil takes part in 20 hours of lessons and activities with a range of Whitgift teachers involved, as well as support from Sixth Form students.

In October, Whitgift welcomed Howard Primary School's reception class to tour the Water Gardens and to meet the flamingos. Livestock and Groundsman Assistant, Mr Skinner was kind enough to introduce these pupils to the variety of birds onsite at Whitgift.

Saturday Masterclasses

Whitgift's masterclasses continue to take place on a Saturday, offering local pupils in Year 5 the opportunity to develop their knowledge in Maths, English and

Science, all supported by Whitgift staff and students.

Visit to Whitgift House

Regular visits to Whitgift House returned last term. First Form students spoke with residents, exchanged stories, and played instruments with the hopes of brightening their day. It was a lovely occasion for both the pupils and the residents.

Sam Moorhouse (First Form) commented, "We had a great time getting to know the residents, finding out about their childhoods, and telling them some stories. I told a story about a young, reckless sparrow who ventures out of his nest."

Joseph Boundy (First Form) explained, "As well as storytelling me; Sam, and Julian got to know about the residents, and we got chocolate! Here is my story... It was about a boy who does not know his alphabet, so his family 'tell' him what it is, however he gets the wrong end of the stick."



It was a lovely occasion for both the pupils and the residents



AUTUMN COLLECTION CONCERT

On Thursday 17 November 2022, 330 Whitgift students performed at the Autumn Collection Concert at Fairfield Halls.

Whitgift invited 1300 pupils from 15 local primary schools to attend the concert in the morning, as a way of giving back to the local community. Both the pupils watching and the Whitgift students performing, enjoyed the concert thoroughly.

Founded in 1905, the Whitgift Corps of Drums is one of the oldest in Britain and is the only fully student-run organisation in the School. The night started off with a performance by them of *Children's Love* by W. Turpin, led by Drum Major and Sixth Former, Milo Weaver. They exited the stage, after a series of flute and drum solos, as well as a beautiful performance of *British Grenadiers* by Trad.

Third Form students were tasked with writing a fanfare and Ethan Gilbert won this competition. He commented, "I am lucky enough to have had my piece played tonight at Fairfield Halls. As a student interested in composition this is an incredible experience." The Senior Brass ensemble performed Ethan Gilbert's piece before the String Ensemble performed Movement IV from *Serenade for Strings*, directed by Mr Winter.

The Whitgift Brass Ensemble, led by Ms Temple, took the audience back to the past by performing a nostalgic piece from the blockbuster film *633 Squadron*.

While the Jazz Band performed a calming and relaxing rendition of *My Favourite Things* by R. Rogers, O. Hammerstein and J. Coltrane. The tone took a turn with their next performance of *Feeling Good* by L. Briscusse and A. Newley, a classic, which left everyone feeling empowered.

After a short interval, Whitgift's Chamber Choir displayed a fantastic performance of Mozart's *Movement I Symphony No 40 in G minor*. The next performance of Dido's *Lament* from *Dido and Aeneas* composed by Henry Purcell, was performed as a tribute to Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.



The Whitgift Symphony Orchestra performed two pieces, *Conga del Fuego Nuevo* by Arturo Márquez, directed by Mr Elsom and *Jupiter* from the Planets Suite, directed by Mr Winter. Both performances were truly impressive, and it was a lovely way to transition to the final performance of the evening from Whitgift's First Form Choir and Band. The entire year group was involved in putting on a compilation of songs from Disney, as a way of celebrating Disney's 50th Anniversary. They performed *Disney Dazzle* by Alan Menke, Howard Ashman, and Tim Rice. This final performance was filled with fun and excitement, which

was a wonderful way to close the Autumn Collection Concert.

Director of Music, Mr Elsom commented "the rehearsals, despite very tight timings, went very well, and the Primary Schools' Concert went down a storm with the students... I felt that this evening's concert was hugely successful."



330 Whitgift students performed at the Autumn Collection Concert at Fairfield Halls



NEWS

HOUSE COMPETITIONS 2022

The Michaelmas Term saw the start of House Competitions taking place for the academic year 2022-2023, with a vibrant programme of events planned. These ranged from Swimming, Water Polo, Football and Squash to Photography, STEM, and Maths Challenge.

The big House event of the calendar was the much-anticipated House Drama competition which returned to the Performing Arts Centre (PAC.) Students from across all year groups came together to direct and organise performances independently. This year, Whitgift welcomed back Mr Wilson (Staff, 1996-2022) to adjudicate the competition. He commented that it was a "huge privilege" to return, and he was "immensely moved and impressed" by all the performances. On the night Ellis' House took 1st place and were crowned House Drama Champions 2022.

Thanks go to all the Housemasters and other members of staff who helped to make these House events a success.





Students from across all year groups came together to direct and organise performances independently

TRIPS



1

Here is a selection of the memorable trips Whitgiftians were able to take over the last few months.

1. The Chinese department took 30 Third Formers to London's China Town to learn about the history and culture of this iconic area. Students were given a private tour of the sights before they were treated to a traditional Chinese meal at 'The Golden Phoenix.' (November 2022)

2. Fifth Form History trip to Berlin. (October 2022)

3. Fourth Formers studying Greek visited the 'Alexander the Great' exhibition at the British Library.

It explored how the myth of how Alexander the Great has influenced different cultures over centuries. (January 2023)

4. Second Formers visited Croydon's Buddhist Centre to deepen their knowledge of the religion for their Theology and Philosophy studies. (January 2023)

5. Students in the Second Form attended the Globe Theatre for an exciting day of drama workshops and a theatre tour. Students worked on their line delivery, projection and body language before producing a short scene from a Shakespeare play. (January 2023)



2

4



3

5



TRIPS



6



8



7



9

6. Sixth Form students visited Greenwich Royal Observatory for a study day supporting their Astrophysics topic. Students were lucky enough to listen to planetarium talks and participate in a study session on the analysis of starlight. (January 2023)

7. Sixth Form History & Politics students visited New York and Washington, including trips to the United States Capitol Building and

the United Nations. They also went to the White House and the 9/11 Museum. (October 2022)

8. Students in the Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Form enjoyed a visit to the Science Museum's exhibition – 'Science Fiction: Voyage to the Edge of Imagination,' which reflected on the relationships between science and the media and the benefits of interdisciplinary study. (November 2022)

9. Four Lower Sixth Formers attended an event organised by Birkbeck University's Japan Society, which offered students a chance to sample some engaging and stimulating cultural workshops and lectures. (November 2022)



PERFORMING ARTS EVENTS

LENT COLLECTION CONCERT

Thursday 2 March
7pm, Big School
Free admission
(by reserving on WisePay only)

BRASS CONCERT

Friday 10 March
7pm, Concert Hall
Free admission
(by reserving on WisePay only)

REMOTE

Wednesday 22 – Friday 24 March
7pm, Performing Arts Centre
Tickets: £10 and £5 concessions*
(by reserving on WisePay only)

RISE HEART CHAMBER CHOIR AND ORCHESTRAL CONCERT

Thursday 30 March
7pm, Big School
Tickets: £10 and £5 concessions*
(by reserving on WisePay only)

BOOKING INFORMATION

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

*Concessions:

Children 16 and under, Over 60s,

Students (17–25 in full-time education)



Photography

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