

WHITGIFT

LIFE

MICHAELMAS 2022



Big hitters

Whitgift's Combined Cadet Force saw the much-anticipated return of The Annual General Inspection Second Former performs the coin toss at Wimbledon 2022 Championship finals Whitgift formally launched its new charity Whitgift For All An outstanding production of *Billy Elliot* and more inside...

SENIOR PRODUCTION IS A SAVAGE AND BRILLIANT EPIC

The Sixth Form production of *Not About Nightingales* at the end of March 2022 was an exceptionally powerful piece of theatre. For over three and a quarter hours, senior actors from the Fifth and Sixth Forms held superbly high levels of tension and electricity as this story of horror and complexity unfolded.

The three-act play by Tennessee Williams, set in a Philadelphia prison in 1938, is a savage and brilliant epic of depression-era America. "When choosing a script, I found myself looking for a piece which might provide a small cast with the opportunity to explore something powerful and take on characters who went through extreme experiences and who were confronted by impossible choices," explains Director of Drama at Whitgift, Mr Hammond.

Over three nights, several of Whitgift's finest actors, some of whom were appearing for the final time in their school careers having graced the Whitgift stage for many years, gave their very best performances. Damola Amusa played the desperate and trapped prison informant who found hope again in the unlikely of places. Jack Godwin was the brutal leader of Cell Block C, defiant in the face of oppression and maltreatment. Harry Hutchinson was the sadistic

and chilling Warden Whalen, master of all he surveyed, and seemingly without pity or remorse.

Although an epic, it flew by in a sequence of terrific set pieces and tense moments, all on one of the most bold and extraordinary sets that Whitgift has ever produced, thanks to the Audio Visual Department. Featuring around 200 lighting fixtures and 14 speakers with surround sound, it was made mostly from recycled timber and items from past sets and was filled with over 2000 litres of grey sludge to depict the squalid conditions!

While some strong language and brief depictions of violence meant the production was not suitable for a younger audience, we were delighted to be able to welcome Sixth Form Drama students from local schools to experience the performance.

Congratulations to the company, crew and everyone involved, for a production that will live long in our memories.



Several of Whitgift's finest actors, some of whom were appearing for the final time in their school careers having graced the Whitgift stage for many years, gave their very best performances

BASKETBALL SUCCESS

The 2021/22 season saw a record 117 Basketball fixtures played and more pupils being involved in the sport than ever before. Participation accelerated thanks to the new outdoor Basketball court and the donation of a professional hoop from the Whitgift School Parent Association (WSPA).

This year, four teams participated in the Basketball England National Schools Competition (U14, U16, U17 and U19). The U17s made it to the National quarter final and the U19s just fell short in the Round of 16 by only 5 points, losing to the subsequent National champions.

Whitgift also had an extremely successful year in the London Independent Schools Basketball Association (LISBA) competition,

becoming U14 & U15 League Winners, U15 & U18 Cup Winners and U16 & U18 League runners-up. The players performed fantastically at every level.

In June 2022, the Sports Centre was filled with staff and students in preparation for the annual Whitgift Basketball All-Star Game. The fun exhibition game involved a selection of current pupils competing against staff and Old Whitgiftians.

Congratulations to to Upper Sixth Former, Myles Alcindor and Old Whitgiftian, Joshua Uduje who have gone on to play College Basketball in the United States, as well as Daniel Ajuka who plays semi-professionally in Ireland and Sweden.



A record-setting number of 117 Basketball fixtures played



BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

Third Form DTE students Matteo Antonelli, Olaf Baranski-Furdal and Joe Hill made it through to the finals of the London MOBIE architectural design competition in July 2022.

For their submission for The Major of London's Future Design London Challenge, the students focused on the Royal Docks in East London creating a functional, liveable area out of Silo D, whilst retaining the history of the area.

'The design included an arcade for people to meet, socialise and enjoy themselves plus a creative space for performing plays, concerts and for art installations from the community and around London.'

Whitgift finalists attended a prestigious awards ceremony at City Hall where they presented their idea to the judges, who included London architects as well as Members of the London assembly. Judges assessed the entries by the consideration given to the quality of placemaking/ quality of home design, sustainability, transport and the creativity and imagination of the presentation. 110 teams and individuals entered the competition across the three age categories. Our congratulations go to Matteo, Olaf and Joe on their achievement.



Whitgift finalists attended a prestigious awards ceremony at City Hall

HOUSE COMPETITIONS

Students enjoyed another full programme of activities during the Trinity Term with events running during every lunchtime.

The range of activities, including Rugby, Cricket, Football, Tennis, Athletics, Fives and Tug of War, meant that participation across the year groups was high.

The Senior House Cup was won by Cross's this year, and was presented to Finlay Webb (House Captain, Upper Sixth Form) in July 2022. Earlier in the year, Ellis's were named winners of House Music and Brodie's secured the House Drama Cup.



LANGUAGE COMPETITION SUCCESSES

The UK Linguistics Olympiad (UKLO) is a national competition in which students of any age or ability level are required to solve fiendishly difficult linguistics puzzles. Whitgift has been entering pupils into the UKLO since 2012.

In February 2022, Lower Sixth linguists tackled head-scratching brain-teasers based on obscure languages resulting in bronze medals for the following students: Artyom Boyarov, Daniel Bronk Navas, Oscar Gloux, Stefan Marcetic, Finn McCombie and Oscar Robinson. Congratulations on this impressive feat.



In other language competition success, Lower Sixth German IB students Daniel Bronk Navas, Oscar Gloux, Victor Gloux and Ibrahim Shaikh won the prestigious Oxford German Olympiad in May 2022. The topic for the 10th Olympiad, which is open to students from Year 5 to Sixth Form, was 'Der Rhein' – exploring cultural, geographical and historical dimensions of Germany's second largest river.

For their entry in the Groups or Classes category, the four students created a website, which was impressive both linguistically and visually, for a Rhein River Cruise.

"This is an amazing achievement which demonstrates their enthusiasm, ingenuity and passion for all things German," said Mr Jones, Head of German.

Finally, Hector Stroud Arzua (First Form) was selected as a runner up in the 17th World Children's Haiku Contest on the theme of Towns. The Japanese Society invited him to record his entry which was displayed on their website over the summer and we are delighted to share it with you here too. www.japansociety.org.uk/haiku-contest-2021-2022



GROUP 4 PIRATE SCIENCE DAY

The IB Group 4 event took place in June 2022 on the theme of Pirate Science; a project run by the Head of Science, Mr Elliott, and the Science Technicians. This annual event is organised for the Lower Sixth Form IB students, and this year parents were able to join staff and other students at the presentations.

The Pirate Science event is a project in which students must come up with different strategies to aid a pirate, using the power of science. This project enables students to think outside of the box, using different problem-solving techniques, data collection, as well as hitting tight deadlines. Each group participating had to present their project in a business style format.

There were lots of unique proposals such as Group B, who took 2nd place with their project titled, "Alternative animals to a parrot that could be better companions for a pirate." Ultimately, the winners were Group F consisting of students; Ethan Ford, Samuel Johnson, Sebastian Rubio Prida and CEO Sonny Hill who together created an impressive project titled "How do currents and salinity affect the speed of a boat?"

Congratulations to the winning team, and all the participating students for a successful and innovative programme.



This project enables students to think outside the box

LONDON MOZART PLAYERS CONCERT AT THE FAIRFIELD HALLS

The London Mozart Players performed side-by-side with choirs and young players from Whitgift, Trinity and Old Palace of John Whitgift Schools at the Fairfield Halls in Croydon on Friday 29 April. The programme included Butterworth – *Banks of Green Willow*, Britten – *Simple Symphony*, Vaughan Williams – *Lark Ascending* and Jenkins – *The Armed Man (A Mass for Peace)*.

Overseen by Director of Orchestral Music, Mr Winter, 44 students from the Lower First Form to Lower Sixth Form took part in the concert; the second time that Whitgift's musicians have performed at this iconic venue following the Autumn Collection Concert in November 2021.

"All Whitgift's singers and string players who took part in the concert excelled in their performance," said Mr Winter. "The singers, alongside singers from Trinity and Old Palace School combined to fill the Fairfield Halls with a choir of outstanding confidence. Our senior string players sat side-by-side with members of the London Mozart Players and were superb in their professionalism as they fitted seamlessly with the professional players."

Our senior string players fitted seamlessly with the professional players



THE WORLD SCHOOL SWIM CHAMPIONSHIPS 2022

Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 May saw 20 Whitgift students compete in The World School Swim Championships 2022. Young swimmers from across the globe descended on the iconic London Aquatics Centre, following in the footsteps of Olympic heroes.

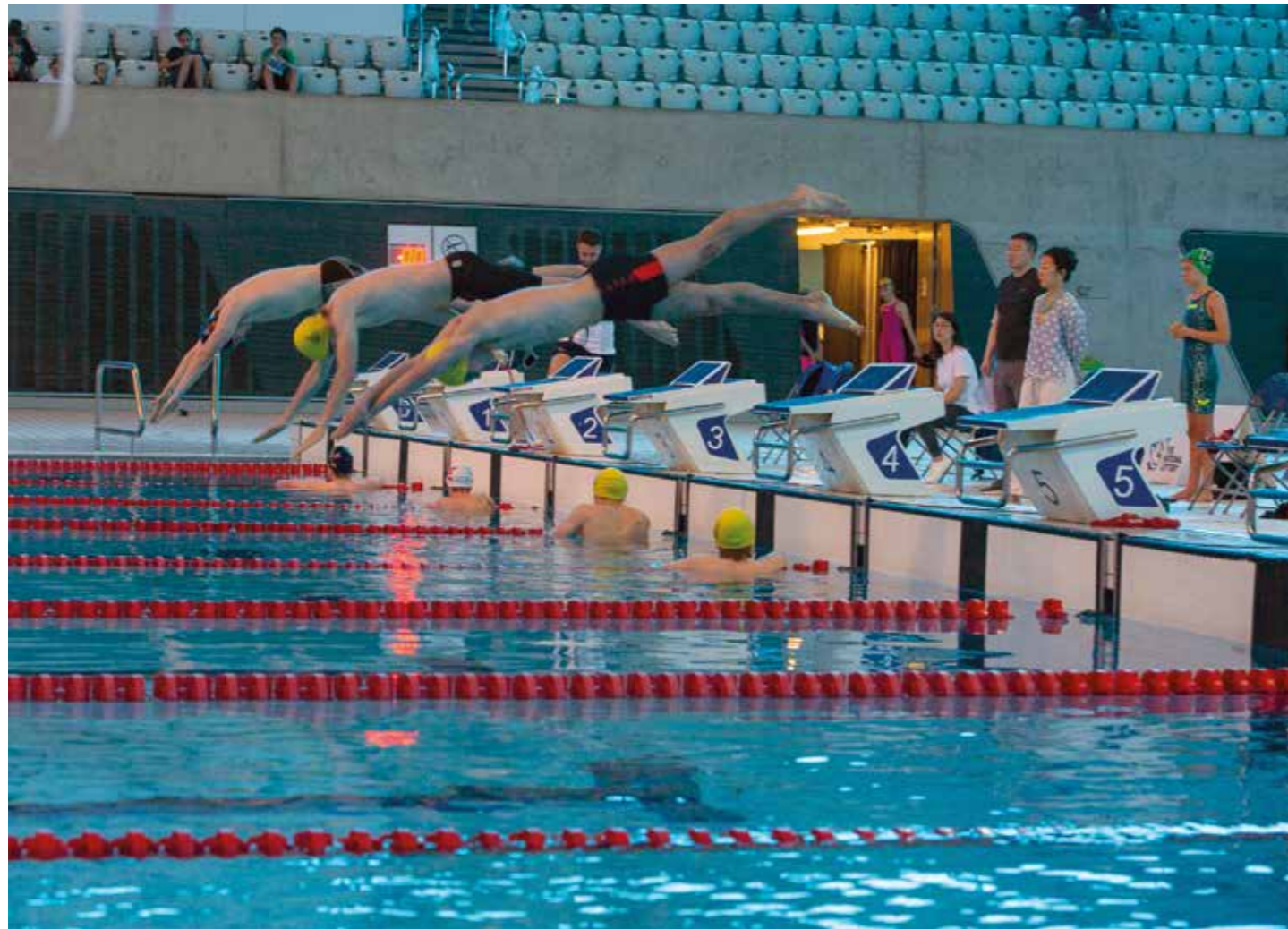
The students swam fantastically and over the two-day event, they accumulated an astonishing 24 Gold medals, 20 Silver medals, and 14 Bronze medals, thus becoming Champions in the overall Boys U13/U15/U18 age groups.

A massive congratulations to Fourth Former, Alex Corver for winning the U15 Boys 50m Breaststroke and setting a new World School Games Event Series World Record of 29.46 seconds. Alex commented, "It's a new short

course personal best for me. My long course PB is 29.70 so there's not much between the two times. It feels amazing to be representing my school at an international level. It's been such a great event! I'd like to thank the staff members who have been really supportive."

Head of Aquatics, Mr Smith summarised the event; "Over the course of a long weekend, the team performed exceptionally well, gaining some great PBs, and to call ourselves The World School Swim Champions is amazing. I've been so proud of what this team has achieved over the academic year, it shows that hard work and dedication pays off!"

Over the course of a long weekend, the team performed exceptionally well



END OF SEASON ONE OF WHITGIFT CONVERSATIONS

The first season of the School's newest podcast 'Whitgift Conversations' is now complete. Each 20-25-minute podcast episode is released fortnightly, covering a broad range of topics and featuring different members of the Whitgift community.

In Season one, opened and closed by the Headmaster, we also heard from Director of Partnerships and Community, Mr Marlow. He highlighted some of the community programmes at Whitgift, and why they're so valuable for students to get involved in. Chair of Governors and OW, Mr Edwards shared the benefits of having governors who are in full time employment, why people choose to commit to being one and how his job helps him to be a better governor.

Whitgift's Pastoral Deputy, Mr Kirby explained how Whitgift supports its diverse community of students and the dangers of staff not reflecting that community, while Head of Learning Support, Ms Richardson talked about her understanding of neurodiversity, and her role within the School. Grounds and Estate Manager, Mr Ratling gave us an insight into why it's important to maintain the School grounds and the duties that take up most of his time.

In Season two we are hoping to engage with more students and Alumni, and have already recorded some very exciting conversations... so please stay tuned.

If you wish to listen to any of the previous podcasts, please visit: www.whitgift.co.uk/whitgift-conversations



Mr Marlow highlighted some of the community programmes at Whitgift

WIMBLEDON MEN'S FINAL COIN TOSS

This year, the Wimbledon Foundation invited the local community of Merton and Wandsworth to nominate inspiring young people to perform the coin toss at Wimbledon 2022 Championship finals.

Second Former, Dylan Mulvey was nominated for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for his remarkable fundraising efforts on behalf of St George's Hospital.

On 22 March 2022, Dylan took on an abseil down the 13-storey Pelican Hotel, Tooting for George's challenge, to raise funds for St George's hospital. Dylan and his family have experienced first-hand the exceptional work and treatment the staff at St George's offer; with both of Dylan's grandparents being treated there after a long and brave battle with cancer.

Dylan said, "My Grandad was diagnosed with cancer in 2014 and lost his battle in January 2022. He was in and out of St George's more

times than we can remember since his diagnosis and always received fantastic care and treatment."

After having inspired so many people, Abi Davies from St George's Hospital Charity nominated Dylan to perform the coin toss after he fundraised nearly 10 times his initial goal!

Dylan's tenacity and selfless attributes have shone through in his efforts and the whole Whitgift Community is proud of him. A picture of the momentous occasion is now also hung in the Headmaster's Corridor.



DRAMA

BE WHO YOU WANT TO BE!

The incredible cast of the Whitgift production of *Billy Elliot* the musical performed to a full house over four nights in July 2022.

This was an outstanding production, not just for the acting, musical and dancing expertise but for the sense of teamwork across the generations at Whitgift and other schools. The performances featured a largely Junior Years cast, some familiar faces from the Sixth Form and pupils from Old Palace of John Whitgift School, Trinity School and WAVPA (Whitgift Academy of Visual and Performing Arts).

The well-loved musical focuses on motherless Billy, who begins taking ballet lessons almost by accident and finds, much to his surprise that he has talent, and far more enthusiasm, for this pursuit than for boxing. This story of his personal struggle to be true to himself by overcoming family bigotry and financial hardship to eventually make it to the Royal Ballet School is juxtaposed against community strife caused by the 1984-85 miners' strike in County Durham.

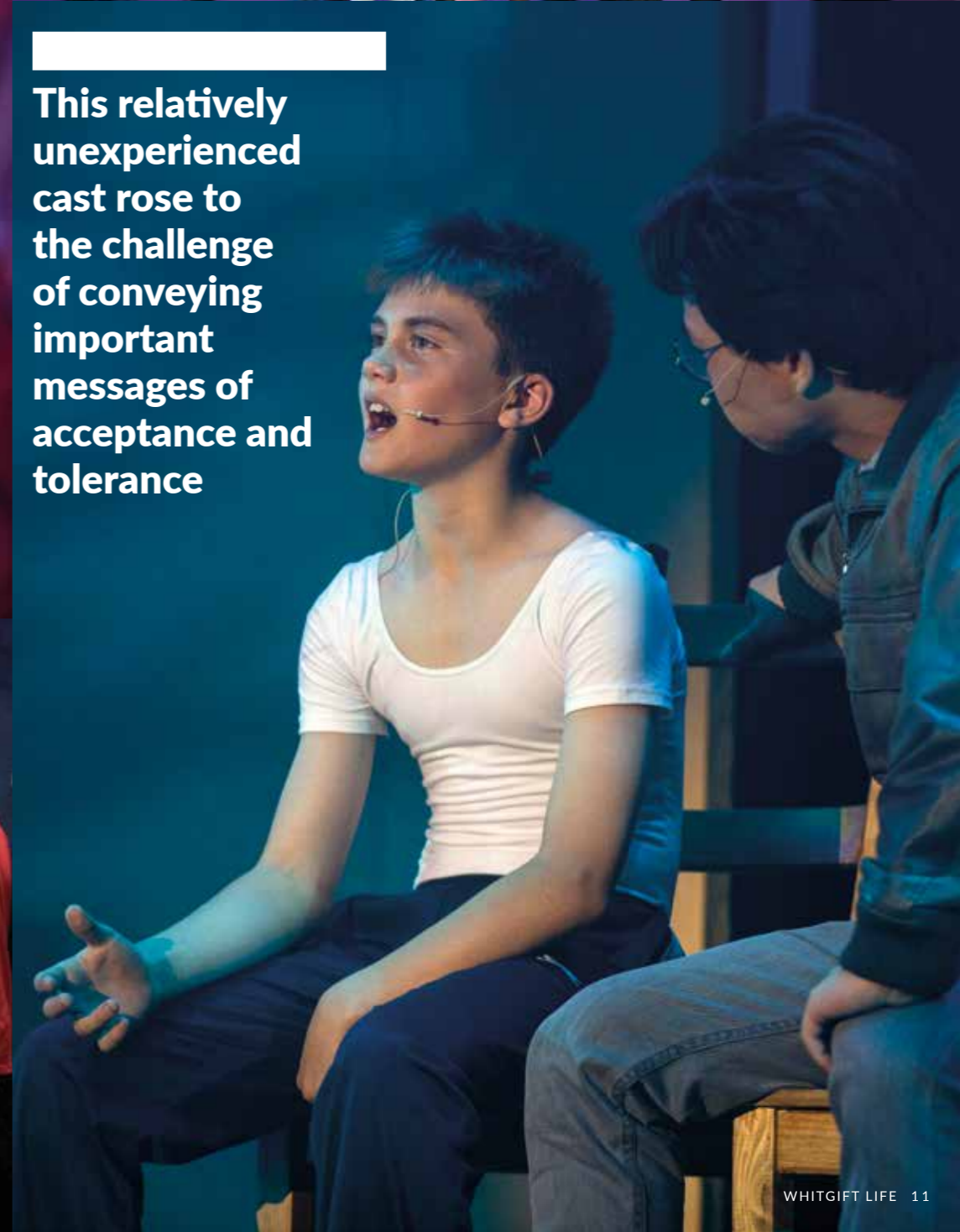
Staging a musical this complex was never going to be easy not least as lead cast members needed to learn to dance from scratch and rose to the challenge with unbelievable enthusiasm swapping ballet for tap shoes with ease.

Director of the production and Director of Middle Years, Mrs Carter said, "I have been constantly astonished by the progress made and the skills developed in these young performers. I am so proud that this relatively inexperienced cast rose to the challenge of conveying these important messages of acceptance and tolerance through the medium of drama".

Congratulations to all involved both on stage and behind the scenes for a wonderful production.



This relatively inexperienced cast rose to the challenge of conveying important messages of acceptance and tolerance



A FULL PROGRAMME OF VISITING SPEAKERS

The Lent Term saw the return of several visiting speakers for Academic Enrichment, where successful individuals in their fields share valuable knowledge with students at Whitgift.

On Thursday 10 March 2022, the first speaker to share their expertise was Tate Trustee, successful business innovator and digital strategist, Anna Lowe. She spoke to a selection of Sixth Form Business students in the Old Library about her App 'Smartify' and why creativity and innovation is crucial to success, then later gave a talk to all students in Big School.

Whitgift also welcomed Author, Journalist and broadcaster Tim Marshall on Monday 22 March 2022. Specialising in international diplomacy, he gave an insight of his experience reporting from the front-line of conflicts as well as his contact with major political figures. In the afternoon, Tim had a small session held in Big School with the Upper School Geography students, where he spoke about the conflict in Russia and Ukraine as well as his best-selling books 'Prisoners of Geography' and 'The Power of Geography.' This was followed by

a general talk with all students shortly after.

Thank you to acclaimed writer, presenter and activist, Natasha Devon MB who visited Whitgift in March 2022. As part of our focus on Wellbeing, Natasha hosted talks for students and parents on 'Tech, Social Media and Self-esteem' and how to encourage healthy attitudes in the social media age.

In May 2022, we were visited by writer, journalist and presenter, Peter Sandiford. Peter spoke to a group of Lower Sixth Form IB and Theology & Philosophy students about religion, culture and history – focusing on his two books 'Judas' and 'Angels' – followed by a larger talk in Big School.

The final Academic Enrichment talk was with Ian Leslie, an author and speaker who specialises in human behaviour and its impact on the modern world. Future Oxbridge and Medicine applicants were given a talk on how to argue effectively in the modern world. A talk open to all students was given, where Ian Leslie spoke about his best-selling book 'Curious' which explores the reality and importance of curiosity in life.



1 **Natasha hosted talks on how to encourage healthy attitudes in the social media age**



4



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- 1 Natasha Devon
- 2 Ian Leslie,
- 3 Tim Marshall
- 4 Peter Sandiford

MENTORING SCHEME WITH OLD WHITGIFTIAN, OLUWANI AKINTUNDE

Old Whitgiftian (OW) Oluwani Akintunde (2011–2018) finished his studies in Politics and International Relations at University of Exeter in 2021, achieving a first class degree. Since then, he has returned to give back to the Whitgift community by running a student mentoring scheme for those who would enjoy learning from and understanding the perspective of someone who has completed their journey through Whitgift and University.

Oluwani shared with us his goals and vision for the scheme:



What inspired you to begin voluntary working at Whitgift?

After concluding my undergraduate dissertation in August 2021, I wanted to get some voluntary experience, so I decided to work with a charity founded by Exeter Graduates, CoachBright, which led me to coach students from disadvantaged backgrounds at an all-girls community school in Hampstead Heath. Although it was a powerful experience, it inspired me to want to do something more permanent and sustainable, and with more regular contact with the coachees.

In April 2022, Head of Upper Sixth Form, Mr Griffiths invited me back to Whitgift to speak with a pupil about attending Exeter, and I took this as an opportunity to discuss my mentoring vision with the School.

What is your vision for the mentoring scheme?

The purpose of the scheme is to demonstrate to current students that everyone can achieve success providing they are willing to put in the effort required and that they understand the importance of striving to be their best self.

The scheme is designed to be both sustainable and relatable to students, allowing them to hear from Old Whitgiftians who have been through the School recently and faced the same hurdles as them and overcome them.

What is the 'Up The Greatness' (stylised as upthegreatness) project?

Initially 'Up The Greatness' was a project aimed at reconnecting Old Whitgiftians with the School. However, after I began mentoring at Whitgift, I realised that the project is also important for current students to understand success has no boundaries, and that greatness can be achieved by all, regardless of what subject or industry you choose to follow.

With the help of Pastoral Deputy Mr Kirby, the first 'Up The Greatness' talk for Third Formers took place. These students are about to embark on their GCSEs and the purpose of the session was to help set the mindset for the year ahead by listening to our experiences from the Middle Years, as OWs who have been where they are now.

The panel consisted of four Old Whitgiftians: Reece Brown (Master's Degree in Psychology – demonstrating academic success), George Hammond (Harlequins Professional Rugby Player – demonstrating sporting success), Joseph Golding (Founder of Whitgift's Afro-Caribbean Society and now business owner - demonstrating success in business) and Joseph Parkes (his experience shows that sometimes greatness is not the destination but, in an approach, or a mindset to finding and achieving your ambitions).

How did the Graydin's Foundational Coaching Course run by the School help you to be a coach to students?

I completed the course run by Whitgift alongside other teaching staff, to help my development as an individual in general and to understand how to better articulate myself to get my message across more clearly. I realised asking 'what'



or 'how' questions are key to helping people find the answers rather than telling them the answers.

What was your role in Whitgift's annual After Whitgift event?

'After Whitgift' is a full-day event for Lower Sixth Formers, designed to help students consider subject options and future university destinations though a combination of talks from guest speakers and hands-on practical sessions. Head of Higher Education, Ms Knight, invited me to chair a panel of OWs and a Q&A session with students about our university experiences. As a now familiar face to many of the Lower Sixth Formers through the mentoring programme, engagement was good, and I really enjoyed it - it's something I'd be interested in doing again.

What advice would you give to current students?

In society today, people may tell you there are limits to what you can achieve, however I believe there is no limit to greatness and if you have faith in your actions, anything is possible. Always remain confident in your abilities despite what people say or think, for they are probably in awe of your ability to set a goal and deliver it.

There is no limit to greatness and if you have faith in your actions, anything is possible

2022 EXAM SUCCESS

It has been a successful year for all students at Whitgift with their hard work resulting in a great set of results.

IB

On Wednesday 6 July, International Baccalaureate (IB) students arrived on the School grounds to collect their results, and Whitgift is pleased to announce that they achieved an average score of 40.2 points out of 45 across the cohort, making Whitgift the UK's top IB school for boys.

With the return to examinations in addition to coursework, this average reflects the hard work that they have put in and has shown the quality and consistency of outcomes achieved by cohorts in recent years.

A Levels and BTEC

A Level students achieved a collective 93% grades A* to B, and A Level and IB candidates together achieved the equivalent of 31.5% A* and 70.1% A*/A grades. This is an exceptional result, after two years of no public examinations at this level.

BTEC students in Business and Sports also achieved excellent results this year, with the vast majority achieving Distinction grades and all candidates set to continue to top universities.

GCSE

GCSE students collected their results and celebrated their combined success in achieving 98% grades 9 to 6 (equivalent to A* to B grades). Over 91% of grades were awarded at 9-7, 76% at grades 9-8 and over 47% at grade 9.

The Headmaster and staff at Whitgift congratulate all pupils on their personal achievements and wish them all the best as they move on to their future pathways. We are also grateful to the teachers, and parents who have supported the students' journeys and to the exams' officers and support staff who have worked so hard in the background to help us smoothly transition back to a normal results season.



A Level students achieved a collective 93% grades A* to B



INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE FORUM

Whitgift hosted an International Baccalaureate (IB) Heads and Coordinators forum in June 2022 with representatives from 15 South East England IB schools in attendance. The forum was set up in order for them to share best practice and learning across the institutions. Whitgift Headmaster, Mr Chris Ramsey and Director of IB, Dr Mitchell, welcomed them for a day of networking and knowledge sharing.

Amongst the delegates, three distinguished speakers were in attendance; Adrian Kearney, Director of IB World Schools, Richard Markham CEO of the International Baccalaureate Schools and Colleges Association (IBSCA) and Peter Fidczuk, Development and Recognition Manager for the IBO as well as University Admissions Manager for IBSCA.

In the afternoon, 15 IB students from the Lower Sixth Form also joined the forum for a round table discussion with the delegates; sharing their personal stories and experience in following the IB programme at Whitgift and sharing the positive impact it has had on their learning.

Whilst Heads of Department/IB and Coordinators often get the opportunity to meet, this was the first meeting of its kind that involved school Heads and it was agreed that it was a very beneficial event. We look forward to being involved in future forums.



15 IB students from the Lower Sixth Form also joined the forum for a round table discussion with the delegates



1 Adrian Kearney
2 Richard Markham
3 Peter Fidczuk

SUPPORT FOR UGANDAN CLEAN WATER PROJECT

World Water Day was marked on Tuesday 22 March 2022 with Whitgift updating the School community on an initiative that Chartwells (the School's catering company) and Whitgift have been able to support. A new water pump was installed to provide clean water to 350 people in Kyaisimba 2 Village, Hoima District Uganda, funded in part by the School's purchases of Life Water.

will have enough time to attend classes," said Evelyn.

Whilst Whitgift aims to limit the use of single-use plastic, where it is needed for fixtures and trips, we are pleased to use Life Water allowing donations to be made for each bottle or can of water purchased.

Thank you to all at Chartwells for bringing this wonderful initiative to Whitgift and other Schools they work with.



The project was managed by Drop4Drop and the in-country contact explained the story of a villager, Evelyn, a mother of five children, three biological and two adopted. Before the availability of water in her community, Evelyn's children would wake up early to walk two kilometres in darkness to collect water before school. They would often arrive late and get punished. "Now there is a clean source of water in the community. When school starts, our children

Now there is a clean source of water in the community

CELEBRATING WORLD BOOK DAY

Kathryn Evans arrived at Whitgift in March 2022 for World Book Day. All the students thoroughly enjoyed listening to her assemblies and discussions on Reading and Resilience.

Kathryn is an award-winning author of young adult novels. Her multiple awards include; the Edinburgh International Book Festival First Book Award; The SCBWI Crystal Kite; and The CrimeFest Award. Nominated for the Carnegie medal, her books have also been translated into multiple languages and optioned for a film, yet still, her greatest accolade is going viral on TikTok.

Many students were presented with the opportunity to participate in one of three creative writing sessions with Kathryn and to close the busy afternoon, students gathered in the library for a book signing session.

Whitgift is extremely grateful that Kathryn could join us to celebrate this annual event.



425 WINNING ENTRY IN FOUNTAIN QUAD

Students were invited to design a piece of artwork in 2021 on the theme of 'Celebrating our past and looking to the future' to celebrate and mark the 425th Anniversary of John Whitgift Foundation and the start of the plan to create a school in Croydon to support the local people. The artwork could be drawn or digital in format and was designed to feature on the wall of the Fountain Quad.

The winning design was chosen by the Headmaster and Senior Deputy from over 50 entries from all ages of students around the school. There was an exceptionally high quality of entries showing enormous creativity of expression.

Congratulations to the winner, Dylan Mulvey (Second Form), who was chosen for his inventive

Celebrating our past and looking to the future

interpretation of the brief, creating two individual pieces for the 'past' and 'future' as a diptych. As well as a voucher as his prize, his artwork has been printed on two large, brushed silver panels, and is proudly displayed on the wall next

to the fountain. Prizes were also awarded to joint runners-up, Fourth Form students Jake Morrice and Dylan Morris, who were both put forward really creative designs. Thank you also to everyone who entered the competition and to the Art Department for supporting the student entries; it was fantastic to see how each of the students interpreted and explained their concepts and designs.



CRICKETING OW, LAURIE EVANS SPEAKS WITH STUDENTS

Old Whitgiftian and English Cricketer, Laurie Evans returned to Whitgift in March 2022 to speak to students and assist Head of Cricket Performance, Mr Kendrick with the 1st XI team strategy meeting.

Laurie discussed how his time at Whitgift helped prepare him for his professional career in Cricket, commenting; "the great thing about Whitgift is the facilities, and the level of coaching was second to none, probably better than what you would have got at the county level."

He explained that when he joined the School, he had no intention of becoming a professional Cricketer and open-mindedly took part in various sports including Football and Rugby. He later went on to pursue Cricket thanks to the School's ability to "instill the key fundamentals you need to enjoy the game of Cricket and be successful at it."

Whitgift is extremely grateful to Laurie for giving up his time to speak with current students and share his experiences and advice with them, and we look forward to welcoming him back in the future.



The level of coaching is probably better than you would have got at the county level

MUSIC

LENT COLLECTION CONCERT

The popular Lent Collection Concert took place in February 2022, celebrating the successes of many of the Music Department's ensembles.

The concert in Big School features some of the School's youngest students, particularly in the massed forces of the Lower First Form choir with the addition of the Percussion Ensemble.

Performances throughout the evening ranged from some of Whitgift's elite ensembles, such as the Symphony Orchestra, through to the Concert Orchestra and String Sinfonia. This event is always one which inspires Whitgift's musicians to keep their aspirations high.



TRINITY CHAMBER CONCERT

In May 2022, the Whitgift community was treated to an exciting and varied evening of music in the Concert Hall.

The Whitgift Chamber Orchestra performed the first movement of Bizet's Symphony in C, in addition to performances from smaller string and woodwind chamber groups along with multi-hand piano ensembles!



SUCCESS ON THE CRICKET FIELD

The 2022 Trinity Term was another fantastic season for Whitgift Cricket, with both the U11s and U18s becoming National Champions.

After a successful group stage of the English Schools Cricket Association (ESCA) Hardball National Competition, the U11A Cricket team qualified for the National Finals Day at Oakham School. Excellent performances with the bowl and bat led to victories against King's Hall School and Lochinver House School. The team qualified for the final and played against Manchester Grammar School. With tight bowling and fielding, Manchester Grammar School achieved 44 runs from 12 overs but Whitgift managed to score 101 runs from 12 overs and became National Champions. Congratulations to the U11 team on this fantastic achievement.

The 1st XI U18 National T20 competition consisted of several confident wins, and the London Final against Haileybury proved to be a superb game of cricket. Tim Lloyd scored a fantastic 106, ably supported by an excellent cameo from Matt Thomas. Haileybury led in pursuit of 184 to win but were held back by Vansh Jani and Shehan Sivaranjan, alongside an excellent fielding display from the whole side.

In the regional final against Hurstpierpoint College, Tim Lloyd got Whitgift off to a good start and a fantastic 58 off 35 from Ben Karpal got the team to 178. The semi-final saw Whitgift paired against tournament favourites, King's Taunton. Following an excellent bowling and fielding performance, King's were restricted to 122, a total reached without losing



a wicket (Tim Lloyd 68, Arjun Gill 50) with over 5 overs to spare. The final saw Whitgift paired against Myerscough College (a specialist Cricket Sixth Form College) and after being restricted to 126-7 (Vansh Jani 42) and a very tense 2nd innings, the team won by 10 runs, Salaar Shabbir with a match winning bowling performance of 5 for 14.

The first National U18 cricket win was a real squad effort with everyone playing their part across the campaign, but a special mention goes to Tim Lloyd who averaged 73.5 across the tournament with an amazing strike rate of 146 and led the group by example all season.

Whitgift managed to score 101 runs from 12 overs and became National Champions

The first National U18 cricket win was a real squad effort



PUBLIC SCHOOLS FENCING CHAMPIONSHIPS

60 of the Whitgift fencers represented the School at the Public Schools Fencing Championships (PSFC) at Lea Valley Athletic Centre in March 2022. The competition is steeped in history dating back to 1890 and in fact one of the early Boys Foil winners was a certain Winston Churchill in 1892!

Over the course of the three days, the Whitgift fencers competed at all three weapons (Foil, Épée & Sabre) in the Mount Hayes (U14), Junior (U16) & Senior (U18) categories, individual medalists were as follows:

- Marcus Pun – Silver Boys Senior Foil
- Marcus Pun – Silver Boys Senior Épée
- Wing Hei Chun – Gold Boys Junior Sabre
- Adiy Siddiq – Bronze Boys Junior Sabre
- Amani Campbell-Okolo – Silver Boys Junior Épée

Top 8 placings were also achieved by a further seven students.

The team trophies were awarded based on competitors' placings in the individual events, meaning that each pupil that went through at least one round earned points for their school. Whitgift finished 1st overall in the boys U14, U16 & U18 categories culminating in the School winning the award of overall top boys' school 2022, for the first time in 21 years.

Whitgift's Head of Fencing, Mr Williams dedicated the win to Keith Smith OBE who sadly passed away in 2021. It was a fitting tribute to a much-loved Whitgift teacher and colleague who had run the school's fencing programme for many years. The competition organisers also

paid tribute to Keith, not only had he run the PSFC for many years, but he had also held several other important roles within fencing including President of the British Fencing Association, Vice President of the European Fencing Federation and Olympic referee, to mention just a few.

The championships had not taken place for two years due to the pandemic and its return to the new Lea Valley venue was very well received. The three days were a wonderful experience for the students, lots of lessons learnt and it was nice to see the excellent team spirit amongst them and the support that they gave each other. We look forward to PSFC 2023!



THE LAUNCH OF WHITGIFT FOR ALL

Whitgift formally launched its new charity **Whitgift For All (WFA)** on **Saturday 14 May, aimed at widening access to the School through bursarial support and increasing partnerships.**

Staff, students and OWs and their families arrived for the occasion described by WFA's Chairman and OW (1961-68), Lord Freud, as the most important act of philanthropy since 1596. Guests were treated to music from Whitgift's Jazz Quartet, and some scenes from Senior Drama students re-enacting Alan Bennett's 'The History of Boys', together with Teacher of English, Mr Wilson in the role of Hector.

Lord Freud commented, "Whitgift For all is about changing culture to bring us in line with other independent schools who have powerful alumni funding groups. We are working closely with the School and John Whitgift Foundation to make sure our support is as effective as possible. Whitgift For All is not just about bursaries for a lucky few who are parachuted out of their communities. It is also focused on

what we, and the School, can do for the whole community."

An incredible £1.5m was raised prior to the launch, and the WFA Trustees' aspiration for the charity is that the wider Whitgift community will continue to build a fund big enough to ensure the School has a considerable social impact over the next four centuries.

This year is also marked by a new Whitgift For All mural installed in one of the stairwells in the main school building. Students will be able to see the history of giving and year after year, new stories, created by the students here today, will be added.



WHITGIFT FOR ALL



The most important act of philanthropy since 1596



THE RETURN OF OUR ANNUAL JUNIOR HOUSE SPORTS DAY – A SUCCESS ALL ROUND!

A core community component of the Lower First and First Form calendar is the Junior House competition. Whitgift's nine Junior Houses are put to the test in fun-filled competitions in pursuit of the House Cup. The annual Junior House Sports Day is one of the culminating events of the House calendar and eagerly looked forward to.

This year's event in June 2022 was particularly special as it marked the first time since 2018 that the School has been able to run the event and the staff and students were thrilled to welcome parents on to site to cheer along! South Field was filled with a sense of excitement as all year groups competed in a wide variety of events: short and long-distance running, relays, hurdles, long and high jumps, javelin, discus, shot put, and more!

The youngest members of the School came together to form a team, and not only were there numerous impressive personal performances throughout the afternoon, but students cheered each other on – for those within their own house and indeed their competition. It was an afternoon of joy and pride in everything that the School tries to represent – challenge, integrity, support and celebration.

Damson House, led by Mr Jackson, drew the afternoon to a close in victorious fashion, scoring a total of 244 points. Followed closely by Oak House, led by Mr Townshend, in second place with a total of 237 points and Beech House, led by Dr Hudson, coming in third place with a total of 233 points.

The afternoon was a true success, and Whitgift is thankful to all of those who were able to join.



Damson House drew the afternoon to a close in victorious fashion

PIANO COMPETITION 2022

Whitgift's annual Piano Competition had a record number of entries in March 2022, with a high standard of performances across all four classes: Class A (up to grade 2), B (grades 3-5), C (grades 6-7) and D (grade 8 and above).

Director of Music, Mr Elsom commented, "All students did incredibly well, and my thanks go to Mr Lane, Head of Keyboard, for organising the event, and Mr Motley, who adjudicated the Junior Class at lunchtime."

The School wishes to thank our external adjudicator, Carole Presland, a professional adjudicator and Senior Tutor in Keyboard Chamber Music at Guildhall School of Music & Drama. Carole was incredibly impressed by the quality of the performances from the students, particularly in the intermediate and senior classes.

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

- > Class A – Shalom Fernando (Second Form)
- > Class B – Si Ru Huang (Fourth Form),
- > Class C – Alexei Quinones (Second Form)
- > Class D – Jerry Lin (Upper Sixth Form)

A special mention also to Third Former, Ethan Gilbert on achieving the Barnett Cup for a pianist of outstanding potential from any class.



Congratulations to all the winners



GUITAR FESTIVAL & COMPETITION

Whitgift's Guitar Festival displayed a wonderful variety of performances in the Concert Hall in March 2022. The first part of the evening included a selection of solo and ensemble performances, where some of the younger students joined with older students to deliver performances of a remarkably high quality. The diverse choice of repertoire was impressive to see, with many students accompanying themselves whilst also singing.

The final part of the evening concluded with the Debbie Thomas Guitar Competition. The competition started with funds received as a bequest in the will of Debbie Thomas, who was once a regular attendee of concerts at Whitgift. Debbie was an amateur guitarist and so inspired by the Julian Bream recital here at Whitgift in 1997 that she made provision in her will for monies to support the study and performance of classical guitar.

All the students performed admirably, and the overall musicality was fantastic. Congratulations to Jay Rowe (Upper Sixth Form) on achieving 1st Prize, Damola Amusa (Upper Sixth Form) for 2nd Prize, and Luke Stephanos (Fourth Form) for 3rd Prize.

The School would like to thank Peripatetic Guitar Teachers, Mr James and Mr Hill, who designed the festival and competition to incorporate all types of guitars, while accompanying and preparing the students. Thank you also to the AV Team for their help with sound-checks prior to the performances and with the recording.



The diverse choice of repertoire was impressive to see



A STORY OF COURAGE AND COMPASSION

The Junior Years production of *Lionboy*, written by Zizou Corde, ran for three days in February 2022 and was chosen for its theatricality and playful style. For those not familiar with the story, it tells the tale of a young and courageous protagonist, Charlie Ashanti.

The play was directed by professional Director and Old Whitgiftian, Matthew Dann. The story opens with Charlie, played by Seyi Andes-Pelumi (Second Form) introducing himself to the audience, followed by the other characters. Throughout the play the audience was treated to characters speaking to them aside, while they share their thoughts through soliloquy.

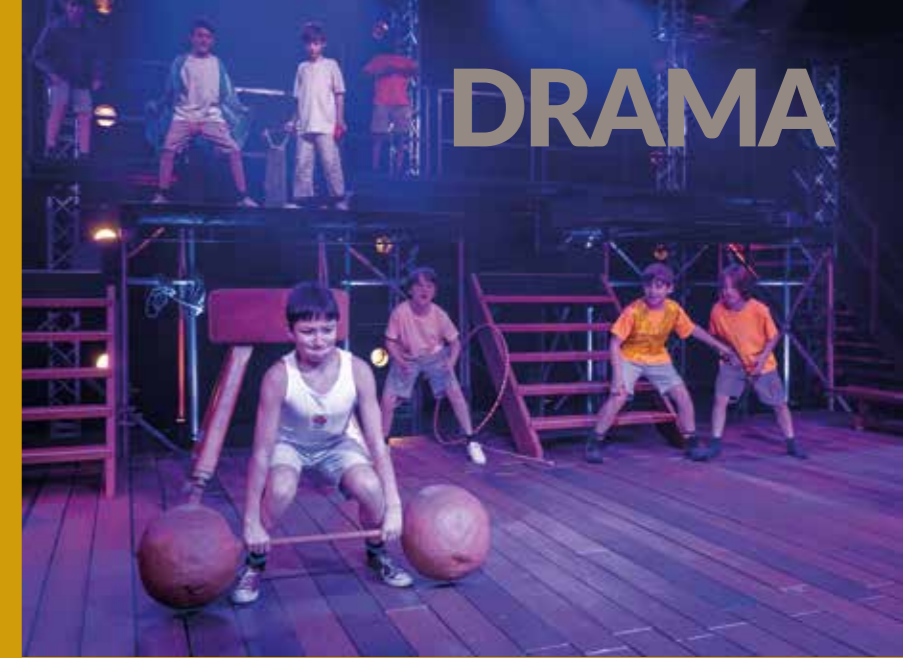


The movement of the cast, particularly during the escape scenes, was masterfully executed

Charlie's journey begins when his parents go missing and he embarks on a rescue mission and a battle against an organisation known as The Corporacy. The Performing Arts Centre was transformed into a platform of different worlds, with a diverse cast of characters including Sergei (Danny Montgomery), a cat from Wigan named after the Russian composer and Ninu (George Pang), a multi-lingual chameleon, both played by First Form students. Charlie finds refuge at a floating circus, led by Major Tib (Third Former, Rourke Mooney) where he meets the lions he promises to return to Africa. Throughout his journey, he is chased by an endearing adversary, Rafi Sadler (Second Former, Ethan Carmalt), who is employed by The Corporacy to capture him.

The Junior Years cast did an impressive job, with many of them having learnt long and complex lines as well as successfully adding humour to parts of their characters. The movement of the cast, particularly during the escape scenes, was masterfully executed, and the drums played in the background by Lower Sixth Form student, Milo Weaver, was a clever addition.

The School would like to thank all the students and staff involved in this wonderful production, and a special thanks to Matthew Dann and Movement Director, Ioli Filippakopoulou for coming to the School to share their expertise.



FOUNDER'S DAY 2022

Each year on 22 March, members of the Whitgift community, alongside other students and staff across the John Whitgift Foundation, gather to commemorate Founder's Day, the annual celebration where tribute is paid to the life and work of our Founder, John Whitgift.

This year is the first time we have been able to mark Founder's Day since 2019. Celebrations started with an early morning Founder's Day service held at the Whitgift House Chapel, led by School Chaplain, Reverend Alan Bayes. We were delighted to have several OWs in attendance in addition to members of Whitgift's Founder's House, and pupils from Old Palace of John Whitgift School's student leadership team. After the service, all in attendance were invited back to the School for breakfast, which was much needed after the 7:15am start!

On arrival at the Minster, they were greeted by Whitgift's Corps of Drums



Members of the Upper Sixth Form were each given a white rose during morning registration, while members of the Lower Sixth Form and Senior Leadership Team headed to Croydon Minster to join with those from the other Foundation Schools, Whitgift Care, and the Careers' Information Centre at the Annual Founder's Day Service. On arrival at the Minster, they were greeted by Whitgift's Corps of Drums, a nod to the tradition of old where Trinity and Whitgift used to parade to the service though Croydon, led by their respective Corps of Drums. The service was led by the Reverend Canon Dr Andrew Bishop, Vicar of Croydon and Chaplain to John Whitgift Foundation.

On occasions such as Founder's Day, we are reminded of the importance of the legacy left by John Whitgift 425 years ago, and we are continually grateful to all those who help build upon this today.

INCREDIBLE PERFORMANCES IN MODERN PENTATHLON

Fifth Former, Jack Murray represented Great Britain at the 2022 Union Internationale de Pentathlon Moderne (UIPM) U17 European Championships in Krakow, Poland in July 2022.

Jack had an exceptional individual competition which saw him finish in 9th position. Later in the week Jack competed in the team relay with fellow Great Britain teammates, an outstanding performance which saw them claim the Silver medal. It was a great competition for Jack at European level, which secured his selection to the 2022 UIPM U17 World Championships taking place in September 2022 in Italy. The School would like to wish Jack all the best.

Old Whitgiftian, Joe Choong's success at the Tokyo Olympics did not stop there. He embarked on a quest to become Senior World Modern Pentathlon Champion along with aiming to secure a place at the Commonwealth Games in Fencing, and both goals were

successfully achieved over Summer 2022. At the end of July, Joe achieved a lifetime goal of becoming the current reigning Olympic Champion and World Champion. An incredible performance saw him dominate the competition and cross the line to gain the title. Joe flew

straight from Egypt back to the UK to compete in the Commonwealth games in Fencing where his performance saw him achieve 2 bronze medals, one in the individual and one in the team events. A superb all-round performance and brilliant role model for any Whitgift pupil.



CELEBRATION OF WHITGIFT LIFE RETURNS FOR THE WHOLE SCHOOL

July 2022 saw the Sports Hall transformed with staging and lighting by Whitgift's Audio Visual team for the final event of the School year – a Celebration of Whitgift Life (CoWL).

Students, parents and guardians, and staff gathered as the Whitgift Brass ensemble performed *The Final Countdown* composed by Joey Tempest and arranged by John Hammonds, followed by a welcome from the Headmaster and Mr Nick Edwards, Chairman of Governors.

Before taking to the stage, this year's guest of honour Director and Vice-Chancellor of the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), Professor Adam Habib, joined a group of students for an insightful round table discussion.

He later gave a passionate speech during the ceremony emphasising the importance of finding global solutions for transnational challenges. He commented, "for you to find global solutions, you need two foundational elements," the first is, "knowledge systems from different parts of the world to talk to each other," and secondly, "we need to cohere as a human community."

Upper Sixth Former, Fraser Murray performed 'A Reflection on the Year' which touched on numerous events and achievements throughout the academic year. The musical interludes had the Whitgift Symphony Orchestra perform *Expressing Yourself* by Elton John, and Lee Hall's *Billy Elliot the Musical*, and the Jazz

Band performed *Watermelon Man* by Herbie Hancock arranged by Teacher of Music Mrs Fieller.

Mr Ramsey also took a moment to reflect and remember those in the School community who we sadly lost during the past year; former Whitgift Estates Manager Ken Emmins, Fifth Form student Leon Berisha and distinguished Old Whitgiftian Kevin Kalkhoven.

The evening ended with a closing message from incoming School Captain, Harvey Rendall followed by Whitgift's Corps of Drums.



Professor Adam Habib joined a group of students for an insightful round table discussion



Q&A SESSION WITH FOOTBALL OWS CALLUM HUDSON-ODOI AND DI'SHON BERNARD

Old Whitgiftians Callum Hudson-Odoi (Chelsea Football Club [on loan to Bayer Leverkusen] & England) and Di'Shon Bernard (Manchester United [on loan to Hull City]) visited the School in July 2022 to say thank you and goodbye to Whitgift and Crystal Palace Coach, Mr Kember. Mr Kember has been a coach at Whitgift for over 15 years and it was a real mark of respect that these Premier League players were able to clear their busy schedules to mark the occasion of his retirement.

During their visit, Callum and Di'Shon participated in a Q&A session with Mr Kember and some First Form pupils. Director of Football, Mr Martin, led the interview panel and asked Callum and Di'Shon several questions about their professional careers and their fondest memories at Whitgift, before giving First Formers the opportunity to also ask questions.

One student asked Callum, "How did it feel to win the Champions League with your team?" He

responded, "It was a great feeling, knowing that it's the biggest competition in Club Football and then to win with the players you grew up with...it was amazing."

Callum's advice to students in the First Form was to 'give 100% in everything you do...'

Callum's advice to students in the First Form based on his own experiences was to "give 100% in everything you do... [and to] make sure you listen to your teachers and coaches because they are there to advise you and give you the best options." Di'Shon added, "the School offers you so many different sports so take the opportunity to try everything, because you don't know what you'll like until you try it."

After the visit, First Form pupils received a signed photograph of themselves with Callum and Di'Shon which was greatly appreciated. The School is extremely thankful to them both for giving up their time to talk with current students and inspiring them to try something new.



UPPER SIXTH FORMER REPRESENTS THE ENGLAND RUGBY U18S

Upper Sixth Former, Sean Kerr represented the England Rugby U18s in a three-match international series against the South Africa U18s in Paarl, South Africa in August 2022. Sean was one of England's stand out players across the series.

The England U18's played an attacking fast paced game and their superb skills stretched the big physical South African team. Sean was extremely pleased to be selected, starting 12 in games 1 and 3, and came off the bench in game 2 to help secure a win against South Africa.

Sean was born in South Africa so it was a very special privilege to represent England against his country of birth in his first international series. Huge congratulations to Sean on this fantastic achievement.



Sean was born in South Africa so it was a very special privilege to represent England against his country of birth

ROUND UP FROM THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF SPORT

The Trinity Term brought down the curtain on a wonderful year of sport at Whitgift. A total of 1,170 students have represented Whitgift in over 2,000 competitive fixtures spanning 22 different sporting activities. Thank you to all the students, parents, and staff for their commitment, passion and endeavour over the past school year.

There have been numerous highlights, in particular the volume of students engaging and committing to the sports on offer. The co-curricular sporting programme continues to provide a vast array of opportunities for students of all abilities with over 150 clubs on offer for students to train and play in, with both internal and external competitive fixtures. A special mention to students in the Junior Years where 622 of the 685 (91%) engaged in competitive co-curricular sport, a very encouraging statistic.

The early part of the Trinity Term saw the conclusion of the Hockey and Football season. The Hockey U14, U15, U16 & U19 squads were crowned National Champions whilst our U13A Football team were runners-up in the PlayStation Elite Schools Cup.

However, it was the Senior Cricketers in early July who rounded the summer off in true style, winning for the first time in the School's history the National School Twenty20 (T20) Cup. This was followed up with the U11A Cricket team winning the ESCA Under Eleven Hardball Competition, also becoming National Champions. Across all sporting activities, Whitgift students represented the School in 55 National finals. This is a truly astonishing achievement, and we congratulate all who took part.

It was fantastic to see five former Old Whitgiftians represent England at the Commonwealth Games this summer. Rhys Smith, Zach Wallace, & Jack Waller won a Bronze in Men's Hockey, whilst Joe Choong won Bronze in Fencing and was

crowned World Modern Pentathlon Champion to add to his Olympic Gold. Lawrence Okoye became the first ever British athlete to win a Discus Silver medal at the European Championships. Their endeavours, combined with the pursuits of many other OWs continue to inspire our students.

Thank you to the entire Whitgift community who contribute to our outstanding co-curricular Sport.

Mr Shedwick
Assistant Director of Sport

NEWS

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

Whitgift is delighted to have had several community activities running over the year. Alongside hundreds of Sixth Form volunteers who work in local schools, and the long running Primary School Project, that also includes Whitgift students taking part in mentoring and teaching, it has been a busy summer.

Third Annual Community Summer School

Whitgift's Community Summer School ran for two weeks over the 2022 summer holidays. Over 200 Year 5 pupils from local primary schools, selected by their headteachers, took part. Lessons covered Maths, English and Science but pupils also had the opportunity to try Mandarin, Philosophy and History. In the afternoons, and following a hot lunch, pupils were able to experience a wide range of co-curricular activities including Drama, Fencing, Art and – for the first time – Dance.

The Mayor of Croydon, Mr Jason Perry, visited Whitgift in the first week, and met some of the pupils and staff involved in the programme. Headmaster, Mr Ramsey took Mayor Perry on a tour, accompanied by Director of Partnerships and Community, Mr Marlow, and School Governors, Reverend Canon Dr Andrew Bishop and Mr Andrew Lilley.

Thank you to Mr Haji who took on the role of Course Director of Whitgift's Community Summer School and coordinated the programme so well. In addition, generous donations from the WSPA and individual parents helped to contribute towards the cost of this initiative. We are very grateful for their support.

Community Masterclasses

During the Trinity Term, staff and Sixth Formers ran Saturday academic masterclasses for pupils from local primary schools. Lessons covered Maths, English and Science. An additional 40 pupils took part in the programme (following a cohort of 45 in Michaelmas Term) which ran over six weeks in May and June 2022.

Croquet at Whitgift House

In May 2022, Whitgift staff were challenged to a game of croquet by an experienced team of Whitgift House residents. The fixture ended in a draw thanks to a group of Whitgift Sixth Form students who joined the team at late notice and won their pairs match.





CCF ANNUAL GENERAL INSPECTION 2022

Whitgift's Combined Cadet Force (CCF) saw the much-anticipated return of The Annual General Inspection (AGI) on Friday 29 April. This event had not taken place for two years and it was also the first year that Whitgift CCF partnered with Old Palace of John Whitgift School – with girls joining the CCF – another positive example of a co-educational partnership between the schools.

The AGI is an opportunity for a Senior Officer to inspect the CCF and observe the activities the students have been involved in over the course of the year. This year's Inspecting Officer was Air Commodore, Ian Townsend.

On the day, the cadets took part in numerous activities located around the School. From an obstacle course on Big Side to scuba-diving in the pool, as well as multiple survival tasks such as creating fires and building shelters. Students stood proud as the Formal Inspection of the Guard of Honour and Corps of Drums took place. Their recital was outstanding and showed the level of dedication to their roles. Senior students also demonstrated a Platoon Attack, and threw themselves into their performance, creating an intense and energetic attack.

The final event of the day was the Corps of Drums Beating Retreat, a wonderful way to end a successful afternoon. The day concluded with Inspecting Officer Ian Townsend addressing the pupils and praising their achievements. The student's enthusiasm was commended as he expressed that the Combined Cadet Force at Whitgift is "excellence in the making."

Combined Cadet Force at Whitgift is "excellence in the making"



In April 2022, 20 Cadets from Third Form to Sixth Form were selected to participate in the Army vs Navy Rugby Match. This annual tradition started in 1907 and was originally played by officers from the Army and the Navy. The match represents the dedication and camaraderie of all British Military personnel. This once-in-a-lifetime opportunity meant that a selection of Whitgift's CCF recruits had the responsibility of laying its flag upon Twickenham's pitch before kickoff.

Selected Whitgift cadets were also invited to visit the HMS Queen Elizabeth in July 2022, allowing pupils the opportunity to tour the ship as well as learn more about some of the Royal Navy's recent deployments.

MUSIC SOIRÉE

Jazz legend Art Blakey said, "Jazz washes away the dust of everyday life" and that's exactly what Whitgift's musicians did for the audience who attended the feel good 'soirée' of jazz music greats.

On the evening of Friday 13 May, parents joined the Headmaster and guests for drinks, snacks and toe tapping music from Whitgift Jazz Band, Soul Choir, Concert Band and the Guitar Ensemble.

It was a happy coincidence that Jazz Band and Soul Choir could combine to perform *Sir Duke* on the eve of Stevie Wonder's 70th birthday. The programme, which also included *Sing Sing Sing* and *Girl from Ipanema*, was performed on the stage in Big School and the relaxed café-style set up allowed the audience to mill around tall tables or take a seat in the balcony to enjoy the music.

The facilities team did a fantastic job of turning Big School into Teacher of Music, Mrs Fieller's vision of a 1930s music hall, which encouraged the audience to tap their toes along with the beat.

Congratulations to everyone involved.



The relaxed café-style set up allowed the audience to mill around tall tables to enjoy the music



SUSTAINABILITY AT WHITGIFT

Away from the classrooms and often very much behind the scenes, Whitgift has teams of staff dedicated to sustainably maintaining the School's grounds and buildings, creating a thriving environment for students, and wildlife, at Haling Park.

A conversation with Head Gardener, Mr Mallett, or Head of Grounds, Mr Ratling reveals the level of planning that goes into how it is cared for, with students often very engaged in the initiatives themselves through Whitgift's co-curricular clubs; Horticulture Society, Biodiversity Club and Green Committee.

Biodiversity

Planted areas of the grounds have biodiversity that their heart. Mixed perennials that flower throughout the year from March to October are great for pollinators and the plants are left standing as a shelter for the hibernators. Planting frequently mimics a natural habitat with plants at different levels creating layers and a haven for wildlife. Increasingly, the plants are grown from seeds, rather than nursery bought cuttings, which are collected around the grounds.

Several sites around Haling Park have also been left unmown and are managed as grassland and 'Wild' areas. The long-term aim of this is to create species rich grassland and further improve biodiversity through habitat creation. The additional benefit of reduced mowing is the lowering of emissions. The Ground's team have started the transition to electric lawn

mowers and other handheld and electric machinery for maintenance. This includes pedestrian sweepers and hedge cutters which in addition to reducing emissions, reduce exposure to HAVS (hand arm vibrator syndrome) for the operator.

Irrigation

A dry garden was created in 2019 outside the Concert Hall and Music classrooms. Designed to be drought resistant, the area has not required any irrigation since its creation with layers of gravel and mulch protecting the soil and keeping it at a steady temperature. This area has been truly tested with the extreme heat over the summer of 2022!

Soil Scout in-pitch sensors are used to record continuous data on soil moisture, temperature and salinity. This reduces irrigation inputs and ensure timings of nutritional applications are effective. Sports pitch irrigation is now from a borehole which reduces reliance on potable (mains) water.

Solar energy

Work will very soon begin on the installations of PV solar panels on the roof of the Sports Centre. Once completed they are expected to provide at least 50% of the overall energy to the building.

Whitgift's Woodland Copse

With the help from students, over 200 trees have been planted at Haling Park since 2018. Most of the trees are native tree species planted to improve the woodland habitat and with additional benefit of Carbon sequestration. The Biodiversity Club, with assistance of Grounds and Gardening teams have also created bug hotels within the Copse.

While the grounds are not yet 100% organically managed, this is the aim, and Whitgift's gardeners only use chemicals when necessary. With plants on site that are over 100 years old, occasional assistance is needed to fend off disease and preserve them for future generations to enjoy.



CO-CURRICULAR FOCUS – PROGRAMMING CLUB

Teacher of Computer Science, Mr Graoui runs Programming Club for students to develop their interest and skills in Computer Science.

The club gives students the opportunity to accelerate their capabilities and attracts pupils from across the School. For some they will focus on CSS and HTML to build a website, Scratch to develop computer games or Python to create apps.

"Over six months, one Second Form student learned the skills he needed in CSS and HTML to build a website about his favourite football club," said Mr Graoui.

Most members of the club range from Lower First to Fourth Formers and will have done Scratch programming at school prior to

joining Whitgift so they have knowledge of the basics. The club is then a place for them to work in a pair or as a team to come up with an idea and then make it come alive. That collaboration is an important aspect of the club, sparking ideas and creativity and often sees friendships develop.

Older students, however, are also welcome and those interested in app development will focus on learning more about programming in Python.

The club encourages a focus on testing, not just as a part of the process to optimise and refine a project but for the communication skills that are practised. Testing involves reviewing someone else's work and providing constructive feedback; this could be to an older or younger peer. Students then



Collaboration is an important aspect of the club, sparking ideas and creativity and often sees friendships develop

listen to feedback and reflect on it to improve their work. The range of ages in the group means the youngest members get to talk to and learn from older students and older students listen to feedback on their work from younger students.

More details on Programming Club are available on the website in the Co-curricular Directory.

SIXTH FORM EVENTS

Upper Sixth Graduation

Upper Sixth Formers marked the end of their time at Whitgift with the Graduation Ceremony on Friday 1 July in Big School. The Upper Sixth Graduation is one of the most important and symbolic events in the student's school career; a chance to reflect on past achievements, friendships and accomplishments, and to look ahead to the next chapter in their academic careers.

Head of Upper Sixth Form, Mr Griffiths introduced the Ceremony and highlighted the importance of this major milestone, before the presentation of awards began and prize-winners made their way to the stage. School Captain (2021-22), Struan Fotheringham highlighted some of the numerous events and achievements throughout the academic year, followed by a passionate speech from English Teacher, Mr Cook. Mr Cook addressed the students on what it means to be a pupil at Whitgift and reflected on his time at Whitgift as he now begins his retirement.

Headmaster, Mr Chris Ramsey closed the Ceremony with some inspirational words to the students, before they made their way to the Andrew Quangle to enjoy drinks in the sunshine with their families, staff and peers.

The School would like to thank this whole cohort of students for their determination, resilience and good humour, and for being exceptional role models to those in younger years. "It has been an honour and a pleasure to be the Head of Year for these students. They have all made a huge contribution to the School in a plethora of different ways," said Mr Griffiths.

Theory of Knowledge Exhibition

In June 2022, the annual Theory of Knowledge (TOK) Exhibition took place in the Sixth Form Centre for all 51 Lower Sixth IB students, exhibiting in person and/or digitally. Staff and students were invited to the fantastic event filled with intellectual effort and curiosity.

The TOK Exhibition is an essential part of the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma programme, providing an opportunity for students to reflect on the nature of knowledge, and on how we know what we claim to know. Each student is required to select a prompt to stimulate their selection and curation of three objects with knowledge connections.

All students displayed a clear understanding of the complexity of knowledge and admirably supported one another throughout the process.

TRIPS

There were too many trips to cover every one of them, but here is a selection of memorable moments.

1. Third and Fourth Form Geography enrichment trip to Swanage. Activities included coastering, rock climbing and sea swimming, alongside a guided hike from Lulworth Cove to Durdle Door, while camping on a beautiful campsite that backed onto Poole Harbour. (July 2022)

2. 42 Fourth Formers visited the South Downs for their practice Duke of Edinburgh expedition. (May 2022)

3. Lower Sixth IB students enjoyed a trip to the Horniman Museum. (June 2022)

4. London Theatre trip to watch *Great Women Who Changed the World*. (July 2022)

5. Students across all year groups enjoyed a Surfing trip to Devon as part of their Outdoor Education programme. (June 2022)

6. 30 Whitgift Lower Sixth Physicists went to a local paintballing centre to conduct a series of projectiles and ballistics experiments. Teams also had to complete a series of timed physics questions to earn points and extra paintballs for the afternoon's games. (June 2022)

7. Whitgift Boarding students enjoyed numerous activities as part of their weekend activity programme led by Senior Boarding Housemaster, Mr Chaloner, including a trip to The Shard, London. (February 2022)



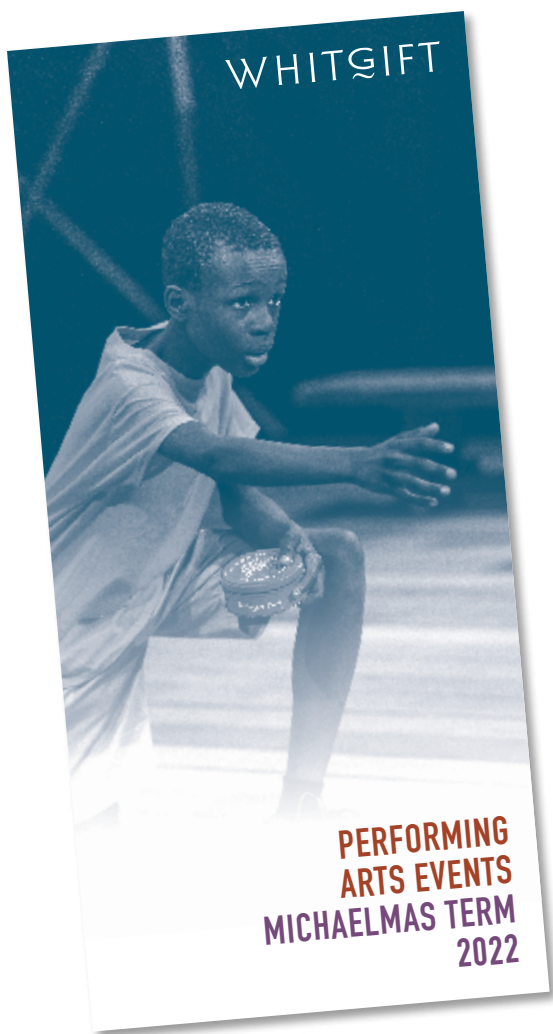
8. Senior cadets from the Combined Cadet Force (CCF) visited Whitgift's affiliated Royal Navy Flagship, *HMS Queen Elizabeth*. They toured the ship and watched presentations about their recent deployment. (August 2022)

9. Fifth Form students benefitted from multiple lectures on their

Cambridge Science trip and had the opportunity to visit the Whipple Museum of the History & Philosophy of Science, stroll down King's Parade and tour Emmanuel College. (March 2022)

10. Lower First Formers enjoyed numerous teambuilding activities on their residential trip to the Pioneer Centre, Kidderminster. (July 2022)





PERFORMING ARTS EVENTS

NEWVIEWS REHEARSED PLAY READING

Wednesday 14 September
5pm, Big School
Free admission

HOUSE DRAMA

Thursday 13 October 2022
7pm, Performing Arts Centre
Free admission
(by reserving on WisePay only)

THE CAUCASIAN CHALK CIRCLE BY BERTOLT BRECHT, TRANSLATED BY ALISTAIR BEATON

Wednesday 7 -
Friday 9 December 2022
7pm, Big School
Tickets: £10 and £5 concessions*
(by reserving on WisePay only)

WOODWIND COMPETITION

Tuesday 4 October 2022
4pm, Concert Hall
Free admission
(by reserving on WisePay only)

STRING COMPETITION

Wednesday 9 November
1pm to 2pm and 4pm, Concert Hall
Free admission
(by reserving on WisePay only)

MINSTER CHORAL CONCERT

Saturday 12 November
Time TBC, Croydon Minster

AUTUMN COLLECTION CONCERT

Thursday 17 November
7pm, Fairfield Halls
Tickets available direct
from Fairfield Halls

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)

IN MEMORIAM

We are honoured to have had
Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II
visit the School in 1996.

An online book of remembrance
has been opened for any members
of the Whitgift Community
who wish to pass on their condolences:

[https://www.whitgift.co.uk/
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Photography

Front cover: Stephen J Kennedy Photography

Inside: Alex Hill, Aga King, DFPhotography, Fergus Burnett, Getty Images, Mark Hakansson, Niki Bruckner

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