



## In proud remembrance

Whitgift celebrates the 100th anniversary of the First World War BBC's CEO Tim Davie visits as part of Academic Enrichment The School's extraordinary production of *Macbeth* England Rugby player Elliot Daly returns Whitgift Minster Choristers sing live on BBC Radio 3 Arminster Dhillon wins award for Dragons' Den Boot Buddy and more inside ...



# Autumn Collection

## performing arts

The Autumn Collection concert is one of Whitgift's most popular annual events, showcasing the range of talent amongst the School's musicians. What makes the event a highlight in the musical calendar is that this is the first and only major concert in which all First Form boys perform together.

The Corps of Drums provided a rousing start and being entirely student-run, celebrated their motto "By the boys, for the boys". The programme continued to

showcase an array of musical ensembles, including the brass players performing *Gonna Fly Now* by the Top Trumpets and *Thunderbirds* played by the Whitgift Brass. The Percussion Ensemble gave a vibrant performance of Quincy Jones's *Soul Bossa Nova*.

The Whitgift A Capella and Soul Choirs brought energy into the hall and the boys enjoyed the opportunity to perform in front of a large audience. The instrumental ensembles consisted

of the Big Band performing music by Herbie Hancock and the Symphony Orchestra playing *Dances with Wolves* by John Barry as well as *Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso* by Camille Saint-Saens (with violin soloist Luka Perazic).

For the finale, the entire First Form Choir rose to give hearty renditions of the Stevie Wonder hit *Isn't She Lovely* and *Uptown Funk* by Mark Ronson and Bruno Mars, supported by the specially formed band. Well done to Fourth Former Joshua Tikare for

his solo performance in the role of Bruno Mars during *Uptown Funk*. Congratulations also to all the boys who took part and to the staff involved in planning and performing during the evening.

The Autumn Collection concert has traditionally been held in Croydon's Fairfield Halls which is currently closed for refurbishment. We are hoping to return there after the venue re-opens in 2019, allowing for an even larger audience for next year's event.







## Humanutopia workshop

In September 2018, Humanutopia returned to the School to lead a series of workshops with the First Form boys. Humanutopia create and run life-changing courses for young people and adults in schools and the wider community. The workshops challenged the boys to open up and think about other people and their circumstances. First Former Joe Mumford commented, "The workshop encouraged me to be more confident and go the extra mile. I learned about respecting other people's opinions, the importance of being kind and to just be yourself."

The boys performed team building exercises which became increasingly challenging

throughout the day. These tasks are designed to build confidence, create happiness and help with relationships and future employability. It was evident the boys enjoyed working together and making new friends. Another First Former Alex Onyeka said, "What I enjoyed the most was the energy and happiness flooding around the hall."

Founded in 2004, Humanutopia has worked with over 400 schools and their expert facilitators help young people in a relaxing and fun environment. We would like to thank them for visiting Whitgift again and also to the Fifth Form prefects who did an excellent job supporting the younger boys on the day.



## 2018 Academic Highlights

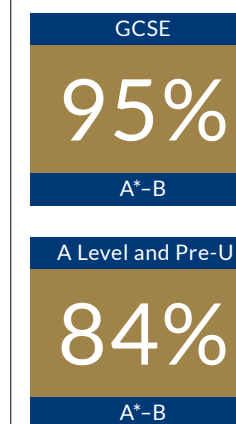
This year saw excellent results in Public Examinations coupled with a huge range of wider academic success across all areas of school life.

At GCSE, nearly half of new style entries were awarded at the top grades of 8 or 9. An impressive 32 pupils achieved the top grades possible (9 or A\*) in 8 or more of their GCSE subjects and 3 achieved the rare feat of gaining top grades in all eleven of their subject entries. 95% received A\*-B grades and 22% achieved Grade 9 which compares with 4.3% nationally.

Fifty pupils in the Upper Fifth Form completed the challenging Additional Mathematics qualification, with 24 obtaining the top grade. In the Upper Sixth Form, results in the International Baccalaureate were again outstanding, with an average point total of 38 out of a maximum of 45. The A Level and Pre-U examinations experienced 84% of all grades being awarded at A\*-B; this rises to 86% when combined with the IB result. Shintaro Nishijo achieved a remarkable 7 A\* grades and 35 pupils

gained straight A\* and A grades at A Level or Pre-U equivalent.

A total of 114 Whitgiftians are going to universities in The Times top 20 for 2018, which is a testament to the hard work and determination of students and staff. The Headmaster and staff at Whitgift would like to congratulate all boys on their achievements and wish them the very best in their future studies.



## Upper Sixth Form Symposium

For approximately 15 years Whitgift Upper Sixth Formers have taken part in an annual Symposium, which was held at North London Collegiate School (NLCS) in October 2018. The Symposium is an opportunity for students to develop collaborative as well as independent research skills.

Whitgift students had been working with a partner student at either NLCS or Tottenham Academy since the start of the Michaelmas Term, identifying a controversial or little-known topic in the field they wish to study and preparing a presentation on it to small groups of peers.

On the day of the Symposium, the students gave their presentations in pairs and then participated in open discussions with a wider group focusing on their subject

area. They then had a Q&A discussion, tying different topics together.

Head of Sixth Form, Mr Thomas Burnside commented, "The presentations covered a range of engaging topics, from developmental economics to Shakespearean drama. They displayed a high academic standard which will really prepare them for presenting in undergraduate study. We were impressed at their approach to collaboration and the professionalism they showed when presenting their ideas and during the Q&A."

The Symposium is also a great opportunity for students to practise skills that will benefit them not only when applying to university, but also at university and in the workplace.



*'The Symposium is an opportunity for students to develop collaborative research as well as independent research skills'*





## Whitgift House Drama



The tradition that is the Whitgift House Drama competition is a great start to the academic year for promising actors and those simply wanting to get involved. This event is unique in the School's theatrical programme, as it is the only one in which no creative input from staff is allowed. This gives the boys the opportunity of doing everything themselves: directing, rehearsing, choreographing and providing a technical script.

The Houses put tremendous effort into their plays, with

Dodd's House pre-recording their own video clips to segue between their live performance. The judges for the night, acclaimed actors Keith Bartlett and Jacqueline King, praised all eight Houses for both their skill and endeavour, but they were in agreement with the audience that the Andrew's performance stood out as the highlight of the night.

Andrew's House was victorious with their self-written play, 'The Play'. It focussed on two budding

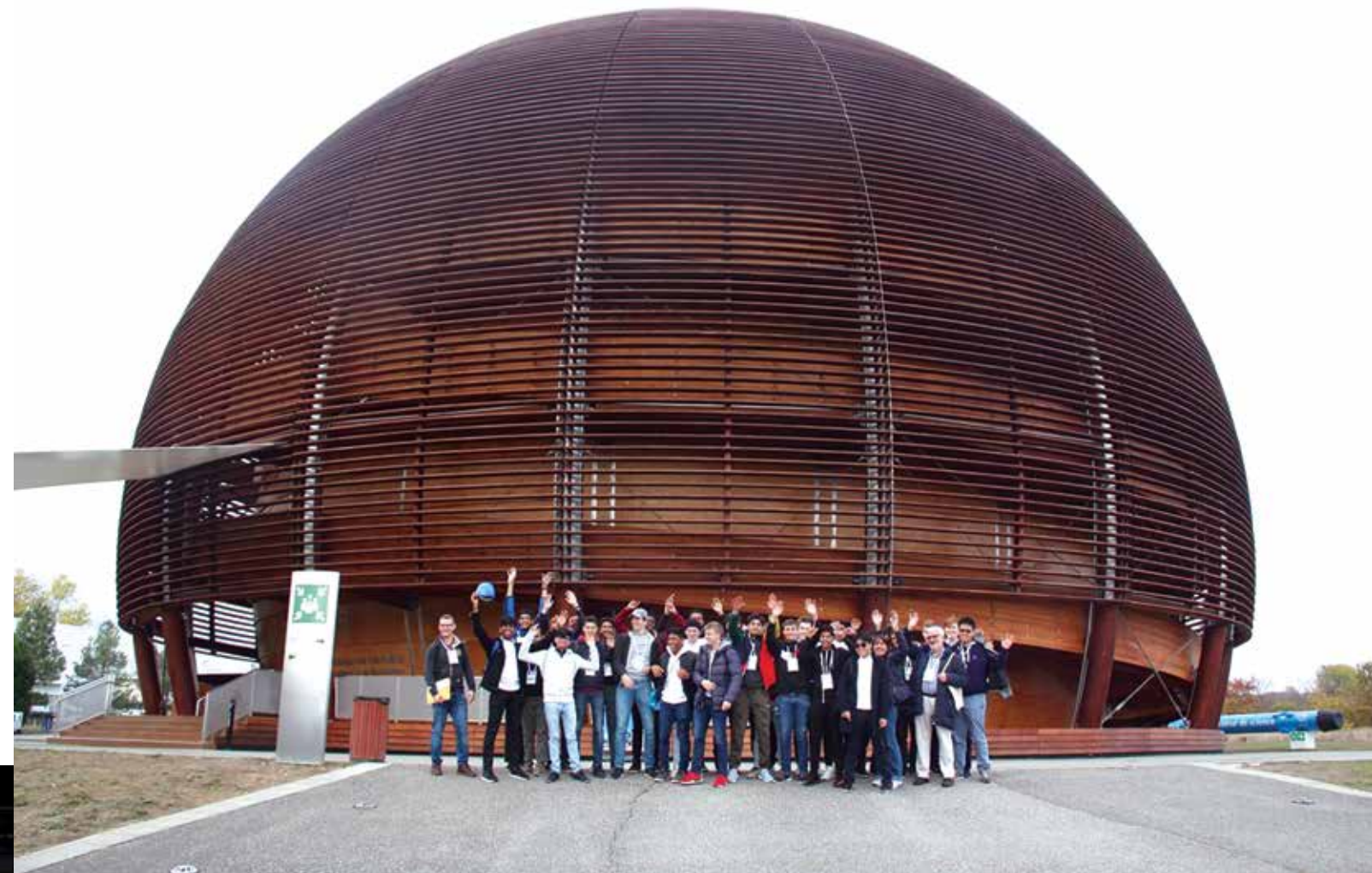
playwrights (Fourth Formers, Jack Godwin and Will Allnutt) trying to come up with an idea for a script for a drama competition. Whilst they discussed their ideas, the rest of the cast mimed around them wearing an assortment of costumes to bring their fantasies to life. This seemingly simple concept worked well dramatically and allowed the audience to view some of the Upper Sixth Form in a wholly new light: Charlie Barber skipping in a full length Edwardian

dress and School Captain Ben Goldby as the dancing alien. Senior Housemaster and English Teacher, Mr Dominic Edwards commented, "Andrew's House was a 'metatheatrical' success! The boys went all-out in their quest for the cup."

Thank you to both Keith and Jacqueline for supporting the evening as House Drama judges and to all the staff and boys involved in the event.



## 'The pursuit of knowledge is what I enjoy about Physics'



## CERN trip

In the Michaelmas Half Term, 33 of Whitgift's Sixth Formers visited CERN – the European Organization for Nuclear Research – in Geneva. The organisation operates the largest particle physics laboratory in the world.

The students had a guided tour of the Cryogenic facility and the control room for the ATLAS detector, one of the four main detectors in operation around the Large Hadron Collider particle accelerator. The boys also learned of the proposed expansion of the tunnel to a 100km circumference, enabling the maximum energies of the particles to be increased. The

immense scale of the project demonstrated how international collaboration was necessary to achieve such a feat.

Lower Sixth Former, Gavin Murugan commented, "One of the first things we were told on our tour of CERN was its modus operandi is the pursuit of knowledge. For me, the pursuit of knowledge is what I enjoy about Physics."

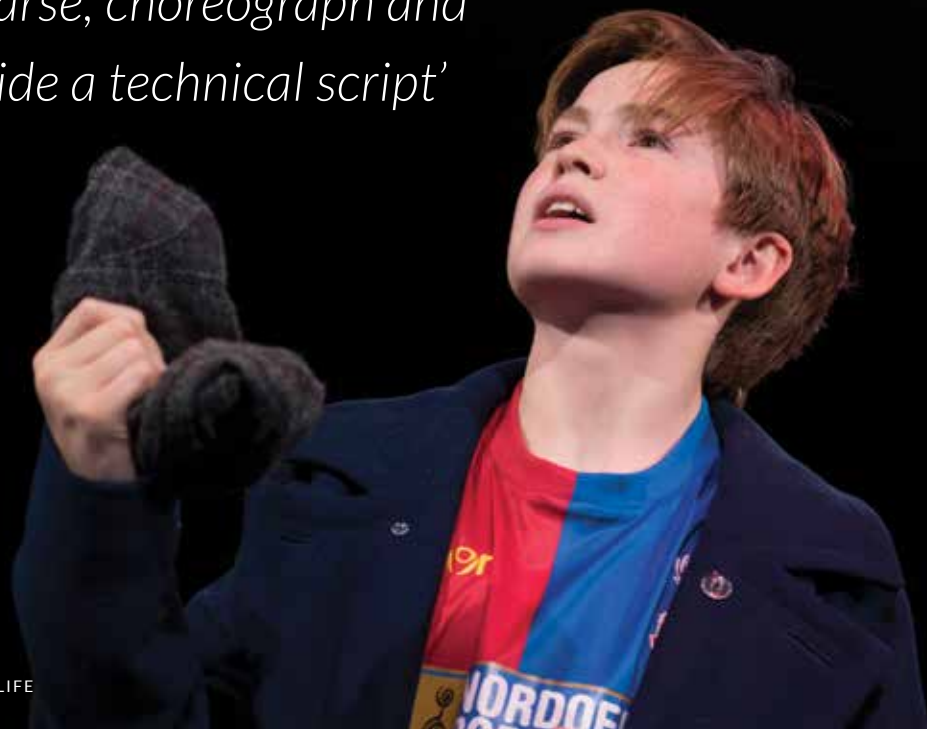
The staff and pupils also enjoyed a trip to The History of Science museum, providing insight into how problems were solved in the past using lesser equipment and how instruments have developed over the years.

Notably, they learnt more about famous physicists of the past, such as Faraday, and their journey to discovering many of the fundamental laws of Physics CERN is reliant on.

The last excursion was a visit to the UN Palace of Nations, visiting the iconic meeting rooms and gardens. This was followed by a traditional Swiss meal consisting of a cheese fondue and an opportunity to play a traditional Swiss alphorn. Afterwards, the students went on a boat tour along the Geneva Lake, enjoying the scenery of the city and ended the day walking around the Geneva waterfront.



*'The boys have to direct, rehearse, choreograph and provide a technical script'*





# Rugby



*'The New Zealand tour in the summer will be a great experience for all'*

The Rugby season at Whitgift has been busy, with the teams working hard and making great progress. The summer holiday voluntary sessions for the U14s and above were well attended which helped the teams start the season well-equipped. The U15s had an excellent pre-season training camp to San Sebastian, Spain to help with their preparations over the summer.

The U15s and 1st XV have been advancing in the Schools Cup Competitions. The U15s have done well after winning games against John Fisher and Langley Park. It is encouraging to see all age groups developing well, the

U14 A and U15 A teams having had excellent seasons to date. The 1st XV have had exceptional winning games also, against teams including Warwick, John Fisher, Bishop Wordsworth, RGS High Wycombe and Dulwich, to name a few, as well as winning the Esher Presidents Cup in September.

Highlights include Harry Dugmore playing for England U18s on their tour to South Africa in August and Aristot Benz Salomon joining him in the England training squad in October 2018. Harry Breeze and Ed Dunford were also selected for an extended Wales U18 training camp in December

2018. Additionally, it has been fantastic to see Old Whitgiftians playing professional rugby so well. In particular Harry Williams and Elliot Daly, who played for England in the Autumn Internationals and also on tour to South Africa. We were delighted when Elliot returned to the School to visit the boys (see article on page 14).

Mr Chris Wilkins, Director of Rugby summarised, "Everyone is looking forward to the remainder of the season, including the New Zealand tour in summer 2019, where we will be taking a 50 man squad for what will be a great experience for all."





## Football

Whitgift football had a busy start to the Michaelmas Term, with 22 teams having played and over 280 boys joining in competitive football. All the A teams from U12-U16 are progressing well in the English Schools' Football Association (ESFA) National Competitions.

Games and Football Coach, Mr Andrew Martin commented, "A special mention should go to our U13A team who are currently unbeaten in the ESFA and ISFA competitions. They have beaten Fulham FC Academy pre-season and scored 49 goals in their last six matches."



Other highlights include James Sweet and Jadan Raymond who have both been chosen for the Wales U16 squad. They travelled to Moldova in September 2018

for two friendly matches and represented Wales in the Victory Shield, competing against the Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland and Scotland.

Old Whitgiftians Jamal Musiala and Callum Hudson-Odoi continue to flourish in their careers, with Jamal gaining 4 England U16 caps and Callum (pictured below) moving into the England U19 set up.



## Award-winning ideas

Upper Sixth Form student and entrepreneur Arminster Dhillon (originally of *Dragons' Den* fame) has won the 'Horners Bottlemakers Award 2018' for his impressive Boot Buddy invention. The annual prize is awarded in conjunction with the British Plastics Federation and entrants are required to have significant UK content in design, materials or manufacture and a proven record of commercial success. Arminster is the youngest person to have ever received this accolade in the 16 years' since the award was launched.

This accomplishment follows Arminster's placement in

TransferWise's '20 Under 20' list. TransferWise hosted a search with a panel of successful entrepreneurs, investors and advisors from other well-known brands, to find Britain's most promising young entrepreneurs. During a pitching, training and mentoring trip to Estonia, Arminster faced the judging panel and was selected as one of the top five entrants.

One of the panel judges Will Shu, CEO and co-founder of Deliveroo, commented on Arminster's invention, "With Boot Buddy, Arminster has created something rare – a genuinely useful and clever product, which I can see doing really well."



Alongside his studies, Arminster has been able to grow his already successful Boot Buddy business, with support from his family as well as ongoing input from the Dragons. He is also a speaker at various industry events, most recently at Peter

Jones' Enterprise Festival (EntFest). His business plans include further expansion into additional markets as well as launching useful new variations such as Paw Buddy, an adaptation for cleaning pets' muddy paws.

## Modern Pentathlon



Over 250 athletes in the U9 to U19 age groups took part in the Whitgift Biathlon qualifier in October 2018, comprising of a competitive swim and run over various distances depending on age group. Biathlon is the first entry point for the Modern Pentathlon competition as the physical events underpin three further disciplines; shooting, fencing and horse riding.

In the U12, U13 and U14 age groups, 27 boys represented Whitgift with seven of them competing in their first ever biathlon. An impressive number of personal best performances

were achieved in both the run and swim events. Individual medals were presented to U12 Jack Murray (Silver), U13 Liam Beveridge (Silver), U13 Philip Joos (Bronze) and U14 Felix Thurlow (Bronze). Team results were equally promising with U12 and U14 teams clinching the win and the U13 team taking the Silver medal. Well done to the whole squad for their contribution and thanks to team captains Jack Murray (U12), Conrad Norman (U13) and Martin van Domselaar (U14).

Following the Whitgift Biathlon, a team of 17 boys travelled to John

Charles Sports Centre, Leeds, in November 2018 for the British Championships. The U12 team performed extremely well, as all three managed personal best performances for the run and swim events and were rewarded with the U12 team title. Jack Murray was Whitgift's highest individual finisher in the U12s placing 11th. In the U13 category, Alex Corver was awarded 4th place and was Whitgift's highest finisher. All the boys should be congratulated for their efforts and are showing good progress in the run up to The British Schools' Biathlon at Crystal Palace Sports Centre in March 2019.



The full results were as follows:

**U12 Team Gold** – Jack Murray, Matthew Taylor

**U13 Team Gold** – Alex Corver, Philip Joos, Ben Lewis

**U13 Team Silver** – Liam Beveridge, Rudy Kool, Joe Mumford

**U13 Team Bronze** – Conrad Norman, Oscar Winson

**U14 Team Silver** – Artyom Boyarov, Luis Grainger, Martin Van Domselaar



*'All the boys should be congratulated for their efforts'*

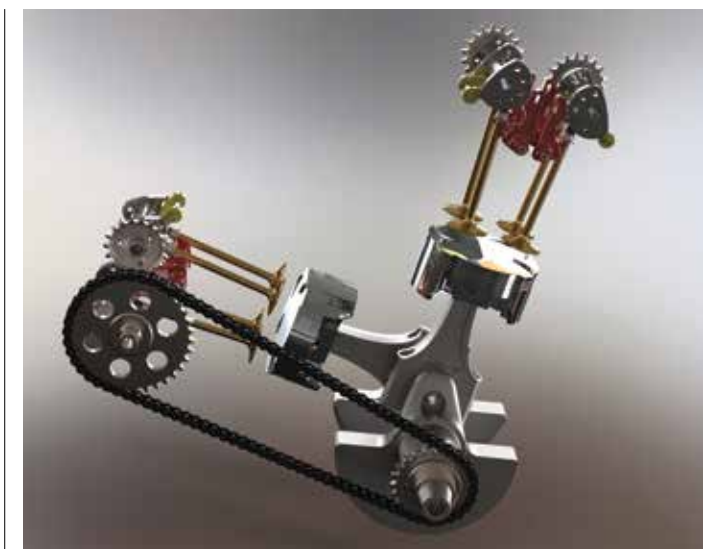
## New STEM computer built by Sixth Formers

Sixth Formers Freddie Rawlins and Andrew Bonner have been working closely with Physics Teacher and Head of STEM, Mr Matthew Taylor to build a new computer for the STEM department at Whitgift.

Their work of conceptualising the plans and developing the core requirements began last term; the computer needed to be able to run simulations and edit complex Computer Aided Design (CAD) files. Utilising industry-level components and water-cooling technology, the boys were involved with all elements of the project, from ordering the parts to building and configuring the computer.

The computer has been used to model the STEM car as part of the Green Power Car competition to design, build and race an electric vehicle.

Freddie commented, "It's been a great experience and the ability to carry out virtual testing has meant we have been better able to design components for



the STEM car. The computer is also able to produce renders [visualising 3D models] in a matter of minutes."

The computer has also helped numerous departments and projects, as well as allowing Design Technology and Engineering students to ensure the size and scale of their modelling is suitable for the real world.

Mr Taylor stated, "Building a powerful computer presented an

*'The computer is able to produce renders in a matter of minutes'*

excellent opportunity to invest in technology which would benefit both the Computer Science and Design and Technology departments."

The School looks forward to seeing how the equipment will benefit other projects over the upcoming terms.



# visitors



## David Crystal

Whitgift welcomed British linguist, academic and author David Crystal, OBE, FBA, FLSW, FCIL in September 2018. Professor Crystal delivered an engaging lecture on Shakespearean 'OP' or 'Original Pronunciation'. OP is the production or performance of Shakespeare's lines as they were spoken during his lifetime. He successfully collaborated with Shakespeare's Globe in an OP production in 2004 of *Romeo and Juliet*, which attracted interest worldwide and sparked further OP productions.

David performed a range of entertaining renditions from memory for the boys, using examples from OP productions and held a workshop with Sixth Form pupils to examine the

shift in vowel and consonant sounds over the last 400 years. He ended the day with a talk on 'The Perils of Being a Linguist' – drawing on his vast experience of anecdotes to highlight the diverse applications of linguistics in fields such as translation, computer programming and sociology.

Professor Crystal held a chair at the University of Reading for 10 years and is presently the Honorary Professor of Linguistics at the University of Wales. He is well-known for his books in the field of language, particularly his two encyclopaedias for Cambridge University Press, *The Cambridge Encyclopaedia of Language* and *The Cambridge Encyclopaedia of the English Language* (3rd edition 2018).

## National Poetry Day

To celebrate both National Poetry Day and Black History Month, Whitgift invited two established poets to lead creative workshops; Ruth Sutoyé and Spoz (aka Giovanni Esposito).

Ruth is a poet, facilitator, creative producer and visual artist. Her work has featured in several publications such as *True Africa*, *Bad Betty Press* and *The Cob Gallery*. She hosted an Upper School assembly and led workshops for Sixth Form students. Her workshops focused on free writing techniques and studied poetry that tackled modern day issues.

Spoz has been performing poetry since 2005 and has featured at high profile events such as the Glastonbury Festival and Cheltenham Literature Festival. He has held poetry workshops at hundreds of schools and been

commissioned by the BBC for his work. Spoz performed during Lower School assembly and held interactive and fun workshops for various year groups. The workshops encouraged the boys to use rhyme by creating raps on the popular subject of chocolate. They enthusiastically demonstrated clever word-play and it was evident they enjoyed performing their work. The pupils were also treated to a book-signing session at lunch and a few had the opportunity to interview him.

Both visits created a hive of activity around the School, celebrating the power of poetry to bring people together and to explore how it can be used in reading, writing and performing. Whitgift would like to thank both Ruth and Spoz for making National Poetry Day a memorable event.



'The festival is a fun-filled day designed to inspire the boys'

## Whitgift Junior Literary Festival

The annual Whitgift Junior Literary Festival is organised in the spirit of the Hay Festival – a literature festival held in Wales, for ten days from May to June. Began by Norman, Rhoda and Peter Florence in 1988, the festival has been described by Bill Clinton as "The Woodstock of the mind."

In 2018, Whitgift had six well-established authors visit the School: BAFTA Award winning

screenwriter and author Ciaran Murtagh, poet and hip hop artist Karl Nova, novelist Stephen Davies, best-selling children's author Steve Cole, author and journalist Nikki Sheehan and novelist and inspirational speaker Matt Whyman.

The festival is held for the Lower First and First Formers, and began with an assembly in Big School led by Ciaran Murtagh who entertained with a talk on

how to find ideas for writing stories. After assembly, the boys went to various workshops led by the authors who taught them different story writing skills.

The authors also held a signing session in the Performing Arts Centre which proved very popular and allowed the boys to interact with their favourite artist. Finishing off the day, Karl Nova talked about his poetry being influenced by his life, delivering the message

of 'going against the grain' in his witty and energetic style.

The festival is a fun-filled day designed to inspire the boys, encouraging them to attend English Society, or qualify for the residential trip to the Literary Festival, or even to enter into writing competitions such as the PRISM essay competition. Upcoming Literature incentives include the annual Whitgift Anthology and the First Form Reading Challenge.

## Old Whitgiftian Tim Davie

In October 2018, Whitgift welcomed Tim Davie, CBE, CEO of BBC Studios for the first time since he left the School in 1985. Tim (pictured with BBC Young Reporter, Fourth Former Hussain Zaidi) visited as part of the Academic Enrichment Programme and held a lecture in the Concert Hall which provided valuable insight into the management of the BBC and the production of its television and radio content. The boys had the opportunity to watch a preview of the latest David Attenborough wildlife show, *Dynasties*, which traces the development and attempts at survival of five animal families in the wild. Tim also revealed the humble beginnings of his first job at McDonald's in the Whitgift Centre, emphasising his core message to the students: be passionate, be curious and work hard. It was a pleasure to welcome him back and the School thanks him for his inspirational talk.





# Elliot Daly

Whitgift was thrilled to welcome back England and Wasps player Elliot Daly (OW), who visited the School at the beginning of December 2018.



Elliot, originally from Croydon, attended Whitgift from 2006 to 2011 after which he joined the Wasps Elite Player Development Squad before joining the Academy. He has featured in over 150 premiership matches and has played for England, most recently winning against Australia at Twickenham Stadium in November 2018.

After meeting Headmaster, Mr Chris Ramsey, Elliot spent time with the U16 rugby team and held a kicking clinic with some of the boys, sharing knowledge and working with them individually to improve their technique.

Fifth Former Connor Slevin commented, "It was inspiring to

have Elliot come to Whitgift, and an even greater privilege for me to speak to him and learn about what he does at an elite level."

In the afternoon, Elliot held a special Q&A for all of the First Form who were keen to ask him questions about his career and were overjoyed to jump into a group photo with Elliot at the end. It was clear from the expressions on the boys' faces that they were elated to be given the opportunity to meet him.

Director of Sport, Mr Stuart Litchfield stated, "We were all delighted Elliot could visit us and it was great how much time he spent with the boys considering his busy schedule. We were also pleased

to welcome Return2Play (pictured far left, with Elliot and Mr Litchfield) and learn about the work Elliot has been doing as their ambassador."

Return2Play is a sports medicine company, dedicated to awareness of player welfare in the world of grassroots sport. Whitgift has been working with Return2Play

(who's company founders are Old Whitgiftians) since October 2018, with the purpose of delivering the highest standards of welfare to pupils. Thank you to Elliot and Return2Play for visiting the School, which for many of the boys and staff was a hugely memorable day.

*'It was inspiring to have Elliot come to Whitgift'*



Junior Library Monitors

The Lower School library started a brand new initiative for the Michaelmas Term, to offer the boys the opportunity to be Junior Library Monitors. The Monitors are given various lunch-time library duties such as checking in returned books, organising bookshelves and displays, processing new books and helping other pupils with the computer equipment and printing.

The boys chosen to be the Junior Library Monitors, after an interview process, were First Formers Alexandre Bernard, Max Cowles, Joel Gulliford, Finn Kennedy and Thomas Lofthouse. These Monitors will relinquish their positions at the end of the Michaelmas Term and a further five Monitors will be chosen for Lent Term 2019.



The Monitors, as well as other library users, have also been helping with the production of the new Lower School library's newspaper, The Junior Library Chronicle (JLC). They have interviewed Spoz Esposito, a poet who visited for National Poetry Day and Maintenance Foreman

Mr Kofi Minkah, who has been involved in helping a school in Ghana for many years. Mr Minkah has worked at Whitgift for over 35 years and has taken old Whitgift sweat tops, football kits, laptops and more recently, sets of encyclopaedias and reference books that were no longer needed, to a local

school in his home town of Kumasi in West Ghana. In December 2018, the Monitors interviewed Mrs Rachel Rogan from the Chartwell Trust who is running the fundraising campaign for The Lily Pad Appeal in order to open a new Paediatric Cancer Centre for Croydon University Hospital.



  
**PRISM**  
Interdisciplinary  
Investigation

PRISM seminars

Michaelmas Term benefitted from a varied programme of intellectually stimulating PRISM seminars and external speakers, with several notable highlights. Early in the term Professor David Crystal spoke on Shakespearean OP or 'Original Pronunciation', and soon after CEO of BBC Studios and Old Whitgiftian Tim Davie visited to provide

insight into the management of the BBC productions whilst sharing fond memories about his time at the School.

There were three PRISM: Interdisciplinary Investigation seminars this term, with excellent mini-lectures from an assortment of staff and from three Upper Sixth Form pupils: Tanglin Ireland, Dhara Patel and Freddie Rawlins. Their engaging and insightful presentations were excellent examples of the independent enquiry and love of learning which we hope to inspire within all boys at the School.

Next term the PRISM themes will be 'Wind' and 'Renaissance' with more thought-provoking talks from boys and staff.

Head of Academic Enrichment, Mr Benjamin Miller revealed, "Next year, the School will have visits from Old Whitgiftian and former Queen's Counsel Lord Justice Lindblom, Dr Shaun Fitzgerald from the Royal Academy of Engineering and Gal Stiglitz, modern age thinker and CEO of iDiscover 360."

If you are interested in getting involved with future events, please contact Mr Miller.

  
What is fire, exactly?  
What are its dangers and effects?  
What is its role in our lives and civilisation?  
PRISM Interdisciplinary Investigation

Whitgift remembers

On Friday 9 November Whitgift held a poignant Remembrance Day assembly and service for the School, marking the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War. The morning assemblies for the Lower School and Upper School were honoured with a visit from Old Whitgiftian Colonel Michael Cornwell OBE, who paid tribute to all the OWs who participated in the First World War. Head of History, Mr Keith Smith delivered an engaging and thought-provoking talk, asking half of the boys in the hall to stand up to act as a visual aid to mark the 251 Whitgift boys that went to war.

After the assemblies, the Lower School congregated outside in preparation for the annual remembrance service led by Reverend Alan Bayes. Members of the CCF performed the role of Flag Party including the tradition of flags at half-mast, followed by the laying of the wreaths by History Teacher Mr Oliver Roberts, Old Whitgiftians Lord David Freud and David Straw and Upper School Captain Ben

Goldby. Ben and Lower School Captain Nifemi Bankole then delivered readings, followed by the choristers and brass ensemble performing *For the Fallen* by Douglas Guest.

The Whitgift Corps of Drums did a commendable job of playing at the start and end of the service and many OWs joined the service on the day. The Headmaster, Mr Chris Ramsey, also received a generous gift for the School from OW Nigel Platts; a set of campaign medals that belonged to Old Whitgiftian Reginald Gordon Hill who lost his life serving in the Royal Army Medical Corps [R.A.M.C.]. Nigel donated the medals as a 'thank you' for his time at the School and 10 years serving as School Governor.

Thank you to all the staff, boys and visitors who attended the service and to Nigel Platts for his historical gift to the School. The framed medals are displayed in the Whitgift Archive for visitors who wish to view them or learn more.





## Hockey professional returns as new coach

Great Britain and England Olympic hockey player Mr Ashley Jackson returned to the Whitgift hockey programme for 2018-19. After training the boys last year during the Michaelmas and Lent Terms, he re-joins the coaching team for his winter break from playing for the Dutch Premier League, the Hoofdklasse in Holland. Mr Jackson is England and Great Britain's leading goal scorer and three-time Olympian (Beijing 2008, London 2012 and Rio 2016).

Mr Jackson stated, "I am excited to be back and involved at Whitgift. The boys have access to an incredible environment and I

look forward to working with such talented and enthusiastic players once again."

He joins the highly experienced coaching team, including National League goal scorer, Mr Tim Davenport (300 goals) and his brother Mr Wesley Jackson.

Dr Karl Stagno, Director of Hockey said, "Mr Jackson joins Whitgift's ever growing and successful hockey programme and will enable our boys to become inspired by and learn from one of the world's best."



## Cricket

Over the October Half Term, the senior cricketers travelled to Perth, Australia for a once in a lifetime tour. There were a total of 26 boys across two squads, playing 15 matches against state and independent schools in Perth. Between the matches and training sessions the boys had the opportunity of learning to surf, making several visits to Perth's superb beaches, as well as completing a tour of Australia's unique wildlife. There was also a

visit to the WACA sports stadium to watch a Sheffield Shield match, along with the bonus of being able to watch the City's basketball team play against Melbourne at the RAC Arena.

Playing cricket in Australia is always a special experience for the students. English cricket teams have been playing Australia for over 140 years and this friendly, sporting rivalry was seen in every one of the matches played. They

were hosted for four nights by Australian families, and this once again proved to be a hugely enjoyable part of the tour with many new friendships established.

Aside from the cricket tour, the School was pleased to hear of Old Whitgiftian Rory Burns becoming the second OW to play test cricket for England, and OW Jamie Smith being selected to play for the Young Lions (England U19) squad, both in October 2018.



*'Playing cricket in Australia is always a special experience for the students'*



## House Competitions

### LOWER SCHOOL

The Lower First and First Form House Competition saw many boys representing their Houses (Teak, Maple, Oak, Sycamore, Ash, Cedar, Damson Beech and Elm) in a number of different events.

The highlight of this term was the Charity Challenge where each House ran events to raise money for our official school charities; The Magic Bus, Bees for Development and Canine Partners. Fundraising activities this term have included 'Don't Buzz the Wire', Table Tennis, Badminton, the Logo Quiz and Football. The boys (and of course parents that helped and contributed) raised a total of £1,529.

Head of Lower School, Mr Tim Davenport stated, "I have been so impressed with how passionate the boys representing and supporting their Houses have been in each event so far."

The points system shows Teak and Maple at the top of the table, however everything could change over the course of the Lent Term, with events such as Poetry, Art and Basketball still to come.



### UPPER SCHOOL

Since the start of Michaelmas Term, the Upper School Houses (Andrew's, Brodie's, Cross's, Dodd's, Ellis's, Mason's, Smith's and Tate's) have been working hard to be crowned the most all-round talented Whitgift House. There have been many activities from Fives to Photography and Maths to Music.

Housemaster of Cross's, Mr Benjamin Morris commented, "The current holders are Andrew's who unanimously

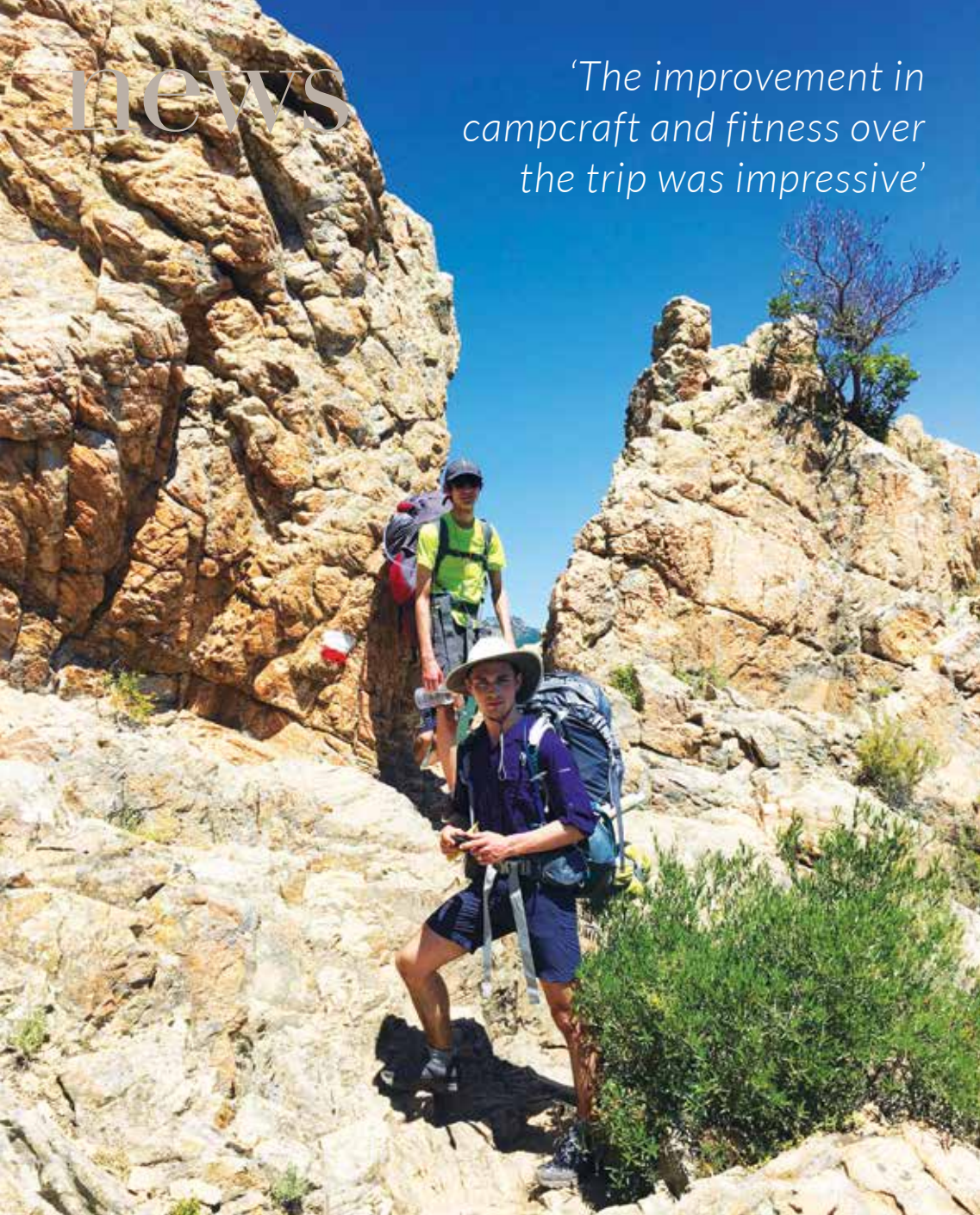


won House Drama, but Mason's and Smith's have dominated from the start of this year's competition."

A full report about House Drama, held in October 2018, can be seen on page 6.



*'The improvement in campcraft and fitness over the trip was impressive'*



## Corsica

A new venture for Whitgift saw 35 Lower Sixth and Upper Fifth students set off to the mountains of Corsica in July 2018, to complete the expedition section of the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award. The seven day route along the famous GR20 began under good weather conditions. Carrying everything they needed for the trip on their backs, the boys worked in small groups; crossing bridges, climbing through rocks as well as taking in the scenic views and sunsets.

Although there were some seriously challenging parts of the terrain, the boys showed tremendous resilience and arrived in great spirits at the end of the expedition in the village of Vizzavona. The improvement in campcraft and fitness over the trip was impressive and they should be proud of all they have accomplished towards the completion of their award.



## Valencia

The Spanish trip in October 2018 for the Fourth Form students had an exciting programme of activities, with the first day in Valencia taking them to the Bull Ring Museum to learn about the traditional yet controversial sport of bullfighting. Afterwards, the boys explored the foods of Valencia, including 'churros con chocolate' at the famous Horchatería Santa Catalina and visited the El Miguelete Cathedral.

The week continued with a bike ride around the city, before heading to the beach to enjoy some Valencian sun and football, samba-style. In the afternoon there was a visit to

El Mestalla Stadium, home of Valencia CF for a full stadium tour in celebration of the club's 100th year anniversary. This included the changing rooms, trophy cabinet, press room, pre-match tunnel and dug-outs. The last day involved a visit to the Fallas Museum, which was filled with 'ninot' statues – large figures made of papier-mâché, cardboard, wood or plaster.

Student Finlay Webb explained, "I found it really intriguing to learn that the ninots we saw at the museum had been voted the best at the Fallas festival, which saved them from the tradition of being burned at the end of the festival."

They ended the trip visiting the Oceanographic, a giant outdoor aquarium where the students saw jellyfish, penguins and a

dolphin show, returning to their exchange partner homes for a rest before preparing to fly home the next day.



## America

In the first week of October Half Term, 27 Sixth Form students flew to USA to visit New York and Washington. The trip was based around the history and politics of America, but also included other classic tourist elements including experiencing good food and a little time for shopping.

In New York, the students visited the Empire State Building, Central Park, 9/11 Memorial Museum, UN Headquarters and enjoyed a boat trip around the city. All were impressed by the skyline at night and the diversity of the metropolis. On the way to Washington the group stopped at the Gettysburg Battlefield where they were led around by a very

experienced guide. They learned about the American Civil War and how America commemorates battles in comparison to the UK.

The last stop on the trip was Washington, D.C. where visits included the U.S. Capitol, White House Visitor Centre and Smithsonian Museums. The group also managed to view President Trump fly in and out of the White House in his helicopter. Overall the trip was a brilliant experience and they gained a huge amount from it. Thanks to History Teachers Mr Thomas Sherwin and Dr Johnathan Harris and Geography Teacher Mr Nicholas Morgan for accompanying this trip.



*'The trip was based around the history and politics of America'*







## Swimming and Water Polo

Since the start of Michaelmas Term the swimming team has been busy with 11 fixtures including friendlies against Trinity and Dulwich, and competing in London League galas. Most recently the Juniors, Intermediates and Seniors qualified for the English Schools Swimming Association (ESSA) Relay Finals held at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. The Junior team consisted of Rey Abdulhafiz, Alex Corver, Nico Lane and Rudy Kool (*pictured above, left to right*), all proving to be the stand-out performers of the day. Whilst being ranked 6th in the 4x50m Medley Relay, they persevered and worked their way to the podium to claim 3rd place overall in the competition.

Head of Swimming and Athletics, Mr Daniel Webb commented, "This has been a great achievement and we're all extremely proud of all the boys who competed, particularly the Juniors who secured a podium position. We have had a great start to the year and now the aim is to build on this success."

The water polo squads have had 14 fixtures in most age groups, playing against schools including Trinity, Dulwich, Alleyn's and Eltham. The U13s have been particularly strong during the Michaelmas Term, winning all their matches and putting them in a good position for nationals.

The U15s have also been outstanding, winning all their matches in the first qualification round for the English Schools Nationals. There were superb performances from goalkeeper Emile Thurston as well as Jon Cheshire, Omari Elliot and Cai Evans who all scored goals for Whitgift.



## Golf

Whitgift offers all First Formers the opportunity to learn golf and has had 60 of them complete their block of 8 golf lessons, with the second cohort starting at the end of Michaelmas Term. Under the expert guidance of PGA (Professional Golfers Association) professional Mr Tim Trodd, the golf facility continues

to be a popular destination for pupils during lunchtimes.

Highlights have included the U18 team, Rocky Chapman, Riccardo Fantinelli and Aidan Millham winning against Lingfield College and progressing to the National Finals at Royal St Georges and Prince's in April 2019.



## Fencing

Fencing is a thriving sport at Whitgift as the students have an opportunity to fence all three Olympic disciplines – épée, foil and sabre which is rare amongst most schools in Britain.

In November 2018, Omari Campbell-Okolo was selected for the England Fencing U15 Épée squad. This follows on from him representing England earlier in the year in the U13 squad. In the same month, there was further success for Old Whitgiftian Connor Head who competed at the Commonwealth Games in Canberra, Australia, placing 5th.

## Hockey

The 1st XI embarked on the U18 Tier 1 National Cup, which for the first time is being played over two terms and on a league basis. This new approach by England Hockey was well-received as it puts Whitgift amongst the best schools in the country. The team has played Ipswich and Langley Park, obtaining a maximum of 3 points, with Kingston Grammar School still to come (at time of print). At the same time the Junior teams have been working extremely hard and achieved wins against Kingston Grammar School and Portsmouth Grammar School.

Preparations for the indoor season went well with both the U16s and U18s winning the Whitgift Indoor Hockey Festival. This year the School

invited Millfield, Ipswich and Oakham all of whom travelled a long way to participate in what proved to be a very enjoyable tournament. Both the U16s and U18s are also progressing in the respective County and Divisional tournaments. The U14s have been crowned Divisional Champions



and the U16s have qualified for the South Finals. With the U18s still to come, the season appears hopeful of further success.

A highlight of the Hockey season was news of seven Whitgift pupils selected to represent

England. Congratulations to Dylan Holland (*pictured, left*), Josh Gravestock, Matthew Blood, and Captain Max Lowrey (*pictured, above, left to right*) who made the U18 squad and Oliver Hamilton, Ollie Shelton and Lewis Wilcher who will represent the U16s.

## Cycling

The School's cycling programme continues to offer a wide range of disciplines and opportunities. Lower Sixth Former Luc Roux (*pictured, left*) has been training hard in downhill mountain biking and achieved an impressive victory of 1st place at the Swinley Enduro in September 2018. Edward Bowley (Third Form), Cameron Still (Fourth Form) and Billy Gilbey (Fifth Form) have also been competing in the national track and road cycling world.





Michaelmas Term ended with the highly anticipated production of Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, a tale of ambition, revenge and supernatural dark forces, amidst a Britain wracked by civil war. The set of the play had been covertly hidden behind the doors to Big School, to keep the surprise for the audience; a landscape of real grass, covering the entire floor and stage, all of which was grown and transported from Yorkshire. This sea of green, and the scent of fresh grass, made for a wonderful contrast amidst the backdrop of tartan fabrics and the actors' contemporary costumes.

The School was delighted to welcome Keith Bartlett back as Guest Director, following his support as one of the judges for the House Drama competition in October 2018. His career with the finest theatre

companies in the country, such as Shakespeare's Globe, The Royal Shakespeare Company, The National Theatre, Cheek By Jowl and the Donmar Warehouse, made this an extraordinary opportunity for the cast to bring this violent tragedy to life under his expert direction.

Director of Drama, Mr Daniel Pirrie said, "The choices the creative team, led by Keith, made were audacious to say the least. The commitment to mime and gesture in place of props and stage furniture compelled the audience to see daggers, ghosts and letters for themselves,

and made the tragedy all the more tense as Macbeth's downward spiral into fractured megalomania played out in front of our eyes."

Keith commented about the play, "In an insecure world we have a constant desire to control our future and some will go to any lengths to make that happen. We also have a deep desire to improve our lot and many advances in our world would not have happened without that desire but sometimes, we go to extremes."

The maturity and polish of the Fourth Form actors was impressive,

particularly Jack Godwin in the title role. Kit Connor, Jon Cheshire and James Desmier have also progressed in their acting talent which will continue to flourish over the coming years.

Mr Pirrie concluded, "The production provided powerful performances, an extraordinary set and clever story-telling. Well done to the whole company for their total commitment to this memorable production: the endless hours of rehearsals were testament to the production's quality and it was a joy to see so many pupils and staff captivated in the audience."

Thank you to all boys that took part as well as the cast from Old Palace of John Whitgift School and WAVPA. Thanks also to Director Keith Bartlett, Mr Pirrie and all the staff involved in making it a successful production.

## Macbeth

*'A landscape of real grass covered the entire floor and stage'*







Young Coders Meetup

In the summer of 2018, Second Former Femi Owolade-Coombes and Third Former Kian Patel collaborated with a group of young coders to create their own Young Coders Meetup. The group met through the South London Raspberry Jam, an initiative inspired by Femi in 2015, to create a coding community for young people.

The Young Coders Meetup (YCM) have created a crowdfunding campaign to set up a hub for 10-16 year-olds in under-represented communities to learn about coding in an inclusive and friendly environment. The pilot initiative has been supported by the open source corporate company Rat Hat at their Open Innovation Labs in London.

Both students have been volunteering their time to help bring technology to the wider community. Kian regularly helps with leading workshops for Pijam, a non-profit volunteer-led community event focused on educating young people about technology and is supported by Raspberry Pi (the organisation that creates computers to learn about programming). In November 2018, Femi was presented with the Tech London Advocates (TLA) 25 under 25 award in recognition of his achievements within the UK technology sector. This followed a year in which he was invited to be a keynote speaker at the Red Hat Summit in May 2018 and was presented with the Prime Minister’s Points of Light award in July 2018.

The Young Coders Meetup is planned to be launched at the beginning of 2019 and we hope to hear more exciting news from them.

Embracing diversity

The beauty of Whitgift lies in its unique palette of students and the School believes diversity enhances the pattern of life experienced by students and staff. Thus in early 2018, Upper Sixth student Joe Golding and Assistant Head of Fourth Form Mr David Powell (who also is an Old Whitgiftian) established the Whitgift Afro-Caribbean Society (WACS). The purpose was to share on Afro-Caribbean culture and societal issues within the School.

The group of staff and students who gathered for the inaugural Whitgift Afro Caribbean Society meeting shared a unique moment in the School’s history. From then until now, they have met regularly to discuss and highlight the perspective of the Afro-Caribbean community at Whitgift on a variety of subjects.

Each session has proven to be invaluable to all who attend. Topics discussed include both current and historical subjects, with a personal favourite being a discussion on the spread of Afro-Caribbean culture via music (both positive and negative).

Mr David Powell commented, “I have found that the beauty of being a Whitgiftian is not discovered in a uniformity of belief and opinion but rather in the evolution and exchange of culture and diverse views. It is when I have a healthy understanding of my neighbour that I am equipped to support and encourage them best. This, is the true essence of community.”

Mr Powell also led a series of assemblies during Black History Month in October 2018 and plans on organising many more events for 2019.



‘The beauty of being a Whitgiftian is in the evolution and exchange of culture and diverse views’

Senior Maths Challenge

The Senior Maths Challenge is an individual competition run by the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust (UKMT) and is one of many enrichment activities offered by the Whitgift Mathematics Department. The first of three individual competitions (Senior, Intermediate and Junior), it is aimed at Fifth Form to Upper Sixth Form students and is designed to stimulate interest in Maths through challenging multiple choice questions. The competitions attract over 600,000 entries from over 4,000 schools or colleges. Gold, Silver and Bronze certificates are awarded to the most successful participants.

In November 2018, 117 Whitgift students took part in the competition including two Fourth Formers. The results were outstanding, with 17 students invited to take part in a follow-up round based on their excellent results. Anant Gupta (Fifth Form) and Nichika Waragai (Upper Sixth Form) scored an exceptional 121 and 120 respectively out of 125 marks, as well as Jing Ngan (Lower Sixth Form) who scored 103 and have been invited to take part in the British Maths Olympiad. Other students with excellent results include Benjamin Wong (Fourth Form) and Kai Lam (Fourth Form) who scored 100 and 98 respectively and to Second Formers Wei Shun Pham and Oliver Wong who scored an impressive 97 and 90 marks.

With 73% of boys achieving a Gold, Silver or Bronze certificate, this is a fantastic example of Whitgift students demonstrating their passion and ability.



‘A fantastic example of Whitgift students demonstrating their passion for a subject’



Trafalgar Night dinner

Whitgift held its second Trafalgar Night dinner for officers and Sixth Form cadets of the Combined Cadet Force (CCF) and Corps of Drums. Trafalgar Night is a Royal Naval tradition commemorating Vice Admiral Horatio Lord Nelson’s victory and passing at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805 and is celebrated in wardrooms (naval officers’ messes) across the world. The School welcomed two serving naval OWs: Surgeon Lieutenant Charlie Tweed, who has served as a doctor aboard submarines and

Sub-Lieutenant Tom Dawkins, who is currently under training as a warfare officer at HMS Collingwood.

The evening began with a reception in the Raeburn Library, after which the guests were led



to the Old Library bedecked with the signal flags of the Union Jack and White Ensign (the flag flown by British Royal Navy ships). Between courses cadets read Nelson’s Grace and dispatches from the battle, including the famous signal ‘England expects that every man will do his duty’, sent by Nelson as the battle was about to commence. The menu cards listed the daily rations a sailor would receive in Nelson’s day, including ‘1 lb bread, 1¼ oz cheese, ¾ oz suet’ – offering some ‘food for thought’ over dinner. Afterwards, everyone enjoyed participating in several sea shanties and military songs which brought together all the cadets and officers for a memorable evening.





## Urawa Exchange

In October 2018, 16 Upper School pupils took part in an exchange trip to Urawa High School in Japan. Urawa is a city located in Saitama Prefecture, and is an exchange programme which has been running for almost a quarter of a century at Whitgift.

The pupils visited famous sights in Tokyo as well as the Toshogu Shrine complex in Nikko where the Tokugawa Emperors are buried. Other highlights of the trip included a variety of authentic Japanese meals and a visit to the Kita Urawa Primary School where each Whitgift pupil spent the day with a different class. The boys also enjoyed the school's traditional assembly and Head of Languages,

Mr Andrew Hunt gave a talk in Japanese. The trip ended with a fun karaoke session on the final night.

The Japanese families were incredibly welcoming and Whitgift pupils have made friends for life as well as a lot of incredible memories.



## OW news

This season four Old Whitgiftians have been selected to represent Great Britain Hockey in test matches against Belgium. Rhys Smith, Luke Taylor, Zach Wallace and Jack Waller (pictured below, top to bottom) were all selected for the World Cup squad and were invited to travel to India in December 2018.



## Basketball

Basketball is one of the fastest growing sports at Whitgift and we are extremely proud to see the number of enthusiastic and talented pupils in all age groups increase year by year. 2018 was the most successful year to date. After winning the LISBA U15, U16 and U18 Leagues as well as the U15 LISBA Cup, Whitgift got to the quarter-finals in the U19 Basketball England National Schools Competition and managed to win two National fixtures in December against Bishop Thomas Grant School and The John Roan School.

Head of Basketball, Mr Clemens Krammer commented, "This was a tremendous achievement after losing the first two matches against The Norwood School and John Madejski Academy by one point. This keeps our hopes of advancing to the next round alive."

Other highlights include the U15 squad beating KCS Wimbledon in the U15 LISBA Cup quarter-final, lead by co-captains Myles Alcindor and Maxi Geering. Old Whitgiftian Joshua Uduje played well in the FIBA U16 European Championship for Great Britain and Fourth Form pupil Myles Alcindor also represented England in the U15s.

## Table Tennis

The Table Tennis season got off to a great start in 2018, with Whitgift teams winning the London South Table Tennis Association (LSTTA) U11, U16 and U19 categories at the end of November.

Head of Table Tennis, Mr Simon Beck commented, "This follows on from our success with getting three of our four sides into The National Zone Finals in January, a tremendous achievement and testament to the boys' talents under Mr Goran Maric's expertise."



James Smith (Upper Sixth Form) was chosen to represent England in the U19s in the European Events and Ollie Maric-Murray represented England in the U12 England Table Tennis team. Ollie along with Angus Norman (Fifth

Form) and Henry Maric-Murray (Fourth Form) were also selected to represent the Junior Surrey team in November 2018. After wins against many different counties, they have been promoted to the First Division.



# Charity Concert

In the last week of Michaelmas Term, Whitgift's Charity Committee hosted this popular event, with all proceeds from sales of tickets and drinks going to the School's chosen charities: The Magic Bus, Bees for Development and Canine Partners.

The evening line up began with the Corps of Drums performing with their drum sticks glowing under UV light, before the audience were treated to several fun performances. These included Upper Sixth Former Joshua Tang's blind-folded piano performance of *Feeling Good* by Michael Bublé, *Hit the Road Jack* by Ray Charles and *Shape of You* by Ed Sheeran. Other stand-out performances included Assistant Head of Fourth Form, Mr David Powell doing a DJ set with a surprise appearance from Fourth Former Josh Tikare singing *Hold On We're Going Home* by Drake, as well as the Rugby XV team doing a medley of acting, comedy and dancing to several songs including *I Want It That Way* by Backstreet Boys.

The Charity Concert is a great opportunity for Whitgift Upper School boys to organise fundraising performances in aid of great causes. Thank you to all those involved including Upper Sixth Form

Prefects Oliver Berry and Ben Donnelly for co-presenting, as well as the girls of Old Palace of John Whitgift School and Croydon High School who supported the evening.





## Choristers

### ORGAN INAUGURAL CONCERT

Croydon Minster is a Grade I listed building with a history dating back to Saxon times. The organ was built in 1869 by the distinguished organ builder William Hill & Sons. It is central to the worship and rich choral tradition at the Minster, and also plays a pivotal role in the civic life of Croydon, taking centre stage when the town's civic community gathers. Following three years of fundraising the Minster Organ Restoration Appeal raised £250,000 and Whitgift was delighted to celebrate the arrival of the newly-restored organ with an Organ Inaugural Concert in November 2018.

The Whitgift Chamber Choir joined forces with the Choirs of Croydon Minster to perform a collection of cathedral anthems under the direction of Organist & Director of Choral Music, Mr Ronny Krippner. The concert opened with an organ piece entitled *Thanksgiving*, composed and played for the reopening by the Minster's Organist Laureate, Mr Martin How. This was then followed by a rendition of Benjamin Britten's festival anthem *Rejoice in the Lamb* which demonstrated the varied colours of the organ, the choir and percussion played by Mr John Rockcliffe. There was a sense of gratitude by all for having a fully restored Minster organ which now benefits the Whitgift Foundation as well as the wider community.

### PORTSMOUTH CATHEDRAL

Every term, the Whitgift Chamber Choir visits one of the UK's magnificent cathedrals to sing Choral Evensong. During the Michaelmas Term, the choir travelled to Portsmouth Cathedral to sing for the first time in what is known as 'the Cathedral of the Sea'. The service included music from Bernard Rose's *Responses* as well as Herbert Howells' *Westminster Service*. Commemorating the centenary of the end of World War I, the choir sang John Ireland's *Greater love hath no man* as the anthem. This provided a wonderful service and tribute in the beautiful setting of the cathedral.

### CHORAL EVENSONG LIVE ON RADIO 3

A selection of the Whitgift Minster Choristers and Choral Scholars were given the opportunity to sing Choral Evensong live on BBC Radio 3 at the end of November 2018. The boys were excited about this unique opportunity, taking photos outside the Radio 3 bus and preparing for their moment to sing live on-air from Croydon Minster.

Ronny Krippner stated, "This is a tremendous achievement and as far as the opportunity it offered the choir, it doesn't get any better than this!"

Congratulations to all who were part of the choir including;

Alexandre Bernard, Kevin Croos, Xabi Geering, Arjun Gobiraj, Sami Haddour, Azariah Kazibwe, Alex Lovely, Kobby Minta-Ampofo, Ben Naylor, Alex Saunders, Lachlan Seymour and David Vaughan (Head Chorister).

### CAROLS AT THE RITZ

In December 2018, the Whitgift Chamber Choir made their seasonal visit to The Ritz London to perform Christmas carols. The hotel is famous for being the epitome of English luxury, and, for a limited time before Christmas, providing a professional choir to sing carols during their sought-after afternoon teas. Whitgift Choristers have for three years replaced The Ritz Choir and performed a selection of carols on the first Saturday in December. The Choristers performed in their new red choir robes, which perfectly complemented the festively-decorated hotel.

It was a wonderful afternoon enjoyed by parents, staff, and the boys who were treated to the Ritz hot chocolate and other treats behind the scenes. Thank you to Mr Ronny Krippner and the choristers for a festive repertoire including classics *Ding Dong! Merrily on High* and *Once in Royal David's City*, as well as 20th century American Christmas songs like *Winter Wonderland*, *Jingle Bells* and *Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas*.





# trips

## Iceland

In October 2018, 40 Whitgift students went on the Geography trip to Iceland. The trip included many activities including visits to Seljalandsfoss waterfall, Reynishverfi Black Sand Beach, the Secret Lagoon Hot Spring and Thingvellir National Park (the site of Iceland's parliament from the 10th to 18th centuries). The boys also enjoyed lava tube caving, glacial walks and a monster truck tour in the highlands.

Fourth Form pupil, Rhys Thomas-Steff commented, "Personal highlights for me were the glacial walk along Sólheimajökull as well as swimming in the Secret Lagoon, which was 40 degrees in the water despite the freezing temperature outside."

The trip was a great opportunity for pupils to take part in fieldwork activities, helping them learn in a stimulating environment.



## Beijing

During October Half Term, 14 Fifth Form pupils spent ten days experiencing Chinese culture first-hand and practising Mandarin with local people. The days were filled with sightseeing and activities, including visits to the Great Wall of China and Forbidden City, lessons in calligraphy, Chinese cookery and Kung fu.

The trip was further enriched by the knowledge and cultural

information from the dedicated tour guide. The boys not only learned about China's history, but also how to use everyday vocabulary which they picked up when travelling around the city and during meals. The students also visited two markets, the Pearl Market being the largest and most renowned.

Mandarin, Chinese & Modern Language Teacher Miss Rebecca Whitmore added, "The trip

enabled everyone to develop their Chinese reading, speaking, listening and writing skills, all whilst creating memories with friends in the vibrant city of Beijing."

The students were also invited to visit Beijing No.171 Middle School where they observed literature and physics lessons, took part in traditional art lessons and played in a basketball match with the Chinese students.





# trips



## Morocco

During the half term break, 17 boys from the Lower Sixth and Fourth Forms embarked on an adventurous expedition to the Atlas Mountains and Atlantic coastline of Morocco for their Outdoor Education trip.

The trip started with a cultural day in Marrakech before they left the plains and set towards the mountains. After a couple of days of acclimatisation, the team started their ascent to the summit of Mount Toubkal, North Africa's highest mountain, before descending to basecamp in Imlil. The unusually cold weather made for a challenging trek and similar conditions met the boys at the start of the mountain biking challenge which followed. Snow and swollen rivers created an adventurous experience and the trails through the mountains provided beautiful scenery as well as testing terrain.

Geography Teacher, Mr Ben Green stated, "Although physically challenging at the time, the boys had incredible memories of a peaceful and

welcoming culture, as well as a stunning natural environment."

Whilst in the mountains, the boys also had the opportunity to visit the two charities that they had raised money to support; the Ait Souka Women's Co-operative which supports women from difficult backgrounds and Ait Souka Garden School which is a local school looking after children from 3-5 years old - the boys completed a charity bike ride in Swinley Forest to raise money for both in September 2018.

The trip ended with three days of surfing in and around the famous point breaks of Taghazout, where they experienced fantastic surfing conditions before they returned home.



# performing arts

## Pinocchio

In October 2018, the School presented Lior Navok's musical re-imagining of the well-known tale *Pinocchio*. The concert was a culmination of musical collaboration between the London Myriad Ensemble (LME), an international prize-winning wind group, and the Lower First Form boys.

The concert opened with a mood-setting performance of *Pinocchio* from the Cantate, Bambini (by Virginia Campolieti) and moved swiftly into the story of Pinocchio. The vocal tones of Graduate

Music Assistant, Mr Liam Connery, narrated the story as the students took turns creating the sounds of footsteps, twinkling stars, along with imaginings such as sadness, longing and many other mood settings.

Each group of students was led by one of the players from LME. One group offered a largely allegoric performance of their section of text, using many extended techniques to create their sounds and sound effects, while others opted for a more reflective, sonorous experience;

quite a difficult task using only djembes, glockenspiels and other auxiliary percussion.

After *Pinocchio* became a real boy, and the percussion instruments were put to one side, the LME took centre stage to give the audience a demonstration of professional ensemble playing and nuanced technique. They began with the first movement of Francis Poulenc's *Sextuor* for wind quintet and piano by Yuki Negishi. Following on from this, composer Paul Patterson introduced his setting of Roald

Dahl's *Red Riding Hood* for wind quintet and piano.

It was a hugely successful performance for the Lower First boys and a unique opportunity for their families to experience quality music from the LME; made up of Ms Julie Groves (flute), Mrs Fiona Joyce Myall (oboe and Head of Woodwind at Whitgift School), Ms Nadia Wilson (clarinet), Ms Lisa Ridgway (horn) and Mr Ashley Myall (bassoon). Thank you to everyone who joined us at the concert and hope you all enjoyed the evening.



'Students took turns creating the mood-setting sounds'





## Whitgift Foundation's bursary video



In September 2018, Whitgift was honoured to be featured in The Whitgift Foundation's bursary video. The Whitgift Foundation's bursaries give financial support to 47% of students across Trinity, Old Palace of John Whitgift and Whitgift. The two featured alumni from Whitgift were Alan Cowing and Marcel Hedman. Alan joined Whitgift in 1953 and graduated six years later. Marcel graduated in July 2017, having achieved an outstanding 43/45 points in his International Baccalaureate and was the School Captain and Hockey Captain.

Filming took place in various locations around the School, showing Alan reminiscing in Andrew Quadrangle and Big School. Alan states, "I think

what sets Whitgift apart from other schools are the excellent facilities both academic and sporting. The assisted place gave me the opportunity that would never have come my way." Alan has had a successful career in marketing and advertising and is now happily retired.

The case study for Marcel sees him returning to the hockey field, walking around the School and using the newly refurbished Science lab, capturing his achievements in both academia and sport. He reveals, "Whitgift School is all about opportunity. It has been a great opportunity for me to develop myself as a person and find my passions." Marcel continued his studies at Cambridge University and is currently studying Natural Sciences.

The full version of the video follows the stories of six alumni from all three schools and was produced to illustrate real case studies of how bursaries can change lives. The video is available to view on The Whitgift Foundation's website and has been shared on social media channels. We hope the video continues to inspire more generations of local young people to apply for the scheme.

*'Whitgift School is all about opportunity'*



## Charity update

Whitgift is pleased to announce we are supporting a new charity, **Canine Partners** which provides assistance dogs trained to meet the needs of individuals with physical disabilities. The charity



helps adults aged 18 and over (both civilians and former service personnel) who have a physical disability or a condition that affects their daily life and limits their independence. Being a local charity, the School hopes to create opportunities for students to help with their work as well as fundraising.

We continue to support our other charities; **Bees for Development**, promoting sustainable beekeeping to combat poverty in remote areas of the world and **The Magic Bus**,

helping poor families in India through a mentoring model to support children's education and give them a better future.

The main events that raised money for these causes in the Michaelmas Term included the First Form Cake Sale and Charity Challenge, the Upper School Charity Concert and the Carol Service at the Croydon Minster.

There are also a number of other charity activities that happen throughout the school. The School participated in

collecting Christmas gifts for the homeless, providing winter clothing, toiletries, vouchers and donations, that could help a homeless person rebuild their life. The staff collected donations for the **Smile Train**, a non-profit organisation that dedicates itself to training Doctors to correct lip and cleft palates throughout the world. Whitgift Library continues to raise funds for **The Lily Pad Appeal** which hopes to fund the refurbishment of a new integrated paediatric unit in Croydon University Hospital.

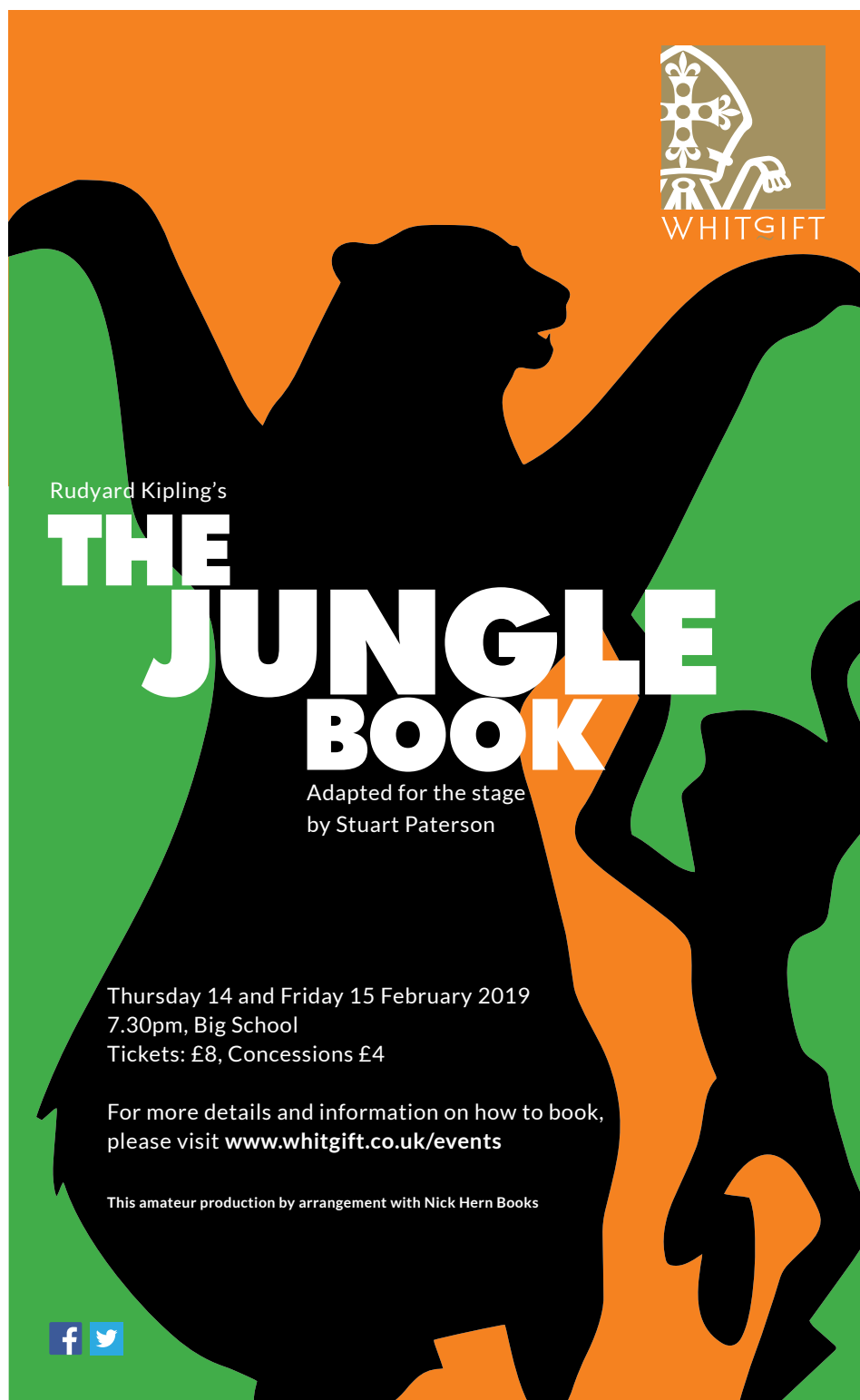


## Whitgift Open Events

Our School Open Events are a perfect chance for prospective parents, pupils and even the local community to gain an insight into what school life is like for our diverse community. Thank you to the many boys that received our guests, undertook family tours of the School and showcased their subjects or sports. Here are a few highlights from our 2018 events.







Photography

Front cover: William Wood

Inside: DFphotography, Atherton-Chiellino, Sports Action Photo, Avalanche Studio, Ross Young Photographers, Kai Eves Photography, Daniel Fearon

WHITGIFT  
Haling Park  
South Croydon  
CR2 6YT  
United Kingdom

Telephone: +44 (0)20 8688 9222  
Email: [office@whitgift.co.uk](mailto:office@whitgift.co.uk)  
[www.whitgift.co.uk](http://www.whitgift.co.uk)

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

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### HOUSE MUSIC COMPETITION

Wednesday 6 February  
6.30pm, Big School  
FREE admission (by reserving on WisePay only)

### THE JUNGLE BOOK

Thursday 14 and Friday 15 February  
7.30pm, Performing Arts Centre  
Tickets: £8, Concessions\* £4

### LENT COLLECTION CONCERT

Wednesday 27 February  
7.00pm, Concert Hall  
FREE admission (by reserving on WisePay only)

### WCO CONCERTO CONCERT

Thursday 7 March  
7.00pm, Concert Hall  
FREE admission (by reserving on WisePay only)

### THE SNEEZE

Wednesday 20 – Friday 22 March  
7.30pm, Performing Arts Centre  
Tickets: £8, Concessions\* £4

### G.F. HANDEL: MESSIAH

Saturday 23 March  
7.00pm, Croydon Minster  
Tickets: £15, Concessions\* £10

### STRICTLY COME BRASSING

Friday 29 March  
7.00pm, Concert Hall  
FREE admission (by reserving on WisePay only)

### CHAMBER CHOIR AT WESTMINSTER ABBEY

Tuesday 2 April  
5.00pm, Westminster Abbey  
FREE admission (no reservation required)

### WIMC

Opening Concert  
Sunday 7 April  
7.00pm, Concert Hall

### Prizegiving and Gala Concert

Thursday 11 April  
7.00pm, Concert Hall

FREE admission (by reserving on WisePay only)

## BOOKING INFORMATION

Please visit [www.whitgift.co.uk/events](http://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)

