


The Headmaster writes:

So the Six Nations have roared into action over last weekend, with some breathtaking games and stunning moments of brilliance, mixed with the odd blunder – which reminds us that even at that level the players are still prone to what we rather unfairly call 'schoolboy errors'. For me, this competition is always a welcome antidote to the dark days of Winter, and a mouth watering sign that Spring is just around the corner (not to mention that it kicks football off centre stage, it's on terrestrial TV, the crowds are free of segregation and it provides friendly rivalry among Aldro Staff and boys). And with Aldro deep into our rugby season, what better time to remind ourselves of the core values that lie at the heart of the sport kicked off by William Webb Ellis back in 1823? Teamwork, Respect, Enjoyment, Discipline, and Sportsmanship. All essential in the game of Rugby – but of course these five crucial attributes do not just apply to Rugby, or indeed just to Sport. They play an enormous part in pretty much every aspect of school life, and I hope

that in the following pages of this week's Aldrolink you will find many examples of all of these values. Once again we are indebted to Sheridan Charles for her hard work in producing this edition – which includes images of the first significant snowfall this year.

Please remember to follow our Twitter feed (<https://twitter.com/AldroSchool>), our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/AldroSchool>) and Instagram (<https://www.instagram.com/aldroschool>) which will also highlight many of the exciting activities taking place here at Aldro on a daily basis.



Chris Rose
Acting Headmaster

Rugby Shirt Day

The annual "Rugby Shirt Day" here at Aldro is to raise funds for the Wooden Spoon charity. Monsieur Lombardot first dreamt up the idea of this charity day sixteen years ago, capturing the imagination of both pupils and staff every year since. The idea is simple: all boys and staff are invited to wear a rugby shirt of their choice to school for the day, in return for a donation to the Wooden Spoon. We had all sorts of shirts on display with many clubs and nations represented. This year we raised **£201.98** bringing the total donations over fifteen years to **£5,583.39**.



Excitement in the snow!

Snow day!
Not enough snow for
a snowman but
enough to have lots
of fun at break time!



Debating Competition at The Oratory School

On Tuesday 5th February three form 6 boys represented Aldro at a debating competition held at The Oratory School in Reading. After a fun morning of workshops, in which they learned how to hold a debate, they competed against a team from another prep school. There were 8 teams in total and for the afternoon session these were separated into 2 rooms for the competition; in our room, Aldro placed second out of the 4 schools. A target to beat for next year!



Welcome to our new Student Masters



A warm welcome to our new Student Masters, Mr Tom Burrows who has come to us from Sydney Australia and Jack Kieswetter from Cape Town South Africa. Both masters are quickly adapting to our routine, willing to help, full of enthusiasm and usually seen with a beaming smile on their faces.



Aldro Boys win the Pangbourne Poetry Competition

Form 5 boys Austin, Toby, Balthazar and Leo competed at the Pangbourne Poetry competition on Tuesday 5th February. They were awarded first prize and named as the overall winners after being praised for their fantastic performance and their teamwork throughout the day. Miss Perry was incredibly proud of their performance of Casabianca by Felicia Hemans, which tells the dramatic and tragic story of a young boy lost at sea who shouts for his missing father and asks for guidance. The boys demonstrated considerable maturity when preparing a performance on this very serious subject.



Art of the week

Conceptual art - Christmas should be about the presence, not the presents! Collage, created using strips of Christmas wrapping.

Congratulations to Yoyo in Form 7



This is a painting of a snow globe by one of the younger members of our Aldro Family, **Congratulations to Xavier in Form 3**

Word Millionaires' Lunch

We have held our first Word Millionaires' Lunch for the academic year. A record nineteen boys were invited. On receiving an invitation, boys were entitled to jump to the front of the queue, be seated at their own designated VIP table and to be waited on by members of staff. One boy commented... "The best part was being waited on by Mr Streatfeild".

Accelerated Reader Statistics

C Kuchta Form 6	over 5,000,000 words
T Camilleri Form 7	over 3,000,000 words
H Kuchta Form 7	over 2,000.000 words
School's total word count	over 82,000,000 words
Total books read	over 2,000

Congratulations to our top readers and to all our boys who enjoy reading and quizzing.



EPSCE Heats at Horris Hill



The U11 team played well and had some excellent matches. We won all five matches to come first and qualify for the semi-finals next term. We have taken part in this competition for many years and we have won the U11 title and the U9 title one occasion each but it has now become a massive tournament with hundreds of schools taking part each year. The team consisted of Ben H (Captain), Scott H, Thomas B, James C, Boris T-S and Tom O. All the boys deserve great credit for their results. Played 5 Won 5 Drawn 0 Lost 0 (Won 27 games out of 30) My huge thanks go to Mrs Hickey for helping on the day.



U9 National Primary School Heats

The U9 team played in the National Primary School heats last Saturday at Twickenham Prep. They played really well against tough opposition winning 4 out of 5 matches. It was a very close competition and to come 3rd out of 17 teams was a fine achievement. The boys will now play in the semi-finals next term in Bristol.

Well done to all 6 players.



National Prep Schools Rapidplay 2018

This year's tournament saw a good turn-out of our younger players and I was very encouraged by their results. However the lack of older, more experienced Aldro players meant we did not really challenge for the team cup which we have won on two occasions in the past.

Our U9 players show great promise and it was Jack G, Cormac S and Xavier R (U8) who were our top scorers together with a number of Aldro players on 2.5 points. Jack was 4th in the U9 age group, Cormac and Xavier were both 5th they were all prize winners.

Ben H and James C both deserve a mention as they played well in a tough U11 section.

Overall we came 4th with Magdalen College School taking the National title.

D.J.Archer



National Finals - Shooting

Our first team for pistol shooting qualified for the National Finals which took place at Stoke Mandeville on the 16th January. They came a very respectable 6th considering they were using new pistols with only one day's practice beforehand. Their scores were actually higher than the intermediate and senior teams in the competition. 393 Aldro, 383 Intermediate and 382 for the Seniors.

A huge thank-you must go to the Old Aldronians who kindly donated the funds for one new pistol and the Friends of Aldro Association who provided funds for another new pistol. Two parents have also purchased pistols for their sons.



On the day before the competition Perch (Form 8) scored 50/50 with one of the new pistols, to win his gold tie and his name will be engraved on the shield. The last boy to achieve this was in 2012.

Science

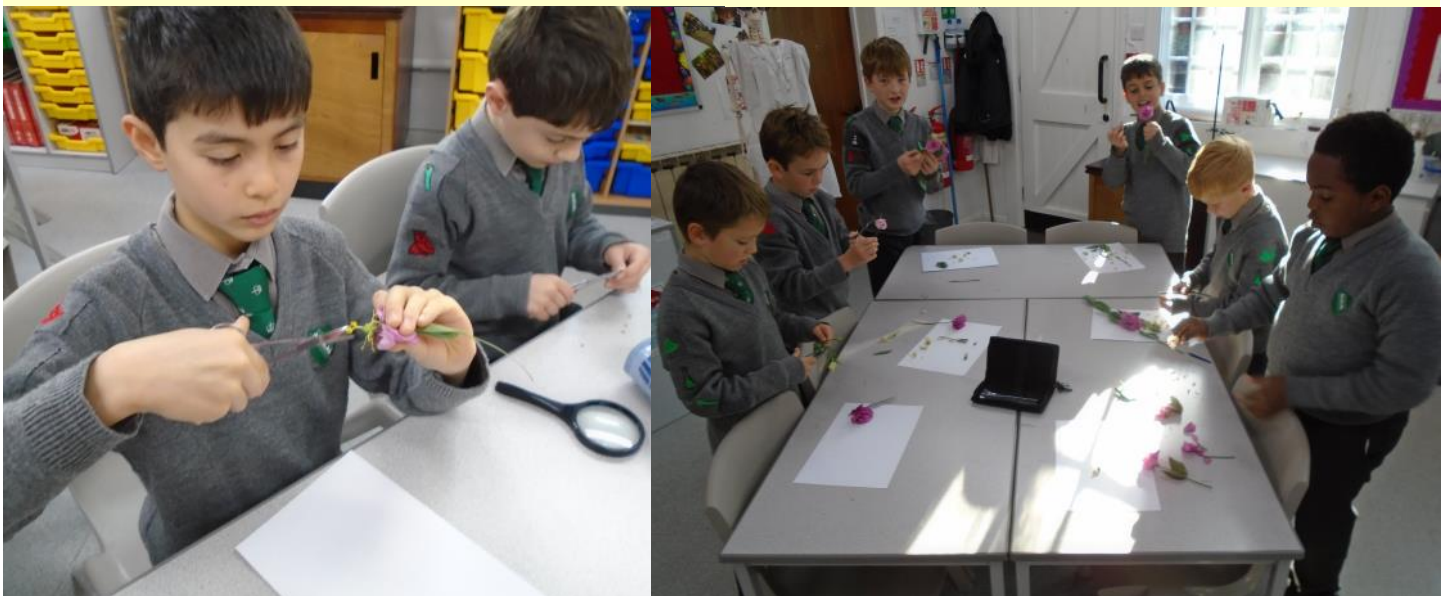
Amazing cross-curricular project in Form 3 all about different species of whales



Form 4 experiencing a different teacher (Dominic)



Form 5 dissecting some flowers!

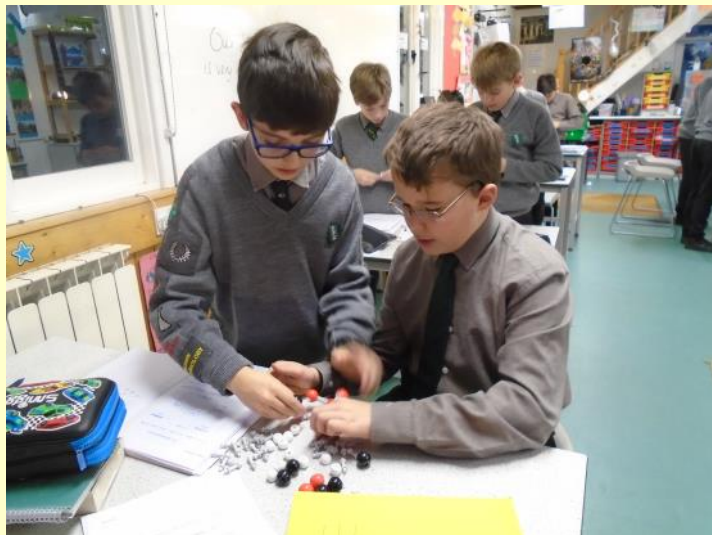


Science

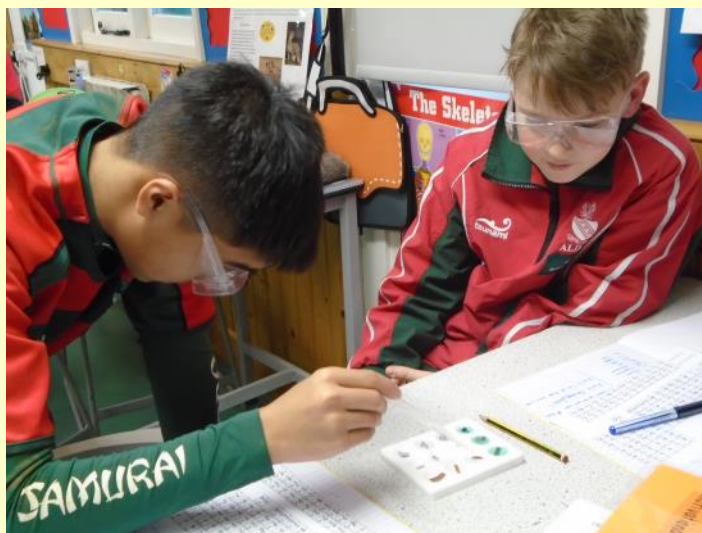
Forms 6, 7 and 8 getting to the 'heart' of things



Form 6 measuring the extension of springs



Form 8, studiously observing displacement reactions



Primary Maths Challenge

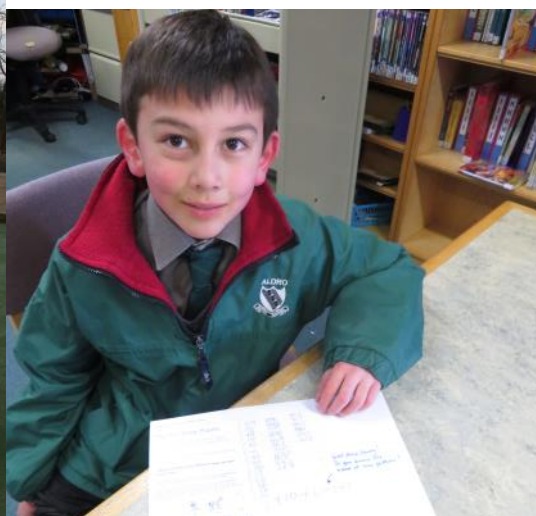
Over 50 Forms 5 and 6 boys took part in the Primary Maths Challenge which is a national competition with over 66,000 competitors. Our boys put in a splendid performance with 14 boys earning a bronze certificate, 9 achieving a silver and 6 boys receiving gold. Gold certificate winners were Tom O, Eric L, Alex S, Keson L, Leo H and Harry L. Special mention to Keson L and Leo H who are still only in Form 5 and will have the opportunity to compete again next year - Way to go, boys! Harry L put in an outstanding effort and has been invited for the Bonus Round on Wednesday 6th February. A wonderful achievement for him and Aldro.

Mathletes of the Month – Many of our boys continued with Athletics over the Christmas holidays and I am pleased to announce the following boys who have achieved December Mathletes of the Month Form 3 – Kieran D, Form 4 – Jacob K, Form 5 – Austin S, Form 6 – Robert G, Form 7 – Alex G, Form 8 – Barnaby B. Well done to those winning boys and a reminder to all boys that it could be your turn this month –so log in and get cracking!

Junior Mathemagicians – A new club has started this term for boys in Forms 3, 4 and 5 who would like to be stretched and challenged beyond the classroom. It is an opportunity for the younger boys to learn some mathematical tricks and explore some of the more challenging puzzles and problems in the maths world. Older boys have had the opportunity to stretch their brains by entering the national Cipher Challenge where decoding is the name of the game. Results from the Cipher Challenge in a future Aldrolink.



Henry one of our Junior Mathemagicians with his amazing solution.



DT at Aldro

Form 8 - Have finished laminating with the Bagpress and are now been applying several layers of lacquer to their chess boards, with an interesting selection of original border designs this year.

Tom has also been working hard completing his portfolio containing 30 pieces of independent work for his Design Engineering scholarship interview at Cranleigh. This collective piece of work remarkably covers all 6 aspects of the Aldro Bacc!



Form 7 - Are using a new brand of exterior paint finish this year providing them with a different pallet of colours for their beach hut themed bird huts.



Form 6 - Are revelling in their success of raising £1048 for Dusty Yak last term and are now learning all about metals ready to start working in aluminium for their key fobs, pendants and bag tags.

DT at Aldro

Form 5 - Have commenced their practical this term, cutting acrylic on the school saws and drilling on the pillar drill to create their individually designed clocks. These prototype models give a hint of what is to come....



Form 4 - Have been learning all about CAD/CAM and how the computer sends their design to a CNC machine to cut out the fonts they have designed from self adhesive vinyl.



Form 3 - Have been using the strip heater to line bend a stand for their picture frames that they will complete next week.



Boarders' News

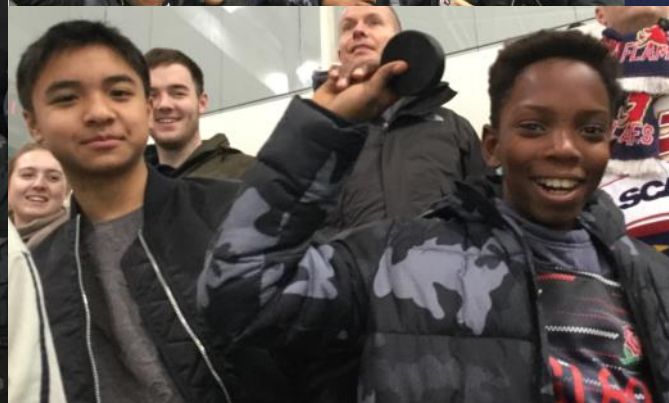
New Boarding Term

The new boarding term set off to a flying start with lots of unpacking and sorting by the boys: a few of their Christmas presents are now proudly on display in their rooms. The boys have been taking a leaf out of Marie Kondo's book with some amazingly tidy draws and keeping up the new year's initiative to keep the Boarding House tip top!

Many a fun activity has been had over the past few weeks. On the first night back for the boarders, we played a 'friendly' Staff vs. Boys football game in the ASC where, much to their dismay, the boys were beaten by the staff who had a player deficit! Miss Allen proved to be a dab hand in goal and there was even hat trick being scored by our new addition to the boarding team Mr Andrews!

We have started some new activities after supper with another new member of the team Miss Allen (Music and Drama) The boys had a mass 'Just Dance' session in the CHC, perfecting their moves to Thriller and other tracks.

On the first weekend, the boys visited the Spectrum where Miss Caire was thrashed at ten pin bowling and Robbie kept his top position as Best Bowler in the Boarding House. Then, last weekend, we had a jam packed 2 days with the boarder's first visit to watch the Guildford Flames ice hockey match. It was super fun and we had pucks flying at our heads on more than one occasion and even managed to catch a game puck! The boys then went to Top Golf on Saturday: It was highly competitive but Luis managed to get to the number 2 spot with a score of over 100, only to be beaten by Mr Rainer himself. After the busy morning, a prep session followed by some games outside in the glorious weather and the weekend finished off with a classic film, the first Star Wars with Miss D.



Notices & Events for your Diary....

FRIENDS OF ALDRO

"SPRING WALK"
TUESDAY 12TH FEBRUARY
8.15AM

**MEET IN THE
DINING ROOM
CAR PARK**

**REMEMBER YOU DON'T NEED A
DOG TO COME FOR THE WALK**

GOVERNOR/ PARENT FORUM

TUESDAY 12TH MARCH
7.00PM



CAKE SALE FRIDAY 15TH MARCH



A PERFECT TREAT FOR THE END OF THE
GRIMSTON CUP FOR BOYS, SIBLINGS, STAFF AND PARENTS!



Summer Party Saturday 22nd June

Save the Date
Mothers' Tennis Morning
Tuesday 10th May
West Surrey Golf Club