



The Headmaster writes:



One of my favourite albums to listen to every now and again is the *Village Green Preservation Society* by The Kinks, from November 1968. It's a wonderful collection of vignettes of life in a traditional England countryside, celebrating people, places and experiences – and memories. And that, in a nutshell, is what we are striving to create here at Aldro – a vision of what schoolboy life should be all about: preserving traditions and creating memories that will last a lifetime. I often meet Old Aldronians, who will pour out story after story about their childhood and education at school, and who will gladly share their special memories of life at Aldro which come flooding back. So it's absolutely vital that we recognise we are currently providing our boys with exactly that – experiences they will never forget. In the next few pages you will see a snapshot of many of these, including Sports matches, success in Chess and Shooting, school trips to the likes of Brookwood, Boarding outings, the Winter Fair, Parents & Sons lunches, Musical Concerts, Carol Services, and of course the memorable production of *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*. In many ways it's our own Aldro Album, and although it may not

cause a global sensation in the same way as Ray Davies & Co fifty years ago, our intention is exactly the same – to allow boys to look back on their achievements and experiences with a smile. Sheridan Charles has again succeeded in capturing the sense of fun and enjoyment of the last few weeks, and I am very grateful to her for her hard work on this edition of Aldrolink. 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 tell some of the stories from this busiest of terms.

Lynne and I wish all boys, parents and staff a relaxing and peaceful festive season – and look forward to seeing you back at Aldro on Thursday 10 January (and Boarders on Wednesday evening). Merry Christmas!

Chris Rose
Acting Headmaster

Aldro Carol Services



The Candellit Carol Service, as always was a beautiful evening of carols, readings and singing from the choirs. We were started off wonderfully with 'Sans Day Carol' sang by Joshua as Chapel Choir processed in and were treated to 'Nativity Carol', 'Balulalow' and 'In the Bleak Mid-Winter' by the Chapel Choir and Chamber Choir.

For many the end of term Carol service is one of the highlights of the year as the whole school head off firstly to Charterhouse for the service and subsequently disappear into the mist for the holidays. Henry W started the service beautifully with 'Once in Royal David's City' and then the Junior Choir (Forms 3,4 and 5) singing 'Unto us this night', Form 6 sang 'Jesus Child' and Chamber Choir sang 'In the bleak mid-winter'. Chapel Choir gave some wonderful singing of 'Nativity carol', 'Balulalow' (congratulations to Harry W for the solo), 'Ecce gaudier' and a beautiful rendition of 'The Lord's Prayer' to finish. They were joined of course by the congregation as we sang carols, listened to the readings and Mr Margesson's final sermon as Chaplain at Aldro.

Aldro Carol Services



Christmas Lunch

On Thursday 6th December David McCoy and his catering team once again worked together to give us the most delicious Christmas lunch. Turkey, roast potatoes and all the trimmings was followed by minced pies, satsumas and chocolates. Crackers were pulled, jokes were told and everyone left feeling well fed and full of Christmas spirit. **Many** thanks to our wonderful catering team for a wonderful meal and for all the exceptional food they have produced this term, both at lunchtime and all the other numerous events. We are extremely lucky to have them. All boys and staff wore their Christmas jumpers on this day raising **£117.13** in aid of the Royal Surrey County Hospital Charity to help transform patients' lives.



Headmaster for the day

As a result of a successful auction bid we welcomed James Cassar into school for a day as our Headmaster. James thoroughly enjoyed his insight into the daily life of a Headmaster: After handing out prizes at assembly, several meetings with staff, boys and parents followed. James visited every class in the school, conducted an interview with Mr Jordan and even managed to introduce a few new rules for the day!



The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe

November saw the Form 7 boys give 3 highly entertaining performances of *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*. Parents, boys and invited guests from Puttenham infants enjoyed the show, with some of the younger members of the audience exclaiming that it was 'the best thing I've ever seen!'

Huge congratulations to all involved.

EA



The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe cont'd



Remembrance Service

The War Memorial Chapel was beautifully decorated for the Aldro Remembrance Service. Thank you to Revd. Parker for speaking and a wonderful rendition of the Last Post by Form 7 boy Jonah. As ever the names of Old Aldronians who gave their lives in both World Wars were read out.

The Aldro Silent Soldier is now in our Chapel complete with all the names of the Old Aldronians who gave their life in the WW1.



Poppies

Thank you to the D&T staff at Charterhouse school for showing us how to manufacture our very own laser cut poppy created as a dedication to the First World War centenary. The Aldro off play boys put their time to good use, working on our whole school project to commemorate the centenary of the end of World War I. The project involved boys from every year group showing great teamwork in creating over 200 poppies which we used to decorate the chapel for our Remembrance Service to mark the end of the First World War.



Form 7 trip to Brookwood Cemetery

To mark the 100th Anniversary of Armistice Day, Form 7 visited Brookwood War Cemetery. James A wrote the following summary:

On arriving at Brookwood, the year split into two groups: one of which explored the history of the cemetery and its soldiers first and one group completed the English poetry-preparation task. I was in the group who began with English, so I will explain that first.

We started by hearing the tragic diary extracts of World War One soldiers and some of the haunting poems from that war in the impressive American Mausoleum. Then we set about the task of visiting the graves to prepare notes to use in our poems on the life of a soldier, which included writing down some of the powerful inscriptions on gravestones. As we did, the sound of gunfire from Bisley echoed through the cemetery eerily. We then had a quick snack break and then swapped groups. Mr Swan, the former Head of History, explained how some family members would choose to be buried in the same grave and about some specific people who helped change the course of history from SAS officers to spies to those who were mysteriously killed when a plane was blown up deliberately. Then we visited some foreign graves, such as Americans, French and North Africans. After that, we joined back together to form a full-year group and had a look at some more recent graves that sadly were as new as 2015. For all the boys in form 7, this trip was powerfully educational, but also tremendously sentimental.

The results of the Barry Gardiner War Poetry Competition that James mentions were as follows:

1st Place: James A

2nd Place: Toby N

3rd Place: Jacob D

Winning Poem

Gone To Sleep In Peace

Swiftly he strode across the battered field
The roar of guns overpowering
The smell of death in the misty air
And the single cross, standing alone, where he kneeled

The sky was clouded red
Reflections of the flowing blood
Covering the grass on the ground
And the corpse ridden trenches
Trenches full of the dead

This man was loved days ago
This man had seen the world
And the dawn and dusk
Loved through rain or snow

Then came the war with its shells
And dirt to say the least
He isn't dead, here where he dwells
Just asleep in peace

By James A



Form 7 trip to Brookwood Cemetery cont'd

With God is our Reward

We sit and wait in fear
The sound of guns is in our ear.
We know our turn is coming
With God is our reward.

We sit and wait in fear
Thinking something is near.
It is the blast that screams
With God is our reward.

We sit and wait in fear
Till we know it's all clear
To make our final push
With God is our reward.

We sit and wait in fear
I hope I see you again my dear
So many won't, I may not.
With God is our reward.

By Toby



Sunshine Passing and Shadows Falling

The crosses upon the heath
On the ground lies a wreath
In the ground the bodies lie
Up in heaven the bodies will fly.

The gun shots flying past my face
I ran over the trench at pace
I'm sprinting as fast as I can
If a bullet hits me, I'm a dead man.

The war has now ended
The Germans empire nearly extended
We may have lost many friends
But in our eyes they our legends.

Most of them are fallen men
But we will remember them
Sunshine may pass and shadows fall
But if we are remembered we will outlive all.

By Jacob



DT at Aldro

Form 3 have been starting to use machinery (pillar drills and scroll saws) in their picture frame project.



Form 4 are busy designing their own fonts and sport themed logo's for locker plaques.



Form 5 have completed their hand held games and are now designing their clocks.



DT at Aldro

Form 6 worked jointly with the Art department and created an amazing array of Christmas items which were sold at the Winter Fair. They worked SO hard all term making the products in both their Art and DT lessons, as well as setting up the stalls, manning the stalls and clearing away after.

Special thanks go to Pat Williams for donating wood from her garden, Sarah Allen and Jackie Corfield for helping in Art and James Cope for supporting so admirably in the chaotic (organised chaos of course!) DT practical lessons! it was great for the boys to take 'responsibility' for selling their wares. Final thank you goes to anyone who bought from us and helped us raise such an amazing amount for the Dusty Yak Foundation. **TOTAL £1,111.76**



Form 7 have been busily constructing their bird houses.



Form 8 have completed prototype chess boards from card and are now working on accuracy with their hardwood veneers.



Squad Chess and Aldro Individual Chess Championships

This years' Competition took place over two afternoons.

I was very pleased with the overall standard of play and all five age groups proved to be very competitive. The U12 age group had a very exciting play off rather like Carlsson and Caruana! Jonnie L C managed to improve on the result of his earlier game to take the trophy. Joshua C deserves maximum credit for his attacking play but Jonnie came out on top. In third place was Sahib K who has made excellent progress over the last couple of years.

In the U11 age group it was real battle with the top players all taking points from each other. There was a four way tie at the top after 4 rounds so it was down to a tie break system to work out the trophy winner. Boris T-S had the best sum of progressive score having lost in round 4 and therefore had the toughest draw. Scott H proved again what a good player he is as did Thomas B and James C. They were joint winners of the U11 section and will be representing the school in the National team competition next term.

The U10 players are making good progress but like many of our best players lack tournament experience. Eddie H and Keson L both won their first three games and in the showdown in round 4 they had an excellent game with Eddie coming out as the U10 Champion. Keson and Elliot were 2nd=

In the U9 age group there were four players who have been vying for top place all term and it was Zach W who proved the best on the day winning all his games. Cormac S was an excellent runner up with Jack G and Rocco W 3rd=

The U8s did really well in their first tournament and it was Felix B who proved what a great prospect he is by winning all his 4 games. He was the Champion with Kieran D and Tom N 2nd=

Well done to all the players.

D.J.Archer

Squad Champions for 2018 India

- 2nd West Indies
- 3rd New Zealand
- 4th Canada
- 5th Australia
- 6th Africa



Aldro Inter Schools Chess Tournament 2018

There was a small entry to the tournament this year with only 14 teams competing in 3 age groups with major and minor sections in the U11 age group.

The Aldro teams did well against strong opposition and I was particularly pleased to see the U9 teams make an excellent start with the A team coming 2nd in the Major section and the B team 3rd. There were two U9 players who were unbeaten with two wins and a draw each, Jack G on board 1 and Cormac S on board 2 for the A team.

The U11 A, B and C teams gained some valuable experience against strong teams from MCS and Twickenham Prep. The A team came 3rd in the major section and the B and C teams were 2nd and 4th in the Minor section. There were excellent results from Tom O 3\3 and Eddie H 2.5\3.

Overall it was a good effort from all the Aldro players and I would like to thank all the parents who helped with the refreshments, we raised £80 for the school charity.

D.J.Archer

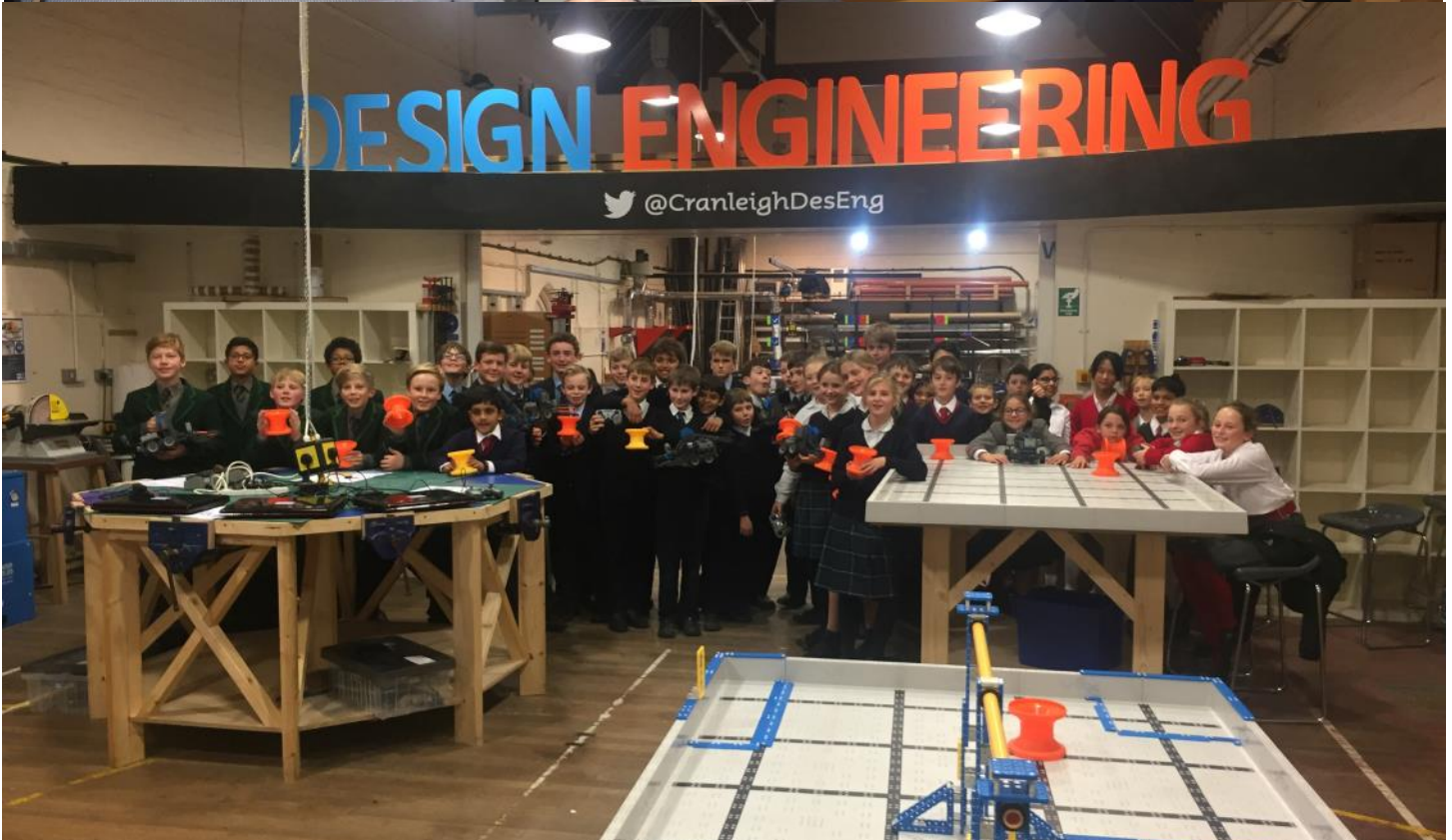
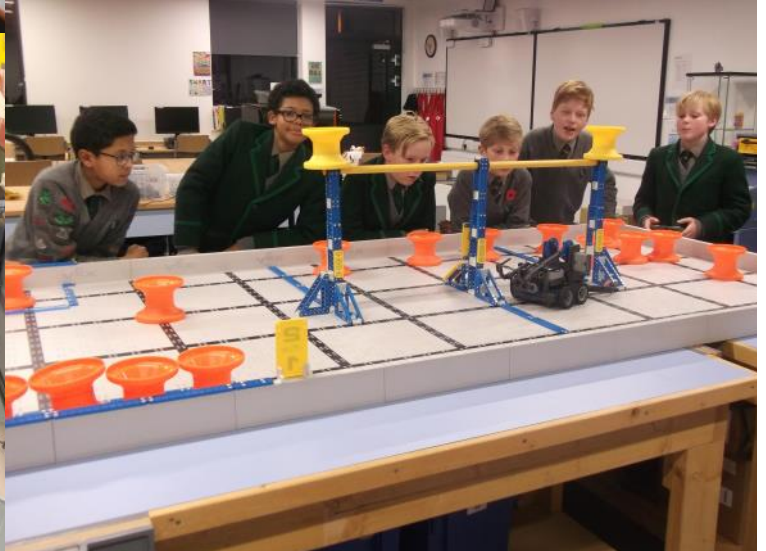
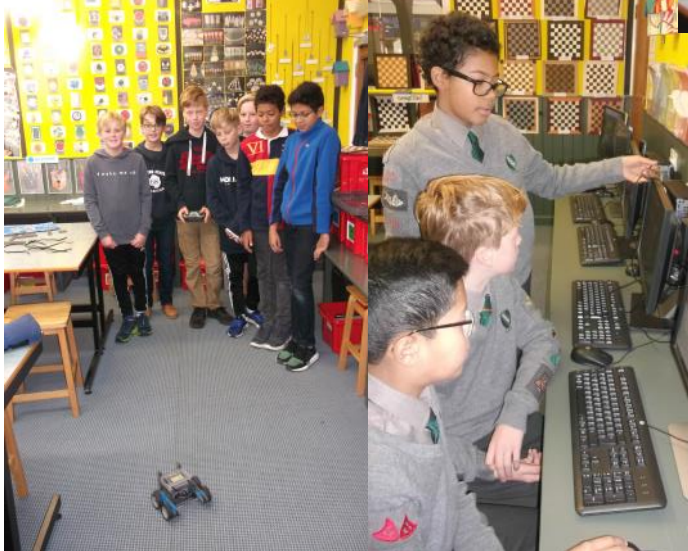


Book Character Pumpkin Competition



VEX IQ Challenge

A few Form 7 and 8 boys have been exploring the VEX IQ challenge of building, driving and programming their own robots. The prep school challenge held at Cranleigh in January is approaching fast!



Success for our pistol shooting teams

Congratulations to our two teams at the South East Schools Pistol Championships who finished first and second, a fantastic result.



Operation Christmas Child

Thank you to everyone who filled and donated a shoebox for Operation Christmas Child. We were delighted to deliver in total 96 shoeboxes to the warehouse.



Reverse Advent Calendar

Thanks to your wonderfully kind donations a group of Form 6 boys were able to deliver well over 200 items to the food bank at St Marks church, Godalming as part of our Reverse Advent Calendar scheme. The church were extremely grateful for the donations, which will help local families in need during the festive period.

Form 3 boys plays at The Barbican



James in Form 3 visited the Barbican recently to hear a performance of Presto and Zesto in Limboland. It was a family concert which means that children in the audience can bring their instruments and James took his violin. Before the concert James did some workshops practising the Wedding Song ready for the concert.

James really enjoyed playing his violin with the London Symphony Orchestra.



Sports Talk

Pre-Season Tour to Sherborne

Before the rugby season started we once again embarked on our annual trip to Dorset for our 9th Pre Season Rugby tour hosted by Sherborne School. 77 boys and 8 staff ventured forward and enjoyed a hugely successful trip. As always the hospitality at Sherborne was wonderful and the time spent on the rugby fields immeasurably useful. The weather was extremely kind to us resulting in plenty of training time in excellent conditions. The cultural aspects of the tour; the sweet shop in Sherborne and the bowling complex in Yeovil were once again well received by all concerned! The rugby festival on Saturday attracted vast numbers of our families and produced some wonderful rugby especially so early on in the season. Our thanks always go to Sherborne school but I would like to say a huge thank you to our staff; Mr Jordan, Mr King, Mr Andrews, Mr RDB, Mr Cope, Mr Bloore & Mr Shore for giving up part of their half term and for your huge enthusiasm on the field and your quality of care off.



Sports Talk

Sherborne cont'd



Wellington College prep school tournament—U11 Results

Aldro v Dulwich Prep
Aldro v Thomas' Clapham
Aldro v Cranmore
Aldro v OPS

Won 40 – 10 (ADW 3, Elkington 2, Fox 2, H Watts)
Won 30 – 20 (ADW, Elkington 2, T Watts 2, H Watts)
Won 30 – 0 (ADW, Elkington 3, Wild 2)
Won 20 – 0 (H Watts 2, Bourne, Thompson)

I was so proud of the whole squad, It was an incredible day of rugby for us. Never mind the results, the attitude, effort, resilience and performance on the day spoke volumes. It is this type of experience that develops and grows the boys. The style of rugby they produced was sensational and the support play of the team a real feature of the day. Individuals stood up on every front and collectively the team are finally starting to gel. The penny is beginning to drop; the structure and strategy we are trying to implement is taking shape. If this is a sign of things to come then stick around for you will be entertained! The important thing for us now is to keep improving, keep getting better not to rest on our laurels. Whilst there were clearly a number of exceptional individual performances I am keen to stress that the entire squad were magnificent on the day. The work rate of all the players and the team work shown was wonderful to watch. Without an engine room; the lads who made the ball available for our silky runners cannot perform!

GD



Sports Talk

U13 Rugby

Aldro U13 A v Cranleigh U13 A

Despite being down 5-0 within 2 minutes, Aldro bounced back and showed great spirit to score 9 unanswered tries. The 4th try on the half time whistle proving to be the decisive one that took the wind out of the Cranleigh sails. A much more assured and mature second half saw a further 5 tries for the green and red. A excellent start to the season, in a game that all 15 players contributed plenty to the match. As ever, our sincere thanks to Cranleigh, the Referee who I thought did an outstanding job, and the travelling Aldro faithful for their excellent support.

Aldro U13 A v Lord Wandsworth College U13A

We came back down to earth with a bump after the 2nd game. A physical LWC side proved to be a little bit too much this early in our season, perhaps after a few more weeks we would be up to speed and the game might have been much closer.

Aldro U13A v Feltonfleet U13A

With a team that showed 5 changes from the week before, it is very evident that this will be a 'year group' effort this season, with plenty of boys being able to represent the A team. Following a brilliant start to the match, taking an early lead, we soon found ourselves 3-1 down. Having gifted the ball back to Feltonfleet in every way possible they seized each opportunity and scored 3 tries. Fortunately we fought our way back in to the game, and it was 3-3 at half time. After the break, we surged to a dominant 4 score lead, running with pace and power whilst tackling with determination and ruthlessness. Feltonfleet couldn't handle us and but for a break away try at the end we would have kept them scoreless in the second half. Much improved from the week before.

Wellington College Prep School Festival

A worthwhile day's rugby which saw us pitted against 4 other schools, Lambrook, KCS Junior, Oratory and St Pauls.

Aldro v St Pauls 10 -10 – We started brightly, but allowed them back in to the game. Had it not been our first match of the day, the result might have favoured us.

Aldro v Oratory 0 – 15 – With the scores level at half time, 0 – 0 we were full of confidence going in to the 2nd half. Unfortunately Oratory were able to release their powerful runners in to some space, resulting in 3 break away tries.



Aldro v Lambrook 20—5 After 2 fairly disappointing results, we bounced back very well against a spirited Lambrook side. There was much improvement from the first 2 games, and that showed in our dominant display.

Aldro v KCJS 15 – 5 We finished the day well, recording another good win against a well organised Kings College Junior's team. We dominated territory and possession, and the win was more comfortable than the score line suggests.

AJ

Sports Talk

U8/9 Mixed Football Squad Matches

FINAL RESULT

1st = New Zealand and West Indies

3rd Australia

4th = Canada and India

6th Africa





Musical Notes



Christmas Concert & Aldro Musician of the Year

What a wonderful end of term as the boys have entertained and inspired us all with their work, performances, and positivity during the last few weeks. As 'Lion, Witch and the Wardrobe' came to a fitting and wonderful climax, there was no respite for the musicians as they threw themselves into exams, concerts, the music competition, Candlelit Service and finally the Carol Service.

The boys have worked extremely hard this term aided by their teachers and parents in preparing for the end of year ABRSM and Trinity exams and have shown some remarkable improvement not only in their performance and understanding, but also in the manner they have approached and sat the exams with a calmness and maturity that belies their years. We have had some excellent results in what has been the best prepared sitting for some time.

Once the exams were out of the way, rehearsals began for the Competition Final and Christmas Concert. The week leading up to the final had all the soloists rehearsing and I knew that not only were we in for a terrific evening, but that our guest adjudicator would have a very difficult task to separate the soloists. This was proved to be the case and our guest for the evening Mr Mark Shepherd (Director of Music from Charterhouse) whispered to me after the first 3 finalists that this was going to be a difficult decision to make.





Musical Notes



Christmas Concert & Aldro Musician of the Year Cont'd



All the finalists played superbly and in his final remarks and summing up Mr Shepherd made an individual mention of all the juniors (Forms 3-5) before announcing the Junior Musician of the Year as Leo H (Violin) for his beautiful and accomplished playing of Bach. Congratulations to him. The Senior section (Forms 6-8) would prove to be as exciting as we waited eagerly as an audience to find out the winner. It goes without saying that everyone who performed were 'winners' as we had such an astonishingly high standard and accomplished performances. However Matias Lenton (Saxophone) was the overall and deserved winner for a quite remarkable performance of 'Dreams of You'. The soloists were joined as usual by all the ensembles who again demonstrated a richness and depth in our school of the old, modern and new and we were all left looking forward to the final two weeks of term as we welcomed in the start of Christmas.

A huge thank you to all the boys, staff and parents for their continued support and enjoyment this year.

Happy Christmas to all and we look forward to seeing and hearing more of the boys in 2019.

Boarders' News

This half of term has seen the boarders having a brilliant time at Top Golf for the Year 5 and 6 Big Boarding Weekend. The calibre of play was rather mixed, but the competition was fierce as to who was going to be the next budding Tiger Woods or Rory McIlroy! The usual fantastic Sunday roast was duly demolished and the boarders ended the weekend with a chilled evening watching a movie in the common room. The following weekend leave gave our boarders a full two days away from school, and then last weekend the boarders went paintballing. On the Saturday evening the boys all went to the cinema in Guildford. The younger boys and Mr Rainer especially enjoyed watching *The Grinch*, whilst the older boys went to see *The tales of Grindelward with Mrs Fenwick*. On the Sunday there was a huge full English breakfast to help fuel everybody up for paintballing. On their very muddy return there were lots of tales from the boarders with the obligatory showing of the numerous bruises collected.



Then on to our final weekend where all the boarders on Saturday afternoon went to Gravity Force



Boarders' News

Boarders Feast

The final Saturday night of term saw the dining room transformed into a banqueting hall ready for the Boarders' Feast. With record numbers of staff and boys attending all the staff were escorted to their tables by the boarders where everyone enjoyed a delicious meal. After a few table games Mr Rainer awarded some awards to the boarders and then we were entertained by Mr Rose, who had penned a poem featuring a number of Aldro boarding staff going about their business! The boys clearly loved anticipating who was going to be mentioned next! Monsieur then introduced us all to *Silent Night* in French, the final rendition of which was beautiful. Boarders then went upstairs to watch a movie together - a lovely end to a busy term in the boarding house.



Boarders' News

...and Ice Skating at Winchester...



Junior Department

Parents & Sons Lunch

We were delighted to welcome the Form 3 and 4 parents to lunch. It was a wonderful opportunity for the boys to show their parents a typical meal time at Aldro and for their parents to have the opportunity to enjoy a meal without any preparation or clearing away at the end! It was a fantastic turn out, with everyone being able to share a meal time with someone special. Huge thanks go to David McCoy and his catering team for producing such a delicious lunch.



Trip to the Science Museum

The Junior boys had a fabulous trip to the Science Museum working out the Enigma code, trained to be pilots and enjoyed the IMAX theatre.



Aldro says Goodbye



Mr Nick Margesson has been an outstanding and much-valued member of the Aldro Staff for the best part of ten years. He was originally appointed as Head of RS, but threw himself into all parts of Aldro life, and rapidly became highly popular among both boys and parents. Mr Margesson took on the role of Housemaster for several years, where his commitment to the boys was exceptional, and he developed the idea of 'Family-Friendly' Boarding. As a teacher of RS Nick produced excellent results on a regular basis, in both CE and Scholarship exams. He has also been a very successful Form Tutor, and many boys will be grateful for the care and dedication with which he looked after them. On the Games field, Nick was a superb coach of all our traditional sports, and had many successful seasons taking the 1st XV and Sevens Rugby teams. He provided amusing and informative commentary on Sports Day, and even ran a Fly-Fishing club for a while! Perhaps Nick's most memorable contribution to Aldro will have been his Chapel talks. They have always been wonderfully clear in explaining the Bible and its true meaning to boys and Staff alike – invariably with a quiz – and so many of us are grateful

for that. Nick prepared scores of boys for their Confirmation in their final year, and still continues to speak at local Senior Schools, when Old Aldronians will flock to listen to his inspirational talks. Nick leaves a gaping hole at Aldro, and we wish him and Ellie all the very best as Nick takes up his new role with the Titus Trust.



Another member of staff to leave was Mr Josh Roux de Buisson who moves to a new job in sports sponsorship and we wish him good luck.

Student Masters leave for home...

At the end of this term we have said a sad farewell to our Student Masters who return to Australia to start their University courses. They have been fantastic and their commitment and approach to the school and the boys throughout their year with us has been excellent.

