

## *The Headmaster writes:*

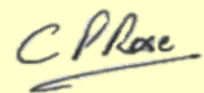
Determination. Courage. Perseverance. Resilience. A sense of achievement... I could go on, but that's probably sufficient for an opening line or two – no, not summing up the last round of Six Nations rugby matches, but all the character traits on display last week during our annual Cross-Country race for the Grimston Cup. More about that in the next Aldrolink, but it's worth pointing out that you'll see plenty of examples of these skills displayed in the following pages, ranging from Chess to Rugby Sevens, and from LAMDA recitals to Hockey tournaments.

Of course, the pictures featured here reflect just a 3-week period since half-term, which gives you an indication of how busy we are during this particular fraction of the school year. You will see images from our Confirmation Service, presided over by the Bishop of Guildford, and after Confirmation cake the catering staff turned their attention to Ratburgers and Snozzcumber salads for World Book Day lunch! The book character costumes for that day were as stunning and imaginative as always, and I am looking forward to giving out prizes for the various competitions later this term.

Aldro boys rarely need an excuse to read – and similarly a lot thrive on public speaking. You will hear about the French poetry competition at Lancing, and enjoy a report from the various LAMDA recitals, leading to much success at the Godalming Drama Festival.

With highly impressive performances at the recent Rugby Sevens and Hockey fixtures, we have had silverware and medals coming in on a regular basis. We have always enjoyed a good reputation for Sevens at the highest level, and the current year are certainly following in the footsteps of their illustrious predecessors, with victories galore at a succession of tournaments. We wish them all the best at the Rosslyn Park Festival coming up next week.

Lynne and I hope to see you on a touchline or at the School Play soon.



Chris Rose  
Acting Headmaster

## *Aldro Confirmation Service*



On Thursday 7th March, three boys were confirmed and one was also baptised in a special service in the Aldro chapel led by the Bishop of Guildford. It was a wonderful occasion with family and friends attending to support the boys. The singing from the choir was outstanding.

**Congratulations and thank you to everyone involved**







As always, we celebrated World Book Day across a whole week as there was a lot to fit in. Our celebrations included a lunch consisting of Green Eggs and Ham (Dr Seuss), Ratburgers (David Walliams) and Bruce Bogtrotter's chocolate cake (Roald Dahl). A big thank you to our fabulous catering team for making it happen!



The entries for the Dream Jar Challenge are amazing and if you haven't already had a chance to view them, please call into the Library and take a look. Entries have been judged by our special visitor Miss Higham and the bookmark competition has also been judged and winners for both competitions will be announced at the Mini Prize-Giving at the end of term.



# *World Book Day*

The boys and staff looked amazing on dress-up day. Our very own Headmaster looked incredibly convincing dressed at the Child Catcher and it was good to see the Ordnance Survey Map make an appearance this year!



## World Book Day

We enjoyed celebrating World Book Day in our English lessons by "Sharing a Story". Classes completed fun and challenging activities based on a range of exciting and engaging stories. This was enjoyed by all and many boys have asked to do follow-up work.



## Aldro Maths Superstar

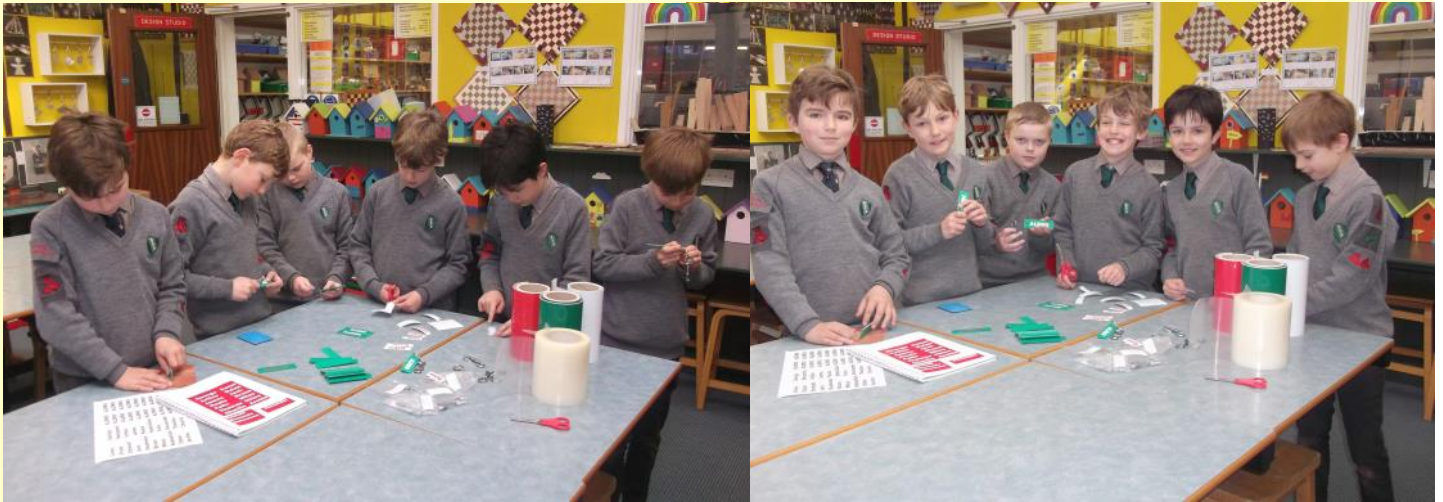


Harry achieved an impressive 22 out of 25 in the first round of the Primary Maths Challenge which meant he qualified for the bonus round in February. This bonus round of the competition saw 2000 pupils participate across the country and Harry achieved 18 out of 25 on a very difficult paper. He has been awarded a Silver certificate and special award badge for this remarkable achievement. Well done, Harry and we look forward to more future success in other maths challenges!

## *DT at Aldro*

Lots has been happening in the Design and Technology Department since our last Aldrolink, some of which is mentioned below.

Form 4 were very busy making keyrings for our visitors at Open Morning last Saturday. They have used the same CAD/CAM processes they will be using for their locker name plaques to make vinyl names and stick them onto PVC.



Boys across all year groups have put their design skills to good use creating a wide range of charming and delightful dream jars – even the odd one or two that brought a tear to Mrs Matthews's eye! Once again the task of judging them is an impossible ask which we handed over to our esteemed guest judge last Friday (see page 3)

It was role reversal last week in DT as the staff took to the classroom to undergo their health and safety refresher training. We were delighted to welcome as our guests staff from Edgeborough and Feltonfleet.



## *DT at Aldro*

The DT Department is excited to announce the newest arrival in their area, as 'Barry' the bandfacer has arrived and is revolutionising the task of sanding, replacing our much older disc sander model. Ara and Caspar were the first boys to use this newest piece of workshop equipment!



I'm sure the seamstresses amongst you will be pleased to hear that Form 3 are about to launch into their first Textiles project, learning how to sew those all-important badges onto school jumpers.

Form 5 are busily working away with their clocks, whilst Form 7 have been finishing off their birdhouses. Look out for a new display in the cabinet adjacent to the Vestibule in the next week or so. Form 6 are learning all about 'elbow grease' as they use files, emery cloth, wet and dry paper and Brasso to achieve highly polished aluminium key fobs and pendants. Finally, Form 8 have put together their laminated hardwood veneer chessboards made in DT with their ceramic pieces made in Art and have been learning how to play the classic game of Draughts. Again these will shortly be appearing in the display cabinet so keep an eye out for them.



## Lancing French Poetry Competition 2019

This Form 7 cannot get enough French since returning from Normandy in October. Give them a task and they accomplish it to an exceptionally high standard be it in class, the standard of their French Trip Journals and now the learning of French poetry. It was no longer a matter of just being word perfect. The first round at the start of term was good enough to be able to draw up the shortlist on quality of delivery. With the bar already raised for us to be able to be fussy about interpretation and pronunciation, the team itself was finally selected on the quality, interest and potential of their presentations. Thus James, Oliver, Alexandros, Freddie, Ben, Oliver, Dominic and Gabriel headed off across country, ably navigated by Dominic to arrive in time for lunch in Lancing's impressive Hogwartsian gothic Dining Hall with portraits, oak panelling and all! With full tummies we were marched straight off to the business of the Concours itself in the Modern Languages Department.

Poems were recited first with our boys impressing me, at least, with their good eye contact, clear articulation and conveying the feel of the languid heat of Ramuz's *Chaleur*. However, it became apparent from the encouraging feedback that what the judges were really looking for was Gallic gesticulation. Although the opposition fielded a greater variety of poems than Aldro, their choice of presentations on *La Media*, was more repetitive than ours on hobbies, in spite of just under half being on shooting of one sort or another with archery, pistol and rifle! They were commended on their enthusiasm and amount of detailed technical vocabulary used with authority. The Prize-Giving was held this year in the Sanderson Room, a library version of the Dining Hall and it came as no surprise but huge delight when Gabriel was announced winner of our category as the most Gallically expressive of us all. Perhaps it was the kiss he blew Mlle Fryer, his judge, half way through his talk on cooking that did the trick?



Gabriel performing his piece in last Friday's assembly



## Aldro Inter Schools Chess Tournament



At half term we held the 27<sup>th</sup> annual team event at this time of the year with U12, U10 and U8 teams competing.

Teams consist of 4 players in order of ability 1-4.

The opposition was strong again with Magdalen College School, Twickenham Prep, Kings College Wimbledon and Guildford High School taking part.

Our U10 teams had a tough time but it was good to see Captain Eddie winning 2\3 games on board 1. We also had two U9s playing for the U10B team and both Jack and Jacob showed their talent by winning 2\3 games.

The U8 teams show promise for the future with the A team doing particularly well. They came 2<sup>nd</sup> and were undefeated in their three matches. Xavier and Felix did particularly well winning all their games.

Well done to all the boys who represented the school.

D.J.Archer





## Cottesmore Chess Congress



This year's team and individual tournament at Cottesmore was a great event, well-organised and well-attended. Aldro was the only Surrey school there and it is always excellent experience for our players. I took three of our U11 players this year and they competed well against players from the Sussex schools some of who were 2 years older.

Our team consisted of Scott, Thomas and James. The boys all started with two defeats but then competed well to win 3 out of the remaining 4 games. 50% at this event is very good for U11 players and I was pleased with the progress they all made during the day. Thomas won a best game prize for his excellent effort in round 5.

We came 8<sup>th</sup> out of the 12 teams. But more importantly the boys gained valuable tournament experience against strong opposition and they had a great day out!

D.J.A



## Forms 3 & 4 Recital Review

We believe performance is everything and, as Mr Rainer always says, each time a boy gets up to perform they take another step forward. I would like to say a big thank-you to all the family members who came and supported our first Recital of the year, it makes such a difference for the boys to present in front of such an enthusiastic audience and I thought they were quite spectacular with their varied performances. I also feel I should comment on the boys' behaviour. They were all excited before the start and, in that environment, it is easy to focus on one's own performance and let attention slip, rustling paper or whispering. They were so well-behaved and amazingly generous in their appreciation and encouragement of each other. All boys start at different levels, and have different journeys, not unlike *Strictly Come Dancing*, just without the spray tan and sequins. Not having had a chance to see any of the boys before the evening, I thought they did incredibly well and we were thrilled with how composed they were, as well as being funny, strong and entertaining. Bring on the Godalming Festival!

## Form 5 Recital Review

Firstly huge congratulations to Leo, Toby, Balthazar and Austin for continuing our run of success. Under the awesome direction of Miss Perry, they managed for the second year in a row to win the Form 5 Pangbourne Poetry Festival. Aldro has only been taking part in this Festival for the last 2 years, so it is pretty good going. Tangfastic job Miss Perry!

Now, as you can see from the photo, Form 5 had their Recital last Tuesday, and strict LAMDA etiquette was observed by all! What a fantastic follow up to the Forms 3&4 Recital. It is hard to think back to the quiet, almost timid by comparison Recital last year: trying to compare the two just makes us giggle. What a difference a year makes, all the boys just blew us away. An amazing electric atmosphere, helped by the family members joining us together with the generosity of spirit from the ever so excited boys, who offered the great respect of total silence during performances and rapturous applause after each. I can't say anything more than I have already about just how much these boys have all come on and how wonderful they are to work with, other than a big thank –you to the boys for giving us such an amazing evening.



## Godalming Festival—10th March

On Sunday we had a number of boys performing at the Godalming Festival. It is always quite a big jump from performing in familiar surroundings of Aldro, to somewhere totally new and different, and in front of new faces. So we are very proud of all our boys who took the leap and went for it. Congratulations to Ben, Keson, Jack (and Jemima, representing Aldro by default) who all did wonderful performances for the Form 6 and under solo acting group. We were also thrilled by Leo, Felix and James who performed in the Form 3 poetry group, with James coming second with his *Stegosaurus* poem. Then we had Alfie in Form 7 doing his rousing rendition of *Mole from Wind in The Willows*, in amongst the much older girls in the Form 9 and under solo acting, closely followed by Rishi who won his Form 9 and under Poetry group, and we finished the day with Gabriel following up his win at the Lancing French Festival with a win in the Form 9 and under Shakespeare group. How very cultured we all are! For Mrs C-B and me, performance is the most important thing, at whatever level. Getting up and doing it, learning and growing from the experience and, most of all, having fun. This was achieved last Sunday, so we are very proud of all our young men (and lady) and can't wait to see what happens next week with Round 2 of the Godalming Festival. To be continued...

# *Junior Department*

## *Form 3*

Form 3 had a vibrant and engaging term as learning has taken them to places they have never been before. The boys' first learning enquiry was "The Polar Regions" and they have explored all the different animals in and around the oceans. Form 3 had a fantastic opportunity with this enquiry to develop their creative and independence skills by researching the variety and diversity of whale that inhabit the waters. In Science, we have studied magnets and linked the idea of the poles and the Earth being magnetic itself. For Maths, they boys have explored fractions and measure whilst learning formal methods such as grid method. Their maths brains are certainly bulging and they are loving linking their learning together as they work on their skills. We looked at rotational symmetry in snowflakes and constructed them from pipe-cleaners. A tricky job!

This term (for the 2<sup>nd</sup> learning enquiry) we have stepped back in time to Ancient Greece. In English, we are reading and immersing ourselves into the world of Greek mythology. We are astounded by some of the weird and wonderful creatures. For World Book Day, we designed and drew our very own mythological creature who will feature in our very own myth written by us!

Other learning this term has centred around friendships and relationships. We have been looking at how we can understand situations better and how we can help others in a variety of different ways. It is a jam-packed schedule for Form 3 but they are here every day with huge smiles on their faces; soaking up knowledge, ideas and learning. It really is a fantastic classroom to be in! Come and see for yourselves!



# *Junior Department*

## *Outdoor Education*

On Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March, Forms 4 and 5 had a joint OE lesson with a focus on the Aldro Bacc skills – TEAMWORK and LEADERSHIP. The weather was kind to us and the glorious sunshine helped as we made our way up to the woods behind school in eager anticipation. The challenge was to create an animal using natural resources. Both Mr King and Miss Shaw were pleased to see how some groups showed great teamwork and used clear communication to get their ideas across to each other. Some of the boys demonstrated strong leadership skills by allocating each member of their group a set role, providing a great result.



## *Junior PE/Activities*

Form 4 boys enjoying Table Tennis and Basketball in the ASC



# Sports Talk

## *U13 Success at Rugby Sevens Tournaments*

### **Port Regis 7s**

It came down to the last game against Caldicott, a quick glance at their website and you will find the following 'Caldicott has a national reputation for its rugby'. However, the same quote wouldn't be out of place on our own website. It wasn't to be on this occasion, we didn't manage to reach the same levels of ball retention compared to the previous matches and Caldicott were deserving winners. The disappointment was evident for all to see, but the achievement of second must not go without being mentioned.

### **Boundary Oak 7s—Winners**

In polar opposite conditions to the previous week, the boys adapted well to the conditions and came out worthy winners of the cup at Boundary Oak.

We moved into the group winners group for the 2<sup>nd</sup> tournament in a row and first came up against a spirited and physical Ryde School side. It was clear that the small pitches favoured their style of play and to be fair they limited us to only 2 scores. In the final game of the day we had Pennthorpe, who had also beaten Ryde which made the match the final and the winner would therefore win the whole event.

Again, it was tight and scrappy. The conditions limited us and we soon found ourselves 1 try down. Playing such short matches meant that the first score was crucial so the boys really had to dig deep to claw back the deficit. Credit where credit is due we worked an opening and took the chance with both hands, Ope crashing over in the corner to level the match. With the game coming to an end, we were camped on the opposition line, but just could not get over. That was until the ball came out to James on a crash ball from 5m out, and it would have taken the whole team to stop him from scoring. Final score, 10-5 and Aldro take home the trophy.

**Cup Winners at Boundary Oak**



# Sports Talk

## *U13 Success at Rugby Sevens Tournaments*

### **Feltonfleet 7s—Winners**

The boys arrived at Feltonfleet bright eyed and bushy tailed ready for a tough morning of rugby 7s matches. Buoyed on by their win in the week at Boundary Oak, we were full of confidence and eager to get started. We started the day with 2 narrow wins over Feltonfleet and Rokeby. Having got ourselves in to an early lead on both occasions the opposition got themselves back to within 1 score. Fortunately, we managed to hold on in both games and come away with the win.

As the day wore on, our rugby got better and better. The ball retention was clear to see and we scored plenty of tries after the opposition had quite simply ran out of defenders. All the boys contributed excellently to the days play and should be proud of their achievements.

### **Aldro 7s Report - Winners**

The U13s showed once again that they are a force to be reckoned with on the 7s circuit this year, totally controlling all but one of their 6 matches to win the Carling Cup at their home tournament.

In what turned out to be arguably the toughest group, Aldo dominated proceedings in the first 2 matches to win comfortably, and playing some sublime 7s on the way. The boys are certainly getting better and better each day, but it is now about fixing the fine margins and small percentages that will take them from being a good team to being a great team. We came a little unstuck in the final group game against a big and physical Thomas's Clapham, who in fairness, came from 14-0 down to draw the game 14-14.

Moving into the cup group, we found ourselves against familiar opposition in Shrewsbury House, Westbourne House and Feltonfleet. The first game was Shrewsbury House, and I can only say that the boys played out of their skin to totally dominate Shrewsbury House in every facet of the game. Very, very pleasing to see. We then had two tough games against Westbourne House and Feltonfleet, but after the performance against Shrewsbury House, it was evident to see in the boys' eyes that there was no chance they would let the tournament slip at this stage. Winning both games, Aldo take home the trophy! Now on to the finale at Rosslyn Park.

**Cup Winners at Aldro**



# Sports Talk

## U12 Rugby Seven's

### Dulwich Prep School 7's Tournament

#### Group Games

Aldro v Dulwich Prep A	Won 10 – 0
Aldro v Bedford	Lost 0 – 10
Aldro v Emanuel	Won 20 – 5
Aldro v Trinity	Won 15 – 10
Aldro v Dulwich Prep B	Won 20 – 5
Aldro v Fulham Prep	Won 20 – 0

Points for: 85

Points against: 30



# Sports Talk

## Aldro U11 Rugby Sevens

### U11 Churchers' School 7's Tournament Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> February

#### Group Games

**Aldro v Prince's Mead**

**Won 15 – 5**

Tries: Long 1, Elkington 1, Hume 1,

**Aldro v Churchers' B**

**Won 25 – 0**

Tries: Bourne 2, Moulton 1, Wild 1, Elkington 1

**Aldro v Churchers' B**

**Drew 10 – 10**

Tries: Bourne 1, Thompson 1

**Aldro v Alton**

**Won 15 – 10**

Tries: Bourne 1, Long 1, Wild 1

**Aldro v Ditcham**

**Won 25 – 0**

Tries: Bourne 1, Thompson 1, Hume 1, Elkington 2

**Aldro v PGS**

**Won 20 – 10**

Tries: Hume 1, Bourne 1, Wild 1 Long 1,

**Aldro finish second on tries scored.**

**Points for: 110**

**Points against: 35**



# *Sports Talk*

## *Form 3 Rugby*

The Form 3 boys have loved participating in many games sessions and school rugby Fixtures this term, many of them experiencing rugby for the first time. They have made fantastic progression in all areas and appear to be enjoying themselves. The boys have shown an exemplary attitude towards sport at Aldro so far, and we hope they will continue to enjoy it! The cricket season is now just a few weeks away ...



## *Thank you*

A huge thank you to all the fathers who took part in our fathers football tournament. With the money raised from that day we have bought the below inflatable Finish line which was used for the first time at the Grimston Cup.

**Report from the Grimston Cup will follow in the end of term edition of Aldrolink**



# Sports Talk

## *Aldro Runners-Up at Charterhouse Hockey Tournament*

An excellent effort by all of the under 10 boys who took part in this year's tournament. They played with determination and skill throughout the afternoon and beat a number of local schools along the way. To reach the final was beyond expectations but was richly deserved.

### Results

#### **Group Stage**

v Amesbury 1-0 (W)  
v Parkside (0-0) (D)  
v Arnold House 3-0 (W)  
v Barrow Hills 1-0 (W)  
v Westbourne House 1-0 (W)

#### **Semi Final**

v Lambrook 0-0 after normal time & extra time.  
3-2 penalties (W)

#### **Final**

v Hallgrove 0-3 (L)



# Sports Talk

## *England & Surrey Cricketer Ollie Pope visits Aldro*

On Thursday 28th February, the Form 6 boys had a surprise visitor to their Cricket Academy session. England and Surrey cricketer, Ollie Pope came to the Aston Sports Centre (ASC) to pass on his cricketing knowledge and expertise to the next generation of aspiring cricketers. The boys were delighted and a little overwhelmed at first with their visitor but soon settled into their session and listened intently to Ollie's advice.

The afternoon finished with a Q&A session and the boys learnt about some of what it takes to become a professional cricketer, who the fastest bowler on the county circuit is and which players were Ollie's role models as a child.

We would very much like to thank Ollie for taking the time to come to Aldro to inspire our young and enthusiastic cricketers.



## *Easter Courses at Aldro*

### *Tennis*



#### **2nd—4th April**

10.00am to 1.00pm

For all boys, siblings and friends.

Forms 3 to 8.

£36 per day or £90 for all 3 days

To book, email David Gill, at [gilld@aldro.org](mailto:gilld@aldro.org) stating age and the days you would like your child to attend. He will get back to you to confirm.

### *Aldro Boy selected for Harlequins*



Every year we are fortunate enough to be able to nominate a number of boys for the Harlequins' Developing Player Programme (DPP). This is a testament to the high skill level and work ethic that our boys have as they enter the U13s. It is with great pleasure that we can announce that for the 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, at least one Aldro boy has been selected for the Harlequins' DPP. This year, Head Boy James has been selected and he will link up with approximately 40 other boys from the County. The programme content will include rugby skills - technical. Introduction to strength & conditioning, nutrition and sports psychology. There is also a parent's programme to educate on the pathway and topics such as basic injury treatment. Contact time is approximately 30 hours per annum.

The DPP is the initial stage on the rugby pathway that has the potential to lead to a place in the Elite Player Development Group (EPDG) which in turn can lead to a full time academy contract.

Whilst all of that is a lot of hard work away, James must be commended for being selected to this initial stage ahead of over 200 other boys in the area. This only goes to highlight how lucky the boys are to have such excellent sporting provision at Aldro, not only across rugby but also football, cricket and hockey. Whilst the initial success has come now, with James being selected, it has stemmed from many years' hard work in the age groups leading up to the U13s.

## *Notices & Events for your Diary....*



**FORM 3 & 4  
PARENTS' & SONS'  
BREAKFAST**

**&**

**ARGYLE CUP**

**SATURDAY 23RD MARCH  
8.30AM**



**TUESDAY 26TH MARCH - 6PM  
&  
WEDNESDAY 27TH MARCH - 7PM**



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



***Summer Party  
Saturday 22nd June***

