

The Headmaster writes:

We love January and February days at Aldro – forget the weather! Our amazing young men have been trail-blazing through coding and cryptography, preparing French poetry for national competition, producing excellent work for the Form 5 open classroom event, delivering a majestic Lamda showcase, competing against the girls at chess and taking on all-comers on the rugby pitches. January and February are a special time of year for many other important reasons: firstly we are embarking on a year of growth mindset – the “can-do” approach to life in all its challenges, and 8R with Mr Rose kicked us off with several assemblies already. Secondly, we have been involved very successfully in external and our Aldro rugby festivals and we can’t wait for more of them through the second half of term. We’ve also begun our season of charitable giving through the Wooden Spoon rugby-shirt day – an idea coined by our very own Monsieur 15 years ago and adopted around the nation to raise money for an amazing cause. Well done to the Form 5 boys for winning the Pangbourne Poetry Competition. A special mention must go to our four music scholars, Patrick, Siwei,

Jamie and Felix who have all won awards to their chosen Senior Schools - much more on that in the next edition of Aldrolink.

Jenny and I have enjoyed meeting many of you at our coffee mornings and the Form 5 Supper Party where we were treated to a wonderful meal by our amazing catering team. There were lots of teams taking part in the excellent FoAA quiz, compered expertly by Mr Rose. Finally, it is always time to celebrate the work of the FoAA throughout 2017, for giving so much to school to help build community. The incredible committee helped raise a huge amount of money to be donated back to school projects and more importantly, our school charity from 2017: The Rainbow Trust. Jenny and I want to thank you all for helping build our incredible Aldro community.

Have a wonderful half-term with your boys

Mr James Hanson
Headmaster



Congratulations

Congratulations to Toby (team captain), Charles and Matias on their excellent performance in this year's Cipher Challenge. This is a challenge open to any team under the age of 18, and involves complex code breaking. Two codes were issued each week for the pupils to try and break, they were awarded points for accuracy and speed. The boys successfully solved one or two codes a week last term and have decoded about fifteen sides of A4 in total!

This year 3976 teams entered the competition. Toby, Charles and Matias were placed equal first in part A and equal 248th in part B, this puts them in the top 7% of competitors. This is a fantastic achievement as they were one of the youngest entries in the competition.



Well done boys

Aldro win Pangbourne College Poetry Performance Competition

On Tuesday 6th February, Aldro's team of four Form 5 boys: Ollie, William, Luke and Arthur competed in and were named the overall winners of the Pangbourne College Performance Poetry Competition. Firstly, together with pupils from six other prep schools, Pangbourne's Head of English led a performance poetry workshop. After this, each team were given a choice of two poems to prepare for their performance. The Aldro boys chose the poem "Let Me be a Burden on my Children" by Roger McGough and demonstrated great team work, enthusiasm, originality and a wide range of performance techniques to present this very poignant poem with sensitivity and humour. Many congratulations to the boys and a huge thank you to Pangbourne, for hosting such a fantastic event. LMc



Eagle House Spellit Challenge



On Tuesday 6th February, four excited Form 4 boys headed to Eagle House School to the annual Spellit Competition which had 24 schools competing. Austin, Oli, Tristan and Eddie coped well the 8 rounds of anagrams, compound words and misspelt words to name but a few. Although we didn't win, I am very proud of how the boys applied themselves and showed such good manners!

Rugby Shirt Day, in aid of Wooden Spoon

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 fifteen years ago, capturing the imagination of both pupils and staff every year since.

The idea of "Rugby Shirt Day" 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 **£304.94** bringing the total donations over fifteen years to **£5,381.41**.



Squad News - Weekly Top Scorers

Current squad totals for this term:

6th = **Africa** (1575)
5th = **West Indies** (1576)
4th = **New Zealand** (1648)
3rd = **Australia** (1669)
2nd = **India** (1691)
1st = **Canada** (1716)

Weekly Top Scorers:

AFRICA

Week 1

Balthazar Ellis

Week 2

William Gibbs

Week 3

Oliver Drewitt

Week 4

Fin Bennet

AUSTRALIA

Week 1

Austin Smithson

Week 2

Alex Greaves

Week 3

Benji Bushnell

Week 4

Arthur Templeton-Ward

CANADA

Week 1

Sam Butcher

Week 2

Oliver Wootton

Week 3

Max Cater

Week 4

Leo Holmes

INDIA

Week 1

Joshua Cook

Week 2

Zac Whitehouse

Week 3

Klim Rotov

Week 4

Ben Hickey

NEW ZEALAND

Week 1

Harry Paterson

Week 2

Luke Jones

Week 3

George Hughes

Week 4

Jack Douglas

WEST INDIES

Week 1

Barnaby Everett and Tristan Ceccato

Week 2

James Clifford

Week 3

Tristan Ceccato

Week 4

Tristan Ceccato

Vertical Tutor Groups

As part of our ongoing development of the outstanding pastoral care at Aldro, we have introduced Squad Vertical Tutors for all boys. The boys have all been placed in small groups of between 6-9 boys, all from the same squad but from all year groups and allocated a Vertical Tutor, who is also a member of their squad. This tutor will remain the same for the boys' entire career at Aldro. It is not to replace the role of the Form Tutor, but to give another option for the boys, and parents, as a 'go-to' person. It also allows more interaction between the Junior and Senior boys in the school. From the outset, they have already proven to benefit the boys, with one Form 3 very, very nervous about going to his first tutor meeting, and the Form 8 boy in his group spotting it straight away and taking him under his wing - the Form 3 boy came out of the meeting beaming and the Form 8 boy certainly seemed to be walking a little taller as a result too. For the boys at the bottom end of the school, by the time they reach Form 8, they will have had a tutor who has known them well for all 6 years. We are very excited about this initiative and are looking forward to seeing the tutor groups develop further. Initially, they will be meeting once every half-term. Below are some photographs from some of the first vertical tutor group meetings.





National Prep Schools Rapidplay tournament



Well done to all the boys who played for the school at the Rapidplay it was a great day with some excellent results again and a very close team competition for the Oundle Cup and Title of National Prep School Rapidplay Champions.

The best Aldro results were;

S. Han 3.5\5 and 3rd= in the U13 age group

G. Starmer-Smith 3\5 in the U11 age group

T. Barnes 4.5\5 and winner of the U10 age group

J. Clifford 4\5 and 2nd place in the U10 age group.

E. Barnes 3.5\5 and 4th= in the U9 age group

O. Salter 3\5 in the U9 age group

The team competition takes into account the top four players from each school and after 5 rounds the scores were Aldro and Lockers Park 15.5 points and Twickenham Prep 16 points, so only half a point split the top three schools.

Well done all 12 Aldro players.

DJA



Huge thank you to FoAA for our Lego WeDo sets

Thanks to the generosity of the FOAA, we have purchased a number of Lego WeDo sets. These take traditional Lego to a new level as the creations can be programmed on a computer or tablet device to move, make sounds and light up. Boys in the Thursday Senior Activity session have been working with them.



National Storytelling Week

To celebrate National Storytelling Week, Aldro pupils have enjoyed a range of storytelling activities in their English lessons. Storytelling around the campfire, using props from story sacks, rolling dice to inspire and shape a story and creating individual as well as group mini sagas – these are just some of the ways in which pupils have been inspired to develop their imagination and to create stories. The English Department have been thrilled at the quality of the writing which has emerged as a result! Do please come and see our display in the vestibule after half term.



Shackleford Trail Ride 2018

Recently the Shackleford Trail Ride 2018 took place. This is a Trailbreak cycle event which started and finished at Shackleford village hall. Well done to a group of local Aldro boys who did incredibly well completing the extremely muddy and sandy 25km course in 3hours 43mins!



Form 7 Poetry

Reading, appreciating and understanding poetry is a key focus in Form seven and the boys very much enjoyed the chance to write their own poems. Both of these poems were written after a unit of work on the 'London' poems by Blake and Wordsworth and subsequent opportunities for the boys to write their own 'Place' poems. Guy chose Dubai, while Edward's is very much modelled on Blake's London.

Dubai – Guy McIntyre

It's known as the 'City of Gold' for The Creek
where the water taxis cross as the
roasting sun goes to sleep and the
City of Gold lights up.

The buildings battle for a place in the sky
none of them are higher than the
Burj Khalifa
a building so great it sways in the wind
like a wedding cake in a hurricane.

The sun wakes up and the City of Gold's
lights die
And the sun takes over, swallowing every-
thing.
And its brother, the sandstorm comes,
looking for destruction.

The pearl divers leap out of their Abras
racing for pearls to sell at the market
before the City of Gold
decides to rest for the night.

Shackleford – Edward Britton

In the rolling plains of Shackleford
many wander, marks of happiness
marks of friendliness.
No modern houses stand,
no trees being cut down
close where the
chartered school
does stand.
How I hear the
boisterous school boys
sing in the painted chapel
and the cows in the vast fields
munching the grass. Few cars drive;
slowly down the narrow twisty roads
their headlights flashing and scaring away
the animals which dwell in the holes in
the side of the road. All is silent.

A 'place' poem inspired by Blake's London

Eagle House Mathematics Challenge

Last Tuesday afternoon 4 boys travelled to Eagle House Prep School to take part in the Mathematics challenge. Eighty pairs took part, split in to two sections. This was an afternoon of mathematical puzzles, testing mental arithmetic, deduction and problem solving skills. Added to this was the time pressure, competing against others to see who could finish first. All four boys: Monty, George, Jacob and Jonty acquitted themselves admirably, but special mention must go to Jacob and Jonty who came sixth in their section.

Sports Talk

U10s storm to victory at Westbourne House tournament

I am very proud of the way the U10s are developing together and the progress that they have made as a whole year group and an A team squad. I can't wait to see how they develop and grow through the school. I would imagine they will be quite something by the time they get to U13 level if they carry on with their current progress.

At the recent Westbourne House U10 rugby tournament our U10 team played 4 games in the pool stage winning three and drawing one. In the final they played Farleigh and won by 5 tries to nil.

Results below

Pool stage

V Brighton College 20 – 0 (W)

V Hurst 20 – 0 (W)

V St Christophers 20-0 (W)

V Windlesham House 5-5 (D)

Final

V Farleigh 25-0 (W)



Sports Talk

Highfield Cross Country Meeting

RESULTS

Congratulations to all the boys who took part in the Highfield cross country meeting last Friday. The results were as follows:

U13 BOYS

2nd Place overall

7 schools

42 runners

3rd B. Harris
6th K. Mackay
11th L. Hepworth
12th S. Huet

U12 BOYS

1st Place overall

6 schools

36 runners

3rd B. Bridges
5th B. Bushnell
9th O. Golding
17th S. Kus
22nd F. Proctor

U11 BOYS

3rd Place overall

8 schools

48 runners

5th M. Money
9th F. Bennet
13th T. Hunt
18th J. Cook
19th E. Latham
32nd B. Hatton

U10 BOYS

1st Place overall

8 schools

48 runners

1st C. Elkington
3rd H. Watts
4th T. Watts
7th T. Barnes
12th Z. Whitehouse
15th S. Hume

U9 BOYS

3rd Place overall

8 schools

48 runners

4th G. Hughes
7th O. Richards
15th E. Hewitt
16th J. Sleet
22nd H. Anselm
25th C. Sharp
32nd R. Whitehouse
46th J. Graham



Junior Department

Buddy Reading

Recently the boys in Form 7A joined 4H for a 'Buddy Reading' session in the Library. This was a wonderful opportunity for the Form 4's to read aloud to the older boys.

"It was really fun to help the year 4's to develop their reading" HW, 7A.

"I liked reading with my brother" RI, 4H.



Junior Department

In and out of the classroom...

What a busy half-term the Junior boys have had. Whether it be improving their fraction skills (with the very helpful aid of smarties!), negotiation and discussion techniques in PSHEE when discussing the rule for various breaktime games, to making delicious pizzas in cookery activity, to collaborative planning in making the tallest block tower in waiting class! The boys have worked and played hard and deserve a well-earned rest this holidays.



Junior Department

Some photographs of the U8 rugby teams

The Form 3 boys enjoying their first rugby matches



Notices & Events for your Diary....

**Monday 19th February
4.00pm**

**Parents Meeting
with**

**Dr J M Cox
RGS Guildford Headmaster**

School Library

TUESDAY 27TH FEBRUARY

ALDRO EDUCATION VISION:

A TALK FOR

FORMS 3 - 6 PARENTS

**SPRING CONCERT
IN THE CHC**

TUESDAY 13TH MARCH

7.00PM

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

TUESDAY 20TH MARCH, 7PM

&

WEDNESDAY 21ST MARCH, 6PM

**FoAA
Spring Walk
Thursday 15th March
8.45am**



**CAKE SALE
FRIDAY 23RD MARCH**



A PERFECT END OF TERM TREAT FOR BOYS, SIBLINGS, STAFF AND PARENTS!