

## *The Headmaster writes:*

The end of the Christmas term is always great fun in a prep school! It is a wonderful time to relax in each other's company and appreciate afresh the strength of community that is so tangible at a school such as ours. From the fun of Christmas jumper day to the ethereal sounds of the choir at our Candlelit Carol service in the Chapel, there is much to savour and cherish at this time of year. Christmas decorations were popping up all over the place, the dormitories were draped in paper chains and fairy lights, the Art department have made Christmas cards and the DT department have put up fabulous displays of homemade nativity scenes and the eclectic range of entries into our Christmas Wreath Competition. The boarders enjoyed a wonderful Boarders' Feast at the end of term, and the belly-wrenching laughter emanating from the boy sitting behind me during the staff sketches seemed to encapsulate most innocently the spirit of the season. The Choir have been in excellent voice over the past few weeks, and I hope that you have heard them at one stage or another. The Carol service in Charterhouse Chapel that marked the end

of our term was a splendid occasion, with great singing, an impressive ten-piece brass band, and our preacher pointing us to the Christian message of hope and salvation at Christmas. My sincere thanks to all the FoAA reps who helped out at Aldro's famous Winter Fair, a splendid highlight of the school's annual calendar and another event that would simply not be possible without the hard work and commitment of our loyal parent body; thank you so much. After a busy term of endeavour, activity and learning, it seems right that the community's spirit is buoyed by the joys of the season. As the boys head off for the holidays, they leave with all our best wishes for a peaceful and joy-filled Christmas.

Chris Carlier  
Headmaster

## *Aldro Carol Services*

For the end of the term we, of course, marked it with our Carol Services. On Sunday evening we hosted a Candlelit Carol Service in the Aldro Chapel. What a reflective and special service; the true meaning of Christmas was celebrated with carols and readings. Harry W, Tom W, Max C, Dominic D and James A sang their solos beautifully and the Chapel Choir led the carols and anthems with grace.



## *Aldro Carol Services*

Charterhouse Memorial Chapel hosted Aldro for the end of term Carol Service. With a guest brass band, Chapel Choir, Chamber Choir and the Junior Choir, the final celebration of the end of term was truly enjoyed by all. Voices rang high and reverberated around the beautiful building. Boys were smiling throughout and made such a wonderful sound.

Thank you again to our soloist Harry W, who sang the infamous first verse of Once in Royal David's City with outstanding maturity and beauty. And to Dominic D V who sang the final verse of Darke's In the Bleak Midwinter with reverence and charm.

Congratulations to all who took part and well done on a remarkable service. The retiring collection raised a fabulous £1132.83 For Harrisons Fund, a local charity dedicated to fighting Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy.



# High School Musical

The Form 7 boys treated packed out audiences to amazing performances of 'High School Musical' this week. There was much merriment on stage as we followed Troy and Gabriella through basketball practice, science challenges and their eventual success in the school show call backs. This really was a team effort, with Design and Technology scholars producing an incredible piece of set in the 'High School Musical' sign, alongside Form 8 Drama scholars running a very tight ship backstage, including sound, lighting, camera work and steering the 'mobile radio station'!



## Form 7 visit Brookwood Cemetery

On a cold 12<sup>th</sup> of November, a group of forty Form 7 boys visited Brookwood War Cemetery. The trip that has run for over twenty years is designed to pass on the torch of remembrance to the next generation. The boys were amazing maturely listening to Mr Swan's expert talk on the men buried there, who include the following:

- A founder of the SAS,
- A Frenchman blown up with gold that was to provide pay to soldiers in North Africa,
- Three men who were buried in the wood behind the graves as traitors; who were then buried, only a few years ago, as heroes who sadly had been suffering Post-traumatic Stress Disorder and
- A woman who was shot as a spy by the Nazis whilst aiding the Free-French.

In addition to a group talk, the English Department run a competition called *The Barry Gardiner War Poetry Prize* that is named after a deceased former Aldro teacher who helped on the first visits. I was also really impressed by the way the boys conducted themselves as they prepared for poetry writing that aimed to bring a soldier's story to life. They attentively looked out for a name or rank on the graves: one boy finding a soldier who had the same day and month of birth and the same surname. The boys also read the epitaphs that were family messages, bible quotes, poetry lines or references to their heroic courage. These lines on the graves could be incorporated in the boys' poems.

Despite this being the year after the centenary of the end of The First World War, the trip still had poignancy as we recently discovered that an Old Aldronian is officially remembered at Brookwood. Edward Needham, whose name was read out at our Remembrance Service the day before, died in The Second World War. He attended Aldro until 1930 and then went to Rugby school. Under his plaque William placed a wreath which read 'Your Former School Remembers You'. In addition, we held a minute's silence for the recent fallen. The most recent grave does not have a headstone yet as the soldier was buried this year. Thank you to Tom for reading Rupert Brooke's *The Soldier* so eloquently to mark their sacrifice.

Overall, this is such a valuable trip and the boys were fantastic. Their poetry will be displayed around school and should reflect the debt of thanks we all owe. Many thanks to Mr Alexander, Mr Doyle, Mrs McSweeney, Mr Swan and Mr and Mrs West (former staff) for your help on the day.



# Brookwood Poetry Competition

After much deliberation, we decided on the following to be the winners:

Mrs McSweeney's Set Winner: C Hughes. Mrs Noyce's Set Winner and Overall Winner: G O'Connor.

Mr Thompson's Set Winner: J Clifford.

## I See, I Hear, I Smell, I Feel, I Think, I Know by G O'Connor

I see the flash of the bullet,  
As it strikes down my fellow comrades  
I watch them fall  
Their blood soaking into the muddy earth.

I hear the rattle of the machine guns  
Their bullets tearing into the hull of the airship  
The screams of the men,  
As their aeroplanes explode  
In a red fiery ball of fury.

I smell the sulphuric acid  
As it devours everything in its path  
Reaching out its desperate tendrils  
To grab hold of its prey  
And drag it down to its dark depths

I feel the bayonet as it digs into my stomach  
The blood slowly seeping out  
Onto the polluted ground

I think of my loved ones  
Their proud smiling faces  
Their knowing that I was brave enough to join the fight  
I smile  
I close my eyes

I know that, even though I am gone, I shall be remembered.

A single grave caught my eye, James Clifford (7K)  
Lieutenant R.J. Shy,  
At its base lay a book,  
Its storied pages made my heart hooked.

"With a lurch I stumbled off that train,  
Time to show the Jerrys some real pain,  
A marching tune filled my ears,  
I've never been that happy in all my young year."

"A lifeless body there on the floor,  
This man's future was no more,  
I wish now I was back on the farm,  
Where no-one could do me such harm."

The boom of shell.  
The hiss of gas.  
The crack of shot.  
A friend add hurried new words:

"German snipers hit their mark.  
This meek man was shot in the dark.  
He'd tried his best,  
But now he has entered his eternal rest."

## The Penultimate End by C Hughes

Mud envelops my feet  
Or so I thought  
I see the dreaded 5 and 9s  
Corrupting my train of thought  
I see the oncoming siege

They land with a crash  
I'm blown off my feet  
Emotion overcomes me  
I begin to sob  
I miss my mum  
My dad  
My dog

Snap out of it I say  
Stand up and fight  
Fight for your family  
Fight for your dog  
And fight the good fight

I stand up, adrenaline pumping in my veins  
I start shooting wildly  
Filled with a new rage  
My shots are on point  
My last few

A blinding light beside me  
I'm enveloped in a blaze  
I know it's all over  
In a bright fiery haze

I hope my family miss me  
But for now, I'm floating  
And when the time comes  
To see them again the  
Stories I can tell of the penultimate end.

## Christmas Lunch

It will take more than a power cut to stop our amazing catering team! On Thursday 5th December David McCoy and his team once again worked together to give us the most delicious Christmas lunch. With power going off 10 minutes before lunch the Turkey, pigs in blankets and roast potatoes were followed by brioche bread and butter pudding with satsumas and chocolates to finish. Crackers were pulled, jokes were shared and a rendition of carols were enjoyed by staff and boys. 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.



# Maths at Aldro

## Mathletes of the Month - November

Form 3 - L Pang  
Form 4 - K Duhra  
Form 5 - J Kalika  
Form 6 - H Anselm  
Form 7 - D Galbraith  
Form 8 - T Davidsen

## Jones Brothers win Squad Timestables Competition for New Zealand!

Luke and Adam Jones have become the timestables champions for 2019. The second half of term has seen lots of senior boy/junior boy combinations battling it out for a place in the squad timestables final. Boys had to answer as many questions as they could in 3 minutes. Squad finalists were:

Australia - H Wang and F Bowers  
Africa - J Thompson and G Lye  
Canada - L Song and C Tilbury  
India - A and K Duhra  
New Zealand - L and A Jones  
West Indies - T Zhuang and X Rees



However, it was the two Kiwi brothers who were victorious, scoring an impressive 276 answers in 3 minutes. Well done to all the boys who competed and earned marks for their squads!



## Primary Maths Challenge - 2019

This term saw Form 6 and some Form 5 boys competing in the national Primary Maths Challenge. This competition sees children from all over the country sitting a 60 minute test on lots of mathematical problems and conundrums. Aldro boys performed extremely well and judging by the scores we should see a record number of boys going through to the Bonus round next term. Well done to the following boys who all received certificates.

Gold - T Douglas, L Holmes, K Guan, H Crosby

Silver - M Hu, J Qiang, J Qu, A Farley, A Wang, L Liu, C Lan, M Davidenko

Bronze - O Adelsbach, E Hewitt, L Hill, O Richards, S Mutu, H Paterson, G Hughes, B Ellis, H O'Mahony, O Butcher, B Santaolalla

## *This half term in Aldro Science*

It has been a busy and brilliant term for the boys in science. They have modelled, sung, played marbles and done lots of practical work in the laboratories. We have seen some outstanding challenges and pieces of work which have resulted in lots of badges and Headmasters' Commendations being awarded. We are looking forward to lots of showcases next term. Happy Christmas for the nerdy science team: Miss D, Mrs E, Mr S and Mr N!



## *Aldro Inter School Tournament 2019*

The team tournament at Half term was small compared to previous years but as always keenly contested and a great opportunity for our boys to represent the school.

The U11 team Eddie H (captain), Oli R, Jacob K and Cormac S played well coming 2<sup>nd</sup> in their section. (silver medalists) Jacob was top scorer for the team with 2 wins out of 3.

The U9A and U9B teams did well and gained some valuable experience, the A team Seb M (captain), Xavier R, Felix B and George L played in the major section and the B team Ben C (captain) Ben C, Archie Y and James D played in the minor section.

The top scorers for each team were George L 3 wins out of 3 and James D 2 out of 3.

The A team came 2<sup>nd</sup> (silver) and the B team 3<sup>rd</sup> (bronze)

Well done to all 12 players and many thanks to the parents who provided refreshments and we raised over £70 for the school charity.

## *Wey Valley Tournament*

For the first time in a number of years we hosted this tournament and it was expertly organised by Emma - Jane Phillips. A number of Aldro players took part and they all played with skill and determination.

### U10 section

J.Kalika 3.5\6, F.Bowers 3\6, C.Sharp 3\6 B.Everett 2\6

Congratulations to Jacob on qualifying for the London Junior Finals.

### U8 section

F.Everett 3\6, H.Everett 2.5\6

Well done to all the boys.

## *Mr Archer celebrates 40 years at Aldro*

This term saw David Archer celebrate 40 years of dedicated commitment to Aldro. In 1979 David join us as a Geography teacher, We are so lucky that he decided to stay part time and continue inspiring a lifelong love of chess within the Aldro boys.



## *DT at Aldro*

**As usual it has been a hive of activity in the DT department this term.**

Form 5 have been working on a project called Glorious Gifts. To start with they analysed existing gift packaging and then created their own gift boxes using CAD CAM. These were then filled with a range of 3 different confectionery items that they made in their Food Tech lessons, with the much-appreciated assistance of Mr McCoy.



Form 6 have also been following a Christmas theme with their Silent Night project. Here they have been making their own nativity scenes from rustic and reclaimed timber. The stable involved a range of box construction techniques, and then they were able to create their own interpretation of the characters from the nativity story.



This term's DT challenge for anyone who wished to enter was to design and create a Christmas Wreath. There were 39 entries from boys, staff and parents, and there were many compliments about how festive it made the school feel having them hung on every door in the main teaching block. An impressive 60 boys cast their votes to decide on the winning adult wreaths, and 19 staff voted for the boys' creations.

The results are as follows :

Adults	Seniors	Juniors
1 <sup>st</sup> Mrs Fenwick	1 <sup>st</sup> Jack Bourne	1 <sup>st</sup> Eddison Matthews
2 <sup>nd</sup> Mr Nixon	2 <sup>nd</sup> Jago Taylor	2 <sup>nd</sup> Leo Kus
3 <sup>rd</sup> Madame Barr	3 <sup>rd</sup> Leo Hill	3 <sup>rd</sup> Everett Brothers



Our rather large group of 6 DT Scholars have continued to keep busy working on a series of individual projects this term, some of which can be seen here. James has updated the 25 year old DT sign, Alfie visited Charterhouse to laser cut parts for his storage box, Edward has been laminating flexiply for a magazine rack, Ted is working on a storage unit for form 6J, Henry has been learning how to use a router ready to make his desk and Cali has been working on a second pallet based project creating an oversized clock. As a group, with a little help from some members of 8D and assisted by Mr Routledge in the caretaking team they have created giant lettering to form the backdrop for the Form 7 production of High School Musical. These pieces were drilled and fitted with remote control LED lights so that the sign could be illuminated. The DT scholars were all delighted to receive the newest addition to Aldro's tie collection, the DT scholars black and gold striped tie.



This year the Remembrance poppies that a selection of boys made in school last year were hung in a new venue. Instead of being appreciated in Chapel for 20 minutes a day, they fluttered peacefully above the heads of the whole Aldro community as they adorned the vestibule ceiling for most of November. At the end of this term many badges were awarded to the boys for their achievements in DT, and we are looking forward to seeing 17 Bronze and 4 Silver newly commissioned DT badges sewn onto jumpers after the Christmas break.



'The new design features equipment regularly used by the boys, a tape measure, pencil, screw and hammer; replacing the older design that simply said Design Technology'

## *Art, DT and Drama visit Clockwork Scenery*

Not long after the scholars had created their triumphant piece of scenery, Mrs Matthews was contacted by an Old Aldronian George Orange (1994) He now runs his own successful set design company, Clockwork Scenery in Borden. George very kindly invited us to take a minibus of DT, Drama and Art scholars to his workshop where his entire workforce dedicated a full 2 hours to showing us around the place and allowing us to try out different things. Not only did the boys benefit hugely from seeing a commercial workshop in action, but they were also lucky enough to cut their own mild steel Christmas tree decoration on the plasma cutter, have plywood squad logos machined on the CNC router, work as a team to construct a modular piece of staging and practise glitter paint effects as well as viewing some other impressive painting techniques to alter the appearance of materials.



# Sports Talk

## *Sherborne Rugby Tour*

65 boys departed for Sherborne on Thursday 31 October, stopping for lunch on the A303 and arriving mid-afternoon ready for the first sessions. The Sherborne staff provided the first rugby sessions, focused on creating and using space before allowing the boys a bit of game time to work as a team and get plenty of touches of the ball. On Thursday evening after dinner the Form 6 and 7 boys enjoyed visiting Hollywood Bowl in Yeovil whilst the Form 8s participated in activities on the AstroTurf pitch and in the sports hall.

After breakfast on Friday the boys watched the New Zealand vs Wales Bronze Medal Rugby World Cup match before heading out to the pitches for a morning of team training. We were fortunate to be training on fantastic pitches making the sessions even more enjoyable for all, and it was great to see the boys working hard in the first sessions as a team. There was an hour lunch break between sessions where the boys had the opportunity to relax before a busy afternoon of training. The Friday afternoon sessions were focused on match scenarios - The Form 6s joined with Edgeborough and played a mixed game whilst for the Form 7s and 8s had their own match practice ahead of the Saturday warm-up fixtures. In the evening the Form 8s went bowling whilst the Form 7s and 6s were entertained in the Sports Hall with a 6-a-side football tournament before an earlier bedtime ahead of a busy day!

On Saturday we were up bright and early for an 8am breakfast, packed and ready for the World Cup Final. Despite the result being an anti-climax following a huge amount of excitement, the boys still loved watching the game in the Sherborne Theatre on a huge screen, accompanied by both Highfield and Edgeborough. They created a great atmosphere!

Following the RWC Final it was time to play our matches on the 1st and 2nd XI pitches of Sherborne, a great way to start the rugby season! The matches were all competitive and an ideal opportunity for staff to provide the boys with plenty of information and feedback. We hope these matches were enjoyed by boys and parents alike. The tour was concluded with a BBQ before departing for either Surrey or Somerset (for the U11 National Football Finals)!



# Sports Talk

## U12 win Highfield Rugby Tournament

The boys travelled to local rivals Highfield to take part in the U12 A&B rugby tournament. Aldro took two squads of excited boys, who were very much looking forward to getting back into the swing of playing rugby, at this early stage of the season. The tournament was played in a round robin format with the As playing five 10 minute matches and the Bs playing four 12 minute matches. Despite it being very early season, the boys grew into their task well and improved considerably, in all aspects of the game, with every match. There was some great team spirit displayed, exciting interplay between the players and moments of sportsmanship which was great to witness.

Both the A and B team squads thoroughly enjoyed their rugby and came away with smiles on their faces and recounting moments of play within the tournament. The As won all of their matches, conceding only one try along the way and The Bs won three out of their four matches. Congratulations to both squads and particularly to the A team for winning a very fine trophy to add to the cabinet.

Results as follows -

A Team

v Lord Wandsworth 5-0 (Cornelius)

v R.G.S. 10-0 (Bourne, Watts T)

v Farleigh 30-0 (Wild, Watts T, Bourne, Wild, Watts T, Thompson)

v Hallgrove 20-0 (Watts H, Fox, Barnes, Hume)

v Highfield 15-5 (Hume, Thompson, Watts T)

B Team

v Lord Wandsworth 40-0

v Highfield 40-0

v Farleigh 10-5

v R.G.S. 5-15



# Sports Talk

## *Success for Aldro boys at St Ed's Cross-Country*

On Friday 29th November we took 35 boys to the annual St. Edmunds cross-country event, our first time competing, and it was a great success for the Aldro boys. The course was undulating and extremely wet and muddy, a perfect cross-country setup some may say! The Form 3s were to run 1.2km whilst the Form 8s we're running 2km.

First up at 1.30pm was the U8's who ran a fantastic race, with three of the six Aldro boys finishing in the top 4! We placed in 2nd (Hugo W), 3rd (Jamie P) and 4th (Jack B).

Next we're the Form 4s in which Tom N was the winner of the race. He got off to a great start and, despite taking a wrong turn and extending the course for himself he held on to his lead and crossed the finish line first.

The other Junior boys also all finished strongly with numerous excellent sprint finishes resulting in Aldro winning the U8 and U9 competitions overall.

The U10s were next up with five Aldro boys competing, all of whom ran well with Jack G and Benji R finishing in 9th and 10th respectively.

Five more Aldro representatives were in the U11 event in which we took 1st place overall, courtesy of all the boys working hard to finish as high in the leader board as possible, with Bruno leading the way.

The penultimate race was the U12s who finished in 2nd place following another superb team effort, matched in the final race by the U13s who took 3rd overall. Credit to every boy in both of these age groups as they all gave 100% against strong competitors and deserved their Top 3 finishes.

A fantastic event overall with thanks to St. Edmunds for hosting, and we look forward to the next cross-country event in the new year.



# Sports Talk

## U11 IAPS National Finals

We took eight boys to the IAPS U11 National Finals at Queens College in Taunton, immediately after the Sherborne Rugby Tour!

It was a great day with tens of matches played across six 7-a-Side pitches in the Somerset sunshine.

The first match was against our friends at Edgeborough, who we had been playing rugby against the day before, and we managed to win 2-0, a strong start to the tournament. The standard of every team at the finals was high and we faced tough competition in every match.

By the end of the group stages we had lost two, drawn two and won one, resulting in a place in the Plate Competition. We made a strong start in the Plate, putting in our best performance of the day and getting a deserved 1-0 win over Chigwell School, following a first half breakthrough and solid defending throughout. The Plate semi-final was to be contested between Aldro and The Hawthorns School and it was tense throughout. Hawthorns scored the first goal and despite plenty of pressure and determination we couldn't find a way through. It was an unfortunate defeat but a superb effort from the boys, who were extremely tired by this point following three days of rugby tour!

A day to remember and we look forward to competing in the IAPS Tournaments again next season.

14:30 Sun 03 Nov 19	Neutral		Chigwell School	 	<b>Won</b> 1-0
15:00 Sun 03 Nov 19	Neutral		The Hawthorns School	 	<b>Lost</b> 0-1
15:35 Sun 03 Nov 19	Neutral		Edgeborough	 	<b>w/d</b> 0-0
<b>tbc</b> Sun 03 Nov 19	Neutral		Brighton College	 	<b>Draw</b> 1-1
<b>tbc</b> Sun 03 Nov 19	Neutral	 Edit	Newton Preparatory School	 	<b>Lost</b> 1-2
<b>tbc</b> Sun 03 Nov 19	Neutral		Edgeborough	 	<b>Won</b> 2-0
<b>tbc</b> Sun 03 Nov 19	Neutral		Oratory Prep School	 	<b>Lost</b> 0-1
<b>tbc</b> Sun 03 Nov 19	Neutral		Foremarke Hall Repton Preparatory School	 	0-0

# Sports Talk

## U13 IAPS National Finals



11:00 Sun 17 Nov 19	Neutral		Bishop's Stortford College	Lost 0-1
11:30 Sun 17 Nov 19	Neutral		Rokeby School, Surrey	Won 1-0
12:00 Sun 17 Nov 19	Neutral	 Edit	St Neot's Preparatory School	Draw 0-0
12:30 Sun 17 Nov 19	Neutral		Cumnor House Sussex	Lost 1-2
13:00 Sun 17 Nov 19	Neutral		Cumnor House School for Boys	Won 1-0
14:30 Sun 17 Nov 19	Neutral		Ardingly College	Lost 0-1

We took nine U13 boys to Culford School in Suffolk for the IAPS National Finals, a superb day and great experience for all. The standard of football was high with many close matches – No match of Aldro's was won or lost by more than one goal, proving that there was no room for error and scoring the first goal was going to be crucial.

The day consisted of two wins, two losses and a draw in the group stages before losing to Ardingley in the Last 16 of the Plate. The first match of the day was a loss to Bishops Stortford College, 1-0, and by 4pm they were National Champions! The wins against Rokeby and Cumnor House were due to fantastic efforts in both attack and defence, especially in the second of those wins in which we were up against a very strong opponent.

There were some excellent performances in both attack and defence, strong team play and great determination on show to be unbeaten in three of the five group matches! Unfortunately, a number of missed chances and quality attacking play from our opponents was the difference in the end, but the boys should be proud of their efforts, as we as staff certainly are. To reach the Last 16 of the Plate at the National Finals is a significant achievement, and the first time that we had qualified for the tournament in almost ten years!

Well done to the boys for reaching the finals by winning their qualifying tournament at Danes Hill, and for playing so well at the National Finals too.



# *Musical Notes*



## *Aldro Musician of the Year*

The whole school and invited guests were treated to a wonderful hour of entertainment as some of our talented musicians competed to be crowned 'Aldro Musician of the Year' this morning. The final followed several weeks of instrumental heats and was judged by Mr James Burke, who is principal clarinet of the BBC Symphony Orchestra. He was hugely impressed with the standard and commended each boy on their performance.

The eventual winners were Leo Pang on the piano for the junior cup and Harry Wang on cello for the senior cup.



# Boarders' News

## Form 3 & 4 Big Boarding Weekend

The date had finally arrived and the excitement levels were tangible... It was time for the Form 3 and 4 Big Boarding Weekend. It was lovely to have 26 boys from the youngest 2 years coming in to board, although the prospect was slightly daunting for the Housemaster! The weekend started with Spaghetti Bolognese in the dining room before heading upstairs to enjoy Triple S (Steen Sweet Shop). Miss Allen, Mr Moore, Miss Perry and Miss Donaldson then took the boys to Guildford Spectrum for a game of bowling which was great fun. When the boys returned to school, it was time for pizza making with Mrs Fenwick.



Mr Rose then took the boys to the sports hall for some fun and games which was a great opportunity for a good run around before we headed upstairs for movie and popcorn. We settled down to the 1995 classic of "Babe" where farmer Mr. A. Hoggett overcame all the odds and famously won the illustrious sheep dog championships with his treasured pig! It was time for bed and we fell asleep with our minds whirring with all the excitement that tomorrow would inevitably bring. After a cooked breakfast, we headed to the Aston Sports Centre where a Scalextric track, a giant inflatable obstacle course, lego and badminton was set up so there really was something for everyone.



The next 3 hours flashed by as we were having such a good time. When the fun finally ended we went inside to enjoy a roast lunch. This was followed by sticky toffee pudding or apple crumble, for some the choice was just too difficult so they had both! After a frantic morning and a very decent lunch, we all needed a few minutes to relax so we went upstairs for board games and an episode of Tom and Jerry. It was then time for the treasure hunt—various precious goods were hidden around the boarding house and the boys used all their skill and patience to track down the concealed bounty. We then made our own ice-cream sundaes and boys enjoyed choosing their ice-cream flavour and different toppings and sauces! It was nearly time for home and we went back to our dormitories for some quiet reading and packing up before being re-united with Mum and Dad!

A huge thank you to all the staff who helped out over the weekend and to boys and parents for supporting the event. It's difficult to say who was more tired at the end, boys or staff, or indeed who had more fun!

# Junior Department

## Parents & Sons lunch

On Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November, 43 excited boys and their parents partook in a delicious lunch of roast gammon and vegetables topped off with apple strudel and custard. It was a lovely event seeing the dining room full of Form 3 and 4 boys sharing their lunchtime with their relatives including the odd grandparent. After lunch finished, the boys had a playtime whilst the parents had coffee and a catch up in the library. Finally the three matches took place on the pitches outside, they were very competitive and Mr Drayton reminded the boys to keep their emotions in check! As the final whistle blew, all boys came off the pitches with smiles on their faces for having a great afternoon and finishing off the football season in style.



## *Aldro says Goodbye*

Aldro said farewell to our student master, Tom Burrows and Matron Georgia who are returning to Australia to start their University courses. We will miss them all and we wish them every success in their future lives and hope they keep in touch.



## *Dates for your diaries*

### **QUIZ NIGHT**

**FRIDAY 7th February**

**7PM—FIRST ROUND TO START  
PROMPT AT 7.30PM**

