



The Headmaster writes:



I think everyone we speak to has said how quickly time has flown this term, but that shouldn't take away from the wonderful term that it has been. To end on such a high with a Christmas music concert, boarders' feast and two wonderful carol services shows just what a vibrant and family-centred community Aldro is. As a staff team, we know how hard everybody has worked to deliver so many treats for the boys in such a packed programme, but we wouldn't have it any other way. The boys deserve their rest over Christmas, as they have pulled out all the stops, as evidenced by six long tables full of badges, certificates, medals and cups that we gave out on the final morning. This term has also seen visits from the Oscar Foundation, the Dusty Yak and Operation Christmas Child (shoeboxes) to speak to the boys directly about the impact their work can have. In each of these visits, we wanted the boys to recognise the difference we can all make to support

those in real need. We also want to take this opportunity to thank the amazing FoAA committee, for building our community, especially with the incredible efforts to put on a magical Winter fair, breathtaking fireworks evening not to forget the beautifully decorated chapel for the Harvest Festival Services. We know that Pippa and Mercedes have poured out so much to lead the committee – we couldn't do this without you.

Jenny and I wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a happy New Year.

Mr James Hanson
Headmaster

Aldro Carol Services

The last events of term are, of course, the Carol Services. Firstly the Candlelit Service here at Aldro chapel on the last Sunday and then at Charterhouse on the final day of term.

What a wonderful end to our term and year! The whole school headed off on the last day of term to one of the most inspirational places to perform at Charterhouse Chapel.



Aldro Carol Services

From the choral items: Junior Choir singing 'Come and Join the celebration', Middle Choir singing 'Calypso carol', Chapel Choir 'Star carol' and 'Angels carol' and Chamber choir singing 'Dormi Jesu'

The readers: Tristan Ceccato, Joe Best and Patrick Hughes plus Mrs Hewitt, Monsieur Lombardot, Revd Phil Parker and our Headmaster Mr James Hanson. The sermon was given by our visiting speaker The Revd Tim Lewis, Chaplain of Cranleigh school.

Carols for all with the impressive brass and organ (thanks to Mr Blatchley for joining us from Charterhouse to get the organ going full belt!)

A special mention to Felix Palmer for opening the service with 'Once in Royal David's City' so beautifully which set the tone for a thoughtful and rousing service leading us into Christmas, being thankful of everything we have been blessed with as a school and looking forward to God's greatest gift of all in His Son. The service ended with the Chapel Choir singing a mediation of the Lord's prayer before we all joined for 'O come all ye faithful'.

The retiring collection raised a fabulous £1034.26 for our nominated charity Rainbow Trust, a charity that supports families who have a child with a life threatening or terminal illness.



Christmas Lunch

On Thursday 7th 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 and satsumas. Crackers were pulled, jokes were told and everyone left feeling well fed and full of Christmas spirit. When the seniors gave their three cheers for the catering team a spontaneous standing ovation occurred.

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.



School of Rock

November saw the Form 7's present *School of Rock*, the acclaimed new musical by Julian Fellowes, Andrew Lloyd Webber and Glenn Slater. The boys truly surpassed themselves and gave us two wonderful evenings of entertainment. Special mentions must go to Benji Bushnell, Luke McGarry, Charlie Raeside and Theo Niel as our superb leads and also to the *School of Rock* band, whose on stage performance was a real highlight of the show.

To our delight the band have decided to remain together, so watch this space for some more 'awesome' rock and roll!



Squad Marks!

This term saw a record number of squad marks, credits and stars awarded, which is testament to the boys behaviour and academic successes. Below are the final squad totals of the term.

Top Australian this term – Benji Bushnell
Top Indian this term – Jack Bourne
Top Canadian this term – Harry Liuhan
Top New Zealander this term – George Brew
Top African this term – Oliver Drewitt
Top West Indian this term – Freddie Seabrooke

Squad Marks for this term with all squad competitions added in and minuses deducted:

6th = Canada 7616

5th = New Zealand 7748

4th = Africa 7883

3rd = Australia 8155

2nd = India 8245

1st = West Indies 8434

On the final Monday of term, the two boys in each form with the highest number of squad marks were rewarded by going on the squad treat - donutting! 28 very excited boys headed off, wrapped up warm, and all had a brilliant time!



Outdoor Education at Aldro...

If you go into the woods today.....

Look out for the dens that Form 5 have built over a couple of sessions or view the 'picture stories' that Form 3 and 4 have created.

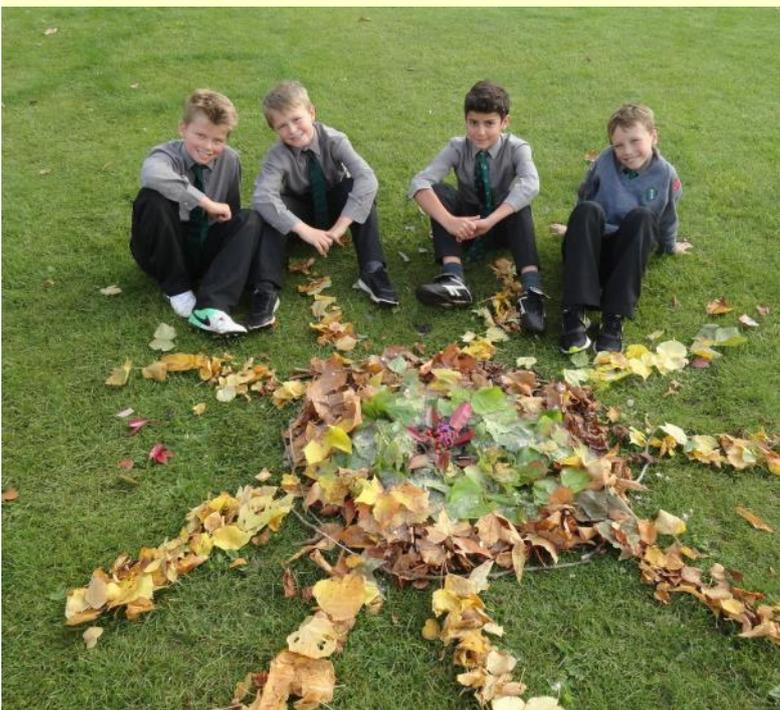
This term at Aldro we have introduced Outdoor Education to Forms 3, 4 and 5, which has been a great success. The boys have experienced a wide variety of activities such as whittling, making a tent peg to creating pictures using natural sources.

Form 5 have shown that through these weekly lessons, they are developing good skills such as team work and communication. Trust is a very important skill when working with others whilst learning to survive in the great outdoors. After half term they spent a couple of sessions creating dens to keep themselves warm and safe from the elements.

Form 3 and 4 had a steep learning curve at the start especially with their listening and communication skills. Having just completed the final session of the term, it was lovely to see how the children were able to support each other when walking through the woods in the dark.

Mr King, Mr Jordan and myself are looking forward to next term's sessions... more exploration in the woods and perhaps even a teddy bears' picnic!

SS



Outdoor Education at Aldro



Design & Technology



This term Form 6 undertook a team project, setting up their own business to market a range of Christmas themed products. Based on Lord Sugar's programme 'Junior Apprentice'. Each Form was in competition with the other two, to maximise profits from the products they designed, made and sold at the Winter Fair. Many thanks go to the FoAA for allowing us to set up a stall in the ASC and for the Mum's that helped run the stall too. On the day they took over

£300 and after carefully calculating and deducting their costs the boys are very proud to confirm that they have raised a grand total of £238. Although Mrs Matthews was hoping for a laser cutter for the DT department, she agreed with the boys that all the funds raised should go to support deserving causes, and the boys have voted to donate to the following charities :-

Dashing Decorations raised £55 for Water Aid

North Pole Novelties raised £99 for Macmillan

Snowy Success raised £85 for the Oscar Foundation

The boys worked incredibly hard on a wide range of no less than 36 different products, and fortunately for them no-one got fired at the end of the process!



Word Millionaires' Lunch

At the end of term we held our 'Millionaires' Lunch. Since September, ten boys have successfully managed to read over a million words and I'm delighted to say that there are quite a few following closely behind. The boys enjoyed the privilege of jumping to the front of the lunch queue, their own designated table and waitress service provided by some of the staff.

Reading at Aldro this term is at an all-time high with 1430 books read and a word count of over 53,000,000. Congratulations to our West Indies squad who achieved the highest word count of 12,114,346 words. Bertie Harris has read over 3 million words and our youngest millionaires are William Mercer and Jack McKenzie.

Word Millionaires

Bertie Harris
Charlie Camilleri,
Jonnie Lake Coghlan,
William Mercer
Henry Williams
Edward Lumb
Jack McKenzie
Joshua Cook
Charles Currie-Aird
Ted Harris



26th Aldro Inter Schools Chess Tournament

Twenty teams of four players took part in this school team tournament. Teams came from all over the South of England.

The U.13 section was very tough with many of the games going to the wire. Magdalen College School maintained their excellent record in this section with another fine set of results. They were 1st with Homefield 2nd, Sutton Grammar 3rd and Aldro 4th. The Aldro team were without Benji but the team of Henry, Siwei, Jake, Alexander and Felix who shared board 4 all had some good games.

The Under 11 section was closely contested. It was good to see a new team winning with Guildford High taking first place. Twickenham Prep came 2nd with MCS and Wimbledon Park 3rd =

The Aldro A,B and C teams had some good matches but showed a general lack of tournament experience. Ted, Joshua, Ben and Alexander all did well winning two out of their three games.

The Under 9 section was won by Homefield with Twickenham A 2nd and Aldro 3rd. The team showed fighting spirit with wins against MCS and Meadow Primary but lost to the winners in round 3. Eddie, Oscar, Oli and Toby can be proud of their achievements.

South East England Chess Championships

Five Aldro players took part in this tournament in Richmond and it proved to be a big event with just under 300 children taking part.

All of our boys played well and gained valuable tournament experience.

Results;

J. Clifford 3\5 U10 section prize winner

H. Liuhan 3\5 U10 prize winner

D. Galbraith U10 section 2\5

O. Salter 3\5 U9 section prize winner

Z. Webster 3\5 U8 section prize winner

Well done to all the boys particularly Harry and Zac who were playing in their first ever tournaments.

2017 Squad Chess Results

U13 1st S.Han and H.Hickey (trophies) 3.5\4 3rd=C.Currie-Aird, M.Sheridan-Oliver and F.Hughes (Bronze medals) 2\4

U12 1st B.Bushnell (Trophy) 3\4 2nd M.Lenton (Silver medal)

U11 1st G.Starmer-Smith (Trophy) 4\4 2nd= H.Munday and O.Lucas 3\4 (Silver medals) 4th= T.Harris and F.Wallis (Bronze medals)

U10 1st B.Taylor-Smith (Trophy) 3.5\4 2nd T.Barnes (Silver medal) 3\4 3rd= S.Hume, B.Hickey and D.Galbraith (Bronze medals) 2.5\4

U9 1st O.Salter (Trophy) 4\4 2nd= E.Barnes, E.Hewitt and G.Hughes (Silver medals) 5th= A.Smithson, T.Cook, T.Douglas (Bronze medals)

U8 1st Z.Webster (Trophy) 4\4 2nd= J.Kalika, C.Sharp (Silver medals) 3\4 4th= H.Paterson, J.Graham (Bronze medals) 2.5\4

Well done to all the boys who played, there were some excellent games. DJA

Sports Talk

Wellington College Prep Schools Festival - U11

Aldro v Bedford Won 20 - 5,

Aldro v St Paul's Won 15 - 10

Aldro v Moultsford Lost 10 - 15

Aldro v Dulwich Prep Won 10 - 5

I was so proud of the Squad at this Festival. An incredible day of rugby for us; forget the results, the attitude, effort, resilience and performance at this Festival spoke volumes! It is this type of experience that develops and grows the boys.

A group of death that met us at the beginning of the day vanished within minutes of us taking the field of play for our first match! The style of rugby we 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 gelled.

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 the entire squad were magnificent I do just want to mention on this occasion the work rate of the engine room today; the lads who made the ball available for the silky runners! They know who they are and they were awesome.

Well done TEAM!

GD

U10 Rugby

Lots of good performances from the U10 A team with some excellent play both in attack and defence. The boys have showed improvements in a number of key areas. Securing our ball on the floor at a ruck is becoming very consistent and we win most balls we take in apart from a few occasions where we accidentally kick it or place the ball carelessly. We have seen some excellent counter rucking. The boys need to work on arriving quickly at a tackle and stealing the ball before the opposition arrive.

The defensive line is making good improvements and boys are beginning to rush up to make a 'big' hit which needs to continue and we are becoming better at 'locking' loose ball on the floor.

Well done boys!





Musical Notes



Christmas Concert & Aldro Musician of the Year

This year's Christmas concert and music competition came to a wonderful climax on Thursday 7th December. Over 100 boys had entered the heats and we eagerly anticipated the finals as the standard this year has been so high. From the moment Albie Farley got up to play the piano (our youngest finalist) we knew we were in for a treat. The boys played with confidence and musical maturity and as the evening came to an end there was plenty of debate over who would win. Our adjudicator for the evening, the distinguished trombone legend Mr David Whitsun (former principal trombone of English National Opera, professor of trombone at Junior Royal Academy Of Music and Trombone teacher at Surrey University and Charterhouse) started to sum up the evening by stating that all the finalists were winners as were every boy who had taken part in the ensembles. Our ensembles again did us proud demonstrating what a rich and diverse culture of music we have at Aldro. Be it melodies from years gone by or some of the modern favourites, we were given a wonderfully enjoyable evening by all. Brass group, String Group, Advanced Strings, 2 Recorder Ensembles, Choirs, Guitar Group, Woodwind Group, Woodwind Trio and Jazz Band each gave us something special to remember as we entertained again and again. The overall winners were Jack McKenzie (trumpet) and Jamie Hume (trombone).

A huge thank you to all the boys who have worked so hard and played so well. To the music staff congratulations for their excellent teaching and preparation of the boys. And also to our parents who have supported the boys week in week out.

The professional photographs taken on the evening are available for parents to view and purchase on <http://www.photoviva.co.uk/aldro2017%20%20>





Musical Notes





Musical Notes



National Youth Choir of Great Britain



One Sunday afternoon at the end of October I found myself in the car on the way to Southampton for Final Auditions of the National Youth Choir of Great Britain. I was surprised to be going. Four weeks earlier I hadn't even heard of the choir and 24 hours earlier I'd only just got back from Rugby tour and been told to prepare an unaccompanied piece and swat up my aural skills!

It started in May this year I auditioned, and was given a place, with Farnham Youth Choir. I love singing and was really enjoying being a part of such a great choir. The Boys Choir Director asked my mum if I could be put forward for auditions at a national level. He is a vocal coach for NYCGB and said that I was good enough to have a go. We didn't have much time to prepare; the audition panel only listen to potential boys for 8 weeks each year. Even so, in that time they travel all around Great Britain listening to a lot of boys, and I was fortunate to get a slot and then go on to sing in Southampton.

I really enjoyed the audition process and got to overhear some fantastic voices while I waited for my turn. I was really happy when I heard that I was selected; there are only about 120 boys in the choir and so I feel really proud to be one of them. I go on my first residential in April and then perform publicly with the choir for the first time. The choir's home venue is the Royal Albert Hall and I'm hoping to sing there soon.

J.Cook

Chamber Choir sing Evensong at Charterhouse

The Aldro chamber choir were invited to sing at an evensong at Charterhouse with the Charterhouse Choristers. This was at an event which takes place every Sunday to which the whole school gather in a evening church service. At the beginning of term, we got sent through all the music that we would be learning for the event. A daunting package appeared full of complex countermelodies and four part chorals, and so we began, going though the music and vigorously learning our parts. We were lucky enough to be joined a couple of times in the term by Mr Mark Shepherd, the Director of music at Charterhouse who gave us a stronger idea of what to expect when we arrived.

The evening came and there was a relaxed and confident feeling in the air. We all managed to sing through the main choral song with a strong sound of intertwining parts. With everything prepared, it was now time to meet the Charterhouse Choristers and take our place for the service.

It was a great surprise to see some familiar faces in the choir with past pupils Toby Pascoe and Aaryan Kapoor singing in the choir and making us all feel very welcome.

The service began and although it was sometimes difficult to keep up with everything that was going on and which book you needed when, it was a magical experience. Being surrounded with confident voices, casually splitting off into strong bass notes and souring descants gave us all the strength we needed to confidently add to the souring sound.

We all had a fantastic evening, and although there were some hard pieces to conquer, it was a joyful occasion and we hope to be back at Charterhouse again sometime to join them once more.

BT



Boarders' News

A very busy second half of term in the boarding house...

For the Boarding House the second half of Christmas Term is always the busiest time of the year, except perhaps for the very last school day of the year!

On the lead up to Christmas the Boarders have had some marvellous weekends. Their activities have seen them heading off to Coral Reef indoor waterpark, Paintballing, going to the cinema, walks in the countryside, Mr Rainer's concert in London and finally the pinnacle of the term, the Boarders Feast...



The Boarders Feast weekend saw ninety eight percent of all boarders stay in for the Saturday night which is an incredible uptake and meant there were less than a handful of spare beds!

After Saturday morning school and lunch, the boys all headed to the ASC to play a rousing game of dodge ball Santa which became quite competitive as the teams protected their own 'Santa Claus' at any cost. We then packed them in to every available mini bus and hustled them all off to the Gravity Force indoor trampoline centre. After an hour of bouncing off the walls, back in the mini buses they all piled and headed back to school for showers and to change in to their smartest set of school uniform for the Feast. There was a last minute scramble to tidy bed areas when it was announced that Mr Rainer also judged the dorm decorating on cleanliness too.



Boarders' News

Cont'd

The Boarders' Feast was a lively affair with a lovely bustling atmosphere as there were just as many staff and families as there were boys. This made for a lovely warm Aldro family Christmas dinner feeling. Mr Rainer had some awards to give out such a 'Hoarder of the Year' which went to Alex for his habit of collecting things around his bed area and best pin board decorating to Edward. The most contested award of the evening is by far the 'Christmas Dorm Decorating' which sees the boys decorating their dorms all Christmassy from half term onwards. This year's winner 'Townsend' dorm was particularly impressive and inventive as they constructed light poles from paper in what looked like an engineering feat.

Sunday started with a delicious cooked breakfast and then lots of boys went off home, many to see the snow (although there was none at school!) Roughly half the boys elected to stay in and go ice-skating at Winchester which is another Aldro Boarding House tradition.

It was a fantastic way to end a busy term and definitely a highlight of the year. All the Boarding Staff would like to say a big thank you to all the boys for such a lovely term.



Boarders' News

Cont'd



Junior Department

Trip to the Natural History Museum

Form 3 and Form 4 had a wonderful day out at the Natural History Museum at the beginning of November. On arrival, the boys entered the Blue Zone, to visit the dinosaurs and then the mammals. Following that they went to the Red Zone of the Earth Hall, venturing deep into the Earth's Crust, even experiencing an earthquake! They learned about human evolution and got to see some very valuable minerals and treasures. With their money burning a hole in their pockets, the boys finally descended on the gift shop, and arrived back at school clutching various goodies! Thanks to Mr Lawes, Miss Shaw, Mrs Eves, Mr Arnold and Mr Archer for taking them.



Junior Department

Trip to the Natural History Museum



Junior Department

Parents' and Sons' Lunch and Argyle Cup Football



Junior Department

U8's First Rugby Matches

The U8s thoroughly enjoyed their first rugby matches of the season, with a triangular tournament with Cranleigh and Edgeborough schools. Much fun was had by all, combined with an awful lot of mud!



Friends of Aldro

Operation Christmas Child



Thank you to **EVERYONE** at Aldro for all their support and great efforts.

Winter Fair

The Winter Fair was a huge success this year, raising money for the FoAA and this year's chosen charity, The Rainbow Trust. The boys had lots of fun in the ASC with the return of the old favourites, Jolly Jars and the dangling donuts resulting in a lot of sugary chins at school that day! Thank you to this year's wonderful Winter Fair Committee.



Winter Fair cont'd



Dates for your diaries

QUIZ NIGHT

FRIDAY 2nd February

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



SPORTSMAN'S DINNER

FRIDAY 9TH MARCH

IN THE SCHOOL DINING ROOM

**TICKETS TO GO ON SALE IN THE
NEW YEAR**