



# Inside Prior



**Prior Park**  
Gibraltar

“ Outstanding academics, extensive co-curricular programme and an inspiring learning environment.

Prior Park School offers a quality British education right on your doorstep, for students age 11 to 18 in Gibraltar and Southern Spain.

”

# Presentation and Information Event

**Tuesday 21 January 2020**  
**4.00 - 5.00pm**

Contact us to book your place:

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## Welcome from the Editor

Welcome to the very first edition of Inside Prior, which is packed full of all the interesting news and events that have happened in the Autumn term here at Prior Park School, Gibraltar. The articles will cover all interests of what is going on in the school including charity work, sport and student achievements. We would like to give special thanks to those who contributed to the magazine this term.

We explore the new additions to the school this year and include special awards for both teachers and students. The whole team hopes you thoroughly enjoy this first edition and carry on reading for the future.

With special thanks to the team:  
William Weston, Anais Kew-Pearson, Anushree Jain, Hannah Koessler, Hannah Stewart-Montegriffo, Isabella Crashaw, Ella Scarrott, Martha Taylor, Rebecca Hinchcliffe, Sam Robinson, and Mai Akad.

The Editor - Yva Kew-Pearson, Head Girl

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# Languages Week

By Mai Akad and Isabella Crashaw

Languages Week was the first event of our Michaelmas term here at Prior Park School Gibraltar. Throughout the week, movies in foreign languages were played during lunchtimes, spelling bees were held during tutor times as well as many other activities which challenged student's perception and understanding of language.

The cherry on top of the week was the International Food Fair which concluded a successful first week back after the summer. The students were asked to bring food that takes them back to their home country and exceeded all expectations with the wide variety of flavours and smells that they shared. This involved more than twenty different ethnicities and cultures which was a huge success, and touched all of our hearts with the effort everyone had gone to.

Mr Kennedy who teaches at PPSG commented "I love foreign food, I love discovering new flavours, and I'm really enjoying the International Food Fair as I'm discovering things I have never even tried before".

As I observed people's plates and overheard questions around the food fair I discovered that although every table of food was enjoyable, the two favourite cuisines were definitely the Indian and Israeli and some other much beloved dishes included Gibraltarian, Spanish and French.

When asking the organiser and amazing teacher responsible for the food fair, Mrs Debenham, if she expected the food fair to be such a success, she responded "No I was not expecting this at all. This is such an overwhelming event, in a good way. I'm really excited and I can't express enough how grateful I am for all the effort everyone has put in".

While at the food fair, I was also intrigued to discover our community's opinion of languages. When asked, many people said they spoke at least one other language and absolutely stressed how important they think a second language is as "it's a skill for life".

We decided to interrupt Deputy Head, Mr. Martyn, to get his opinion on the event. He shared that "it is hard to say what my favorite food is, but what I am impressed with is the ambition of all students who have represented many different nations around the world so brilliantly here today. I'm delighted with all of them. I didn't expect the students would be able to create such a diverse mix of food on such a big scale. But I should eat my words, because our students never fail to amaze me".

In conclusion, I can happily say that Languages Week was a great success, and as the first event of the academic year, the food fair was a delicious treat that most certainly set the bar high for other events throughout the academic year.



# Improved Learning Through Cleaner Air

By William Weston

Studies by the Danish Technological University (DTU) demonstrate a clear connection between air quality and air temperature and the performance of students. This has led to a greater focus on so-called "fresh air learning", where students are taken out of the classroom and into the countryside to provide a better learning environment for students. Even though Gibraltar's small size may prevent our school from doing this, it did make the British Lung Foundation's talk on air quality all the more relevant.



The British Lung Foundation (BLF) is a London-based charity founded in 1984. Their aim is to research various lung conditions and offer support to those who are currently suffering from a lung condition. They also campaign for cleaner air for all, and that's what brought BLF's Director of External Affairs Alison Cook, to Prior Park School in October. Since the opening of Prior Park School Gibraltar in September 2016, we have made the community a huge priority for us, through our Prior Passport co-curricular programme, the regular charity events held in the school and our school ethos.

Gibraltar has high petrol and diesel vehicle ownership figures, easterly 'Levante' wind, large shipping and bunkering industry and the local oil refinery to the north of the rock, leading to generally bad air quality in Gibraltar.

Ms Cook presented us with some of the campaigning that BLF does to put pressure on corporations and authorities to act upon the issue of air quality and also brought to our attention the dangers of breathing in bad air. As a result, we were left with an air quality monitor to install around the school. After weeks of staying in the same position, the monitor will be sent back to BLF and will be tested for nitrogen dioxide, a toxic chemical which has been linked to stunted lung growth, and 36,000 premature deaths each year in the UK. Hopefully the installation of this air quality monitor will be the start of a mission by Prior Park School to improve learning through cleaner air quality, despite the lack of countryside on the rock.

# Subjects and Co-Curricular

By Yva Kew-Pearson

Prior Park School Gibraltar offers an extensive assortment of school subjects and co-curricular activities to its students. These are lead and taught by intelligent and enthusiastic teachers from a variety of nationalities. The co-curricular sessions are set within three groups; sports & physical activities, creative activities plus leadership & community outreach. Students are taught the importance of participating in hobbies and interests outside of school, and with the offer of taking part in less common activities such as water polo and sailing, the school encourages looking outside of the box to find something you could be interested in.

Furthermore, we sent a survey out to students in the school involving questions about the academic subjects and co-curricular activities to find out which areas students enjoy the most.

Two popular school subjects were geography and maths. A number of students had said they are both very enjoyable and interesting subjects, in addition to maths being relevant across many other subjects. One student quoted, "geography is my favourite subject as we get taught with a lot of passion and everything is explained to the point which we understand thoroughly." This highlights the way in which a subject is taught can influence how enjoyable and understandable it is. Another student stated, "maths and geography are my favourite subjects as I find them fun to learn about and understand them the most. Also, I feel that Mr Lozano's and Mr Martyn's way of teaching is organised and structured." Finally, another student said, "Maths is my favourite subject because as well as having good teachers, I find that maths in particular educates a healthy and analytical train of thought."

The most common 'favourite co-curricular activity' was Duke of Edinburgh. Many students had voted for this, explaining why they enjoyed it so much with one student describing that, "Duke of Edinburgh teaches you important life skills and gives you the opportunity to go on an adventurous journey." Another stated that, "It gets you involved in a wide variety of extra activities outside of school." This demonstrates how taking part in one activity can lead to discovering a love for another.

An honourable mention from the co-curricular results was from a student who passionately described why tennis is so important and valuable to her; "Tennis is my favourite because I love sports and tennis helps me deal with physical, mental, social, and emotional challenges, which increases my capacity to deal with stress. Tennis is a sport that is based on evaluating angles, geometry and physics to get the best result, which translates into better problem solving off the court."



# BTEC News

By Mrs D Griffin

Last year was an amazing first year for Prior Park Gibraltar who teamed up with CVQO to offer all Year 10 students the opportunity to gain a BTEC Level 1 Qualification in Teamwork and Personal Skills. Twenty determined students devoted the time and effort throughout the year, resulting in them gaining their BTEC Qualification which were presented by the CEO of CVQO earlier in the term.

So, what is it all about and is it worth putting in the time and effort to achieve this?

All students at Prior Park already take part in various extra-curricular activities which can be used as part of the qualification. Giving back to the community, raising money for worthy charities and achieving goals, academically and personally, are important for us as individuals.

A lot of students like to use the skills they learn in their Duke of Edinburgh Adventurous Journey to add to their BTEC course booklets while others focus on their charitable activities. The students will say they get so much out of taking part in various activities and then reflecting afterwards on skills learnt and targets to work towards. Students feel proactive members of a community and thrive when working in a team, whether at work or following on to further education.

All students completing the course gain skills in independence, team work, public speaking, influencing and marketing as well as develop resilience, empathy and putting others first. All of this is achieved whilst taking part in fun activities where everyone is made to feel safe and happy to explore their new skills without fear of ridicule or failing.

What's not to love about developing your teamwork and personal skills in such a fun and friendly way and gain a qualification from doing so? When you get the chance to take part, do it. You won't look back if you do!



## New Things

By Ella Scarrott

Many adaptations have been made since the school was established and has now been expanded upon. We have many more students, more staff and even more classrooms.

As the number of students increased more classrooms needed to be made as the school could not hold many more students. So, the solution was to build walls between the larger classrooms to split them in two, creating more space for the new students. Last year, our school had 125 students which has increased to roughly 200 students this academic year.

Many of the students have been here since the school opened and are a close group, but as the school expands so do friendships and community. The school recently opened up to Year 7 which increases the age range of students but doesn't define who you can socialise with. In our school many students from different years are friends, whereas in other schools this may not happen as easily. I spoke to Sam, one of our new students who said, "I think the school looks amazing and big in scale. There are so many familiar faces and all the teachers are so nice whilst some are strict but still brilliant at their job."

We have recently gained more members of staff and have also expanded the subjects which students can choose for GCSE, for example, photography. Many of the teachers haven't been at Prior Park School for long but are already part of our community. I spoke to one of the teachers, Ms Porro, and asked what she thought of the school and our community. She said "having recently joined Prior Park School, I have been astounded to find more than just a school, I have found a family of students and teachers. It is wonderful to see and experience, the relationships between staff and pupils. Everyone is always willing to give a helping hand. Support is not just given from teachers to students, but from students to students and to their teachers as well. Prior Park School is a fantastic school that provides excellent opportunities for all of its students, I feel very privileged to be a part of it."

We have had to make other small changes since the school has grown. There are many more students walking through the hallways so it may take more time to get to lessons which has been considered. We have adjusted the way we line up for assembly to reduce the time we take to enter. I asked a student what they thought on the changes; "the number of people can be irritating as it takes a while to get lunch and more time to get to lessons, but I have met new people and made even more friends."

# Student Council

By Mrs C Devincenzi-Clemens

This term the Student Council was re-introduced, to include new students within the group and a new leader, Head Boy, Jack Scarrott. The group is comprised of students from all of the student leadership groups and their aim is to make the school a more enjoyable environment and be the voice for students within the school. They will be gathering opinions from students on how the school could be made better in any way.

Presently, the Council is in the process of setting up a stationary shop in the Library every Tuesday. Stationary equipment will be sold for vastly discounted prices with the vision behind this to provide cheap and easily accessible stationary equipment to save students from going to a store in town. In addition to this, they will be talking to students about opportunities available to them and looking for further suggestions to improve the provision at the school.

One of the most prevalent concerns spoken about by students in the school, was the issue of teachers not sticking to the homework timetables. This has come up frequently in the Student Council's interviews with the younger years – teachers will assign homework randomly and this has led to an overwhelming amount of work for students to complete in a short amount of time. Jack has worked with students and staff to overcome these issues and students are noting significant improvements this term



**The students involved with the Student Council are:**

Rep from Sports Captains | Anika Jain  
Rep from Befrienders | Anmol Udeshi  
Rep from Anti-Bullying Team | Dylan Young,  
Rep from House Captains | Julia Dona Pastoriza  
Rep from Prefects | William Weston  
Emily Watts, Oliver Jacobsen, Paul Huber,  
Raffy Farrington, Timothy Rodionov

# How do you eat an elephant?

By Hannah Koessler

Exam time is just around the corner, and some may see it as impending doom. We spoke to some GCSE students and teachers who have already, or are going through, the same pressure you are going through now.

And here are some of their best tips;

- The most important tip is to leave plenty of time before the actual exam. This helps you to stay calm and on top of your work.
- Revision notes are always a lot easier to read when they are neat and detailed which starts in your lessons.
- Mind mapping - we all know the term and many may groan. However, this method has been proven to be a very effective way of memorising and making links between different subjects.
- Many subjects require you to learn key terminology. We have the perfect technique for you. Flash cards are very handy as you can test yourself or get someone to test you. Flash cards are useful in subjects like Spanish or any other language.

- If you want to further your learning, you can use online resources such as BBC Bitesize or any other reliable learning sources. Educational YouTube videos and magazines are also very useful in this fields
- The very last study method that we want to introduce you to, is to complete past papers. This helps you to get a feel for the sort of questions you might be asked. Also, these questions will help you practice how to structure your answers. If you do these questions under timed exam conditions and this will also aid your preparation. The best thing about these past papers is that the marking scheme is also present so you can check your answers and see the information you may need to revisit.

Remember, not every method will work for you and it might take some time for you to find your own way of revising.

**“One bite at a time.”**

By Alan Kennedy

# Meet the Anti-Bullying Team

By Anushree Jain



Recently a new team has been organised, called the Anti-Bullying Team, whose aim is to make the school as safe and student-friendly as possible. Mr Younge (the head of the Anti-Bullying Team) says, “Physical bullying is not much of a problem at Prior Park, however, there is still a lot of work to be done in terms of verbal communication.” He also said that there is some use of inappropriate banter between students which the Anti-Bullying Team hopes to eradicate.

The team is comprised of seven dedicated students and their leader: Matthew Lawton, Rebecca Hinchliffe, Jaiden Bartolo, Anushree Jain, Patrick Risso, Ingmar Juel-Saleh, JJ Linares, Dylan Young and, of course, their leader, Mr Younge.

The team is currently in the process of handing out surveys to a few students from each year to find out how much of a problem bullying is. On the survey there are questions about the inclusiveness of the school and hurtful banter between the students. There is also a survey which has been given out to new students with similar questions but are more focused on how welcoming the school has been. Through the answers from the surveys the team will then take appropriate action to address any issues raised and reduce the amount of hurtful words used in day-to-day conversation.

In the future, Mr Younge hopes that the Anti-Bullying Team will become successful amongst students, with reducing the mean words used in jokes and when speaking to each other. He also hopes that the team will eventually be completely student-led and run.



# Joint Anti-Bullying Assembly with Voice of the Young People

Recently, our Anti-Bullying Team were lucky enough to work with Voice of the Young People (VYP). We planned and ran a school assembly together on bullying, with a special focus on VYP's Anti-Bullying campaign this year: Acts of Random Kindness (ARK).

VYP is an organisation that represents the youth in Gibraltar. They run under Youth GI and address the issues and concerns affecting the youth in our community. Their aim is to give the youth representation, support and a voice.

We gave a brief overview of bullying in its different forms and then allowed time for students to discuss the contrasting ideas of ‘bullying’ and ‘kindness’. VYP then explained the idea of ARK, and gave some

examples. The main part of the assembly was VYP handing over one of their ‘ARK buckets’. In the bucket are lots of suggestions of ARKs, and this will be left at reception for pupils to go to for inspiration.

The ARKs include: ‘ring your grandparents for a chat’, ‘make happiness bookmarks and hide them in the library’, or ‘give someone your time’. VYP have now ‘passed on the baton’ to us; let’s see how many Acts of Random Kindness our pupils can do over the coming weeks!

A massive thank you to VYP for giving up their time to come in and encourage us to be kind and considerate to one another.



# The Arts

## Theatre trip to Fuengirola

By Hannah Koessler

On the 10 October, Prior Park students, from Years 8 to 11, met up at Gibraltar airport and waited for the bus to arrive, that would then take them to the Fuengirola theatre.

The opportunity to see the play Oliver Twist was introduced to all the students a week earlier. The trip was organised by drama teacher, Ms. Curran, along with fellow English teachers. Students, in particular the GCSE Drama and English students, keenly signed up as the amount of spaces reduced rapidly.

After the hour-long bus ride, the students were led straight to the Fuengirola theatre. By the time the students had found their seats and had pen and paper at the ready to take notes, the play was ready to begin.

Oliver Twist is written by Charles Dickens and centres around Oliver, an orphan, who gets sold to an undertaker and his wife. After escaping to London, Oliver meets the Artful Dodger, a member of a group of thieves and pickpockets which is led by Fagin, an elderly criminal.

Through Oliver Twist, Charles Dickens portrays the cruel reality of life during of the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century and what orphans and criminals would have faced.

The staging and costumes perfectly reflected the period in history when Oliver Twist was set and the songs and dialogue were modified for the stage to make the play fun and accessible for all ages whilst remaining as true to the original story as possible.

The mood of every scene and emotion of each character was reflected in the music. Nevertheless, the music was catchy and is guaranteed to stay with the audience for weeks to come. There was a wide range of actors portraying a variety of character's ages, experiences and emotions.

In the twenty-minute interval the students were able to get refreshments and to stretch their legs. The second half of the play sped by and the students made their way back to the bus soon after. On the way back, the students discussed their split opinions about the play. By the time the bus arrived back in Gibraltar, both the students and teachers were tired and were definitely not looking forward to getting up early the next morning!



## London Trip

Students taking GCSE photography, art and or music went to London a trip from the 24-28 October.

There was a diverse programme of activities including visiting St Paul's Cathedral, the SEA LIFE Centre, Kew Gardens, the London Eye, watching Wicked at the Apollo Theatre, visiting the Royal Academy of Music, the Royal Academy of Art (Lucien Freud exhibition), Tate Modern and National Portrait Gallery. Students ate out at Planet Hollywood, Café Rouge and enjoyed some dim sum at Ping Pong.

Students took lots of photographs and kept a travel journal with sketches and illustrations.



## PPG Choir & The Choir Committee

By Miss C Amsellem

Since its inception, Prior Park School Gibraltar Choir has sung regularly in school concerts, made valuable contributions in weekly Mass and end of term services and performed to the wider community. PPSG Choir is a non-audition ensemble open to all pupils and comprises pupils ranging from Years 7-13. The repertoire includes both sacred and secular music.

Commitment and enthusiasm is valued and recognised and all students work towards fulfilling the criteria for the award of a choir badge. We also have a newly founded Prior Park Senior Choir, comprising eight pupils ranging from Years 10-13. These pupils have been working on more complex repertoires and arrangements with the introduction of a choir committee encouraging students to take on a variety of musical and administrative duties to assist the choir in their preparation for performances.

Congratulations to the following students who have been successfully appointed:

Chairperson - Julia Doña Pastoriza

Events & Marketing Co-ordinator - Emily Watts

Fundraising Co-ordinator - Gabriela Sanchez Vallejo

Leader of the Soprano Section - Yva Kew-Pearson





# Achievements

## Sports Achievements

By Hannah Stewart-Montegriffo

Ms Devincenzi-Clemens nominated Ruby Brooks (Year 8) for her sporting achievements not just because she is a great player, but for her individual skills and sporting nature towards others. On the field she is focused, determined and ready to play. She displays great sportsmanship both on and off the field.

Ms D also suggested Nicole Zinovev (Year 9) be included in our sports achievements. On the badminton court she has shown resilience and determination throughout all challenges faced.

Ruben Johnson (Year 10) has been nominated for his sports achievements this term for his outstanding work throughout his P.E. sessions, showing determination to perform to the best of his ability.

The Year 11 highlights of sports this term were demonstrated by Gabriella Sanchez. She has coached and guided other students during the P.E. sessions, in addition to never giving up and improving her own skills on court.



## Academic Achievements

By Anais Kew-Pearson

We asked Deputy Head, Mr. Martyn, to nominate students who have been performing exceptionally well in lessons this past term.

Will Weston whose commitment to leading Green Club is commendable. Since the club has had more members join, he has taken on the leadership of the club with verve and commitment. He shows great leadership and guidance, which is praised by teachers.

Ishika Nagrani is always reliable and works hard in Drama. She helps out with LAMDA and turns up on time for every session, demonstrating her commitment to the club. She always has time to give help, encouragement and give pointers and praise to the younger students. She is also working hard to improve her grade in GCSE Drama. She is currently doing two pieces with Sasha Gatenby, which is very impressive in itself.

Thomas Novotny is an incredibly kind and good-humored student and is encouraging to those around him in lessons. He has also helped several younger students in his form by explaining things further, aiding them with tasks, making them giggle and put them at ease with his terrible but amusing jokes. He has shown kindness to many other students and throughly deserves a place on this list.

Finally, Anika Jain has had an outstanding academic performance this term coupled with her well-rounded personality. She is always polite and courteous, as well as empathic towards others. Anika is a good listener and has a reflective nature. She umpires the netball team when they train on a Monday which shows her good leadership and willingness to get involved in activities outside of her academics.



## Self-defence workshops

We have been fortunate this term to make contact with Bushido Ju-Jitsu Academy International Gibraltar who are now running a series of self-defence workshops for our Sixth Form students during their Skills for Life session on a Wednesday afternoon.

The sessions are run by Anthony Joaquin and his daughter, Joely, who are recognised internationally for their standards of teaching and training. Their objective is to teach our students how to stay safe. As a former Police Officer and self-defence specialist, Anthony has invaluable experience and advice he can impart to our young people so that they avoid potentially dangerous situations.

The students are travelling to Jumpers Bastion for these sessions so that they can make full use of the facilities at the club, including brand new crash mats.

We hope that this will be the beginning of a longstanding relationship so that our students are prepared for life beyond A levels.





# U14 Basketball Tournament

Our U14 basketball team had a hugely successful day at the U14 basketball tournament held at Aloha College in Marbella. There were ten teams in the tournament, split into two pools of five with the first and second place teams from each pool going into the semi-finals.

We managed to win all of our group matches, bonded well as a team and quickly established an excellent offense and defense. We played Swans in the semi-final and after a tight few minutes went on to achieve a convincing win.

Our toughest match came in the final against the Aloha College's A basketball team. We played extremely well throughout the day and showed excellent team spirit but on the day lost to the better team.

We are proud to have achieved second place, taking home silver medals.

A huge well done to Jaiden, JJ, Matan, Jack, Charlie, Amit, Cayetano and Javier.



# Sports Captains

By Isabella Crawshaw

Sports captains were appointed last academic year and are working hard to assist Ms Devincenzi-Clemens in improving the quality of sports life at Prior Park School Gibraltar.

## The sports captains are;

Isabella Dowie & Anika Jain (Nelson)  
Joseph Mann & Lucy Nicholls (Elliot)  
Gabriela Sanchez (Rooke)  
Nicholas Estella (Wellington)

Head Girl Shauna Mann is leading them in order to achieve their aims for the school. In an interview about her plans for the future, she stated; "The sports captains are creating a newsletter detailing all the sports achievements and upcoming competitions etc. This is sent out to our parents via email and is an opportunity to showcase the sport in Prior, while also encouraging others to get involved."

In the Michaelmas term, they have collated their ideas for sport at the school and are now advancing with them, each planning an independent project for the benefit of our students which will they will be working on in the next term.

# U16 Basketball Tournament

Our U16 girls basketball team travelled to Marbella on Thursday 21 November to compete in the Andalucía U16 Basketball Tournament. There were 10 schools in the girls pool and the competition was fierce. Our girls battled and showed a great level of discipline on the court and managed to reach the semi finals. They drew 11 all at full-time and in the extra time, lost to one basket. The team then competed in the play-offs for third place and were fairly beaten by their opponents.

The girls played their hearts out and despite some dodgy decisions and one match resembling a rugby match instead of basketball, they maintained composure and dignity. The girls should be incredibly proud of their performance.

A huge well done to Hannah, Anna, Anika, Julia, Gabriela, Isabella and Lucy.



# Football Tournaments

By Martha Taylor and Rebecca Hinchcliffe

The first of the football matches began on the 9 October for the under 19 team. The team had already started off on the wrong foot, scoring an own goal by chipping the ball over their head into the net. However, a penalty from the captain equalised the score, pulling the match all square when the full time whistle was blown.

Although the second match started better, much like the first, a goal put them behind and the team answered with an equaliser. An exciting turn of events in the final few minutes included a goal which finally put the team ahead at full time.

However, the winning spell quickly came to an end. Onto the third game where spectators saw the goalkeeper get injured spraining his wrist with a lot of players blaming this on the team's downfall. Tiredness and lack of goal keeper took its toll on the team with the match ending 6-0 to the opposition.

Nonetheless, the penultimate game ended with no damage to the team's high spirits resulting in only a 3-0 loss.

The captain took up the spot in goal for the final game and conceded three goals in two minutes. Sadly, it didn't look good - a double figure loss more than likely- but with grit and teamwork, the squad managed to keep the score to just 9-0.

Regardless, winning isn't the only reason the team went. It was also to make new friends and enjoy playing football with one student quoting that "it was very fun and I had a great time with some new people who I now know in the school."

Students at Prior Park School Gibraltar take every opportunity given and even if it doesn't

end up how they think, students always find a positive outcome. "I am so glad I went; it was great to get to know people outside the classroom and I am so glad I was given the opportunity."

The U15 team were up next for the second round of the tournament and we spoke to the team's coach, Mr Woodward, who told us what he thought about the team's performance: "U15's performed brilliantly at the football tournament in Marbella." He goes on to say that they managed to draw and then win their first match!

Wednesday 16 October marked the day of the U13 football tournaments in Marbella. The team were in high spirits, excited for the upcoming opportunity to play in the tournament. The weather was hot and sunny, which, depending on the way you look at it could be a good or bad thing although the outcome of their first match wasn't so sunny. The team lost 4-0, but this did not dampen their spirits nor another 4-0 loss. Their losing streak was short lived as the team powered through and used their defeats as motivation to try as hard as they could to put up a fight for the remaining two games.

During the next two matches, the team showed a great range of football skills as well as grit, perseverance and teamwork. This resulted in them pulling through with two victories, a 4-0 win and a 4-1 win. In the end, the U13 team were only one point away from the semi-finals and were the most successful out of all of our football teams.

A member of the team commented: "I think we all enjoyed it and figured out how to work as a team and support each other" and that they had a good time and was a worthwhile experience.



# Swimming Gala

Prior Park had a fantastic experience in the swimming gala held at Sotogrande International school on Tuesday 19 November. Our students gave an excellent account of themselves working well as a team, achieving bronze medals in both the freestyle and individual medley relays. We also had some outstanding swims in the individual events with Oliver getting a silver in the 50m butterfly and a gold in the 50m breaststroke.

A fantastic day of swimming from our students.

Jaiden Bartolo, Cameron Simpson, Oliver Whitmore and Louis Charvetto.





# Netball Tournaments

The Year 7 and 8 students have been busy training every Monday afternoon to improve their skills and tactics on the netball court. The squad is comprised of 21 players, all keen and eager to develop their skills and gain experience in this sport. Mrs Devincenzi-Clemens said "I am delighted with the way in which these girls have committed to their training. They have a resilient approach and are willing to take risks on court to improve their current practise." A special mention goes to Gabriela Sanchez Vallejo, Anika Jain, Anushree Jain, Isabella Crawshaw and Angel Duck for showing a fantastic level of engagement as coaches and helping other girls progress in netball.

The squad had a packed week of netball tournaments in the final week of October. They played against four visiting schools from the UK, with most playing against students in the years above them.

The U17 girls played exceptionally well against Loughborough School. Their level of commitment, perseverance and team work was an absolute dream to watch and they were an inspiration to our younger students. They won the game through sheer grit and determination - well done to all of the girls involved! A special mention goes to Angel Duck who played up a year and was voted 'player of the match' by the Loughborough girls.

The U15 girls also played incredibly well and by their second tournament, they were proving to be real tough competitors. The girls played some lovely netball particularly in the attacking position with Ellie Perez converting a number of difficult shots. Well done girls!

The U13 squad had the most games throughout the week and they improved match by match. The green team played some lovely netball and beat most of the teams which were in the year above them. Special mention goes to Ruby Brooks and Olivia Davies for their determination, perseverance and resilient approach on court.

Mrs D also mentioned "Thanks to Gabriela Sanchez Vallejo, Isabella Dowie and Angel Duck for officiating some of the games. Gabriela is currently undergoing her officiating course in netball and it was great to see her putting her training into practise."

## A little bit of history in the making...

Our Year 7 and 8 girls took part in the very first secondary inter-school netball competition against Bayside and Westside on Monday 25 November. The opposition proved too experienced for our girls however they battled with determination and perseverance and improved their performance throughout the afternoon.

Two of our players received recognition for their performances throughout the tournament - Hannah Stewart Montegriffo and Anais Kew Pearson.

Well done to all of the girls involved. Certainly a tournament to look forward to every term and hopefully one day, they may just bring that trophy home!



# Teacher Talk

By William Weston



A regular feature of this magazine will be Teacher Talk, when we interview certain members of the teaching staff around Prior Park School and get a glimpse into their lives. In this first issue we speak to **Ms Easter (ME)**, **Mr Lozano (HL)**, **Ms Owen (RO)** and **Mr Kennedy (AK)** and ask them to give us a different perspective of life at school.

## Q - What subjects do you teach?

**ME** - English, Psychology and French

**HL** - Maths and Psychology

**RO** - RE and History, but I taught Geography last year. Actually, before I came to this school, I had never taught a history or a geography lesson!

**AK** - Chemistry and Physics

## Q - What is your favourite subject to teach?

**ME** - Probably Psychology at the moment, I look forward to those classes the most

**HL** - Both Maths and Psychology are quite similar, but maybe Maths a bit more. I like when you are reasoning, and you are doing a problem, and the satisfaction you get when you get the right answer. I think life is very complex and Maths seems to give you a sense of security.

**RO** - I think I prefer History to RE, now that I have had the opportunity to teach the other.

**AK** - I'd have to say Chemistry because I always did love it and I think it is a really interesting subject.

## Q - What do you like the most about teaching?

**ME** - I like that I get to meet so many new people and I think the most rewarding thing about teaching is seeing how the pupils I teach progress and mature as they go through the school. I just find it amazing that I'm there from when they start school to when they move up through the years and I see how they are growing into the fantastic young adults that they are!

**HL** - I like being in a classroom with young people and that feeling when my students understand and improve - that's the best part of teaching. It's something that I think no other job has, to see the positive effects of what you're doing immediately and also in the long term: that's why I think it is the best job.

**RO** - As geeky as it sounds, I like learning things and being a teacher gives me the opportunity to do that.

**AK** - I like interacting with other people. I remember working in the lab in university and you would spend hours on end stuck in the same room, without talking to many people. I think with teaching there is more interaction as you are in a room with twenty students most of the time, it's lively, it's interesting and it is the thing I probably like the most about teaching.



## Q - What is your favourite year group to teach?

**ME** - I think Year 7s because I don't teach them, plus all the Sixth Form! Honestly, I really like teaching the Sixth Form because I like the intellectual challenge of it, I like small groups and I find a lot of them to be very enthusiastic and keen to learn.

**HL** - I like Year 10s and 11s the most. I think they are mature enough to reason with and understand complex topics. I feel I can talk to the students as adults and show empathy for what is being discussed. I feel like students are ready to understand certain topics at a younger age, but it just is something you cannot do with a Year 7 or a Year 8 group.

**RO** - I normally like older students to be honest, so probably Sixth Form.

**AK** - I can't answer that because it would depend on the day of the week and the time of the day that you ask me, because the year groups are so different. For example, I can go from teaching Year 13 to teaching Year 8, and they're both very different types of lessons. I like certain aspects of the Year 13s but I like other aspects of the Year 8s that are completely different, but overall I find both very enjoyable.

## Q - What is your favourite memory about your time at school?

**ME** - My favourite memory of school was the drama productions I took part in, especially Joseph and The Wizard of Oz. I also really liked the friends I had in school.

**HL** - My favourite memory was probably having a group of friends that I know I'm going to see every single day and was the best thing. I also liked having structure and meeting deadlines and also that everyone else was going through the same thing. We all have the same exam, we all have the same teacher which disappears eventually as everyone goes their own way with life after school.

**RO** - I had a best friend called Jenny and we used to go everywhere together and whenever we weren't seen together, people always asked where the other one of us was. One great thing is just how much fun everything is at that age and being with your friends all the time really helps.

**AK** - The friends you make is probably the best part. When you look back, it's a cliché to say those are the best days of your life, but they really are in a lot of ways. You meet so many people and so many friends and you make some friendships that last a long time, so it is that daily interaction with friends that made school special for me.



## The Teacher of the Term is **Mr Martyn**

Mr Martyn has been voted as the teacher for the Michaelmas term 2019 due to the positive impact he has had on the students' life so far this term. Quotes have been gathered from students around the school via a questionnaire survey about Mr Martyn:

"He's such a great character and always makes me smile." – Brett Weigold

"He is really passionate about his subject and teaching and this has provided a great learning environment for our lessons." – Yva Kew-Pearson

"His encouragement for me to try harder helped boost my overall confidence." – Anonymous

"He has helped me in lessons when I haven't understood something and has also helped me with personal problems I have had within the school." – Nicholas Estella

"Recently, he has been really supportive. I know him outside of school and the first time I met him was at a friend's barbecue. My Dad and I had no idea he was the Deputy Head of Prior Park, and he didn't know I was going to be a student! I found out he was really enthusiastic about the school and about his pupils in particular." – Amy Cross

A couple of other honourable mentions for members of staff who have impacted student's lives the most positively this term are:

- **Ms Owen.** A student wrote "Ms Owen's enthusiasm and constant energy makes lessons exciting and interesting. Her knowledge is extensive and never ending; I can ask any question and get a clear answer. The atmosphere in her lessons is non-judgmental and I feel happy to add to discussions in which normally I would struggle in confidence to do. I find her incredibly inspiring and the most impressive yet kind teacher I've ever had."
- **Ms Porro.** "She is a fun teacher who understands her students and introduces a better way of learning." "She has helped me in classes even when I don't understand: she explains and takes her time."
- Many students exclaimed how essential **Ms Lawton** has been over this term in helping them with the everyday struggles they face. Two in particular stated, "I have spoken to Ms Lawton every week and she always listens to me and tries to fix my problems in some way or another." "Ms Lawton has helped me through the hardest of times throughout the past year and I am extremely grateful for that."

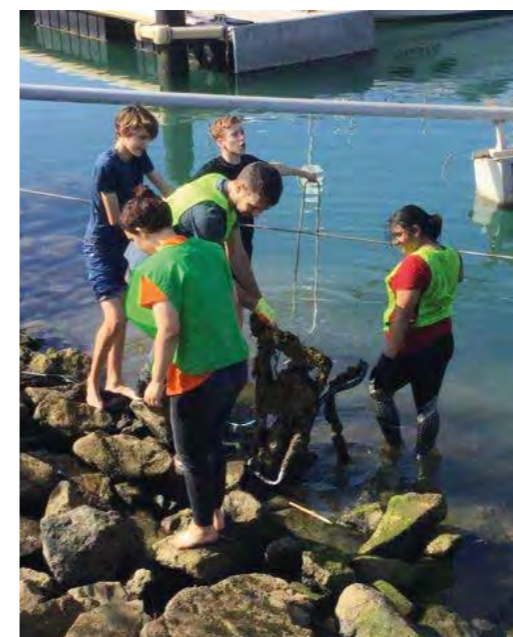


On Saturday 28 September, the school community took part in the 'Clean Up The World' campaign which aims to raise awareness and encourage civic pride and responsibility amongst the community.

In total, 25 separate areas including along the edge of the ocean were cleared of litter and debris. The day was also supported by specialist teams with abseiling and diving experience plus volunteers who could get to areas which were hard to reach and could only be accessed by boat.

"Around 12 truck trips were required to remove piles of rubbish collected by the volunteers and taken to a dedicated site for us to build up our mountain," said the ESG statement. "Volunteers were also encouraged to separate waste into recyclable piles which proved to be very efficient."

The students demonstrated resilience, perseverance and a fantastic level of teamwork throughout the morning. Even Lottie, Mr Watt's dog was hard at work that morning. Thank you to all those who got involved in this worthwhile event.





# THE ANNUAL BAKE OFF

This year's Bake Off was another huge success, with over £200 raised for the Animals In Need Foundation (AINF). The standard of the entries increases every year and our judges found it hard to pick winners.

This year was slightly different as we awarded 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place for Taste, Texture and Visual. Elliott once again reign supreme in the cake world, closely followed by Nelson, Rooke and Wellington.

The remaining cakes were sold the next day at the Piazza, where AINF had organised a cake sale. The Halloween themed event was a success and the cakes flew out like a witch's broom. A big thanks to all who took part and to the judges who have loosened their belts a notch or two.

A special mention to Lauren Bennett for an outstanding display of cupcakes with marshmallows dispersed among the witches. The level of detail and quality of the cakes she produced were impressive and our students and staff thoroughly enjoyed tasting them!

Further shout outs to Mikey Piris, Jake Ghio, Barnaby Jarvis and Bella Crawshaw for their impressive cakes which indeed made it to the AINF stall and contributed significantly to the total sum raised on Saturday. Thank you to Mr Azopardi for organising this event.



## AINF Halloween Stall

Following the Annual Bake Off, some of our students gave up the start of their half-term break to support the charity fund raising event for the Animals In Need Foundation (AINF). These particular students have been working hard every Thursday after school to create products such as keyrings, mugs, water bottles and lavender bag which could be sold to raise money for the charity.

The students set up their stall at the Piazza which included all of the cakes from the Bake Off and spent the morning selling their products to local customers. They helped raised over £2000 so thank you to all of the students involved in this worthy cause.



# The Christmas Shoebox Appeal

Towards the end of the first half term, the Prior Park School community came together to support the Christmas Shoebox Appeal 2019 by donating shoeboxes full of suggested items which will go to those less fortunate than us this Christmas. The students were asked to contribute and in total managed to raise 49 shoeboxes. The Christmas shoeboxes received last year were distributed in Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Kosovo, Moldova, Romania, Serbia and Ukraine.

Mrs Devincenzi-Clemens would like to thank everyone who got involved in this initiative and for making a huge difference to others this Christmas.



# Winter Coat Appeal

We had a presentation from one of our parents about their Winter Coat Appeal – collecting unwanted winter coats and jackets for London’s homeless and those in need. Mike Nicholls, Chestertons’ CEO, explained how they (in conjunction with DHL Gibraltar) are collecting unwanted winter coats for the charity Calling London who will then redistribute them to partnering charities who give them out in time for the cold weather.

Last year Calling London collected a record 5,000 coats, and since they started in 2011, they have given away over 20,000 coats. They collected coats of all sizes (including for babies and children) and of any style (wool, puffer, duffel) as long as they are in good condition and preferably warm.

We joined forces with Chestertons and wanted to add further to their tally of unwanted winter coats.

Thank you once again for your generosity.



# Cancer Relief Centre Gibraltar

By William Weston

Prior Park School’s Prior Passport provides students with countless opportunities to develop themselves not only academically, but also through sport, creativity and even through community work. Personally, I have found that giving time back to the community is one of the most rewarding ways of using your time, and this became all the more evident after beginning my community work at the Cancer Relief Centre Gibraltar, an organisation which provides support to people living with cancer in the local community.

I began volunteering at the centre in September 2018 and since then I have been giving up one hour a week to help with whatever needs doing to maintain the centre’s high standards for patients. These jobs have stretched from washing towels to power washing the drive and everything in between. Some of the most rewarding experiences though, include when I was given the privilege to attend events like the Christmas Party and get to see the effects of my work right before my eyes. However, my work is only a small drop in the ocean of countless other volunteers and the amazing staff who devote their time and efforts to the work of the Cancer Relief Centre.



# RICC Charity Fundraiser

By Timothy Rodionov and Efraim Carrion



On Friday 22 November, Prior Park School Gibraltar held a fundraising event for the Research into Childhood Cancer (RICC) charity, where students brought in £2 and a story book.

These books were taken by the organisers of this event to the hospital where they will then be read to the children.

Pupils also came in wearing their own blue clothes to show support for Anti-Bullying in Gibraltar.



# Hogar Betania, La Linea

by Mrs E Debenham

Hogar Betania helps individuals who have been ostracized by society. They are people who often fall into a forgotten vacuum. These individuals could be refugees waiting for legal status, people thrown out by their family or people who, for many reasons, have no one or nowhere to go.

It is a centre which does tremendous good and works as a wonderful, educational environment for our students. Over half term, we took a group of students to visit the centre for the first time. Whilst initially overwhelmed, Hogar Betania instantly welcomed and made them feel immediately comfortable. The pastoral and holistic growth experienced by these students from just one visit is incredible and they have pledged to return on a regular basis. This truly is an example of the transformational benefits of working with charities and partners in the local areas.

Central to the PPG holistic educational philosophy is thinking about the community that surrounds us. We have been exceptionally lucky to team up with Hogar Betania to provide students with opportunities to help out the less fortunate in our society. The students have shown wonderful growth throughout the process and have seen it as an invaluable experience.

## Quotes from students about their experience volunteering at Hogar Betania:

"The things you take for granted someone else is praying for "  
India Borge

"Strength and growth comes from continuous effort and struggle "  
Ellie Peres

"I enjoyed every minute I was in Hogar Betania. It was a very rewarding experience and I was very proud of representing both my school and my hometown. They treated us very well and I was moved as I didn't know so many people in my hometown were going through such a difficult situation. This project has given me the ability to give back to my community. This is why would like to give thanks to Mrs Debenham which has given us this opportunity". Gabriela Sanchez Vallejo.

"The visit we had to Hogar Betania, was my first ever visit there. There are many people living there because they don't have a home or shelter, however they were very well organised with great facilities and activities for the residents. When we visited I helped out in the kitchen, making a salad and setting the table for their lunch, and whilst we made a salad, we had a conversation with some of the residents about what is happening in the world, the current situation, school and family and it felt good to know that we were socializing with the residents as some of them were felt lonely." Ishika Nagrani



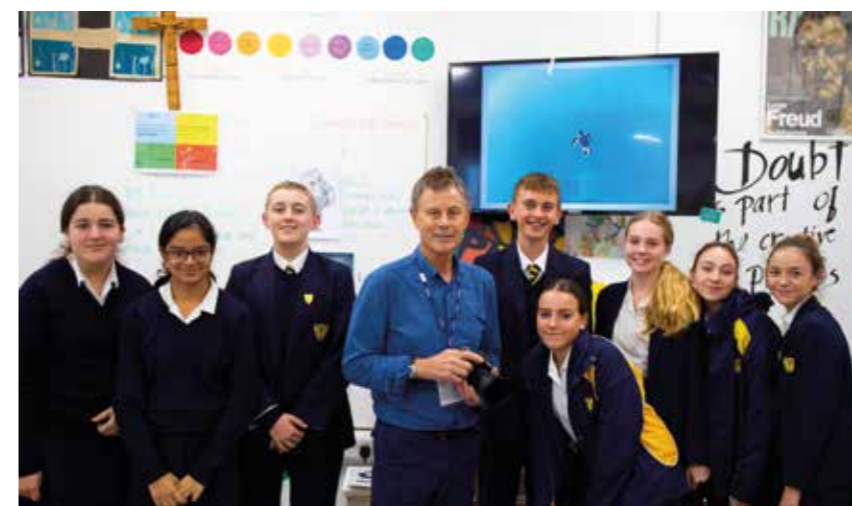
# Oceans of Plastic

by Mrs M Mor

We were incredibly privileged to welcome Emmy award-winning underwater cameraman, Mr Michael Pitts to our school recently.

Over his 20 year career, Michael has worked on countless documentaries and projects around the world including two BBC landmark series: David Attenborough's 'Private Life of Plants' and 'Blue Planet'.

Michael spoke to our Year 10 photography class about video techniques and equipment, as well as giving an extremely moving and informative talk to the whole school about plastic in our oceans. His experiences, photos and video clips gave us all a lot to think about in the part we play to keep our planet and wildlife healthy.





# Get to know our Green Club!

by Mrs R Owen

*“Cherish the natural world because you are part of it and you depend on it.”*  
**David Attenborough**

- ‘Two-thirds of extreme weather events in the last 20 years were influenced by humans’
- ‘Carbon emissions from energy use are rising at the fastest rate since 2011’
- ‘There’s more carbon dioxide in our atmosphere than any time in human history’
- ‘Average wildlife populations have dropped by 60 per cent in just over 40 years’
- ‘Indonesia will move its capital city as its current one is sinking’

These are all article headlines from different news outlets. In truth, they leave many of us feeling hopeless and questioning ‘Is there anything we can do?’. However, here at Prior Park we recognise that we CAN take action, be it something small at home or a school wide campaign. Every little helps! Our school’s Green Club is putting this ethos into action.

Green Club organises school initiatives aimed at protecting the environment, both in and outside of Prior Park. Through raising community awareness of the worldwide climate crisis and empowering pupils to take action now they hope to create positive change in the world around us. To this end, our student led

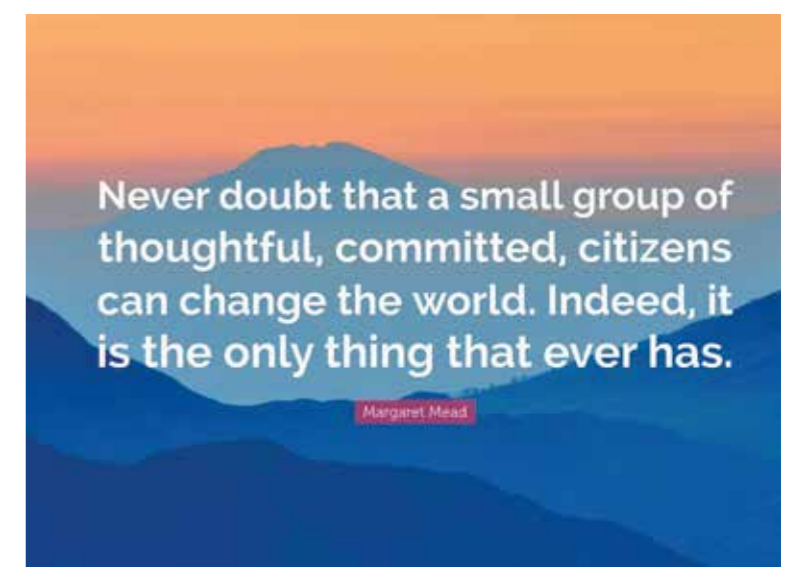
Green Club meets on a weekly basis to develop and action their environmental initiatives.

Green Club began with just two members. Despite this, they were instrumental in organising paper recycling at Prior Park. This was undoubtedly an important achievement. Last year, the initial members of the Green Club also held a whole school assembly about the dangers of plastic pollution. We were lucky enough to hear Michael Pitts, an award-winning camera operator, reinforce this message during his recent inspiring talk. Since their inaugural year, the membership of the club has grown significantly. With so many new people getting involved, Green Club are excited about what they could accomplish this year.

As Michael Pitts made it clear, reducing what we use will always be better than simply recycling. With this in mind, Green Club’s next big project is to organise a ‘swap shop’. The event will offer students, staff and parents the chance to swap the books they’ve read, games they have played and clothes no longer worn with other pre-loved items that members of the school community bring to the swap. Green Club plan to donate any unswapped goodies to a local charity so that nothing goes to waste.

Green Club is also putting together a campaign to introduce ‘meat-free Monday’s’ to the school cafeteria in a bid to reduce meat-consumption amongst the student body; a low meat diet has significant health and environmental benefits. The club believe with this nudge towards plant-based eating, students will eat more meat-free meals at home. This would reduce their chance of developing type two diabetes later in life and help them contribute to decreasing greenhouse gas emissions!

Through all these initiatives and more, Green Club hopes to achieve ‘Green Flag’ status for the school. Green Flag status is awarded by ‘Eco-schools’ a UK government initiative that reviews and recognises how effective schools have been in lessening their negative impact on the environment. This certificate would recognize the work, not only of the Green Club but of the whole school, as we have to work together if we want to protect our environment.



# Student of the Month

This is a new initiative this academic year. The idea behind it is to celebrate student successes throughout the term and to enable staff to nominate students for more than just their academic achievements. Staff will nominate students every term and the winning student is presented with their award at the end of every month. Below are the first two nominees for the academic year:

SEPTEMBER 2019

Student of the Month



FANNY ARRUANO

‘Although it is not unusual to come across kind and supportive students at Prior Park, it is in one completely new to the environment and the school. From her first day Fanny has been such an open and engaging student, seemingly enjoying the challenge of culture shock whilst already determined to support her peers. Her approach is best described as a ‘joie de vivre’. She has even had the odd word of encouragement for her Headmaster as he struggles to recall his O level French.

Mr. Watts (Headmaster)

In her first couple of weeks, Fanny has taken part whole-heartedly in many aspects of school life including:

- Supporting GCSE French students with developing their linguistic skills
- Joining in with the school choir.

She also follows the CNED curriculum in French, Maths, History and Geography in addition to the workload she has at PPSG.

Fanny has recently taken up piano lessons with Lili Olivero and is often heard playing ‘Bohemian Rhapsody’ for her peers in the hall!

More importantly, she is very kind and always willing to lend a helping hand. I cannot think of a student who is more deserving of this award. Ms. Amsellem (Teacher of Music/French)

Fanny's native language is French and despite this, she has shown a lot of resilience through her positive and cheerful outlook. In Geography, I have been impressed with her work rate, contributions and quality of work. Most impressive, however, is that Fanny has started to run a French study club for GCSE, giving up her own lunch times to support the progress of others.


Mr. Doherty (Teacher of Geography)



Prior Park  
Gibraltar

OCTOBER 2019

Student of the Month



TOMAS NOVOTNY

Tomas is incredibly kind and good humoured. He’s helped me with lots of little things. He has also helped a number of younger students in our form (explained things further/helped them with tasks/made them giggle and put them at ease with his terrible jokes). A little kindness goes a long way and for this reason, I believe Tomas Novotny deserves to be our Student of the Month.

Mrs Machin

Tomas is a kind and considerate young man who always has time for others. He is keen to volunteer to help the school community in many different ways, and his commitment to his learning is excellent. I also love that he is proud of his Czech roots; his enthusiasm during the International Food Fair was infectious! I am delighted as his Head of House to see him be recognised in this way. Well done Tomas!

Mr Younge

Tomas has been in the Prefect Team since it was implemented last year. He has been someone the team could rely on week after week for support, creativity and to help with the duty rota. Tomas is an inspiration to his peers, not only in the way that he supports others but also in his generosity and kindness. Our student body would not be the same without him.

Mrs Devincenzi-Clemens

Towards the end of the summer term I had both a colleague and a semi-regular visitor to our school community write separately to me commending Tomas for the very warm and positive welcome he always give to visitors to our school. Tomas is always committed and enthusiastic about any challenge and was also nominated for the Prior Award last summer for the support he had given to some of his peers last year.

Mr Watts



Prior Park  
Gibraltar



# Prior Park Gibraltar

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*12-18 Day Co-educational Catholic Senior School*