



Inside Prior

Focus on the Sixth Form



**Prior Park
Gibraltar**

Inside Prior



Welcome from the Editor

Welcome to the second edition of Inside Prior, where all the exciting things going on at Prior Park are highlighted.

The articles for this short term involve all the amazing things the students and teachers have taken part in, with the focus this issue on the Sixth Form. The Sixth Form have experienced many important and exciting events over this term and you can read all about it in this magazine. We explore trips taken this term, sporting events, music performances and much more.

The whole team wishes you a happy reading and hopes you look out for next term's issue!

With special thanks to the team:

Ella Scarrott, Hannah Koessler, Rebecca Hinchcliffe, and Martha Taylor.

The Editor - Yva Kew-Pearson, Head Girl

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A fond farewell

On Tuesday the 18th of February, Gibraltar's Mainstreet was hoarded by the entirety of our school in order to give a farewell; a very special farewell, to the former Governor of Gibraltar Lieutenant General Edward Davis and his wife Lorraine Davis. The Governor was enveloped with handshakes, high-fives, thank-you's and many other positive actions to really thank him for all that he has done for Gibraltar, and indeed for our school community. Ed Davis will be greatly missed by all of Gibraltar, and rightly so, because of his incredible work and continuous support.



A relaxing Art exam?

By Hannah Koessler

Last December, the Year 11 GCSE Art students took their first art exam. This exam was similar to last year's GCSE exam the students experienced and it was time for the new students to have their turn.

Spread over two days, the exam lasted ten hours, starting from the 10 December and ending on the 11 December. The students were prohibited from taking materials out of the classroom, including their art books. Throughout the exam, internet access was not allowed and all work had to be complete within the ten-hour time frame and with no other changes being made to the pieces after the exam was over. The students started their exam project following the plans they had prepared in their previous lessons. There were different topics the students had chosen from and then applied the research and ideas to the exam itself to create a final piece. The students had access to all supplies that the art room offered, allowing them to create their very best piece of work.

The exam was monitored by the school's art teacher, Ms Oxley, who referred to it as an "enjoyable exam" in which the students worked quietly and focused on their work. Doing art for two days turned out to be surprisingly easy as Anika Jain, a Year 11 student, stated, "I thought it was going to be hard, doing art for the whole day, but it was honestly quite relaxing". However, time did seem to fly past as "before you know it, you only had an hour left!"



Religion

By Eve Abudarham

Tuesday 21 January

This was a very special day for me and the Jewish community. A special visitor was coming, Rishon Letzion Harav Yitzhak Yosef, who is the Sephardi Chief Rabbi in Israel. He wrote a very special book called Daf Yomi, which connects all Jewish people whether they are Sephardi, Ashkenazi or of different political beliefs.

He has been the Chief Rabbi since 2013 and will hold this position for a decade - his father was also the Chief Rabbi of Israel.

On his arrival to Gibraltar he was met by the Jewish children singing and lining the streets to welcome him. If you were a lucky man or boy you were able to kiss his hand and he would bless

you. There was a real buzz in the street. We all said a special blessing

to him together, which is only said in the presence of someone considered very Holy and Special. A similar blessing is said by the Catholic people when they see the Pope.

During his time the Rabbi gave a few talks and I was lucky to hear him on two separate occasions. He blessed our community, that we should continue to grow and be strong. Another message he told us was to always look up and strive to be the best we can and to aim high in life!



Clock's Ticking

By Avi Wine

Time, it propagates onwards without waiting for me to do up my top button before Mr Watts calls me out. It moves on even if I'm already late for the classroom, only to enhance the severity of my situation and it will not even, at the very least, let me sleep in for a couple more hours.

This problem has been recognised by a unique few, a few that I would call 'efficient' of which Rabbi Yitzhak Yosef is one of them. Before the assembly one Thursday morning in my old school, the staff stressed that the privilege of the Rabbi dedicating his time to us was not to go unnoticed and in his talk this was evident.

Consider this; a Jewish religion has a certain set of priorities – the same as any life style. Each individual gets to ask oneself: "To what extent am I going to dedicate myself to this cause?" Of course the answers vary for every individual. ("Just as their faces differ so to do their thoughts" - Babylonian Talmud, Brachot).

To identify the Rabbi's decision on the matter was not a difficult task. We were all, with no exaggeration or exception, astounded. The man seemed as if he had somehow condensed all of Jewish scripture into the palm of his hand (his hand was not abnormally large.) After all, what more could you expect from one whose conquered thousands of pages of Talmud, Mishna, Halacha, Biblical Commentaries, Bible, Talmudic Commentaries etc?

For such a man, time is an incredibly valuable resource. For the rest of us, we're under the impression that our time will wait or hold on to us. Let's run an (imaginary) experiment by asking the Year 13 A-level students or GCSE students whether they feel that they utilized their time fully in the previous year or whether they feel as if the exam dates just keep creeping up on them in surprise.

Here are some tangible thoughts: Had we been good at utilizing our time would we still need to be in school? Isn't 13 years a bit much to be in education? How long do we spend commuting to and from school, and how do we use this time? Could we be richer or more intelligent? Do we accomplish more in our lives than people who had shorter life spans but

with distractions? To think of infinite different and improved versions of our reality, could have really been achieved had we only had more time...

Another fascinating quality this man had lay in his use of words. The Chafetz Chaim – a Rabbi notorious for his caution with speech– highlights the detrimental (spiritual) influence that Evil Speech can have. But to us this should be nothing new that words can pierce shields of metal and cross solid barriers. A famous tale amongst my people goes as follows: There was once a great King, who'd had the misfortune of falling ill with a terrible disease. So the king sent for the greatest doctor to cure him of his illness but alas, even he, the greatest healer of them all, could not cure him, because he lacked one simple, rather curious but essential ingredient: A lioness' milk. The king sent for the best of hunters to bring this prize to his possession, but it was not to be for we all know that it is the lioness who hunts, chases, kills, distributes and feasts and not the lion. So the King, in despair, decided to appeal to the public with the promise of riches in return for the milk.

A simpleton, from a simple town decided he knew how to attain his King's desire. After arriving at the local palace the following week and hearing his proposal the feeble King was both overjoyed yet slightly disheartened (without contradiction); had this mission really only appealed to lessers of society? What are his chances now?

What's even more peculiar, thought the King, is that this man asked that a pound of cow meat (otherwise known as steak) be delivered to him at his hunting site daily throughout the duration of the hunt. Well, to refuse would surely seal my fate, what other option is available to me? And so it was, that each and every morning a respected carrier would bring this hero/martyr his rations with a pound of meat.

Juda, the simpleton hunter slowly began putting his plan into action. Every noon he would throw the pound of meat to within the vicinity of the lioness and immediately after he would hide just as far away as for the predator to sense his scent. Time went by, and Juda decided to finally reveal himself and get closer to the animal. Eventually, using his brilliant skill Juda could comfortably milk the lioness. The night before his return to the palace with his achievement, Juda dreamt that his limbs were all having a ferocious argument, 'I am by far the most significant limb' cried the hand 'I did all the throwing. Were it not for me the mission would have failed.' 'Nonsense' argued the feet 'were it not for us, how would Juda have ever darted from one place to another?' 'Injustice!!' bellowed the belly 'had I not been churning those detestable rations throughout the duration of the hunt, we'd be long since forgotten completely!'

All but the tongue, had made their claims to fame. At last the tongue stated 'Without me all would have gone to nothingness' but just as soon as it finished, it was as if it had never spoken for all the rivals and competitors simply laughed and mocked it to shame.

Six months had gone by since the heroic quest and by now the King only allowed the eye to perceive a deathly skinny, hollowed out old man. Suddenly the doors burst open to reveal a shaggy, dirty, wild looking Juda with a huge flask of thick milk in his hand. Everyone was delighted only to be stunned to silenced when for a reason Juda himself did not quite understand he said: 'Sire, I have returned with your much needed goat milk'.

Death was soon sentenced upon him and Juda found his cheeks being kissed by the walls of a cell. The king was going to waste no time on this event (partly because it might be his last.) Juda was to be hung the next morning. That same eve Juda dreamt his dream and this time, it was clear who was the superior and who the inferior. The tongue gleefully from the heights of his abode stood over his defeated competitors who were despairing. In unison they all recognized the tongues heightened status and begged for mercy. Of course, Mr. Tongue had no intention of dying either, so he reassured his companions - 'do not worry, there is hope yet'.

Juda, stepped on to the stool at dawn and glanced unto the booing crowd. He cast his eyes downward but kept his head held high. As the guard tightened the noose around his neck, he offered 'any last requests?' Juda saw his opportunity - 'to speak with the King one last time'. He then explained to the King that he'd merely spoken wrong but not actually done so. From there the rest is history (or his – story, whatever floats your boat.)

Here we see what it means to abuse the power of the tongue. If we analyze any event in history it is all the work of the tongue: Declarations of war, peace treaties, personal UCAS statements, friendships and expressions of love. Our ability of self- expression depends on a single muscle, our ability to create and destroy all begins with words. The Rabbi knew this.

So, I was inspired, I genuinely was, to spend my life differently.



St Joseph's visit

By Rebecca Hinchcliffe

On Wednesday 5 February 109 students from St. Joseph's Middle School paid a visit to Prior Park. The visit was centred around having fun with science and encouraging all students to get involved with the activities.

Prior Park's Science department was hard at work throughout the afternoon, with teachers firstly having prepared and then leading five different tasks for the visitors to enjoy. The areas which were explored were tasters in the three sciences: Physics, Chemistry and Biology. These were varied and entertaining, with hands-on elements engage visitors into the subject and inspire them to want to learn more. Ms Porro had the students make swirling lava lamps. With Mr Comber they investigated the world of cells using microscopes to be able to study them. Colour in Chemistry was the theme for Dr Lnenicek Allen's activity while Dr Mak gave the students a taste of the wonders of electromagnetism. Finally, the visitors investigated waves with Mr Kennedy.

At Prior Park these events are very important as a way of showing the school as part of the community and as a means of engaging with children from other schools, giving them a glimpse of what life is like within our school. Mr Kennedy, Head of the Science department at Prior Park, told us, "All the students seemed to enjoy themselves very much and we were very delighted to welcome them to our school."

With interest in the STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) increasing worldwide, events such as last Wednesday's aim to spark pupils' interest in science, in the hope that they will consider focussing on the sciences during their A Levels and beyond.

Following the success of this visit, Prior Park School has confirmed that more science afternoons for other middle schools in Gibraltar which are planned for later on in the year helping to extend the school's outreach programme and promotion of this vital and fascinating subject.



Sage School visits Prior Park

By Hannah Koessler

Last year we had the privilege to welcome Sage School to Prior Park. We have interviewed Ms. Debenham, our Spanish teacher, who was actively involved with Sage School students to get further details.

Q - Where do Sage School come from?

ED- From Jerez.

Q - Why did they come to visit?

ED- They visited Prior Park for educational purposes. They were interested in visiting our school to see how the school had developed and observed creative sessions like Drama and Art. They wanted to practice English with our students, even though they are a British school based in Spain, 90% of their students are Spanish natives.

Q - What did they do during their visit?

ED- They spent both the morning and afternoon with us. In the first and second period they had a Drama and Art lesson with our students, and even participated in a play. I gave the teachers a tour of the school, and later shared lunch with the students in the cantina.

Q - Were any students from Prior Park involved? If so, how?

ED- Yes, mainly Year 10 students. They very kindly guided the Sage School students around the school and proudly showed them what they were doing during the school day.

Q- How did you find the experience?

ED- The experience was fun and enriching for the students and the school community. Visits like these are like a breath of fresh air to our school community. We exchange experiences and create links with other communities, which is always positive for future adventure in the wider world for our students here at Prior Park. I feel very privileged to teach and work with our students here, who hold beautiful values that make our school community very unique.





By Mr R Azopardi



The Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) award continues to grow in Prior Park Gibraltar. We have seen the number of participants enrolled increase significantly and we now have Gold, Silver and Bronze participants actively involved in their respective awards.

This year's Bronze intake of 17 participants will be heading off on their Adventurous Journey practice in March.

Our three Gold participants - Jack, Tim and Zach - enjoyed a weekend of fabulous weather up in Jimera Del Libar last weekend and although the distances were challenging their journeys were made all the easier thanks to their excellent map skills, beautiful scenery and positive mindset.

Our numbers undertaking the Silver award this year have been somewhat affected by the Japan trip. Nevertheless our three girls (Ishika, Sacha, Anika) are looking forward to their Adventurous Journeys with the Open Award Centre participants and Mr Comber who will be joining them. This year's award ceremony at The Convent was a very special one

indeed. Not only due to the many awards our participants were presented with but also because it was the last award ceremony to be hosted by the now former Governor Edward Davis. He has been a big supporter of the award and the school, inspiring our participants and pupils to achieve their best.

The number of volunteers who have now qualified as DoE leaders has also grown and we are proud to boast of some very enthusiastic and experienced leaders.

The DoE continues to be a very popular activity on the Prior Passport and we look forward to seeing it grow further in September 2020.





Prior Park School hold Literacy Week

Written by YGTV Team on 5 March 2020

Students at Prior Park School have been taking part in Literacy week.

At Prior Park School, World Book Day, which is the highlight of Literacy week, 2-6 March, is celebrated through many fun reading activities, which include book hunts, quizzes, games, competitions and authors' visits. Teachers incorporate 'DEAR', Drop Everything And Read: students are encouraged to extend their reading scope by spending 15-20 minutes in reading fiction and non-fiction during lessons.

On Wednesday 4 March, Year 9 and Year 10 students attended a Creative Writing workshop led by Jackie Anderson, whilst Year 7 visited John Macintosh Library where they had some story time. Throughout the week, students and teachers were encouraged to

take part in #BookFace challenge with some amazing entries.

Today, Thursday 5 March 2020, Prior Park students are coming together to celebrate World Book Day by taking part in a Book Swap. They are donating their pre-loved books to the school library and swapping one in return. Teachers come dressed as their favourite authors or characters and they read their favourite novel extracts during the whole school assembly in the morning. Year 10 students are taking part in a Macbeth drama workshop at GAMPA all afternoon. There is also a book raffle taking place in the school library with many fantastic prizes to win!



Business Trip

By Hannah Koessler

On the 20 January, the Year 10 and 11 GCSE business students were offered the opportunity to go on a business trip.

We asked Mr. Kelly, the business studies teacher, a few questions to get a deeper understanding:

Q- Where and when did you go?

PK- On the 20 January 2020 we went to the Sunborn Hotel. It was the second of three talks held at the Sunborn.

Q- Were there any students involved? If so, which years?

PK- Yes, Year 10 and 11 GCSE students were offered the opportunity.

Q- What was this trip about specifically?

PK- It was a discussion with Mrs Britta Weiser, the Sales

and Marketing Director of the hotel. It allowed students to get a feel of the different business jobs there are and students could inquire any questions they may have had.

Q- Did this trip last the whole day?

PK- No. the trip only lasted an hour after school and students were released from the Sunborn.

Geography Trip

By Martha Taylor

On 6 January, the Sixth Form geography students were taken on a trip to experience the history of Gibraltar. They were brought to the Garrison Library, the Gibraltar Museum, the City Hall, and the tourist office. This was all to give depth to their knowledge on Gibraltar for the topic of Changing Places in particular, enabling them to explain in great detail how and why Gibraltar has changed over time.

We interviewed Head Girl, Yva Kew-Pearson, to ask about her experience on the trip: "I think the trip was very useful and really enlightened us to how much Gibraltar has changed in the last century or so. My favourite part about the trip was definitely the City Hall. It's not too large but there is so much beautiful artwork on Gibraltar."

The teacher who led the trip, Mr Doherty, found some great maps in the tourist office showing a land-use transect of Gibraltar a few years ago compared to now and he plans to use these in future lessons.



Lyon Trip

By Ana Restano

The Spring half-term French trip to Lyon was an overwhelming success. Whether it was a student dipping their first toe into French language and culture or more established members of the French learning community improving their fluency, all students in attendance could not help but have their learning and pastoral development enriched by being immersed into the French way of life.

The majority of days started with a French language course. This was followed by students being able to immediately try out their newly acquired speaking skills by ordering lunch in the local market. The afternoons were spent visiting the wonderful cultural buildings within Lyon and living the authentic French way of life. Evenings were passed in French restaurants, sampling the delightful cuisine and the retelling of exciting stories from the day.

“ It was wonderful to see new friendships formed and other friendships cemented. The group worked together as an incredible unit and all will have had their lives culturally enhanced from the experience. ”
Mrs Debenham

“ I loved France. It was lots of fun with our school and meeting the other students. This is a experience that I will never forget and thank you for the amazing trip. ”
William Astles - Year 7

“ I enjoyed going to Lyon with the school because I got to explore an interesting place that I have never visited before. I also practised speaking French which was beneficial to me as I am doing French GCSE. We met up with some students from Prior Park Bath and it was fun getting to know all of them. Most importantly, it was a different experience with many memories that I will never forget. ”
Ana Restano - Year 10

“ As a Year 11 student, I found the MFL trip to Lyon during February half-term a real break from the normal school and studying routine. It was a trip that not only helped improve my French, but also opened my eyes to new cultures and experiences. I particularly enjoyed the independence we were given in the third largest city in France, to roam and explore the culture and sights.

I also learnt a lot, from the several museum visits and guided tours to the awkward conversations with people in French. There definitely were some close calls though, as we walked along narrow pavements lined with intimidating characters and were squished like sardines into packed rush hour metro trains. However, the lessons I learnt from the trip were invaluable along with the time spent with students from our school and our sister school in Bath, that I had hardly spoken to before, if ever at all. These connections will hopefully last for years into the future, along with my ever-growing passion for France, it's language and culture. ”

William Weston - Year 11





Snow Sports Trip

By C Devincenzi-Clemens

On Sunday 9 February, 41 students and 6 members of staff set off to enjoy the wonderful sights of La Thuile in Italy. The resort, based in the Aosta Valley, boasts incredible views with extensive skiing for advanced groups whilst offering runs for those learning to enjoy the sport. The students met nice and early on Sunday, all excited to head off and develop their technique.

We were greeted by our Interski rep upon arrival in Milan and from there onwards, Interski ensured we were well looked after for the week. From ice cream night, bum boarding, a trip to Courmayeur (a ski resort lower down in the valley), pizza night, karaoke night and crêpe night, we were really spoilt for choice. For the best part of the week, we were engulfed in low clouds and heaps of snow, making the skiing conditions a dream albeit a little cold. Wednesday hit rock bottom temperatures of minus 16 degrees!!! Many hot chocolates were consumed throughout! We were very fortunate to

enjoy our last day of skiing in beautiful sunny and warmer temperatures, and having snowed considerably the night before, we had almost impeccable skiing conditions.

Many of the groups managed to ski across to the French resort of Le Rosiere and all of our groups managed to progress enough to enjoy the magical views from the top of the mountain. Our bedrooms were located right at the foot of the mountain which meant we could afford a later start in the mornings which was appreciated by all students and staff alike.

The instructors from Interski mentioned "it has been an absolute dream to spend the week with your students. We would be delighted if you were to join us again next year."

A special thank you to Mr Watts, Miss Porro, Mr Comber, Mrs Midzova and Mr McAuliffe for giving up their half-terms to offer this wonderful experience to our students.

“

I had a great time on the ski trip this year, not just on the slopes but the evening activities were very fun and a great opportunity to mix with other years

Thanks to all of the teachers that came on the trip and especially Ms D.”

Anna Birnboeck





House Captains



Nelson House Anushree Jain and Rebecca Hinchliffe

We are very glad to have been selected as the Nelson House captains for this year. We would like to thank Adam Saul and Isabella Crawshaw for their role as house captain over the past few terms. We appreciate all of their work within this position and everything they have done for Nelson. They have led many assemblies for Nelson and helped Ms Easter, Head of our House.

We are striving to continue the work that Adam and Isabella started as the first house captains of Nelson House. Together we will make sure that all students in this house feel part of the close-knit community that Nelson has created.

We became house captains because we take pride in being part of such a positive environment. We want to become people that the younger students can turn to in time of needs and be role models to all students and help in any way we can.



Rooke House Cameron Walker

As House captain I look forward to helping my house achieve their goals both inside and out of class. I look forward to making sure that everyone happily takes part in activity's within our house and that they have a great team spirit throughout the day and in our school community.



Elliot House Anna Restano & Mai Akad

"As a House Captain of Elliot, I hope to get to know the members of Elliot better and help them academically and socially. I also aim to bring the members of Elliot together as a strong team where everybody is supportive of each other so we can perform to the best of our ability."

Anna Restano

"I aim to bring out the best in the already talented people that make up our house community."

Mai Akad

Wellington House

Ella Scarrott

I am very excited to be Wellington's new House Captain as I hope to encourage our house to have more team spirit and work better as a team. The last House Captain (Carmen) did a great job at being the house captain and I hope I can do just as well. Although Wellington is known for coming last in most inter-house competitions (especially sports days!) we always have fun, which in my opinion, is more important. I hope Wellington can continue to work as well as they have and aim to achieve at least second place. Lastly, I believe that Wellington working closer as a team will be an opportunity for people in the house to make new friends.



Prefects

By Guy Coope-Vickers

The prefects consist of individuals from Year 10 and 12 and as a team our goal is to make the school a better place whilst upholding the school's standards throughout the year. We will be seen monitoring the table tennis area and courtyard in the mornings and breaks and any students with queries or issues feel free to approach us and we will help them as best we can.

We all applied for the position with the hope of improving the school community and helping others, amongst other reasons; I for one also applied to help improve my leadership and communication skills and to interact more with the school around me. I believe the other prefects are also trying to improve themselves in the process, whilst benefiting the school along the way with our presence and contributions during the year.



THE SIXTH FORM

By Yva Kew-Pearson

The Sixth Form at Prior Park partake in a variety of activities around Gibraltar, including the geography trip, weekly sports sessions, and much more.

Teacher Talk

We asked Ms Mason, Head of Sixth Form at Prior Park, about her role at the school and how she works with the Sixth Form...



My role in the Sixth Form...

I was very excited to hear I had been appointed as Head of Sixth Form and a member of the Senior Leadership Team at Prior Park last September. My husband and I had been wanting to relocate to Gibraltar for some time and as my two boys are now both at university (York and Durham respectively) this was the perfect time for us to do it. My husband was here with the Royal Navy and his passion for Gibraltar became infectious. Before I came to teach in Gibraltar, I had worked in state schools and independent schools in the UK for thirty years.

What do I enjoy about my role at Prior Park?

Not many people get to be the very first person to occupy a new role in a school; I am really enjoying being part of our growing community and helping to make decisions on a whole school level. My priority when I first started was to get to know the Upper VI and help them with their Personal Statements and their UCAS forms. Luckily, they are a very motivated group and we managed to send off their applications in good time. I also helped them prepare for interviews. I think that helping young people make an informed choice about the next stage of their lives beyond Prior Part is a real privilege and I hope our students will come back to see us and tell us all about their university experiences.

One of the things that impresses me about our school is how closely we all work together to support our Sixth Form students. Adapting to A Levels is not always easy, but our students have a clear network of people to whom they can turn to for advice. Form Tutors and Heads of Houses collaborate with Academic Departments to ensure we are all aware of who needs a little extra input. I also love the vertical tutoring system which ensures our Sixth Formers are an important part of our community. This term, the Lower VI have begun to think seriously about their lives beyond A Level and they have really enjoyed using the website Unifrog which allows them to search for university courses using all sorts of parameters. It also gives them access to Massive Open Online

Courses (MOOCs) which they can take to give them a better understanding of what studying their chosen discipline at university might involve.

We have also had visits from students and staff from various universities including Oxford, York and Liverpool and we will be having more of these after half-term. The students and their parents will also be attending the University Fair held at the University of Gibraltar on 25 February which will give them access to admissions tutors from many institutions and is a great opportunity to find out more about the right university for them.

The future...

Next year is going to feel very different as we will have a much bigger Lower VI. I am really looking forward to working with them and improving the spaces they will be using such as the Common Room. We have big plans for a mural in there as well as better storage spaces and will be creating a universities and careers library. I am also planning our first Model United Nations trip to a conference in Bilbao in January 2021 where we will be meeting students from all over the world and taking part in debates about issues which affect all of us. It would be wonderful if we could come back with a best delegate award – or two!

Skills for Life

One of the unique things about our school is the Skills for Life programme which we run for the Sixth Form. This allows us to explore topics which our young people need training on so that they are more prepared for life beyond Gibraltar and Prior Park. Mr Kelly and I teach this together and we have explored different types of leadership, as well as running more practical sessions such as self-defence thanks to Anthony and Joely Joaquin who ran sessions for us at Jumpers Bastion. We have also had visits from NatWest who helped raise awareness about cyber security and are about to have another practical session on car maintenance and insurance thanks to Mr Sheppard-Capurro. We are really grateful to these members of the Gibraltar community and our staff for offering the students such fantastic opportunities.

We are always looking for new topics or guest speakers to inspire our students so do contact me at the school if you have something to suggest. After a term and a half at Prior Park I feel very fortunate to be working with such committed colleagues and students and I am grateful to them for their warm welcome



“

Skills for Life is teaching us how to prepare for University and life beyond that”

”

Tim Rodionov



THE SIXTH FORM

University Talks

The Lower Sixth attended the first Universities Fair held at the University of Gibraltar in February. Twelve institutions were represented including Cardiff University, Leicester and St Mary's, Twickenham. The students enjoyed the opportunity to be able to ask questions about courses they are considering and what each university had to offer.

Two of the providers then visited our school in person to run workshops entitled 'Why go to university?' and 'How to choose a university'. We are grateful to the University of Lincoln and Cardiff Metropolitan University for providing these sessions and know that our Sixth Form students found the sessions helpful and informative.

Upper Sixth

Mrs S Mason

The Upper Sixth applied to a range of universities this year including Oxbridge, Durham, Nottingham, Cardiff, Bath, Southampton, UCL, KCL, Queen Mary, Warwick and Exeter. The subjects they applied for included Medicine, Psychology, Economics, Physics, Mathematics and Nutrition.

I was very pleased with the mature way in which our students approached the application process as they seemed to appreciate early on how important it is not

to leave Personal Statement writing too late. I was also impressed by their decision making concerning which courses and institutions they thought would suit them best. At the time of writing, all students have received offers, two Upper VI receiving offers from all the institutions to which they applied. One of our students also had to undertake a marathon of interviews at all five of her chosen institutions. We wish them well in their final decision making and look forward to hearing about their adventures beyond Gibraltar.

The Lower Sixth are currently exploring courses and institutions using Unifrog, a wonderful online platform which allows them to search for higher education opportunities using a wide range of criteria. I am really looking forward to seeing the outcome of their research and guiding them through the process.

Mindfulness



This term the Lower Sixth and the Upper Sixth took part in a Mindfulness workshop run by Namarta Tulsidas Gulraj. The students were taught some useful techniques including breathing exercises and a physically demanding exercise which involved holding their earlobes and adopting a squat position several times which is said to connect the different parts of the brain and assist learning.

We all enjoyed the session, including Mrs Mason and Mr Kelly who practiced the exercises alongside the students. It was particularly well-timed as it occurred just before the start of the Upper VI mocks. We look forward to seeing whether it has any effect on the results!

Natwest



As part of the Skills for Life programme the Sixth Formers enjoyed two sessions run by NatWest International who provide lessons for students as part of their Money Sense programme.

The first session concerned fraud and the pitfalls to avoid online in order to protect your identity and your financial security. The second session explored planning for the future and helped the Sixth Form appreciate the demands that would be made on them financially both at university and beyond and also what they could do to prepare for their life after Prior Park School.

We all found the sessions extremely illuminating and fun as they were interactive and engaging. We are very grateful to the local NatWest team for giving up their time to provide the students with such important advice.





My trip to Auschwitz

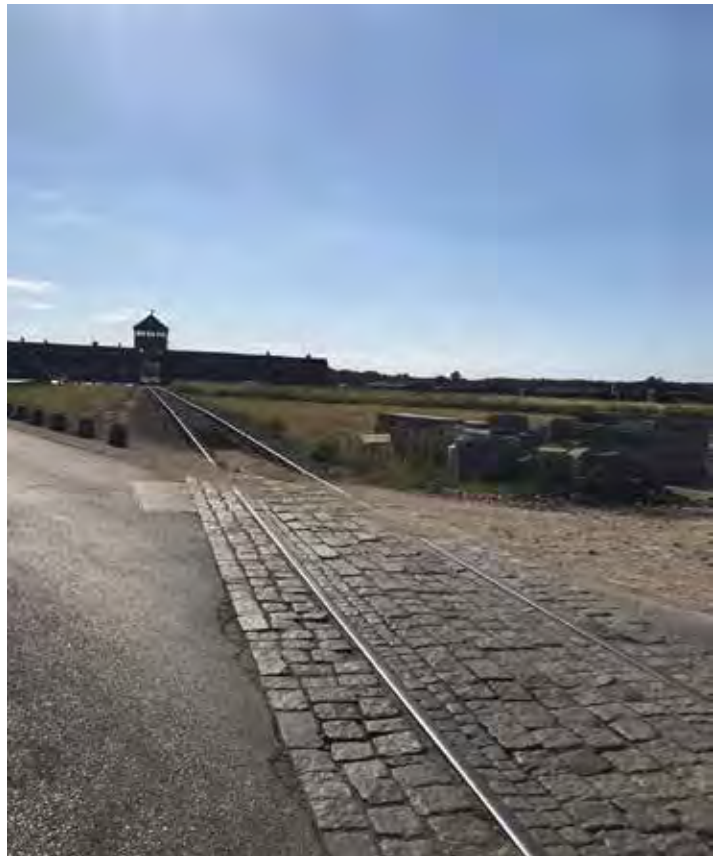
By Rosa Daines

One of the many things at Prior Park that I am very grateful to have been included in, is the opportunity for Lower Sixth students to attend the yearly Auschwitz trip with Westside & Bayside. Last year two of our students went, Rosa and Zac, both of whom said it was a trip that changed their perspective on life entirely. Rosa gives her account of the trip below:

"In July last year, I travelled to Auschwitz, Poland with a local charity called Learnings from Auschwitz (LFA) the nazi concentration camp where millions of people were tortured and murdered for no reason other than their race, religion or their beliefs.

Although I had watched documentaries and read books about the horrors of the holocaust, nothing prepared me for what I witnessed. To this day, I will never be able to describe the emotions I felt inside those camps. However, I believe it is important to learn about events like these which are unpleasant to think about because it allows us and the future generations to learn from the past and to avoid repeating the same mistakes.

The LFA gives this opportunity to Year 12 students in Gibraltar every year. One day, when you are in Year 12, I highly recommend signing up because it is not only interesting but it is also a life changing experience that will impact your life in a good way like it has done for me."





Young Enterprise - Xena

By Mr McAuliffe

Our planet and the environment needs huge help and we are often spoken to about the need for change, but this is a big task for one individual to do alone. If each person in Gibraltar did one small thing to help the environment, we would make a big difference and that is where our company, Xena, comes in.

We are providing a selection of bamboo products and are asking you to take a step toward helping the environment by starting small. Plastic toothbrushes are a big source of waste and it is a problem that can easily be solved with a better guided approach to shopping. We are offering bamboo alternatives to toothbrushes which will help overcome this obstacle. Our varied selection of bamboo toothbrushes will suit any individual needs and you can take it one step further by purchasing our family packs so you can share the experience of saving the environment together, one toothbrush at a time.

Find out more on our website www.xena-ye.com

Instagram page @xenaenterprise

“ The Young Enterprise Event was a great success for us. Our company looked like it was ahead of all the other companies in many regards and the resources available at the school helped us progress further. We hope as a company to stay in the lead of the other YE Companies. **”**

Louis Smalls



Physical Education

All Sixth Formers take part in Physical Education on a weekly basis. At Prior Park School we value the health of the students as well as their academic studies. Physical activity plays a crucial role in maintaining our physical, social and mental health and thus forms part of our curriculum for all years.

“ *Playing sports such as Volleyball has brought us all in the 6th form closer.* ”

Natalia Purkiss Galan



Drama

By Mrs J Curran

In Drama lessons this term Year 8 students have been exploring a story from one of the oldest Greek legends – Jason and the Argonauts. This is a choreographed scene showing what happened when the hydra's teeth were scattered on the ground. It shows the skeletons coming through the earth and charging at the Argonauts. Students planned and made their own face masks for this scene.



The Choir at St. Theresa's

The Prior Park Choir had an outstanding performance once again at St Theresa's Church on the 26 November. The evening was very successful as the choir gave it their all and sung amazingly. They sang three different songs: 'Los Peces en el Rio', 'Angel's Carol' and 'Born on Christmas Day' with solos from Sam and Arabella. In addition to this, the senior choir also sang, 'Mary Did You Know', which was filled with beautiful harmonies and wonderful solos by Yva and Julia.

Alongside our choir two other primary schools sang beautifully with actions to mimic the dance to. The crowd's favourite song was 'Los Peces en el Rio' as many people knew it, so they joined in and it was up-beat and finished the performance well. This put everyone in a very festive mood ready for the next month when the Christmas Holidays finally arrived.

I spoke to a student who performed that evening and they said: "I had a great time - it was very enjoyable and fun to sing with my friends and set a very festive mood for beginning of December." In addition, another Prior Park student mentioned, "I think that the performance went very well as we had been practicing lots the previous week to get our songs to sound that good. So, in my opinion, I would say that it is deserved." Furthermore, the choir is always praised for how smart they look and how well they perform and this evening it showed especially during their performance and proved what they are capable of achieving. With the Christmas holidays around the corner, the choir was cheerful and added some Christmas spirit to the audience. I spoke to one of the parents who said, "I was so pleased to see my child with their friends singing and having fun." In my opinion, having fun is the purpose of any of the school activities and the choir demonstrated that having fun can also sound beautiful.

The Winter Concert

By Rebecca Hinchcliffe

The last week before Christmas saw many different events one of the main ones being the Winter Concert which has been one of the main events of the school since the school opened. This year it was held at Grand Battery House. There was an array of acts and even an art auction. The Winter Concert is very important to the students as it gives them a chance to show their talents that might not been seen in the classroom.

'I really enjoyed performing at the winter concert. I performed both with the choir and a group and honestly it had helped my confidence so much.' Said one student. I feel that this really shows the impact that an event like this can have on someone as it isn't just about making music it also gives the students confidence.

'It was so fun to perform with my friends and make my parents proud.' Another student explained, this seconds the feeling from the students that these performances really are events that students look forward to. Ms Amsellem, our the music teacher and choir leader, said 'Preparing for these events is hard work and demands a great deal of time commitment and perseverance. All musicians performed brilliantly and should be proud of their performances.' Showing that not only do the students love these events but so do the staff members involved.

This event also an event celebrating some of the great art works that our students produce within their art lessons. A silent auction was held where attendees could bid on any work they loved. Christmas decorations and Christmas card also crafted by the students were also purchased. Showing the various talents is central to school ethos as this truly embodies the philosophy that not only academic achievement should be commended but so should extra-curricular achievements.

Not only is this event an evening celebration the arts but they are also used to raise money for GBC Open Day. 'GBC Open Day is one of Gibraltar's most popular televised fundraising events of the year, raising over £2 million for local charities since its inception in the

1960s.' Explained Ms Amsellem. The Winter Concert raised £500. These funds come from both the ticket sales and the art auction. 'These events are a fantastic opportunity for our musicians to build their confidence, nurture their talents and express themselves creatively.' Finished Ms Amsellem fully summing up the true enjoyment surrounding the winter concert.





Inter-House Carol Competition & Christmas Jumper Day

By Ella Scarrott

On the 12 December (the second last day before the Christmas holidays) we had an Inter-house Carol competition and wore Christmas jumpers to raise money on Christmas Jumper Day. We each brought in £2 as a contribution and the school managed to raise a total of £300.

Consequently, our Head boy (Jack Scarrott) and one of our Head girls (Shauna Mann) presented Paul Lyons with a cheque in an assembly with the money we had raised. It was also very fun to see what Christmas jumpers people were wearing and to wear something other than our school uniform.

On the same day, we held our annual Inter-House Carol competition, and for the first time Nelson won! All the carols were well put together and enjoyed by everyone including the teachers. Nelson House's song was a mash-up of many different Christmas songs which started off soft but a built up a medley of festive songs. In addition, they had someone dressed up as a turkey and there was performance at the end of the carol competition, where several students were bold enough to dance in front of the whole school.



Head of House Ms Easter said "We were all very proud of our achievement since we had put in several challenging elements and it was great to see them all come together in the final performance. I believe we performed best on the day, although we had had to practise to get everyone to have the confidence to join in and sing, as well as the 'performers' who had to stand up in front of the whole school on their own. We worked hard and were determined to be as organised and excellent as possible, so I believe we deserved to win." Rooke House did a parody of All I Want For Christmas Is You which they had lyrics for on a PowerPoint for everyone else to join in as well as dance moves prepared. Elliot House did a parody of a couple of songs and had the theme of the past, present and future of Prior Park and many students acted out the parts of previous teachers. Last but not least, Wellington did a mash up of 'Winter Wonderland' and 'Here Come Santa Claus' with a rap from one of the students and dance moves in part of the carol. Although all the Houses performed brilliantly, it was Nelson that won overall - Congratulations!

All in the aid of research

By Mr Kelvin Gomez

Creativity has continued to be highlighted as a vital skill that students will need in the future if they are to deal with the ambiguities and uncertainties of an ever-changing world. Being able to come up with a range of ideas and perspectives to new problems and challenges will be an invaluable asset in dealing with these problems. The need to communicate ideas clearly through effective collaborations with others also plays a significant role. The exciting development of new technology like Augmented Reality is opening up novel ways of collaborating virtually and expressing ideas in ways that are more in line with children's current technological usage. This has demonstrated a rise in student engagement with learning content and academic achievement.

Through a design-based research approach, this doctoral thesis explores the best methods of designing and developing collaborative Augmented Reality activities for creative thinking in lower secondary art classrooms through inter-disciplinary research. It is hoped that the findings will become a foundation for the practical design and development of similar pedagogical technology in the future, but more importantly, shed light on the theory driving the learning process.



Hogar Betania

by Mrs Debenham

Our students went one step further this year and not only did they do a wonderful job in collecting presents for Hogar Betania, they delivered them in person. Hogar Betania is a refuge for people marginalised by general society and our PPSPG students took a huge amount from being able to take the gifts down to the centre in La Linea. This charity work enables Christian values to shine such as appreciation, sharing, being thankful of the world around us and, of course, thinking of us. This initiative has been incredible not only to those in need which Hogar Betania supports but also the personal development of each student who chooses to become involved in such a worthwhile cause.



Animals in Need Foundation at the Convent Fair

By Rebecca Hincliffe

On 28 November the much anticipated Christmas fair was held at the Convent. This fair involved local charities and people spent an afternoon supporting causes such as The Breast Cancer support group and Cancer Research Gibraltar with some smaller charities also represented. One of these charities is the Animals In Need Foundation and is a charity that many of our students help with on a weekly basis and as some PPG students and staff took part in raising money for the Animals In Need Foundation.

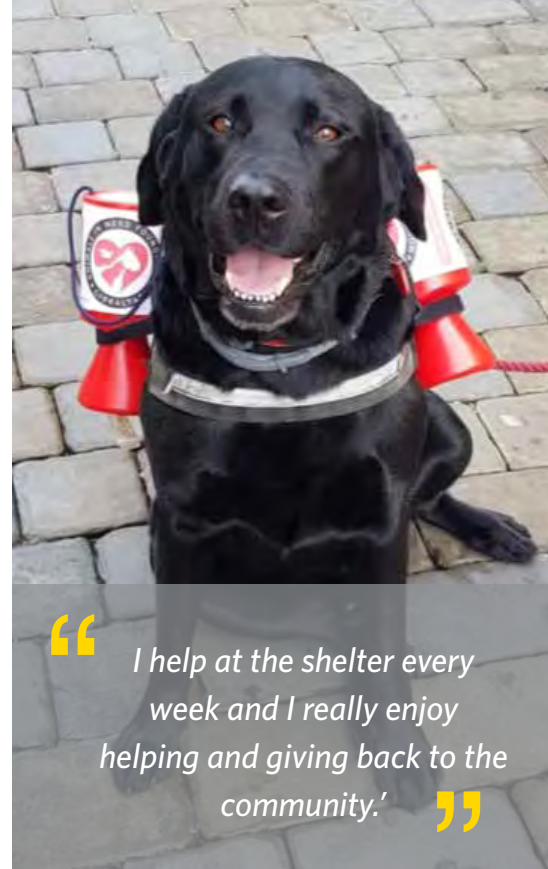
Some of our students and staff take an active part in aiding the Foundation's work in a variety of ways: helping to walk some of the animals, raising funds through bake sales, selling raffle tickets and collecting donations from different areas of the community. Helping at the shelter has even led to some of our students adopting some of the animals!

Here at Prior Park, academic achievement is very important but so is helping our community and the students who volunteered their time to help at the Convent Fair are the embodiment of this principle.

Through their efforts the students managed to raise nearly £300 which is an incredible achievement. Some of the money will be

used for food and to pay costs at the shelter but it is also important to note that this amount of money would also cover the cost to re-train a dog so that it can be adopted into a new home.

To raise this wonderful sum, the students sold many different items such as badges and key rings, some of which they also helped to make. "I had so much fun at the Convent Fair helping raise money for a charity that does so much for animals in our area" said one attendee we spoke to and shows the true support that our students have to the charities they help. To be successful not only do you need to work hard to get the right qualifications but also help the wider community and take every opportunity you can.



"I help at the shelter every week and I really enjoy helping and giving back to the community."

FOP Quiz Night

By Ella Scarrott

Back in November, the Friends of Prior Park (FOP) held the annual Quiz Night. The event was a success with many parents and students attending the annual quiz which was filled with a variety of topics from movies to music through to sports. Matt Parkin asked acted as quiz master in addition to holding the auction where a few of the student's photography pieces were sold to the students and parents.

Furthermore, a raffle was also held with prizes ranging from wine to a ticket for afternoon tea. There was also a lot of food which was thoroughly enjoyed, especially the cakes. I spoke to Ms Easter, who is a part of FOP and helped organize the night, and she commented "The quiz was very successful as it not only raised a good amount of money but also brought parents, pupils

and staff together to have fun and socialise. FOP quiz is one of my favourite events - everyone is happy and the atmosphere is fun. There's a great sense of community." Halfway through the evening the Wellington Junior team and the Wellington Senior team were winning but unfortunately, they weren't victorious. Instead, the Rooke Junior team who put in a lot of effort and hard-work deserved their win. They were awarded a huge basket of sweets which they kindly went around the room sharing, demonstrating the type of community we have. I spoke to a student who attended this event and they said, "I really enjoyed this night as I worked in a team with my peers, even some I didn't know, had fun and tried our best to answer all the questions correctly to hopefully win. I hope we will be able to do this quiz again next year."



The Nautilus Project



By Ms C Gonzalez

The Nautilus Project is a charity based in Gibraltar which focuses on protecting Gibraltar's coastlines. The charity aims to improve awareness of environmental issues through education and charitable initiatives. The charity carries out beach cleans throughout the year to highlight the amount of plastic that is found along Gibraltar's coastlines and through their social media presence show the damage that plastic can have on sea animals such as turtles, dolphins and birds.

Inspired by the work of the Nautilus Project, the students have focused on promoting environmental sustainability and the protection of Gibraltar's coastline. The students supported the Nautilus Project by creating sustainable baubles and rulers to support the charity at the Convent Christmas Fair, which according to Melanie Stagnetto, one of the charity's representatives, were a popular seller.



Another way the students have supported the charity's initiative is by carrying out a beach clean of Eastern Beach during Christmas. This was an eye-opening experience for the students as they initially believed that there would not be a lot of waste on the beach as it was the Christmas period. However, the students ended up collecting vast amounts of plastic, which gave them an insight into the reality of the impact that humans can have on our coastlines. This undoubtedly encouraged them to reflect on the importance of keeping Gibraltar's coastlines plastic free, as it negatively impacts both the environment and wildlife.

This experience has strengthened the students' commitment to their charity work. They have shown great personal growth during the year through their support of the charity. They will continue to carry out beach cleans and will get a chance to experience the wonder of Gibraltar's marine life through a snorkelling experience!





“

I am delighted with the appointment of our new Sports Captains. The quality of their presentation has been exceptionally high at interview and their passion and enthusiasm for the role has been evident from the very start of the application process. I have no doubt they will make a huge difference to our school community and Mr Woodward and I look forward to working with them during the course of the year’ ”

”

By Mrs C Devincenzi-Clemens

Sports Captains

We have been appointed the role of Sports Captains to represent each of our Houses. We have come together collaboratively as a team to make sport more enjoyable amongst all at Prior Park and continue to encourage good sportsmanship between all year groups.

Fencing

Amelia and Catherine became involved in fencing at the ages of 7 and 5 years respectively. We are fortunate to have Club Internacional de Esgrima Andaluzia not too far away. It is housed in the historic Castillo de la Duquesa, an 18th century fortress, which also is home to a small museum of artefacts excavated at the site and its surrounds, as well as a fencing museum! The club is run by Maestro Alberto Cerrada and he and his team teach the girls in the art of Epée fencing.

Amelia and Catherine were very active with the sport during their early years and have competed extensively in both local and national Spanish competitions. Of particular note were Amelia's gold medals in both the 2013 and 2014 "Criterium

Nacional de Esgrima" competition, held in Madrid every year. Catherine followed in her sister's footsteps to also take the gold medal in this competition in 2015.

Because of their age and not being Spanish nationals, they are now excluded from competing in the national Spanish competitions but still enjoy the discipline of training each week with Maestro Alberto and competing at club and regional level. Most recently, in January of this year, Amelia took the gold medal in the Under 15's category of the VII Torneo Internacional Villa de Manilva and Catherine took the bronze. This event was hosted by their home club together with the Ayuntamiento de Manilva and was well attended, with over 80 participants in total.





Seb Desoisa

Seb's interest in golf started at the tender age of two and half when his dad brought home a plastic set of golf clubs. By the age of four, he regularly started attending the golf range in Almenara and Alcaidesa and, shortly after, started taking Saturday morning coaching lessons with some friends. By the age of six, he started competing in the Andalucian Golf circuits. He won the ranking finals in the Pequecircuito, Benjamin and Alevin categories.

When Seb was eight, he travelled for the first time to East Lothian in Scotland to compete in the USKG European Championships. This annual international event attracts some of the top junior golfers from all over the world. Subsequently, Seb has travelled to Scotland on four more occasions to compete in the European Championships. He won the European Championships twice, has come runner up twice and sixth position once.

Apart from competing in the Andalucian circuits and the Spanish National championships a recent golfing highlight was to represent Andalucia in the Campeonato de España Inter autonómico in Pamplona. In 2019, Seb also started to compete in the UK, namely in the U14 Boys Open Championship and in April he'll be competing in the U16 midland boys open amateur championship amongst other UK tournaments in the summer. He also forms part of the elite Andalucia junior team in the Infantil category.

Seb is highly committed to his training with his coach Jose Luis. His current handicap is 0.8 and his ambition is to become a scratch player by the end of this year and to perform well in the upcoming UK events!

We wish Seb the best of luck for the future and look forward to seeing what other trophies he can win.





Rugby Interschool Competition

By Mr Woodward

Since September our rugby team have been training hard on Monday afternoons at Victoria stadium. The team have quickly bonded with more experienced players welcoming less experienced players into the team. We have a great team spirit, the game is played with passion, humility and respect for ourselves and our opponents.

The team has shown excellent commitment with a high turnout for training every week, we have progressed every week and developed into a team that has shown flair and creativity when playing. Our first competitive match came against a visiting school from the UK in the Autumn term which gave us a good indication of how we were doing and what we needed to improve on.

We have been working hard this year, particularly on our rucks and

positioning when attacking. The inter-school tournament held at Europa point gave us the opportunity to showcase our skill and everything we have practiced since September. The tournament was a fantastic success with the boys winning both of their matches against two teams representing Westside School.

Our girls rugby is also gaining momentum with more and more girls showing an interest in playing rugby. Our girls also put in an excellent performance at the same tournament playing against Loretto and Westside, winning one out of three matches.

We have had a fantastic rugby season, there are more students playing rugby and showing a passion for the sport.

We look forward to playing more matches in the future.



Hockey Interschool Competition

By Mrs C Devincenzi-Clemens

The Year 7 boys and girls hockey teams played brilliantly. Both teams had been training for the tournament for many weeks and showcased the skills they had learned throughout the tournament. We played some more experienced sides but that didn't deter us, we worked hard and progressed in every match. Both teams showed resilience, determination and a 'never-give-up' attitude. Our students showed excellent teamwork and when something wasn't going their way they came together and pushed forwards to overcome the problem in front of them. It was a brilliant event and we are looking forward to the next tournament at the end of term.



By Mr Woodward

Our Year 8 students competed in the very first inter-school hockey tournament for secondary schools. The students were a credit to the school and themselves and played some creative and imaginative hockey. The Year 8 teams showed incredible perseverance on the pitch. The first team proved too strong for most opponents and came second overall bringing home silver medals.



Netball

By Natalia Purkiss Galán

I have represented Gibraltar twice in the U17 for netball. I have now been training with the national squad since September as sadly I am no longer eligible to try out for U17. I went to Cardiff Met from the 21-23 of February and played 3 different university teams.

We were able to put into practice what we had been learning all these months and this was shown on court. We won two out of three games and most importantly we enjoyed every moment of the trip. I became better friends with all the girls in the squad, I cannot wait to travel with them all again soon.





U17 Netball v Israel

By Mrs C Devincenzi-Clemens

Some of our Year 10, 11 and 12 students had the opportunity to play against the U17 selection from Israel. The girls had their GCSE moderation prior to playing against the team from Israel and it is probably fair to say they entered the match feeling fairly fatigued, physically and mentally. Nonetheless, they put up a great fight and started off the winning team, proving too strong for the opponents. As the match went on, the girl's fitness levels began to show and they started to make numerous unforced errors. This allowed Israel back in the game and they ended up narrowly losing to them on a windy day at the stadium. Not to worry girls, you will show them what you are made of next time!



The Green Club

As mentioned in the previous issue, we are working towards a swap event with the aim of sharing the message of reusing old items and raising funds for green initiatives in the school and for other current issues around the world. Unfortunately, we are still looking for a suitable venue and therefore we have had to postpone the event. If anyone could offer a possible venue for our second hand sale, we would love to hear from you at our e-mail address below.

We are also encouraging a sustainable school environment, and have met with the site manager at Prior Park to agree the installation of plastic recycling bins around the school. We are also planning to encourage the use of reusable water bottles instead of single use plastic bottles by an initiative called 'bottle boost' – keep your eyes peeled for more on this over the coming half term.

We would also like to introduce two new segments to our Green Club articles, the first one of which should hopefully keep you up to date with current environmental issues in our world: As always, the environment continues to make headlines.

Follow our link below to keep yourself in the loop:

- Australia wild fires, here is where you can find out more about it: <https://www.wwf.org.au/what-we-do/species/fire#gs.yuifyj>
- Climate change, is happening, here is the live info: <https://www.bbc.com/news/topics/cmj34zmwm1zt/climate-change>
- Great pacific garbage patch, here is more info to this theme: <https://www.wwf.org.au/news/blogs/how-can-we-destroy-the-great-pacific-garbage-patch#gs.yuh16d>

Lastly, if you would like to contact us with any ideas or initiatives you would like to share with us please send us an email at PPSG.GreenClub@priorparkschools.com



How can you make a change today to have a positive environmental impact?



- Avoid plastic if possible
- Use reusable water bottles
- Reduce Reuse Recycle
- Use reusable bags when shopping
- Use containers instead of single-use plastic
- Walk or take public transport
- Switch off lights when you aren't in the room
- Prevent printing off unnecessary documents
- Try having Meat free Monday's
- Spread the news about recycling!

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2019

Student of the Month



GABRIELA SANCHEZ VALLEJO

Gabriela is irrepressibly cheerful and determined to make the most of the opportunities around her. It is clear the positive impact that her approach to life has on those around her; her immediate friendship group, fellow students in her lessons and House and tutor groups, but also on the staff she encounters. She accepts positions of responsibility with just the right commitment without ever becoming over-zealous and works well both in and away from the limelight to enhance our community with her loyalty, honesty and good humour.

Mr Watts

Gabriela is an absolute treasure. She is undoubtedly an asset to any team, be it on the student leadership team as a prefect, in the choir or on the basketball court. She works exceptionally well in a team or as a team leader and can be relied upon to organize, officiate and/or deliver sessions of an exceptionally high quality. Her lovely nature and enthusiastic approach to all tasks is well received by the staff and is almost infectious around her peers. Gabriela has a 'can-do' approach and everything she partakes in, she does with the highest level of commitment and desire to achieve.

Mrs C Devincenzi-Clemens

Gabriela is a determined and conscientious student. She always displays an excellent work ethic towards achieving her goals. She is empathetic towards others and can be relied upon to provide support.

Gabriela is a mature, well-rounded girl who serves as an example to many teenagers.

Mrs Debenham

Gabriela is a dedicated and organised student who goes above and beyond in her studies. She is always keen to learn and develop her understanding. The same can be said for her service to our school outside of the classroom. She is the first to volunteer and help other pupils in school, and also in our wider school community. Her drive and enthusiasm can be seen across the wide range of disciplines she is involved in, from sport to service to languages! She is kind, sacrificial and caring; this sums up a lot of the Prior Way. Did I mention competitive too?! Congratulations Gabriela, you deserve it!

Mr Younge



**Prior Park
Gibraltar**

JANUARY 2020

Student of the Month



TIMOTHY RODIONOV

Although he has only recently joined the Prior Park community Tim has worked hard to become an embedded member of the student community, including; the 6th Form, his House, and the wider school. Tim's commitment to the school was highlighted recently when he gave a talk to prospective A level students and their parents. He did a fantastic job of explaining life in Prior Park's 6th Form and role modelling what an aspirational A level student should be.

P Martyn, Deputy Head Academic

With a quiet confidence and a sense of humour as sharp as some of his ties, Tim brings positivity, enthusiasm and curiosity to all his lessons. Whether it is calculating Fibonacci sequences in Computer Science to work on Vectors in Physics, Tim, responds thoroughly and determinedly to all feedback about his written and practical work. In Tutor period and House assemblies, Tim is a reassuring presence to his classmates. On the sports pitch he displays resilience and perseverance.

P Kelly, Form Tutor

Tim arrived at Prior Park at the start of the year and has since immersed himself into Prior life. He is a bright, studious pupil who is excelling here in the Sixth Form. From day one, he demonstrated a great ability to communicate with both his peers and adults, creating great first-impressions with everyone who had the pleasure of meeting him.

Within Wellington, he is always willing to participate in any task thrown his way. He graced the house with his efforts in the Christmas house song and did a fantastic job of leading by example. Tim always contributes a balanced opinion to any discussions but is also willing to listen and take on board any advice.

He displayed his aptitude for public speaking at the Sixth form open evening when he delivered an immaculate speech to both parents and pupils of year 11. He is a great role model for his brother and many other students.

I am sure he will be very successful in life and I am excited for what the future holds for him.

J Comber, Head of House

Tim has been a very supportive member of the Sixth Form, willingly giving his time to promote the school to Year 11 students and their parents. He spoke eloquently about Prior Park and its benefits; his professional demeanor and standards of dress make us very proud to be his teachers.

S Mason, Head of Sixth Form



**Prior Park
Gibraltar**

FEBRUARY 2020

Student of the Month



JAVIER SHEPPARD CAPURRO

Javier has become a regular contributor to class discussions in Spanish. I'd like to celebrate the fact that his contributions and good work are having a positive impact on other students' learning in the class. He is naturally a charming and cheerful young man who can easily be a role model to others.

¡Fantástico Javier, sigue dando lo mejor de ti!

Mrs Gallego

Javier has shown exemplary commitment to his academic performance in English, going above and beyond to seek extra support and guidance. He is very mature in his approach to his learning and it is a pleasure to work with him as he is so appreciative of what staff do to help him. I wish all my students were so proactive. Well done Javier! Keep it up!

Mrs Mason

Javier is hard working, determined and resilient on the field. He is always keen to demonstrate his very best self and thus is a real asset to any team. Javier is incredibly supportive of his peers and is keen to share his understanding and skill set with the others around him. He is an absolute pleasure to teach and always performs with a smile on his face.

Mrs Devincenzi-Clemens

Javier is always pleasant. He approaches any activity in form periods with a positive attitude, regardless of the task. He works particularly well in small groups (both with older and younger students) in form time. He is calm, kind and personable and should anybody ask Javier for assistance, he will help without question.

Mrs Machin



**Prior Park
Gibraltar**



Prior Park Gibraltar

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12-18 Day Co-educational Catholic Senior School