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OUTOFTHE ORDINARY

Opinion, Interviews & Features, Creative Writing, Drama, Art, Music, Sport, Trips, Wellbeing, The College Community, CCF, The Union, Valete, Last Word

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ast year, as we celebrated our quatercentenary, the *Alleynian* took the opportunity not just to look back, but to think about the future. Notwithstanding the magazine's focus on the often dispiriting issues of the day, from climate change to Brexit, the overriding attitude towards our next 100 years was one of optimism.

It has not taken long for such optimism to dissipate. As we find ourselves dealing with one of the deadliest outbreaks of disease in modern history, along with renewed – and rightful – anger over police brutality and systemic racism, the heady days of 2019 seem a world away. In 2019 I did not imagine that this year's edition of the *Alleynian* would be coming to you in digital form, nor that such a fact would be rendered relatively unremarkable when put into wider perspective. Neither did I imagine that so much of this year's edition would take on a more sombre tone.

Whether it be in the pages of our opinion section, or in the notable omission of so many of the things the College typically looks forward to in the Summer term, we are constantly reminded of the toll that this year has taken. That is not to say that this *Alleynian* does not contain its fair share of good humour. In fact, it is a credit to student and staff writers alike that they have been able to identify and celebrate the lighter and more humorous aspects of recent times, as well as chronicling the more serious issues which we are facing.

There are times when what is happening in the world can feel overwhelming, and times when we can feel as though we are about to sink below the surface. We must do our best to look for those small pieces of comfort and humour, and keep them close to us, so that we can navigate through the dark and back out into the light. The optimism of a year ago might have diminished, but we cannot let it vanish completely.

That is more important now than ever before.

Luke Jensen-Jones Editor, the *Alleynian* 708



A YEAR CUT SHORT

The abrupt end to their school careers came as a shock to the Upper Sixth, says **Leo Tidmarsh** (Year 13)

ven those blessed with 20/20 vision failed to spot what 2020 had in store for the class of 2020. Precariousness was the overwhelming sensation of the Lent term for my peers and me. Given that we had never imagined that this would be our last term, most of us in the Upper Sixth were more concerned with A-level revision than with trying to draw together our memories of our time at the school.

Having been at the College since I entered DUCKS at the age of two, and having seen my two brothers progress through the school to Year 13, I have witnessed several previous year groups' rites of passage, notably Leavers' Day. A few ideas had already been exchanged about the occasion amongst members of our year group, and our minds were also starting to turn towards the various traditions awaiting us: prize giving, final assemblies, farewells and proms. In summary, the rest of the year was curving up towards the climax of exams – followed by the fireworks of relaxation and release after months of stress. Most of us were already about to burst.

As it turned out, against the background of the muchdiscussed flattening and delaying of the curve of Covid-19, the curve of our final year was doomed to interruption. The Prime Minister, in slowing down the progress of the virus, drew our school year to an early close. However, for the sake of vulnerable people and our loved ones, I do not think there are many among us who disagreed with the closure of our schools.

We in the Upper Sixth now find ourselves facing a final year devoid not only of exams but also of farewells. To call it an anti-climax would be an understatement. Writing this whilst isolating at home, I reflect that what I miss the most is simply the company of my friends, and, more broadly, the people I would, in the normal course of things, be seeing every day during my last year at Dulwich. At least we are looking forward to being able to attend some sort of prom or 'final day' next year. It's just a shame that it won't be in July 2020.



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OUR MINDS WERE ALSO STARTING TO TURN TOWARDS THE VARIOUS TRADITIONS AWAITING US: PRIZE GIVING, FINAL ASSEMBLIES, FAREWELLS AND PROMS



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AT LEAST WE KNOW THAT THE TEACHERS IN CHARGE OF DETERMINING OUR GRADES CAN ASSESS US MORE ACCURATELY THAN A TWO-HOUR-LONG EXAM PAPER CAN

OPINION, INTERVIEWS & FEATURES

GRADE EXPECTATIONS

Discovering that you won't be sitting your GCSEs takes a little getting used to, says **Chris Paton** (Year 11)

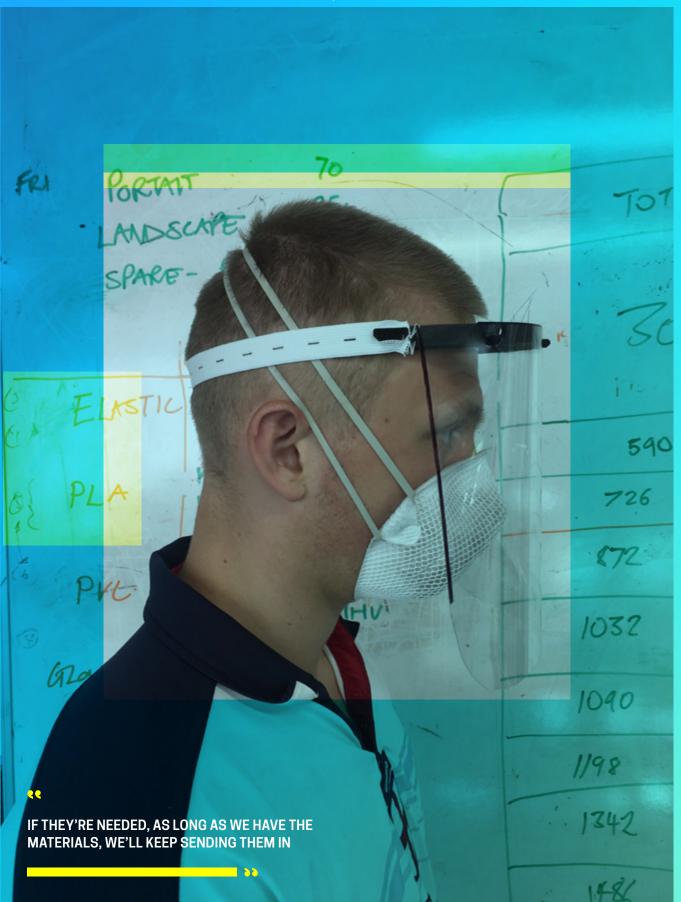
t is Monday 23 March 2020, but this is a Monday like no other, marking the beginning of the first week in which schools have closed. The streets are almost deserted, devoid of those bustling uniformed groups of schoolkids racing off to get to school before the first bell. So, I ask myself, how long will this last? When will I see my friends again? And, most importantly, is that English essay still due in today?

Surely this is a time for celebration, though. After all, I am about to embark on possibly the longest 'holiday' that I'll ever get. Finally, I can binge-watch all eight seasons of Game of Thrones without a single overdue assignment to stop me. And yet there's one glaring problem that means I can't seem to relax. As my towering pile of vomit-inducingly colourful flashcards and countless empty coffee cups will tell you, I'm a GCSE student. Or rather, I was until today.

As the news rolls in that summer exams for both GCSE and A-level students are cancelled, I find myself wondering what comes next. Within a week, most of my burning questions have been answered, but I can't help but feel lost, discarded, forgotten, as if a whole chapter of my life has abruptly drawn to a close.

Despite all the uncertainty surrounding the futures of Year 11 and 13 students at the moment, one thing that is certain is the complete lack of closure. A key motivation to get GCSEs over with was the promise of all the partying afterwards. Regardless of how well or how badly you do in the exams, all students can celebrate that they are out of the way; for many, this means rushing off to the Reading Festival or trashing their parents' house in a once-in-a-lifetime 'please mum, I'll only be 16 once' celebration. But I can assure you that no houses will be trashed, and no festivals attended this year. As Jedidiah Befekadu, one of my peers, says, he is 'quite upset by the fact that the last two years of [his] education, all that hard work, has led to nothing'. And although we have been assured that we will be given the qualifications we've worked for, there's still a lingering sense that something is not right.

However, our situation pales in comparison with the plight of many others who are struggling with the devastating, even life-threatening, consequences of this global pandemic. And whilst we might not know what the future holds for any of us, at least we know that the teachers in charge of determining our grades can assess us more accurately than a two-hourlong exam paper can. Moreover, according to those who are more optimistic, maybe this will spell a change in the way that all future exams take place so that the whole performance of the student is taken into account rather than just their final exams. For now, there is no way of knowing what may happen. Looking on the bright side, though, at least I can look forward to being in the history textbooks 100 years from now.



DESIGN FOR LIVING

Members of the DT Department have been producing face masks for use as Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) by doctors, nurses, pharmacists and carers across London, contributing to the fight against Covid-19. **Arjaan Miah** (Year 11) interviewed DT teachers Simon Inchley and Sion Roberts about the project

Arjaan Miah: Can you tell me how it all started?

Sion Roberts: It began with an email from one of the governors to Mrs Angel, asking if our 3D printers could produce visors for the anaesthetists of Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Woolwich, using an online file. We test-printed various versions of the visor; to date we've probably tested between 15 and 20 different versions, many of which include our own modifications. We then added in additional key features, such as the elastic which keeps the mask on the face, and a clear plastic screen that needs punching twice with a regular hole punch so that it can clip onto the headband.

AM: What are the visors used for?

SR: At the moment, they're being distributed to a range of different places – hospitals, surgeries, pharmacies, and care homes as well. They give full face protection for anyone who's working in those areas.

AM: What were some of the unexpected hurdles in the process? I know that you prototyped lots of different visors, but what were the problems with the original design?

SR: Well, it's a pretty good example of 'just in time' production: each component for the assembly is dependent on another part of the production. In order to make the full mask you need the 3D-printed headband, but, if that print fails, then we can't assemble it. Then we've had issues caused by the elastic or screens not being delivered on time, or being unavailable due to the Corona pandemic, and therefore assembly has had to be paused. For the printed headbands, we can stack them up, and get either 8 or 16 per 13- to 20-hour print, but it's then hard to separate them. We had to play around with the files on the Computer Aided Design (CAD) program, so they were easier to take apart.

Simon Inchley: To add to that, we were using a version of the Prusa one, used by the Czech Republic's government, but we needed the headband to fit an A4-sized screen as this was easier to source – this was one of the main reasons why we needed to change the file and settings ourselves and create a variant.

AM: Are you still changing the setup or is this the final version?

SR: I think we're close to a final version. We're trying to refine the CAD file, so that we can print as many as possible in the shortest time, maintaining a high quality. I'd say we're a day away from the final file, but we're having to adjust to client preferences.

AM: At what rate are you making them?

SR: The current output is 70 to 80 per day, but two printers are out of action. Once they are fixed, we should be printing over a hundred per day. [Editor's note: After the interview, the College was lent 3D printers from JAGS, enabling the production and distribution of about 150 masks a day.]

AM: How long are you planning to continue the production?

SR: We're very happy to keep making them for as long as they're needed. It could be that the government brings in proper PPE for frontline hospitals and surgeons, but there could still be a lack for care homes and pharmacies. If they're needed, as long as we have the materials, we'll keep sending them in.

AM: How are you handling the actual human involvement, given the lockdown and requirement for social distancing?

SR: We're keeping social distancing. Whenever we're in the room, assembling them, we're at that two-metre distance apart, wearing PPE, in a sterile environment, ensuring that the masks are assembled appropriately. If we're working individually, fixing printers or changing the CAD file, we have an allocated workshop each to work in. Anything after the print is handled with gloves and masks, so it's in an appropriate environment.

AM: You say 'each of us': how many of you are there?

SR: For a couple of weeks, it's been the two of us: me and Mr Inchley. Behind the scenes, there's our technician, Mr Towers, and Mr Humphreys, Head of Department, pitching in. Now, other members of staff are getting permission to come and help. Even members of other departments, like Mr Hallam from the Economics Department, have helped out. We're trying to utilise as many people as possible, while keeping social distancing. From the middle of the holidays, we were pleased to be able to add two of our excellent Upper School DT students, Sam Williams (Year 13) and Zubayr Ghufoor (Year 12), to the production line.

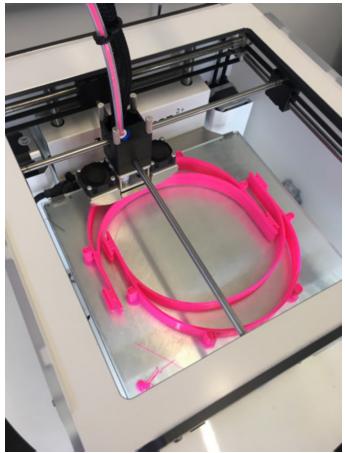
AM: How does the actual transportation of visors work?

SR: In various ways. The Master, Dr Spence, has been distributing them to a range of different locations across London, from Moorfields Eye Hospital in East London to NHS surgeries in Hammersmith and pharmacies in Barnes, while people who are local or who have direct College connections are coming in and collecting them from the Site Officers' Lodge, which is conveniently located next to the Design and Technology Department.

AM: What's it like to be making a direct contribution to the fight against Covid-19?

SR: It's all very surreal. We're just trying to do our bit – we have the resources to do so, and it's something that every DT department in the country is starting to get on the bandwagon of, which is brilliant. It also gives a bit of structure to our day, which is great.





At the time of writing (late April) over 2,000 face masks have been made and distributed. The DT Department is looking to develop an even better product, for which it has acquired BSI (British Standards Institution) accreditation. Requests are currently being received for between 50 and 100 masks a day.



The College is grateful to the Friends of Dulwich College, our parents' association, for their funding of the production of face masks. The FDC Committee had asked the Master, as the Coronavirus pandemic set in, to alert them to any Covid-related project it could sponsor, using funds that would otherwise have supported trips and expeditions. Support for the DT Department's production of face masks has been enthusiastically approved by the Friends. They are also covering the cost of the replacement of some 500 pairs of goggles and visors which have been donated to the NHS from the Science faculty.













PRINT, COPY, REPEAT

Inspired by the work of the DT Department, **Kemal** and **Ozan Okvuran** (Year 11) sourced and serviced a 3D printer at home in Turkey, using it to produce PPE masks for the local community, as Ozan explains

fter we arrived in Istanbul on 17 March, my brother and I sold some of our old electronic equipment to buy an Ender 3 pro 3D printer for roughly £200. We had decided that we would use the printer to produce face shields for medical personnel and frontline workers in our local community. Our budget meant an entry-level machine which would require a lot of mechanical and electronic work to assemble, maintain and fix. We had to replace certain critical parts such as the pneumatic connectors and the extruder gear.

Given the nationwide curfew imposed on people under the age of 20, we had to find and order all parts online and rely on the online community of users for help with maintenance. We still managed to produce roughly 300 face shields. The clear acetate sheets used for the face shields were provided to us by a family friend. Between 30% and 40% of our production went to an organisation called 3BoyutluDestek (translation: 3-dimensional support), which helped all of the 3D printer owners in Turkey to distribute the equipment to hospitals and other places in need. The remaining masks were donated to the local community or to health professionals who requested face shields. We distributed the masks to guards and cleaners in our residential complex, local businesses, our municipality, a dental practice, a health clinic and some individuals, such as a doctor from Anatolia.

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OUR BUDGET MEANT AN ENTRY-LEVEL MACHINE WHICH WOULD REQUIRE A LOT OF MECHANICAL AND ELECTRONIC WORK TO ASSEMBLE, MAINTAIN AND FIX

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READING FROM THE TOP

Some readers turn straight to the sports pages. Others linger over the art spread, enjoy the student opinion-pieces on politics, or plunge into the creative writing section. In trying to cater for the diverse interests and needs of its readership, how far does the *Alleynian* currently strike the right balance, and how might it change in the future? As part of a wider investigation into what the members of the *Alleynian*'s readership think about the publication, **Francis McCabe** (Year 9) and **Abel Banfield** (Year 10) decided to ask the Master for his views

We have been interviewing people of the College about what they read in our school magazine, as well as what they don't. We'd like to ask you what you read, as Master of the College.

Well I read everything. I think it's very important that I read everything. That goes for every Alleynian, but never more so than for 'Celebrating 400', the edition of the Alleynian which we brought out in 2019, reflecting on the whole calendar year. I think Jack Probert (student editor of the 'Celebrating 400' Alleynian) and his team did a fantastic job. The Alleynian has always been a difficult balance between being a chronicle of the College and what must be reported, and being the boys' magazine. I think there can be a tension between those two elements, but it can be a wonderful, creative tension. There are things that every Old Alleynian and non-Old Alleynian alike will want to look back at and see reflected on, for posterity, in a positive but relatively objective way, and then there are the moments of debate and dialogue and the boys' own views about anything from the grave issues of the time in relation to climate change, to little Dulwich issues.

So you see the magazine in some sort of way as a signature?

That's a lovely way of putting it. I think that's exactly what it is. It captures the balance and breadth of Dulwich education. I loved ideas in the quatercentenary edition such as 'Looking back; thinking forwards', which contained pieces on the problems of our planet, and the books we're reading, along with the article by Fedya, who found details of his greatgrandfather's role in defending the Soviet Union from Nazi aggression. It all reflected that sense of what we tend to do at Dulwich, which is to look in and look out. We can be proud of what we're doing here, but never in a way that makes us simply over-engaged with navel-gazing! We like looking out from Dulwich at what the future might hold. So, in those ways, I thought the *Alleynian* captured our year very well.

Many of our other interviewees have told us what they are inclined to read first. Is there any section that you are fond of, or particularly attracted to?

I would probably see if there are poems and stories. What I love is when the poems and stories are accompanied by artwork. So creative writing and creativity are the things that I'd often look at first. And I think this stands up very well. There are no doubt embryonic writers of the future, and artists of the future, whose first published work appears here. In years to come, we'll be able to look back, as we do with people like PG Wodehouse, Graham Swift or Michael Ondaatje, and see their original works here. Then I'd look at the sport, music, drama, and art sections next. The Trips and Expeditions section offers a lovely way to catch up on how

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I LIKE THE FACT THAT IT IS MADE BY THE BOYS, FOR THE BOYS, BUT WITH TEACHER SUPPORT

people are reflecting on their activities beyond the campus. Then I'll look probably at those more serious topics that may need more attention – the debates on everything from climate change to what problems we are going to face in the next generation, and how we are going to answer them.

I know that we are all inclined to read what we are most interested in. Do you have any ideas on how we can encourage ourselves to read more broadly within the publication?

I might be kidding myself, but I think that's why the 400 edition was such a success. I could imagine people coming upon things they didn't know were going to interest them and suddenly stopping and realising that they did want to look at that, or read about that. It has a balance, and it doesn't feel cliquey. What I love is that all of the College is covered, from Ducks to the Upper School, so that everyone can look through and find themselves, or a friend. It didn't feel as if it was the work of one clique of Alleynians, who were only writing for themselves and their friends. You might come across a page that you hadn't expected to find interesting, but because of the photographs, or something in the text, you actually paused, and took the time to read that page. I think that, even on non-commemorative years, we might try to do that again.

We've had a view from someone who says that we should allow more space for the boys by reducing the number of teachers in the Valete section, or the size of the articles. Do you agree?

That's difficult. I mean the Valete section is very important. It's a way of saying thank you to departing teachers. Every boy has their Yearbook and can say their goodbyes there, and I think, within the *Alleynian*, the Valete section doesn't



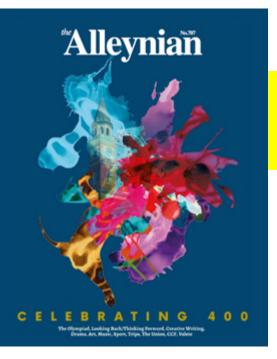
seem too dominant. I have seen it dominate school magazines too much. In the *Alleynian*, it comes at the end; it doesn't disturb the rest; it's for you to look at the teachers you remember, you'd like to read about. You'll probably find out something about them that you didn't know, and I think that it is important to mark any teacher's career in this way. It goes to Old Alleynians too, who will suddenly realise that such a teacher has left, another has retired or a third has gone on to that job that you're so pleased to hear about. So, I think I'd agree with the reader who said let's have more space for boys, and make the boys' voices even stronger, but I'd say probably not at the expense of the Valete section.

Do you think that much more could be added, or is there anything that you think needs removing?

Well, I'll probably be embarrassed when I suddenly think about what's not here, but as I say, what I love is our coverage of Dulwich. It seems to me, fair. We're a school that wants to say that all elements of an education are equally valid, and I feel it captures that quite well. I wonder, on reflection, given how strong the House system is at the moment, about something more celebratory about the Houses – a little more space on House competitions, again as a way of involving and crediting boys who might not be big characters in the







whole-school fixtures, but who play a really important role in the House Music competition, or House Croquet, or Little Sides football, or something like that. So maybe Houses are an element that we could think of, that you could think of developing further. But there's nothing I'd take away. I like that balance between a proper chronicle, which uses due diligence to make sure everything is covered, and a magazine of boy opinion. I think it would be a really useful resource for historians of the future, looking into what young men in 2019 or 2020 thought about their school, their city, their country, their world. And if we've given a real sense of things being debated, not just passively reported, I think it's a strong resource.

We've had an opinion that we should incorporate an Agony Aunt/Wellbeing section into the publication.

I don't know, I suppose I'm not a great reader of Agony Aunt columns or Agony Uncle columns, even when they appear in the national press. I suppose they feel so ephemeral. They might be more relevant if we had a weekly newsletter. And there are other ways in which we'd want to deal with people who have concerns. What I loved in the 400 edition actually, were the articles by our Head of Wellbeing, Miss Coppin (now Mrs Whittington), and by the Chaplain. And those are areas that particularly draw attention to pastoral care and where you can look for help and support if you're feeling the pressure, the stress, the challenge of Dulwich life or of life beyond Dulwich. Maybe it's not too fanciful to think I might read that and realise I could have visited the counsellor without having to tell my Form Tutor, or that the Chaplain has a room that is literally open for us to drop in on. We've also had a recommendation to add video content in this digital age. Do you think that it would be a good idea to utilise different types of media?

I think that probably is the future. I think that the greatest decision in your time, unlike that of Jack Probert and Joe Atkinson and your predecessors, is going to be, do we publish a paper journal? Is it ecologically sound to do so? Is the future actually going to be a digital Alleynian for everyone? Perhaps we could consider just producing a few copies for people we know who are generationally less likely to find access to it digitally. If we go digital, the possibility of bringing alive the interviews that are reported here, by having them available at the click of the button to see on video, is very exciting. I think it's very interesting though, how many newspapers still love the printing of an interview. And how when you print an interview, you can offer a commentary on it in a way that can be very necessary for delivering messages. So, I think there's a place for the video interview, but it mustn't take the place completely of the written-up interview.

We wondered whether you believe that a print version is a necessary record for the College and in particular for the archives.

Well, I think we have big decisions for the future. We know that future historians will be both blessed and cursed by the arrival of the digital age. There will be some things they'll come upon that their predecessors would never have had access to, but there will be much lost because of the change of formats, because of the introduction with such speed of new media that might actually be lost to the future. I wonder if things in the archives like reel-to-reel tapes and cassette recordings, which people thought were stateof-the-art and were going to be a fantastic record, might actually be less accessible now because of that great change of media. So I suppose that I would want to retain a print version, even if it's only that we make one copy and keep one copy, to ensure that we don't lose a part of our history.

If you could write a part of the magazine, what would you write?

I'm always wary of the magazine that seems over-dominated by the headteacher or the senior teachers so I'd be quite circumspect in what I offered. I was delighted to do this interview, and I was delighted to give my reflections on the quatercentenary year to Jack, but I think maybe, once every couple of years, I should think of something that I'd like to write about for our community, and maybe you'll think of what that might be. Rather than appearing to be co-editor and appearing to have an authoritative voice in this, I like the fact that it is made by the boys, for the boys, but with teacher support.



Finally, can you sum up what the Alleynian is, for you?

That's a nice question. As Francis said earlier, I think it is, at its best, the school's signature. It gives a little record about where we are now, and how we live now, and what we care about now. And I think if it's doing its job, subliminally and quietly, it probably says something about our values and what matters to us. I like the way people pick things up by osmosis, by just finding something instead of being told what to think. I've been a great supporter and defender of it over the years. For a couple of years, I edited it, which I think is pretty unusual for a headmaster. It was a staging post between different editors, and I wanted to make sure it took on a certain form. And in a way, the form it now has was made in those years, and now I properly give it back to the school, to the boys, to the teachers and supporters, to carry it forward.

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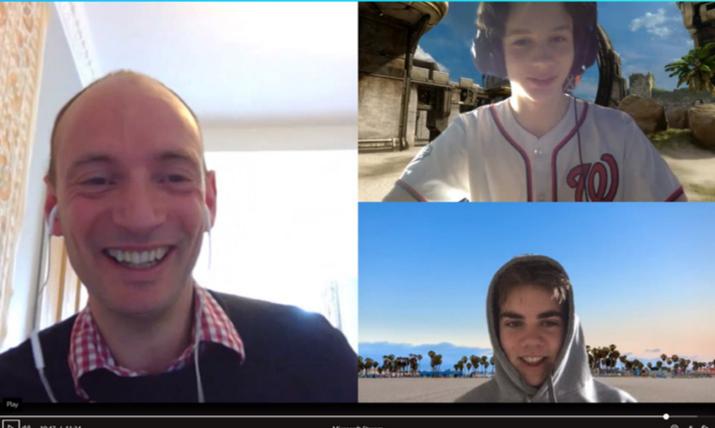
IT GIVES A LITTLE RECORD ABOUT WHERE WE ARE NOW, AND HOW WE LIVE NOW, AND WHAT WE CARE ABOUT NOW

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The classroom has been replaced by the video link, meaning that teachers and pupils have had to adjust to different routines. **Jain Hollingshead** and two of his Year 12 students, Eddie Humphries and Jake Reisser-Weston, reflect on remote teaching and learning



ost teachers, if they're honest, will admit to having had repeated anxiety dreams before they taught their first ever lesson. What if the students don't listen to a *single word* I say? What if I suddenly forget *everything* and clam up, jaw-locked and tongue-tied, unable to answer the simplest question about the Treaty of Versailles? What if I can't find my classroom, where I'm sure Year 10 is supposed to be invigilating me while I take my university finals, despite the fact I'm two hours late, wearing only my pyjamas, haven't revised and it's the middle of the night and ... *aaagh*.

The prospect of transferring to remote learning initially reignited some of these old fears. I had heard horror stories (from other schools, of course) of teachers, as well as pupils, being muted and thrown out of the virtual classroom (imagine the real-life equivalent!). Add to this the pressures of teaching from a home I share with a working wife and three children under the age of five, it was difficult not to approach lockdown learning without some trepidation.

And yet Dulwich boys have, of course, risen magnificently to the occasion. My Year 12 Politics set has still fizzed with the good-natured joshing of the socialist-leaning student editor of this magazine. At the other end of the political spectrum, Zeb Micic has continued to entertain Year 13 with his groaning bookshelves of Thatcher biographies, as well as his 'Teams lesson bingo' grid ('Can everyone see my screen?' and so on).

Meanwhile, my form has enjoyed setting its own pub quiz, as well as meeting William Rome's dog. And I was particularly tickled by the Year 11 boy who started the lesson with the Queen as his background picture – and ended it with a picture of Dr Spence perched on his shoulder. **୧୧**

A YEAR 11 BOY STARTED THE LESSON WITH THE QUEEN AS HIS BACKGROUND PICTURE – AND ENDED IT WITH A PICTURE OF DR SPENCE PERCHED ON HIS SHOULDER

We've even done some work. In fact, I've found most students more eager than ever to engage with their studies, particularly those in Years 11 and 13 who are stretching themselves beyond their usual curriculum. I've come away from many of those lessons energised – and even genuinely moved – by the students' resilience and intellectual curiosity.

That's not to say, of course, that plenty of things haven't gone wrong. Our middle child has twice 'done a Prof Robert Kelly', gatecrashing an online lesson and earning a friendly wave from the screen. I miss the physical classroom hugely, especially during Period 1 when students have been reluctant to turn on their cameras, leaving me addressing black boxes of initials. I even miss all those South Block stairs en route to the History Office.

On the other hand, the commute is great, I haven't ironed a shirt in months, my classroom has never been more fragrant, and I can unload the dishwasher and change a nappy in the five minutes between lessons.

Not the stuff of dreams, perhaps - but no nightmares either.

Iain Hollingshead

or those people who live as far out as Beckenham, Bromley and beyond, remote learning must be a relief. I know of students who wake up at 8:30, sprint downstairs to grab the caffeinated drink of their choice and make it to their laptop for 8:35 registration. There are also horror stories of boys tuning in to their class over 20 minutes late due to 'oversleeping my alarm'.

Perhaps the biggest upside for me is that you can turn off the camera. This has two advantages: the first is that you could do the school day in your pyjamas and no one would know. The second is that, due to barbershops being shut, my hair, and surely that of many others, has grown into an uncontrollable mess. I trust no one in my family to go near it with scissors, so if it is looking particularly bad, I can just put a hat on and teachers will think it's a silly fashion choice. Alternatively, I can turn the camera off and no one will see the bird's nest resting upon my head.

Of course, the lessons themselves are greatly different from the norm, but I think remote learning has in some cases enhanced them. For me there is something enjoyable about the chaos of a Politics lesson. As soon as something controversial is said, and given that putting your hand up does nothing as the teacher can only see a few students at a time, there's a tsunami, blending personal attacks with genuine points. Mainly, though, it's the same argument we had two days before, but at a higher volume. Having seen all these changes, I ask myself, will Dulwich go back to how it was?

Eddie Humphries

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THE INITIAL HILARITY OF SCHOOL AT HOME HAS WORN OFF, YET THE ABSURDITY OF THE SITUATION REMAINS

he initial hilarity of school at home has worn off, yet the absurdity of the situation remains. From waking at 8:32 so that you can just about make registration and maximise sleep, to muting certain classmates – they know who they are – school at home is certainly an experience.

There are, of course, positives and negatives. One can follow lessons in pyjamas, lunch before the ludicrously late time of 1:15 and enjoy free periods that are substantially 'freer'. However, the issue remains – what does one do with the free time? A few friends have admitted to me that they are bored of FIFA, but that hasn't stopped them from continuing to play it. A few more tell me about the nostalgic enjoyment they are finding in musical instruments, and even books.

Personally, I find the experience of school from home rather drab. I find that lessons lack the pleasure of banter with classmates; games lessons on Wednesdays come and go without the excitement of the cricket season; mornings are completed without the pleasure of a rousing assembly. However, in all seriousness, I believe the majority have been taught a lesson in what they like about the College – even if these are things we'd never have thought we would miss.

Jake Reisser-Weston



MIND OVER MATTER

Psychology has been introduced onto the College's A-level curriculum for the first time. **Chris Paton** (Year 11) delves into this multifaceted discipline

ow does memory work? No, really, how does it work? If you're anything like me, you'll no doubt have asked yourself this question - and many more - whilst gazing pensively towards the horizon. When I heard that Dulwich had added Psychology to its A-level options, I was eager to find out more about this intriguing academic subject. And so, armed with the most psychologically testing questions, I set out to interview Dr Cue, head of the department here at the College. Thirty minutes and two cups of tea later, I had a better insight into the brains of the subject and maybe even the inner workings of my own brain.

For boys in the Middle School who must painstakingly self-analyse to determine which A levels are suited to them, choosing a subject which has never been studied here before may feel somewhat daunting. During a brief discussion I had with a few Year 8 pupils, several different ideas arose as to what the subject actually involves. Although they all understood that the study of Psychology does not (unfortunately) bestow upon students the ability to read minds, I found that they still had very different opinions regarding the content of this A level. Is Psychology about studying 'people's moods' and 'behaviour patterns', as Louis Morais-Jones posited? Or might it be about 'how your brain works and how you think', as Jacob De Giorgio speculates?

Well, in its simplest form, Psychology A level is, according to Dr Cue, 'an amalgamation of sciences and arts'. The students who choose Psychology will, he says, find that it provides a nice balance between the study of scientific methodology and the extended writing more usually associated with the humanities. Due to this, Dr Cue is adamant that in choosing to study Psychology, Dulwich boys will learn how to design an effective experiment, to develop their mathematical skills and to sharpen their essay-writing capabilities. As valuable as these skills are though, I'm sure that the more enticing part of Psychology is that it is, as Dr Cue points out, 'intrinsically interesting', allowing boys to examine the power of social influence (peer pressure), investigate the concept of attachment (the emotional bond between a parent and their young), understand different conditions such as schizophrenia, and - much to my delight - discover how both long- and short-term memory work.

On paper these topics sound fascinating, but how do the boys currently studying Psychology at Dulwich feel? As Will Flowers of Year 12 explained to me, in Psychology 'you learn the facts but also the background of the subject'. This means that, although you do have to study certain psychological experiments carried out in the past, the core of the subject is more focused on developing your understanding, rather than on the age-old regurgitation of textbook information. When I asked how the boys felt about doing fewer practical experiments in Psychology than in other sciences at the College, Ed Brilliant (Year 12) certainly felt that this was a positive aspect. I'm sure many boys at the College can vividly remember the first time they dropped a beaker during one of their Chemistry experiments - the inevitability of such an event makes it an embarrassing rite of passage of sorts for students. Without these experiments, which some may see as a burden, Ed says that Psychology offers 'the interesting aspects of sciences without the extra baggage'.

So, now, as befits every adept psychologist, I must conclude my study and state my findings. In researching this subject, I discovered plenty about what it is, and even what it is not, as an A level. I believe that if students are prepared openly to discuss an array of issues present in their own and others' lives and are infinitely inquisitive, they will no doubt discover that Psychology is the subject for them. And for those of you who still may not be convinced: don't do it!

Oh, and by the way, that's what we call reverse psychology.

THE BURNING ISSUE OF OUR TIMES

Daniel Kamaluddin (Year 9) recalls a trip to Australia during the worst bush fires in living memory

t is mid-December 2019. I am walking with my family down Oxford Street, passing the glittering shops which illuminate the London dusk. We have just finished our Christmas shopping. My dad stops to look at something on his phone: it's the webcam for Sydney Harbour Bridge. I stop to look over his shoulder. All I can see is tainted smog veiling the city.

In a few days' time, we will be flying out to spend Christmas and New Year with friends and family in Sydney. We have heard the news reports about the burning forests and the toxic fumes covering the city. The week before we are due to travel has been one of the worst weeks of all. We have already had to cancel our trip to the Blue Mountains National Park, which has been surrounded by two huge fires. We know we must be prepared to leave Sydney sooner than planned.

A few days later, flying in over New South Wales, we see huge towers of orange smoke bellowing up from beneath us. Minutes later, we can smell it in the cabin. This is our first experience of the bush fires but will not be the last.

Walking out of the airport, it's surprisingly cold. We take a taxi to the house where we will be staying. As we drive, we realise we have been lucky: the prevailing wind changed direction as we were flying, and the fire has died down. Although we are tired, after settling in we head down to the beach to meet some friends. As we are jumping off the jetty, I talk to my friend about the bush fires.

'Some days you get back into your house and you can't breathe,' he tells me. 'It's been much worse than this. There have been a few nice days like today, but it always comes back.' He is right. When I wake early in the morning and go out on the balcony to watch the sun rise, I feel my throat burning. During the so-called 'Black Summer' of 2019 to 2020, Australia experienced its most dangerous bush fire season on record. Thick, toxic smoke hung over the skies of New South Wales from July to late January, resulting in untold damage to the health of its residents. 16 million acres of land were destroyed, together with 5,900 buildings, including 2,779 homes. 34 people died as a direct result of the fires. One billion animals were killed, and many vulnerable species driven to near extinction. The fires led to the emission of 306 million tonnes of CO_2 into the environment. The damage to the Australian economy was substantial, with over \$1 billion lost in tourism alone.

The fires were the result of a three-year drought which left much of the east coast parched. When lightning storms came in June and July, Australia was lit like a match box. There is significant evidence to suggest that the drought was caused by changes in the environment resulting from man-made climate change. This is a controversial topic in Australia, which has a huge coal lobby. The moderate and Labour-backed newspapers argued that the fires were caused by climate change. However, the more powerful Liberalbacked newspapers like Rupert Murdoch's The Australian and The Daily Telegraph tried to play down the significance of the fires, denying that they were caused by man-made climate change. The swift escalation of the situation can be attributed in part to Prime Minister Scott Morrison's failure to realise the true impact of the fires and to mobilise in time. His controversial decision to go on holiday to Hawaii, while the fire-fighters fought uncontrollable flames, disgusted many Australians. One good thing that may come out of this event is that climate change denial is much less widespread in Australia than it was before the bush fires.

Image: William Brooke (Year 11)



The fires eventually ended in late January with a spate of heavy rain. The news had been full of stories about the fires on Kangaroo Island, a haven for endangered animals. We had been to Kangaroo Island just two years before, and it was probably the most beautiful place I had ever been. My mum got in touch with our old guide, and he said that he had been forced to evacuate his home. The fires, he said, could spread over kilometres in one night; they could come upon you while you were sleeping, and you would never know.

We watch the Sydney fireworks on the TV, unable to forget the horrible reality as we view the pyrotechnics. The fires are now sweeping through Melbourne and the rest of Victoria. People are huddled on boats, unable to see ahead or behind them. Families are finding themselves trapped on beaches, not knowing when, or if, they will see their homes again. ९९

FAMILIES ARE FINDING THEMSELVES TRAPPED ON BEACHES, NOT KNOWING WHEN, OR IF, THEY WILL SEE THEIR HOMES AGAIN

We return to Sydney for our last few days. On a boat trip with some family members, we look across the shimmering orange water at the smothered city. I cannot imagine what it must have been like for my friends, who have been in the midst of it all for almost half a year. I cannot truly comprehend how it has affected them, either physically or emotionally. I think back to the deep blue skies I have seen here before, whilst looking up at the dirty, brown sky. It is a devastating reminder to me that climate change is not something that can be ignored. Although I have had an amazing time, I wonder: am I part of the problem?

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Image: James He (Year 10)

OPINION, INTERVIEWS & FEATURES

IN PRAISE OF AVIAN LIFE

Alexander Poli (Year 9) explains why birds are a source of wonder and delight

s Londoners, we may take avian life for granted, having become accustomed to seeing the same birds every day. But what about the members of the avian world with which we are not familiar – from birds of paradise and kingfishers to gulls and waders?

I shall start with a species of bird too often discriminated against, driven away with corn-stuffed abominations, and frequently thought of as evil or raucous. These are the ravens. Truly ravens are of another era, when old gods ruled and the heady scent of burnt magic filled the air. These birds are the reminders of those gods, set in flawless jet. They are the crème de la crème of bird society, flaunting their regal stature. A bird more befitting of the description of raucous is the magpie. The distinction between these two birds is the manner. Where ravens are regal and carry themselves with power, magpies are tricksters, thieves, clothed with flamboyance that mirrors the trinkets they covet. They are crass-mouthed but dashing members of avian society.

While both of these birds are stunning in their own right, surely the lord of the countryside is the iridescent kingfisher. Winged noblemen of the riverbank, they shine with the radiance of a thousand gemstones, and their small stature does nothing

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THE BLACKBIRD'S VIBRANCY IS BETTER HEARD THAN SEEN, FOR WHEN ITS MEAGRE BEAK OPENS, THE MELODY LET OUT IS LIQUID, LIKE THE MUSIC OF A GLASS CHIME, A RIVER'S SONG - THE MUSIC OF LIFE ITSELF

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to diminish their glory, but only complements their beauty and wondrousness. Kingfishers are immaculately conducted birds, as one may observe from their table manners – they cleanly pierce the daintiest and choicest of fishes and flick them, with one graceful motion, into their bejewelled gullets.

Not all birds can be as decorated as the kingfisher, and so we move on to the lowly pigeon. I hold these birds in the greatest respect due to their capability (as with the magpie) to adapt to any situation, unlike the beautiful kingfisher, which would perish away from its precious rivers. Both the pigeon and the magpie retain some decoration: an iridescent sheen on black feathers or grey throat. Pigeons are masters of survival, and remain indestructible, as only a man of the street can be.

While all of the birds I have spoken of so far have had some sheen on their feathers, the only colour on the blackbird's countenance is the bright yellow of its eyes and beak. The blackbird's vibrancy is better heard than seen, for when its meagre beak opens, the melody let out is liquid, like the music of a glass chime, a river's song – the music of life itself. The sunlight Prometheus stole from the gods is dull as burnished copper compared to the incandescence of this exquisite song. Without it, the world would be a tuneless wasteland.

Avian society includes a certain circle of noblemen known as the birds of prey. The eyes of these seraphs of death, usually amber, pierce the hearts of the unfortunate souls upon whom they deign to cast their glare. These deadly gentlemen take their work seriously – for them, killing is an art form. The kestrel has perfected the art of hovering perfectly still in the most tempestuous of gales, unfazed by the world around it, solely focused on its kill. Birds of prey have an almost supernatural air to them, as can be seen in the fleeting beauty of a barn owl swooping over a cornfield, ghostly in the silver moonlight.

Another clan of birds is the gulls: loud, crass and crude, they flaunt their size and voice over smaller birds, taking as they please and causing disruption everywhere they go. They are the gangs who hang out in back alleys, mugging honest folk, like the waders, of their meagre supplies, and never once contributing to society. Still, many of them have a certain magnificence in their vast size. Unlike the birds of prey, they take no pride in their killing and bullying, simply doing it to appease their appetites. They are menacing yobs, the scourge of the skies.

Last, but not least, are the waders. Simple folk, they take great pleasure and pride in their work, skimming the mud and water for food. While it is by no means a luxurious life, or an easy one, it suits them, and their lives are built around it. They wear coats of many different colours, from the speckled brown of the dunlin, which echoes the mud it thrives in, to the beautiful white and black of the avocet, striking against the grey water. While they are humble, they are not without dignity.



Seem like a familiar face?

I HOPE THAT MY GIFT OF A MICROWAVE TO ZEB - FOR HIS 'OVEN-READY' DEAL - HAS BEEN PUT TO GOOD USE

T'S TIME FOR EAL CHANCE

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OPINION, INTERVIEWS & FEATURES



The Labour party candidate in December's mock election, **Luke** Jensen-Jones (Year 12) recalls life on the campaign trail icrophone in hand, red rosette pinned to my lapel, I stepped up to the bench. Spike, my 'Spad', was standing next to me, and together we shouted, at the top of our voices, 'VOTE LABOUR!'

Welcome to the Dulwich College mock election. A week before the country went to the polls in the first December election since 1923, we at Dulwich held our own version, complete with hustings, debates and attack ads. When first asked by my Politics teacher to consider being a candidate, I don't mind admitting that I was more than a little apprehensive. After all, a South London private school didn't exactly strike me as a potential hotbed of socialist fervour. However, propelled by a mixture of light peer pressure and sense of ideological duty, I decided to get involved; after all, how bad could it be? I would find out in the following days, as the official campaigning period began.

Each of the five 'major' parties - Labour, the Conservatives, the Liberal Democrats, the Greens and the Brexit party - was represented by a candidate, who, together with a special advisor (Spad), was tasked with presenting the promises of their respective parties to the school as a whole. The Conservatives, much to my disappointment, had a head start. Arriving at school for the first day of the campaign, I was greeted by a series of posters plastered everywhere from the Laboratory to the North Cloisters, each pointedly attacking Labour. We were accused of - amongst other things - wanting to bulldoze the school, harbouring communist sympathies, and being friends with the IRA. Certainly not a normal start to the school day! Having witnessed the lengths our rivals were willing to go in order to emerge victorious, the Labour campaign quickly switched into gear. Study periods became electioneering periods, and we soon had our own batch of sensationalist - but nonetheless accurate - posters to match those of the Tories. My personal favourite juxtaposed Zeb Micic, the Conservative candidate, with Margaret Thatcher; unfortunately, being an avid Thatcherite himself, Zeb greeted the comparison more enthusiastically than we had hoped.

The Lib Dems took a different approach, leaning less towards attack ads and more towards emphasising their own platform – with the commitment to legalising marijuana central to their campaign. Cynical? Perhaps. Effective? Most definitely. The Greens, too, took a unique approach in their electioneering strategy. The two central planks in their policy platform were, firstly, a pledge to knock down JAGS and use the site to farm solar energy and, secondly, a promise to plant one quadrillion trees over the course of their five-year term. For some, that might seem a little implausible – because it is. But remember, this is politics, so the combination of shameless pandering and outlandish promises worked perfectly. In comparison, the Brexit party adopted a more traditional approach – traditional in the sense that they embraced the politics of the 18th century. Their candidate was Alex Cahill, a tweed-wearing, Union Jack-waving nationalist who truly embraced the spirit of Nigel Farage (OA) with his anti-EU rhetoric. While they lagged behind in the ongoing 'war for the airwaves' that constituted the putting up of posters, Alex's ability to whip the residents of the Lower School playground into a fervour of pro-Brexit chanting during break-time hustings meant his party was able to build a strong base of enthusiastic supporters.

The culmination of all this campaigning was the 'Great Debate', held at lunchtime in the Great Hall, with a packed audience of over 500 Dulwich students. Over the course of 45 minutes, we fought it out amongst ourselves, clashing over everything from detailed policy (How are you going to pay for one quadrillion trees?) to the use of jingoism (Just how patriotic can the Brexit party be?). Ending on an upbeat note, we were each asked to recommend a gift for our opponents, and while I won't be dipping into a Thatcher biography anytime soon, I hope that my gift of a microwave to Zeb – for his 'oven-ready' deal – has been put to good use.

After much anticipation, the morning of voting finally arrived, and while I took a degree of pride in placing an X next to my name on the ballot paper, it appears that not many others agreed with me. Labour finished last overall, with four seats, one behind the Tories and a long way off the Lib Dems, who nearly won outright with 32 out of 68 seats. The analysts at Labour HQ are still preparing the autopsy on our failure, but I suspect the cause can be narrowed down to a single factor: we were just pretty rubbish campaigners. However, if there is one silver lining to be taken from our crushing defeat, it is an interaction I had with a real voter during the campaign. Following one of our rowdy hustings with the Brexit party, a postman delivering mail to the school came up to us, shook our hands, and told us he would be voting for Labour when it mattered on 12 December. We may not have convinced the school, but we did convince a real voter, and if there is any comfort to be taken from these increasingly bleak political times, it is that there are always people ready to be persuaded, if only you take the time to talk to them.

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OPINION, INTERVIEWS & FEATURES

SPANISH CONNECTION

Recent research on Old Alleynians who fought and died in the First World War has revealed a little-known story showing how the Spanish flu pandemic led to a Classics teacher from the College helping to launch George Orwell on his civil service career, says **Calista Lucy**, Keeper of the College Archives

s College classrooms lie empty, and teaching and learning take place online, it is interesting to discover how a previous pandemic affected the lives of those in the school community. One story which colleagues and I have pieced together from documents in the Archives shows how the Spanish flu affected the lives of four people, including two members of the College Classics Department and a young man who would go on to become one of the 20th century's most celebrated authors.

The story came to light as we undertook research into the lives and deaths of OAs who fought and died in the First World War, preparing for the launch of our historical website Dulwich College. The Fallen of the Great War 1914-1918 (https://dulwichcollege1914-18.co.uk). We were on the lookout for mentions of the Spanish flu, which had spread like wildfire through the undernourished, exhausted and invalided population of Great Britain between 1918 and 1920. We felt certain it must have left its mark on the College, given that around 228,000 individuals died from it in Britain alone. We were surprised to find absolutely no mention of the pandemic in the Alleynian; equally oddly, we could find no reference to it in the minutes of the Governors' meetings. We wondered whether this might reflect an exhaustion with the subject of death, following the four and a guarter years of war which had claimed the lives of over 530 old boys, some not old at all, but still in their teens.

During further research, this time for Patrick Humphries' quatercentenary publication *Cradle of Writers*, we discovered the threads of a fascinating story featuring two

Dulwich College Classics teachers, together with that farsighted prophet of 20th-century discord, George Orwell. And in this story, the Spanish flu plays a key role.

Philip Hope, the first of the tale's characters, was born in Staffordshire on 26 August 1869. His family moved from Stoke-on-Trent to London, where Philip was educated at University College School. He went to University College, London University, from 1886 to 1888 when he won a scholarship to King's College, Cambridge. Taking a first class in the Classical Tripos in 1892, he went on to become a teacher in the Classics Department at Dulwich College in the same year. He was, at that time, unmarried.

The second character, Francis Herbert Fortescue, joined the College as a pupil in 1895. Francis, who boarded at Blew House, was academically gifted, and was on the Classical Side at Dulwich. In 1898 he won an exhibition to Brasenose College, Oxford, to which he added a scholarship, also in 1898, and the Wordsworth Prize, in 1901, before becoming the senior Hulmeian Scholar and taking a First Class in 'Greats' in 1902. He followed his father into the Civil Service, coming 62nd in the entrance exam. He was appointed the Estate Duty Officer at Somerset House. In 1909 he married Dorothy Elsie Forbes Bassett, at St George's Hanover Square. She was the eldest daughter of George Bassett, a solicitor in Southampton.

In 1910 Francis resigned his post in the Civil Service to become an assistant master at Worcester Cathedral School. After a couple of years he and Dorothy moved to the Suffolk coastal town of Southwold, where he became a private tutor.

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SPANISH FLU GAINED ITS NAME BECAUSE NEUTRAL SPAIN WAS NOT SUBJECTED TO THE SAME NEWS BLACKOUT AS THE OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. IT WAS THEREFORE FROM THE IBERIAN PENINSULA THAT REPORTS OF A SHOCKINGLY LARGE DEATH TOLL STARTED TO EMERGE

In 1916, possibly because of the toll the war was taking on the staff, he returned, with Dorothy, to his alma mater, where he became an assistant master in the Classics Department.

At this point, the pandemic enters the narrative. Starting in the spring of 1918, the so-called Spanish flu gained its name because neutral Spain was not subjected to the same news blackout as the other European countries. It was therefore from the Iberian Peninsula that reports of a shockingly large death toll started to emerge. A second, even more deadly outbreak of the influenza followed in the autumn. A characteristic of the Spanish flu was that it appeared to infect healthy young people, and one such victim was assistant master and teacher of Classics, Francis Fortescue. He died on 2 November 1918, just before the Armistice, at the age of 39.

Dorothy was now a widow, but she did not stay single for very long. The documents in the Archives reveal that she and Classics master Philip Hope were married on 21 January 1919, less than three months after Francis' death, and before probate was declared on Francis' estate, which duly happened on 8 February 1919, leaving Dorothy nearly £1,000. It is possible that the unusual speed with which Philip and Dorothy married proved too much for the sensibilities of the College. In July 1919 they left Dulwich and moved to Southwold. Dorothy may have encouraged Philip to start the private tutoring business in their home, Craighurst, picking up connections forged by Francis during the four years he had coached in the town.

Into the story now steps George Orwell. In December 1921, Eric Blair, who would later take the pen name by which he is universally known, left Eton College and returned home to his family, then living in Southwold. Eric's father had retired from the Indian Civil Service, and Southwold had





attracted them, as a few other Anglo-Indian families had settled there. The other attraction may well have been Philip Hope's crammer. It had been decided that Eric should join the Indian Imperial Police. To pass the examination he would need to brush up on his Latin, English, History, Mathematics and freehand drawing, and would have to learn to ride. At Dulwich College during the war, Philip Hope had been a Second Lieutenant in the Officer Training Corps, which would have equipped him with additional skills he could pass on to a would-be Indian policeman. The exams lasted a week, and Eric received his highest mark in Latin: 1,782 out of a possible 2,000. He did less well in the riding exam, coming 21st out of 23 candidates. Overall, he acquitted himself well, coming seventh out of the 26 candidates who exceeded the rather low pass mark of 6,000 out of 12,400. He chose Burma for his posting, and would later draw on his experiences there when writing his novel Burmese Days (1934).

Philip and Dorothy Hope retired, in time, to Surrey, where Philip died in October 1943. Dorothy then returned to Suffolk, where she died in June 1949.

It is thought that Philip Hope, who was also the College Librarian, had significant influence on both PG Wodehouse and Raymond Chandler. This makes it likely that one Classics teacher from the College mentored three of the 20th century's literary giants.



LIFE IN A MADRASA

Mikyle Ossman (Year 12) explains what he learned from spending time at a Sri Lankan madrasa

n the west, there seems to be a general lack of knowledge and understanding of Islam and its teachings. When I went to Sri Lanka last summer, an opportunity arose to visit a madrasa – a school devoted to higher education in Islamic studies. I was surprised to learn that there were many madrasas dotted throughout the small island, where the main religion is Buddhism, and Muslims make up only 9% of the population.

The particular madrasa that I was planning to visit, the Al Bahajathul Ibraheemiyyah Arabic (BIA) College, was established at Fort Galle by my great-greatgrandmother in 1892. It is one of the oldest and most renowned Islamic institutions in Sri Lanka and, over 127 years, has produced many scholars who have successfully served their country and Islam as Arabic orators, principals of Arabic colleges and imams.

Even though I was looking forward to my visit, I was also full of trepidation. This was fuelled by the bombings in Sri Lanka earlier in the year, in which over 250 Christians were killed by a terror group linked to ISIS. This had resulted in the arrest of 350 Muslim youths. However, I felt I needed first-hand evidence to demonstrate to my 16-year-old self what a madrasa stood for. Were they hubs for Islamic learning or for preaching extremist ideology against the West and my community at home?

The principal greeted me warmly at BIA College and although his English was limited, he made me feel welcome. He introduced me to Hashad, who was in his last year at the college; luckily for me, he spoke a little English, which I used alongside my limited Sinhala to communicate with him and the rest of the 30 or so boys. Staying with the boys in their dormitory gave me a clear understanding of what went on day-to-day at the college, and of the real purpose of each boy's attendance there.

The whole day is set around the second pillar of Islam, the five daily prayers that every Muslim needs to perform. Every day begins extremely early, at 4:00 am. The waking up process is almost military in fashion: the lights come on, the fans are turned off and then the bell rings. Thereafter the morning prayers are conducted in a group, led by one of the boys. Then the boys rhythmically recite verses from the Quran for an hour. The rest of the day is taken up with further prayers, lessons, rest times and meals. This routine might seem rigid and strict, but this is far from the truth. There is a variety of subjects branching out of the realm of Islam, including critical thinking and debating, and the boys study Arabic and Sinhala, their mother tongue, as well as philosophy, logic and astronomy.

The boys themselves appeared at first to be ordinary kids hanging out together, but I came to understand that they were there for a higher purpose. In the UK we educate ourselves to make a living, whereas these boys are seeking greater spirituality and to help the wider community. Most of them planned to be imams and teachers. However, could they be brainwashed when they go to their wider communities? What type of Islam will they take with them: the authentic ways of the Prophet (peace be upon him) or a neo-fundamentalist Islam? It is one thing to preach your religion, but tougher to practise it correctly.

It was initially difficult to integrate and to win the boys' trust and friendship. As an outsider in a tightly knit community, my presence turned heads, but curious looks were always accompanied by a smile. Most of the boys come from modest **११**

THE BOYS STUDY ARABIC AND SINHALA, THEIR MOTHER TONGUE, AS WELL AS PHILOSOPHY, LOGIC AND ASTRONOMY

or very poor backgrounds. All of them were very softly spoken and simple acts of kindness, like bringing me tea and biscuits, were repeated, making me feel embarrassed. The boys tried to follow the Quran as a way of life wherever possible, and I found their kindness humbling, especially given their youth.

The older boys were also very accepting when they were not allowed to play cricket on the Galle promenade or venture into town, as the headmaster was concerned that they may be arrested under Emergency Laws. I thought they would have been frustrated and angry against the state and the Buddhist community, with a handful of extremists having burnt down Muslim shops and businesses. However, they vehemently informed me the Islamic terrorists were wholeheartedly to blame for their predicament and that they had an implicit duty to teach the correct moderate Islam to the Muslim Sri Lankan community and change the views of the radicals.

Zamrin, a 16-year-old, particularly impressed me. He told me that his goal was to unite all the religions and races of Sri Lanka to live in harmony. I felt he genuinely believed this, as he had no reason to appear pious to me. His attitude was unexpected and took me by surprise, especially with the current Islamophobic climate in Sri Lanka after the Easter bombings. Others did not have such a clear vision for their life. Hashad was less sure of the steps he is going to take but, knowing four languages, he thinks he can work in Qatar. A few of the boys wanted to return to teach in the college after experiencing life as an imam. The boys believe their madrasa is the 'very best college in Sri Lanka'.

My time at the madrasa countered the stereotypical image portrayed by the media and the negative perception of many people. The boys were properly educated and kind and made me want to be a better person. However, I have not been to every madrasa so I cannot comment on the state of all madrasas in Sri Lanka or the wider world. But if they are even shadows of BIA College, they are a force for good.

I have great admiration for my great-great-grandmother, who had the vision to set up such a wonderful institution, and for all of her family, who are still ensuring that it runs smoothly. God willing, their good work will continue.

BRAVE NEW WORLD

The Coronavirus pandemic has propelled us into a new era of politics, argues **Luke Jensen-Jones** (Year 12)

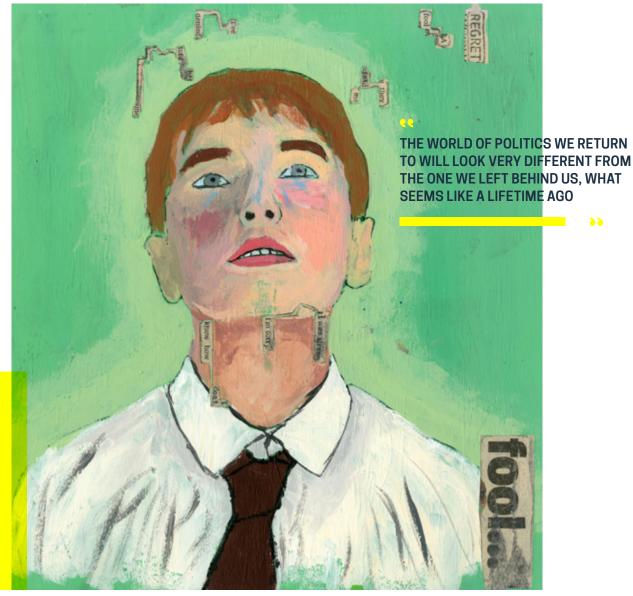
vents, my dear boy, events.' That famous line, allegedly quipped by Harold Macmillan when he was asked what was most likely to blow a government off course, now seems more appropriate than ever before. Coronavirus is perhaps the single biggest political 'event' of the modern era, overshadowing even the 2008 financial crisis in the scope and scale of its impact. As the last few heart-wrenching weeks (I write this in early April) have made clear, failure to meet this crisis with anything other than the full seriousness and attention it deserves will result in untold pain and suffering across the country. It is evident that the primary impact of the virus on our health, and its secondary effects on the economy, deserve our foremost attention. However, the political implications of the virus are also worth considering because - if there is one certainty in this sea of uncertainties the world of politics we return to will look very different from the one we left behind us, what seems like a lifetime ago.

The most obvious way in which our politics will change will be with regards to the legislative priorities of the government. If Boris Johnson had hoped that his overwhelming victory and substantial majority in Parliament would make the first five years of his prime ministerial tenure relatively plain sailing, then this crisis has served as a sobering reality check. Whilst an 80-seat majority in the Commons might be a great advantage when arguing over HS2 or chlorinated chicken, it is not particularly useful when it comes to dealing with a crisis on the scale of Coronavirus. Rebuilding weakened areas of the economy such as the hospitality sector and the airlines industry will take substantial amounts of time and resources, while in the immediate term, the provision of emergency relief to individuals who have become unemployed or are unable to pay rent will be as much of a logistical challenge as an economic one.

Coronavirus will challenge Britain's political leaders as much as anyone. The usual Boris shtick - acting like a harmless buffoon while occasionally mumbling something in Latin - will be of no more use than Jeremy Corbyn's preferred strategy of hiding in the corner and hoping it all goes away. Those people who face potentially irreversible damage to their livelihoods, whether that be because their business has been forced to shut or because they have been made redundant, seek clarity from public figures. They want not just reassurance but also clear explanations as to how they will be affected and what is being done to help them. You need only to look across the Atlantic to see the potential consequences of failing in this regard. Donald Trump, in a televised address, falsely stated that the US travel ban on European nations would apply to cargo shipments as well, causing a mass panic before a hasty correction was issued. Britain's government needs to learn from Trump's mistakes, and indeed their own. The revolving door of messengers tasked with providing updates on Coronavirus, from the PM himself to other cabinet ministers, to a series of top civil service and medical officials, has resulted in a lack of coherence, meaning even the useful economic provisions made by the government have not been fully taken advantage of, and remain cast in uncertainty. Calmness and clarity are not words even Boris's foremost supporters would readily associate with his government, but that will have to change if he is to succeed in steering the nation through such turbulent times.

Ideologically, too, politics are changing as a result of this epidemic. Socialist principles are increasingly being adopted, as countries reckon with the fallout of Coronavirus, and plan to deal with its consequences. In the US, politicians like Bernie Sanders, who have repeatedly called for an end to the privatised, insurance-based healthcare system and its replacement with an NHS-style alternative, have

Image: Siwoo Ryu (Year 10)



been vindicated, as the need for universal access to testing and treatment becomes ever clearer. In Britain, the decision to expand statutory sick pay to encourage those with symptoms to stay at home demonstrated that forcing unwell employees to put their own health – and the health of others – at risk in order to avoid losing their only source of income is less than ideal, and clearly unethical.

Perhaps most enlightening of all, the incredible economic relief packages adopted across the world to deal with this crisis have faced little opposition over cost, and the famous refrain of 'how are you going to pay for it?' has rarely been invoked. For all the talk of austerity, of 'living within our means', over the last decade, the prospect of human and economic catastrophe has made clear that money is no object, if we are serious about solving problems. We can only hope that this same stance is taken in the future, whether in relation to climate change, the expansion of the welfare state, or even future support for the NHS.

If Coronavirus has had one impact on our politics, it is to underline the importance of the state. From efforts to ramp up testing, to economic relief, to the implementation of quarantine programmes, government has been at the heart of ensuring a robust response to this public health disaster. Ronald Reagan once said that sometimes it is the government itself that can be the problem. If we learn one thing, let it be this: when it comes to times of crisis, government must be at the forefront of the solution.

DON'T RUSH TO THINK OF YOUR ROLE AS INCONSEQUENTIAL, JUST BECAUSE IT'S SMALL

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SMALL HANDS AND VOICES

Our daily discourse and everyday interactions may seem insignificant in the context of these turbulent times, says **Arjaan Miah** (Year 11), but their impact is greater than we realise

et's talk about individuals. Under the weight of unique challenges, wherever they lie, many feel powerless; the impact we, as individual people, can have on the many terrifying crises of the day is minuscule. But don't rush to think of your role as inconsequential, just because it's small.

We must all marshal our efforts to curate the messages and footprints we leave behind us, especially now. It saddens my heart to hear the stories from my East Asian friends, who have, in recent times, been subject to harassment in the name of public health. Here in London and across the world, people are being told to 'take their China virus home', are seeing their businesses close down, and, in the worst cases, are being attacked. These acts of xenophobia are made easier each time we make a 'Chinese' joke, every time we normalise or sympathise with this irrational and dangerous plague of racism. Equally, many in the Italian community, myself included, have faced harassment for speaking in Italian. I didn't think I lived in a country where so many people would stay silent as a passenger of the P13 spewed vitriol at me while I was on the phone to my grandfather in Italy. It is paramount that we recognise the role that we each play in this complex societal issue - whether it's staying silent, making light of

harassment, or watching TikTok videos of amateur comedians making jokes at the expense of the Chinese community.

There is hope, however. If we direct our efforts towards unity – supporting other people – the rewards are huge. Take the #ClapForOurCarers campaign. When each member of a whole community, or country, took a few minutes out of their day to show their appreciation for the staff of the NHS, we had a massive impact, controversies regarding its media coverage aside. Equally, let me be clear in saying that you don't need to have anyone else alongside you to make an impact: each individual who shops for an elderly neighbour, facing peril in the free-for-all of the Tesco Express, has used their hands to help another person and, in doing so, has put food on another person's plate and a smile on another person's face.

Be the small voice that speaks in the defence of an Asian person on public transport; be the person to offer a small gesture of help to your neighbours; be the person to videocall your friends first. This is a time for unity. A time to offer anything – everything – we can to the next person. If we let ourselves be divided, we will surely fall. But if we all work together, we can heal nations. th Hachim • Abigail Haffey • Carsyn Hagans • A afy • Ishraq Haque Ryan Hardin • Joshua H. r • Jaxon Henderson • Joseph Henning • Zachary Hohl • Mason Holst • Kindle Hon • San rrison Huang • Taylor Hubbard • Erin Hucke • • Vojtech Hybl • Haneul Hyun • Wiratathya • Saif Jabari • Miranda Jaderling • Vaitheesh • Adrien Jathe • Roberts Jaunarajs-Janva ng Jing • Eunjae Jo • Isha Jobanputra • Chl ey Jostes • Parker Jou • David Joy • Sara Juarez Ortes Kanyawee Kamkongkaew • Shreya Kamra • Alvin I n • Gurleen Kaur • Mary Kavuu • Daniil Kazantsev • Jittapon Khajonpirom • Amna Khan • Zakwa o Kim • Yurim Kim • Chaerin Kim • Yoonji Kim • • Prashamsa Koirala • Kavya Koneru • Quinc • Aleksei Krivovichev • Muriel Krohn • 0 der Kwon • Shaziyah Laher • Lucy Lake • Naail a Isabel Layson • Piotr Lazarek • Savio Le • Hoa on Lee • Ji Ho Lee • De Nis Lee 🜈 Jiachen L Jason Li • Lauren Li • Bric roa • Dev Lochan • Raje Christop • Sophie Lu • Paean Lu Stuti Lol Sarah Mahan 🔹 Jack Mai nen • Andrei Mandelshtam • udgate nez • Gines Marin-Martinez

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THE SKY'S THE LIMIT

Piotr Lazarek (Year 12) was recently named runner-up in the Senior Engineering Category of the prestigious Big Bang Competition, as well as winning the Young Scientific Instrument Maker Award for his innovative battery management system for autonomous solar-powered aeroplanes. But the journey towards success was not always an easy one, as he explains

year ago, when I learned that I had gained a place to study at Dulwich College, I was both excited and terrified in equal measure. I feared that the challenges of the language barrier and immersion in a completely new environment might be overwhelming. However, I settled in well, and a few months ago, I decided to throw myself in at the deep end and enter the largest science competition in the UK.

The story of how I ended up designing my solar-powered battery management system goes back at least three years. During this time, I had been developing scientific projects in the area of environmental engineering. Then, early this year, I was lucky enough to meet the renowned scientist and adventurer Bertrand Piccard, who designed a solar-powered aeroplane and flew it around the world with no fuel, using only renewable energy sources. His story inspired me: I decided that I would try to create my own autonomous solar-powered aeroplane. Initially, I thought that it couldn't be that hard. Unsurprisingly, I discovered that I was wrong: after a while, I found that I was stuck, because I couldn't find any devices on the market which could deal efficiently with solar power management.

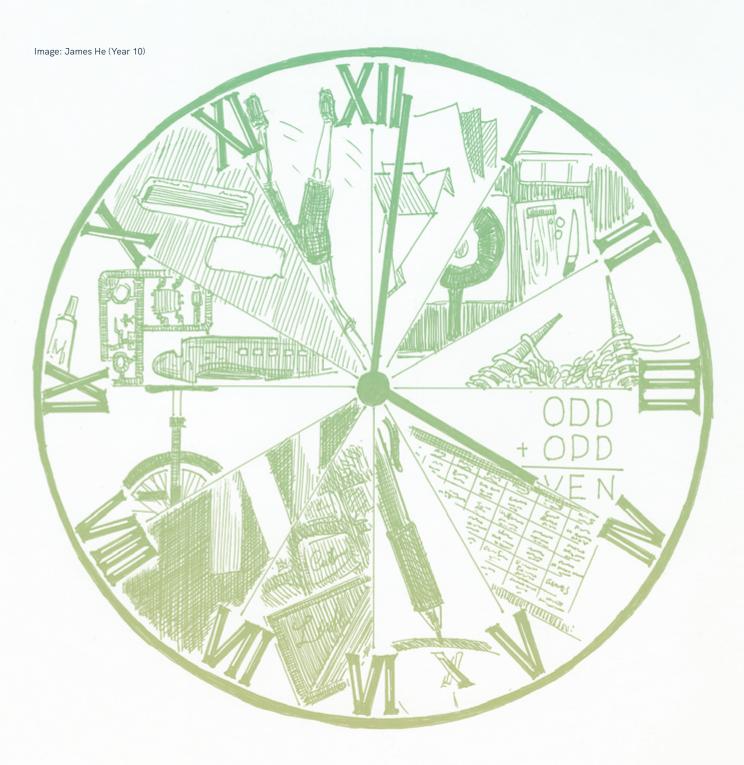
Without such a device, I knew I would be unable to develop my project further. Soon, though, I realised that I wasn't alone. Researching the matter, I discovered that many other students have tried to develop such projects, but, facing the same problems that I had faced, they had been forced to give up on developing their own solar-powered aeroplanes. This information was a game-changer for me: I had a feeling that I had found a niche! I decided to reverse the situation and use my biggest problem to my advantage. I started work on a Battery Management System for Solar Powered UAVs – a device which could significantly simplify the prototyping process for solar-powered aeroplanes. My device is extremely small and lightweight: it is about 5cm long by 3cm wide and roughly the same weight as three and a half sheets of A4 paper. It has been designed to withstand charging power of up to about 150 Watts, with its efficiency reaching above 95 per cent. I estimate that it would cost between \pm 50 and \pm 70 per device to mass-produce.

I was delighted when the project won the Young Scientific Instrument Maker Award, thanks to which, if not for the pandemic, I would have had the honour of representing Great Britain at the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair.

I have had so much support from so many people at the College, but would like to thank Dr McIlwaine and Mr Pelly in particular, for making this possible for me. Despite my initial fears, they made me feel at home. If it hadn't been for them, I definitely wouldn't have had the courage to take part in this competition.

Right now, I am working on the business plan for my device. Before the lockdown, I travelled to China in order to meet Philip Rowse, the CTO of the company producing the best-known commercial autopilots in the world. He was very engaged with my idea and has offered to work with me on making it a reality.

In the future, I plan to set up a company and embark on the collaboration with Philip Rowse. There is still a long way to go, and I am aware of that. This is why I am now working with a brilliant programmer and a bright law student. We hope that by the end of the summer we will have a next-generation prototype, and a company set up and ready to go!



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I HAVE BEEN LOOKING THROUGH ALL THE OVERAMBITIOUS BIRTHDAY AND CHRISTMAS PRESENTS OF RECENT YEARS, AND TRYING TO WORK OUT HOW TO USE THEM

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OPINION, INTERVIEWS & FEATURES

LOCKDOWN LIFESTYLE

Home has become the arena for a plethora of pastimes, old and new. **Abel Banfield** (Year 10) and **Leo Sterz** (Year 11) discuss their own adventures in self-distraction

s I see it, there are several different approaches to escaping Covid 19-inflicted boredom. The first is the more methodical, involving the careful planning and preparation of a timetable in order to stay sane, and more importantly, get some work done. Though this approach is terrifyingly tedious, it gives you far more hope of avoiding losing your mind within a month. The second has more freedom and romance about it: it involves doing whatever takes your fancy at that particular time, whether that's perfecting your somersault technique, attempting to consume record-breaking amounts of chocolate, or simply bingewatching yourself into a vegetative state, only to emerge when the panic has subsided and you are forced to trudge back into work mode with a head full of regret and dull, Netflixsaturated fuzz. Though allowing yourself to become pickled in TV series is not the safest thing to do, it is most likely that the overwhelming majority of us will choose the second route, which we will call experimental overconsumption, for it does have a mild whiff of scientific method to it.

Whatever you or your family have attempted throughout the beginning of this period I offer you my greatest encouragement in your quest. Whether your aim is still to be sane by the time we are let out of our homes, to have read *Don Quixote*, or to have formed a protective layer of sugar around your tooth enamel, I give you my full, unwavering support.

Abel Banfield

have been looking through all the overambitious birthday and Christmas presents of recent years, and trying to work out how to use them. Take my unicycle, which was given to me four years ago. I dug this yellow contraption out of the loft, took to it with a bicycle pump, and proceeded into the garden. Four years ago, I realise, I couldn't even ride my bicycle with no hands. Although able to do that easily now, I wasn't convinced I could get up onto the saddle of the unicycle. I was wrong, and after only 20 minutes of practising, I could go 10 metres along my lawn. Then, to my disappointment, I found that one of the pedals had come loose and snapped off, putting me out of action for a day, before we could find a new one in my dad's stash.

I've also had a hobby which has consumed my interest since long before the lockdown. In my view, hobbies have been swallowed up, and completely and utterly removed from the lives of most young people, and have been replaced by hours of mindless computer games which provide transient pleasure. My hobby is model-building, also known as Airfix (which is in fact just a brand: Italeri is far superior), from the UH-1, to the F-4J Phantom, to 50 GI's in their US Army gear, or a more docile Chinook. I urge you to pick up the paintbrush and the exacto knife, the spray paints and miniature landscapes. Although you may think it is pointless, I would argue it is far more fulfilling and rewarding than computer games, and you end up having made something beautiful.



Image: Timur Safardiar (Year 11)

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WE ARE IN BODY AS WE ARE IN MIND: FRAGILE, YET REMARKABLY BEAUTIFUL

OPINION, INTERVIEWS & FEATURES

CARING FOR THE BALANCE

In this excerpt from his 'Life in Lockdown' online talks, the **Reverend Tim Buckler** reflects on the challenge of looking after ourselves, and others, in times of uncertainty

watched as my two-year-old son watered a small patch of grass; he was in the garden, with a hose, and he just stood and watched. It fascinated me to observe his intrigued observation and his focus, but it also made me think: whilst it's good to water, knowing when to stop – well, that's vital.

It's often said that we should seek balance in all things. We see the beauty of this finely tuned balance all around us: we see it in created beauty, like music or art; we see it in the natural beauty of landscapes or astronomical bodies; we see it in the elegance of abstract ideas, such as the laws of mathematics or physics. They are all held in perfect, fragile, essential balance.

We too are fragile, and we function most perfectly when the delicate balance is found. We won't always live at the perfect point of balance, but we try hard to be on that journey because balance is so desperately important.

We live in very uncertain times; we don't know what tomorrow will bring. It's unsettling. As we spend time away from our community, away from that with which we are familiar and comfortable, there are many variables that we can't control. But what we can do is try our hardest to look after ourselves; to look after our own delicate balance and care for others, as they too seek this balance. For we are in body as we are in mind: fragile, yet remarkably beautiful. And that beauty finds its clearest expression as we care for the balance.

OPINION, INTERVIEWS & FEATURES

COMBING THE LANDSCAPE

This year's Lower School House Journalism competition challenged boys to write a journalistic piece inspired by a photograph.

Henry Ognev (Year 8) was this year's winner, with this piece, which took as its inspiration the photograph below

THE PRESIDENTIAL COMB

n Thursday evening, 26 January, a family of locals went hiking in northern Nevada. To their surprise they found a gigantic comb, which was later measured to be over half a kilometre. Some calculations suggest the weight of The Comb is equal to 198 elephants. Pressure has been mounting on the government, as environmental campaigners and frustrated local groups have begun to protest outside the White House over The Comb's presence.

ADC reporter Pinatus Factoral interviewed protesters who are fighting against the construction. One protester, Abby Hardfish, had this to say: 'This is not right. It may be viewed by some as "art", but I see it as a stain on the clean surface of nature in the area. I think this can also be dangerous to animals, stopping certain animals from getting to safety. It's a disturbance to nature.' Protestors are demanding that The Comb be taken down and for all nearby uninhabited land to be claimed as a nature reserve. Future building permits will be denied, and anyone who builds will be charged up to \$100,000.

President Donald Trump has declared the 'TrumpComb' a secret project designed to inspire youths to become artists. Mr President has a secret passion for all forms of modern art and conceptual sculpture. 'Art is like a friend to me ... I met Art when I was seven ... he's a great guy. I want to inspire every single one of our young Americans to meet Art too.' Republican Jerric Canfield translates the President's speech: 'The world is a canvas, and we are the brushes, and the paint is the art in our world, on our canvas. No further questions.' Donald Trump has publicly stated that he will not give in to the protestors' demands and called them, 'fake news ... bad critics trying to get attention'.

Donald Trump's most recent speech was very controversial and has led to some doubts in Congress about his treatment



of the protesters. The President says that he will not apologise for his actions, going on to say: 'My hair is some of the best hair in the world. Combs are vital. Combs can get you jobs, partners, and anything you need in life.'

Art critics across the USA are mostly against this sculpture. Many critics have claimed this is a waste of resources, and people have even said that instead of spending \$2.5 million on The Comb, the President could have used it to build another hospital, which would benefit many people. Some protesters have been heard chanting 'Homes not Combs' and 'Hee, hi, ho, The Comb must go'.

As the protests rage on, a White House spokesman has declared that further expansion of The Comb is 'very probable'. Tourists have been flocking to see The Comb, which is going viral across social media. The furore is not going to abate any time soon.

LOOKING FOR THE SILVER LINING

Reflecting, in mid-April, on the impact of the Coronavirus, **Daniel Kamaluddin** (Year 9) finds reasons for cautious optimism about what might lie ahead

R ecently, the spread of Covid-19 has taken away many things which we previously took for granted. No longer able to see our friends, we are restricted in what we can buy, and limited in our ability to leave our homes. There is almost nobody who doesn't wish this was over, and the idea that we can return to exactly what we had before seems unlikely. However, in talking to members of the *Alleynian* team, I have learned that many people believe that positive change can come from this crisis.

Some hopes involve nature. Many hope that when this is all over, we can focus on solving the climate crisis – the biggest issue of our times – with the same determination, conviction and sacrifice with which we are currently dealing with the Coronavirus pandemic. It is equally possible, however, that the economic effects of the current situation will make us less able, or willing, to stop the degradation of the climate. We may not, for example, be able to make the transition to clean energy as quickly as hoped.

Many also hope that, as our fossil fuel-based economy has been functioning well below its full capacity, the drop in pollution will have a positive effect on our climate. However, it is possible that some countries may start pumping out fossil fuels faster than ever in order to make up for substantial economic losses. Another positive outcome is that many of us are feeling more connected to nature than before. Previously, many people's only outdoor time was spent getting to and from school or work, and many travelled by car, bus or train anyway, further removing them from the outdoors. The majority of daytime hours are usually spent working indoors, in an office or at school. Currently, though, people are spending a good amount of time each day in parks or green spaces, doing their daily exercise. Many homeworkers who are lucky enough to have a garden are sitting outdoors to work.

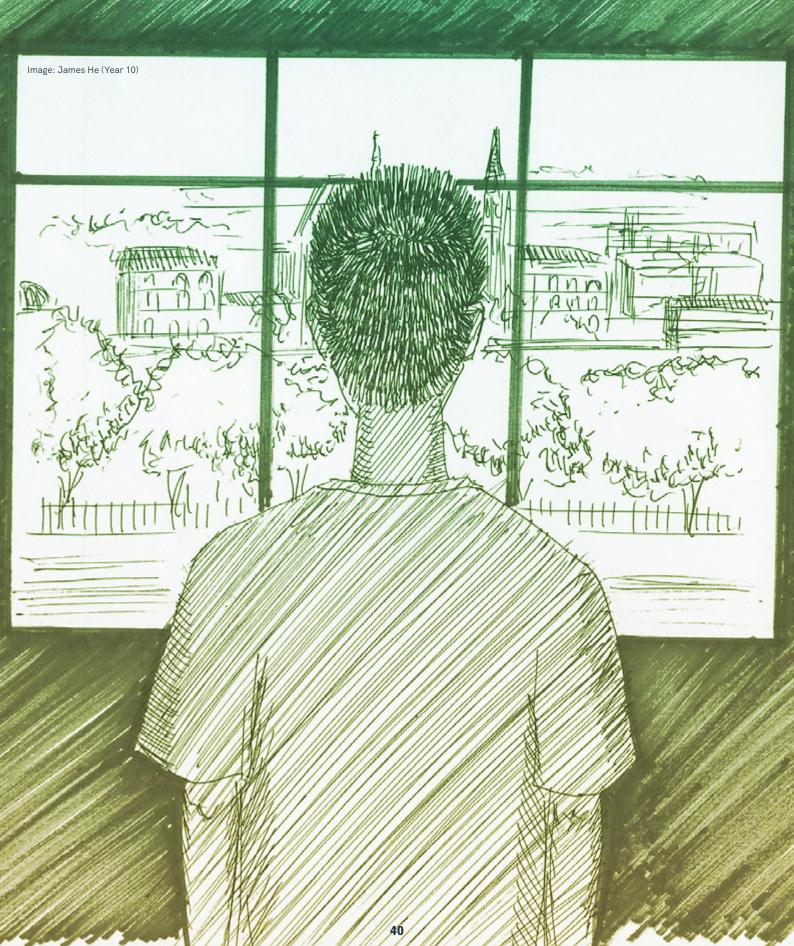
The crisis has also enhanced our ability to enjoy nature, as the skies and roads have become quiet, allowing us to hear the sounds of the natural world. On top of this, animals which might previously have been hard to spot have been coming out in greater numbers due to the quieter environment. In the previously packed urban centre of Rome, grass has begun to grow once again from beneath the cobblestone pavement: nature is taking over. Being close to nature is very important for human happiness, and before the crisis many people were not getting enough time outside. It is to be hoped that the crisis will go some way to changing that. However, of course, there will also be many people, particularly those living in deprived areas or in the inner city, who will have limited access to these things.

Other hopes for what might lie ahead involve community. Throughout this crisis we have seen communities pull together to help the most vulnerable in their society. More than 500,000 people have signed up as volunteers to help the NHS, for example. It is selfless acts of kindness such as these that are so valuable. Although we are living apart, in many ways it feels as if our sense of community is stronger than ever. This challenges the increasingly widespread sense of isolation and loneliness which has been reported in recent years. We were in danger of becoming lost in our own bubbles, unwilling to look outward. But now more than ever, I feel, there is a shared recognition that we are all human, and all vulnerable. We are united in facing a common enemy which threatens each one of us. We are, truly, all in this together.





THE ALLEYNIAN 708 | OUT OF THE ORDINARY



ur world has become increasingly split into two types of people: those who have Animal Crossing on Nintendo Switch, and those who wish they did.

To clarify for those who aren't quite so down with what's hip and happening, Animal Crossing is a game with endless possibilities: it allows you to talk to people without reflexively flinching when they cough; to go for a walk without having to remember why you never go for walks; and even to hit the shops without encountering hordes of panicked denizens of Mumsnet, who've all recently graduated with a degree in Coronavirus from their WhatsApp group chats. Yes, the future really is now, and boy does it have some cute graphics.

So, while you're all learning a language, or realising the rest of your family are twisted sociopaths who exhibit little regard for what you're fairly certain used to be *your* private space, I'll be living *la dolce vita* all by myself. All I need to worry about now is how dry my skin is after the biblical deluge of hand sanitiser it's been drowned in over the past few weeks.

Oh, and the crushing dread of my seventh lie-in this week.

I think Seneca must have been onto something when he said that everything that exceeds the bounds of moderation has an unstable foundation (and if that quote doesn't get me my A* in whatever semblance of assessment is being concocted to replace the exams that have suddenly become so dear to me, I don't know what will). My unstable foundation is, without a doubt, my somewhat lopsided sleep cycle.

I must confess, I don't quite know what went wrong or when it happened. All I know is that I woke up at 11:15 this morning and lay there like a beached whale until about 12:00. Without early-morning trains to catch and looming deadlines to meet, I am haunted by the phantom of productivity. I weep, I mourn, I weep some more, but alas, there is nothing that can be done: no matter how many alarms I set, my body has other ideas about when we wake up.

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WITHOUT EARLY-MORNING TRAINS TO CATCH AND LOOMING DEADLINES TO MEET, I AM HAUNTED BY THE PHANTOM OF PRODUCTIVITY

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OPINION, INTERVIEWS & FEATURES

HOME ALONE

Isolation within individual households has brought its own unique challenges. **Jack Probert** (Year 13) takes a lighthearted look at the existential implications of social distancing

But, and not to get too off-brand here for a moment, let's take this as a positive. Yes, we are trapped. Yes, despite our best efforts to surround ourselves with things to do and people to talk to, we are more alone now than ever before. But we cannot let that defeat us. We cannot let that turn us into couch potatoes who cower from the aspects of ourselves we are now forced to see more clearly as the dust kicked up by decades of unrelenting places-to-be and people-to-see dissipates. We cannot let unknown and unprecedented times carve us up into two types of people: into those who shove and jostle and those who wait patiently in line. To fight back against isolation, we must use this time to face ourselves.

Now, I am only writing this in March, having been in lockdown for just a week and a half. How do I know that we are going to make it through this difficult time unscathed? I don't. At the risk of sounding like a slightly kooky self-isolating Socrates, all I know at the moment are my personal flaws and shortcomings. I cannot tell you how many weeks or months we're going to be stuck like this, but I can tell you how many Jaffa cakes I ate yesterday, even if I think we both appreciate my right to privacy there. But let's not allow this unfamiliar and unprecedented situation to paralyse us: now is the time to fight our boredom, fight our laziness, and try to become better, kinder people.

CREATIVE WRITING

Adventures in space

Josephine Akrill

ne of the luxuries afforded by this digital *Alleynian* is that of space. In this edition, we have not had to agonise about how many double-page spreads could be allocated to each section without blowing the budget.

The space of the white page is something feared by many writers. At a good writing group, the gentle or humorous nudge of a writing prompt can propel a writer beyond that fear. Equally, the desire to share with other supportive writers can help individuals conquer anxieties about how their work might be received.

WordSmiths, Chameleon Creative Writers and Upper Case are our writing groups for Lower, Middle and Upper School students. The groups give boys the opportunity to share their love of the written word and, to quote Daniel Kamaluddin (Year 9), they provide 'something calming to look forward to at the end of a busy week'.

WordSmiths, the longest-running of the three groups, began in 2014. One of its very first members, Jack Probert, now in Year 13, was named Goldsmiths Young Writer of the Year in November 2019, for the short story which opens this section. In July 2019, Arjaan Miah (Year 11) was highly commended by the 2019 Orwell Youth Prize judging panel for his reflective piece entitled 'Apologies'. Writing goes on all over the school. There are so many opportunities and outlets, from the New Views project, in which pupils learn to write original drama scripts, and occasional departmental publications, to assembly, society and chapel talks. The writing going on in classrooms, and (especially at the moment) in homes, is an outpouring of ideas, arguments and stories which are crafted, shared, honed and enjoyed throughout our community.

We do hope that you enjoy this extended creative writing section, as well as the extraordinary images which accompany them, provided by the Art Department. Any student who feels inspired to try out one of the writing societies next academic year will receive a warm welcome, as well as plentiful tea and biscuits. There is never any compulsion to share your work. Just come and put pen to paper, then see what happens!

Jack won the Goldsmiths award for the short story printed below. The judging panel felt that his story 'stood out for its ambition and accomplishment. Multiple layers and voices mix fairytale and realism together to create a narrative of power, skill and feeling, all within the very challenging limit of 1000 words.' The elements that had to be included were the title, 'This is the Night', one line of dialogue, 'Can we stop for a minute?', and one object, a ladder. Jack's title, 'This is the Night – by Mo Ayari, 7C', gives a clue to its multi-layered approach.



Image: Elie Esber (Year 11)

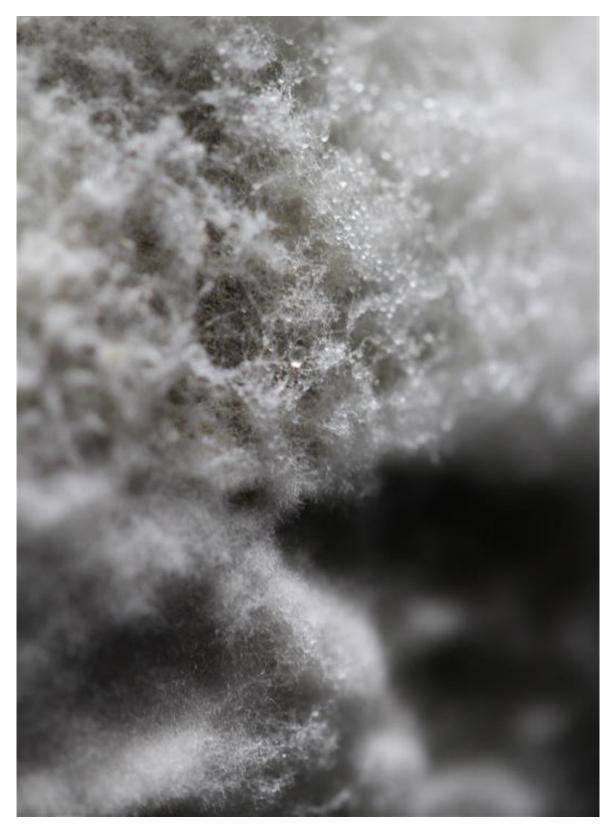


Image: Flynn Laban (Year 11)



Mo Ayari Year 7

nce upon a time there was a merman and all he wanted to do was see the stars of the night sky. From his cave at the bottom of the sea he would look up every night and look up at the stars but he could not make them out properly because of the water above him. Their light would turn soft and slippery and slide onto the top of the sea like white foam. The merman would sometimes cry at night because he knew that was where his mother had gone. She was watching him from up in the sky, with the stars, and he wanted just to see her once. Mermen do not cry very often but this one did and every time he did the sea all around him heaved and shook with his sadness. He would sing and hoped his mother heard him one day and knew he was safe.

One day a ship came by. The people on board had heard his singing and they thought it was very beautiful. They came to see who was making the noise. They thought it might be a mermaid because it had the same brilliant shine of a wave as it breaks and its deep blue cracks and splits into millions of greens and turquoises. Really it sounded so nice because he sang while thinking of his mother and the thousands of dazzling little stars that danced around her in the sky but he did not say this when the men on board took him on because they would not like it. They all thought waves were very beautiful and so the merman decided to think that too, just to be sure they would like him. They saw a scar on his arm and they were sad. They said sorry. He did not know why because he had always had the scar from when he was very young.

'The writing gets illegible here: as is to be expected from a less high-achieving student. I've written it down on his page in my notebook. Disappointing – the rest of the story is ... promising; it's just this handwriting problem again. A bit of a let-down, really. Quite a shame, given the rest of the class has been showing such pleasing progress. This just feels a bit, well, garbled: English through a kaleidoscope.'

The merman looked on as the men dressed him in some spare clothes of theirs. They told him he looked very good and said they would show him to their Prince when he woke up. The Prince would be very happy to see someone so unique as him. The men were a bit confused when the merman did not look as happy as they wanted him to when they told him he was going to meet The Prince. He did not say he was happy. But he did not say anything. The men could tell he understood them. Sometimes he would nod or shake his head but he would not speak. 'Again, I feel like he has the story in his head; it just won't quite click with what I want. I know it's only been a term now, but I really think he can just push a bit harder for me and really show me what he's got to give: I want 110%, not 40. Let's go on:'

The men took him in front of The Prince, who was a very kind man. The Prince talked to him. He said some very nice things to him but he grew bored. He said it was suspicious that the merman did not talk back to him. The Prince got out a dagger. The merman was very afraid and did not want to get hurt. 'Say it,' growled The Prince. 'Say hello to me and I will help you. Just speak to me and I will not hurt you. I want to hear you speak in my tongue.' He lunged at the merman, who ran back to the side of the boat. He began to cry and The Prince began to laugh – what sort of merman cries? He had expected a terror, a beast of the deep with a set of teeth to match, yet this is what he got? Pathetic. The merman was pathetic.

He opened his mouth. He tried. He tried to sing the words but they came out jagged and spiked. They were not listening to the merman. He opened his mouth again and tried. All that came spilling out was sea foam. The Prince lunged at him again, trying to strike this strange creature from the deep dark depths through his heart. The merman cried out as the dagger plunged in and foam came bursting out the gash. He melted away into the sea. The Prince sighed: he really should have tried harder to speak.

The merman looked up at the sky from where he lay, a pile of white foam, drifting between the stars that were reflected on the ocean. 'So,' he said to himself, 'this is the night.'

'See – it gets good by the end. I think Mo is really starting to figure out how to tell stories now. It's been quite a positive improvement. In terms of spelling and grammar, he's come on far; however, again, it just feels like it isn't quite natural for him yet. It's like he's holding onto something else and I'm not sure what or why.'

'Can we stop for a minute? Could you just repeat that last bit, please?'

I can see the look in Mr Ayari's eyes. He is terrified. The first Parents' Evening is always the worst. They usually get better. Behind them, I can see him thinking, translating. He and Mo have climbed the first rung on this ladder, this stairway to a better life than the one they left behind. In his old language, in his old life, 'foam' and 'tears' sound almost the same. I know, because it used to be mine.

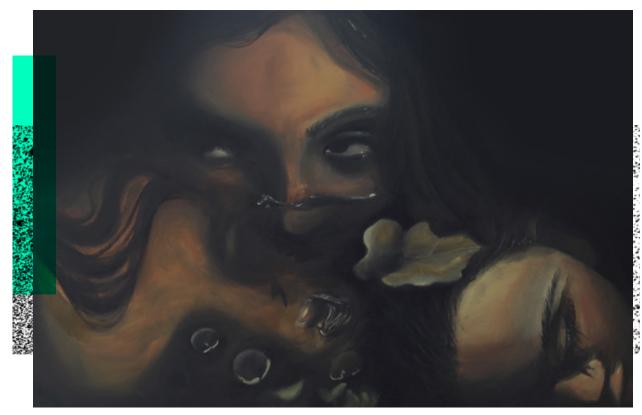


Image: Emilio Nunzi (Year 11)

CREATIVE WRITING



Leo Tidmarsh Year 13 A luminous ringing pervades the streets, And the fervent buzz of our city is just a humming -Like water bubbling and teeth gnashing beneath the surface, Like rising souls condemned by stubborn rooftops. Like malignant sailors snatching an Albatross from the sky, Like a cruel sun stripping an Earth of heat at dusk Or maybe an Eclipse depriving us of heavenly hours. Our sun is cool like our moon hot, shining on an abandoned surface. Blank faces absorbing meaningless rays, Beneath the roofs we still heave, and sigh, and pray, and cry and laugh until We are bored. Breaking beneath our cruel ceilings, no-one feels Safe. The streets are instinct with energy and power Whilst we decay and wilt hour by hour.

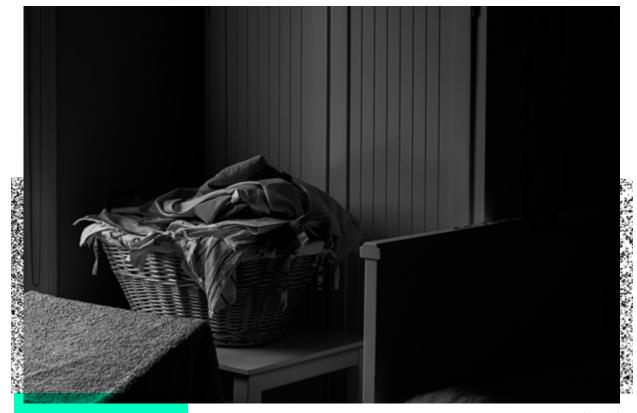


Image: Ed Brilliant (Year 12)

CREATIVE WRITING



Francis McCabe Year 9 Let the wind enter, from under the door, The light filter from the distance to the frame. Listen to the murmurs of those in the next room. Let the movement of the door come to rest. Let evening come.

Wander the empty streets in self-reflection, See the plaintive blossom hanging lifeless, Watch the sun scatter over the forlorn estate. Let the sun hide, behind the knoll of a hill. Let evening come.

Let your walls be your world. Be mindless of the world outside, encompassed by passive comfort, Within the sheets of your bed. Gaze at the white light of the screen, And let tears roll like ambient rain. Listen to the moon be piteous, Let the evening come. And glisten, alone.



CREATIVE WRITING



Ekow Amoah Year 11 Are These My 40 Acres?

Pick-pocketing in The Sunny Savannah Streets Instigating the police Just by Moving my feet

As I run across The street I contemplate Where I stand And at hand I have no special order In the land of the free I'm constrained By what may be Something That only runs Skin deep By others And brothers

Image: George Martin (Year 12)

My shade is a Heavy load To which I Am a mule

"n' I'll be damned to carry all this weight and damn me for not marching for the nation which subjugated me to a 3 by 3 Of Black, Blackest & Blacker"

So brother riddle me this - n' it'll take a lil' time cos nothing comes to mind as why it's justified that I - find myself without repayment for hundreds of years of working 5-to-5 & being held socially n' economically behind.

Are these, My, 40 Acres?



CREATIVE WRITING

Undocumented

Daniel Kamaluddin Year 9 Image: Siwoo Ryu (Year 10)

I am alone, But I walk among you, I am your friend, But you have never asked my name, I speak your words, But you have never spoken to me.

I live in constant fear, For what the passing day will bring, An isolated prisoner in the only home I have ever known.

I have no freedom, No rights. I have no place.

My very existence, A threat to my own safety, Chiselled onto those ancient stones.

They speak of us, Yet they have never known the pain, Of the words that echo off the walls of the town hall;

To lie alone in starving darkness.

They spoke of an 'American Dream', But my nightmare has become reality.

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Image: Elie Esber (Year 10)

CREATIVE WRITING

Encounters

Ty Watson Year 9

dishevelled gull, which may have once been white, now scampered and scavenged across the cobbled street. A lone man, dressed in a suit, leant against the wall of a faded, teal pub, smoking a pipe. An empty stall, selling curiosities, remained from the earlier fair on the sidewalk.

I drifted down to the marina.

Fog enveloped the boats, and the lighthouse barely managed to puncture it. On one particular boat, a small but sturdylooking yacht, a man remained. He was wearing plain blue overalls and, like the man next to the pub, was smoking a pipe.

Back on the high street, the man was gone. The streets were empty, and save for the occasional squawk from a seagull, everything was silent. It seemed that even the weather knew something was wrong – the fog turned to rain and the cobbles shone slick.

It was a Victoria Sponge type of day; the sky was clear, with the exception of a creamy, fluffy cloud infrequently visiting the area, and the sun was beating down. Two women strolled past: one was dressed in an elegant, floral yellow dress, with her son and daughter clasped onto each arm; the other was clothed in a simpler, cyan dress (which inconsequently coordinated with the inn opposite), with only one child to whom she had already gifted a couple of shillings. The two ladies were gossiping about their 'friends' and the rest of the townsfolk, as they reached a patisserie stall.

'Hm,' the floral-dressed woman muttered, 'James' birthday is tomorrow.'

The children's laughs echoed from the merry-go-round.

'How much is this one?' she asked, pointing to a sponge cake. The cake had a thin layer of jam through the middle and a coating of icing sugar on top. The raspberries, slightly indented into the top of the cake, looked succulent, and as though they would pop at any moment. The confection was placed on a pedestal at the front of the stall, showing off its glamour and craftsmanship.

'Ooh,' the cyan-dressed lady swooned, 'You're going for something fancy.'

The baker ignored them.

'Um, excuse me, how much is this one?' she repeated.

Again, the baker ignored her.

Thinking that somehow the baker hadn't heard her or even noticed that she was there, she reached out to tap the baker on the shoulder to grab her attention.

Her finger went through the baker.

It didn't just pass through, however, it squashed through. As if through a cake. The woman was horrified. Jam and chunks of Victoria Sponge oozed out.

The yellow-dressed lady turned around and buried her face into her friend's shoulder with fear. She felt something sticky on her face, and took a step back. She looked at her friend, and saw the indentation she had made on her friend's shoulder. She screamed. The cyan-dressed woman toppled over backwards in a stiff mannequin-like position and fell apart. The front of her body imploded leaving a roughly humanshaped knickerbocker glory on the floor. The yellow-dressed lady was speechless. She fell backward onto the stall, which collapsed under her and covered her with jam. She fainted.

When she woke up, it was dusk. She made her way through the throngs of frozen fair-goers, being careful not to touch anyone, and spotted her son. She staggered up to him and tried to shake him, hoping with all hope that he would somehow wake up from his paralysed state, but with no luck - he crumbled into a sloppy mess at her feet, kicking up a cloud of icing sugar. She was in a daze. She started picking up the pieces of jam and cake and squashing, squeezing, kneading it together, trying to rebuild what she could remember. She slumped down onto the floor, tired, sticky. She felt as if nothing was real, not even herself.

Exhausted and confused, she picked up a piece of what had been her son. She stared at it. She slowly lowered it into her mouth and started to chew. It tasted divine – the cake slightly moist, but not so moist that it was soggy, combined with the ambrosia that was the jam, it just tasted heavenly. Suddenly, realising what she had done, the woman started howling. She started running around frantically, erratically sticking her finger into all kinds of objects, trying to find something that was real, that was a solid, rigid object. The ringing in her ears – the words 'Victoria Sponge' echoing around in her head, didn't help. In a frenzy of trying to escape from her tribulation, she broke down and ran to her cottage. There, she slumped onto her bed. She slept.

She awoke, one hour later, suffocating. She had sunk into her bed during her sleep, for the bed too was made out of Victoria Sponge cake.

I drifted back to the fair.

A man this time, dressed in unremarkable farmer's clothes, was walking down the street with his slightly plump, rosycheeked wife, who was wearing a simple black and white dress with a white bonnet cap. They were chatting and meandering through the fair until they came across a toy stall. There were little wooden toy trains, figurines, and plush toys.

* * *

The man looked at his wife and asked, 'Wouldn't it be boring if the baby had nothing to play with?'

'I suppose so,' she said, 'but don't spend too much!'

He bent over to look closer at the toys. Some of them were very detailed and some even had moving parts! Wind-up, of course. 'Woah!' he thought. 'Some of these toys, somehow, are made with such craftsmanship that they can change size!' He looked back over at his wife to tell her, but for some reason, she seemed much taller. 'What?' he thought. He had always remembered himself as being taller. That wasn't just all: she was growing bigger and bigger by the second! He tried to reach out to her, but his arm wasn't long enough. Suddenly he looked around, and realised. She hadn't been growing bigger. It was the contrary: he had been shrinking.

He reached the size of the other figurines and then, to his relief, stopped. He tried to scream for his wife, but nothing came out, and she turned and walked away. He sat down and tried to make sense of his situation. It then dawned on him that his limbs were growing stiff. At first, it was just a little bit, like when you do exercise but then stop suddenly. However, this was not normal because it kept growing and growing. Finally, it was at the point where he was completely paralysed, with his limbs spread out. He was quite literally petrified. A million thoughts were racing through his tiny, less-than-pea-sized brain.

* * *

Suddenly, a couple, wheeling a pram, walked up to the stall. The baby sputtered some nonsense and pointed at the farmer. The parents spoke to the shopkeeper, pointed at him, the farmer, and handed over some coins. The shopkeeper, with a wide grin on his face, handed him to the baby.

At first it wasn't too bad: the baby just held onto him unnaturally tightly and stared intensely at him. Then, without any warning at all, the baby started hitting him and flinging him about all over the place. It was excruciating, for he was being swung around by the legs, and getting bruised and battered by the pram.

The baby grabbed the farmer by the arms and started tugging. Pulling them apart. Hitting him. There was a loud snap. The baby tore off one of the farmer's arms and threw it away. The baby's menacing laugh was a fuzzed-out blur in the background for the farmer. The pain was so intense that all he could hear was the stamping of his stone heart, and his own screaming. He barely even felt himself fly through the air and hit the ground. As he lay there, occasionally being kicked or stepped on, he gradually began to feel his limbs again. They were loosening up. A seagull landed next to him. He tried to drag himself away but someone who looked incredibly similar to his neighbour stepped on him, and he felt his hand turn to powder. He tried to carry on, lugging himself with his one good leg and arm, but he couldn't escape. The seagull scurried up behind him and pecked at him a couple of times, snapping his one good arm before picking him up and grinding him about in its beak and then, finally, swallowing him.

* * *

I drifted away.

The fair was over now. All that remained was an abandoned stall. Everything was silent. Two men, both smoking pipes, started to walk down the empty high street on opposite sides. One a sailor, the other a business man. As they were walking, they slowly got closer and closer together until they were touching shoulders. From there, they slowly turned around on their right foot and stared right at me. I had completed my task. I drifted over to them and they collected me. We went off into the woods.

CREATIVE WRITING

Feather

Alexander De Almeida Year 8 he moon glinted eerily in the sky; a ghostly orb suspended in time. Down below, the black water mirrored the white light from above. I ruffled my feathers, gazing around, passing giant monoliths carved from jagged rock, fighting the raging ocean that stampeded against the shore.

My hazel feathers, tipped with earthy dark brown and a light grey like the horizon on a foggy winter morning, my eyes, a magnificent glint of yellow. I was the majesty of the skies, the king of the ocean above, and I was on the hunt.

I spied a gliding bird, oblivious to the streamlined torpedo riding the currents of the skies; I readied myself, stretched my malevolent black talons ...

And dived.

Wind roaring like a wounded beast, ocean crashing far below, the dark blue sea rushing ever closer, talons stretched, eyes wide, passing pale chalk cliffs and racing towards the bird ...

My wings spread at the last moment, sharply slowing my descent. I let out a harpy's screech and the bird was dead. Shock, impact, the razor claws jutting from my feet embedded deeply in the seabird.

But I hadn't seen the growing storm: great grey clouds and billowing rain. Now I saw them. I hadn't heard the growling thunder. Now it echoed inside my head. The fog rolled in. Hurricane winds tossed me around. I dropped my hard-won prey.

I didn't see the cliffs. And when I did catch sight of the looming tyrants, it was too late.

I fell upon the ground, broken limbs lying limp against the rock, mist rolling in, a thousand stallions on the charge.

And I was lost in a spiralling rage of terror.

Lost to the eye of the storm.



Image: Paolo Ceccolini (Year 10)





Calum Skinner Year 8 Patrolling the vast borders of her territory, Ever vigilant, a sentinel of her land, Her now adolescent child, searching for glory, Placed a challenging paw on his mother's soft sand.

Bright orange a black stark against the bush, Arresting green eyes staring straight ahead, He scrambled towards her in a mad rush, Both knowing the fight would only end when one of them was dead.

Agonized roars echoed in the clearing, A swelling puddle of blood amassing on the ground, Groups of animals gathered, peering, At the two muscled creatures emitting the sound.

The mother was struggling, this the son must know, Becoming cocky, the young one lifted his head, The mother saw the chance, striking the killing blow, And within seconds, the invading tiger was dead.



Image: Siwoo Ryu (Year 10)

CREATIVE WRITING



Alexander Poli Year 9

A blanket of stars, Quilted with constellations Sprawls over the ancient forest Which pulses with life, Laden with sap. The trees whisper stories, Of the lives that flower and wilt Under their vast shadows, Of their pain, Their destruction, And their survival. They speak of the weak beings that Use their forms as shelter, And, in the undergrowth, Thousands of eyes shine, Mimicking the stars Spread above.

CREATIVE WRITING

As the sky drinks the sun

Abel Banfield Year 10

Let evening come, As the sky drinks the sun, With the glow on the field, As the day is sealed, Let evening come, As the sky drinks the sun, With the white house pink, The sky starts to sink, Let evening come, As the sky drinks the sun, As the last birds fly, Through the burning sky, Let evening come, As the sky drinks the sun, The haze settles on the lake, And night starts to break, Let evening come, As the sky drinks the sun, And the colour is drained, The sky is stained, With heavy blackness and shade, From night's dark blade, Let evening come, Laced with light, Against the house of white, That holds on against the night, As the sky drinks the sun, And the day cries 'hold back!', To stop night's fatal attack, And the lighter shades of day, Flutter and give way, Till the gleam of the moon and stars, Line the sky with pearly bars, And the streets murk over with the light, Of the flickering lamps that fight, The darkness of the sky at night, Let evening come, As the sky drinks the sun.

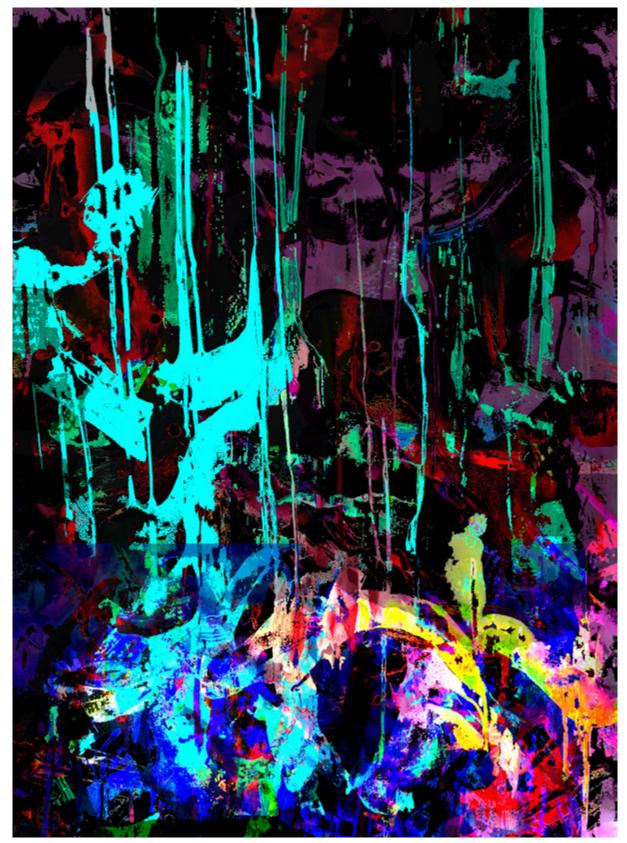


Image: Sebastian Harper (Year 12)



Images: Sinclair Dobbs (Year 11)



Peter Heller Year 8

The lush green carpet of a luxury hotel, The smooth emerald sheets of the bed, The cantaloupe goldfish in a crystalline pool, In the lobby.

The plethora of delicacies on the snow-white tablecloth, A waterfall glides in the tranquil spa, The paths around the landscape are outdoor gyms, It is bewitching.

Welcome to Hotel Nature, Where we're the honoured guests, But the owners have been forced out, And we have taken charge.

Hideous rubbish litters the hallways, The gleaming jade is now an atrocious brown, The darting fish have mouths full of plastic, The food is rotting on naked tables.

The water in the spa is stagnant, The gym is choked with weeds, Hotel Nature's barely surviving, Its future is up to us.

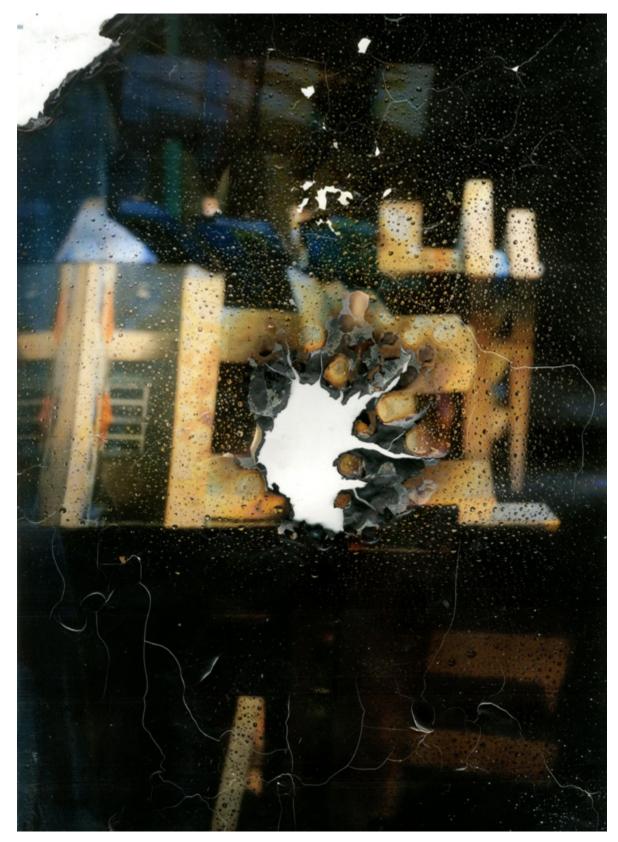
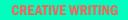


Image: William Brooke (Year 11)





Rohan Kaloo Year 9



eavy. Dulling. A weight, dragging you down. A veil, cloaking, hiding something: something lost; something found; something never known.

The silence knows all.

Bitter ice smirks back at you: your face mirrored in blue; your face welling up in hopelessness; your face, watching you fall. For you know nothing.

The silence watches; the silence knows.

The silence says nothing.

And who are you to question it? Let yourself fall; let yourself be still; let yourself lose. How would you ever win? How would you climb the insurmountable? How would you conquer yourself?

The silence pulls your strings; the silence orchestrates your failure.

The silence says nothing.

You relax. You let the weight drop you. You let the secrets pass you; you let the opportunities slide by. The silence holds you in the palm of an unseen hand. How did you ever hope to win?

For the silence knows all.

'Excuse me, sir, but if you don't intend to answer any of our questions, then there is no point in your being here. The exit is that way.' The silence is sharp; the silence is blunt; the silence ... isn't silent?

The silence clears: you see; you feel; you hear; you have escaped. The clench of your fingers on your chair; the red of your cheeks – truly, there is no better feeling than freedom. This is your opportunity: win them over, show them brilliance, claim your prize ...

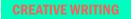
You look up to three frustrated faces and a clearly pointing finger. You rise from your seat and, through the glass of the door, you are faced with the view of a weeping army of clouds. Tears swamp the pavement.

As you walk home, the silence cloaks you.

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Images: Ed Brilliant (Year 12)

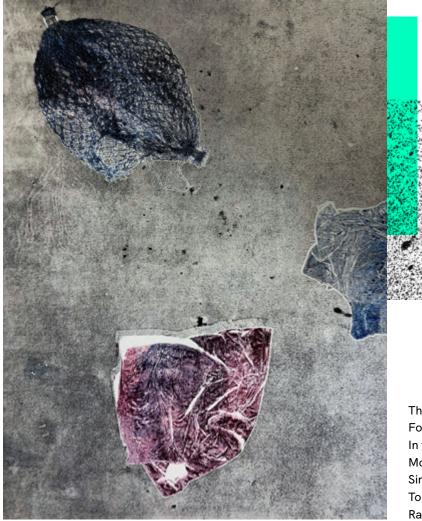




Arjaan Miah Year 11 I think of you, from this icy mountain, Icy, hostile, alone and utterly lost. What? Where? Why am I here? Whence did I come? An incline of nobody's choosing that I have found myself upon. Thrust vigorously t'wards some insurmountable peak. I stand on a ledge halfway up and take in the view:

A little cottage, dimly lit, on the ground. I lose myself in the window and for a moment – One brief moment – I see myself inside. But reality pricks, and brings me back To this lonely mountainside.

I throw myself upwards into the blizzard, Where, hopefully, I will lose myself twice over; Where I will lose sight of that cottage That makes me think of you.



Images: Sebastian Brockman (Year 11)

CREATIVE WRITING

Semi-Detached

Ned Wildgoose Bulloch Year 12 The alleys between the houses Form the only breaks In the wail of facades. Most of the houses have a Single front entrance, a mouth To open you up to their insides. Rare few are double-fronted, But near-all windows have a Blinded squint.

Their alleys are blocked by bars, Steel thorn guards, but Your eyes Are nimbler than legs; They can slide between the railings To glide to glimpses behind: A large red bucket with cracked Lips And a refuse bag that Your eyes Don't refuse to look inside That holds crumbled bricks And other crumbled things.

What's hidden in the secret back garden?

DRAMA

Iushed with the success of the award of Independent School of the Year for the Performing Arts, we finished 2019 by showcasing the talents of two senior casts at Dulwich and at JAGS, at the top of their game. The *Macbeth* company was steered by an outstanding Sixth Form cohort, and Leo Milne, Tom Giles and Benjy Bamert led from the front in the JAGS musical *Legally Blonde*. Milne gave a wonderfully generous and touching performance as Emmett Forrest, playing the charming young attorney with heart and passion and a precociously outstanding tenor voice. Equally impressive vocally was baritone Tom Giles as the legal shark Professor Callahan, and Bamert brought a suitable caddish smugness to the role of Warner Huntington III. With its homage both to sisterhood and to the merits of a well-chosen wardrobe, this sugar-rush of a show certainly set the festive mood.

We roared into the 20s with the same buzz of creative energy that had pervaded the Edward Alleyn Theatre in the Michaelmas term, with stunning House Drama competitions in the Middle and Lower Schools and an exceptional Year 13 A-level presentation of Berkoff's *The Trial*. Boys from every year group were rehearsing their dance moves – from Ballet to Contemporary and Hip-hop to Hoedown – in preparation for the Dance Showcase in May. Seth Davidson Petch (Year 8) and Freddie Roberts (Year 7) teased us at Lower School House Drama with an excerpt from an original contemporary ballet duet, *Castor and Pollux*, choreographed by Catherine Ibbotson. They went on to perform in the Dance Show at JAGS, which also included a contemporary routine created by Catherine for JAGS pupils. We were looking forward to welcoming the girls on stage here for the production in the EAT.

Year 11s and 12s ventured to the Vaults Theatre Festival to see the Spies Like Us productions of *Our Man in Havana* and a new work, *Speed Dial*. Year 12 took fuel from this, and from subsequent workshops with artistic director Ollie Norton-Smith (OA) to conjure a classy and playful Kneehigh-inspired creative adaptation of DH Lawrence's *The Rocking Horse* on a year which began with a raft of successes, and in which improvisation came to the fore after lockdown

Kathryn Norton-Smith looks back

Winner, due to be performed at the start of the Summer term. Our first ever GCSE cohort were in final technical rehearsals for their devised Gothic-inspired dramas when suddenly those associated tropes of foreboding and uncertainty took on a wider context off-stage. Within hours school was suspended and we were in lockdown as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The ominous mood initially manifested as panic – how on earth could we continue to teach the most practical, tactile and interactive of subjects remotely? World Theatre Day coincided with the first week of lockdown, and the new paradigm of social distancing stunned the creative world as theatres, concert halls, galleries and studio sets were closed. How were we to get our creative fix? Deprived of the intimacy of the actor-audience relationship, how could we keep playmaking?

But then, in an echo of Ben Jonson, whose play *The Alchemist* captures the manic energy of a house left in the hands of the servants while the master is away during a plague lockdown, creative invention began. Within days Year 7 were uploading their own news reports, devised with wit and flair, and demonstrating accomplished presentational skills. Starsky Reeves' contribution was priceless. Year 8 re-interpreted routines which had been choreographed for them, based on Matthew Bourne's Gobstopper Dance in his version of *Nutcracker!* Meanwhile, Year 9 were reinventing contemporary dialogue for the Seven Deadly Sins from *Doctor Faustus*, embellished with their own brand of South London

Deprived of the intimacy of the actor-audience relationship, how could we keep playmaking?

vernacular. The race to master technology such as Teams and Zoom was on, and the size of broadband width became the new boast. An Easter holiday highlight was an evening of terrific dramatic (sic) social quiz-tancing curated by our newest member of the department, Matt Jessup (OA), pitting the wits of Year 12, Year 13 and Drama staff against each other. We delighted in all the guest appearances, including Olivier awardwinner Patsy Ferran, Ekow Quartey (OA) and Ned Bennett (OA) posing questions, and nobody had any idea who'd won.

Mainstream and Fringe theatre have begun streaming from their archives of live productions, and much of our examination work has revolved around this. Following the National Theatre's release of *Twelfth Night*, Dr Spence hosted a Zoom webinar with director Simon Godwin and fifty plus of our own and JAGS' Drama and Theatre students from Years 10 to 13. Currently Artistic Director of the Shakespeare Theatre Company in Washington DC, Godwin provided brilliant insight into the NT production, as well as exploring approaches to the staging and playing of works by Shakespeare and other classical texts. He also explored the challenges of lockdown, and the opportunities it affords for remote artistic opportunity, along with tips for embarking on a career in the industry.

Most potently, Godwin argued for Shakespeare as a populist playwright, highlighting the importance of reflecting the mass appeal of his work in playing to diverse contemporary audiences. He has made innovative decisions such as that of setting *Hamlet* in Africa in the recent RSC production, and, famously, casting Tamsin Greig as Malvolia in his *Twelfth Night*. He believes that the staging of Shakespeare's plays must reflect all backgrounds, all colours and all genders, which gives unlimited scope for new voices and new energies. He left us all invigorated and unified, not just by a shared sense of community but with optimism and the hope that we would all soon be back in the rehearsal room with renewed invention and creativity.

So, no more wailing 'All By Myself', demanding 'Get off my Cloud' and 'Don't Stand so Close to Me'. Here's to #TheatreAtHome and to the prospect of all being back in the EAT later this year.



Fair game

DRAMA

The 2019 JAGS Senior Production, *Legally Blonde*, featured 15 boys from Year 10 to Year 13 who immersed themselves in the showbiz glam, proving themselves to be musical theatre stars in the making



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A-level presentation

Running away from ourselves

DRAMA

Year 13 Drama and Theatre students' staging of extracts from *The Trial* conveyed Kafka's dystopian vision with nightmarish clarity, says **Kathryn Norton-Smith**

erkoff's adaptation of Kafka's novel *The Trial* depicts an individual who is dwarfed by the state, and caught up in the web of rumours and misinformation with which we are familiar in modern society. *The Trial* begins with the arrest of bank clerk Joseph K in his bedroom one morning for an unspecified crime, and follows his attempts to discover why this has occurred, and how he can acquit himself.

Inspired by the image of perpetual running in the play, the performed extract focused on the existential crisis of the individual battling with, and trying to escape, the societal constructs imposed upon him. This extremely talented Sixth Form cohort had us hooked from the downbeat with their slick, fast-paced and razor-sharp execution of Berkovian technique. The performers all skilfully embraced ensemble playing, heightened characterisation, detailed mime, multi-roling and expressionistic choreographed sequences, while Lighting Designer Lorcan Tierney gave us non-naturalistic directional light, using saturated colour-sharp silhouettes to convey the darkly comic dilemmas of the everyman caught in an absurd bureaucratic world from which he is trying to escape.

Louis Rudnicki in the central role of Joseph K deftly captured the character's fracturing mental state and increasing confusion as he attempts to find a foothold in a world that is rapidly crumbling around him. Berkoff's use of quick stichomythic exchanges elevates the text off the page, giving the audience insight into the robotic constructs of the metropolis, and Henry Wallder and Darshy Whittington-Rao excelled in portraying the clumsy menace of the nameless Guards. Dark humour was evident too in Fred Robb's interpretation of The Inspector as a smiling assassin. He dazzled and charmed with flamboyant gestures and a wicked smile, clearly relishing his glamorous arrival to the strains of the MGM lion and The Philadelphia Story. Joseph K was disarmed, and we were too. Monty Slater's highly comedic Mrs Grubach unnerved both Joseph K and the audience, as he morphed from the girl of K's fantasies to a grimly predatory and over-bearing landlady! Thomas Giles' Bailiff was suitably sinister, displaying feral, ratlike qualities and a neat line in evasion. The ensemble playing was of the highest dramatic order and their slick manipulation of metal frames ensured they exploited every opportunity to conjure a vision of shifting worlds, corridors and vortexes, an expressionistic extension of K's state of mind, where the individual is subsumed by the state.

All revealed a terrific dynamic range as they multi-roled to convey Berkoff's myriad of generic nameless characters as encountered by Joseph K in his downward spiral. The muscularity of their physical and vocal work combined to create a highly visual and charged A-level presentation.

THE ALLEYNIAN 708 | OUT OF THE ORDINARY

This extremely talented Sixth Form cohort had us hooked from the downbeat with their slick, fast-paced and razor-sharp execution of Berkovian technique Lower School House Drama



DRAMA

Imagination and commitment were the keynotes of this year's event, say **Peter Jolly** and **Lucy Mackenzie**

Poetry was the inspiration for an evening of verbal and visual treats, with each House adapting a poem for the stage, using skills learned in dance and drama classes. It became evident early on that extremely high standards were expected of the boys: every performance was instilled with a real self-discipline, as well as a desire to be inclusive and inventive, without over reliance on props or stage furniture. This economy gave rise to a real focus on ensemble playing, and the super choreographic work in the pieces was notable. Casts were large, well-rehearsed and enthusiastic.

Our guest adjudicator, drama and dance teacher and practitioner Katie Lowe, provided the boys with insightful advice about engaging the audience and ensuring dramatic intentions are really clear. She commented: 'I was blown away by the performance quality of each piece. The innovative storytelling through the use of movement, music, puppetry, props, text and comedy was wonderful! Each piece was highly engaging in its own way. I loved the relationship the boys built up with the audience from the word go, and how they maintained the energy throughout each performance. My eye is always drawn to those who have the "supporting roles" – *every* role was strong and played with such conviction.' It is perhaps no surprise that the beautiful movement work in Grenville's The Way Through The Woods caught the eye of our adjudicator, well versed in dance. Seth Davidson Petch and Luke Meyohas created a beautiful piece of drama that evoked the atmosphere with real originality. The visual elements of Jonson's The Ancient Mariner captured the imagination of the audience as the cast moved seamlessly from scenes of storms to those of ice - with the help of a parachute. Whilst those productions might have been singled out, there was not one play that fell below the highest standard. Liam El Asmar produced an excellent performance and gained the Best Actor Cup for Drake. Raleigh's Jack and the Beanstalk was an ambitious piece of work using puppetry and movement to create a fabulous plant. Director Calum Skinner was pushing directorial boundaries well beyond the expectations we have for a Lower School boy and was awarded the Best Director Cup for the care and imagination he put into the creation of the play. The award of the Adjudicator's Cup to Ola Meldad showed how talent is spread throughout the current Lower School; he produced a convincing performance from the smallest of supporting roles and instantly conveyed poise and assurance to the audience. The competition was one to relish and proved a real highlight in a term that was cut short soon after this wonderful event.

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It became evident early on that extremely high standards were expected of the boys: every performance was instilled with a real self-discipline

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The boys' ownership of and commitment to their material was startlingly evident



DRAMA

Kathryn Norton-Smith recalls an evening of eclectic and creatively ambitious offerings

Il of those involved with this year's Middle School House Drama deserve applause, from the actors and directors to the technicians. Adjudicator Megan Gilsenan, Head of Drama at Dulwich Prep London, commented: 'to be a part of the College's thriving creative community for this special night of performance was an absolute joy. Each piece presented was thoughtful, challenging, and most importantly, entertaining. I was impressed by the mature manner in which the material was interpreted, from the staging choices to the lovely ensemble work and the energy, humour and pathos that each actor brought to their character work. It was refreshing to see the passion these students had for their art and I definitely walked away from the night feeling revived by their ambition.'

There was an undeniable buzz about the place, as with each piece the quality of work and the boys' ownership of and commitment to their material was startlingly evident. Offerings ranged from old favourites like Spenser's *Blackadder* and Grenville's *Curious Incident*, to Sidney's reinvention of Lorca's *House of Bernarda Alba* and Drake's original piece, *Baby*, inspired by Jez Butterworth's *Mojo*. Flynn Laban has much to offer with his new writing and we look forward to this developing further in the Upper School. Creative adaptations of novels and films also featured heavily, with Marlowe's *Twelve Angry Men*, Howard's Imitation Game and Raleigh's *Catch 22*, with its cast of thousands skilfully and exactingly marshalled by Jesse Gyane, earning him the Best Director Cup. One of the most exciting new plays, Samuel Bailey's *Shook*, staged by Jonson, brought home the garlands for both Best Production and Best Actor for Mohau Jolobe-Pike, with a performance of complete assurance, truth and control. Dan Davies and Oli Boardman were jointly awarded the Mason Cup for their generous and selfless contribution to the Drama Department during their time in the Middle School. Hardy Hodges scooped the Adjudicator's special award for an understated, memorable and wonderfully comic performance as Baldrick.

It is no surprise that every House featured company members who were shortlisted for the top awards. The following were mentioned by the adjudicator, in addition to those above, for their contributions as actors and directors: Paddy Burke, Ed Cook, Gilbert Edwards, Alex Eskandari, Dom Gore-Booth, Edmund Irving, Sam Izbicki, Amedee Le Gouellec De Schwarz, Billy Morris, Louis O'Malley, Oscar Pelly, Alex Poli, Sachin Shukla, Harry Spicer and Archie Wright. Senior production: Macbeth

Dark delights

DRAMA

A terrifying vision of futility and emptiness was laid open in this compelling production of the Scottish Play, say **Giles Block** (OA), Head of Text at Shakespeare's Globe, and actress **Penelope Beaumont**

acbeth is a tricky play. While on the page it appears beyond compare, it all too often fails on the stage. Peter Jolly and Kathryn Norton-Smith's production in the Edward Alleyn Theatre, however, gripped us from the very beginning.

This charged and intimate production of Shakespeare's darkest and most atmospheric play was visually stunning. The young cast delivered the dialogue as if it had been written yesterday, offering a lucid clarity to those being introduced to the play for the first time, as well as a thrilling shot-in-the-arm freshness to those thinking they didn't need to see another Scottish Play. From the moment when, illuminated by a stark ghostly light, the battle-drenched Macbeth is hoisted aloft like a victorious 1st XV player, we knew we were going to be engulfed by the action.

We took our seats beside the snow-covered field, under which could be seen the outlines of bodies: a grisly glimpse into the reality of war? As the bodies melted into air, the Weird Sisters chanted their sinister spells. The clever use – and excellent execution – of movement gave us just the right level of the occult. The goddess of witchcraft, Hecate (Izzy Logan), is usually cut. To have included her in the final Weird Sisters' scene felt absolutely right. The sinewy feral movement (much of it steered by Catherine Ibbotson) of the trio of Dan Davies, Tobore Azukaneme and Ellie Pink charmed and chilled us in equal measure. Throughout the play, the music, varied and mysterious, added to the tension of the drama, and enhanced the excellent ensemble playing going on between the scenes.

But the ultimate success of any production always falls on the two leading characters: Macbeth and his wife, Lady Macbeth. Here, Louis Rudnicki and Megan Basham led us through the play with insight and confidence. Louis Rudnicki (a dead ringer for a young James McAvoy) laid bare the unravelling of Macbeth's 'charmèd' life with a mercurial glint in his eye and a fearless stalking of the in-the-round space. Meg Basham's steely temptress was an equally commanding presence, and the pair created real on-stage chemistry.

Their first meeting is one of the play's most exciting moments. Having them both on stage when the letter was read certainly gave us a sense of their strong bond, but shouldn't we have been able to focus fully on Lady Macbeth, and her reaction to the letter, until her husband's arrival? But this is a trifling objection in such an assured production. At the mercy of forces beyond his control Macbeth is overtaken by his guilt, and Rudnicki gave us real existential angst as he hurtled towards the stillness of his 'tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow', terrifying in its acknowledgement of all the futility and emptiness that lies within.

The clever use - and excellent execution - of movement gave us jus<mark>t th</mark>e right level of the occult Many of the actors gave performances of great strength which belied their youthfulness. The tricky scene between Lennox (Ben Potter) and the unnamed Lord (Edward Cook) was beautifully played. Lolly Whitney Low's take on Malcolm was original, but also true, vital and somehow contemporary; the joking Porter (Darshy Whittington-Rao) and the concerned Physician (Lily-Rose Wallace) both gave mature performances of pinpoint accuracy, as did the whole Macduff family. Justine Cordery as Lady Macduff was wonderfully strong and forthright in her anger at her husband's absence, leaving her family in such danger. Monty Slater gave us maturity and heartbroken remorse as all the 'horror, horror horror' piled up. The children were wise beyond their years and so very touching. Plaudits must go to Junior School boys Ridley Brown and Freddie Brown for such assured performances on the Edward Alleyn stage - they absolutely held their own in a senior production.

The stunning costumes, designed by Sophia Pardon, complemented the versatile and transformative set and rich, textured lighting, while the contemporary and evocative underscore chilled and thrilled in equal measure. The opening of the second half, with its sharp-suited sumptuous monochrome couture, bejewelled with blood-red crystal goblets, perfectly captured the Macbeths in all their hubris.

With a pervading atmosphere of menace and jeopardy, we were held in our seats, intent on the progress of this thriller; the production was utterly captivating and affecting from start to finish. All in all, it was a tremendous achievement.



ART

GETTING THEIR TEETH INTO THE BIG APPLE

NEW YORK'S ICONIC MUSEUMS AND VIBRANT ART GALLERIES OFFERED CREATIVE INSPIRATION APLENTY TO 20 UPPER SCHOOL BOYS ON THIS UNFORGETTABLE AUTUMN TRIP, SAYS **MARY JO DOHERTY**



kaleidoscopic mind-melt of art' was one Upper School boy's memorable *mot juste* on the creative spirit and streetwise energy of New York's art scene. Frank Lloyd Wright's iconic Guggenheim spiralled us through a wave of progressive contemporary artworks with 'Artistic License', in which six artists curate their own selection of artworks, each via a distinct thematic approach. Still at the Guggenheim, Brooklyn-born Jean-Michel Basquiat catapulted us into Black American culture with the arresting exhibition, 'Defacement: the Untold Story'. Basquiat's painting *The Death of Michael Stewart* memorialised the fate of the eponymous

young black artist at the hands of New York City Transit Police after allegedly tagging a wall in an East Village subway station. Via Basquiat's raw paintings, posters, lo-fi newspaper clippings and other printed ephemera, we were transported back to the reality of the early 80s New York art scene.

Lucky to be part of the first tranche of the general public through the doors of the newly expanded and reimagined hang of midtown's MoMA, students got happily lost in fresh exhibition rooms with canvas after canvas of every painting ever referenced in their sketchbooks. Wide open

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spaces were handed over to artists such as Sarah Sze, whose beautifully articulated installation 'mess' *Triple Point* (*Pendulum*), a sculpture in a state of flux, hovered between many forms at once. The destructive potential of the swinging pendulum seemed just a breath away. In Arthur Jafa's immersive video *Apex*, a fast-paced image sequence was set to a driving soundtrack of electronic club beats to create 'spooky entanglements'. Meanwhile, downtown, the New Museum confused and provoked in equal measure as we made our way to the top of the five-storey building to enjoy drawing in their Sky Room on a rain-swept blustery Bowery evening. Downstairs, Hans Haacke's exhibition included a number of rarely seen kinetic works, such as *Blue Sail*, a flowing piece of floating chiffon that oscillated, seemingly free of constraint, giving us a sense of rhythmic calm.

At the Meatpacking District's Whitney Museum, Pope.L's *Choir*, a new installation that explored the fragility of water, had taken over the lobby space. Lights dimmed, a vast milky-white water tank was spotlit off to the side. Above it hung a boxy, upside-down refrigerated drinking fountain, accenting Pope.L's increasing concern about global access to clean drinking





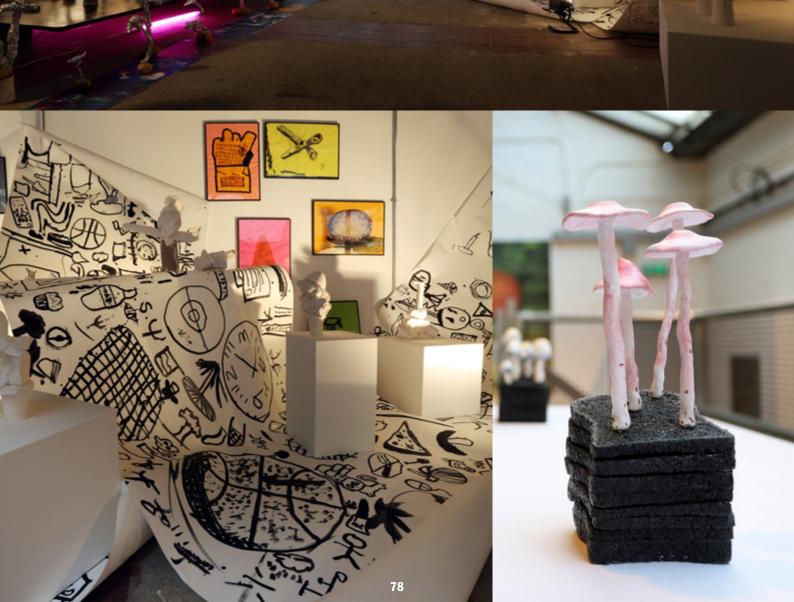
VIA BASQUIAT'S RAW PAINTINGS, POSTERS, LO-FI NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS AND OTHER PRINTED EPHEMERA, WE WERE TRANSPORTED BACK TO THE REALITY OF THE EARLY 80S NEW YORK ART SCENE

water. Unlike the soundscape of Haacke's soothing *Blue Sail, Choir* had a soundtrack of distorted field recordings combined with walkie-talkie squawks and old Hollywood film clips of a mythical Africa. The result was as loud as it was disorientating.

Popular tourist destinations, from the Empire State's panoramic rooftop and the High Line to our Hornblower cruise around the city's iconic 93-metre-high robed goddess, the Statue of Liberty, provided us with many unforgettable drawing and photographic opportunities, while an afternoon at The Met reminded us not only of Rodin's genius as a sculptor and draughtsman but also of the sheer scale of America's largest art museum. '50 abstract paintings, Epic Abstraction: Pollock to Herrera' showcased landmark works by Jackson Pollock, Louise Nevelson and Joan Mitchell, while only two blocks away, Vija Celmins at The Met Breuer highlighted the importance of skill and direct observation alongside a subtle conceptual practice. Whether her sources are mundane objects, sweeping photographs of the Pacific Ocean or reproductions from newspapers, the resulting painstaking drawings and sculptures possess a magical credibility.

Snooping round the eclectic Chelsea commercial galleries was a great way to end the trip; having been introduced to all the big-name galleries, it was here that the boys got to discover the most contemporary work. New York reintroduced the magic of painting, reignited their love of video art and gave fresh meaning to site-specific artwork. It was an engaging kaleidoscopic experience for all.

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ART

EXTRA ORDINARY

LEO STERZ (YEAR 11) FOUND PLENTY TO EXCITE THE IMAGINATION AT THE INTRIGUINGLY NAMED 'HUMDRUM' EXHIBITION

I niting abstract and fine art, Humdrum aimed to celebrate the mundane and overlooked corners of our everyday lives, from the dirty floors of a colourful art studio to the overgrown entrance of a humble side street - the kind we probably all live a couple of doors away from. The concept was developed in a huge variety of ways, from Rob Reed's fine pointed needle-like brush strokes to Ruth Chambers' perfect patterns and Bruce Ingram's powerful collages. In this exhibition bringing together the work of 12 brilliant artists, there was truly something for everyone.

One of the most notable pieces was lan Gouldstone's endless algorithm, based on the Angry Birds game coding; while at first it was not noticeably similar, with time and a bit of patience you began to see the depth of their similarities. Glockenspiel noises came into play alongside the visual motion of the blocks colliding with each other and firing away. The setting of this piece in the lower level of The Store was perfect, with the dim lighting and the outside light seemingly sliced through by the metal grid behind you. The presentation of the piece was also important, with the black painted background a stark contrast to the white laundry on the drying rack in front. The cumulative effect of these conflicting yet complementing colours was that of a multi-textured canvas spreading across the towels and t-shirts on the racks.

Ruth Chambers' work also embodied the idea of bits and pieces, through drawings on the inside of envelopes which were ripped open to expose the folded insides. This work explored the themes of language and communication, reminding us that in a modern age of texting and instant messaging, the humble, and possibly outdated, letter risks losing its significance. Plato once said, 'rhetoric is the art of controlling the minds of men'. This work emphasised the enduring power of our shared language.

The essence of Britishness was explored in the paintings of Adam Hennessey. The seagulls in one image looked tentatively through the black chequered pentagons of a football, connecting with the observer through their lopsided gaze. Hennessey's frequent incorporation of birds in his work was particularly engaging, as in London we don't have too many one-on-one encounters with birds in our day-today lives. His abstract composition also had great charm, distorting scale to create complex, many-layered images.

James Irvin is a video artist who had his display on the top level in the corner of the room; the screen the video was playing on was placed on the floor and angled up towards the ceiling, which created interesting reflections on the walls, and bleached some parts of the screen. To create his work he used his phone to record himself in different places around his house, before using photoshop to put a piece of cactus in the centre of the video and distorting the colours, making greens and blues out of the original basic colours.

Bruce Ingram was another of the artists presenting, and he also curated the exhibition. His multimedia collages spread out across the room, and culminated in two central pieces on the top level in the corner. One was a collage of a pair of Adidas trousers and lots of snippets of paper, mixed with a collection of paints, pencils, pastels and plaster, all creating the effect of a wrinkled surface. Revealed in the middle were the three white stripes, instantly recognisable as the famous sports brand.

Robin Tarbet was another of the noteworthy artists in the exhibition, with his concrete-looking structures protruding from their surroundings. He uses jesmonite to cast packaging into building-like structures. Displayed on a pedestal in The Store, they recalled the concrete solidity of the Christison Hall. In his work I could see a city, a commercial centre, and a metropolis of high-rise buildings, with miniature people waiting to burst out of every orifice in a massive rush-hour swarm.

Overall, the exhibition seemed to embody an urban society whose values and habits have been changed and warped and distorted. The varied pieces, in my view, were connected by the title, reminding us that we are in a phase of technological development through which our notions of up and down, and of left and right, are distorted; where nothing is quite as it seems. This was a busy exhibition to accompany a busy school and a busy world, bursting with ideas!



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Art Review ²⁰/20



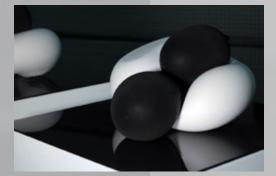
James Hanson Y11 *Dynamic Force* Card sculpture



Sam Baker Y13 *Transforming Space* Digital photography

Background image Sam Baker Y13 *Connected Light* Mirror and laser light installation











Gabriel Rahman Y13 *Suspense II* Installation with concrete, plaster, balloons, acrylic sheet





Lorcan Tierney Y13 *Dusted* Plaster, ink

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Sam Stewart Y11 *Home Sweet Home* Acrylic and sand on stacked breeze blocks

Previous page Lorcan Tierney Y13 Dusted (details/process) Broken plate, plaster, ink, paper, thread

Year 13 Final Show The Store Thomas Crompton Freddie Cheesley James Fortune Will Booth-Farmer · K.

Gabriel Proctor Y13 *Chroma* Video projection on mixed media

Hal Howe Y13 *Doodlebug* Animation drawings













Hal Howe Y13 *Void* Video installation

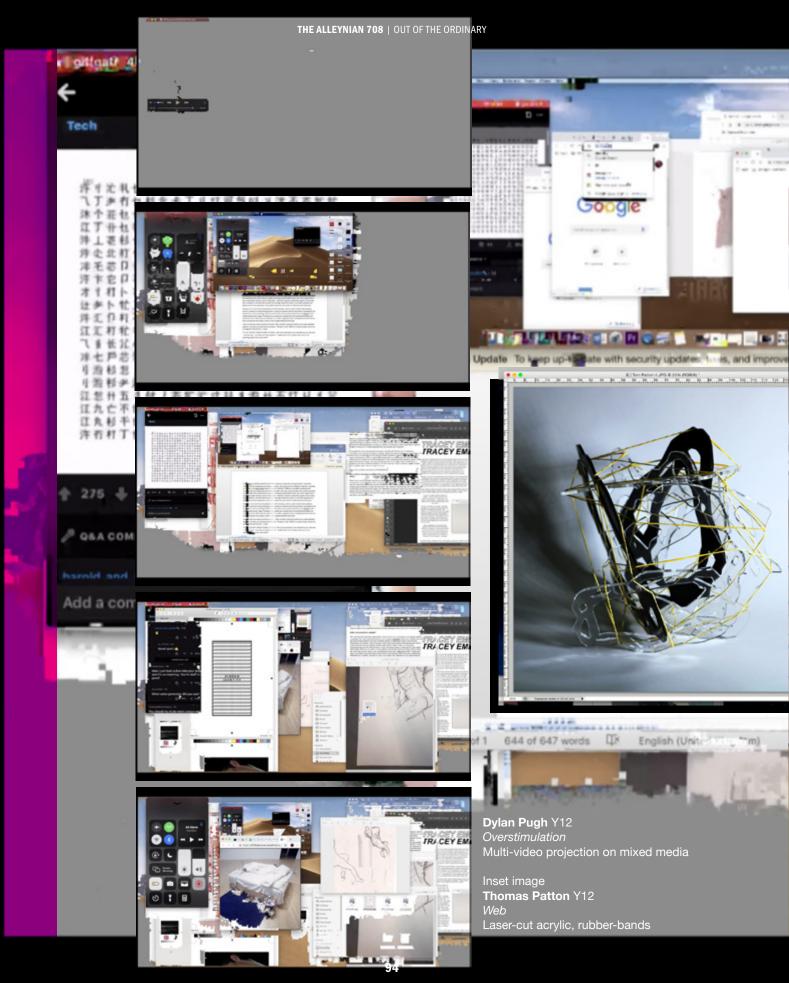


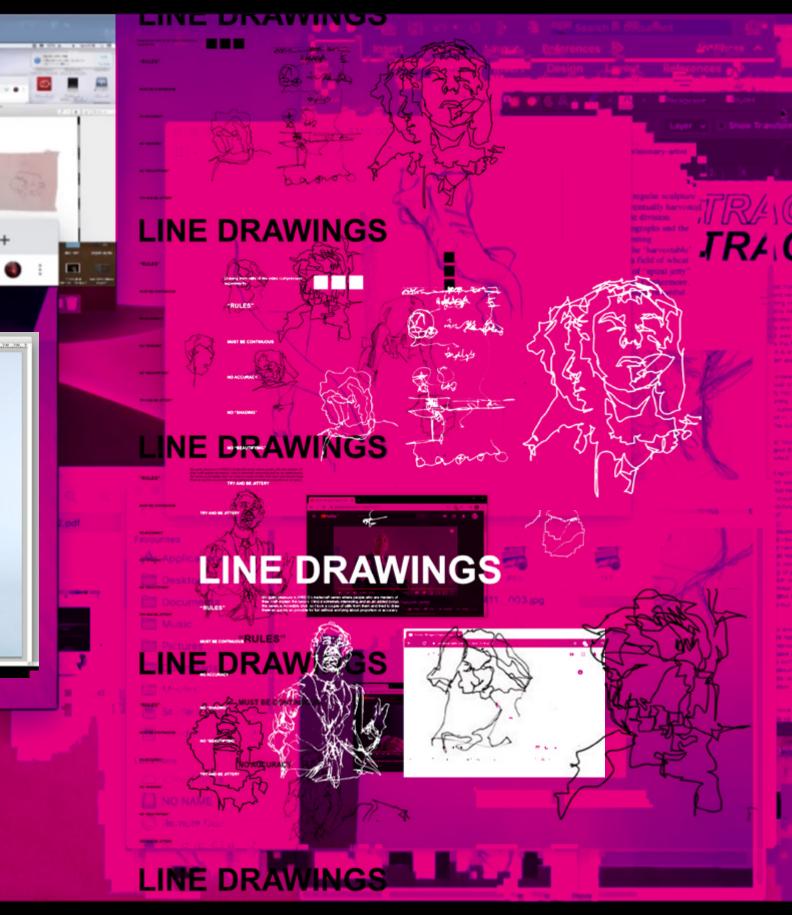




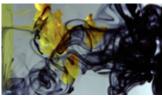
Nature is the source of all true knowledge. She has be soon logic, her own laws, the has no effect without cause nor invention without mecessity.













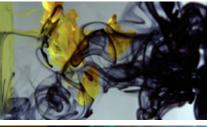


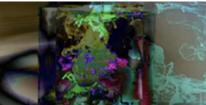
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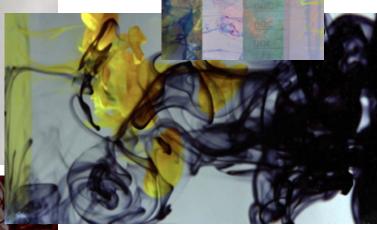
By Matt Muldoon



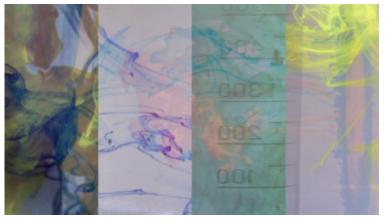












Niall McKeown Y12 *Mutation* Mixed media

Previous page **Matt Muldoon** Y11 *Motus* Digital video stills



Benedict Fitzpatrick Y12 Self-Portrait Video projection stills

Alex Whitwell Y12 Ariadne Polythene sheet, voile, fishing wire with projection and sound





Emilio Nunzi Y11 Concealment Ink on paper, digital imagery



Leo El Asmar Y10 *Kinetic Synthetic #1* Mixed media installation ------



Leo El Asmar Y10 *Kinetic Synthetic #2* Mixed media sculpture Way out Way out Way out Underground Shoeping cenug

GRAV

Buzzy Martin Y12 Fragmentation Digital print and acrylic

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Buzzy Martin Y12 *Cube Net I* Digital print

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Way out

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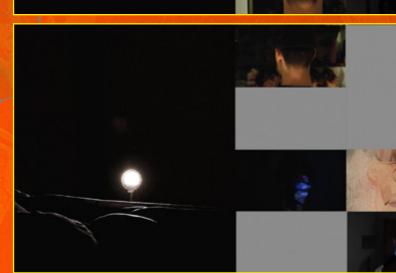
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Buzzy Martin Y12 *Real And Fake* Digital print

Background image **Paolo Ceccolini** Y10 *Fusion* Digital image

Luke Butland Y12 *Nightmare* Video stills

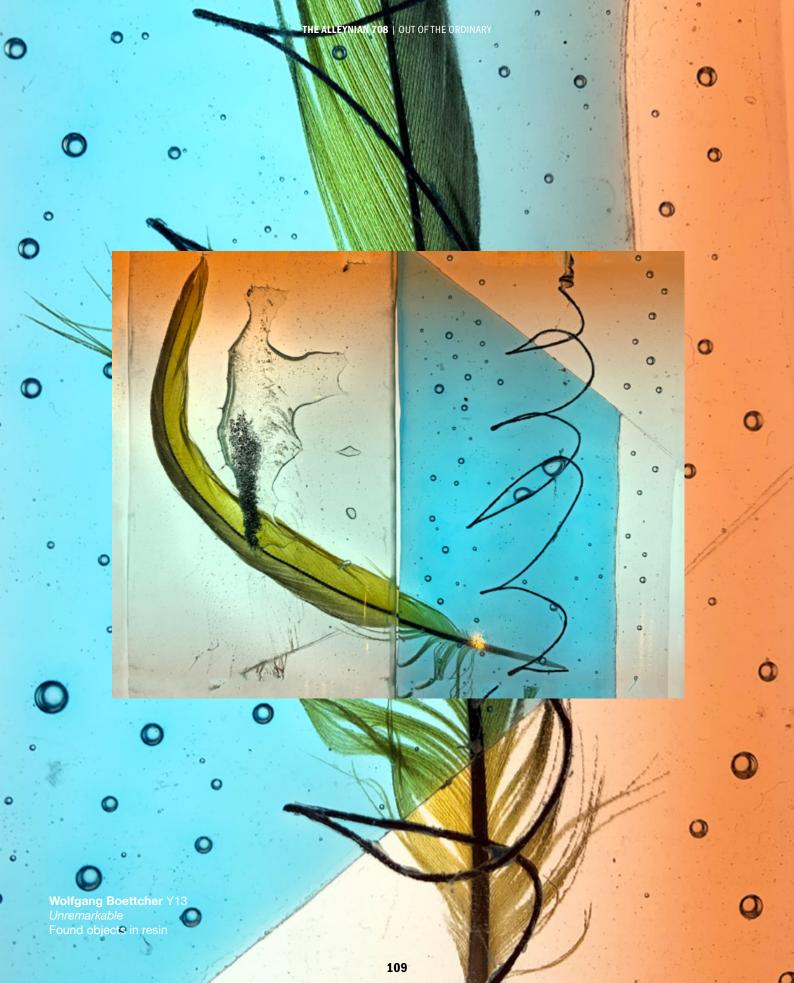








Daniel Pinkney Y10 *In Suspense* Flowers in resin





Ed Brilliant Y12 *Forgotten* Digital video stills THE ALLEYNIAN 708 | OUT OF THE ORDINARY

Jude Pearson Y12 *Laertes' Sister* Digital mono-print











Gabriel Rahman Y13 *Suspense III* Balloon, plaster, lightbulb THE ALLEYNIAN 708 | OUT OF THE ORDINARY

MUSIC

DEVIN LIU (YEAR 10), WHO WAS AWARDED FIRST PRIZE AND THE GRAEME JENKINS CUP AT THIS YEAR'S PIANO COMPETITION, AND WAS THE WINNER OF THIS YEAR'S BACH COMPETITION

SCALING THE MUSICAL HEIGHTS





HISTORIC CADOGAN HALL WAS THE VENUE FOR THIS YEAR'S WINTER CONCERT, REVIEWED HERE BY **JAY CONNOR** (YEAR 12)

ith its ambitious and diverse programme of musical offerings, the Winter Concert is traditionally one of the highlights of the College's musical calendar. This year, the concert included performances by the Symphony Orchestra, Symphonic Wind Band, Chamber Orchestra, Madrigal Choir and Concert Choir, as well as solos from three Year 13 music award holders.

The evening began with Madrigal Choir's performance of *A Little Jazz Mass* by Bob Chilcott. In this exciting choral piece, which infuses a traditional Latin Mass structure with jazz influences, the choir is accompanied by piano, keyboard, drum kit and bass guitar.

Next, the Chamber Orchestra accompanied pianist Mike Humphreys in the Allegro from Bach's Keyboard Concerto in D minor. The movement features a powerful theme and an awe-inspiring cadenza, which Mike interpreted with impressive skill and musicality. The Chamber Orchestra stayed on stage to play two movements from Grieg's *Holberg Suite*, named after the Danish-Norwegian playwright Ludvig Holberg. 'Praeludium' and 'Rigaudon' included fabulous solo performances from Luca Franchi and Yuki Suter on violin and viola respectively, with the group conveying both the brilliant energy and the gentle lyricism which Grieg aimed for in his homage to the titular playwright.



To conclude the first half of the concert, the Symphonic Wind Band performed *Equus* by Eric Whitacre. Originally commissioned by Gary Green for the University of Miami, this wild ride emulates the fury and majesty of the titular horse, with its weaving themes and contrasting dynamics.

Following the interval, violinist Luca Franchi returned to the stage to perform the first movement of Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto in E minor, accompanied by the Symphony Orchestra. Luca captured the passion of the piece, fluidly navigating its virtuoso sections and emphasising the beauty of its memorable melodies. The orchestra followed this piece with the first movement of Symphony No 9, 'From the New World', in which Dvorak takes American folk melodies as his starting point. He once said 'all that is needed for a great and noble school of music' can be found in 'the melodies of America'; the orchestra communicated the varied emotions of Dvorak's themes with verve and conviction. In their final piece of the evening, the Symphony Orchestra accompanied Alex Richards in Artie Shaw's Clarinet Concerto. This work combines classical and jazz motifs and is designed to utilise the clarinet's full potential, through fluttertonguing, glissandi and the infamous 'altissimo C' (a note so high, it surpasses conventional playing techniques).

THE ORCHESTRA COMMUNICATED THE VARIED EMOTIONS OF DVORAK'S THEMES WITH VERVE AND CONVICTION

Last to take the stage were the singers of the Concert Choir, which is a vast ensemble involving most of the pupils in the Lower School. They were accompanied by piano, cello, saxophone, bass guitar and percussion in their three-piece performance 'Dulwich goes Medieval'. Each piece was modern while, as the name suggests, taking inspiration from older themes. Concert Choir's enthusiastic performance concluded an impressively diverse evening of music.

On behalf of all the students involved, I would like to thank the staff who helped to organise this fabulous concert. We all appreciate their consistent commitment to the provision of rich co-curricular opportunities.



HOMAGE TO A MUSICAL HERO

MARKING THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COMPOSER'S BIRTH, THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT'S BEETHOVEN FESTIVAL INCLUDED PLENTY OF OPPORTUNITIES TO APPRECIATE THE WORK OF THIS TOWERING MUSICAL GENIUS, SAYS LUIS PARES B eethoven changed the course of music forever. He was a visionary: a revolutionary composer whose music challenged the conventions of his times, and continues to challenge us in the modern era. Admired around the world, his music never ceases to surprise us. No matter how many times we listen to one of his works, no matter how well we think we know it, there is always a new and astounding discovery to be made. Beethoven's music touches the human heart like that of no other composer. It conveys a deep sense of humanity, compassion, ambition and beauty that never fails to create an emotional connection with the listener. He is a hero and an icon for all musicians, and this is why the entire musical world dedicated festivals to the celebration of his 250th anniversary in 2020.

Here at the College, our festival aimed to promote understanding and appreciation of Beethoven's compositions via a number of different approaches. Not only did we engage in analysis of his works, but we also welcomed a number of distinguished musicians, whose performances and workshops allowed our musicians and audiences to learn about his music in performance. In addition, our own musicians dedicated themselves to learning a number of Beethoven's works, and were given opportunities to perform them in public. We were honoured to welcome to the College Gina McCormack, first violin of the Brodsky Quartet, Patsy Toh, Professor of Piano at the Royal Academy of Music, and the Aquinas Trio, one of the UK's leading British chamber groups, all of whom gave masterclasses to our students, teaching them invaluable lessons in the art of performance. Music award holders attended a performance of Beethoven's String Quartet op. 132 given by the Brodsky Quartet at King's Place, and, after two years of hard work at the piano, in collaboration with Radley College, St Paul's Girls' School and St Helen and St Katharine School, 25 of our pianists and four members of staff headed to the Sheldonian Theatre in Oxford on Sunday 8 March to perform all 32 of Beethoven's piano sonatas and three early sonatinas, adding up to 12 hours of continuous music. Our musicians also played brilliantly in lunchtime concerts at Christ's Chapel and in the Lower Hall, and at assemblies in the Great Hall.

The virus lockdown brought our festival (and everything else!) to an unexpected break, and our three major concerts (Choral, Chamber Music and Symphonic) were, sadly, cancelled. However, we are determined to reschedule the Beethoven Study Day later in the year, at which point we will explore the *Pathétique Sonata*, as well as listening to Professor Nicholas Marston from King's College, Cambridge, whose knowledge of Beethoven is second to none. This event was designed as the launch of the new SSLP Music Hub, which more than 80 students from nine of our partner schools had signed up to attend. Without a doubt, our musical journeys will be strengthened by this new initiative, which we hope will develop and grow in years to come.



THE MENACING AND EXCITING SEQUENCE OF FOUR NOTES WHICH CONSTITUTES THE OPENING OF BEETHOVEN'S FIFTH SYMPHONY IS PROBABLY ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS MUSICAL PHRASES OF ALL TIMES



The menacing and exciting sequence of four notes which constitutes the opening of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony is probably one of the most famous musical phrases of all times. His *Moonlight Sonata, Für Elise* and Ninth Symphony are adored around the world. His Seventh Symphony, Fourth Piano Concerto and last five piano sonatas are simply transcendental. In extraordinary times such as these, Beethoven's music becomes more relevant than ever. It can guide us to reflection, challenge our perceptions and, most importantly, bring the purest sense of joy to our hearts.

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KEYS TO SUCCESS

ALEX HEMPLE (YEAR 10) REPORTS ON THE PIANO COMPETITION



he 24th Annual Piano Competition was held for pupils in Years 3 to 13. The judge was the international concert pianist and Artistic Director of Piano Week festival, Samantha Ward. After impressive performances from all of the competitors, making the judging a difficult task, and some very supportive and helpful comments, the winners were announced (see next page). Congratulations go not just to the winners but to all the competitors, whose spirited performances provided a day of excellent music-making. Our thanks go to Samantha Ward for her thoughtful and insightful judgement and advice to our pianists.



CLASS 1 BEGINNER	FIRST PRIZE SECOND PRIZE THIRD PRIZE HIGHLY COMMENDED	HUGO WILLIAMS (YEAR 3) MICHAEL SUEN-SOKIRI (YEAR 3) JEREMY ULLMAN (YEAR 5) AARAV POKHARNA (YEAR 4)
CLASS 2 GRADES 1-3	FIRST PRIZE SECOND PRIZE THIRD PRIZE (JOINT)	HENRY FINDLAY (YEAR 6) BEN KETTELEY (YEAR 6) INIGO LUDFORD-THOMAS (YEAR 6) ALEXANDER PISA (YEAR 7)
	HIGHLY COMMENDED	SASHA BENN (YEAR 5) SAM COUNT (YEAR 3) NOAH KAY (YEAR 3) ADAM STOREY (YEAR 7)
CLASS 3 GRADES 4-5	FIRST PRIZE SECOND PRIZE THIRD PRIZE	DAVID JORGE-BATES (YEAR 8) FREDDIE REYNOLDS (YEAR 9) TAYLOR LAI (YEAR 5)

FIRST PRIZE

SECOND PRIZE (JOINT)

THIRD PRIZE

HIGHLY COMMENDED

CLASS 5 ADVANCED

CLASS 4

GRADES 6-7

FIRST PRIZE **SECOND PRIZE**

THIRD PRIZE (JOINT)

HIGHLY COMMENDED

RYAN NGUYEN (YEAR 6)

KABIR GHOSH (YEAR 6) **JAMES STOREY (YEAR 10)**

EDMUND IRVING (YEAR 10)

THOMAS BARNETT (YEAR 9) **GILBERT EDWARDS (YEAR 10)** ANDY HE (YEAR 5) **FINBAR PERCY (YEAR 10)**

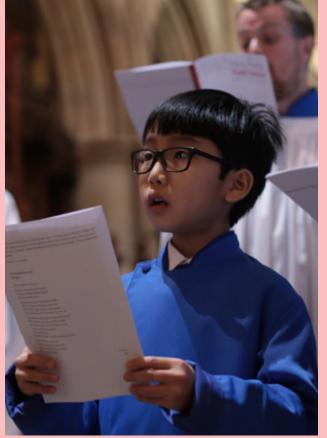
DEVIN LIU (YEAR 10)

LUCA FRANCHI (YEAR 13)

NICHOLAS FIELD (YEAR 13) **JOHN PEDERSEN (YEAR 9)**

BOBBY HAN (YEAR 12) HO-TIN LOKE (YEAR 9) ALEX RICHARDS (YEAR 13)







CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

TAKING PART IN THE SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT SERVICE, WITH ITS STRONG SENSE OF COMMUNITY, WAS A MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE, SAYS CHAPEL CHOIR MEMBER WILLIAM LORD (YEAR 11)

he carol service at Southwark Cathedral is always a great way to mark the moment when the collective mood of the College tips into Christmas festivity. The 2019 service had the special significance of being the final event of the Quatercentenary celebrations. Equally, we all felt the sombre context of the previous year's tragic London Bridge attack, together with that of the Fishmongers' Hall attack precisely a week before.

We arrived at Southwark Cathedral before noon, music and cassocks bundled under arms, ready to undertake our final rehearsals before the evening service. From the rows upon rows of neatly aligned wooden seats to the soaring 123-year-old stone carvings that seem to raise the ceiling of the cathedral almost to the heavens, the building itself exudes nobility and grandeur, and the sense of excitement among the singers and instrumentalists was palpable.

THE PRESSURE LAY FIRMLY ON THE SHOULDERS OF BERTIE POULLIS, THE TREBLE DESTINED TO PIERCE THE HUSHED SILENCE WITH 'ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY' Later that day, having completed our rehearsals and fortified ourselves at a local restaurant, our stomachs filled with burgers, milkshakes and fries, we meandered our way back to the cathedral. Excited chatter filled the air as the choir donned their cassocks and organised their music, and a steady stream of teachers, pupils, family members and friends arrived, eager for the service to commence.

The pressure lay firmly on the shoulders of Bertie Poullis (Year 8), the treble destined to pierce the hushed silence with 'Once in Royal David's City'. He did so beautifully and with great composure. After this glittering start, and with the congregation's hearty entrance on the third verse, we could relax into what promised to be a great service.

There were confident readings from pupils Jovian Yan (Year 8), Daniel Kamaluddin (Year 9), Adam Kasprzak (Year 13) and Nkem Mansaray (Year 6), together with familyfavourite hymns such as 'Hark! The Herald' and 'God Rest You Merry'. In addition, the service featured a captivating performance of the new Dulwich Peace Carol, 'Puer Optime', composed by Nico Muhly, with words written by the Master.

As always, the service was hugely enjoyed by the members of Chapel Choir. It is the welcome marker of the end of the Michaelmas term's hard work and it heralds the arrival of the Christmas season. I hope the congregation left feeling as much festive cheer and warmth as we did.

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BRINGING THE HOUSE DOWN

WHEN IT COMES TO GIVING YOURSELF A CHANCE OF WINNING THE HOUSE MUSIC TROPHY, IT'S ALL ABOUT THE PREPARATION, ACCORDING TO SIDNEY HOUSE'S NICHOLAS RICHARDSON-WALDIN (YEAR 12)

t 7 o'clock on Wednesday 12 February, talented musicians from every House sat in the Great Hall, eagerly awaiting their chance to dazzle the audience with their instrumental and part-song performances.

Some slight inter-House espionage meant that I knew how much time and effort every House had put into rehearsing for the competition, and it was a lot! We musicians in Sidney put in around three weeks of rehearsals, firstly just trying to learn and memorise our part-song piece, but eventually working on the blending of our sound and the creation of an entertaining performance. I believe this preparation could have been what won us the competition in the end. It was not only in part-song, however, that we were up against stiff competition. As a member of the House instrumental group, I know how much preparation time had gone into these performances too. Rehearsals, again, had started weeks before the competition: despite our best efforts, however, Howard, with their stunning performance of Bach's Double Violin Concerto in D minor, truly deserved to win that round.

The judge's comments were fair (in some cases quite generous!) and very constructive all round. In the end, the overall scores were close but, joyfully for us, Sidney took home the House Music trophy.







PULLING THE STRINGS

TAKING PART IN THE ANNUAL STRING COMPETITION WAS A DELIGHT, SAYS **FELIX PATTEN** (YEAR 10)

his year's String Competition took place in the Old Library on 21 January, with over 30 boys taking part. The adjudicator, Paul Warburton, who currently teaches at Uppingham and St John's College School, Cambridge, watched nine different classes, from guitar beginners to concertos performed by seasoned musicians who hold grade 8 and diplomas.

His comments to all musicians were inspiring, with useful advice on technique, bow weight and dynamics. As well as playing in two different classes, I enjoyed hearing some of our most talented Upper School musicians such as Matthew Ho and Luca Franchi, who both won first prize in their classes. There were a wide range of composers on offer, including Mendelssohn, Bach and Elgar, and more modern composers like Mark Summer.



SPORTS EDITORIAL

PHIL GREENAWAY

irstly, I hope that you are all safe and healthy. The current situation has provided huge challenges and disappointments in recent times, with the Lent term sports suffering an early end to their seasons, the Summer term sports failing (at time of writing) to get competitive programmes up and running, and the loss of some major dates in the calendar. For the first time since the war the MCC flag will not fly above the Pavilion this summer, and the National Schools Rowing Regatta won't see the Dulwich gazebo buzzing with excitement ahead of a day's racing. In addition, with the cancellation of the Rosslyn Park 7s we missed the sight of 10,000 young rugby players descending onto their fields, desperate for a shot at becoming a national champion. However, the Covid-19 situation has allowed us to take stock, to place an emphasis on skill development and physical fitness, and to evolve our online learning. In no way should this replace our competitive programme but when we do return, I genuinely believe our boys will be better served in the provision that we can offer as a result. What will we return to, in terms of a competitive sports programme? Who knows, but more on that later.

We have had a phenomenal year of sport at Dulwich and we must not let the current situation take away that shine. The boys have put in a huge amount of effort and I hope that they can take pride in, and reflect on their efforts. This year 1,236 boys have represented the College in sport of one form or another, which is just over 77% of the College. I would have hoped, with a full Summer term under our belts, that this would have pushed over 80%. Those numbers don't tell the full story, but they give a great indication as to the engagement of our boys in sport, and the value they place on the programme. It is also a reflection of the value that the Dulwich community places on sport, as our College Leadership Team continue to give their wholehearted support to the PE & Games Department. The Master and other members of the team are often seen prowling the touchlines, desperate to see the boys succeed.

One of the highlights of the year must be the swim team's incredible victory in the Bath Cup in March at the Olympic pool. Sadly, spectators weren't allowed in to watch, but rarely have I seen Miss Palmer lost for words. She returned with a beaming grin, testament to a huge sense of relief, satisfaction and joy at the boys' performance. Massive congratulations go to all the boys involved, and especially to Mr Wakely, who has supported swimming at the College for so long.

This year has also seen the re-emergence of badminton as a major force at Dulwich. Wins against Whitgift and a place in the national semi-final have given hope for what the future might hold. Felix Wright has undoubtedly stolen the show with numerous outstanding performances in county cup competitions, but equally, if not more, pleasing has been the number of boys turning up for the badminton sessions during lunch and after school. Another unsung hero amongst the academic staff is Mr Ottewill, who has been a stalwart of badminton at Dulwich for longer than I care to remember. As is the case with most of the stories you will read in the individual sports sections, the curtailing of the football season, and in particular the cancelling of the U11s national finals at St Georges, was a huge disappointment, but we mustn't lose sight of the incredible season that the U11s had in getting to the finals. The 1st XI have also had a wonderful year, and hearing that our U15s had beaten Millfield in the ISFA National Cup put a major spring in the step. It was a privilege to see the journey of our 1st XI hockey boys as they narrowly lost to an excellent Eastbourne side in the final match before what would have been a fantastic day out at the National Hockey Finals. We are excited about what Will Gurney-Champion and the rest of the team can do next year.

One of the best things to come out of this academic year has been the emergence of two new committees that we have set up in order to continue to try and evolve sport at the College. Both the student and parent committees have begun life by making positive contributions to a number of aspects surrounding sport at Dulwich. Long may that continue, and I would like to thank everyone for their input and involvement. We are the better for it.

I wish I were reporting on winning starts to the Summer term for Cricket, Athletics, Tennis and Rowing, but sadly that is not the case. The work of the winter from Messrs Clark, Coughtrie and Riley will not go to waste, however, as their innovation has been inspirational in breathing new life into Cricket. Mr Annett and Mr Wood have had similar impacts in Tennis and Athletics, and the new rowing team will be excited by what the autumn brings following a year of embedding new programmes, as well as a new structure to the boat house. The Summer term has also seen several initiatives come to the fore, and the 2.6 challenge has epitomised the sense of resilience in adapting to a different way of living. It has been an honour and a privilege to support the supervision of the children of Key Workers in recent weeks, and to see the College community coming together in support of so many worthwhile causes.

So what will September look like? Well, who knows? Will we be playing cricket, rugby, football or all three? We await the government and national governing bodies' decisions, but hope you rest assured that whatever the outcome, we will continue to try to inspire your boys. Whatever the programme looks like, we hope that you will all be there to support us and the boys, as you have done this year. Your support is invaluable to us. Seeing friendly faces on touchlines at away fixtures, or chewing the fat over a cup of tea is always a highlight.

My final words are to those Year 13s who we hope will be better prepared for the path ahead of them because of their sporting life at Dulwich, and in a weird way, because of the situation we now find ourselves in. I sympathise with you all, but beg that you approach life as you have represented the College: with pride, with an open mind, and with a willingness to learn; by being brave enough to ask questions, by working hard and by enjoying the journey. It is, after all, the journey where the learning takes place, where we grow as people and where we have the most fun. Good luck, and thank you.



THIS YEAR 1,236 BOYS HAVE REPRESENTED THE COLLEGE IN SPORT OF ONE FORM OR ANOTHER, WHICH IS JUST OVER 77% OF THE COLLEGE



ATHLETICS ROB WOOD

he Indoor Simmons Cup at Lee Valley is the highlight of the winter athletics season. Our Year 7 boys loved representing the College in their first competitive event. Standout performances came from Isaac Chapman (2nd in shotput), Warren Wilson (2nd in long jump) and Josh Maguire (3rd in triple jump). Many of the Year 8 boys have trained very hard at clubs over the winter and they put this preparation to very good use. Dylan Kalsi burst to victory in the hurdles, Oscar Kinirons won the 800m by half a lap and Antoine Andrews was a class apart in the shotput. The strongest performers in Year 9 were on the track, where Zac Crowther and Tyler Biggs both secured 2nd places in the 400m and 800m, respectively. The Year 10 boys set a fantastic example for the younger pupils, winning their age group competition. Their performances in the field were outstanding: Jamaal Darlington won the high jump, Max George the long jump and Max Williams the shotput. All of those performances meant that Dulwich finished 3rd overall in a very strong competition.

The Southwark Schools Learning Partnership (SSLP) is another indoor event which grows in scale and improves in standard each year. It is an honour to take part in a competition that engages the College with its local partner schools in the borough. The combined Year 8 and 9 team narrowly came second to a strong Kingsdale team. There were outstanding individual performances from Zac Crowther (800m winner), Noah Ridgeon (high jump winner), James Lumeh-Kamara (long jump winner) and Antoine Andrews, who won the shotput. The Year 10 boys went one step further to win their competition overall. A strong overall team performance was highlighted by Jamaal Darlington's winning 1.85m high jump, Kieran Maskey's 60m victory and Jacob Taylor's 1st place in the 800m.

We are blessed with many outstanding athletics clubs in South London, and Hakan Digby, Year 13 and Captain of Athletics for the upcoming season, has enjoyed a fantastic indoor season over the winter. Based at Croydon Harriers and focusing on the 60m sprint hurdles, Hakan started the winter with 3rd place and a personal best of 8.42s in the Surrey Championships. He went one better in his last race of the season at the English National Championships in Sheffield, where he ran 8.39s in the U20 category. It is fantastic to see Hakan leading by example in his own training, and I hope that this will galvanise our other aspiring athletes to follow suit and train at an athletics club to maximise their potential.

The global Covid-19 pandemic has left the summer season in jeopardy, but the boys are still training hard in their own modified ways, and we will be ready to salvage what we can of the season whenever we are allowed back on the track.





IT IS AN HONOUR TO TAKE PART IN A COMPETITION THAT ENGAGES THE COLLEGE WITH ITS LOCAL PARTNER SCHOOLS IN THE BOROUGH

SPORT

BADMINTON JULIAN SUDDABY

t has been an excellent year for badminton at the College. The teams have benefitted greatly from the increased training time with Rob Kettle, our coach, and the overall quality of play has greatly improved. In addition, the larger number of players participating in matches has made a positive difference.

The U18 team began the season with a thrilling match against Whitgift that came down to the final game, which we managed to win 22–20. The next match, against KCS Wimbledon, was even more impressive, with U18A and B teams playing very well across all the pairings and winning 13 of the 18 games played. The match against Epsom College in December provided more encouragement, with our teams winning 13 games to Epsom's three. More disappointing was February's match against Wilson's School, which we lost three games to six. While our first pair won their games, the opposition's depth of squad meant our second and third pairs struggled. Nevertheless, there were many close games, displaying a high level of play, and showing just how far we have come as a force within school badminton.

The team says farewell this year to co-captains Jean-Luc Zhu and Jensen Tong, long-time member Luke Cunningham, and more recent additions Kevin Wang and Chary Li. Their enthusiasm and team participation have been superb.

The U16 team began the year well with a 15–3 victory over KCS Wimbledon. The fact that we could find three strong pairs from both Year 11 and Year 10 is a testament to the popularity of the sport in these year groups. November saw the first round of the National Schools Championships, and we beat Charter North Dulwich and Harris East Dulwich to progress to the next round. In that next round, in January, we were placed an excellent third out of eight, beating teams from St Olave's Grammar School, Hampton and Whitgift. We lost narrowly to Rutlish and the eventual round winners, Wilson's. A week later, however, we played the latter again, and this time managed to secure a 6–3 win. It is very promising that we have finally broken our long run of losses against Wilson's.







Special mention in these year groups should go to Felix Wright (Year 10) who, in addition to representing the school for the U16s and U18s, has had considerable success in national tournaments as a singles player. His level of ability and dedication inspires the whole team to improve. Also deserving of particular praise are Ben Hornby and Shrey Rao (Year 11) whose effective doubles partnership earned them a place in the U18A squad on a number of occasions.

At U14 level, we started our season with a victory in the younger category of the National Schools Championship, beating Compass School, Charter North Dulwich, City of London Academy and Harris East Dulwich to go through to the second round. That round, in January, proved to be more of a struggle, but we did manage to secure a victory against Bonus Pastor. In February and March there were losses against Wilson's School and Whitgift, with the boys not yet fully working together in their pairings. There is talent in the younger year groups, but it needs refinement.



A new venture this academic year was the very first OA vs Boys badminton match, which was held in September. Old Alleynians Liam Vicari, Elvis Law, James Li and Jonathan Pratt returned to the College, and were joined by Mr Suddaby and Mr Wong in taking on the boys. Gaius Ip (Year 12) and Felix Wright (Year 10) proved a formidable pairing, taking all three games. Jensen Tong and Luke Cunningham (Year 13) played below their usual standard, and were unlucky not to secure at least one of their games. Taiga Chawatama and Shrey Rao (Year 11) learnt a great deal from playing the much more experienced OA pairs. OAs won 6 games to 3.

The competition was friendly but serious, and as soon as it was over, the boys immediately began planning a rematch (unfortunately postponed because of COVID-19). We look forward to next year's event.

Finally, a very sad note this year for the badminton team was the untimely passing of Coach Phi Dung Nguyen (pictured on the left), who had coached many of our older players in previous years. He was instrumental in the development of badminton at the College and will be sorely missed. It has been agreed that the cup awarded to the winners of the annual OA vs Boys match will be named the Nguyen cup in Phi's memory.



SPORT

CRICKET RICHARD COUGHTRIE



write this report on a warm Saturday morning in late spring which, in normal times, would be the day of our first competitive block fixture against Tonbridge School. However, the lockdown has challenged us to deliver a programme that allows boys to engage in cricket, notwithstanding these very different circumstances.

When it became apparent over the Easter holidays that we were heading for a prolonged period of distance learning, we embarked on putting together a cricket programme with which boys would be able to engage no matter what their skills level or what facilities were available to them. James Clark and Adam Riley (on whom more below) produced a number of innovative training videos containing a variety of exercises that boys could use to help improve their skills, with a different focus each week. We also created a quiz for boys who wanted to test their cricketing knowledge, and encouraged them to watch, and reflect on, a number of classic cricket matches.

In addition, we were very fortunate to be joined for two fascinating Q and A sessions by top-level cricketers: Chris Jordan (OA), who plays cricket for England and has featured in both the IPL and Australia's Big Bash League, and England One Day International Captain, Eoin Morgan, who spent a brief period at Dulwich College in 2001. Eoin shared his thoughts on how to balance sporting and academic aspirations, as well as giving an insight into what life is like in a World Cup Final dressing room during a super over. Engagement from the boys was nothing short of superb; I hope that they are able to get out onto the beautifully manicured fields at Dulwich College soon, and play the game that we all enjoy so much.

Looking back to the Michaelmas term, boys throughout the College were involved in the winter training programme in impressive numbers. Junior School boys attended 'Cricket Nation', led by the enthusiastic James Clark. This programme aims to increase players' skills in the hope that they will develop a lifelong enjoyment of cricket as well as becoming successful cricketers for the College. Boys in the Lower, Middle and Upper Schools have been able to take part in weekly training sessions after school, as well as taking part in small group sessions led by Adam Riley. Adam was appointed to the College in November as Head of Player Development, replacing Bill Athey, who left the College last July, and I would



WE EMBARKED ON PUTTING TOGETHER A CRICKET PROGRAMME WITH WHICH BOYS WOULD BE ABLE TO ENGAGE NO MATTER WHAT THEIR SKILLS LEVEL OR WHAT FACILITIES WERE AVAILABLE TO THEM

like to say my own personal thanks to Bill for his significant contribution to Dulwich College Cricket. Adam joins us having recently come to the end of a professional cricket career with Kent County Cricket Club, where he represented the 1st XI on 124 occasions over all formats of the game; he is currently completing his ECB Level 3 coaching qualification.



A number of boys at the College are currently involved with county age-group programmes: Robbie Keaton (Year 10), Eddie Ronay (Year 8), Edward Brydon (Year 7) and Roan Kennedy (Year 6) with Surrey County Cricket Club's programme, and Lucas Brown (Year 9) with Kent County Cricket Club's programme.

There has already been a substantial decrease in the number of fixtures that were due to take place, as representative and touring sides have understandably had to cancel matches. However, with luck, the guidance that we receive from the ECB will allow recreational cricket to return as soon as the school lockdown has finished.







SPORT CROSS COUNTRY MATT BURDEKIN

hanks to their superb runs at the London Schools Cross Country Championships, where Dulwich College won all the categories we entered, Billy Morris, Jacob Taylor, Christo Chilton and Zac Crowther qualified for London to compete at the English Schools Cross Country Championships in Sefton Park, Liverpool, in March. At the event all boys ran superbly, with Jacob Taylor coming 36th with a year to go in the age group, and Billy Morris coming 277th in an Intermediate Boys' race of 331 competitors. In the Junior Boys' race, 327 competitors ran. Zac Crowther finished in 46th position, but the real highlight was Christo Chilton's run to 7th place, affording him selection for the home international and his England vest.



he fencing season was cut short a week before the major competition of the year, the Public Schools' Fencing Championship. This came as a real blow, especially given that we had what was possibly the strongest group of fencers heading to the Championship in recent times.

Shortly before the lockdown, Dulwich took two teams to the British School Team Championships. The U18 Sabre team competed well in the competition, hindered slightly by some early injuries. They fought bravely against some strong opposition, finishing in 6th place. The U15 Epee team, consisting of Theo Pos, Lorenzo Roselli and Ethan Hui, had a fantastic competition, finishing with a bronze medal. A very competitive fight against the eventual winners saw the Dulwich team lose out on a top two spot by one point, losing their semi-final 45-44 against Billericay.

Two teams started the year with great fixtures against a strong Whitgift attack. The U14 Sabre team, consisting of Carleo Zhu, Ozan Okvuran, Nathan Hoang and Lawrence



WE HAD WHAT WAS POSSIBLY THE STRONGEST GROUP OF FENCERS HEADING TO THE CHAMPIONSHIP IN RECENT TIMES



Vautier, fought a closely contested battle against a very strong Whitgift team. They eventually lost 45–32 in an admirable match which featured some Dulwich boys' debut for the school. The U16 Sabre team – James Lyon, Tom Borrett and Horace Lee – fought with bravery and intelligence to pull off a win by four points, with the final score 45–41 to Dulwich.

As Captain of Fencing, Tom Borrett has had a great year. Within school competitions he has shown real leadership and passion, while outside school competitions he has had some impressive results, most notably at the London Intermediate Fencing Competition, a senior competition where Tom managed a fantastic silver medal, competing against a number of adult fencers.

Another notable mention for his fencing pursuits outside school competitions goes to Theo Pos. He has taken part in a number of highly competitive matches this season, most notably competing for England in the ESPOO Fencing Challenge, finishing 11th in the U14 division.

With a growing co-curricular section ranging from beginners to international athletes, fencing at Dulwich has a lot to look forward to in the 2020/21 season.

SPORT

FOOTBALL TOM WHITEHEAD

his year has been another whirlwind of activity on the football pitches of Dulwich College. Although at times, especially during the Lent term, the weather was not always kind, the boys have all shown tremendous perseverance and determination, together with a desire to learn and develop even in the most trying of circumstances. 276 fixtures were played for the College, across 64 teams drawn from all year groups, from Year 3 to Year 13; it was fantastic to see the 735 boys involved representing the College and enjoying their football.

More boys than ever have achieved ISFA representative honours this year, showing the increasing strength of the programme. National honours went to Jamie Anderson at U16 and Theo Ladure at U14. Well done to both boys: this is a brilliant accolade. Seven Dulwich boys were also selected to represent the South East England ISFA side at the representative festival: well done to Henry Gooderham, Saul Cozier, Max Mukerji, Sam Ketteley, Matteo Cranchi, Tristan Saunders and Noah Ridgeon. It is great to see so many Dulwich boys playing at the highest level of Independent schoolboy football.

In the Junior School, every boy represented the College in a competitive football fixture, and it is a fantastic sight on a sunny afternoon to see the outfield ablaze with hundreds of young Alleynians enjoying their sport. Another highlight was watching the impressive Year 6 A team, who remained unbeaten all season and won the ISFA U11 London regional tournament, qualifying them for the national finals. Unfortunately, due to the current crisis, this has been postponed, but it is a fantastic achievement by those boys to be part of one of the top school sides for their age. At the annual Dulwich College U10 Invitational Tournament the Year 5 A team also came away victorious after impressing throughout. More teams than ever attended the tournament, with 32 teams and over 300 pupils enjoying a fun-filled afternoon.

In the Lower School, the ISFA Cup team started the year strongly. Victories against Hereward House, KCS Wimbledon, Royal Russell and Elstree saw the boys reach the quarter finals of the ISFA National Cup. Playing Hampton in the last eight proved a step too far, as on the day Hampton came out firing with DC unable to gain a foothold in the game. Despite this, to reach the final stages of the National Cup is a superb achievement. During October half-term, the U13 footballers travelled to Laon in northern France for this year's tour. Focused training allowed the boys to improve their tactical understanding, while fun team sessions







and futsal allowed the boys to show off their skills. Matches against local French clubs gave the boys a chance to sample the local football culture along with a trip to watch Reims play Montpellier in Ligue 1.

To finish the term, Dulwich hosted the United Through Sport charity, which aims to provide boys from the townships of Port Elizabeth in South Africa cultural and sporting opportunities. It was fantastic to host the group; the boys joined in with Year 8 training sessions and visited Crystal Palace to watch a Premier League game together, before both teams went head to head to finish the tour. In a thrilling game, the score ended 4–4, topping off a memorable time for both the United Through Sport and Dulwich boys.

In the Lent term, the weather caused issues with the Saturday programme, but it was fantastic to see the U12s fielding seven teams despite the wet conditions. The standard of football played this year at Year 7 was a pleasure to watch and it is wonderful to see all teams trying to play the ball out with confidence. Although it was a tougher season for the Year 8s, they amassed an impressive scoring record, so with a bit of defensive work, the future looks promising.

In the Middle School, the ISFA Cup team started strongly, with us taking



MATCHES AGAINST LOCAL FRENCH CLUBS GAVE THE BOYS A CHANCE TO SAMPLE THE LOCAL FOOTBALL CULTURE



the scalp of Millfield in the first round. After a brilliant contest, Dulwich hung on in a tense finish to win 3–2. Aldenham awaited in the next round. On a tough windy afternoon, the hosts were clinical, and although Dulwich worked hard it was Aldenham's day. Special mentions go to the U15B team, who went on a fantastic run of form, after losing their first game, to win their next five in the Lent term; and to the U15D team, who went unbeaten over the season, scoring 29 goals and only conceding three.

In the Upper School, the Michaelmas term saw the senior squads beginning to take shape. After a pre-season game versus Lingfield, the 1st XI squad faced Brentwood away. In a close encounter, Dulwich rued missed opportunities, and a couple of lapses in concentration at the back cost them any further involvement in the competition. The senior squads then travelled to Barcelona for the annual pre-season football tour. After a successful tour, the boys came back ready and raring to go. The season started with the annual games versus the OAs. In a competitive block, the OAs came out winners, but it was great to start the season reconnecting with the recent leavers. Since then the 1st and 2nd XIs have both had good seasons. Young squads have meant that there have been lots of learning opportunities, which will hopefully make them stronger in the years to come. After putting together a strong cup run, the 2nd XI made it through to the Trinity Cup final. Unfortunately, this had to be postponed, but after getting so close for the past two seasons and reaching three semi-finals, it was great to see the 2nd XI getting the result their efforts deserved. Special mentions must go to the 5th XI who won six of their seven games, and the 6th XI who won four out of four. Although the weather made it difficult for the seniors, it was great to see a large group at training each week, working hard to develop. This will stand them in great stead for next year.







RUGBY JAMES HANKS

SPORT

ver the course of the 2019-2020 season, the College's 44 teams participated in over 290 fixtures, with many valuable lessons learned along the way. Experiencing success and defeat in equal measure, over 800 Alleynians have played rugby for the College this year.

The College's fixture card remains one of the toughest schoolboy circuits in the country and the season showed that any slip in concentration could be exploited by our opponents. The Senior School started with the traditional Wellington College fixture, and whilst results may not have gone the way we hoped, it certainly raised the bar, enhancing the performance of all our teams over the weeks ahead. The 1st XV subsequently recorded wins versus St Joseph's College Ipswich, Harrow and Brighton College, before a tough loss away at Berkhamsted leading up to our Champions Trophy fixture against St John's Leatherhead. The 1st XV progressed to the third round with a strong home victory against St John's before facing Bedford School in our 400th anniversary fixture, our most traditional and long-standing annual event. Despite the terrible weather, Dulwich hosted all 18 matches, with everyone able to watch the 1st XV battle at the end of the afternoon. With only three losses through

the day and a win for the 1st XV, this occasion was a truly wonderful celebration of rugby and encapsulated all that has been good about the fixture over the previous 156 years.

The 1st XV remained ambitious heading into the St Joseph's College national festival over the half-term break. A strong start and a victory over QEGS Wakefield filled the team with confidence, but losses to the extremely powerful Kirkham GS and Hampton ended our hopes of a Cup final place. Determined now to win the Plate competition on the Sunday, we started the day with a confidence-boosting win over Eltham College, before a loss to Millfield ended our participation in the tournament.

After some well-deserved rest for students and staff over the October half-term break, the College rugby teams reassembled and attacked the second half of the season full of enthusiasm and anticipation. Much had been learned before the break, and now was the time to put those lessons into practice. The 1st XV had an epic battle away at Wellington College in the third round of the Champions Trophy, losing 12-6 to the holders in a game that could have gone either way.

The first two weekends saw us face local opposition from John Fisher and Whitgift. A wonderful block against Fisher saw some keenly contested matches across the board before the majority of the following week's fixtures versus Whitgift were postponed due to waterlogged pitches. Some outstanding work from the College's grounds department allowed the 1st to 3rd XV matches to play, the 3rd XV coming away with a tremendous victory, compensating for the losses of the 1st and 2nd XVs.

The next two weeks saw all of the College's teams out playing fixtures versus traditional rivals Tonbridge and St Paul's, with the 1st XV returning to winning ways with a passionate display. The final weekend of term saw the

> EXPERIENCING SUCCESS AND DEFEAT IN EQUAL MEASURE, OVER 800 ALLEYNIANS HAVE PLAYED RUGBY FOR THE COLLEGE THIS YEAR



Lower School perform admirably in their traditional seasonending fixture versus DPL. We saw the best characteristics of schoolboy sport on display: team spirit, hard work, skill and humility. The Middle and Upper School teams, some playing for the last time in a black and blue shirt, displayed equal spirit and determination to finish the season well, with wins for the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and U16A teams.

For their outstanding performances throughout the season, the following boys earned representative recognition: Enzo Croy and Ben Potter - Harlequins U18; Alex Cahill, Marcus Marchant and Isaac Shaw - Saracens U18; Xavier Rainbow - Surrey U17; Jamie Anderson and Zach Carr -Harlequins U16; Tom Speed, Cameron Gilbert and Max Williams - Saracens/Kent U15; Ollie Rynsard, Leo Coiro and Max George - Harlequins U15; Henry Gooderham, George Croally, Noah Ridgeon, Tristan Saunders and Antoine Andrews - Harlequins U13; Will Davies - Kent/Saracens U13.

As always, we must say a huge thank you to all the boys for their hard work. Their dedication, character and skill were a pleasure to witness each weekend. In addition, a very well-deserved thank you goes to all of the staff who make each weekend fixture possible, from the grounds, medical and catering teams to the coaches, all of whose efforts are hugely appreciated. Lastly, and most importantly, for the wonderful support our boys have received on the side lines from the parents, OAs and the rest of the College community, we thank you.

SPORT

HOCKEY JUSTIN KING

his season has ended with the Coronavirus pandemic causing uncertainty and cancellations to a number of fixtures, and school closing at the end of March. This is something not seen in our lifetime, and hopefully something that we will not have to go through again. That said, we have been fortunate enough to have had an excellent year, with large numbers of boys playing and enjoying the game on a weekly basis. This could not happen without a small group of dedicated staff who have given their time during the week and most Saturdays.

Junior School Hockey has been run by Richard Oubridge this year, and he has had an excellent group of staff helping him run a very good co-curricular programme, with weekly matches plus a training session for the boys not involved. We have had mixed success, but to see the joy and enthusiasm from boys and parents alike has been excellent. I look forward to seeing these boys come through and feed into the Lower School Hockey programme and beyond.

Weekly co-curricular sessions have seen good attendance from the Year 7 boys, and those who took advantage of and engaged with these sessions have seen their play improve noticeably. There are some talented boys in this group, and we hope that we will have the chance to work with them again next year if they choose to play. In Year 8, boys from the F team rugby and below were offered the chance to play hockey from the Michaelmas half-term. These boys really engaged and improved each session, and 37 of them then chose Hockey as their option in the Lent term. These lessons proved to be some of the most enjoyable of the year, with boys getting out early and playing with smiles on their faces. Results improved throughout the term, and I am looking forward to many of them playing again next year.

The Year 9s struggled to get numbers out on a regular basis, but a mixed group played most weekends, and their improvement was pleasing to watch. Francis McCabe, who had not played hockey previously, was our man of the match in the last game. We will need to look after these boys, and I hope that a few of them decide to play again next year.

We have a talented Year 10 group who engage in club hockey on a weekly basis, and six of them – Oliver Monblat, Thomas Stubbs, Finbar Percy, Joe Prince, Thomas Wade and Lucas Cunningham – have been involved in Surrey squads. Their technical ability is excellent, and as a few of them get stronger they will mature into very good hockey players. I am hoping several will be pushing for 1st team places next year; their approach to training and matches shows that dedication and hard work pay off.

Four groups from Years 11 to 13 take part in regular mixed training sessions of around 25–30 boys, sometimes training together and sometimes apart. This allows the boys to develop and see what is required to play for the 1st team.

Our 1st team had an excellent season, losing a very tight last-16 game of the National Cup. Our Saturday fixture card also saw us end with only one defeat. There are some truly outstanding hockey players in the team, plus several very good all-round sportsmen. We have demanded high standards from this group, and this has allowed us to play some entertaining hockey. It has been a huge pleasure to coach these boys. Our 2nd to 4th teams have enjoyed the season, and it is encouraging and pleasing to see so many of them getting stuck in on a Saturday and playing in the right manner.

Finally, I would like to extend a massive thank you to the Year 13s for their commitment over the years; I do hope they continue to play and to enjoy the game in the future.



THEIR TECHNICAL ABILITY IS EXCELLENT, AND AS A FEW OF THEM GET STRONGER THEY WILL MATURE INTO VERY GOOD HOCKEY PLAYERS



THE ALLEYNIAN 708 | OUT OF THE ORDINARY



SPORT



he Michaelmas term saw a bumper number of Year 9s take their first steps into the boat club, joining those in the years above who returned for another year. We also welcomed three new members of staff to the team, brought in to support the development of those new to the sport.

While racing was limited during the Michaelmas term, the number of boys throwing themselves into the co-curricular sessions was not. Keen to get back to work following an exciting season before, the boys created an enthusiastic and driven environment in training sessions, with their mutual support and camaraderie providing the perfect foundation for the technical and physical developments to follow.

October saw Francesco Dembinski make his first step in the trials system, with selection to attend a pre-trials training weekend with the GB Junior Rowing Team staff. The rest of the club headed to Bedford for an autumn opener, with the J15 4x+ and J16 2x coming away with early season wins, a testament to the attitude with which they started the season.

From here the junior squads got stuck into learning new skills, with over 30 regular attendees at J14 sessions providing a busy and exciting group on the water. Meanwhile the J15s swapped two handles for one and turned their attention to sweep.

The Seniors and Colts focused on preparations for the Fuller's Head of the River Fours, building a quad and coxed four for each group. With impressive combinations and plenty of water time, the club was looking forward to supporting the boys. However, the weather put a stop to J16 events, meaning only our senior coxed four and quad were able to put their preparation to the test, coming 5th and 14th, respectively.

Thomas Kuijlaars, this year's Captain of Boats, led by example at the Scullers Head, competing against international athletes across the 6.8km course. Meanwhile members of the squad headed to the Olympic park to compete at the British Indoor Rowing Championships, with 20 boys donning their new club kit across all age groups. Special mentions go to Francesco Dembinski (Year 11) and Matthew Boulton (Year 9) for





KEEN TO GET BACK TO WORK FOLLOWING AN EXCITING SEASON BEFORE, THE BOYS CREATED AN ENTHUSIASTIC AND DRIVEN ENVIRONMENT IN TRAINING SESSIONS

making national top 10 in their respective events to finish 2019 with a really positive set of results across the club.

2020 brought the senior performance camp to Lake Vyrnwy. Here we enjoyed exclusive use of the lake, where side-by-side VIIIs glided through beautiful scenery (a welcome break from the busy tideway) while instilling some solid technical changes. This was made all the more enjoyable by the meals created by Chef Slavomir, who was with us for the duration of the camp.

Once back to reality, the boys kicked off 2020 racing with Bedford New Year's Head, coming home with wins for the 1st VIII, posting the fastest time of the day, and a win on their first race out for the J15 8+. These boys are starting to show the foundations of a squad that works hard together to achieve, and they carried this attitude through to Hampton Head, where they came away ahead of Shiplake and the home side, and only two seconds from Westminster. It was great to see the boys stepping up to the plate so early on. The Seniors and Colts also came away well within the pack, showing the use they had made of their early January camp. The Lent term also saw an addition to our fleet, with a brand new Filippi 8+, kindly donated by the DCBC Association, a real asset in the form of a new first VIII shell. This was closely followed by the purchase of a new pair, allowing our top-end athletes to attend GB trials with elite equipment.

The J14 group haven't had the easiest introduction to rowing, with water and weather conditions meaning their only race not to be cancelled was Bedford New Year's Head, where 22 boys got their first feel for racing. The lack of formal races did not, however, put a stop to a series of termly friendlies with Westminster in Putney, the most recent of which resulted in a draw against a fierce Westminster side.

Following several event cancellations and the half-term break, a small group of boys competed at the National Junior Indoor Rowing Competition, which took place at the Copper Box arena in February. Success came for the Year 9 boys' relay team, who finished 4th whilst rowing technically very well. Matthew Boulton put on a great performance to finish 6th in the Year 9 category. Francesco Dembinski came home with a gold medal in the Year 11 boys' category, while in the Year 10 boys' category Filippo de Marsanich took bronze, and Hector Senior silver.

With the season seeing an unexpectedly early close, the boys have continued to train with enthusiasm. It has been incredible to see the determination and reliance brought to every session, with video calling meaning that while they may not be able to be together to train, their ability to support, challenge and develop each other is unwavering.

SPORT

SQUASH JORDAN ANNETT

ntering the season, the Dulwich College Squash Club was in good form. The number of boys attending junior co-curricular sessions was excellent, and the senior players, who often play in numerous other team sports in the same term, were committing to fixtures in order to stretch themselves as individuals and as a squad. Most of our fixtures are for the senior squad, and given the relatively small pool of Upper School players, led by Oscar Marchal and Archie Taylor, our younger players were able to come to the fore, playing key matches throughout this year, and therefore experiencing tough clashes with top-class independent schools on the circuit.

A brilliant first-up triangular fixture between St Paul's and the hosts, Sevenoaks School, allowed the squad to find their feet and get proper competitive squash under their belts. Despite there being glimpses of highly proficient play, especially from Ben Blacknell and Jamie Higgins, the boys were soundly beaten by more able opposition at the time.

Continuing the theme of triangular meets, Tonbridge School hosted the King's School Canterbury and Dulwich College in the early stages of the season. Despite some logistical problems with the M25 en route to the fixture, the players performed exceptionally well, pulling together more consistent approaches across each game and finding a more obvious cutting edge to their play. Lorenzo Tonelli stood out in this clash and was unlucky to come away with a defeat despite having opportunities to pull away in certain games of the match.

Home and away fixtures against KCS Wimbledon and Epsom College proved crucial to some of the developments in the squad's performances this season. On both occasions, the opposition were too strong, overpowering the Dulwich players with more intelligent squash, combined with a highly consistent approach. However, on the return legs, with more time spent on court in the interim, the Dulwich players were keen to show their progress. David Kembery, the youngest squad member, and Archie Taylor embodied the spirit of these games, leaving everything on court and justifying their selection fully. Previous losses were eclipsed by the way in which the squad were able to turn results around with excellent performances across the board, and it was pleasing the see the boys get a reward for their efforts.

After the Christmas break, one central competition remained for the squad. This was the Roehampton School Invitational Competition. Drawn in a group alongside Marlborough, Radley and University College School, Dulwich were excited to play a bout of competitive games in a great venue with plenty of atmosphere. Playing in a timed format unless the best of three games had already been reached, they knew that every point was important. Our first opponents were UCS, and there were competitive games from seeds one to five. Dulwich only managed to come through with one full victory but despite looking slightly lacking on the match practice front, the boys showed glimpses of good quality squash and were buoyed by the first performance. Radley followed and, once again, a group of more consistent performers provided a stern challenge to the Dulwich players, who gained further valuable experience in another loss. After lunch, Marlborough were up last in the group stages for Dulwich, and having previously won their other games, they seemed likely to secure victory. However, the Dulwich boys performed extremely well, once again displaying an ability to control games at critical moments, despite sometimes lacking appropriate levels of execution at the end of otherwise well-worked points. KCS Wimbledon were our opponents in the 4th-place playoff. Having previously faced each other in the Michaelmas term, players from both sides wanted to end the day on a high. Lower down the seedings, KCS were too strong, while the top end matches proved challenging for both teams, with many games going to the wire. Despite a great effort throughout the day, the boys did not have enough to vanquish the side from Wimbledon in the end. Overall, this was a hugely enjoyable occasion and it provided a rich opportunity for the boys to experience tournament-style squash.

The development across the season for the core group of competitive players has been exceptional and, going forward, the prospect of more progress is exciting. In a similar fashion to the recent Lent term, more after school co-curricular sessions will be implemented for the lower age groups in order to create a more sustainable flow of committed players in the club. Many thanks to all those boys who have represented the school and taken part in the programme. It will continue to grow with your support.



he water polo squads are continuing to develop and go from strength to strength, led by our amazing coaches, Timothy Kendall and Mario DeLeraCalero. As with so much this year, nothing went quite to plan. With cancelled matches, pool closures and many of the tournaments unfinished, it would be easy not to remember the progress and the positives that we have seen.

The U15s had a great trip to Madrid in the New Year, playing against some of the best sides in junior water polo that Spain has to offer. Upon their return, the U15s had their semi-final tournament away at Haberdashers' School. Winning their first two matches, against Haberdashers' and Bedford, they qualified for the final alongside Alleyn's. The finals took place the following week at Northampton School. The boys produced some fantastic water polo and demonstrated the improvements they have made. They finished in a respectable óth place with all of their 10 matches decided by a single goal or even by penalties. It was the closest set of matches in schoolboy water polo I have ever seen and demonstrates the improvement across the country in the sport.





The U18s also managed to finish their national campaign. After the highs of the silver medal in the 2019 championships, the boys were devastated to drop into the plate competition after a disappointing first round. After some evaluating and new target-setting, the boys turned their season around, cruising through the semi-finals alongside St Paul's, and starting to play as a team again, although the disappointment was still evident and it was clear there was still work to be done. The team that turned up at Northampton School for the National Plate final was a team we were proud to coach. They were calm and respectful, supportive and encouraging, and demonstrated their skill in all aspects of the game. They won all four of their games to become 2020 ESSA National Plate Champions. Through every disappointment there are lessons to be learnt, and the senior team have learnt many this year.

SPORT

SWIMMING TRACEY PALMER

hat an historic academic year this has been! After the amazing quatercentenary celebrations, we moved into 2020 with a bounce in our step. Still high on the successes of hosting the London Olympiad in the beautiful Olympic pool, we had absolutely no idea of the emotional roller-coaster we were about to embark on. Before the schools closed and the competitions stopped, the DC swimmers managed to get in some memorable performances. There were a number of inter-schools galas both in the Junior School and Senior School, and we joined together with Dulwich Prep to host a regional round of the IAPS qualifying competition (sadly the national final event has now been cancelled). The U13 and U12 boys competed in the London Independent Swimming League A final and qualified for the grand final; this was a wonderful team effort from our young stars.

There was, however, one final that did take place: the Bath Cup. This is the biggest national school swimming event, and one towards which we have been working for a number of years. The last 10 years have seen us consistently in the top 10 schools in the country, with a 4th place finish in 2017 being our highest achievement. So, back to Stratford and the Olympic pool we went, with what was potentially our fastest ever team, and real hope for gaining a podium finish. Sam Williams (Year 13), the Swimming and Water Polo Captain this year (and a fine example in both sports), was rested in the heats with his sole purpose in the final (if we made it) to swim a lifetime best in his last schoolboy swimming event. This allowed Zac Crowther (Year 9) to step up and swim in the heat





with the senior team. And swim he did, achieving a wonderful lifetime best, as well as securing 6th place and a place in the final alongside Willem Koster, Sam Ridgely and Aryaan Din. The team talk was had, and they lined up for the final in Lane 6, next to last year's champions, Campbell College Belfast. Willem went off first and had clearly decided we were going to win, setting his own lifetime best and allowing Sam Ridgely to take over in a clear first place. Not to be outdone by his teammates, Sam not only held the lead but extended it, swimming faster than he has ever done before, giving our captain every motivation as he took over for the third leg. Although I was confident in Sam Williams' ability, he had never actually swum the time I had targeted him and afterwards admitted he wasn't sure he could swim that fast. However, as good captains do, he gave everything, and produced over a 3-second personal best, giving Aryaan a take over still in first place. Aryaan has had a stellar season in the pool and was in fine form. Did we dare to believe ...? As the final Campbell College swimmer was a 100m freestyle champion and capable of a time at least three seconds faster than any of our boys can currently swim, the race was certainly on. Aryaan hit the 50m turn still in first place but his lead was now being eaten up stroke by stroke. His confidence was there though, and he dug in and fought back. As we approached the last five metres it was too close to call. We all looked up at the giant screen and there it was - 1st: Dulwich College! Relief, euphoria, and probably every emotion in between, were experienced in equal measure by all. Winning isn't everything in sport - we know that - but when you do win, my goodness it feels great.

This was the first time in our history we have won the 4x100m freestyle event, and by the narrowest of margins, in what was an epic race. The John Nelson Medley took place later in the afternoon and again featured some wonderful swims. With our stroke specialists Kamran Din and Andrew Rowland joining the team, it was a very proud day for all of us.

BASKETBALL U14

SPORT

HARRY WAIGHT AND THEO LADURE (YEAR 9)

great debut season for the U14s started with their first game in the London Independent School Basketball Association (LISBA) season - a local derby against neighbouring Alleyn's. The team fought hard for a 46-13 win, showing promising signs for the future. They continued their winning ways by beating a talented Whitgift outfit in a nail-biting four-point win, Tyler Biggs stealing the show with 17 points.

In the SSLP (Southwark Schools Learning Partnership) tournament the team got their entry to their first playoffs by very closely sneaking the fourth seed. They came through the semi-finals to meet Kingsdale in the final. However, Kingsdale were too strong on the day, and Dulwich had to settle for the second-place medal.

The team then went through a tough spell of games, losing three in succession. They worked hard at training by scrimmaging with the older teams to help bounce back, and their hard work paid off as they beat Whitgift a second time. The game saw the U14s under pressure, with the score at 23-30 in favour of the opposition. With 6mins 20secs left to go in the fourth quarter, the team embarked on a comeback few would have seen coming, winning the game 35-30. This match had almost qualified the team for the LISBA playoffs and, with the help of a few results in the team's favour, got them another fourth seed. With an impressive first regular season coming to an end they had suffered losses but had caused upsets within the league. Now was their chance to go all the way in year one. This was it - the day to deliver, the day to finish off the season by lifting the glorious LISBA Cup, fought between City of London, Whitgift, KCS Wimbledon and ourselves. There was no room for error. The team knew that getting stuck in from the very first blow of the whistle was crucial as their first opponents, City of London, would not be easy opposition. As usual, Dulwich's main tactic, quick breakaways, relied on the great athletic abilities of the players. Their game, however, got off to a slow start, following which a much-needed talk from Mr Monson put them back on track. They showed great endurance during the latter half of the game. With great communication, passing and rebounds, the team was back, ending the game with a remarkable last quarter. Unfortunately though, the sudden outburst in confidence had come too late.

Learning from their previous performance, the team went into the 3rd/4th place playoff with a renewed hunger to finish off the season on a high against KCS Wimbledon. The accolades definitely go to James Lumeh-Kamara, who so nearly clinched the all-important title of 'best shot of the year' with an impressive attempt at the legendary 'half-court buzzer beater', hitting both sides of the rim but somehow not succeeding in his valiant endeavour. A very dominant victory gave Dulwich a well-deserved bronze medal, while City of London took the trophy home.

This season has proven to be a huge success for the team, and the Herculean leap in progress can be attributed to Mr Monson's tremendous coaching and the team's unfailing determination. A bright future awaits.

AS USUAL, DULWICH'S MAIN TACTIC, QUICK BREAKAWAYS, RELIED ON THE GREAT ATHLETIC ABILITIES OF THE PLAYERS SPORT

BASKETBALL

U15

JAMES FAIERS

he U15 team hoped to bounce back from a difficult first season last year, a season that did not bring wins but did give them experience and helped them develop as both individual basketball players and as a team. After a good team display at Whitgift, which unfortunately yielded the result that the team had become accustomed to, the U15s travelled to City of London, still in search of their elusive first win. What followed was a team performance when everything clicked into place; some great basketball was played with very few careless errors, and the result was a dominant 15-point win. This gave the U15 team the confidence they needed heading into their remaining LISBA fixtures. The Dulwich team then went into their final league match of the season against Whitgift, knowing that a win would see them clinch their first playoff berth, but unfortunately the team could not execute a win, finishing one place outside the playoff spots. Though this was not the ending that the team had hoped for, the season as a whole saw great improvement, and the team should be very proud of their efforts.



U16

EMMANUEL DEL PRETE (YEAR 11)

fter claiming the 3rd spot in the LISBA playoffs the preceding year, and having had the summer to gather themselves, the U16 basketball team were raring to go. They had only one thing on their mind. Winning. The talent-packed team trained almost every day in anticipation of their first matches, against Royal Russell, Alleyn's, Whitgift and KCS respectively, and we achieved a strong 3-1 record. To finish the season came the game against City of London, the reigning champions and the team Dulwich failed to defeat last year. Despite some injuries, a hard-fought match took place, unfortunately resulting in a 48-56 loss. Going into the LISBA playoffs as the third seed and led by the wellrespected Coach Clive, the U16 team were to face off with the second seed Whitgift for a finals spot. Led by the starters Arthur Ho, Emmanuel Del Prete, Osman Tevfik, François Denaro and Sito Udoaka, the U16 team gave it their all and overcame the Whitgift team and its very gifted star player. With much energy expended, the U16 team took a short huddle and gathered themselves for the finals matchup against the first seed, KCS. Due to the hard-fought semifinal victory, Dulwich sustained two injuries but had to fight on with an undermanned team. Despite the best efforts from the starting team of Arthur Ho, Emmanuel Del Prete, François Denaro, Ekow Amoah and Sito Udoaka, Dulwich failed to overcome KCS and its towering twins, suffering a marginal loss. After shaking hands with the opponents, claiming our silver medals and a congratulatory speech from Coach Clive and Mr Faiers, our minds turned to how to move up another place next year and emerge U18 champions.



OLUWANIFEMI OLOWOLAGBA (YEAR 13)

18s were looking to turn things around after the previous disappointing season. Unfortunately, things did not start as we would have hoped, with the U18s having a 1-2 start in the LISBA League and 0-2 in Nationals, which sadly prevented us from progressing in Nationals. After a very good team win against Royal Russell, with great offensive showings from Marcus Loo and Francis Yang, as well as an amazing defensive game from Jack Wong, the team was in good shape to move forward to their Cup quarter-finals match against Forest School. In the meantime, they still had the LISBA League and playoffs to take care of, but unfortunately, after tough losses to Whitgift and City of London, the U18s were unable to snag a spot in this year's playoff tournament. However, there was still some hope as the team ventured to Forest School for their Cup quarter-finals match. A strong team performance all round led to a victory, but unfortunately the rest of the tournament was called off due to school closures across the country. This was an underwhelming finale for most of the boys' Dulwich College basketball careers, but the future is bright, as there is a lot of talent coming up from the U16 team, as well as the years below.



THANK YOU

We owe a huge thank you to the following students, who leave the College this year having been fantastic servants over many years to Dulwich College Basketball:

Max Cain, Joshua Chan, Oscar Chan, Jasper Chou, Jardel Cumberbatch, Wesley Fong, Marcus Loo, Oluwanifemi Olowolagba and Francis Yang.

James Faiers

Roman Holiday

OLIVER SUTHERSANEN-TUTT (YEAR 11) SHARES FOND MEMORIES OF A FEBRUARY HALF-TERM TRIP TO THE ITALIAN CAPITAL



WE WERE ALL DELIGHTED AT THE PROSPECT OF ESCAPING THE WRATH OF STORM DENNIS FOR THE CULTURE, CUISINE AND SUNSHINE OF ROME

ust a few weeks before the Covid-19 crisis shut the world down, a group of us departed from Gatwick under the supervision of Mr Fox, Mr Thomas and Mrs Apaloo. We were all delighted at the prospect of escaping the wrath of Storm Dennis for the culture, cuisine and sunshine of Rome. After a smooth flight, we took a coach ride to the mighty Hotel Noto in the city centre, our base for the next few days.

The following morning, we arose, a little bleary-eyed, at 6.30, in order to be among the first into the magnificent Colosseum, a half-hour walk from the hotel. We were let off the leash for an hour to explore the 2,000-year-old architectural goliath and take plenty of pictures. Next was the beautiful Forum, which was littered with ancient statues with enviable Apollo's belts, as Mr Fox pointed out. One thing which struck me about Rome was the fluidity with which the ancient buildings and cobbled roads seamlessly blend with the modern infrastructure. After a pizza lunch, we went into the first of the plethora of churches that we would visit over the next few days. I was impressed with St Ignatius', in which the visitor encounters beautiful artwork at every turn.

That evening we travelled to the Trevi Fountain, which was still extremely busy despite the late hour. The fountain was awe-inspiring, with statues of Roman mythological figures guiding the flowing water as swarms of people throw coins of varying value into its depths.

On our penultimate day, we ventured into Vatican City. There, we started with the Castel Sant'Angelo, the site of the Emperor Hadrian's tomb, which became a military fortress for later popes. From the top of the tall tower you have a spectacular view of the Tiber river and St Peter's Basilica. The rest of the day involved a whirlwind of information and a lot of walking as we had a very detailed guided tour of Vatican City. We saw the magnificent St Peter's Basilica, which contains the greatest quantity of gold that I have ever seen in one place. Its interior is truly enormous, with each letter of the Latin writing on the dome being six feet tall! The tour culminated with a short time in the Sistine Chapel, where we viewed Michelangelo's masterpiece. Sadly, we weren't allowed to take pictures and it was quite cramped inside the chapel, but the artwork on every side of every wall was jaw-dropping. Having learnt about some of the paintings on the tour made us all appreciate it even more.

Our final day was a bittersweet one, as we all wished that we could have a few more days in this wonderful city, but happily we still had a lot more to see before our evening flight. After our final early start, we walked to the imposing Spanish Steps, constructed in the 1720s. We then ventured into the heart of the city to see the 2,000-yearold Roman Pantheon, which is still in immaculately preserved condition and perfectly integrated within the bustling city. It is a prime example of the ancient and the modern entwined with one another in the eternal city. In recent times, it has been converted from a pagan place of worship into a Catholic church where anyone can come to pray and perform other non-liturgical forms of worship.

Our final activity was a guided excursion through some early Christian catacombs, where we saw a variety of different tombs from the simple to the quite elaborate. These underground cemeteries, 20 metres below the ground, strike you as quite eerie when you first encounter them, but we quickly became accustomed to them as we travelled further down through the tunnels. Unfortunately, our next journey was to the airport where we had an entertaining five-hour wait before boarding our plane back to wet England.

This was a fantastic educational trip, which the teachers made interesting and engaging throughout, even though we saw what seemed like a hundred churches. Looking back on it now from the viewpoint of the Covid-19 lockdown, I can safely say that the Rome trip has been the highlight of my year.

Amsterdam adventure

ENTHUSIASTIC AUDIENCES, INTRIGUING ACOUSTICS AND A RANGE OF CULTURAL ACTIVITIES CONTRIBUTED TO THE SUCCESS OF THE CHAMBER MUSIC TOUR TO AMSTERDAM, SAYS **JOSHUA THEAKER** (YEAR 12)





C WE PERFORMED IN DE GROTE KERK, A LARGE CHURCH WITH AN EXCITING, ECHOED ACOUSTIC

n arrival at Amsterdam's English Reformed Church, we had plenty of time to warm up before the concert, the first of the trip. We felt we played with verve, and the very warm response from the audience left us in high spirits after the concert. We wound our way through the streets of the centre of town in order to find some food, before going to the Rijksmuseum. Once replete with burgers, chicken or ribs, we ventured off to see the most famous art museum in Amsterdam, which features masterpieces such as 'The Night Watch', by Rembrandt.

The second day took us to Monnickendam, a small town to the north of Amsterdam, near the coast. We performed in De Grote Kerk, a large church with an exciting, echoed acoustic. The final piece was greeted with enthusiastic applause and congratulations from the audience, who commented on the high level of playing. Their feedback was much appreciated. On the third day, sightseeing was on the agenda. We visited the historical museum This is Holland, which includes a 5D 'flight' over some of the country's most notable landmarks. After this, we ventured to the A'DAM Lookout, which offered mesmerising views over Amsterdam. Some of our number took part in the 'Swing over the Edge' activity, a mechanical swing built on top of the Lookout. I was one of the more sane-minded amongst the group, deciding not to participate in an activity involving suspension in the air with a drop of 100 metres! After a brief lunch, we departed for a canal boat trip, which took us on a soothing tour around some beautiful canals, and included some interesting history about the city and its architecture.

My thanks go to the staff who organised the trip. It provided us with a great opportunity to develop our musicianship, as well as offering us a chance to discover so much about Amsterdam in particular, and Holland as a whole.

Looking for the winning solution

ALEX HEMPLE (YEAR 10) RECALLS A TRIP TO KENT TO TAKE PART IN THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF CHEMISTRY'S YEAR 10 CHALLENGE



n late 2019 Muhammad Baluch, Misha Kersh, Darius Patilea and I took part in the preliminary round of the Royal Society of Chemistry's Year 10 Challenge (Kent section). We were delighted to find ourselves one of the top-placed teams, and were invited to take part in the final in January.

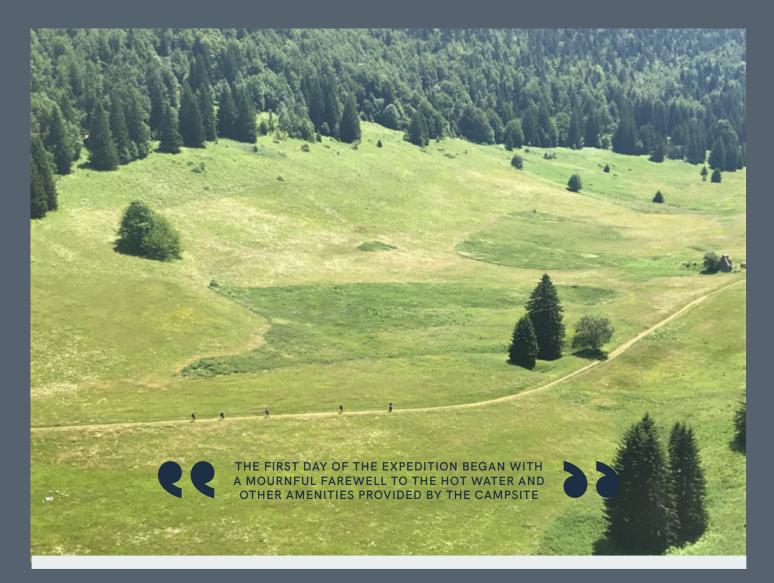
The final comprised four challenges, all requiring good teamwork. The first was a memory challenge in which we had to learn facts about six lanthanides. Next, we did a flame test practical where we identified cations by observing the colour of the flame. We then completed a multiple-choice chemistry general knowledge quiz, which was followed by the final activity – a practical in which we had to find the strong acid, weak acid, water, weak alkali and strong alkali of five solutions, working out which was which. At the end of the day we finished in second place, just one point behind the top team, a result of which we were proud. All of the members of the team thoroughly enjoyed the experience.



WE DID A FLAME TEST PRACTICAL WHERE WE IDENTIFIED CATIONS BY OBSERVING THE COLOUR OF THE FLAME

Solid Gold

RIVERS WESTLEY (YEAR 13) DESCRIBES A MEMORABLE TREK ACROSS THE VERCORS IN SOUTHERN FRANCE, THE COMPLETION OF HIS YEAR-GROUP'S DUKE OF EDINBURGH GOLD EXPEDITION





ur initial hopes for a somewhat relaxed expedition quickly evaporated, as upon stepping off our nicely air-conditioned coach we were greeted with a wave of heat. This was immediately matched by our amazement at the awe-inspiring beauty of the mountain scenery that towered above us. Full of excitement and anticipation for the days to come, we witnessed the peak, no pun intended, of French hospitality as the mountains' icy stares welcomed us to the base camp at Autrans.

Before embarking upon our four day 80-kilometre hike across the plateau, we were given a day to acclimatise and make final preparations. We were divided into teams of between five and seven and spent this first day getting to grips with the heat as well as the realisation that we would be without internet for up to four days. We conducted mock navigation exercises in order to get familiar with the terrain as well as getting used to the somewhat bizarre French maps.

The first day of the expedition began with a mournful farewell to the hot water and other amenities provided by the campsite, as we set off from Villard de Lans to our first destination, Saint Martin en Vercors, 20 kilometres away. While we had been given a day to get used to the heat it was still punishing, and by the end of the first day many boys were exhausted. The initial anticipation and excitement were superseded by foot pain, as well as the realisation that much of the trek lay in front of us. We pushed on, and although some of the teams met with some initial difficulty in navigating, which led to them scaling the side of a cliff, day two was by and large easier than the previous one. However, the wild camping that we undertook was starkly different from the normal comfort that we have come to expect. While there was some initial grumbling about the sleeping arrangements, the stunning view of Le Grand Vermont was readily appreciated by many. However, for the few boys who had been finding the hike 'too easy' up to this point, seeing it wasn't enough. At the start of the third day they were given the challenge of climbing its peak, the highest point in the Massif du Vercors.

We finished the third day on a slightly sombre note as we set up camp within sight of a monument commemorating those who had lost their lives fighting the Nazi occupation. This had resulted in the decimation of the Vercors' population, and has left scars which can still be seen in the form of abandoned shells of homes littering the rural landscape.

On the final day of walking we descended out of the picturesque landscape to the Col de Rousset, before being transported back to Autrans where we were welcomed with a celebratory evening of pizza and cake. While it had indeed been both a physically and mentally exhausting four days, the sense of accomplishment and relief that accompanied the completion of the expedition felt almost as good as the warm shower afterwards. It was an unforgettable experience, and I would highly recommend Gold Duke of Edinburgh to anyone.

In Dublin's Fair City

TOM SPEED (YEAR 10) HAS FOND MEMORIES OF THE 2019 RUGBY TOUR TO DUBLIN



THE GAME WAS PLAYED IN GREAT SPIRIT BY BOTH TEAMS AND WAS ENJOYED BY ALL, AS WAS THE POST-MATCH TEA



fficially, our trip started at Gatwick early on a Thursday morning, but for us it really began when, having checked in at King's Hospital School, we headed straight out on to the pitch, and launched into our first training session of the new season; it certainly blew the summer cobwebs away.

We had an early breakfast on day two and were ready on the pitch for a 9:00 am training session. This took us through to lunch, after which we returned to the field for an afternoon session Once again we were put through some vigorous training, working specifically on throw-ins and lifting.

Having showered (which was essential after the two training sessions!) we departed for Dublin where we took part in the Viking Splash tour, viewing some iconic points throughout the city. This was not only interesting but also quite fun – well, the teachers definitely enjoyed it! After the tour we were split into groups to explore Dublin further, and to get something to eat.

On day three we had another tough but enjoyable morning training session before leaving KHS and visiting Croke Park. We were shown around the stadium and learned about the sports played at the ground and the different teams, as well as the histories of all the competitions. We were also able to try some of the other sports played at the stadium, which was fun, but I think we will all be sticking to rugby! Upon leaving Croke Park we once again travelled into Dublin, where we were once more split into groups for dinner, before returning to KHS ahead of Sunday's game.

We were up early on day four for a quick breakfast and then headed out for the team run-through in preparation for the game. Despite going 7-0 down against King's Hospital, the team quickly responded with some excellent passing, running and support play, and were soon in control of the match, which eventually resulted in a solid win of 50-12. The game was played in great spirit by both teams and was enjoyed by all, as was the post-match tea provided by KHS.

Our last day saw a final training session before we all headed off to the Guinness Storehouse for a tour and to learn how Guinness is made; unfortunately we weren't able to try any! After the tour we grabbed some lunch, did our last minute shopping, then boarded the coach and headed off for the airport. After a short flight we landed at Gatwick, and some very tired DC boys headed home.

A big thank you goes to KHS for their hospitality and to Mr Greenaway, Mr Brown, Mr Wood and Dr Wisson for all their hard work on making this a great tour.

Fifteen gentlemen in Verona

ENZO CROY (YEAR 13) DESCRIBES A VERY ENJOYABLE PRE-SEASON TOUR TO VERONA FOR THE 1ST XV RUGBY SQUAD





pon arrival at the Verona Rugby Academy on day one, what struck the group the most was the quality of the facility we were staying at: the state of the art accommodation, gym and pristine pitches set the scene for a productive training period.

As well as putting in the hours on the field and in the gym, we were able to experience Verona and its surrounding area, enjoying visits to 'Juliet's House' and to the impressive amphitheatre. Another visit was to Lake Garda, which featured the disconcerting appearance of budgie smugglers on half of the team. Throughout our travels, we experienced fantastic Italian cuisine from a range of restaurants, which was undeniably the highlight for many. Another outing which we all thoroughly enjoyed was that to the Ferrari Museum, where we were given the opportunity to change tyres on F1 cars. This proved to be the most tightly fought competition of the whole tour, with the teachers coming out on top.

On the penultimate day we had the opportunity of a training fixture against Petrarca Rugby, which was hugely beneficial to both sides, and represented the shared values of the sport around the world. On our final day we travelled to a waterpark and then to a town near Lake Garda, where we were able to relax and reflect on a hard week's training.

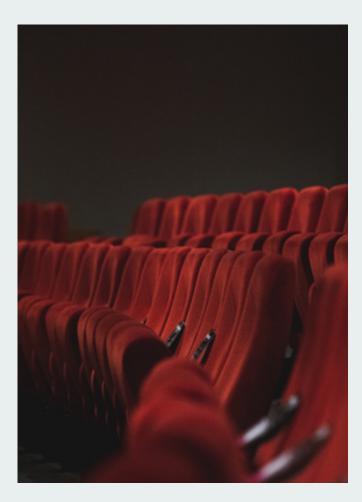


The Full English

THEATRE TRIPS ARE, SAYS **ALEX HAWES**, A GREAT WAY TO ENCOURAGE GCSE STUDENTS TO CONSIDER TAKING ENGLISH LITERATURE FOR A LEVEL

t was that time of year again, and I found myself going through the usual process of trying to sell English Literature A level to my GCSE set. They responded by challenging me to prove that the course was great. So we met at lunchtime each Friday for a number of weeks to read short stories and poetry of the kind that they might encounter in Year 12. Our enjoyment of these sessions prompted me to form Middle School Further English, an official group for boys who love English and may wish to pursue it beyond GCSE.

Over two years on, there are now two Middle School Further English cohorts, one for Year 10 and another for Year 11. The former meet each Wednesday lunchtime and the latter each Friday. Both meetings regularly attract between 25 and 30 boys, and the great literature we have enjoyed together has included F. Scott Fitzgerald's short story 'The Diamond as Big as the Ritz', Brian Friel's play Translations, and J.D. Salinger's novel The Catcher in the *Rye*. We have also gone to the theatre in the evening together on a number of occasions, most recently seeing Death of a Salesman and All Quiet on the Western Front. The review below is by Alexander Lewis, one of the first ever members of Middle School Further English. Alexander writes about the production of Sam Shepard's True West which we saw at the Vaudeville Theatre. It starred Kit Harington, an actor known to many as Jon Snow in Game of Thrones.



Review of

True West

ALEXANDER LEWIS (YEAR 11)

s is characteristic of Shepard's plays, with their black comedy and rootless characters, what we see in True *West* is two estranged brothers meeting again after five years apart. Austin is chasing the American dream by writing a screenplay, which he is attempting to finish when his brother walks in and starts distracting him. Lee is a drifter and petty thief, recently returned from a stay in the Mojave Desert. It would be an understatement to say their relationship is dysfunctional, but the competitive dynamic it creates is what drives the plot forward and can at times be hilarious. For instance, Austin's attempt to prove his daring by comically lining up a row of stolen toasters at the very front of the stage results in a memorable moment to say the least. The set and sound design is wonderful, from the tacky 80s chairs to the incessant clicking of crickets, which is well noted by the characters, and is indicative of how the set and the performance are inseparable.

The main issue of the play was the casting. While Johnny Flynn and Kit Harington are both brilliant actors in their own right, they both struggled to convey the nuances of their characters. Harington captured the slow unravelling of Austin's sanity to a tee, but arguably his fame in a previous role undermined his attempts at portraying Austin's quiet and reserved personality at times. The characterisation sometimes felt forced, raising the question of whether someone who fitted the role more naturally would have been a better choice. Equally, Flynn was well suited to the role when playing the part of a menacing and bullying older brother, but he didn't quite manage to convey Lee's more subtle desire to settle down into a life of quietude. The supporting roles of Saul, a Hollywood director, and Lee and Austin's mother are well played but lacked the depth that Sam Shepard wrote into the two brothers as the protagonists.

While the play is sharp and witty, it also carries an important message about the American dream and how it is achieved. Unlike Steinbeck's portrayal of the struggle for success in his novella Of Mice and Men, where, if it is at all achievable, the best method of attaining it is through companionship and working together, Shepard speaks of the opposite. His mantra is that direct competition, even between brothers, is the only way of achieving the dream. Other key differences divide the two works; Steinbeck considers the huge disadvantages one can face when seeking the dream if one is black, disabled or female. In stark contrast to this, Shepard focuses solely on the 'average' American. However, it should not be said that Shepard ignores injustices completely. Lee and Austin, despite being brothers, have strikingly different backgrounds. Austin is highly educated whereas Lee might as well have been brought up in the desert. Austin's suggestion that Saul had lost a bet points towards the corruption and dishonesty rife within the US government, as well as being a clear reference to the luck that is so desperately needed to attain the American dream.

Without his sharp wit, Shepard's writing could easily be likened to the dark and depressing tragedies of Shakespeare, but thanks to his ability to incorporate black humour he allows you to enjoy darkly comic absurdities, making this play an enjoyable and poignant experience.

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THE SET AND SOUND DESIGN IS WONDERFUL, FROM THE TACKY 80s CHAIRS TO THE INCESSANT CLICKING OF CRICKETS



Ski racing trips

MATT BURDEKIN REFLECTS ON ANOTHER HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL SKI RACING SEASON, WITH TRIPS TO CANADA AND SWITZERLAND

Canada Cup

n December 2019 our intrepid ski racers set out for their first race camp on snow in Jasper, Canada. After five and a half days of training, we commenced racing. The first category was Dual Slalom, where racers from all schools mix up to create teams. We were delighted for Freddie De Groot and Thomas Stubbs, who represented Dulwich in the winning team, having won four rounds of races.

The second day of racing saw the boys ski two runs of Giant Slalom. We were extremely pleased with the boys' standard of skiing, with just four out of 36 racers failing to ski two clear runs. Stand-out performances were from Sam Fleming in the Open age category and Theo Pos in the U14 age category.

On the final day of racing, boys skied two runs of Slalom. The first run of the day was extremely technical and all schools had a very tough time, with over half the field skiing out of the run. This is where ski racers showed real mental toughness to come back and go again in the second run. I am delighted that our boys did exactly that and we skied superbly with 26 of our racers skiing clear. Outstanding Slalom performances were from our captain, Jacob Crowther, in the Open category, Oscar Howley in the U16 category and Theo Pos in the U14 category.



Silverware this year includes:

Dual Slalom winners Freddie De Groot and Thomas Stubbs

U14 Giant Slalom, Slalom and Combined silver medals Theo Pos

> U16 Slalom silver medal Oscar Howley

U14 Giant Slalom team winners Theo Pos, Nathan Firla and Louis Useldinger

U14 Slalom team winners Theo Pos, Nathan Firla and Philip Henkel Von Ribbentrop

U18 Giant Slalom third place team Jacob Crowther, Sam Fleming, Ben Knowles



WE ENJOYED A SPECTACULAR HAUL THIS SEASON, UNDERPINNED BY HUGE PROGRESS FROM THOSE WHO DIDN'T WIN MEDALS





British Schoolboys' Ski Racing Championships

n January our most elite ski racers made up a team of 16 boys who travelled to Wengen, Switzerland, for five days of training and racing in the National Championships. We enjoyed a spectacular haul this season, underpinned by huge progress from those who didn't win medals.

The DC U16 Ski Racing team came second nationally to win silver – one better than last year's third place. Congratulations to Archie Wright, Oliver Boardman, Niccolo Smith and Oscar Howley. The DC U16 Dual Slalom A team beat Reed's in the final to win gold. Congratulations to Archie Wright, Leo El Asmar, Niccolo Smith and Oscar Howley.

The DC U18 team of Hamish Ellis, Jacob Crowther, Jimmy Shepherd and Sam Fleming took silver in the U18 Dual Slalom, narrowly beaten in the last run of a best-of-three final against Reed's. Hamish Ellis enjoyed individual National Silver in the U18 Slalom. Nathan Firla enjoyed Combined Bronze in National U14 unregistered category. The boys were a credit to Dulwich throughout.

Snowboarders abroad

NICK BROWN ENJOYS MEMORIES OF THE BOARDERS' SKI TRIP TO SAALBACH IN THE AUSTRIAN ALPS

uring the February half-term break Scott Swalwell, Jordan Annett, Chris Sewell and I took 24 of the boarders (including boys from Year 7 to Year 13) to Austria, with each boarding house represented.

The trip was tremendous fun and offered so much more than the skiing; the opportunity for the boys to spend time with each other alongside boarding staff, away from the fast pace and pressure of term time, was particularly valuable. Without question, relationships are strengthened in this environment. Boys (and staff) were continually challenged throughout the week, both on and off the slopes, many of them really developing their leadership and communication skills.

For beginners, skiing requires resilience – lots of it. You must be prepared to fall over again and again. Our 13 skiing newbies, including Mr Swalwell, made great progress – more than they could have imagined – and by the end of the week, they had skied the entire mountain. It was also wonderful to see the progress made by boys who had been new to skiing when we visited Wagrain in 2019 – boys who are now competent, confident skiers, and who will continue to ski for the rest of their lives. I hope they can all reflect on the challenges they have overcome, recognising that when things aren't easy, determination and persistence go a long way.

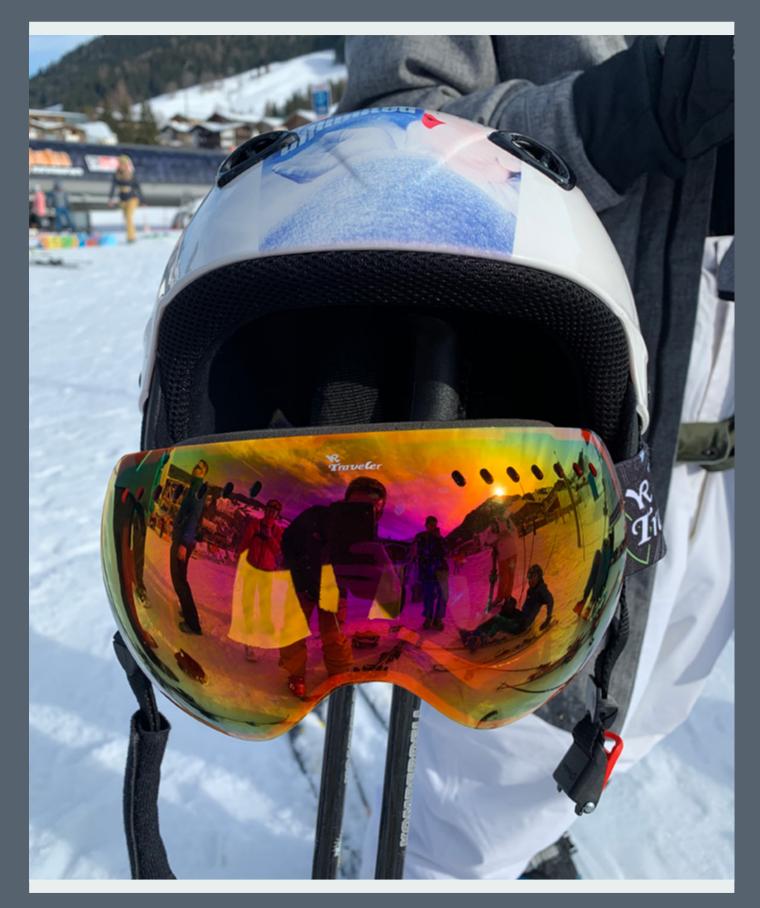
We had great weather all week, and the boys had four hours of skiing lessons every day. In the evening we relaxed, played games, had a quiz (brilliantly constructed by Mr Annett) and held a table tennis competition. With mobile phones banned from communal areas, it was wonderful to hear the buzz of conversation at dinner each night.

As I write this report during the Covid-19 lockdown, it seems particularly special to reflect on this week and recall our time on the mountain together, just weeks before the world became engaged in fighting this virus. These memories bring a smile to my face.



WITH MOBILE PHONES BANNED FROM COMMUNAL AREAS, IT WAS WONDERFUL TO HEAR THE BUZZ OF CONVERSATION AT DINNER EACH NIGHT





Diary

Day 1

James He and Matthew Wu (Year 10)



Image: James He (Year 10)

ur ski trip started as we headed off to London City Airport on a chilly February morning, It was, in fact, Valentine's Day. As we got on the plane, Mr Annett found a Valentine's card in his backpack. It was the first card he had ever received! To all our disappointment though, it turned out it was a joke played by his colleagues. The flight was short, but the bus ride that followed seemed to last for eternity. We sat in the dark, hungry and thirsty, as we hadn't eaten for hours. Imagine our excitement when we came to a shop by the road. But we were even more shocked when the lady in the shop didn't welcome us; in fact, we received the opposite of a warm welcome (apparently she was closing in 30 minutes and the sight of 24 hungry teenagers wasn't what she wanted at the end of a long day). We hastily grabbed and paid for what we wanted and left. It was 9:00 pm when we arrived at our hotel, which was definitely more hospitable than the shop. Dinner was warm gulaschsuppe. In less than a couple of hours, we were all unpacked and ready for the next day.



Day 2

Jovian Yan (Year 8)

e got going early for our ski equipment fitting. This process went smoothly, leaving us with the time to put on our skis and 'go for it'. The beginners were kept back whilst the rest were ushered towards one of the slopes for the instructors and teachers to sort the groups. Some pupils, although only possessing the adroitness of a novice, decided to overcome their fears and asked to be promoted to the intermediate group; shortly after this, they made the devastating discovery that they had still not reached the stage of learning how to brake. One of them (Andy) came hurtling down towards a fence and ham-handedly fell to the ground. I was also told that another one of the senior boys found himself ravelled up in a net.

I also tumbled down a few steep slopes, finding myself face down in the snow with my skis flung upwards, then sliding another metre and losing all my equipment. Fortunately, our kind-hearted coach was able to give me a piggyback down the slope, a backup plan only possible for someone of my height and weight.

After a day's skiing we all had some pain and fatigue, in part caused by the ski boots; I solved the problem by spending the evening with bare feet. The joy of being free from the tightness and restrictions of the boots was matched only by the delectable bowl of spaghetti we had, which rounded off a memorable day.

I ALSO TUMBLED DOWN A FEW STEEP SLOPES, FINDING MYSELF FACE DOWN IN THE SNOW WITH MY SKIS FLUNG UPWARDS

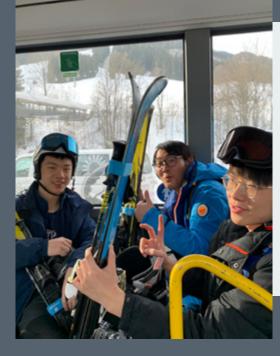


Day 3 John Huang (Year 13)

his exciting day started with a few of us being trapped on a bus, while everyone else had managed to get off. Although Mr Brown was banging on the door and we were shouting, the driver just drove away. We began to panic about being lost in a foreign place, but thanks to WhatsApp, we eventually got in contact with the staff and took another bus back.

During the day, the beginner group finally moved on to parallel skiing from the top of the ski lift. Despite the fact that one of us was always losing control and crashing (including Mr Swalwell!) everyone had fun. The day ended with us all getting the cable car to the top of the mountain – an amazing place to take photos and throw the odd snowball.





Day 4 Daniel Templar (Year 12)

On this bright morning We all prepared for the day Which lay ahead

Yiuyang tested his skills – He decided to go fast Then he flipped and crashed

We went further up Matthew crashed 17 times We were all quite bored In the advanced group They went up and down mountains It was kinda meh (according to Takuma)

When we all returned We were met by hot schnitzel And we ate too much

We went to our rooms And we flopped onto our beds Then we fell asleep **Day 5** Ho-Tin Loke (Year 9)

s we were about to finish our breakfast, the staff announced the plans for the day, which included a table tennis competition. Today was to be our first time skiing down from the mountain top. The cable car carried us up, and Tony managed to overcome his fear of heights (just). We fell over countless times while skiing the slopes. Mr Swalwell had a great time following his own private ski instructor (or holiday rep - Christian) and he managed to ski at a very high speed. At the end of the day, we were lethargic and by the time we arrived back home we were relieved that we could finally rest. After dinner, we had the table tennis competition. First up was Ho-Tin versus Jack; after a close match, Ho-Tin made it into the final. Next, it was Ethan versus Jeffrey. Both were very good table tennis players. However, despite Jeffrey's brilliant serves he could not defeat the might of Ethan's fierce forehand returns. This led Ethan to the final, where he faced Ho-Tin. Ho-Tin dominated the game at first, leading 10-8. However, Ethan had a superb comeback, and he won 10-12.

> AS SOON AS WE GOT OFF THE BUS AN ENORMOUS GROUP SNOWBALL FIGHT ENSUED



Day 6

Mr Annett and Mr Sewell

mbitiously, we had planned to meet the ski instructors at the top of the highest lift, with the beginners undertaking their biggest challenge yet, on a run that would be their longest and steepest of the week. The expected tumbles were taken and crashes co-ordinated (mainly by Dylan – including a calculated assault on Mr Annett). However, the ability to return to their feet and thrive on the feeling of getting faster was clearly driving the boys on this final day of improvement. The more advanced groups covered kilometres in both sunny and white-out conditions, often crossing paths with us but never waiting around too long. The only blizzard of the week timed itself brilliantly as we dropped off the ski equipment and took a wander around Saalbach village. The amazing feeling of slipping back into comfortable, lightweight footwear was matched by the evident sense of achievement and camaraderie within the group in the ski-shop. As soon as we got off the bus an enormous group snowball fight ensued, instigated by Jovian and Bosco. The boys jumped at the opportunity to gang up on the teachers! Once we had dried off, we had our delicious final meal at the hotel. Following dinner, we packed up our rooms and returned to the dining area for our awards presentation. There were so many memorable moments to savour, and it was brilliant to sit and reflect on all the fun we had had, before heading off to bed.

Awards

Best wipe-out Andy Sun

Most improved Dylan Niu

Best German speaker Jack Tam

Table tennis champ Ethan Gao **Quiz winners** Kevin Li, Daniel Templar, Oliver Brier and Jack Tam

Leadership Daniel Templar, John Huang and Jack Tam

> Most resilient teacher Scotty Swalwell

> > Man of the tour Siwoo Ryu

Day 7

Mr Swalwell

fter an earlier than normal wake-up call and another good breakfast, we said farewell to our excellent hosts and began our journey to Munich airport. Huge credit must be given to Mr Brown, as getting the boys through passport control was no easy job. His hair is slightly greyer and a few more wrinkles can be seen around the eyes. After a short flight to Heathrow and another sterling effort from Mr Brown at passport control, we were

all back, safe and sound. The boys had been amazing, and were impeccably behaved throughout. I would like to give a personal thank you to the other members of staff on the trip, who were extremely supportive and great company. A special mention must go to Mr Brown, as without his time, effort and diligence this outstanding trip would not have been possible.



Unforgettable Uganda

FOR HENRY COLLINS (YEAR 13) A SPUR-OF-THE-MOMENT DECISION LED TO A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME EXPERIENCE





signed up for the October Action For Fundamental Change And Development (AFFCAD) trip to Uganda on a whim, because I wanted to experience something completely different. Frankly, I didn't give it too much thought until it was time for the first yellow fever vaccination, but the 10 days we had there surpassed anything I could have imagined.

We flew into Entebbe to a literally thunderous welcome. Tropical rainstorms would provide an almost daily backdrop to our stay. After the in-country Inspire team had briefed us on the plan of action, we journeyed to Bwaise, where we were to live for six days, working as part of a larger development scheme run by the founder, Jaffar, and the AFFCAD team.

We were lucky enough to experience diverse aspects of traditional and modern Ugandan culture, including food and dance. One of our number was even interviewed live on Ugandan television, when we were part of the vast congregation at an outdoor evangelical Christian service. We played, and won, a game of competitive football against a local side; hopefully there will be a second leg to come the next time Alleynians work alongside AFFCAD.

Most important was the work itself. We found it supremely satisfying to participate in various construction projects to improve life in Bwaise, including helping to complete a perimeter wall, which protected the school compound. Finally, we were lucky enough to round off the trip with a short safari in the stunning Ugandan jungle, witnessing the beautiful biodiversity of the country.

Dulwich College would like to thank the AFFCAD and Inspire teams for everything they did for us. We felt that we were actively embraced by the community. In return, by working as hard as we could, we hope we gave something back and made a small difference to Bwaise.

The students who took part in the trip were:

Ben Kemp, Laurence White, Lucas Pattinson, James Kakanyera, Zaki Bandlish, Aman Ritzmann, Szymon Gorny, Jorge Salorio Mazuelas, Teddy Michalowski-Howells, Hussain Azami, Henry Collins, Jack Nunn, Sebastian Cruz Parodi and Lorenzo Galli-Zugaro







WELLBEING



Dulwich College identity awareness month



172





Charles Bird (Year 12) and **Nathalie Whittington** explain the thinking behind the new venture

ur aim in organising the awareness month was to explore variety, acceptance and respect. We wanted to acknowledge the breadth of cultures, races, sexualities and experiences found within the College, and to enable the spiritual, intellectual and emotional distinctions between us to flourish.

In making our own badges we 'underpinned' the idea of respect, equality and individuality in our community; undertaking the traditionally female art of sewing helped us challenge gender stereotypes. Discussions on themes from unconscious bias to diversity in the workplace, author talks and a shared DC IAM playlist were just some of the features of the month's events and activities.







THE ALLEYNIAN 708 | OUT OF THE ORDINARY







Answers

1. 11

2. 37 metres, according to former Head of Mathematics Chris Ottewill, who set the challenge to Year 9 some years ago. John Lovering, the current President of the Alleyn Club, displayed some very deft mental arithmetic, calculating it to be between 120 and 125 feet, and then, when challenged to convert to metric, did so promptly.
 3. Water storage tanks were installed during the Second World War to provide water for fire-fighting.

- 4.27
- **5.** 1873
- 6. Howard and Jonson
- 7. Brutalist

8. On the left-hand side of the path from the Lower School to the

Christison Hall (as you walk from the Lower School).

9. (Clockwise from top left) The Snooker Room; the Chapel; the CCF Mess in the basement of the North Block; the Covered Courts. Bonus mark – the Gym is now on the site of the Covered Courts.

CCF



ARMY SECTION

WOI (RSM) **Charlie Luckhurst** (Year 13) reflects on a busy, fulfilling and successful year for the Army Cadet Force



"A first for us was the inclusion of two JAGS girls in one of our teams"

s always, the start of the academic year was a busy time for the Army Section of the Combined Cadet Force. We began with the defence of our CADSAAM (Cadet Skill at Arms Meeting) trophy, fielding a strong team whose members came from Years 10, 11, 12 and 13. Preparations two weeks prior to the competitions included an amazing opportunity for the team to zero their rifles at the ranges of the Sandhurst Royal Military Academy.

When we arrived at the competition it became clear that we were the team to beat, with even the organising staff referring to us as snipers. This year saw a change to the format: where usually the Combined Cadet Forces (CCFs) and Army Cadet Forces (ACFs) compete in separate competitions, the two events were now combined, with a prize on offer for the best overall cadet force. We settled in, displaying some very good shooting in Match 1, and this was followed with some good performances on the longer (300m) targets in Match 2, contributing to our confidence. In fact, we managed a clean sweep, winning both Match 1 and Match 2, and securing the trophies for both best CCF and best of all the cadet forces, with our very own RSM being awarded best shot for the best overall individual scores.

The following week we travelled to Harrow School, taking a team of 10 cadets to compete in the Guthrie Cup, a competition held annually between the 10 best CCFs from London District. We have thrived in this competition, winning three of the past four years. A first for us was the inclusion of two JAGS girls in one of our teams. Given that last year we were told by the Brigade Major on the drill stand that we



'wouldn't look out of place on the forecourt of Buckingham Palace', we were very excited to start the day off with drill. A solid performance set us up for the day, and we went from strength to strength. We won the First Aid, Section Attack and Observation stands, resulting in another overall victory, and the trophy coming back to 'The Mess' for another year, making it four wins in five years. It was great that all the hard work in training by our team had paid off.

Half-term always brings our Recruits Camp, where the new Year 9 cadets get their first taste of the cadet experience at an army camp. At this camp we also had a Biennial Inspection from the Colonel of Cadets. On the day, we had a variety of events taking place, including an obstacle course, DCCT (an indoor simulated firing range) and even a stand where we got to meet some Welsh Guards from the regiment to which we are affiliated. This proved very popular amongst the cadets, who got to get their hands on some snipers rifles, machine guns, grenade launchers and even managed to pose some great questions to those serving in HM Forces. The day culminated in a parade of the whole cadet force, who were addressed by the Colonel.

We have adjusted to the current challenging circumstances with online parades, the setting of a step challenge for the whole contingent based on historical events and even the raising of ± 500 for the NHS. We hope that this continued dedication will stand us in very good stead, and allow us to continue to make impressive progress, with new competitions planned for next year such as the Elworthy Trophy.

THE ALLEYNIAN 708 | OUT OF THE ORDINARY

CCF



THE AIR SQUADRON TROPHY COMPETITION

Cdt Wo **William Brilliant** (Year 13) recalls the intense training and competition success of the RAF section over the past year





"Evenings became the time for parade shoe polishing; weekends were turned over to ironing uniform"



he Air Squadron Trophy (AST) is without a doubt the biggest RAF competition in which our Combined Cadet Force (CCF) takes part. It consists of two competitions: a regional and a national one, with RAF sections from other schools across the country taking part. The regional competition usually takes place in February, whilst the national normally occurs in March. How surprised we were then, when just a few weeks into the Michaelmas term, we received an email from the RAF informing us that this year's regional competition would occur on 1 December. What ensued were some of the most frantic weeks of training we had ever undertaken. We set to work at once, learning and practising the six sections which the AST would test: RAF knowledge, aircraft recognition (shortened to recce), first aid, shooting, drill and command task (which tests leadership and teamwork as we attempt to complete a given task).

Our team consisted of three veteran Year 13s (Henry Hall, Fraser Cox and me) and six Year 12s (Mikyle Ossman, Nick Blumschein, Christian Bertrand, Herbie Christophers, Gabriel De Almeida and Spike McGrath), each of whom had only done the competition once, last year, when we had achieved a rather underwhelming third in nationals. This year we were going for gold, so we needed a golden team. The names previously mentioned brought a well-rounded experience to the team, but we numbered just nine. To compete, we would need an additional four able men, and where better to find them than from among the shining faces of our youthful cadets? After a rigorous selection process (conducted by yours truly), Joe Williams, Andre Delshadian and Konstantinos Doran (all Year 11) joined the ranks, along with our youngest member, Edward Stimpson (Year 10). Not since the days of Jason and the Argonauts had such an impressive band been brought together and bound by a common cause. We trained. Every lunchtime was devoted to knowledge and recce, every Tuesday after school (and indeed, some Saturdays) were spent slaving away at learning the drill sequence. Evenings became the time for parade shoe polishing; weekends were turned over to ironing uniform.

Finally, the fateful day arrived. Regionals. Piling onto a cramped minibus, we began the dreaded drive to RAF Halton. As we stepped blinking into the sodium-lit hanger that was the competition space, our eyes fell upon the competition – Wilson's School, the reigning champions. This day, we swore to ourselves, their reign would end.

And so it did.

For nine long hours we threw ourselves into every stand of the competition, and by the end of the day, we stood tall, claiming the regional crown for ourselves. The reign of Wilson's was finished.

What more needs be said of nationals, except that it involved more hard work, more slaving hours, more heartache – and more ultimate triumph. Not only did we win the national competition, but we also picked up first place in first aid and knowledge, and second in recce and drill. It was a glorious feeling as we rode the victory coach back to Dulwich with the AST trophy in our hands.





FIRST AID

CWO **Gabriel De Almeida** (Year 12) looks back at the hard work and success of the cadets' First Aid teams over the past 18 months

key skill the Dulwich College CCF teaches to all within its ranks is how to deliver effective first aid treatment in a variety of everyday scenarios, from heart attacks and strokes to road traffic collisions and spinal injuries. It should come as no surprise, therefore, that our training has led to tremendous successes in the first aid field of the cadet organisation in the recent months and years. I for one am proud to have represented the College in numerous first aid competitions, bringing home even more silverware for our CCF award cabinet.

Last May, three DCCCF teams arrived at the London District First Aid regional competition, with high hopes for success. After training hard and revising all aspects of the St John's syllabus, we had a long day of assessed mock-up first aid scenarios ahead of us, in which we would care for and treat various casualties in a team, and as individuals, using all the skills we had learned in our cadet training. Responding to conditions ranging from strokes and electrocutions to angina, all teams performed incredibly well under time pressure and the watchful eyes of St John's Ambulance assessors, treating, caring for and reassuring their distressed patients.

The results at the end of the day were outstanding, with our senior team winning second place in their category, whilst our junior teams came third and first respectively, and my team of four progressing to the National First Aid finals, held the following October. With the success of the regional competition behind us, F.Sgt Nick Blumschein, F.Sgt Spike McGrath, F.Sgt Christian Bertrand and I trained hard for the remaining months of the year, determined to do our contingent, and the London District, proud, at the CCF National First Aid Competition in Birmingham.

The day arrived, and we were put through our paces in scenarios including train crashes, drug overdoses, burns and head injuries, all whilst trying to stay calm under pressure and deliver the treatments we had practised all year. Our training paid off, with our team bagging an excellent second place, and progressing to the Inter-Services National First Aid finals the following day. Here, once again, we managed to secure an amazing second place, narrowly missing out on the top spot to Dollar Academy, by a mere two points, and being crowned best First Aid team in England and Wales.

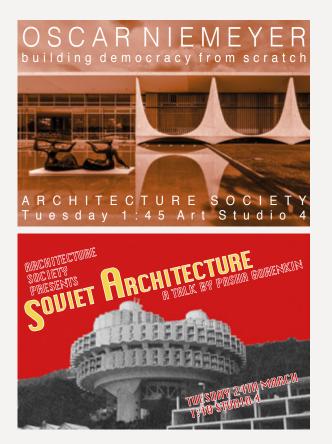
This year, our team of veterans is automatically through to the 2020 National First Aid finals, due to our victory at the RAF Air Squadron Trophy in March. Three more First Aid teams are lined up and ready to prove themselves in this year's regional competition, with the hope of achieving a place in the national round. The DCCCF First Aid teams, and the training they provide to the cadets in the contingent, are second to none, with many cadets going on to put their skills into practice in real-life situations. With such an array of cadets now following in our footsteps, the DCCCF will, I am sure, continue to maintain its high standards when it comes to first aid training, and I am confident our legacy will be secure for years to come.



THE UNION

BUILDING A NEW SOCIETY

Devoted to all things architectural, **Alex Whitwell** and **Erik Watson** (Year 12) explain why they decided to launch Architecture Society in order to share their interest in bricks, battlements and flying buttresses



round the end of the Michaelmas term, we got together to set up Architecture Society because we felt that this fascinating subject was rather under-represented at the College. We are both looking to study architecture at university, and wanted to share our passion, and perhaps inspire boys in the years below us to look at architecture as a potential avenue to explore in terms of their future careers.

We usually run every Tuesday Week B lunchtime, and so far have looked at topics such as Brutalism, the Brazilian architect Oscar Niemeyer, and religious architecture, featuring a talk from the Reverend Buckler. We are open to anyone who wants to give a talk about an aspect of architecture that they are interested in.

The Coronavirus lockdown did temporarily stop Architecture Society meetings, but we kickstarted our Summer term meetings with an architectural quiz on 5 May. We now have a Microsoft Team set up, and aim to resume our biweekly meetings online, using the Teams area to share interesting articles and posts to do with architecture, to try and continue to help our members appreciate this subject.

THE UNION

Jack Probert (Year 13) reflects on the challenge of running virtual creative writing workshops for the boys of the Lower School WordSmiths Society, and remembers his own writerly debut seven years ago

A W O R D H A N THE

o you know who I am?' The question swirls around in my mind as I stare at the blank screen before me. There's a kind of disconnection that I don't think any of us are used to yet - nothing feels quite real; then again, from the beginning, technology has been a part of this - first it was a blog, then a Sway,

then a Teams page. I should be used to this by now.

'Do you know who I am?'

It's an odd one, really – perhaps I shouldn't have picked it as a creative writing prompt. I know I wouldn't have liked it when I was their age. Is it arrogant? I think it sounds arrogant. Yes, it must be. It has to be. I begin to type, aware that our session is due to start in three minutes' time. This has to fit in nicely somewhere.

When the call starts, I feel a little out of place – Philip Larkin's 'outdated combine harvester' comes to mind, plagued by peeling rust. This is the second online session I've planned and run. We go through our stories, each of the five boys on the call adding their own style and spice in response to the

challenge I gave them last week. How it works is that I select six words for them, they write, incorporating the words, and we feed back at the end. Today, we're doing dialogue as well, hence the prompt I was struggling with. They're good at it – it's fluent, alive – and they are certainly braver than I was at their age. I might say I'm almost jealous of their quick, springing sentences and colourful similes. Yes, they're good at it – awfully good at it.

There's a sense of pride too, of course. It's nice knowing what we've grown into – it's nice knowing that the little writing family I helped find its roots seven years ago has sprouted up and bears fresh fruit. Of course, it's been gently, deftly guided – Miss Akrill and Mr Cook have been diligently coaxing us up towards the sun all these years – but scrolling through the copious masses of short stories and poems and scripts we've produced reminds me that there's life in these little black lines, something I can tell this new generation of WordSmiths senses too, even stuck behind a screen.

Yes, there's life in words, and I'm so glad we found it.





FRANCESCA SOUTHERN

Richard Oubridge

ran joined the College in September 1998, having previously taught at Herne Hill Prep School. She joined a happy staff working in the Junior School under the leadership of Penny Horsman. Fran fitted in perfectly, taking charge of a Year 3 form, working alongside colleagues such as Jane James, Jane Brind and Fiona Johnstone. Whilst nurturing the youngest boys in the College was very rewarding, Fran had a desire to be able to develop boys' knowledge and understanding further and so a move to Year 6 beckoned.

Being in Year 6 allowed Fran to focus slightly more on her real passions, of which English was at the forefront. She took over the co-ordination of the subject, redesigning the curriculum and ensuring that the boys were challenged to develop their reading, spelling and writing. The introduction of visits by the Young Shakespeare Company brought the works of the Bard to life and continues as an annual fixture in the calendar to this day. Suddenly, the Year 6 corridor was alive with the boys' interpretations of *Hamlet, Macbeth, The Tempest* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Class reading books have always featured highly in the English curriculum, and Fran has a talent for bringing these stories home to the boys, drawing out their understanding of the skill of the author in manipulating language, developing storylines and character analysis. Listening to her read to a form is magical: you can hear a pin drop as the boys are transported into the realms of fiction heaven.

Working in the Junior School means that you have to be involved in many different aspects of the life of the school and Fran has always played her part in activities beyond the classroom. The introduction of more co-curricular clubs led to Fran setting up the gardening club, with groups of boys tending a variety of plants under her direction. She has guided Spenser House for most of her time at Dulwich, organising numerous competitions, most notably the poetry, creative writing and verse speaking. The Year 6 production is always a highlight of the year and Fran directed many of these, bringing classics such as *Oliver, Joseph, Sweeney Todd, Treasure Island* and *Bugsy Malone* to the Edward Alleyn Theatre. Then there is the writing talent: she turned Simon Middleton's novel *Freddie and the Key to the 19th Case* into a script to be performed by a cast of 60 boys – no mean feat giving everyone some lines to say. LISTENING TO HER READ TO A FORM IS MAGICAL: YOU CAN HEAR A PIN DROP AS THE BOYS ARE TRANSPORTED INTO THE REALMS OF FICTION HEAVEN

Another keenly anticipated feature of the calendar is the annual residential trip. Fran has accompanied numerous visits to the D-Day beaches of Normandy, PGL in Dorset, Devon and France, and of course the Outdoor Centre in Wales. She and I have spent countless hours discussing with the boys how the Allied troops planned and carried out operations in 1944, and then quietly visiting the British and American cemeteries; we have enjoying watching the boys playing on the beaches in the evening, building their own sea defences, only to return the following morning to find them all washed away.

Whilst the co-curricular is important in the boys' rounded development, we are in the business of educating, and the importance of the curriculum has always been at the heart of Fran's teaching. Therefore, it was no surprise that she took on the role of Curriculum Co-ordinator, later to become Deputy Head Academic. This role was to occupy her until this last year and has seen her oversee a greater emphasis on the teaching and learning that we offer. As part of this we have had changes in the school day, firstly ensuring that English and Maths were given protected time at the beginning of the day, and then came the big reorganisation of the working day by the whole College. Throughout this process Fran was in the midst of allocating the amount of time each subject was to be given and then looking at how we shaped the subjects for the new length lessons.

Whilst these changes were taking place, it was decided that the Junior School could follow the Senior School's lead in holding an annual symposium and this fell to Fran to organise. Encouraging staff from around the school to run sessions and bringing in outside speakers made the day full of fun activities for the boys with lots of learning taking place. It was such a success that we soon invited JAPS to be involved, doubling the number of children and activities taking place, now on two sites!

So, having made the decision to retire, Fran stepped down from her senior role and has spent this year as joint form tutor to a Year 4 form. But what does the future hold for her? Well she isn't committing herself to anything, but with a second grandchild due to arrive in July, there will, no doubt, be plenty of visits and reading of stories as she passes on her love of books to a new generation. We wish her well.





JANET DE HEGER

Fiona Angel

hen Janet arrived at the College in September 2000, it was not the place it is today, and over the last 20 years she has played a central role in broadening and enhancing the pastoral support network to which the boys - and others - have access. Janet had been an Art teacher before becoming a counsellor, and during her time at the College would often use art therapy as a means of engaging boys in conversation and easing them into therapeutic work. Over time, Janet worked hard to break down the barriers and stigma that have historically surrounded counselling; by the end of her employment, the phrase 'I'm seeing Janet' was one that boys and colleagues no longer felt any embarrassment in sharing. Nor should they have done: anyone who has been on the receiving end of Janet's wise words knows the benefit of her plain-speaking, compassionate and gentle push to move forward and accept the challenges faced.

In her support of the pupils, Janet has worked closely with the wider pastoral team, striking at every turn a perfect balance between sharing the right information and never breaching the trust that she has established with those who have sought her counsel. As well as drawing on Janet's insights and impressions to support boys who have been encountering problems, colleagues have been able to develop professionally thanks to the occasions on which Janet has offered more formal instruction. The training sessions she has offered on topics such as 'listening skills' have, in turn, been deployed by form tutors and others to very good effect.

Janet carried out her sometimes difficult work with a wicked sense of humour, kindness and integrity. She was immensely popular with boys and staff alike and was adept at building useful, trusting and supportive relationships with all that she worked with.

Utterly devoted to the boys, and a colleague who truly put boys' wellbeing at the heart of all she did, Janet will be greatly missed at the College for her wisdom and balance. We wish her a wonderful, well-deserved and enjoyable partial retirement.





ANNE WILLIAMS

Eleanor Walters

nne joined the Learning Support Department in 2000 and has remained a consistently kind, encouraging and steady presence throughout many changes to the team over the last 20 years, not least during her time as Co-Head of Department. Over the course of a long career in a very varied range of settings, Anne has built up a wealth of experience and expertise in teaching pupils with specific learning difficulties. Her dedication to the wellbeing and achievement of every one of her pupils shines through: she can always be counted on to advocate for them, believe in them and encourage them to believe in themselves. Anne's patient and individually tailored support has had a profoundly positive effect on many generations of Dulwich boys.

On a personal level, I have very much appreciated Anne's generosity in sharing her professional experience with me and her willingness to offer a listening ear or a word of advice whenever needed. Anne's colleagues in the department have valued her positive and measured approach and her ability to take every day in her stride and keep others grounded.

Beyond her work in the Learning Support Department, Anne has accompanied many school trips and has been a dedicated supporter of the Community Action programme, supervising boys volunteering at local food banks. With her office located next door to Lisa Hillgrove's, Anne has also been at the heart of the everyday hustle and bustle of Lower School life. She has often been found helping out with the queries of Year 7s and 8s about lost belongings, or marshalling a queue of boys eager for birthday doughnuts!

We will miss Anne's sharp wit, melodic Welsh tones, elegant outfits and top-notch coffee brewing skills. She has always made those around her feel valued and listened to, and we will miss her not only as a colleague, but also as a friend. The place will not be quite the same without her. We wish Anne all the very best for a long, happy and well-deserved retirement with Paul, her children and grandchildren, and we hope that she finds that dream home in Wales before too long!

VALETE



KATE BURNS (NÉE CUTLER)

Robert Baylis

ate joined the Modern Languages Department in September 2010 and rapidly established herself as an extremely hard-working, well-respected and caring teacher of Spanish and French. The qualities we had seen at interview quickly came to the fore, and her popularity in the classroom was mirrored in her excellent relationships within the Modern Languages team and the wider Common Room. Fabulously stylish, and with an understated sense of fun, she also has a strong professional commitment to her work, and to those she teaches.

It is hard to do justice to Kate's contribution to Dulwich over her 10 years in SE21. In searching for an apt epithet, I have decided to use Simon Northcote Green's terminology: she is a 'radiator', giving warmth and comfort to all who come into her orbit. Positive, caring, considerate and conscientious, she gives generously of her time, attention and knowledge, to pupils and colleagues alike.

Her pupils speak very fondly of their lessons with Kate, and many Alleynians are now studying Spanish at university or are using Spanish in their professional lives, having benefitted from Kate's inspirational teaching. She brings Spanish alive to all age groups, and we are very fortunate that she has been so willing to enthuse the full range of Dulwich Hispanists from beginners in Year 7 to Year 13 Oxbridge candidates. My first observation of one of Kate's many excellent lessons showed just this – I noted that she had 'excellent rapport and fostered a co-operative ethos in the class, who learnt a great deal, and enjoyed doing so!'. She has also shared her enthusiasm and excitement for the Spanish-speaking world through Liberal Studies and, most recently, a superb A level plus course which attracted many Year 12 pupils. Kate is rare in that she has operated successfully in both pastoral and academic spheres, serving as Middle School Charities Co-ordinator and Head of Spanish. In this latter role, her careful and shrewd leadership of the Spanish Department was underpinned by her collaborative style of management and careful development of her team – one of whom found the atmosphere fostered by her so good, that he returned to Dulwich after a stint away from SE21! The Spanish Department flourished under her leadership, and her positivity and skill in building a team atmosphere and ethos are still felt today – Kate's gift of Gail's Bakery's finest pastries to sugar the poison chalice of Saturday morning IGCSE moderation is an example to us all!

Kate's contribution to the wider life of the College and to free learning is exemplary. She has organised and accompanied countless overseas trips, looking after boys and staff in a range of Spanish locations, including, most recently, Pamplona, Mallorca, Salamanca and Granada. Closer to home, she organised the excellent Year 7 Spanish day, the Year 8 fashion week and became the smiling face of Dulwich's Discovery Day. On top of this, she maintained a very strong commitment to the College's Community Action programme. She was also a highly successful Middle and Upper School tutor, and often took groups over in Year 13 – never an easy task. Her meticulous planning and practical approach to all these activities are a model that most would find hard to copy on a full timetable.

We will all miss the sunny 'Despistada', as she is affectionately known by her close friends and colleagues, and we wish her all the very best as she embarks on the new and exciting chapter in her married life with Rob in Australia.

VALETE



SAM CLEARY

Colm Ó Siochrú

am Cleary - Head of Politics, teacher of Economics, political provocateur par excellence - departed Dulwich last summer to become Head of Social Sciences at Tonbridge School. That he took leave at the same time as Nick Fyfe, then-Head of Economics, proved so shocking to the remnant left behind that their two valetes simply could not be written at once. The Lord George building had lost its Blair and Brown, its Seinfeld and Costanza, its Schwarzenegger and DeVito; and it seems fitting that tribute be paid to Sam's irreducible individuality by according him space in a different edition of this magazine of record.

During his time at the College, Sam became a true Alleynian: a charismatic and inspiring teacher; an apostle of free learning; a wise Brian Clough on the side lines; and the most collegial and congenial of colleagues. It might never have been so: sources say his letter of application was a not entirely convincing repackaging of a simultaneous approach to Haileybury. Nor did everything 'click' neatly, as it does for some at the College. Sam would be first to acknowledge that his accent, background and politics challenged the Thatcherite prosperity gospel cherished by some of his students, sparking many a fiery debate.

But precisely this is what made Sam so widely loved and admired. He brought to Dulwich an earnest love of argument, and those arguments packed a punch. Debate not only drove his lessons but also enlivened each morning registration. Upper School boys would often arrive to Period 1 strangely awakened, fighting furiously about corporation tax rates or Corbyn and Clause IV or whether Laura Kuenssberg really is a crypto-Tory. This passion for politics was infectious. Sam galvanised groups of boys and staff for theatre trips, Model UN conventions, and for that 2017 festival of fun 'Dulwich Political'. But it was the Politics Society that played host to many of Sam's greatest hits. When Nick Timothy or Nigel Farage or Matt Zarb-Cousin went back-and-forth with him on Twitter, they invariably ended up going toe-to-toe with him in front of 100 Sixth Formers. Charmed into this bear pit, they didn't always appreciate how serious was their peril: but there was no mute button to save them. A frisson of excitement would run through the room as Sam commenced interrogation, his right eyebrow wriggling uncontrollably once he knew he had his victim over a barrel. (Only the late Tessa Jowell came out on top: when Channel 4 called her, mid-talk, requesting a quote, she simply passed it over to Sam, her receptionist.) What is clear in all of this is Sam's love not only for the clash of ideas, but also for the fumes and sparks set off in the process. He loved what the boys call 'the beef', and mischievously generated much of it himself, Irish eyes a-twinkle. Tonbridge has gained a gifted teacher, and a loyal and generous-hearted friend. May Sam, Joanna, Jimmy and Erin be very happy there in the years ahead. We miss them.

VALETE

WILL QUAYLE

Elliot Read

WW ill joined the College in September 2015 from Hampton School, where he completed his teacher training whilst teaching Mathematics full-time. Following a degree in Natural Sciences at Durham University, Will worked as a management consultant before making the decision to become a teacher – a move that would be to the great advantage of the pupils with whom he has worked.

Those qualities with which Will was soon to become associated as a caring form tutor and talented classroom practitioner - calm authority, natural presence, kind patience and good humour - made him a natural choice for the role of Head of Year in the Upper School. Will was undaunted by the prospect of leading almost 250 pupils and a large team of tutors, and from the outset he was eager to bring his experiences of the commercial world - for example through considered targetsetting and constructive performance review - to the pastoral domain, yet in doing so he has always kept the boys' personal stories at the forefront and ensured that our care of them as individuals has consistently been the absolute priority. In his recognition of the importance of preparing them for life after Dulwich, Will has been characteristically forward-looking and innovative in, for instance, helping the boys to hone their understanding of personal finance, and in drawing on his links in the City to facilitate gap-year apprenticeships.

A genuine schoolmaster, Will has set consistently high standards for his charges, not only in terms of academic commitment, conduct and dress, but also with respect to engagement. Indeed, in his encouragement of the boys to involve themselves in the wide range of co-curricular and other opportunities available to them, Will has led by example. A gifted and versatile sportsman, he has coached College teams in a variety of sports (including at A-team level), devoting himself enthusiastically to after-school training sessions and Saturday matches, and deriving genuine satisfaction from the boys' successes and their development as players. With a keen interest in student leadership, Will recently accompanied the Head Boy team on a leadership course to China. Underpinning all of Will's work in his support of the pupils has been a full commitment to their needs as individuals – and a quiet tenacity: he has persevered where problems may have at first seemed intractable, and this, coupled with an approach to pastoral conversations that is at once gentle and even-handed, firm and direct, has enabled many boys in the Upper School to flourish.

Will has balanced the demands of his work at the College with a busy family life (Rafferty and Honor having arrived during his tenure as a Head of Year), a commitment to his faith and church, and regular visits to his and Rach's families on the Isle of Wight. It was not surprising that a colleague with Will's profile and drive should secure a promotion to the position of Head of Sixth Form at Emanuel School in Battersea, a senior role to which he will undoubtedly bring his energy, commitment and dynamism, and in which we wish him every success. We thank Will for the rich contribution that he has made to the academic, pastoral and co-curricular life of the College, and hope that he will maintain the many warm relationships that he has fostered during his time here.





ELEANOR WINDERS

Jon Fox

leanor began her career at Dulwich in 2015, settling into her role as a teacher of Religious Studies with professionalism and ease. A committed and hardworking member of the Religion and Theology Department, she quickly became a favourite with boys and staff alike. Eleanor's contribution to maintaining healthy numbers of boys opting to study Religious Studies and Philosophy courses at GCSE and A level cannot pass unmentioned, nor can the wonderful expedition to Rome she led in October 2017.

In Eleanor's second year she took responsibility for mentoring our King's PGCE student and also agreed to be our administrative commandant (!) for future overseas expeditions. Importantly, she made a significant contribution to writing new schemes of work and resources for our new GCSE and A-level courses, whilst continuing to attend and support the RS Gym.

Eleanor also made a sizable contribution to the co-curricular life of the College, including coaching the U15B hockey and an athletics team. In 2018, she helped Iain Hollingshead to run

the College's Community Action programme at Dulwich Wood Primary School, as well as assisting in a supervisory capacity at the newly established Baking Society. When the Revd Justin White left the College to take up the role of Chaplain at Winchester College at the end of the Summer term 2018, Eleanor kindly agreed to support the Chaplaincy during the interregnum between Justin's departure and the Revd Tim Buckler's appointment in January 2019. During this time, Eleanor also continued to be a non-resident tutor on Monday evenings in Blew House. She excelled at everything she did and was enormously humble and discreet about her achievements.

Desirous to work once again in a full boarding school environment, Eleanor was appointed teacher of Religious Studies and Philosophy at Wellington College, beginning in January 2020. Her new position is thoroughly well-deserved and a natural progression from all of her accomplishments at Dulwich. Eleanor, you are an exceptional and gifted teacher and the Common Room wishes you all the best for the future in what will be, I know, a very long and distinguished career.





RICHARD CLANCY

Joe Hallam

here are many people around the world who have Dulwich College in their hearts, but you will be hard-pressed to find someone who bleeds black and blue as much as Richard. He joined the Economics Department in 2015 after a brief, four-year stint away from the College earning a degree in Economics from Warwick University and a PGCE from Cardiff University. He impressed colleagues and pupils alike with his hardworking, conscientious attitude to teaching, and quickly proved to be a valuable member of the Economics team.

Students will remember Mr Clancy's (copywritten) packs and his attention to detail in the classroom. He is an excellent Economics teacher, and his dedication to the subject and the pupils in his tutelage is unparalleled. In the department Richard was known for his infamous supporting of Manchester United, his keenness for a quiz (although only if the questions were factually correct), and his ever-growing collection of suits in the office! Outside the department, Richard contributed widely to life at the College. He ran the enormously successful Young Enterprise programme, was a passionate and fantastic Upper School Housemaster for Marlowe, and headed up the squash programme in his final year. The enthusiasm he put into all aspects of his life at Dulwich will be sorely missed, and impossible to replace.

While China is geographically distant from the College, Richard isn't completely cutting ties with DC as he follows his sabbatical year at DC Suzhou by becoming their new Head of Economics. This promotion is thoroughly deserved and I am sure he will continue to succeed in the next stage of his career. Richard is already missed by the department and we wish him and Elizabeth all the very best on their continued adventure in China. VALETE

ELLA DAVISON

Mary Jo Doherty

Ila arrived at the College as a trainee teacher and within hours was very much part of the Art team. An Art History graduate from the Courtauld, she is also a keen and very accomplished 'maker', and it was clear from the offset we would learn as much, if not more, from her than she ever would from us. A sense of calm industry, a quick wit, a sponge-like approach to learning and extremely wellconsidered ideas and methodology are just a few of Ella's attributes. When you work with her for even a short while you realise that she is meticulously organised and on pointe with both the practice and theory of our multi-faceted and unpredictable vocation. We have learned every day from Ella, and are carried with her on her quest to be a great teacher who continues to develop a lifelong love of the arts. She is completely pupil-focused, and always puts herself in the learner's shoes. She has high expectations, both of herself and of every child that comes into her care. She is a rock; a reliable team player who supports her colleagues, going above and beyond, and showing the willingness and capacity to initiate new programmes of study and free learning.

History of Art has been reintroduced as an A level; however, Ella has already woven the critical and contextual approach throughout her teaching of all the year groups, ensuring it is relevant and interesting to many – not just the few. Ella does not shy away from challenges, whether it is developing a practical skill or making some rather 'dry' subject matter exciting. She is always creative, thorough and resilient in finding ways to bypass any potential obstacle. Not afraid to don an apron and get stuck in with all sorts of materials, she works under the umbrella motto of 'There is always a way'.

Ella also has the ability to soak up all the different approaches within the team, and is always humble when we follow her lead. She was a natural choice to guide and lead our young art scholars: they have grown visibly in stature and skill under her guidance. After quickly establishing herself within the art studios and the (no longer) hidden library of the Art Department, Ella took on a Year 9 form with ease, which eventually led to a further visiting tutor responsibility at Orchard and Old Blew, a role she cared deeply about, recognising the value of working with our cherished boarders. Bringing more of her imitable style and professionalism to community service, Ella was a regular reader who led our pupil mentors at City Heights. The *Alleynian*, too, was graced with her sharp wit and great eye for detail. Dressed in her famous dungarees, Ella relished the College's free learning opportunities, and her love of the Victorian era gave her the chance to introduce sewing tasks to a captive audience. Thanks to Ella, we now know boys can sew!

Ella leaves London for a new life in York, and St Peter's School are unbelievably lucky to have her. She lacks the 'creative ego' and was therefore needlessly wrought with nerves on her interview day. It is her kindness, grace and humility that underpin her true value as a person, a friend and a professional. We'll miss her desperately and wish her the very best as new challenges and a new life open up for both her and her fiancé, Andrew, in York. Thank you, Ella.

> DRESSED IN HER FAMOUS DUNGAREES, ELLA RELISHED THE COLLEGE'S FREE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES





VICKY TAMPIN

Ashley England

icky joined Dulwich College and the Maths Department in September 2017, bringing lots of teaching experience from the state sector where she had worked as a Head of Department. She quickly established herself as an incredibly hardworking and caring teacher, giving generously of her time, and running countless revision sessions, which have even stretched beyond the gates of DC. Vicky has been a fantastic asset in terms of our outreach programme, working with Elm Green for several years, and this year expanding our work with City Heights to one afternoon a week. Vicky has also been a great help to our own teacher training programme, helping mentor several beginning teachers, and imparting her knowledge in a skilful and encouraging way.

The Maths Department have been known to jokingly refer to Vicky as a 'part-timer' when receiving from her a request for a week's cover – most notably for her trips away with the school's Ski Racing team. In addition, one year she was called away shortly afterwards for jury duty!

Vicky will be deeply missed by her pupils and colleagues alike, and we wish her the very best as she moves to Alleyn's to take on the role of second in department.

VALETE

VICTORIA ARTER-FURLONG

Malcolm Cocks

ith her edgy fashion sense, sharp-witted humour and frank demeanour, Victoria cuts a striking figure in the Common Room. Different people will know her in different guises: a staunchly loyal sub-lieutenant of the Royal Navy section of the CCF; a caring teacher and mother; a gregarious member of the Common Room; an engaging lunch partner who consumes enviably prodigious helpings of crumble and custard for one so slight; and a tenacious and brilliantly sporty competitor. A runner, netballer, water-skier and iceskater (she flew around the rink at Somerset House like she'd been doing it all her life), Victoria is also, as we discovered at the Crystal Palace Olympiad, a darn good swimmer! But those who have come to know her best quickly realise that her fashionable exterior and effortless competence in a range of fields belie a down-to-earth, funny, kind and authentic human being. It is this sense of authenticity perhaps that sustains the excellent rapport she enjoys with the pupils, and the wide-ranging friendships she has forged across the College.

Victoria is also, of course, a brilliant theatre practitioner and teacher. Her colleagues in Drama will miss collaborating with her on productions and sharing classes with her. They have been struck by her appetite for engaging critically with new ideas and experimenting with new forms in her own practice and teaching. I have had the privilege of playgoing with her on several occasions, and her insights in the post-mortem chats have been a real highlight of our friendship for me.

Victoria has directed and co-directed some phenomenal productions during her three years at the College, collaborating with Peter Jolly in *The Recruiting Officer* and with Emma Haxton on a striking new interpretation of *Medea*. Victoria would agree that one of her proudest professional achievements at the College was the ambitious and riveting Year 9 production of *Lord of the Flies* (complete with the aeroplane emerging from the stage floor!) which she adapted and directed in 2019. Part of her success as a director is her knowledge of the boys and her ability to recognise where their strengths and talents lie, which enables her to bring out the best in them all. This is also the key to her success as a pastoral tutor – a role she loves. The genuine affection and respect her tutees and pupils have for her is palpable even on a casual stroll with her from the Christison Hall to the Common Room.

Victoria is a burgeoning playwright, and has fostered a love of script-writing in the pupils through her playwriting club. Under her tutelage, two pupils were long-listed for the National Theatre's New Views nationwide playwriting competition. Outside of the classroom, the boys have also benefitted from her generous support in producing House Drama, in running endless workshops and rehearsals, working with them at Edinburgh Fringe and on tour, as a member of the CCF, and in the annual Year 7 trip to Wales. All this was packed into the three years since Victoria joined the College in 2017. In wishing her the very best in her exciting new role at Alleyn's, we also acknowledge that her contribution to Dulwich has been unique and invaluable. No one could quite fill her boots – and how well those ash-black suede ankle boots become her.



TIM COOK

Nathalie Whittington

i, Mr Cook.' We walk a few more steps. 'Mr Cook!' accompanied by an enthusiastic wave. We manage to get a little bit further on. 'Hello ... Mr Cook, hi.' This is what happens on your average walk from the North Block English classrooms to the Christison Hall for lunch when you are with Tim. A chorus of pupils' voices wanting to acknowledge and greet their teacher and say hello. Sharing a walk with Tim highlights what he represents as a teacher: someone who has connected with, inspired, and earned the trust, respect and loyalty of the pupils.

Since joining the English Department, Tim has endeared himself to both colleagues and pupils. His commitment to sharing and passing on his own love of literature has been evident in the ways that he invites the pupils to explore the subject. In addition to his classes from Years 7 to 13, he has inspired the Lower School WordSmiths writers' creativity through his warmth, support and skilful insights; he has reviewed the department's Year 9 reading schemes, recognising the importance of reading as part of a range of interests, and encouraging pupils to explore an era's literature, art, music and culture; and he has empowered the Upper School pupils to recognise that they are our writers of the future, offering them his guidance and belief in their creative writing through the Liberal Studies course.

As a colleague there is so much that will be missed about Tim. His integrity, loyalty, honesty and resilience. His wit – and accompanying smile. His sophisticated, luxurious cologne (the perfect antidote to the more dominant cologne of 'boy smell' that fills the corridors). His suggestions for morning pick-me-up songs that range from piano concertos to soul anthems. So, inspired by one of these songs and in the words of Jocelyn Brown, we take this moment to thank Tim and wish him all the very best – 'this'll be the moment, it'll be the moment of your life'. VALETE





NELA BROCKINGTON

YVONNE WINDSOR

Ashley England

Lexi Kelly

ela joined Dulwich College and the Mathematics Department in September 2018 as a newly qualified teacher. Her background in medicine and specifically neuroscience meant she was ready for the best that Dulwich's minds could throw at her. Nela has really thrived in her time at Dulwich, teaching her classes with care and dedication, stretching the brightest and supporting all her pupils equally. She has made significant contributions in the co-curricular area, leading the programming club as well as helping run Middle School Mathematics enrichment. She is never without a copy of Horse and Hound on her desk in the Maths office, and her love of riding meant that she was the perfect person to run the Community Action project at the local stables. Nela will be massively missed by the Maths Department. She is someone who thinks incredibly hard about teaching as a craft and as a profession, and she is always determined to innovate, while focusing on what is most important for her students. We will miss her knowledge on a wide variety of matters: she has greatly enriched the time both staff and pupils have spent with her. We wish her the very best as she moves to City of London School for Girls, and we hope the commute is as short as the one to Dulwich was long.

vonne joined us this year from Gordonstoun, where she was Head of Physics. Right from the off she jumped straight into responsibilities within the Physics Department, playing an important role in the development and delivery of our extension provision, working with Dario on Further Physics. Her help in this area was invaluable. In the first term she conducted a considerable number of mock interviews with Oxbridge candidates, offering them precious advice on how to perform at their best in their actual interviews. In addition, once Further Physics relaunched for the Year 12 cohort, she helped ensure that the large numbers of boys in the session were coping with the challenging content. Also finding time to take part in Community Action and to be a visiting tutor in Blew House, Yvonne adapted to life at Dulwich very quickly, and did not miss a beat with her classes. At the heart of every single one of her lessons was immense care for her students, as well as passion for the subject. Within the department she was a tremendous team player, volunteering to make and share resources, delivering revision sessions, and looking out for colleagues when they needed her help.

Yvonne leaves us to join the Physics Department at St Paul's, who are incredibly lucky to have her. We are sorry to see her go, but wish her the best of luck!

LAST WORD

LOOKING FOR CHANGE

The shocking events of 25 May in Minneapolis unfolded just as the members of the editorial team were making final preparations for publication of the *Alleynian*.

It is essential that we respond to George Floyd's death, and to the continued stain of systemic racism that it represents. with more than just words. Yet words can also play a huge part in ensuring that we communicate not just the significance of what has happened, but the urgent need for change. We asked Arese Joe-Ashodi (Year 13) if we could publish an adapted version of his assembly talk, given on 8 June, in which he reflected on the necessity of both a shared solidarity, and of individual reflection, as we push for change. That sense of solidarity was evident in the webinar held on 9 June by the African and Caribbean Society, of which Arese is a member, together with the equivalent societies of JAGS and Alleyn's. The discussion focused on the issues highlighted by the death of George Floyd and the Black Lives Matter movement, with around 300 students and teachers from the three Foundation Schools in attendance. In preparing to hand over the editorial reins to my successor, Arjaan Miah, I sincerely hope that, as he writes his editorial in a year's time, he will be able to reflect on a year not just of words, but of real change.

> **Luke Jensen-Jones** Editor, the *Alleynian* 708



Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him.



he world is suffering through a very tumultuous and painful period currently. Yet the reading shows us the power and strength of unity which can be seen by the powerful protesting that has gripped the world, spreading from Minnesota across the Atlantic to London, and highlighting the sense of indignation of young people, and their willingness to take action.

I am confident that ours is the generation that will bring about long-lasting change. The African and Caribbean Society of Dulwich College is now in its third year, and I am proud to be part of the change we seek, and proud to work with like-minded peers. A great talk that I can recall was on the fetishization and eroticization of the black body. This served as an eye opener into how the black body is still exploited in this age. In addition, we had talks ranging from an open forum on mixed cultural and racial identities to a debate on decolonising the curriculum. Others will remember the electrifying talk from Kwame Kwei-Armah, Artistic Director of the Young Vic theatre.

These talks are small steps along the road to educating ourselves about racial equality. But we need everyone to engage. Having consulted with David Duroshola and members of the African and Caribbean Society, I would

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Ecclesiastes 4: 9-12

like to share some ideas about how, as individuals, you can help us achieve the change we all hope for. **One:** understand and acknowledge that you are not powerless. We live in an age where we each have a social media platform which we can use to raise awareness through sharing and promoting campaigns and fundraisers, and sharing signs of solidarity. Write to your MPs or to leaders of your institutions to let them know you are committed to change and to anti-racism.

Two: educate yourself on casual racism, which puts you in a better position to recognise and to condemn it.

Three: take time to understand your peers and friends from different backgrounds and to engage with and acknowledge their difference without objectifying them. We should be ok talking about race rather than ignoring it and pretending inequalities don't exist.

Finally, I would like to end with the message that:

Change begins with you.

Change begins with understanding and using the power of diversity.

Change begins with listening and not just hearing.

Change begins and ends with being proactive in speaking out against injustice.

Thank you.

The Orchard James He (Year 10)

