



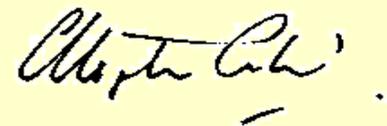
The Headmaster writes:

COVID might have impacted on many things this year, but it hasn't dampened the sense of festive cheer at Aldro! The Form Rooms are bedecked with tinsel, paperchains and an array of homemade stars from the DT challenge, all ready for the highly-anticipated inter-Form Christmas decoration competition! The Form 8s are singing Christmas songs at each of our three Christmas lunches, the staff are carolling at pick-up, and Christmas Jumper Day plays host to our inaugural 'Round the House Games' afternoon followed by the 'AldrOdeon' Christmas cinema evening, complete with popcorn and ice cream! We couldn't host our usual Aldro Carol Service at Charterhouse this year, but we managed to live-stream our 'Aldro Celebration of Christmas' on the evening of the final day of term; we hope you enjoyed it!

On the final Saturday of term we hosted Aldro's first 'Discovery Day' for junior girls. They brought with them a wonderful energy and excitement and quickly looked at home in the classrooms and the library, as well as in their art, music and sports sessions. We continue to be delighted with the interest shown in Aldro by prospective girls and we look forward to welcoming them next academic year.

Boarding continues to be a real highlight at Aldro, with numbers of full and part-time boarders rising throughout the year. Most recently, the full-time boarders enjoyed a festive final weekend of term that began with axe-throwing and ended with a murder mystery, more fun perhaps than festive, but there was at least a splendid Christmas feast in between on the Saturday evening! The school was abuzz with sound of laughter throughout the weekend.

I trust that what follows in this our latest AldroLink will manage to capture some of the magic of recent weeks here. With the exciting prospect of Christmas ahead, Nicky joins me in wishing all our families and readers every blessing for the festive period and all good health for the New Year



Aldro gives shoe box hampers...

A huge thank you to the Aldro families for the fantastic response to the shoe box collection. An amazing total of 85 boxes were sent to the Clockhouse, Milford and we wish all the members a very Happy Christmas!



An Aldro Celebration of Christmas



The annual Aldro Carol Service is always a highlight of the year for many of us. Sadly because of the pandemic we had to rethink how we would celebrate as a school. It certainly has been a long term so there could be no better or more fitting end than celebrating Christmas as a school and community so the Aldro Celebration of Christmas was put together to remind us of the special message of Christmas. Click the link to watch [An Aldro Celebration of Christmas](#)



Aldro Remembrance Day Service

In art lessons Aldro pupils prepared painted pebbles for this year's Remembrance Service. On the reverse they wrote the name of a fallen Old Aldronian from The Great War and World War Two. This year, for the first time our very moving service was conducted outside due to Covid. The service was recorded and can be seen on [here](#).





Odd Socks Day



Aldro's Anti-Bullying Week started with Odd Socks Day. We were delighted that so many people from our whole school community took the time to wear odd socks to celebrate everyone's individuality and uniqueness. Throughout the rest of the week there were Anti-Bullying assemblies for each bubble, delivered by Mrs McSweeney and Mr Alexander. In these, we asked the boys to think about the strategies they could use to challenge and manage unkind behaviour, both in person and online. We continued with our work on challenging bullying behaviour during our PSHE and ICT lessons during the week and, as always, the boys inspired us with some fantastic discussions, which reflect their wisdom, empathy and kindness.



Aldro Code Breakers



Five Form 6 boys were chosen to represent the school at the Sherborne Cracking the Code Challenge on Wednesday 25th November. Sixteen schools from all over the country took part online in a superbly organised virtual competition. The afternoon consisted of two different activities and our boys finished a clear 30 minutes ahead of their nearest rival to win the maths section. The boys showed excellent teamwork and maths skills and were wonderful ambassadors for the school. Well done to Henry C, Alfie F, Jack G, Leo L and Augustus W.



Squad Marks Christmas Term Winners



With all the disturbance this term, it is pleasing that the boys were still being awarded Squad Marks for their positive contribution to Aldro life. Squad Marks are like Hogwarts' House-Points and are awarded for Squad competitions and for individual strong performances in the following: academic successes and stars, art, chess, design and technology, drama and LAMDA, helpful behaviour, kindness, music and sport. Each term the top two scoring pupils in each class go on a Squad Treat alongside the top-scoring pupil for kindness in each year group (kindness being one of the most-prized qualities for our boys.) Sadly we have had to postpone the Squad Treat for this term. All the boys' Squad Marks go towards making their Squad the eventual winner in the summer. The current Squad order is 1st West Indies, 2nd Canada, 3rd Africa, 4th Australia, 5th India and 6th New Zealand. The scores are very close and so all is to play for in 2021!

3S Jamie G & Django P

4M Henry E & Jack B

4N Freddie W-C & Charlie P

5D James D & George L

5J Eddie M & Luca B

6A Henry C & Barnaby E

6S Augustus W & Harry P

7D Oliver A & Leo H

7I Balthazar E & Elliot B

8K Tom F & Tom W

8R Charlie H & Ollie B

Kindness Squad Marks Form Leaders

Form 3 Freddie H

Form 4 Charlie G

Form 5 Archie Y

Form 6 Jama I

Form 7 Edward S

Form 8 Max C

Christmas Jumper & Lunch Day



During the final week of term David McCoy and his catering team once again worked together to give us the most delicious Christmas lunch. Turkey, roast potatoes and all the trimmings were followed by chocolate tart, minced pies, satsumas and chocolates. Crackers were pulled, jokes were told and everyone left feeling well fed and full of Christmas spirit.





As always, it has been an extremely busy term in the Art and Design and Technology Departments, not least due to all the cleaning and quarantining of equipment as we have managed to allow access to the Art & DT classrooms and workshop.

Form 3

Being our largest group of boys, Form 3 have for this term been working on a textiles project which has mainly been based in their form room. They have learnt about a range of different pieces of textiles equipment and developed their sewing skills. The highlight of the project was being able to stitch their very own sewing badge onto their school jumpers this week. The activity took place in the dining hall to allow for some special socially distanced visitors. It all happened to fall upon Christmas Jumper Day and, by the end of the lesson, the boys were so delighted with their work that many of them striped off their festive attire to model their newly accessorised grey jumpers!



Form 4

These boys have been developing their graphics skills, both on paper and using CAD (computer aided design). As a fun task at the end of term, along with Form 3, they put their textiles skills into practice to make these charming tree greeting cards.



Form 5

This year group has been working on a top secret mission this term to surprise their families on Christmas Day! So as not to spoil the surprise, we will reveal their work in the next issue.

Forms 6 and 7

These 2 year groups joined forces this term and in both DT and Art lessons they have been working on the "Aldro Enterprise" project. Their objective was to create and sell a range of seasonal themed items at the annual Winter Fair to raise funds for the school charity. In order to maximise profits, they tried to use recycled or found materials where possible. In the absence of the Winter Fair we set up stalls for each bubble and pupils purchased items by adding the amount spent to next terms school bill. We thank all the parents in advance for supporting us with this fundraiser.

The wooden slices featuring adorable robins and charming Christmas scenes, along with much of the wood for the reindeers was harvested last year by the then Form 6 boys from the beautiful silver birch tree that had sadly fallen into the lake earlier in the year. After skilful extraction from the lake by Mrs Beeby's husband the boys spent a fun DT lesson outdoors with a plethora of saws, cutting large sections ready for the Christmas term project.



The slanted Santa came from 5 pine trees cut down from Mrs Matthew's garden and reduced to the required shape by her brother, Mr Lewis, with a chainsaw. Many of the bottles were donated by parents and staff and Form 6 worked hard creating vinyl cut designs to decorate them prior to filling them with LED lights to make festive lanterns. They also had fun using hot glue guns to create some highly effective wooden stars for the Christmas tree and used a pyrography kit to wood burn designs into laser cut wooden shapes.





Form 8

Form 8 are currently working hard on their laminated hardwood veneer project, but this year with a bit of a twist. Many boys have opted to stick with the traditional chessboard as their product, but in a bit of a shake up of the original checkmate project, this year some boys have decided to apply the same skills to a range of different outcomes. With work still ongoing with a range of items from storage boxes, drinks coasters, desk tidies, clocks, different game boards etc... Here is a sneak preview of Tom F and his amazing trivet design.



MUGS AND BAGS

At the end of the summer term every boy created a small 'mug shot' outline drawing of his face. These have been carefully combined to create some fabulous keepsakes of our unprecedented term of distance learning. Last week we took delivery of 227 mugs and 83 bags, photos of which can be seen here. Whilst distributing them to the boys in the final week of term it was clear many who did not order would like to do so, so Mrs Matthews will be in touch in the New Year for those who still wish to order this important memento of 2020.



Squad Chess 2020



Despite all the problems this term, we have managed to run Chess Club for most of the term and it was great to finish off with the Squad Competition. We kept the age groups apart and managed to organise competitions for four year groups.

All the boys who do Chess Club took part and played in a three round Swiss Tournament with 30 minutes for each game. There was some great chess played and it was good to see many of the younger players playing in their first event.

The winners of each year group were as follows:

- Form 3 James G 3/3
- Form 4 Jack B, Freddie E, Felix L and Charlie P 2.5/3
- Form 5 Xavier R and Felix B 3/3
- Form 6 Jacob K 2.5/3



Squad Totals (top 6 players from each Squad)

1st West Indies 46 points, **2nd** India 44, **3rd** Australia 36, **4th** Canada 35, **5th** New Zealand 32, **6th** Africa 27





Cookery Enrichment Christmas Term 2020

MME CROALL & MRS MATTHEWS

IN CONJUNCTION WITH
MR MCCOY & THE CATERING TEAM

PROUDLY AWARD

Alejandro, Benjamin, Leo K, Leo Bo
James D, Seb, Eddison, Alfred, Joseph,
Tom, Alfie G, Felix, James P, Ben,
Kalaam, Sasha, George L and Leo Br

WITH THE TITLE OF

GREAT ALDRO BAKERS

This term Mme Croall, Mrs Matthews and Mr McCoy have been developing a fabulous new course of cookery sessions for our new enrichment programme. The boys have worked each week on a range of different sweet and savoury recipes, and the Thursday evening take away bag soon became a firm favourite with the Form 5 parents. This term they have made chocolate muffins, cinnamon palmiers, fruity flapjack, pesto scoffins, rocky road, pumpkin cake and marshmallow rice krispie squares, pizza swirls and pizza Christmas trees. Each participant has headed home with their own cookery enrichment booklet and their cookery badge. The course culminates in a cake decorating challenge to be completed at home and judged anonymously by all the kitchen staff. Here you can see the fabulous entries for Harvest cakes at half term. We congratulate Seb on his 3rd place award, Alejandro on 2nd place and Eddison on his 1st place. We look forward to sharing with you the next batch of boys excellent Christmas themed entries in the next edition of Aldrolink.



Star of Wonder Challenge



Following the success of last year's Christmas Wreath challenge, this year the boys were asked to design and make a Christmas 'Star of Wonder' to hang on every door in the main school building. Over half the school entered, giving Mrs Smith and Mrs Edwards, the superstar cleaners of the DT department, a very challenging job when it came to judging over 70 entries.

Each Participant received a prize of Haribo Starmix (what else for a star competition?!) and 5 Squad Marks. The commended entries gained a total of 10 Squad Marks, and our 4 overall winners 15 Squad Marks and a much larger bag of Starmix! Mrs Matthews is already thinking of a door hanging Christmas tree idea for next year.....

COMMENDED

Archie G - a glittering star made from tinsel and lights

Rory M - cleverly twisted gold and silver paper

Theo M - fabulous use of Aldro coloured Pom Poms

Leo B - beautifully executed hole punched and folded white paper star

Alfie G - a cheeky double sided winking Santa star

James P - great use of recycling of multicoloured metallic coffee capsules

Leo K - carefully hand cut ring of gold and silver stars with Aldro coloured ribbons

Augustus W - tinsel smile that makes everyone smile when they see it!

Jonty L - professionally executed LED lit MDF star



OVERALL WINNERS

Tom W - Christmas story silhouette over blended backdrop, double sided with Christmas tree

Felix L - red hand sewn felt cushion with white snowflake design

Henry C - 3D angled concentric stars in gold silver and red

Alden McQ - card engineered star that transforms into a wreath





Aldro Boys Selected for the ISFA Squad

Congratulations to the following boys, Luke, Scott, Tom, Bruno and Tom who have all been selected for the ISFA South Central Football Squad 2020-21



Gymnastics in our Enrichment Programme

A popular activity in our new enrichment programme has been gymnastics taken by Mr Rose. Here are a few photographs taken at one of the lessons!



SPORTS | TALK



During the months of November and December of the Christmas Term the inaugural “Aldrun” was introduced. The purpose of this new initiative was twofold; 1. To try to keep our Games programme fresh, fun and stimulating; and 2. To work on the basic fitness of our boys which has definitely suffered during Covid. As such the idea was born to help keep the boys motivated, hopefully inspired and fit but within a competitive setting.

Over 5 consecutive Wednesdays we held 5 runs of various length and in various formats. Run 1 was a 100 meter, Run 2 was 250 meters, Run 3 was 500 meters, Run 4 was 1 kilometre and Run 5 was a 50 meter relay.

The initiative was rolled out across the school so all boys and age groups were involved. This is how it looked:

Teams

- The school was divided up into 12 teams.
- Each team had a certain amount of boys from each year group

Races

- Each week the races were various distances
- Each boys time for each race was recorded.
- The times of each boy in each team were added together in order to record the best overall team total.
- There was a winner each week, but also a cumulative winner following 5 weeks of runs. In essence a League Table.

Where & How

- The runs took place across our playing fields.
- We stuck to our bubbles

This new initiative proved a resounding success with all the boys actively involved and earning Squad Marks. We suspect this will become a new Aldrun tradition!



MUSICAL NOTES



Despite the lack of a Christmas Concert, it has still been a busy few weeks in the Music Department with many informal concerts and both theory and practical exams taking place. Here are a some photographs from the many concerts.



MUSICAL NOTES



MUSICAL NOTES



Boarders' News



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

This term has challenged us all with the pandemic and what that has placed on schools nationally and internationally. In many areas, this challenge has been overwhelming. However, boarding at Aldro has not only continued to thrive but grown significantly, especially this term.

The boys have simply loved boarding as have the staff. While some of the 'traditional' weekend trips have had to go whether they be paintball, Longleat Safari Park or Thorpe Park, these have been replaced with on-site activities such as bonfires and fireworks, boat building for the lake, murder mystery party and axe-throwing. We have, when allowed, been able to get off-site and enjoy West Wittering, go-karting and pottery painting, all firm favourites with the boys and staff.

The Boarders' Feast was moved from December to Summer (Christmas dinner to summer BBQ) and became a much smaller and more intimate affair as the boys and staff enjoyed the evening of games, impersonations, and a lot of food! The axe-throwing was keenly contested by all including the Headmaster who challenged the Housemaster to a duel, and this ended in a respectable draw!



Boarders' News



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

Murder mystery seems destined to stay as the boys spent most of the day getting into character, perusing scripts, and finding their costumes. The matron's make-up bag was ransacked much to the later amusement of all, none more than when Mr Payne came to supper dressed in his frock with full lipstick and makeup. The next challenge will be to create an 'Aldro Murder Mystery' based on the theme 'Who murdered Mr Rainer?'. Several boys are already contenders with this 'parody' and we look forward to seeing who the murderer is! While it would be wrong to name the firm favourites for this and some have even commented that they may be more than 1! A certain chap from Form 7 has already put forward a clandestine proposal...



The evening activities have taken advantage of whether outdoors and the ASC. Colditz being an old favourite with several of the Form 8s promising the 'house' that they would get this introduced on more nights were they to be elected as Boarding Prefects. Football, badminton, table tennis, dodgeball, pirates were all to the fore. The boys have worked hard during prep with many getting in some extra study and taking advantage of the staff on-site to help further.



Boarding has grown both with our international boarders and with part-time boarding. Numbers are up and beds are becoming scarce. From January the Boarding House will be close to capacity for boys wishing to gain an experience of boarding.

Of all the things we have enjoyed this term, I have to commend the boys and staff on their support for one another; firm friendships have been made and there has been a terrific atmosphere in the Boarding House.

May I, on behalf of the boys and staff, wish you all a safe, peaceful, happy and joyful Christmas.

Boarders' News



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

It was nearly 500 years ago that a certain character of infamy wearing a mask and tiring of the Government at the time decided to try and blow-up the Houses of Parliament. Guy Fawkes never achieved his goal and would go down in history as a hero to some but a villain to many. The similarities of people wearing masks and some frustration with the current Government were not lost as both the Headmaster and Housemaster set off clandestinely on a cold and damp, but ultimately dry afternoon, to lay their own explosives. Would Aldro survive or be destined to be the ashes that a certain Mr Guy Fawkes had intended for the English parliament? Would either or both of them leave unscathed throughout the smoke and explosives with sniggering boys wondering if this would mean no Housemaster to protect their much-desired tuck box and the treats on offer? Would they be heroes or villains? The Bursar's concern and detailed risk-assessment meant nothing could go wrong . .

Marshmallows, a roaring fire, wonderful fireworks on a cold winter night meant that whatever Covid-19 may throw at all of us during these times, we were able to have a little respite and an enjoyable evening. As members of staff were seen emerging from the smoke to live for another day, one boy asked what on earth they would get up to next . . .



Junior Department



Fire Safety Talk

Mr Alexander, who in his spare time is a volunteer Fire Safety Officer, spoke to our Junior boys about being safe with fireworks especially as this year there were many more displays in gardens. The boys enjoyed hearing the siren and having a go sitting on the fire safety land rover that is used during fire emergencies.



Roman Alphabet with Mr Ivall

Our Head of Classics, Mr Ivall came and showed us how the Romans wrote and also gave us a little demo on how to say hello and greet people in Latin. Form 3 thoroughly enjoyed the session especially as they don't start learning Latin until Form 5!



Junior Department



Roman Alphabet with Mr Ivall cont'd



Junior Department



Roman Shields

Form 3 have loved the topic of the Romans and asked if they could make these wonderful shields as a project to do over a couple of weekends. We then prepared for battle in the north of England with the Celts!



Junior Department



Christmas Cards

Form 3 have created Christmas cards which will be delivered to the residents of Jubilee House , Godalming. The boys hope that these cards will bring joy to those who will not get to see their families this Christmas.



Friends of Aldro



Thank you...



We are delighted to announce that we raised £286.50 for Macmillan through the socially distanced coffee mornings and dog walks that were held by individual year groups in October.

Thank you for your support