

## The Headmaster writes:



The Christmas term 2021 began with a remarkable semblance of normality. Significantly inter-school fixtures resumed, as did school trips (to the Eden Project in Cornwall, 'Matilda' in London, and Brookwood Cemetery for Remembrance, for example). We were even able to host the Winter Fair that had been cancelled the year before. The term ended, however, with us once again needing to reinvent new ways of delivering the old programme, and it culminated with an outdoor carol service in lieu of the one planned at Charterhouse, this year complete with donkeys! Throughout all the events of the past term, the pupils and staff have shown remarkable creativity, adaptability, resilience and fortitude, and we can share a collective sense of pride in all that has been achieved.

I trust that what follows in our latest Aldro Link 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 a wonderful Christmas and all good health for the New Year.

Mr Chris Carlier  
Headmaster

## 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 70 boxes were sent to the Clockhouse, Milford and we wished all the members a very Happy Christmas!





# Christmas Festival of Carols



We were so fortunate to be able to still hold our annual Christmas Carol service. Although it wasn't to be in Charterhouse this year, we went ahead and held it outside and even had donkeys, a first for Aldro! The event was slightly condensed with fewer carols and readings, but nonetheless, it was a joyous celebration of Christmas and the Christmas story. The Chapel Choir, Middle School Choir and Junior Choir all sang beautifully and were accompanied by a sonorous brass ensemble from inside the CHC. It was a truly magical evening.





# 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 minced pies, satsumas and chocolates. Crackers were pulled, jokes were told and everyone left feeling well fed and full of Christmas spirit.

**Many** thanks to our wonderful catering team for a wonderful meal and for all the exceptional food they have produced this term, both at lunchtime and all the other numerous events. We are extremely lucky to have them.





# Aldro Remembrance Day Service





## Form 7 visit Brookwood Cemetery



On arriving at Brookwood, Form 8 heard the tragic diary extracts of World War One soldiers and some of the haunting poems from that war in the impressive American Mausoleum. Then the pupils started visiting the graves to prepare notes to use in our poems on the life of a soldier, which included writing down some of the powerful inscriptions on gravestones. Mr Swan, the former Head of History at Aldro, explained how some family members would choose to be buried in the same grave and about some specific people who helped change the course of history from SAS officers to spies to those who were mysteriously killed when a plane was blown up deliberately. Then we visited some foreign graves, such as Americans, French and North Africans. After that, we joined back together to form a full-year group and had a look at some more recent graves that sadly were as new as 2015. For all the children in form 7, this trip was powerfully educational, but also tremendously sentimental.





## 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 children 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 and girls inspired us with some fantastic discussions, which reflect their wisdom, empathy and kindness.





# Childrens Business Fair



In an assembly last term pupils were introduced to the concept of 'Children's Business Fairs' by visiting speakers Sam Rogerson and ex Aldro parent Andrea Finnis. The children were invited to independently apply to this nationally run scheme where they would set up their own businesses. There was much interest from our middle school pupils and a total of 11 Aldro pupils and 2 siblings entered their individual business plans. In a cross between Dragon's Den and Lord Sugar's Apprentice, all 6 businesses were successful in their applications and we had a total of 6 Aldro stalls open for business at the Farnham Maltings on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December. Their product ranges included pom poms, Christmas decorations, baked goods, confectionery, candles, soaps, fudge, dice and paper folded hedgehogs. Our young entrepreneurs had an excellent day putting into practise all of their Aldro Bacc skills including Teamwork, Creativity, Communication, Responsibility, Independence and Perseverance. We were delighted that one of the Teams won the award for best stand on the day voted for by the judging panel of local entrepreneurs. The overall winners however were all the participants who felt the success of all their hard work in monetary terms when the sales started rolling in! In follow up to this event they also held a mini business fair at Aldro on the penultimate day of term, and I know they would like to thank all their customers for their support and for buying their products.





Enrichment Activities





# SPORTS | TALK



A selection of sports photographs





# MUSICAL NOTES



The Christmas Concert was due to take place in the CHC on the evening of 6th December. Sadly, due to Covid restrictions, we were unable to hold the event. However, and much to the delight of us all, we were able to film the concert on the very same day and the musicians were still able to perform! The pupils had been working extremely hard all term playing in their various groups and working towards this end of term event. We had stunning solo performances from Luca Boston (piano), Leo Holmes (violin) and Xavier Rees (saxophone). All the ensembles then took to the stage to perform their festive pieces; Chamber Choir, Jazz Band, Guitar Ensemble, Guitar Quartet, Oboe Trio, Recorder Ensemble, Aldro Percussion Ensemble, Woodwind Ensemble, String Ensemble and Function Band. I would like to thank all the visiting music teachers and all the pupils for all their hard work to be able to put this event together.





# Junior Department



## Fire Safety Talk

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





# Junior Department



## Matilda

Form 3 have been studying Roald Dahl's Matilda this term. It was a real treat for all of the Junior Department to spend a magical day in London watching the wonderful Matilda the Musical and enjoying a meal at Pizza Express! The following day we were extremely lucky to have Nik Ashton, worldwide director for the Matilda musical visit school. He gave each year group an 80 minute workshop which focussed on the importance of communicating when creating a dramatic performance. The children played some communication games before creating a mime piece by using three 'picture' stills from the Matilda story. All the children thoroughly enjoyed the experience and are looking forward to using these skills in their Junior Production later in the year.





# Friends of Aldro



## Fireworks Display

Friday 5th November saw the return of our annual Fireworks Display. Aldro families arriving for the evening were able to feast on a delicious BBQ and mulled wine or hot chocolate before watching a thrilling display against a background of clear skies.

What a superb treat it was—over 500 guests enjoyed a spectacular array of rockets, fountains, mines and comets from just behind the lake. For a full 17 minutes, we were enthralled by bangs, whistles, cracks and showers of sparks, all accompanied by music!

Our grateful thanks go to all the Aldro staff and the Form 7 parents who were involved in the organisation.





# Friends of Aldro



## Winter Fair

It was wonderful to hold our annual Winter Fair again this December. The CHC was full of fabulous stalls all sourced and booked by Georgie Templeton-Ward. The event was beautifully opened by the Junior choir and saw plenty of Christmas shoppers and so lovely to see many familiar faces and past OA parents too. This generated fantastic sales for the raffle and congratulations to all those who won a prize. Thank you Georgie for your tremendously hard work in putting together such a successful fair in very difficult circumstances. We haven't got the total monies raised yet but it is looking very Good so far for our School charity. Thank you also to the Form 8 parents who ran the café.

The ASC was also buzzing with the childrens area. A huge thank you to all parents who donated toys, gifts and jolly jars for the childrens stalls. Thank you also to all the mums who helped out on the day. The ASC was both twinkly and festive, decked out in Christmas decorations.

Thank you to the Winter Fair Committee for their hard work all year putting the day together and in particular Georgie Templeton-Ward, Debbie Jones, Liz Yule, Emily Niel and Lydia King.



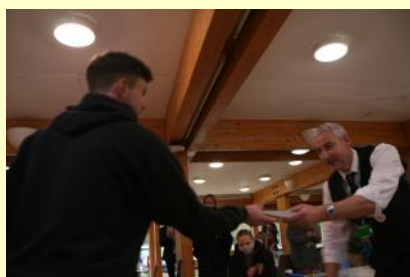








At the end of this term we have said a sad farewell to Mrs Katie Donaldson, Head of Science here for ?? Years. Miss Donaldson leaves us to go to Moor Park school in Ludlow as Head of Curriculum. We are so grateful for everything she has done for us here at Aldro and we wish her well in the future.



We also said farewell to our student master Alex Hughes who left us to go travelling. We will miss him and wish him every success for his future and hope he keeps in touch.

## Dates for your diaries

### QUIZ NIGHT

**FRIDAY 4th February**

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



### FoAA Spring Walk

**Tuesday 1st March 8.45am  
Meet in the Dining Hall car park  
and finish with coffee at school**

