



Exploring Evolution



From the Headmaster

It is sometimes only after a busy term ends that you can sit quietly and reflect on all that has happened in the preceding months. In the final cups and colours assembly, I showed the boys a montage of photos taken during the term. It was lovely to reminisce about all the activities that the boys had been involved in since September. I have picked out just a few of the term's highlights below.

Our Reception class are well and truly settled into school life and had their first trip to Cogges Farm. Later, the whole of Pre-Prep went to Roves Farm, as well as performing on stage for their Harvest Festival and Nativity.

Our Year 3 and 4 classes loved their end of term trip to see 'Dick Whittington' and one of the best experiences for Year 4 came in just the second week of term, with their first overnight trip walking on the Ridgeway. I joined them that evening at the hostel and thoroughly enjoyed spending time with them in the early autumn sunshine.

Our Year 5s had a great time at the Black Country

Museum which set them up beautifully for their work on Victorian detective stories and our Year 6s started the term with a two night Bushcraft adventure, sleeping out in their dens under the stars.

Our Year 7s have been incredibly creative in CDT and Art this term and our Year 8s have been to Swanage to explore the glorious Jurassic coastline for their residential geography trip. Many of them have taken on the role of Young Leader to support staff with our Other Half clubs.

Our beautiful carol concert rounded off a wonderful term of music after our Senior Choir sang in a massed choir at the Royal Albert Hall in November, supporting pupils with special needs. It is great that our boys continue to make the most of the opportunities available to them.

With best wishes

Craig Williams



We shall remember them



Abingdon Prep commemorated Remembrance Day this year with a range of events. The boys in 5S delivered an assembly. As well as marking the hundredth anniversary of the end of WWI, and drawing attention to those who have given their lives in conflict then and since, they also gave some examples of how the war changed the way

people thought and lived, especially in the arts. Reference was made to how the music of Ralph Vaughan-Williams became more lamentful, the art of Paul Nash starker and darker, and the poetry of writers such as Wilfred Owen, Siegfried Sassoon, Edmund Blunden and Laurence Binyon more evocative, inspired by the horrors which they had witnessed at the front. This was followed by a special recital, where Year 8 boys read poems (see right) they had composed in English lessons on the theme of WWI, inspired by a range of poets.



The stage was full of poppies made in CDT and Art

On Friday, everyone gathered in the hall just before 11am for a short Remembrance Ceremony. Craig read from Laurence Binyon's poem *For the Fallen* then the 2-minutes silence was observed respectfully, with Ruari, in Year 8, playing the *Last Post* to signpost the occasion.

Thank you to all the boys and parents who contributed to our Poppy Appeal, to our informative display linking these events to our own families, and to Katie, Sherrey and those pupils who helped to create the striking display of cascading poppies.



Good Morning George Smith

*Good morning George Smith,
Do you mind if I sit here near your graveside?
The sun shines down on the place where you lie,
Although the clouds loom heavy across the sky
I see in the churchyard that you're not alone.
Surrounded by friends Tom, Willy and Jack Jones.
Your gravestone tells a story, more than your name.
You joined up full of hope in 1914 but died with the damned in 1918.
How did you die?
Was it quick with a bullet, shot through the heart?
Torn to pieces or blown apart?
Did you suffer too long, agonisingly slow,
Calling for mother to come take you home?
Did you suddenly fall where you stood,
Drowning in terror, face down in the mud?
Did your friends come to rescue you or leave you to die?
Perhaps they were with you all of the time?
They rest by you now, no more songs of cheer.
Just graves to rest in as the trenches have long disappeared.*

Lorcan, Y8



The Christmas Bazaar

The 2018 Christmas Bazaar will go down in memory as something of a vintage. The new stalls (brilliantly designed and made by Paul Wentworth) gave the hall a professional appearance and proved massively popular with boys and indeed parents. The general ambience was frenetic (just as it should be) but far less noisy than previous years!

The library was transformed into a smoothie parlour, a book shop, a garden centre and a TV studio by Alison Thomas and the Year 7 boys. (Read more on their activities below.)

My thanks, as always, go to the JPA, parents, staff and especially the boys for making this such a unique event. *John Herrington*



In Pre-Prep, Father Christmas was so busy he nearly ran out of presents, but luckily there were just enough. Face painting was very popular with lots of snowmen and Santa look-a-likes and we even had a family of three generations of reindeer!



Some Year 7 boys are participating in the Peter Jones Foundation Tycoon Enterprise business competition, and their *Dragon's Den* stalls had a very successful day. The boys worked hard to make their stalls look appealing, particularly the pots of bulbs in the courtyard, which looked fabulous on the steps and shelves. The smoothie stand, Iced Delights, did exceptionally well: manned by two very helpful mums for the whole two hours and the boys sold out of their 200 cups! Billy's Bones stall looked fantastic with a huge poster of their logo, kindly provided by a parent, and they sold out of their beautifully packaged dog biscuits. The Green Screen stall was kept busy, especially when parents and children started to realise the potential of what could be achieved - they created some fabulous images! Books 4 U continued to sell their books, having made nearly £200 before the Bazaar, which is amazing. Another group of boys decided to make soaps which were beautifully produced and sold very well. *Alison Thomas*



Anti-Bullying Week

To launch our annual Anti-Bullying Week boys and staff wore odd socks on Monday to show that we are all different but all equal. The theme of respect was reinforced in special assemblies, lessons and workshops during the week.

Alison Heaton



Year 6 Bushcraft



Our first trip of the year was the Year 6 residential Bushcraft experience at Cornbury.

Edward reports: When we got there we were sorted into tribes. Ours was called "SAS Blackberries". Then we went to build our shelters. We had the choice of either sleeping in the shelters or in a tent. Then we had dinner and after some games we went off to bed.

On the next day after breakfast, we went off in the forest to play games such as "snipers" and made para-cord bracelets and carved our own tent pegs out of wood. For lunch we built

our own fires and cooked burgers on them. Then we went to the lake. It was freezing but some of us decided to go swimming in it. We also learnt about cray fishing and lifesaving. After playing some evening games in the woods, we went off to bed again.

On the final morning we had pancakes with sugar for breakfast. We played "snipers" again and then learnt how to make traps. We then got to make our own trap in a small group. I was sad to go home. Overall it was a really good trip.



Year 7 at Bath



Year 7 visited Bath in early October. Alex reports: First, we were given an audio guide to listen to facts about the Roman baths, then we entered through the balcony on the top floor and saw the Great Bath beneath us. After that we went downstairs and saw many artefacts and were given a talk about some of the things that have been excavated at the site and what the inscriptions tell us about the people who visited there in Roman times. We also drank some of the spa water – which was horrible!



Exploring Evolution

Year 8 visited the Natural History Museum in Oxford. We started off in the lecture theatre learning about Darwin, evolution, adaptation and natural selection. Those feeling brave enough got to handle some giant hissing cockroaches. A worksheet then took the boys all around the museum exploring the subject further.



Year 4 visited Christ Church, Abingdon



Year 5: The Victorian Living Museum



Year 5 pupils, who are investigating how life for Victorian children changed over time, visited the Victorian Living Museum, Dudley.

We descended into the coal mine, exposing the boys to the cramped and dangerous conditions experienced by young Victorians, complete with an explosion showing how coal was dislodged from the seams. Happily, we emerged unscathed, albeit after a shorter shift than our Victorian counterparts.

The schoolroom gave the opportunity to write with slate and chalk, and to recite the alphabet

and tables, as well as experiencing some Victorian discipline! The boys also visited a selection of Victorian era shops and houses to see and hear demonstrations of Victorian housekeeping and toiletry habits. Purple tongues did result from the trip to the sweet shop, although we were glad to report there was no arsenic in the confectionery, as in the 1800s. A final highlight was watching a real Black Country blacksmith at work in the forge. Sparks really did fly.

A successful trip, and in no small part owing to the good attention and questions posed by the boys.

Year 8 Field Trip



Year 8 had a highly enjoyable field trip to The Isle of Purbeck in Dorset. The boys studied the formation of coastal features and will now begin to write up their findings in an essay which will form part of their end of year grade. While we were at Old Harry Rocks the boys were lucky enough to see the Coastguard helicopter at close range.



Year 4 walk the Ridgeway



Storm Bronagh caused some wild and blustery conditions as we set off to hike along the Ridgeway. Despite the weather, the boys were in high spirits and set a fair pace along exposed hilltops and woodland paths. After four hours, we reached the Court Hill Hostel - a perfect spot for a hearty meal, play in the woodlands and a well-deserved sleep.

Day two and the trek to White Horse Hill with weary legs. The wind was relentless, but there was some blue in the sky. We covered the 6.8 mile journey in good time, reaching our destination on schedule to catch the buses back to school. All the boys demonstrated resilience and determination. They encouraged each other and showed real team spirit and cooperation. They should be proud of their achievement.

'Up and Atom' and 'Eureka'



This year, we have two science clubs, and plenty of excited boys to do some fun science with!

Up and Atom is for Years 3 and 4, and the boys have launched astromice, made snowman bath bombs, and the optical illusion to put the goldfish in the bowl, amongst many activities.

In **Eureka** for Years 5 and 6, one experiment was erupting fizz which gives a lava lamp effect (top). A longer project looked at flight - from hoop gliders to paper planes to building balsa ones.



Archery

Another popular new club this term is Archery, offering two sessions for different age groups. Pupils are taught archery by a qualified archery coach. It aims to build coordination, strength and concentration. Suitable for all abilities, the sessions consist of target shooting, games and competitions with an emphasis on enjoyment.



Spooky Art!

At Halloween, with support from the Year 8 Art Leaders, the Year 5 and 6 Art Club became spooky felines, creating drawings of cats' eyes using compressed chalk pastels.

Working on jet black landscape pastel card, the boys used enlarged photographs to observe the colours and shapes accurately to create a spookily composed image!



Concert Platform

The termly concert platforms offer an informal opportunity for boys to perform to a small audience of parents and peers. From Pre-Prep to Year 8, from ukelele to bassoon, not forgetting singing, these concerts always offer a varied repertoire, showcasing the boys' musical talent. It's always lovely to see the boys accepting their applause with pride.



Practical Life Skills

Boys in Year 8 who have chosen this new club as one of their Other Half activities, have been working hard developing some basic life skills. Lots of laughs have been had and the race against the clock in some activities, has been well contested. They have learnt to put on a single duvet cover, clean shoes and chop carrots and onions. Next, folding clothes properly!





Rain on the camera lens gives interesting effects!



The Show Must Go On!

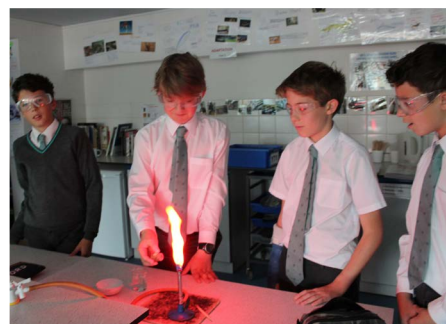
The weather forecast was not good this year, but our fireworks evening still went ahead. As always, it began school-side where everyone enjoyed food and drink and the boys ignored the rain to play on the field with their lightsabers.

When we moved over to the field for the display, we really felt the gusting wind and torrential rain. Sadly, the Battle of the Houses between the giant Dragon, Griffin, Phoenix and Unicorn effigies was mostly washed out. However, Titanium Fireworks' main display was full of fizzes, bangs and wows at the gorgeous colours and effects, even if some spectators opted to watch from their cars!

A huge thank you to everyone who helped on the day. The JPA, parent volunteers and staff all worked together to run stalls, park cars, set up the field and marshal the event, not forgetting those who returned to clean the field the next morning before the rugby matches later. Finally, thank you to the Titanium Fireworks team for the brilliant professional display. Here's to next year and some better weather!

Meanwhile, in Science...

Year 7 explored the colours in fireworks chemicals by flame-testing metal salts.



L'invitée française

Year 5 was able to practise all they have learnt in French this term when one of our French speaking parents visited to answer their questions and ask some of her own.

She explained some Christmas traditions typical of the southern region of France and the boys particularly liked the idea of the 13 different desserts which adorn the festive table on Christmas Eve.

They also learnt that having larger feet was a distinct advantage at this time of year as shoes are left beneath the tree to be filled by Papa Noel.



Public Speaking Competition



Near the end of term, the Middle Section held its annual Public Speaking Competition. For this event, five pupils were asked to consider what they thought was the most important event of 2018, and give a speech of five minutes in length about their choice to a panel of judges. Topics included the Skripal poisonings, the death of Stan Lee, ongoing plastic pollution, rising fuel taxes in France and the extinction of Spix's macaw. After some hugely informative and entertaining speeches,

the judges eventually deemed Josca (6R) to be the winner, with George (6R) as the runner-up. Well done to all other pupils who took part, namely Archie (6R), Patrick (6N) and Arjun (6N).

Many thanks also need to go to the panel for giving up their afternoon to help us judge the competition, namely Olga Senior, an Abingdon Foundation Governor, Matthew Coolin, Head of English at Abingdon School, and Patrick McCubbin, an Abingdon Prep Old Boy who left the school in 2013 and is currently studying Biochemistry at Oxford University. *Rob Shaw*



What have Year 3 been getting up to?

As part of their study of World War II, Year 3 made model gas masks complete with carry cases and some wonderful models of Anderson shelters.



As part of their light topic in Science, groups of Year 3 boys gave shadow puppet shows full of castles and monsters to an intrigued Pre-Prep audience.

Nicki Thornton Author Visit

Nicki, who some may know as the previous owner of Mostly Books in Abingdon, won The Times/Chicken House Children's Fiction Competition for her debut novel *The Last Chance Hotel*, a magical mystery story, which could be described as Agatha Christie meets Harry Potter. She came to talk to Years 4-6 about her book and worked with the boys on how to create a fictional detective.



Carol Concert

The concert took place in the magical setting of St Helen's Church, Abingdon, complete with a beautifully lit chandelier and decorative displays of craftwork by the boys.

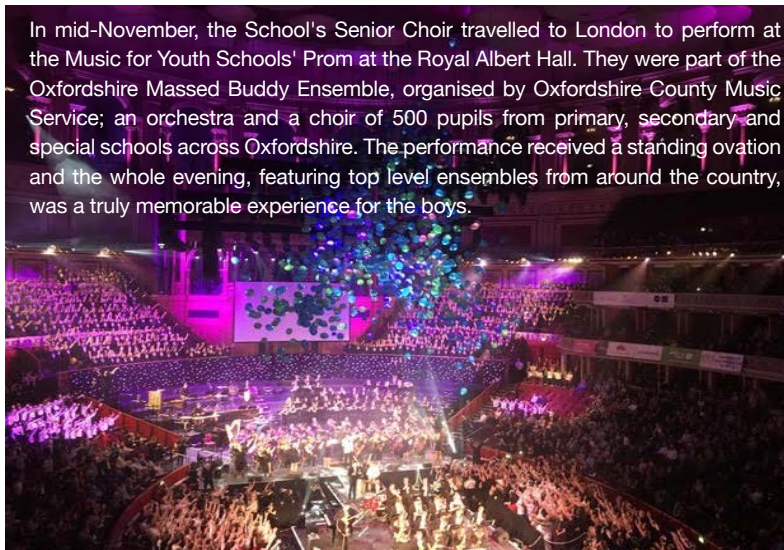
Rupert sang the solo in *Once in Royal* followed by the orchestra's Vivace from Corelli's *Christmas Concerto* and *Walking in the Air*. Junior Choir performed *The Light Song* in two parts and the Wind Band, led by Zach (Y8), played *Strollathon*. Y3/4 sang *Te Harinui* with Nikhil (Y7) on violin, then they had the audience clapping along to the Puerto Rican carol, *Feliz Navidad*, as did the Jazz Band's *Jingle Bells Meets Madness* with Tom's (Y8) exuberant sax solo. Daniel (Y8) played *May I (Wish You a Merry Christmas)* à la Charlie Mingus on double bass and Y5/6 gave polished renditions of *Torches* and *Love Shone Down* (soloist: Josca Y6).

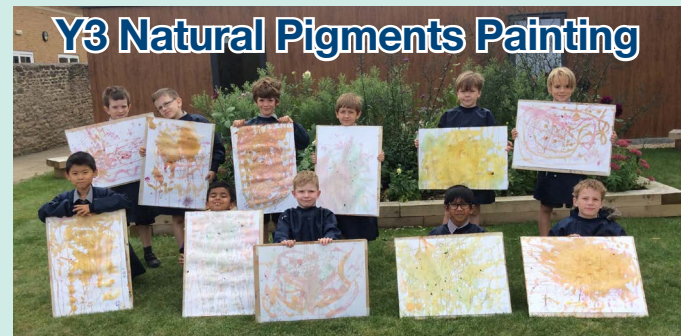


Y7/8's performance of Debbie's *Carol from Flanders*, the story of the Christmas truce, served as a fitting commemoration to mark the centenary of the end of WW1. Boys from all year groups delivered Christmas readings with confidence and expression. Folk Group danced while they played a jubilant *I Saw Three Ships* and the senior choir sang *Saviour's Day* with clear diction and solid harmonies. Paul's guitar group donned light-up Christmas hats for *Rockin' Around The Christmas Tree*, then we heard the crack of the whip and Ruairi's (Y8) whinnying horse in Y7/8 *Sleigh Ride*, and *Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy* performed on two flutes with purity of tone by Dilan and Leo in Y8. Chamber Choir sang the Spanish carol *Riu Riu Chiu* with wonderful clarity and the whole school joined to sing Debbie's composition, *Shepherd Boy* with gusto.

Schools' Prom

In mid-November, the School's Senior Choir travelled to London to perform at the Music for Youth Schools' Prom at the Royal Albert Hall. They were part of the Oxfordshire Massed Buddy Ensemble, organised by Oxfordshire County Music Service; an orchestra and a choir of 500 pupils from primary, secondary and special schools across Oxfordshire. The performance received a standing ovation and the whole evening, featuring top level ensembles from around the country, was a truly memorable experience for the boys.





September

Reception have had their first taste of life at Abingdon Pre-Prep. There was plenty for our youngest pupils to do indoors and outside, from art and dressing up to checking out the dinosaurs and trikes in the outdoor play area. It was a busy and fun first morning for everyone.



Reception's First Day



A Visit from the Fire Brigade



Get Out! Get the Fire Brigade Out! Stay Out!

As part of our Safety Week, Year 1 and Year 2 enjoyed a visit from one of the teams at Abingdon Fire Station. The emphasis of the visit was keeping safe and what to do in an emergency at home. We also had a tour around the fire engine. We saw all of the special equipment stored on board and how it might be used when they are called to an incident, plus we were shown the masses of protective clothing and breathing apparatus that helps to keep the firemen safe when fighting fires.



Pre-Prep Young Ambassadors

The role of our Young Ambassadors is to support their peers during play times, using their early leadership skills to help others make good choices while playing and having fun. Young Ambassadors are also another point of contact for Pre-Prep boys at break times and they support others socially, helping initiate new activities or just keeping each other company.

October

Reception visit Cogges Farm



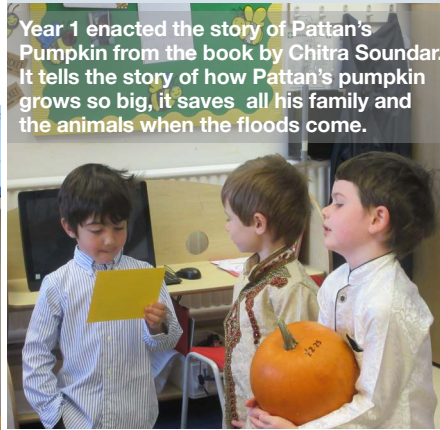
Reception set off on their first school visit to Cogges Farm Museum.

They learnt how to bake bread in a hot bread oven, grind corn into flour, plant corn seeds in little pots they had made from newspaper and re-tell the story of the Little Red Hen.

There was an expedition into the woods to visit a different Forest School and a walk along the riverbank. With a picnic lunch, an exploration of the amazing adventure playground area and time with the animals, some very happy and tired little boys came home on the minibus.



October



Forest School



November



Reception celebrated Diwali, the Hindu festival of light. Rupal came to share the highlights of Diwali in her household. Everyone helped to wrap a sari round and round Elaine. Then we tried some Indian food and listened to traditional music.

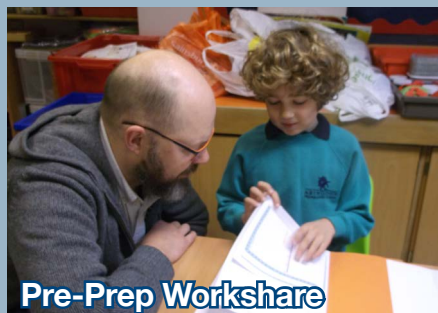


Smile Please!



Rupal also visited to tell Reception all about her job as a dentist and how she can help us to look after our teeth.

November



Pre-Prep was a hive of activity as children shared their latest work with their parents. Some very proud boys demonstrated their progress and even offered delicious home baked cookies.



December The Pre-Prep Nativity - A King is Born



Pre-Prep performed A King is Born, a traditional nativity play with a modern twist, for parents and friends to enjoy. The event began with the sheep, cockerels and donkeys from Reception processing into the darkened room with sparkling lanterns, smiling brightly as they climbed onto the stage to take their places.

We were transported back in time as the young family enjoying their bedtime story were taken on a journey to Bethlehem via their ipad! Supported by two smart podcasters, the story of the new king's birth unfolded as the characters we know took their positions in the stable.



December

Roves Farm



We set off to Roves Farm on a rather dark and wet Friday morning. Luckily the weather didn't dampen our spirits as the adults became the audience for the nativity story told in a real stable, with live animals. All were in costume as shepherds, wise men and angels, offering gifts and beautiful, angelic dances. Our Mary and Joseph took a real donkey on a journey to the chilly stable where Jesus soon joined them.

The best thing of all though was a visit to Father Christmas in his sleigh with promises of being very, very good being exchanged for wishes and requests for dinosaurs and Star Wars Lego. We then made our way into Santa's workshop, where helpful elves let us choose from an array of amazing gifts! There were opportunities for Christmas crafts, a visit to pets corner, time with an assortment of animals, a huge adventure playground and our picnic. What a smashing day!

We would thank the JPA for supporting us with this event. *Linda Gaskell.*



Celebrate! Christmas in Pre-Prep



Christmas hats and jumpers



Making edible crispy Christmas trees.



Christmas lunch



Santa left presents for Reception which they showed to Craig and Mike



Happy New Year from Pre-Prep

Off the rugby field

Triathlon and Biathlon: In his first triathlon season, Quinn was selected to represent the South Central Region in one of three age groups at the **British Triathlon Inter-Regional Championships** held at Mallory Park. On both days Quinn achieved the fastest run, beating under 15s, and helped his team gain a gold medal; an amazing achievement.



Abingdon Vale Biathlon

Twenty-one boys from five age groups competed in the **Abingdon Vale Biathlon Time Trial** at Abingdon Sports Centre (swimming) and Tilsley Park (running). In the U9s, Ted, Charlie, Joshua and Jamie took the first four places, with Oliver in 6th, a tremendous result! James came 5th in the U10s, Oliver 3rd in the U11s and James 5th in the U12s. In the U13s, Quinn came first in both swim and run disciplines, Freddie and Monty came 5th and 8th respectively.



U13A - Abingdon School Relay

Cricket: This sport goes indoors for winter training, and five of our Year 5s, Zachary, Seb, Charlie, William and Oliver were selected for the U10 Oxfordshire CC Stream B after the trials. Joshua in Year 4 has been selected to train with the Gloucestershire CC Stream B squad too.

Football: During the summer, eight boys from Abingdon Prep were selected for the Prep Schools' Lions. They headed to Gothenburg to compete at the **Gothia World Youth Cup**. Mikey, Tom, Finn and James for the U11s, Jasper, Jo, Samson and Quinn for the U12s - an experience to remember.

Cross-Country: Our U13 A and B runners competed in the **Abingdon School Cross Country Relays** held on Cox's Field, each lap being 1.4km. The A team won by almost a lap with Quinn posting the fastest time; the B's finished 5th.

The U9, U10 and U11 teams performed brilliantly at **Cokethorpe's** meeting in November with several high individual placings. The U11A team missed first place by just three points, with all four runners finishing in the top 20 out of over 90 competitors.



U11A at Cokethorpe

House Rugby

Year 3 (U8)	Unicorn (Isaac)
Year 4 (U9)	Phoenix (Jamie)
Year 5 (U10)	Phoenix (Oliver)
Year 6 (U11)	Phoenix (Josca)
Year 7 & 8 B	Phoenix (James)
Year 7 & 8 A	Dragon (Archie)

Autumn Term Rugby Awards

This term we celebrate rugby endeavour. The 'Most Outstanding Player' comes from the 1st XI of each year. The 'Most Improved Player' can come from any team in each age group. The 'Man of Steel' awards celebrate individual achievements.

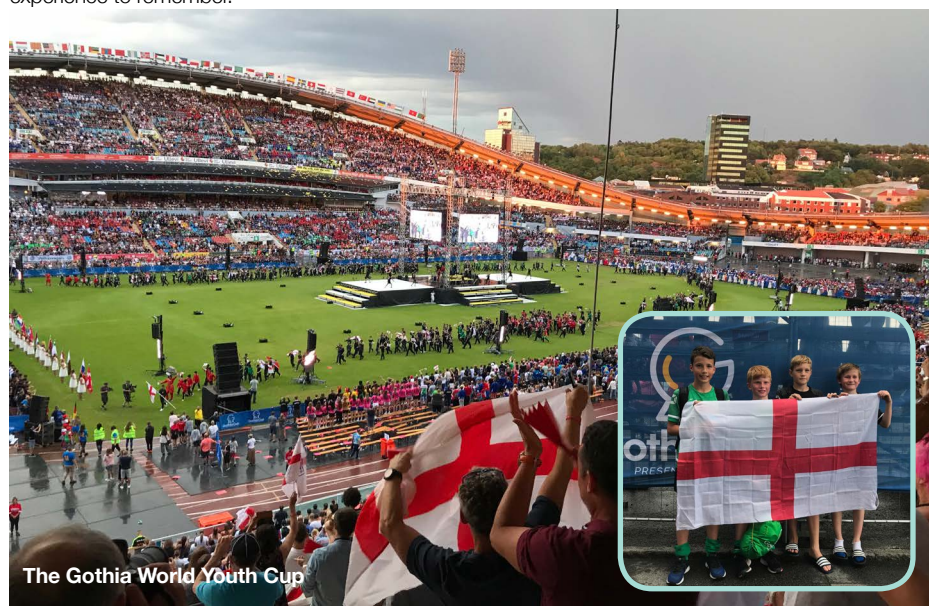
Team	Improved	Outstanding
Under 8:	Thomas	Leo
Under 9:	Dawson	Paul
Under 10:	Edward	Zachary
Under 11:	Oscar	Ollie
Under 12:	Archie	James
Under 13:	Sam	Archie

Man of Steel Awards

Year 4: George, Joshua, Ted
Year 8: Archie, Zachary, Pedro



Abingdon Relay



The Gothia World Youth Cup



Some of our winter cricketers

Rugby Highlights

It is great to see that all the boys are embracing the new coaching development style with boys rotating positions to develop and challenge their skill-set. The style of the rugby played within the senior section has been particularly impressive.

The **U13A** team's first fixture of the season was at the **Dragon School Rugby Festival**. The aim of the day was for the boys (and coaches) to gain as much match-experience as possible. They showed some exciting play and forceful running in possession. Later that month, the squad showed an improvement in their unbeaten performance at the annual **St Hugh's U13A Super 12 Rugby Festival** held at Cheltenham College. In late November, we hosted our 8th U13 Rugby Sevens Festival, with eight teams in two groups. The **U13As** were runners-up, but A and B teams both gained from the experience, and were a credit to the School.

Our **U12A** team, coached by Russell, had an excellent season, winning eight out of ten fixtures. They put up a brave and determined front and dug deep for energy at the impressive St Edward's Festival, in which over 30 prep schools took part.

The **U11A** team, coached by Steve, won two thirds of their fixtures and acquitted themselves well in festivals with three wins

in the **Cokethorpe Festival** in November. In a block fixture played away at **MCS**, the **U11** teams won three and had one narrow defeat.

The **U10A** team, coached by Roger, had a good season, winning half of their eight fixtures and performing well in the two tournaments they participated in, coming 5th at the **MCS U10 Tournament** and enjoying the 3G pitch at Tilsley Park for the **Abingdon School Festival**. The **U10 C** and **D** teams also won half or more of their matches.

Our **U9** teams enjoyed their first competitive 'transitional contact' matches, with the U9A team only losing one fixture, and convincingly winning all their games in our APS Tag Rugby Festival, which meant that Ashley won the 'Coach of the Season'. Achieving a clean sweep against Chandlings, the U9 teams are an exciting year, showing a great desire and passion for the game.

The **U8 A-C** teams, who play tag rugby, thoroughly enjoyed their first experience of competitive rugby, even if their results didn't quite reflect their enthusiasm.

These are just some of the highlights from a busy term of rugby. Full results and reports can always be found on the School website. Meanwhile, we'd like to give special thanks to all the parents who support our boys from the sidelines, whatever the weather.



U9 squad at CCCS



U10 vs MCS



U11s vs Oratory Prep



U10s vs Cothill



U13A team

Class Pairings



School Council Election



Casting a vote in the School Council elections

Charities



This year we are fundraising for the **Thames Valley Air Ambulance** and after a fantastic effort by all, we have already raised nearly **£5000**.

We were very lucky to have two paramedics visit to help us lay the silver coins on our drawing of a helicopter. Some of the boys were given the opportunity to look around the Air Ambulance car, which is sent when the helicopter is unable to reach casualties. The Christmas bazaar was another huge success with the boys running their own stalls and the JPA once again providing raffle prizes to excite everyone.

In a new venture this year, our Year 7 boys have entered Tycoon in Schools, a Dragons Den style challenge run by the Peter Jones Foundation, and have set up their own businesses. They have been hugely successful entrepreneurs and have donated their profits of over £1200. Finally, thank you for your generous donations to the retiring collection after the Christmas carol concert, this raised a further £750.

Thank you once again for your support. *Anne Parker*



G4G: Gifts for Grown Ups

The last week of term saw the much-anticipated inaugural Gifts for Grown Ups event. The Sports Hall was converted into a shopping mall for the boys to buy inexpensive presents for parents, grandparents and other significant adults. For many, this was their first experience of independent festive retail, however, JPA personal shoppers were on hand to advise on the perfect gift, which they then wrapped and popped into the gift bags the boys had decorated earlier. After the exhaustion of shopping, the boys were allowed a few treats to replenish energy levels. An enormous amount of hard work went into this from Karen and her team of parent helpers - thank you! *Rachel Pairman*



JPA News

Thank you to everyone for their support of Firestorm and the Christmas Bazaar. Despite the weather at the former, we had two superb events raising money which will be split between school projects and our charities. We've booked next year's fireworks already - fingers crossed for the weather!

We also launched a new event: Gifts For Grown Ups (G4G). Thank you to everyone who donated items, and we're very grateful indeed to the parents who gave up their day to run the event which was a big success.

Dates for your diary: Quiz Night on Friday 1 February and the Easter Eggstravaganza on 23 March.

With thanks from the JPA Committee

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