

# The Abingdonian



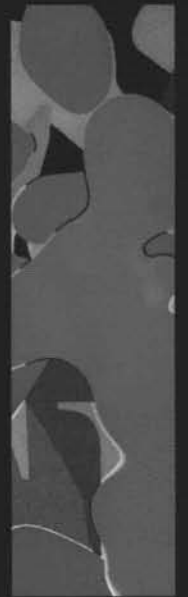
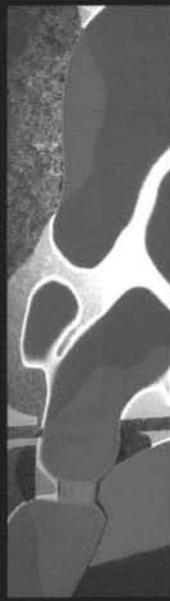
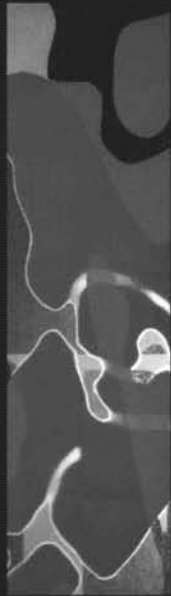
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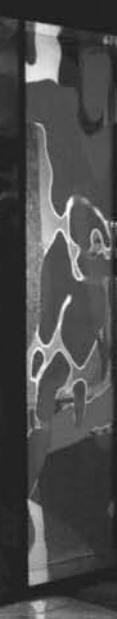
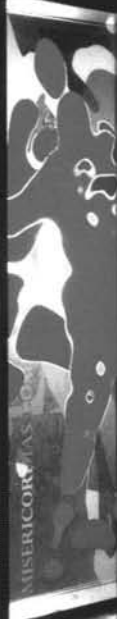
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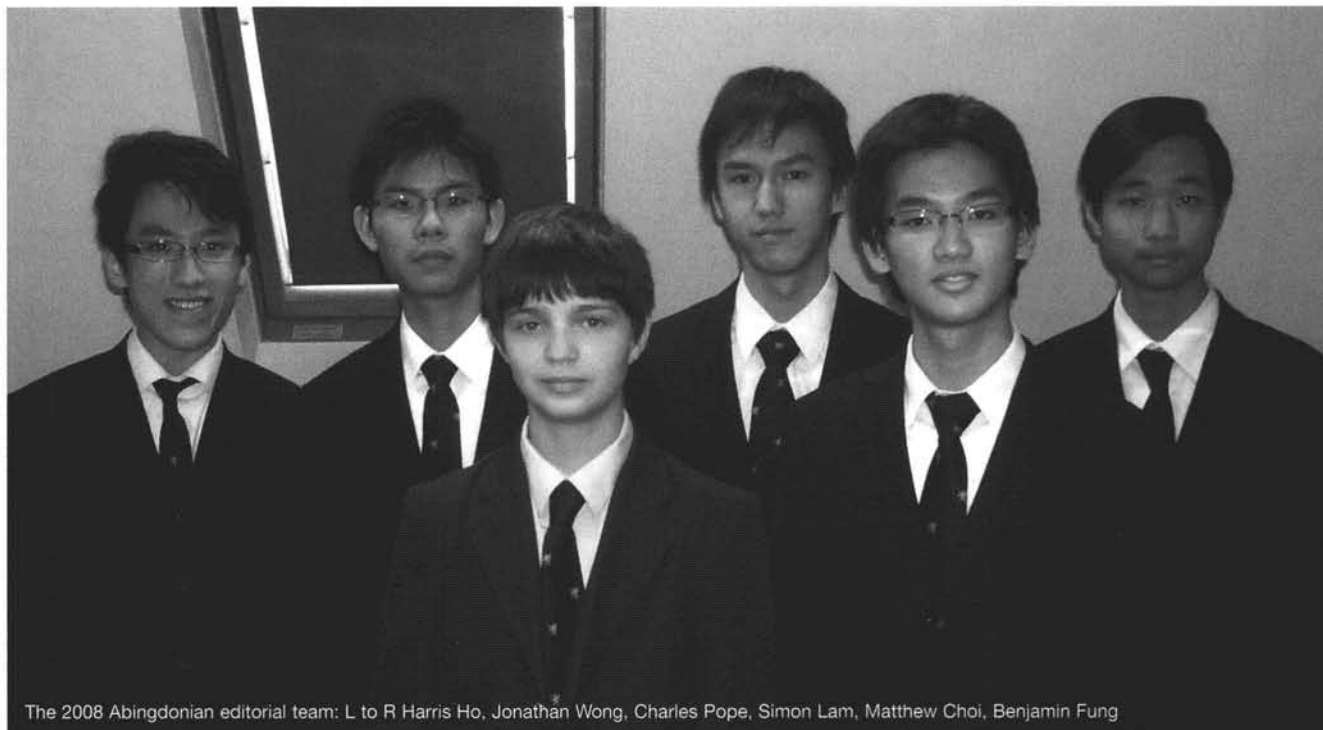
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# Editorial



The 2008 Abingdonian editorial team: L to R Harris Ho, Jonathan Wong, Charles Pope, Simon Lam, Matthew Choi, Benjamin Fung

Interwoven among the colourful figures in the Sports Centre window are two Latin phrases: *Misericordias Domini in aeternum cantabo* and *Ingredere ut proficias*. The first, the opening line of Psalm 89, *I will sing of the loving kindness of the Lord for ever*, is the School motto, introduced by the Headmaster, Henry Bright, in 1763, the year the School celebrated the bicentenary of John Roysse's re-endowment. The second is carved over the doorway into Big School, just as it was carved over the doorway into the old schoolroom, now part of the Guildhall buildings in the centre of town. Translated variously as *Go in to get on* or *Enter in order to progress*, it is not specific to Abingdon School but can be found over the entrance into old school buildings all over the country: a Hungarian visitor remarked on it over the entrance to St Paul's School in 1620. It was the Latin tag that everywhere was associated with education, the implication being not that you only have to pass through a

magic portal in order to make progress, but that if you engage with what you find on the other side of the door, it will be to your benefit. A quick glance through the pages of this magazine will show you the extent to which Abingdon boys have embraced the spirit of this instruction, by fully engaging with all that the School has to offer on the other side of its doors.

I would like to thank this year's editorial team for their work; there is much to be done in checking the accuracy of facts and the spelling of names, and in imposing house style on all the articles, and I am very grateful for their devotion to the task. However, the person I should most like to thank is **Anne Soper**, whose meticulous attention to detail in all proof-reading matters has been of the greatest help to me over the four years that I have been editor of *The Abingdonian*.

Sarah Wearne



# Headmaster's Foreword

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By any standards this has been a momentous year for Abingdon School and its extended community. As the pace of term began to accelerate at the beginning of the academic year in September 2007, we were able to enjoy a cocktail of celebrations at Abingdon Preparatory School. Their £3 million Sports Centre and development project had been completed on time, which provided an appropriate juncture for ties with the Senior School to be further strengthened by a change in name. On 1 September what was formerly Josca's became Abingdon Preparatory School. By coincidence, over the course of the summer of 2007, the School was able to purchase the adjacent Beverley House site, providing seven acres and numerous extra buildings, which will give the potential for further expansion.

At the Senior School, close attention has been paid to the eighteen month construction phase of the new Sports Centre development. Since the Princess Royal dug the first turf on 15 September 2006 as part of the 750th Anniversary celebrations, progress has been rapid. For those of you who would like a historical record of how the site has progressed over the last two years, I would highly recommend a retrospective viewing of the photo on the website. After a number of false dawns over the summer of 2008, it was a great relief and pleasure to welcome ex-Minister of Sport Kate Hoey to open the new £9 million facility on 4 October. As a former PE teacher and still very much a sports enthusiast, Ms Hoey was able to inspire current Abingdonians to set their sights on London 2012 and beyond! Kate Hoey was supported by a cast of Olympic and international sporting stars to open various facilities within the complex itself.

On the academic front, it was excellent this year to be able to heap praise on our record-breaking cohort of GCSE students. In the past it has normally been the case that our A Level results have surpassed GCSE performance; this year it was the other way round, hinting at great promise for the future. With strong academic results and a major new development to inspire Abingdonians on all points of the skill and fitness spectrum to aim for sporting excellence, I believe the School is well placed to weather whatever winds of change and storms of financial fury are thrown at us over the course of the next few months.

The year has also been characterized for me by the opportunity to encounter various members of the extended Abingdon community in far-flung places. Over the summer half term I was fortunate enough to be able to travel to Chisinau in Moldova to meet representatives of *Agape*, a small independent charity which the School has been supporting over the last few years. It was fascinating to visit Moldova, a country on the fringes of Europe, where many people experience absolute poverty, with little or no access to medical or other support. I left Chisinau, fully appreciating for myself why their time in Moldova has proved to be life-changing for some of the Abingdonians who have participated in earlier visits.

From the poorest country in Europe, my next trip took me to one of the wealthiest and most highly developed places on earth. Hong Kong continues to thrive and to produce a very healthy crop of aspirant Abingdonians. I was able to witness the process of interviewing over 100 candidates for the 15 or so places that we make available each year. At the same time it was excellent to be there to host a parents' reception to both inform and liaise with families who send their offspring 6,000 miles around the world for their education. I was most touched by the level of gratitude and support for the School.

Once again, I would like to thank Sarah Wearne for her polite but nevertheless insistent demands for copy for this magazine, and to her editorial team who have done such a splendid job in recording in meticulous detail the high points of the academic year.

I should like to leave you with the words which are inscribed on the large plate-glass windows in the foyer of the new Sports Centre. The artwork was commissioned from Martin Donlin and plays with the shapes of the words *Ingredere ut proficias* – enter that you may progress. What better words to inspire all Abingdonians as they start to use our wonderful new facilities?

Mark Turner  
November 2008

# Common Room Farewells

## Chris Biggs

Chris Biggs arrived at Abingdon in September 1974 from Reed's School, Cobham, in Surrey where he had been Head of Art and Drama and an Assistant Housemaster for five years. As the Art Department was a one-man department he was in effect Head of Art here as well. There was no art in the curriculum beyond the Third Year, and O level Art was an out-of-school activity. However, Chris's instructions from the then headmaster, Eric Anderson, were to put Art on the map. Four years later, Art was a curriculum subject throughout the School, including at A level, and the Amey Hall, with its new Art and Music Departments, was being built. By this time, Craft had also been introduced to the curriculum under Chris's initiative and the staff were about to hit the giddy heights of three full-timers. All this was done with the full support of the next headmaster, Michael St John Parker.

Chris and his wife, Bridget, originally lived at 25 Park Road before moving to Heylyns. Chris was a School House tutor and his time at Heylyns coincided with the pre-withdrawal of Direct Grant boarding rush and so that he and Bridget soon found themselves with four School House boarders who lived in the converted bottom floor of Heylyns on a term-by-term basis.



Chris at Prize Giving, June 2008

In 1978 he was appointed Housemaster of Larkhill. He was there for only one year before the School sold the property. Chris therefore has the distinction of being the only Housemaster to move his family and 'House' lock stock and barrel – to Waste Court in 1979, where he remained as Housemaster until 1988, first as a 13-18 House and then as an 11-18 House for the last few years.

In the Art Department he remained as Head of Department to see things settled into the new buildings before handing over to Michael Dillon in the rapidly expanding Department of Design, which incorporated both Art and the newly fledged Design and Technology. A little later, Art and CDT split into separate departments and Chris carried on as he always has done, providing continuity in teaching of Art. Over the years, Chris has adapted without fuss to the multifarious changes in departmental structure and syllabuses. At first, the Department taught mainly painting and drawing, then came some design teaching in support of the early CDT courses, then printmaking and most recently graphics. Chris has also taught History of Art, some General Studies Courses and 'guested' as an occasional geography teacher. He has tutored at Sixth-form level and has also served under five different Middle School housemasters. For all of his thirty-four years at the School he has been either a tutor or a housemaster.

During his Boarding and Art years, Chris's main Other Half activities were sport and the CCF. On joining the School, he took a commission in the CCF and served for 28 years in the RAFVR(T), ending with the rank of Squadron Leader and decorated with the Cadet Forces Medal (with two bars) and the Queen's Jubilee Medal. After two years, he became head of the RAF Section, and second in command of the Contingent after five years, then led the CCF as Contingent Commander for eight years. He attended (and often ran) thirty RAF Annual Camps, nine Adventure Training Camps and fourteen Annual Army Camps. It is worth noting that during these years the CCF had an average of 150 cadets. On the games field Chris coached at team level for twenty years until a cartilage operation forced him to cut down on running. He coached rugby at every level from Game 1 down to Juniors, hockey, principally at Colts level, and athletics field events, mainly jumping and throwing.

Restricted in games and now out of the Boarding House, Chris began to look for new challenges. Since the opening of the Amey Hall in 1980, he had been involved on a regular basis in designing, building and painting theatre sets – indeed he had also designed several for the Court Room (now the Geography Department) and the Unicorn Theatre, which were the only spaces available to the School for drama in pre-Amey Hall days. Seemingly unable to stay very far away from a stage for long,

The set of Sweeney Todd



he became gradually more entrenched and began to run and train the theatre technical crew. When David Taylor retired, Chris was appointed as Amey Hall Administrator. Together with all the theatrical things he was already doing, this effectively made him 'head cook and bottle-washer'. He has continued to do this for the last ten years or so. During this time the Amey Hall has become the Amey Theatre, use by the School and by outside organisations has increased year on year, the building has been expanded into the Arts Centre that it was always trying to be, and the raison d'être of the place has become central to the life of both the School and the local community. Something like 60% of the School's 'bridging' activity comes from the activities of the Arts Centre.

In his 'theatrical' life so far, Chris has designed almost 150 stage sets (about 120 of which have been for the School) and organised (or helped others organise) literally hundreds of events. He has recently been elected as Chairman of Abingdon Operatic Society, so his 'retirement' is bound to contain a good proportion of theatre life.

There have been lots of other bits and pieces: four years as President of Common Room, during which time the Pembroke Room was completely refurbished; a memorable 'guest' appearance as Mr Bumble in a School musical production of *Oliver!* and another as Captain Corcoran in *HMS Pinafore*; a very special summer during which he drove a large lorry to Edinburgh and back, together with his technical crew and most of the contents of the Amey Theatre in support of a School 'Fringe' production of *Sweeney Todd*.

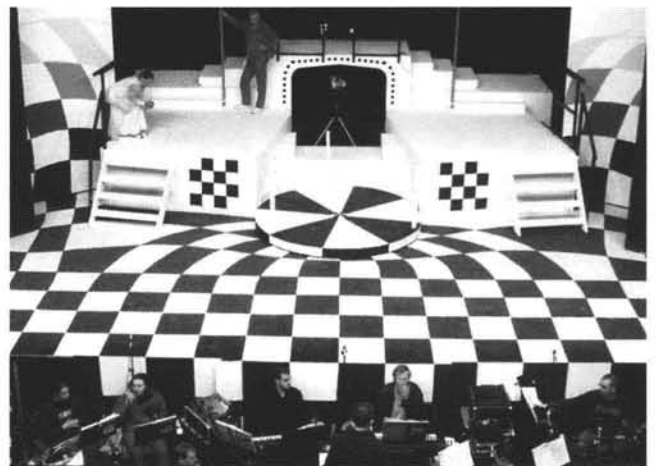
We wish Chris and Bridget a long and happy retirement.

Ian Fishpool

James Nairne writes:

When I arrived in 2001 in place of Nigel Hunter as Head of Art, it was Chris who guided me in the ways of

Abingdon School. It was Michael St John Parker's last term and there was an Arts Centre to refurbish and build; Chris helped me negotiate some interesting moments for which I am most grateful. It can't have been easy for Chris to have yet another person in on what he had started, but I always found him most supportive and willing to take on new teaching and different classes. Chris was a good listener and provided sound advice on many issues. I know we shall see him around as he works with Abingdon Operatic Society, but I shall miss his companionship, hard work, endeavour, and long hours.



Chris Biggs' set for Abingdon Operatic Society's production of Chess

## John Henderson

John Henderson arrived at Abingdon in 1987 to teach both geography and economics, having taught at Raynes Park in London for a number of years. He very soon established himself as a gifted teacher, an effective communicator and a cartographer of the old school. His hand-drawn maps on at first, blackboards, and later white boards, became his hallmark: other geographers who followed him into a

classroom next lesson would often feel outclassed by what they encountered on the board. His knowledge of the Frome area was encyclopaedic; he nearly always managed to incorporate some aspect of his beloved home area into any lesson, whatever the topic, usually via some reference to railways! But his ability to draw the outline of any country when challenged in class was legendary: many generations of Abingdonians witnessed this impressive trait. So many of them too were challenged to recognise the outlines of islands and landlocked countries – not an easy task, which John knew.

Never one to religiously follow through a textbook, John would approach topics in a unique way: questioning and explaining in a manner that would challenge and cause his pupils to think and develop their own opinions. It is fair to say that in recent years John became frustrated with the straitjacket mentality adopted by so many of the new examination specifications. It was not unknown for him to stray from the straight and narrow in his teaching and many heads of department have had to keep their beady eye on him from time to time. His approach was probably



no bad thing as the breadth of learning achieved by his students over the years stood them in good stead in the longer term. In order for his lessons to be interesting and relevant John could often be seen standing at the photocopier trying to squeeze a broad sheet article that had caught his eye in the common room, onto a piece of A3 paper for use in his next lesson. After which, this would be placed into his notorious filing system that spanned the whole of the common room, every classroom he taught in, as well a numerous locations dotted around the place. He was also something of a kleptomaniac hoovering up board markers whenever and wherever he found them: his jacket pockets must have been enormous and the linings ripped to shreds.

John successfully survived and flourished under successive heads of department. During the Ellis years he laid the Henderson foundations, which blossomed during the Maughan years and matured with the Spencer and Slatford regimes; vintage status was achieved more recently under my watch.

Over the years John has played a significant role in other areas of school life. He was a housemaster for several years, a dedicated and proficient cricket coach. He oversaw the founding of the School golf club, always a passion of his; he helped with chess and was for some years the Treasurer to the MCR. John was never happier than when he was devising a quiz whether it be for the end of term lessons or part of an MCR social event. The questions were always meticulously constructed and delivered in such a way as to tease and test the ability of his audience.

We all wish John and his wife, Jane, a long and happy retirement in Drayton sure in the fact that we will certainly be seeing them both from time to time at School events in the future.

Ian Fishpool

## Fiona Parker

Fiona Parker, who left the music department in December 2007, joined us in January 1999 to replace Derek Jones as Bandmaster and French horn teacher. Mr Jones had come from an army career as a bandmaster and the bands had been, for many years, well-disciplined and successful enterprises – so, much was hoped for from the new appointment.

The School was not to be disappointed. Fiona quickly established an easy rapport with the senior bands who thrived under her leadership over a period of nearly nine years. Miss Parker had gained



Fiona Parker conducting the Brass Band, Open River Day May 2007

her professional bandmaster qualification from Bergen University and had experience of brass teaching and band direction in both the Faroe Islands and in Norway, following her initial training as a musician at the London College of Music.

Fiona Parker was equally successful as a teacher of the French horn. The number of pupils grew steadily under her enthusiastic and committed guidance and Abingdon achieved a reputation as one of the leading schools with, perhaps, the highest number of horn pupils per capita. Moreover, she was able to generate a great sense of fun with her sometimes quirky sense of humour and she achieved a devoted following from both colleagues and pupils alike.

Michael Stinton



## Mike Martin

Mike Martin – plain 'Mike' to all those involved in his rowing – was the driving force in the development of rowing at Abingdon for nearly two decades. His dynamism, charisma and magnetism were shown when so many current and former parents, together with OAs and current pupils, attended his farewell party at the boathouse in May, on OA Day. Mike inspired his charges, nothing seemed impossible, and Abingdon won an impressive array of trophies over the years and has been the most consistently successful rowing school during Mike's tenure as master in charge of rowing. The highlight will surely be winning the triple in 2002: the Schools' Head of the River, the National Schools' Regatta and the Princess Elizabeth Cup at Henley. But the impressive statistics continue: this last summer thirteen boys were representing Britain in a number of events.



Whatever the circumstances, Mike adopted a calm, measured approach to solving problems. Sanguine and phlegmatic in defeat, he was quietly determined in all he did and saw that boys' rowing was only a part, albeit a significant part, of his charges' education at Abingdon. He was always proud to quote that the senior rowers, despite the large time commitment required for training, outperformed the rest of the year group at A level.

Mike inspired loyalty and commitment not just from the boys, but also from the parents of rowers: the Friends of Abingdon School Boat Club has thrived – the magnificent new boathouse is living testimony to their vigour and application. Numbers of rowers and numbers of coaches have grown. Mike was always on the lookout for equipment, at a fair price (or, preferably, less) to give more boys the opportunity to succeed at rowing.

As a Common Room colleague Mike was shrewd; as Common Room president he was realistic in his negotiations over conditions of service. He was always finding topics, or points of news, to amuse and enliven a conversation, much to the enjoyment of the Common Room and his departmental colleagues.

In the mathematics department he shared willingly his expertise on statistics, and his sharp, analytical mind, often gave disarmingly short and simple solutions to problems.

In 1998 the then headmaster, Michael St John Parker, appointed Mike to the position of Middle Master. This gave Mike more responsibility but also helped, I suspect, ensure that Mike stayed longer at Abingdon. Mike duly did, hugely to the benefit of Abingdonians. His next role, as the Senior Depute Rector of Hutchesons' Grammar School, Glasgow, with 1,750 pupils, will give Mike an even broader canvas, and the opportunity to inspire and enliven the lives of many more young people.

David Dawswell



## Irina Duddell

Irina Duddell's expertise as a Russian teacher was first called upon in 2002 due to Dr Geoff Rolfe's ill health. She continued to teach Russian at Abingdon for six years.

Irina was a meticulous and rigorous teacher, who nurtured her students' love of Russia and the Russian language and this led invariably to excellent academic results and university offers to read Russian. The boys



benefited from her profound and insightful knowledge of her native city of Saint Petersburg and its history, in particular the history of the siege of Leningrad. Her Russian folk songs and small cabbage pies were also much appreciated.

As a much-loved colleague, Irina was always willing to patiently clarify a subtle nuance of Russian grammar and to share her extensive knowledge. I so appreciated her loyalty, good humour and friendship, which made the beginning of my Russian teaching career so much smoother. We wish her much joy and happiness in the future.

Victoria Hicks

### David Forster

David Forster leaves to join the senior management team at the Oratory School, Reading as Director of Studies. His contribution to Abingdon has been wide-ranging, far beyond the mathematics department he was appointed to lead seven years ago.

He brought a wealth of experience from two highly-respected academic boarding and day schools, Warwick and Tonbridge, and a sharp mind, honed during his undergraduate years reading mathematics at Christ Church, Oxford.

From the first he was brisk, vigorous and well organised, and it was clear his predecessors could feel that he would build on the work they had done. He managed a large and varied department with skill, seeking to get the best out of colleagues to the benefit of the boys in their care. He developed a culture in the department that staff should expect to give extra sixth form lessons to tutor boys who were struggling. He has been keen to encourage staff to teach in a variety of ways. In all situations, most notably in meetings inside and outside the department, he has always got to the heart of a problem quickly, and kept going until he has found a solution. This was apparent in his work as the school timetabler, a task he carried out for his final six years. He became Director of Studies in 2006, with responsibility, among other things, for all pupil subject choices, and ably assisted the two Deputy Heads (Academic) he worked with over the last two years.



David's abilities as a mathematics teacher were evident to his classes. What they may not have known was that his skills were often in demand elsewhere: he frequently lectured at the Mathematics Association annual conference, and was on the team of markers for the Mathematics Olympiads. In recent years he has been a member of the Independent School Inspectorate, where his incisive mind, and rapid grasp of detail will have been invaluable to the inspecting teams.

David's commitment outside the department has also been significant. He has given a large amount of time to leading the RAF section of the CCF and the Shooting Club. Within boarding he was a live-in tutor for five years, and led his house during the prolonged illness of the housemaster, much to the admiration of the then incumbent, Simon Davies, now headmaster of Eastbourne College.

Within the Common Room he was Treasurer, and was astute at representing staff to the governors. Latterly he also served on their Education Committee. An engaging colleague, he was a great asset to the school: ever keen to see how other schools were responding to new ideas and initiatives, he would present his ideas lucidly, and encourage Abingdon to consider how it should respond.

David handed over the Mathematics Department in 2007, to enable him to concentrate on his role as Director of Studies. It was no surprise when his experience, skills, drive, and ability were recognised by the Oratory School, a school whose aims and ethos are close to his heart. There he will have sole responsibility for the academic side of the school. I'm sure he will be as energetic and conscientious a contributor at the Oratory as he has been here. We wish him well.

David Dawswell

### Keith Butler

Keith Butler started teaching at Abingdon in September 2004. It was his first teaching job after leaving Cambridge where he had studied Engineering. A daunting prospect for anyone to enter the classroom for the first time, Keith took to the challenges he faced with the usual calm, focussed and industrious approach we all became familiar with. As his experience grew, we began to see more of the real Mr Butler, which he happily allowed to come out in lessons. The formal look he could shoot from under the peak of his RAF officer's cap could be chilling, but that did not reveal the caring Mr Butler we all came to know. His standards



in behaviour and work were indeed high, but the support that he gave all pupils in working towards achieving those standards was tireless. Indeed, in the Maths department his capacity for getting the job done, together with his organisation were highly valued. His lanky figure, flying after a stray Frisbee on Friday afternoon on Lower Field, will be much missed. Indeed, the introduction of Ultimate Frisbee into the Other Half was one of his great recreational achievements. His commitment to the Christian Union was similarly passionate, meaning a great deal to many pupils. His friendship is much missed by the Maths Department, as well as by other colleagues through the school, and the Christian community in Paris is indeed lucky to have won the commitment of such a principled and good man.

Vanessa Penrose

## Mark Schofield

Mark Schofield joined Abingdon in 2001 from St Bartholomew's, Newbury as a teacher of chemistry and a tutor in what was then Townsend's House. He had an immediate impact in a very experienced department where his commitment to developing the use of IT saw the rapid growth of both the chemistry section of the study site and the use of technology in lessons. However, his pupils will no doubt remember his lessons for their dry wit and exciting demos – in particular those present when one bang was a little bigger than he was expecting and blew the front off the fume cupboard!

It was perhaps no surprise, therefore, when Mark was appointed as Master in Charge of Health and Safety, a post he held for five years until his departure. This was by no means the only position of responsibility he undertook over his time at the School; indeed few teachers could claim to have been both a Head of Department and a Housemaster in such a short space of time. It



is no coincidence that both these appointments occurred in times of need for the School – Mark was always willing to help out to ensure that jobs got done. He approached all his work in the same thorough and careful manner, always concerned that he should be doing his best for pupils and staff.

This was also evident outside the classroom where he was a committed rugby coach and a Captain in the Combined Cadet Force. He was passionate about his involvement in these activities and, although he sometimes kept this hidden, it was clear that it really mattered to him how the boys did. He was no less committed as a Sixth-form tutor, and successive Housemasters came to value his hard work ensuring that his charges were carefully guided through the trials and tribulations of the Upper School – not least the UCAS application process.

Throughout his time at the School Mark always tried to help those around him, whether it was a pupil struggling with a difficult topic or a new member of staff finding their feet. He will be remembered at Abingdon for his sense of fun and quiet hard work, and we wish him, Rachel and the children good luck for their new life at Rossall.

Jamie Older

## Alastair Summers

Alastair Summers was appointed to Abingdon School in September 2004 and quickly established himself as an excellent teacher of biology. He taught across the full range of classes but will perhaps be remembered by most for his Lower School teaching of biology and more recently in physical science. At the other end of the spectrum he helped take Oxbridge entrance classes and his solid knowledge of biochemistry was a great asset to Sixth form classes. His ICT skills helped to increase the use of ICT in the department, which had a big impact on the teaching and learning of the subject.

Outside the biology laboratories, Alastair put a huge amount of time and effort into running the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. He was responsible for building the Award Scheme up to the levels that are enjoyed at the moment. His knowledge of the Award Scheme and his attention to the detail of his administration enabled large numbers to pass the Award. He was responsible for organising several expeditions each year to a whole range of locations in the United Kingdom. He had a particular love for Scotland and organised a number of Gold Level expeditions to some true wilderness areas that I am sure a number of boys will remember for the physical challenge as well as for the sense of wilderness that it is getting difficult to find these days.

Alastair was an excellent Lower School tutor. He had a natural rapport with the boys of this age and dealt with them in a friendly

yet firm manner. Boys could always speak freely to him if they had any problems and would always have benefited from his support and guidance at the start of their time in the School.

Alastair was also the driving force behind the Waste Force Scheme. He led his band of volunteers to help collect and recycle a number of different materials around the school. He was also responsible for increasing the awareness of the need to recycle, reduce energy usage and to reduce food waste on the School site.

We wish him luck in his new appointment at St. Edward's in Oxford.

Simon Bliss



Alastair in Tanzania, October 2007

## Will Phelan

Will Phelan joined Abingdon School in 2005 from the Royal Grammar School in High Wycombe and quickly established himself as a popular and well-respected Upper Master. He combined a clear sense of purpose with an easy rapport with the pupils. This was particularly evident at sixth form level where he maintained a good-humoured approach to discipline that allowed him to maintain order and control without coming across as remote or uncaring (he even had a pair of gerbils named after him!). In fact, many OAs will have fond memories of Will, and a good number commented on his assemblies which were both informative and amusing. Always fair and consistent in his work, he set about establishing clear lines of communication between himself and the sixth form community. He introduced the Sixth Form Council and set about identifying a number of key issues which he incorporated into the Sixth Form Development Plan. He helped guide three cohorts of sixth formers through the complex UCAS process with a number of seminar and interview style events that helped prepare them for life beyond school.



He was a keen rugby player and had played semi-professionally in his youth before injury had forced him off the pitch and into the role of coach. His former sporting skill was invaluable at Abingdon and his talent for motivating pupils on the pitch was quickly spotted. His first coaching role was with the Under 15

A team, but his expertise and ability to inspire boys were soon evident and the following season he took over the responsibility of coaching the 1st XV, especially the forwards. His technical knowledge of the game was solid but it was his rapport with the players, and his ability to motivate that made him such a popular coach with the boys. He was particularly renowned for his training drills which were always inventive and never dull. If he spotted a weakness in a match that needed to be corrected in training, he would think long and hard about suitable drills and he would deliver them with real conviction and enthusiasm.

He also contributed a great deal to the History Department. Many a meeting was enlivened by seeing Will rummaging around in his box-file searching for the relevant information before failing to locate it! He was funny and approachable with the pupils and his lessons were clear and concisely delivered. A shared passion for Second World War films and old Commando comics was cemented on a sixth form trip to Dublin where we also discovered an appreciation of Irish pub culture. His departure to Warwick for the post of Deputy Headmaster will leave a large gap in the department but it is clear he is destined for great things. He often said he was contemplating entering politics. I could not decide if that was a threat or a promise but maybe one day we will see him performing on a wider stage than that provided by the Amey Theatre on Wednesday mornings! Whatever the future holds, we wish him well.

David McGill

## Phil Timberlake

Philip Timberlake had so enjoyed his time at Abingdon as a pupil that, after flourishing at the University of Hull for his degree in Sports Science, he returned to see what life was really like in the Common Room. He initially gained his placement as Graduate Sports Assistant, where the ability to coach rugby and hockey proved to be of great benefit to the department. He immediately settled in to life on the staff and formed close bonds with staff from many departments.



On the sports field, boys were inspired by his physical prowess and hard-hitting team-talks. He successfully coached the U13B rugby team and led the U15A hockey team to a successful season. Outside the School, he developed his coaching of hockey by taking the Oxfordshire U14 team with an infectious enthusiasm that led the boys to compete well in the regional tournament. In the Summer term, he worked with many developing cricketers and was prolific in the staff team, with an attacking style of play reminiscent of Freddie Flintoff. With the ball in hand, the similarities to Flintoff ended, as his radar was rarely tuned into the stumps.

In the classroom, he enthused a number of boys towards GCSE Physical Education, demonstrating a thorough understanding and knowledge of the subject. He had clearly registered what tactics to use in the classroom in order to get the best out of the boys from his own experience of school and borrowed from many of his role models. He was always happy to be at the beck and call of the department, especially during its busy period whilst the Sports Centre was being built, and nothing was ever too much trouble for him.

He added a great deal of value to the Masters Common Room and was always there to help staff through any tough times. Philip was not just the man for the big occasion but also someone who you could go to for a quiet chat to bounce a few ideas off. It was this strength of character that many staff found so endearing and it will mean that he will be equally as popular at his new post at Farnborough Further Education College, where he will be teaching Sports Coaching and Physical Education. He really was Mr Incredible and is another vital member of the Common Room that will be sorely missed.

Steve Brenchley

### Kevin Brennan

Kevin Brennan arrived amidst a great fanfare and high hopes. Rugby at Abingdon was on the up and the prospect of stability under a committed coach was a pleasing one after a year with the post of head of rugby lying vacant. Kevin came to us having just finished a year captaining the Oxford University Blues team. This followed on from a stab at professional rugby with London Irish, where he was known and respected as a passing scrum half, with weasel like darts around the side of rucks.



His influence was quickly apparent on a pre-season tour to Somerset where the 1st XV immediately benefitted from his wide-ranging expertise. By the end of the week the team had bonded and had begun the transformation into a formidable force that it was hoped would wreak havoc on the school circuit. The first few matches proved to be a testing time but under Kevin's inimitable leadership the boys worked hard at improving all aspects of their game. As the season developed the wins became more regular and this culminated in a spectacular victory against local rivals Radley in front of an enthusiastic local crowd.

Kevin was by no means a one-trick pony. Indeed he had other aces up his sleeve. The ability to coach both Rugby Sevens and Touch Rugby showed the breadth of talent he had to offer the School. Under his inspirational leadership the Rugby Sevens team soon began to taste the fruits of success that the 1st XV had begun to enjoy at the end of their season.

But Kevin was not just a sportsman he was also a schoolmaster who tutored an eclectic mix of like-minded individuals through their GCSE year. His mature and perceptive approach to the matter of tutoring saw him giving both pastoral and academic guidance to his charges. He also taught Physical Education to all year groups with a lively and informal approach that incorporated the latest in both scientific and educational research. But it was in the unfamiliar arena of the Biology Labs where his most intense period of development took place. Under the watchful eye of Alistair Summers he really began to become a true all-rounder.

His swansong was the School rugby tour to Canada. He devoted a great deal of time to preparing this and the tour was a great success. The boys involved learnt valuable lessons both on and off the pitch, which will stand them in good stead in years to come. They also, if only for an instant, glimpsed something of the commitment necessary to become a sporting professional. Kevin's lively personality and approachable demeanour will be missed in the Common Room.

Steve Brenchley

### Chris Rodda

Chris Rodda taught Economics and Business Studies at Abingdon on a part-time basis during the academic year 2007-08. It was immediately apparent that Chris had an immense enthusiasm for, and love of, both subjects, especially Economics. Chris had a wealth of interesting facts at his fingertips on topics as diverse and eclectic as the history of gold as a medium of exchange, the reality of the Great Depression, the vested interests of politicians and the role of incentives in shaping human behaviour.



In the classroom he always conveyed ideas with enthusiasm and sought to prompt a spirit of critical thinking in his pupils. He never wanted his students to accept ideas at face value but sought to encourage them to analyse and question conceptual ideas with rigour. He successfully managed to create debate and discussion in the classroom through, for example, alluding

to Marxist perspectives or defending his own position as a global warming sceptic; the end result was always vigorous debate. Chris was also interested in exploring different ways of teaching and one would often find him searching for the perfect *Youtube* clip to illustrate a theory, or thinking of a way to use active learning to teach a concept.

In addition to his role within the Economics and Business Studies department, he played an active role as a tutor in School House and coached the 3rd XI cricket team in the Summer term. He leaves with our best wishes in his new role as Head of Economics and Business Studies at St. Helen's School, Abingdon.

Simon Grills

### Martin Orviss

In his one year as Head of Mathematics, Martin Orviss became a much admired teacher and a valued colleague. Yes, he was sometimes known as Chairman MAO (his staff initials were MAO), but this only serves to reflect the fabulous relationships he developed with every pupil he came into contact with, particularly with his rowing squad. His remarkable talent, grossly undervalued by many of us at first, but enormously appreciated in the general knowledge quiz stakes, was in being able to come up with all sorts of useless information. His capacity for remembering the smallest – and what some of the less knowledgeable among us might have thought eminently forgettable – facts was inexhaustible, and this came to the fore in any discussion on rowing – ‘Who were the top placed schools in the J15 category at the National Schools Championship in 1992?’, MAO would know.



This quiet, gentle and unassuming gentleman brought a real passion for mathematics to the department, and in the short time he spent with us showed us how much his enthusiasm could bring enjoyment in the subject to his pupils. Always quick, with a quiet but devastatingly funny line – ‘What do you call a lady who is tied to the side of a river?’ ‘Maud’, some staff may recall his spoof email one weekend from the Studywiz team in New Zealand, explaining the disappearance of the school reports. He moved with his family to Glenalmond College in Perth, with the best wishes of all his colleagues who hope he will be very happy there.

Vanessa Penrose

### Olivia Newbold

Olivia Newbold was Music Assistant in the department where she fulfilled the year’s appointment in 2007/8 with understated distinction and flair. Coming to us as a pianist from The Sidney Conservatorium of Music and The Royal College of Music (London), where she had completed her Master’s degree, she settled quickly into her new role and established an easy rapport with both pupils and colleagues.



The position demands a good level of commitment in a number of different areas, organisation of lunchtime concerts, administration of reports, concert programmes, supervision of boarders’ music practice, piano accompaniment at auditions, concerts, Choral Society and the Lower School production of *Oliver* as well as in music examinations and the teaching of aural and music theory. All of these areas Olivia covered with ease, distinction and a minimum of fuss. Her hallmark was of smiling calm and a genuine enthusiasm to be as helpful to the boys as she could.

As such, Olivia has set a superb benchmark that her successors in this yearly post will find it a challenge to match. We are delighted that she appears to have fallen in love with Oxfordshire and with the School to such an extent that she has accepted a position as piano teacher in the department from September 2008. We are enormously grateful for her huge contribution here.

Michael Stinton



Olivia with the First Orchestra at the Summer Concert, 2008

## Alba Conde del Río



Alba Conde del Río, from La Coruña in northwest Spain, joined us in September 2006 as our Spanish assistant and spent two years at Abingdon, during which time she made a phenomenal impact in the department. Always bright, cheerful and positive, Alba demonstrated an outstanding commitment to her job and became actively involved in the wider life of the School, helping with various extra-curricular activities as well as carrying out duty in the boarding houses.

As an assistant, Alba had a real zeal for teaching Spanish and she always conveyed this enthusiasm to the boys she worked with. In particular, our first cohort of Sixth-form Hispanists benefited enormously from her help, as did our GCSE students. Moreover, she played an important role in the Lower School languages club; the enthusiasm for Spanish and all things Hispanic that she sought to foster with the First and Second year boys has undoubtedly helped ensure the continuing popularity of the language in the middle school.

We are extremely grateful to her for her lively and enthusiastic approach to everything that was required of her, as well as her willingness to go the 'extra mile', volunteering to take on extra lessons and responsibility. We have every confidence that Alba will make an excellent teacher in the future and wish her every success with the PGCE that she is completing at Oxford University this year. She will be greatly missed within the Modern Languages department, and in the MCR; the quiet room is, perhaps, just that bit more quiet this year....!

Patricia Henderson

## Marius Andree

When Marius arrived in Abingdon from Aachen last September it was soon evident that he would make a considerable success of his year as German assistant. He was quick to immerse himself in school life and relished the opportunity of getting involved in a range of activities, both pastoral and academic.



In the Modern Languages Department he made a valuable contribution to the boys' linguistic development. Reliable and quietly enthusiastic, he established a good rapport with the pupils who appreciated his genuine concern for their progress. He was particularly effective at Sixth Form level where he often went beyond the call of duty and put in many extra hours to help the boys achieve success in the oral exam – and all done with a minimum of fuss. He also found the time to impart his enthusiasm for the German language and culture to the boys attending the Languages' Club where he was a popular figure.

Outside the department he showed considerable interest in the boarding side of the school, always keen to take part in any activity and socialise with the boys as well as the staff.

Marius thoroughly enjoyed his time at Abingdon School and we enjoyed his company as a colleague, both in the department and in Common Room. We wish him every success for his future career as a teacher.

Nick Revill

## Makhmouth Dia

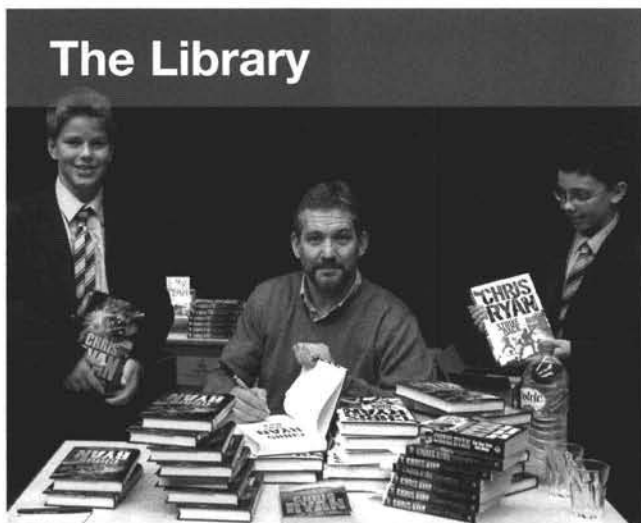
Makhmouth joined us in September 2007 from Caen University to be one of our two French assistants for the academic year. It was very exciting to have somebody coming from a country other than France since Makhmouth was originally from Senegal. His cheerful manner has made him very popular among the boys, who were able to learn about Francophone African



countries as well as practise colloquial French, which seemed to be Makhmouth's speciality. However, Makhmouth did a lot more than teach our pupils endless different ways of saying 'how are you' in French. He was always very keen to be involved and to help the Sixth formers with their oral work. He also took part in Cross Country and a few other activities outside lessons. He contributed well to the Language Club on Wednesdays and we are very grateful for all his hard work. He has survived the cold British climate and has now gone back to France to finish his PhD. We wish him all the best for the future.

Estelle Slatford

# The School



Chris Ryan signing books

The Library started the Autumn term off well with a visit from the very popular author, Chris Ryan, who has moved on from writing about his fantastic experiences in the SAS to writing adventure stories for teenagers – obviously from first-hand experience!

Our second author-visit came from Frank Beddor: a whirlwind experience from an author, screenplay writer, director, Olympic skier and stuntman whose stage presence was electrifying. His books are a mixture of science fiction, fantasy and magical realism with a modern take on Alice in Wonderland.

In the Michaelmas term the Kids' Lit Quiz is held: an annual event for First and Second years which provides boys with the opportunity to demonstrate their detailed knowledge of children's literature. After an exciting internal heat, two teams of four boys each were selected to represent Abingdon at the regional heat for Oxfordshire and Berkshire. Several authors supported the event including Mini Grey, Denis Hamley, Meg Harper, Mary Hooper, Mark Robson and, new author, Rachel Wing, as well as a number of publishers.

Later in the year, Oxford was the venue for the World Final of the Kids' Lit Quiz. The Oxford team of librarians organised this event, hosting seven countries for a week of literary events and visits.

After Michaelmas half term, the popular Reading Bonanza scheme started, running through until the Summer term. The scheme is designed to encourage boys to read as many books from different genres as possible. Awards were presented throughout the year to: James Telford who excelled with a



Team 1 at the Kids' Lit Quiz

platinum award for fifteen different genres read; Johnny Burrow, Ivan Nikolaev and Benjamin Nabnian who achieved gold for twelve genres read. A further seventeen boys attained silver for eight genres with twenty-three boys reading five genres for a bronze award.

In the Lent term the Joint Schools' Author Event, organised by the librarians from three schools (Abingdon, Our Lady's Abingdon and the School of St Helen and St Katharine), offered an opportunity for as many primary and secondary students as possible from the local area to hear a first-class children's author talk about their work. This year Our Lady's Abingdon hosted the event and we were very fortunate to have the well-known author, Caroline Lawrence, speak about her Roman Mysteries stories. Caroline researches her books in great detail and throws herself into the part, appearing resplendent in her toga.

For World Book Day, the Library hosted a succession of classes with staff for silent reading. The Library was a haven of peace and quiet with no computers running, giving the boys the opportunity to reflect on Life Before ICT ...



Author Caroline Lawrence in her toga





Staff and pupils reading in the Library on World Book Day



Abingdon's team of Carnegie shadowers



Pupils from Abingdon, Our Lady's and St Helen's discuss the Carnegie Shortlist



The Carnegie Quiz at Larkmead

The Summer term saw the culmination of the Library year with Shadowing the Carnegie: a national scheme involving over 30,000 school children reading the shortlisted titles of the prestigious award, the Carnegie Medal, which is awarded annually for the best of children's literature in that year.

Students from all six Abingdon secondary schools joined to participate in shared events held at the participating schools.

The first event, the Carnegie Tea, was held at the School of St Helen & St Katharine and gave the students the opportunity to exchange first impressions of the shortlist.

The Carnegie Quiz, held this year Larkmead School, requires a more in-depth knowledge of the books.

The honour of hosting the final Carnegie Forum, which is an all day event, moves between schools and this year it was held here at Abingdon. Over a hundred students took part, utilizing all the varied spaces within the Amey Theatre complex for a mixture of discussion groups, rehearsals and presentations, all centred around the shortlisted books. In addition, we were very fortunate to have one of the shortlisted authors, Linzi Glass, talk to us about her book, *Ruby Red*. This may have had some influence on the Forum's overall vote for the winning book, which went to *Ruby Red!* As has become usual, we were out of kilter with the national winner, which was *Here Lies Arthur* by Philip Reeve.

The Library could not run without its willing team of pupil librarians and thanks are due to senior librarians, James Lloyd and Joe Delo, for their final year's contribution.

The Library would like to acknowledge donations received from:

S. Bhattacharya  
Mr William Chislett OA  
Finalists of the Kids' Lit Quiz World Final  
Mr Gregory Fremont-Barnes  
The MG Society  
Mr G.Osborn King  
Mrs Fiona Wills  
and from our exchange schools in France, Germany and Russia  
Gaynor Cooper



Some of the team of 2007-08 librarians

## Chapel

The Chapel is at the heart of the School, both geographically and in terms of the School's ethos and life. Daily, at 8.20 am, there is a voluntary service of Morning Prayer, in which we pray for the members and needs of the School community. Then, at 8.45 am, six days a week, a year-group of boys and tutors has a service of a hymn, a reading, a homily and prayer – a grand start to the School day.

Three times a year the Middle and Upper Schools fill St Helen's Church for services. St Helen's Church is the second widest church in England and needs to be! Mr David Exham, former Headmaster of Bloxham School, preached at the service for the Commemoration of Benefactors, which fell this year on Maundy Thursday. The Lower School Christmas service and the Leavers' service were both held in St Michael's Church.

In Chapel there are services for Staff twice a term and there is a service for First-Year boys and their parents. On Remembrance Day, an Act of Remembrance ends with a wreath being placed below the list of OAs who died in the World Wars.

Each Thursday, the boarders attend a service that sometimes includes the Chapel Choir singing Evensong, Eucharist or Compline. Some Holy Communion services, e.g. for Leavers, are held in a boarding house. A mid-summer Compline was said outdoors at sunset. Visiting preachers were:

The Reverend Jonathan Herapath, Chaplain of St Helen's School  
Father Tom Taaffe, St Edmund's Roman Catholic Church, Abingdon  
Mr David Exham, former Headmaster of Bloxham School  
The Reverend Charlie Kerr, Chaplain of St Edward's School, Oxford  
Canon Roger Humphreys, Rector of Woodstock  
Professor Michael Marsh, former Reader in Medicine, University of Manchester and Professor of Intestinal Immunopathology, University of Ankara, Turkey  
Father Jonathan Baker, Principal of Pusey House, Oxford  
The Reverend Sarah Sharp, Rector of Lower Windrush.

We are most grateful for the help of so many: the boys who read; the organists – staff and boys; staff who led services; Messrs Dawswell and Aitken, who assisted with a chalice; Miss Matthews and her boarders' choir, whose lively singing was warmly appreciated; Mrs Turner and the ladies whose glorious floral displays enhance the beauty of the Chapel.

## Confirmation

On 13 March, The Right Reverend John Pritchard, Bishop of Oxford, confirmed eight boys:

**William Summers**, whom he first baptized, **Harry Browning**, **Michael Deeks**, **Benjamin Fung**, **Christopher Green**, **Alexander Hewetson-Smith**, **Stephen Poland** and **James Richards**. The boys' preparation for confirmation included visits to Abingdon churches, Dorchester Abbey, Iffley Church, the Carmelite monastery at Boars' Hill, Christ Church Cathedral, Christ Church Picture Gallery and University College, Oxford.

## The Cranmer Awards

This annual competition requires entrants to read passages from the 1662 Book of Common Prayer, which is the traditional book of Church of England services. This year we provided both the winners of the Oxford Diocesan Heat:

**Nicholas Acutt** and **Joe Ridley** won the Junior and Senior Sections respectively and later took part in the National Final in London. **William Lloyd** and **Timothy West** were the two Senior runners-up.

The Revd Henry Kirk

## Schools' Challenge

In the first part of the Lent Term Abingdon beat Radley and Wycombe Abbey in what has become the customary local derby/'triad'.

On Thursday 13 March Abingdon beat Bedford School by 640 points to 510 in the regional final of Schools' Challenge.

This led to the inter-regional round which was played in the first week of the Summer term. In a very high scoring match, Abingdon's boys beat the Richard Hale School from Hertford, 800 - 540, (Richard Hale's team reached the national finals in 2007), and so qualified for the 2008 national finals which were held at Westminster School on the last Sunday morning in April.

The first round of the finals saw an unusually somnolent, even comatose, Abingdon lose to Rochester Mathematical School (probably the strongest of the losing semi finalists) 550 - 680 and so move to the 'plate competition'.

Now in the plate competition, Abingdon beat Clitheroe School by 700 to 650 in extra time after tying 560 all, and progressed to the plate final where Abingdon beat the Perse School by 620 points to 470 and so brought home some silverware.

When we were all assembled, the organisers asked if any accompanying members of staff would be prepared to act as question master. A couple of us offered and I was asked to take the match between Manchester Grammar School and Abingdon's nemesis, Rochester. The Manchester boys were very good but lost by a whisker in the ultimate final to a Westminster team that came over as wonderfully calm and self-effacing but very clever.

Despite fielding such legends as **Christopher Lillycrop** a couple of years ago, Abingdon has not performed as successfully as this since 1984 when Dr Zawadzki and the team visited Blackpool for the finals of the day.

The 2007/8 team consisted of **Kris Cao** (captain), **Thomas Finch** (deviller), **Alexander Davis** and **Jonathan Lapwood** (juniors), and new recruit/reserve **James Honore**.

Ian Macdonald

## Physics Olympiad in Hanoi



Mad boat-mooring at Halong Bay – try finding yours!

One minute I was solving routine problems for A Level physics at Abingdon and the next I was struggling with the dynamics of a Vietnamese Rice Mill in Hanoi. I was one of five students representing Great Britain at the ten-day International Physics Olympiad, sitting a five-hour theoretical exam at Hanoi National University. As it turned out, I wasn't the only one having problems. Most of the competitors (from over 80 countries) had their confidence in their physics knowledge rattled – even the Chinese who, year after year, bag the gold medals. Luckily, the five-hour practical exam wasn't quite so mind-boggling, so the British team members didn't have to spend the remaining days worrying over whether we would be a disgrace to our country.

After the emotional wear and tear of the exams, the main aspects of Hanoi I remember were the food, the heat and the temples. The Rice Mill was an apt topic for us because rice was the food. Different varieties were novel at first, but the novelty wore off when we had precious little beside rice for breakfast, rice for lunch and rice for dinner! Chocolate (so crucial to a student diet) was a rarity and a cause for celebration when I found some – even if I did buy it for several times its value (dealing in tens of thousands of Dong is a little bewildering!).

At Hanoi airport, we were greeted by the Vietnamese welcoming committee and the blistering oven heat – which remained our boon companion throughout the trip. The organisers arranged excursions to keep us entertained between those trying exams. Not only did we see the beautiful Hanoi Old Quarter, the bustling night markets (ordinary streets by day), and several grand temples and shrines, we also had the opportunity to travel to the Gulf of Tonking in the South China Sea. The views from the coach were breathtaking and when we arrived at Halong Bay the islands and caves were truly spectacular. On the boat trip

An impressive shrine in the Ho Chi Minh complex



Remnants of the 'American Destroying War'

around the bay we had difficulty securing the best vantage point on the top deck. The captain bizarrely claimed that we would block his view (though he steered from the lower level) and one boy wasn't allowed up because he was too heavy! British willpower prevailed however.

Our last morning was the most exciting. In our only 'free time' of the trip, two of us decided to visit Ho Chi Minh's mausoleum complex. It looked particularly easy to get to: turn right out of the hotel and keep going for about ten minutes. To cut a long story short, we left the hotel by the wrong entrance at 9am and, through a stubborn refusal to acknowledge that we'd taken a wrong turn, soon found ourselves on the wrong side of town. After wandering the back streets in the scorching sun we looped back on ourselves and finally reached the complex at 12:15 (appalling map-reading skills adding considerably to the journey time), only to find that most of it had shut at noon! However, on the more direct route back to the hotel we had a great stroke of luck, we stumbled across Hanoi's museum of 1960s, rockets and tanks from what the Vietnamese call the 'American Destroying War'. Add to this the fact that I forgot to put sun cream on and you have a day to remember!

The trip left me with enduring memories, an ill-deserved medal and peeling skin. Our team got four bronze medals and an honourable mention, which, I gather, is pretty good for the British!

Harry Desmond VI WTP

The British team - Harry Desmond (R)



## Multi-Cultural Abingdon

Boys from all over the world apply for places at Abingdon. Michael Chan and Timothy Kong invited them to write something about their home countries in relationship to the UK, this is what some of them had to say.

### Germany

There are mainly three things the English population associates with Germany: football (defeats), bratwurst and beer. Even if for a big percentage of the German – primarily male – population these things play an important role in their lives, there are definitely other things as well that are worth knowing about Germany that may be sometimes forgotten.

Germany is known for her varied landscape reaching from the sandy beaches of the North Sea, over wooded hills crossed by deep blue rivers, to the green mountain pasture of the Alps under rocky mountains sparkling with ice and snow. Many interesting cities are spread over the country. I would probably recommend visitors to see, apart from Berlin with its huge and fascinating history, Munich, which is hosting the Oktoberfest every September, Cologne with its magnificent and impressive cathedral, Hamburg and probably Weimar, the town of the poets and thinkers, where Goethe and Schiller lived almost next door to each other and the first German Democratic Republic was established after World War I. Somewhere among these well known places is Bielefeld, the town where I live. As many people know, there has been a partnership between Abingdon School and my school, the Ratsgymnasium, now for more than 35 years, and many Abingdonians have had the wonderful opportunity to visit my hometown Bielefeld. The friendship of these two schools made it possible for me to come to Abingdon in September 2007, spending two terms here till Easter 2008 to improve my English.

The differences between my German school and Abingdon are huge. The main difference is that the Ratsgymnasium is a mixed school. Secondly, we do not have boarders and the lessons end before lunch, at 1.05 pm. After your last lesson you go home and have your lunch with your family. You do all your sports, music, or other afternoon activities in clubs that are independent from your school. Whereas for Abingdonians, Abingdon School is a huge part of their lives, where they spend nearly the whole day, for Germans, schools are just places to go for lessons in the morning.

Christian Kleindiek 6 MAO



Christian Kleindiek (left) with his friends

### Nigeria

As far as countries go, Nigeria is one of the most beautiful and distinct countries in Africa, blessed with natural resources, manpower and a variety of cultures.

She is the most populous country in Africa, with an estimated population of over 140 million people, with three main tribes that each have different cultures and traditions: Igbos in the eastern parts of the country, Yorubas around the southern parts and Hausas in the north. In some ways it is like the UK as there are different 'tribes' here in the form of the Scots, (Northern) Irish, Welsh and English, who together make up the union, and as they are different tribes they also have different cultures.

The difference between British and Nigerian food is huge; examples of Nigerian food are joll of rice, pounded yam and egusi soup, and soaked garri with groundnut. This is one of the hardest parts of the UK for us to adjust and adapt to.

Another, and possibly the most significant difference, is the climate. In Nigeria there are two seasons, the rainy and the dry. Despite the difference in name and degree of humidity during the periods, the temperature remains relatively constant throughout the year, with the maximum change of around 6 or 7 degrees either side of 30 degrees. (This is the case in Lagos – it varies in the different regions of the country.) However, in the UK, the hottest days, normally in the summer, rarely ever reach 25 degrees, and this is not even the period when the academic year begins, thus making the adjustments even harder for the Nigerian and the rest of the West African contingent.

Nonetheless, the Nigerian students have managed to gain success in the various aspects of Abingdon School life: in sport, with representation in the 1st and A teams for rugby; in the arts and services arena, where they have won Other Half full colours; in the shape of academic success, with one boy gaining an unconditional offer to one of the top London University colleges; and with representation on the Prefect body.

To conclude, with 140 million Nigerians, talented in all walks of life – sporting, social and academic – the world had better watch out!

Kroma Wenike-Briggs VI MS  
Ryan Romeo 6 MAO



Kroma Wenike-Briggs and Ryan Romeo in Waste Court

## Ireland

It's the little differences that startle you between England and Ireland. Although they may seem so similar, there are a myriad of differences between the two countries educationally. For starters there is the educational system. In Ireland students have to study at least six subjects for the Leaving Certificate whilst in England we study at most four. This presents a radically different schooling structure, as Irish students in university tend to have a greater width of knowledge in many varied fields, whilst English students have less width but an increased depth of knowledge in the subjects they study. This increased specialisation in certain subject areas can be a great advantage to students entering an English university. In Abingdon there is a much more developed student support system than in most Irish schools, with tutors and housemasters all helping the students.

Alexander Dillien VI JRM

## USA

When I arrived in the UK in 2000, I had been living in South Africa for over a year and that helped bridge the culture gap between the UK and USA. However, my first prep school here, Brockhurst Prep School, was totally different from anything in America or South Africa. I spent three years there. I experienced boarding for the first time, as well as traditional British school food, which wasn't exactly the same quality as the food at the new cafeteria at Abingdon! Moreover, I was a prefect and head of house there during my last year. Therefore when I came to Abingdon, I had already been in the British system for three years so there weren't any huge shocks. It was a lot bigger though – 800 boys as opposed to 150 at my previous school, so it was a little intimidating but I soon got used to it. I didn't find my true calling until my second term when I was introduced to rowing. This is something I would never have come into contact with in the American mid-west. Ever since then it has dominated my school career, and by the Lower Sixth I was in the 1st VIII.

In the meantime, I kept up with my academic studies, gaining 11 A\*s at GCSE, 4 As at AS and am predicted 4 As at A-level. I was also made a prefect and deputy head of house and won a couple of other awards too. Applying to American universities from the British school system has been tough at times, but in the end I think my experiences here will give me a better chance of success when I go back home.

Dean Walker VI APS



## Hong Kong

I joined Abingdon School in September 2003, being allocated to School House, and even now I must admit it is one of the best houses in Abingdon! I felt 'at home' at once when I stepped into my allocated room and smiled. It is not difficult at all to settle into this new environment, although it is half way around the globe from home. Those who are from Hong Kong will understand that we are very proud of our culture, especially after the hand-over to China in 1997. Our society enables us to appreciate not only Western ideas, but also Chinese ideas, as Hong Kong is truly a multi-cultural society.

On the first day of term, my housemates were helpful in aiding me to find the classroom that I ought to be in. Such an idea is strange to us, as in Hong Kong it is the teachers who move around, not the students, but we begin to understand that such idea causes less chaos. Imagine four or five classes of more than thirty students moving around in a space smaller than Mercers' Court during the time between lessons! On average, we have at least forty students in a class in Hong Kong (at least they did at my old school), so it goes without saying that it is probably more sensible for the teachers to move around the school, as schools in Hong Kong tend to be less spacious owing to the lack of land. Buildings tend to be skyscrapers, as you might see in pictures of Hong Kong, so it makes sense for schools to occupy as small a plot of land as possible. Education in Hong Kong values hard work, the development of the ability to think logically, discipline and, most importantly, good manners; however, Hong Kong schools promote the work-life balance to a much lesser extent. Most students in Hong Kong have after-school tuition so they do not stop studying when school finishes. Some of them have tuition daily, and they work until very late at night and it is very difficult for them to find time to do the homework that they are supposed to do. Please do not think at this point that we are all 'nerds'! We also have swimming galas, sports days, inter-class debating competitions, etc., so we do have a life other than studying! Many Hong Kong parents are aware of these essential differences when they consider sending their children to overseas schools.

Housemasters and other senior pastoral staff in Abingdon School put much dedicated work into the boarding community and we appreciate it, and they prepare a good range of House and inter-house activities that we can all participate in, and this strengthens the bonds between House members. The aim of this is to integrate foreign students with the local students and it is always done successfully.

Other teachers also fulfil their role by treating students from different backgrounds equally. Such integrity in the School is what we, Abingdonians, can be proud of and this is exactly what makes Abingdon one of the most successful independent schools in England.

Michael Chan VI APW  
Head of School House



Michael Chan

## China

The image that people in Western countries probably have of my home country is that China is severely polluted, that there is no democracy and that people can do nothing against it when their rights are oppressed. But this is probably not true. China is reaching the peak of growth in various industries and with 1.3 billion people all problems are hugely magnified. Air quality might not be particularly satisfactory in China but the government is trying its best to resolve every problem throughout the country. China has the fifth greatest area of forest (1750 billion square metres) in the world with the world's largest area of artificial forests. In Beijing in 2006, there were 238 days on which the air quality exceeded the second level of API. The conspiratorial theory, which says that breathing in Beijing for one day equals smoking five cigarettes, is simply misleading.

People in China may not have the chance to vote for their national leader through direct elections and some constitutional matters might not appear in local newspapers but personally I don't think this is a bad situation. As a young country, we must put national and economic stability, as well as education, before so-called 'democracy'. Representative democracy could be easily corrupted and thus very dangerous if it is pushed through in front of other major and practical problems. With the growing and increasingly open media, people's rights have been more and more discussed and emphasised in recent years. In 2004, human rights were ensured in the revised constitution of China.

From my point of view, China is an amazing country with 5,000 years of history. Its culture is extremely sophisticated and consists of the deepest and widest values and concepts, many and varied languages and religions, and superb literature and architecture. All these are completely different from ones you can find in Europe. So, after a dish of Chinese fried noodles from your local take-away (a dish that bears no resemblance to what you would find in China), I sincerely suggest that everyone should visit my home country and explore more.

Brian Yuen 6 MAO



Brian in front of the London Eye

## Chinese Food

Chinese restaurants are very popular in the UK, but how much do you know about Chinese food? Does it look and taste like it does in China? Although I am not an expert in Chinese cuisine, I would like to tell you more about the Chinese food that you eat in this country.

*Peking Duck*, or *Peking Duck*, is a very well known dish from Beijing. The quality of the duck plays a very significant role in the dish. Newborn ducks are raised in a free environment for the first forty-five days. For the next fifteen to twenty days, they are fed four times a day until they weigh between 5 and 7 k, when they are ready. There is a variant of the *Peking Duck* called *Crispy Aromatic Duck* which originated from the Chinese community in the UK. The dish is served in most Chinese restaurants and is drier but crispier than its 'original' version.

*Chow Mein* means stir-fried noodles in Chinese. *Chow Mein* is a dish with noodles, meat (usually chicken) and vegetables stir-fried with soy sauce. The dish is treated formally by westernized Chinese restaurants and is often on the dinner menu. However, *Chow Mein* is a very common food at breakfast for people in China and is often served together with rice congee and soya bean milk.

*Kung Po Chicken* is a classic dish from Sichuan (central-western part of China). Dishes in Sichuan cuisine are famous for their hotness. However, the *Kung Po Chicken* found in the western world is less spicy than the one you find in China. Apart from the fact that the hotness is adjusted to incorporate the tastes of the consumers, there is another reason. Sichuan peppercorns are often used in the original version of the dish and they give the dish its authentic flavour but for many years it was illegal to import Sichuan peppercorns into the West as it was feared that they were potential carriers of a tree disease.

*Dim Sum* covers a wide range of light dishes and when served along with Chinese tea this form of cuisine is called *Yum Cha*, which simply means drinking tea. *Yum Cha* is very popular in the southern part of China, especially in the Guangdong (Canton) province and is very common at family gatherings. People may go to restaurants to have *Dim Sum* for their breakfast or lunch, but never for dinner. Shrimp dumplings, spare ribs and spring rolls are some well-known examples of *Dim Sum*.

The following dish is quite special, it is very popular in the western world, but one can never find it in China! Its name is *Chop Suey* and in Chinese, it means 'mixed pieces'. There are various stories about the origin of the dish and most of them relate to the Chinese immigrants in the USA. The most common story is that the Chinese cooks who worked on the United States Transcontinental Railway in the 19th century invented the dish.

I hope that you have found this piece of information interesting and more importantly that it helps you to know something more about China.

Geoffrey Wai VI ESD



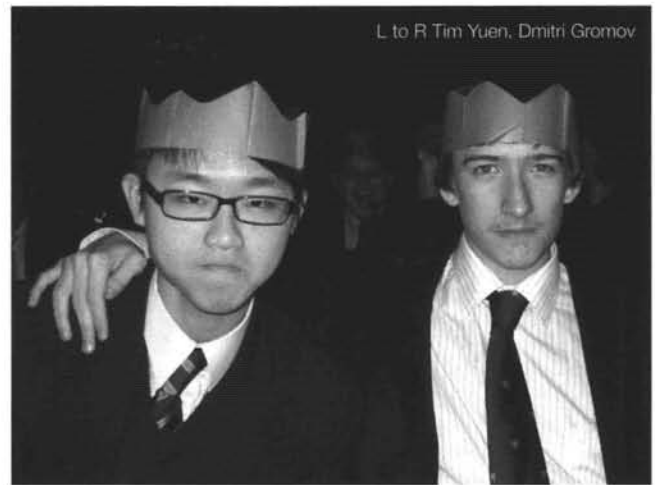
L to R Arif Mammadov, Ryan Romeo, Geoffrey Wai



Adam Rusiecki with the Boat Club on the Thames



Learning Chinese at Abingdon



L to R Tim Yuen, Dmitri Gromov

## Multi-cultural Abingdon

Interested in knowing something about school in other countries, **Michael Chan** and **Timothy Kong** interviewed a number of their friends in the boarding houses: **Arif Mammadov** from Azerbaijan, **Tudor Plapcianu** from Romania, **Youngsang Lee** from South Korea, **Dmitri Gromov** from Russia and **Adam Rusiecki** from Poland. They were all, except for Youngsang, in the Lower Sixth. This is an analysis of the answers they gave.

Asked whether they went to state or private schools before they came to Abingdon, only Dmitri had been to a state school. The average size of their classes ranged from six in Azerbaijan, twenty-six in Romania, twenty-four in Russia and fourteen in Poland. Only Youngsang went to school on Saturday mornings, otherwise everyone else went from Monday to Friday and the hours of schooling varied from four and a half in Russia, to somewhere between seven and eight everywhere else. Youngsang was the only person too to have worn a uniform at his school. To the question as to whether there was more pressure from teachers in their home country or in the UK, Youngsang was of the opinion that the pressure was the same, Tudor thought that there was more pressure in Romania, whereas everyone else thought that there was more here in the UK. Everyone participated in sport during school hours, Dmitri specifying that

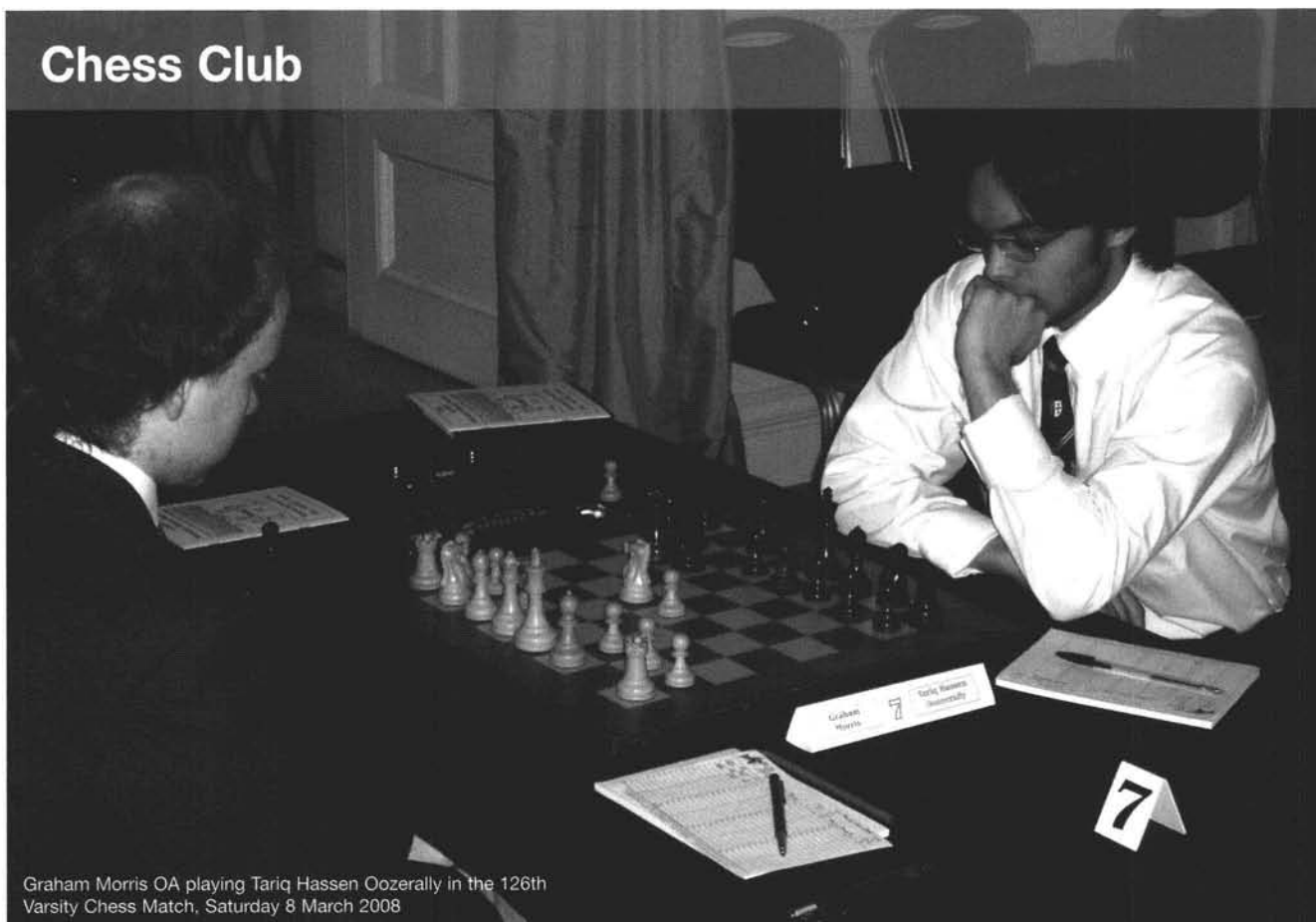
they had two or three 45-minute sessions a week. Both Arif and Youngsang said that their holidays were shorter, much shorter, whereas the others thought they were much the same. The quality of British education and of its universities is what brought everyone to the UK, Dmitri saying that he wanted to study economics and it is better taught here. Before he came to Abingdon, Adam studied six compulsory subjects in Poland, Dmitri and Youngsang ten, Tudor eleven and Arif twelve. Tudor has been learning English since he was about four, which means has been learning for approximately thirteen years, Adam was seven when he began to learn, Youngsang was ten, as was Arif, whereas Dmitri was twelve. They were all asked whether their friends back home were obsessed with celebrities, the unstated assumption being that people here in the UK are, and they all answered no, with Tudor's 'no' being very emphatic.

Youngsang added that his school did have facilities like the Arts Centre, that there were one or two compulsory sessions a week for clubs and societies and that it was common for pupils to have extra lessons particularly in maths and English. Dmitri also said that it was common for people to have extra lessons outside school hours. Other than this, the only additional comments that anyone made was Adam's – that the British are obsessed with queues.

Sarah Wearne

# Clubs and Societies

## Chess Club



Graham Morris OA playing Tariq Hassen Oozeraly in the 126th Varsity Chess Match, Saturday 8 March 2008

In the year of the Chess Club's 60th Anniversary, I am especially pleased to report that two Old Abingdonians were selected to play at the annual Varsity Match between Oxford and Cambridge. On Saturday 8 March at the Royal Automobile Club in Pall Mall, **Graham Morris**, in his final year reading mathematics at Balliol, played for Oxford on Board 7, and **Stuart Robertson**, in his first year reading mathematics at Trinity, played for Cambridge on Board 4. **Graham**, whose ECF grade is 167, won his game playing against the Sicilian Defence, while **Stuart**, whose ECF grade is 171, lost his game playing against the Dutch Defence. **Stuart's** game won the accolade of best game played and both games were published in the *Daily Telegraph* and the *Times*. Joining the spectators at this "Boat Race of the mind" were two of the next generation of Abingdon players, **Richard Slade** and **Thomas Salt**, who also had an opportunity to meet former World Championship candidate Jonathan Speelman. Shortly before the first game ended, Grandmaster Speelman quickly reviewed the 8 boards and told us that he expected a draw, and he was right: the match ended honours even on 4-4.

It is also very pleasing to report that this year we have enjoyed the services of Grandmaster Peter Wells, who delivered top level coaching on Wednesday afternoons. Everyone has benefited enormously from his chess playing expertise and enjoyed his good-humoured company.

The season began in the Michaelmas term with the Chess Club meeting in a new and better equipped venue, M110, on four afternoons and four lunchtimes each week. Coaching focused on basic chess tactics and boys also got used to working with chess engines, such as *Fritz* and *Chessmaster*. Renewed interest in the Club was generated early when Stuart Robertson put on a blindfold display at the Activities Fair, taking on all comers using the new giant chess set but without sight of the board. He suffered only one loss, when **Sandy Gildersleeves** took advantage of a rare blunder.

During the Michaelmas term, individual knockout tournaments in the Lower School, Middle School and Sixth Form were all seen through to completion, the finals being played on Wednesday



5 December. In the Lower School tournament, which attracted 15 entrants, **Daishiro Nishida** defeated **Matthew Davis** to win the Nightall-Jakubovics Cup. In the Middle School tournament, which attracted 20 entrants, **Edward O'Brien** defeated **Michel Baumgart** to win the Pearce Cup. And in the Sixth Form tournament, which attracted 8 entrants, **Jianghao Zhu** defeated **Fayaaz Ahmed** to win the Harding Cup. All three cups, being newly instituted, were won for the first time.

In the second half of term, the Club enjoyed a simultaneous display given by GM Peter Wells. Eighteen boys, selected in equal numbers from the U13, U15 and U18 age categories, and two members of staff sat on the outside of a large square of desks, each being provided with a chess set and clock. Peter Wells, circling to his right on the inside of the square, played alternately as White and Black. He won all twenty games within the 1½ hour time limit, and in the process not only gauged the Club's current standard but also demonstrated a level of skill to which we can all aspire.

The season continued in the Lent term, when the coaching focus shifted to the endgame and external competition yielded scoresheets for the analysis of individuals' performances. In the prestigious National Schools' Championship, in which this year 132 Schools competed in the 12 zones, Abingdon entered two teams. Team A, comprising older players, was knocked out in the first round by eventual zone-winners MCS, **Michel Baumgart** earning a solitary half-point for his fighting draw on Board 4. Team B, whose average age was only 12 years 9 months, had a bye in the first round and in the second round their opponents, RGS High Wycombe, defaulted. As a consequence, their first match was a zone semi-final, away against Wellington College. Because of the age-handicap system, Wellington had to score 4-2 to win the match, and early on it looked as if they might not succeed. But eventually they came through as 5-1 winners, **Omri Faraggi's** solitary win on Board 4 being, perhaps, the best win of the season, against an opponent with ECF grade 82.

In the Lent term, the House Chess and Lower School Chess knockout tournaments were also decided. Every House and every tutor-group in the Lower School was represented by a team of 3 players, the final pairings all being played on the same afternoon, Wednesday 5 March. In the House final, Older's, represented by **Edward O'Brien**, **Henry Kibble** and **Anthony Lloyd**, beat Franklin's, represented by **Jianghao Zhu**, **Fayaaz Ahmed** and **Richard Slade**. In the Lower School final, 1 EMTS, represented by **Daishiro Nishida**, **Giles Waterson** and **Oliver Sayeed**, beat 2 IAM, represented by **Omri Faraggi**, **Philip Smith** and **Dominic O'Rourke**. **Edward O'Brien** and **Daishiro Nishida** here notably added team triumph to earlier individual success.

Abingdon teams also competed, after an absence of two years, in the Oxfordshire Schools' League. Indeed, Abingdon was the only school to field a team in each of the U13, U15 and U18 sections. The lack of real training over recent years was most apparent in the U18 section, in which our only opponents were MCS. The Abingdon team was outclassed on the top boards but **Henry Kibble** and **Richard Slade**, despite eventually losing, did have winning chances on Boards 5 and 6. In the U15 section, Abingdon were up against a Marlborough side inspired by their

England junior, **Marcus Harvey**, on Board 1. But, with the help of nine-year-old **Louis Hampden** from Abingdon Preparatory School, our team triumphed 4-2. Tougher opposition was provided by Oxford High School, who could boast the Wang sisters, both England juniors, on Boards 1 and 3 and several other members of Cowley Chess Club. **Aslan Sayfimehr** won on Board 5, but the remainder lost their games. Most successful in the Oxfordshire Schools' League were, perhaps, the U13s, who lost 2-4 at home to MCS but drew away against both Oxford High and the Dragon. **Michael Bicarregui**, from Abingdon Preparatory School, succeeded in putting Maria Wang under severe pressure and **Matthew Davis**, **Sandy Gildersleeves**, **Timothy Davies** and **Daishiro Nishida** all chalked up victories.

The UK Chess Challenge, which begins as an internal Swiss tournament over seven weekly rounds, also took place in the Lent term. The qualifiers for the regional Megafinal were School Champion **Tomer Faraggi** and the tournament's other high scorers, who included **Anthony Lloyd**, **Richard Slade**, **Ozy Tack**, **Edward O'Brien**, **Thomas Salt**, **Aslan Sayfimehr**, **Matthew Davis**, **Henry Crowe**, **Timothy Davies** and **Giles Waterson**. After competing against Berkshire juniors over a six-round Swiss tournament at St Mary's School, Ascot, **Edward O'Brien** and **Timothy Davies** both qualified for their sections of the Southern Gigafinal, held in July at Wellington College.

In the summer term, the Chess Club continued on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at a recreational level, and both at Abingdon and on Thursdays over at the Preparatory School progress was made on opening theory.

The Club is extremely grateful to **Dr Burnand**, **Dr Older**, **Mr Henderson** and GM Peter Wells for their excellent work coaching this year, and to Club Captain **Tomer Faraggi** for his invaluable support. We are also grateful to TASS for generously funding the purchase of six digital chess clocks.

Andrew English



### The Edmund Society

These lectures, in the general areas of theology and philosophy, are open to all. Last year the lecturers were:

**Bettany Hughes**, historian, author and broadcaster:  
*Helen (of Troy) and Sophia (wisdom)*

**Keith Ward**, former Professor of Divinity at the University of Oxford:  
*Arguments for God in the light of modern physics*

**Nicholas Mynheer**, artist: *Visions of God*

**Lilian Cooper**, artist: *Is the Natural World Greater than Us?*

**Anthony O'Hear**, Weston Professor of Philosophy and Head of the Department of Education, University of Buckingham:  
*Religion in Public Life*

**Michael Liversidge**, OA, former head of the History of Art and Dean of Arts, University of Bristol: *Art Restoration and Art History*

**The Right Hon. Lord Butler of Brockwell**, KG, GCB, CVO, PC, Master of University College, Oxford: *Serving God and Caesar*

**Professor Michael Marsh**, former Reader in Medicine, University of Manchester and Professor of Intestinal Immunopathology, University of Ankara, Turkey: *The Death of Near-Death Experiences?*

**Clare Asquith**, (Viscountess Asquith): *Was Shakespeare a Catholic?*

**The Reverend John Puddefoot**, Deputy Head (Curriculum) and former Head of Maths, Eton College: *Divinities and Infinities*

The Revd Henry Kirk



The Right Hon. Lord Butler of Brockwell



Bettany Hughes

## Rifle Club



The past year has brought many new additions to the Rifle Club, with just under 100 pupils participating in shooting on a weekly basis and many competitions won. Two years ago, the School's range underwent major building work to increase both the quality and the capacity of our range facilities. In the past year we have had a chance to use these facilities extensively.

During the Easter holiday, the Rifle Club went on their biennial trip to Germany, where competitions were held between Abingdon School and the Stade Rifle Club. The team had a very successful trip with 'personal bests' coming from nearly all of the shooters. When it was needed, **James Boreham** shot a 576 out of 600 during the main competition and all of the boys shot extremely well. In addition to **James**, some mention should also be made of **Finn Ryley**, who shot four targets in a row, each scoring 100 out of 100. The collective performance of the team allowed them to beat the very competitive Stade club for the second year running. Next April the Stade team make a return visit to Abingdon School, and the competition will be held in the School's range.

The Rifle Club entered three teams into the British School League and won both the division 2 on 10 bull targets and division 2 on 5 bull. One of the main highlights of the past year has been the number of pupils who have been accepted into the Great Britain Junior Rifle Squad. Four boys were accepted a year ago and an additional three have subsequently joined the squad. The boys in this squad regularly attend monthly training at Wolverhampton and Bisley. During the Junior International match at Bisley Camp in August, **Peter Wood**, **Finn Ryley**, **James Boreham** and **Ben Bryant** all took part. This was the boys' first major competition and **Peter** (who shoots for the C team) shot so well that he beat the members of the Junior Squad B team. We are also delighted that the School's shooting coach, Mr Alan Smith, has been invited to coach for the Great Britain Junior Squad.

Finn Ryley 3 SEB



James Boreham

# House Reports

## Phelps'



L to R – Finlay Taylor, Paddy Gervers (Older's) and Patrick Appleton

This past academic year has seen an outstanding number of achievements across all ages within the House. The boys who entered the House at Lower-sixth level under **Martin Orviss** and at Third-year level under **Victoria Hicks** have acquitted themselves resoundingly well, immersing themselves like those who were at Abingdon before them into all aspects of School life, performing at the highest level. It has been my delight to head such an esteemed body of men who are fighting on all fronts. My thanks go to **Mr and Mrs Phelps**, to all the tutors and to **Mrs Carol Webb** for all that they have done.

Building on the House's traditions of excellence in academia, no less than nine of this year's Upper Sixth applied to Oxbridge, with notable success from **Ben Ai**, who will read mathematics at Clare, Cambridge, **Sam Dent**, PPE at Oxford, and **Joe Delo**, Medicine at Oxford. The rest of the Upper Sixth from the far-flung corners of the world – Vladivostok, Hong Kong and Wallingford – are all heading to very highly rated British universities. Congratulations also **Alec Plint**, Latin, Spanish, **Joe Delo**, biology, **John Morgan**, chemistry, **Harry Desmond**, physics, **Finlay Taylor**, theatre studies, and to **Jonathan Lapwood** and **Jack Swanborough**, Middle School, who all won academic prizes at Prize-Giving on 28 June. **John Morgan** and **Harry Desmond's** successes in academia outside School must also be noted; their research last summer has been used by Oxford University. **John** has also been selected to represent the UK at the International Chemistry Olympiad 2008 in Budapest; he achieved a silver medal in the Physics Olympiad round 1 and a distinction in the Maths Olympiad round 1. **Harry** is going to Vietnam as part of the UK team for the International Physics Olympiad. He too was awarded a gold medal in the Chemistry Olympiad round 1 and a gold certificate in the Senior Maths Challenge. Both boys won the Mercers' School Memorial Prize (Merrett Bequest) at Prize-Giving.



L to R  
Harry Desmond,  
Jim Middleton (Webb's)  
and John Morgan

Many boys within the House have been chosen to represent the School in sports teams at a variety of levels. **James Rhodes**, **Joni Bayfield** and **William Shrier** played enough 1st XV rugby to gain shirts at the end of the season. **Rhys Cadman**, winner of the Roche Hockey Cup, and **Joni Bayfield** played the entire season for the 1st XI hockey, and **Tom Davey** has rowed for the 1st VIII. Furthermore, **Alexis Plint**, **Ryan Romeo**, **PJ Appleton** and **Thom Metcalf** played in every game of the 1st XI football's short season. **Samuel Dent** also featured sparingly in 1st VI tennis. **Fabian Schrey** and **Dmitry Latkin** have solidly improved the fortunes of the Fencing Club. **Kris Kao**, winner of Wakefield Shooting Cup, has captained the Rifle Club and been recently selected for England Cs at U18 level, while **Jonathan Lapwood** and **Charles Hutchens** have also been selected to represent England. Sailing crews from Abingdon that have ranked nationally have also had their fair share of Phelps' boys, including **Guy Stephens**, who has represented GB, **Sam Delo** and **James Hawkes**. **Sam Dent** has also assisted in the rejuvenation of the Cross Country Club, which has swept the board in all local trials across year-groups. In the younger years, a number of boys have been selected as county representatives in a selection of different sports, which shows promise for the School in the future.

In the inter-house competitions, the Third-formers have won their athletics and tug-o-war competitions, proved worthy finalists in the hockey competition and won the same amount of ties as the winners of the public-speaking competition. The Fourth-formers unfortunately narrowly lost their public-speaking crown to the eventual winners, Franklin's, and a composite side of Phelps' boys won the annual charity football. The Fifth Form lost in the final of both the hockey and rugby competitions. The Sixth-formers once again did extremely well in the public-speaking competition. Once again it was nothing to do with me! The

organisers and three-time winners, **Patrick Appleton**, **Finlay Taylor** and **Thomas Metcalf**, stood down from participating to allowing a new team of **Edward Crystal**, **Tudor Plapcianu** and **James Wilder** to emerge, who narrowly lost in the final to Crescent House. The Sixth Form teams were able to wrestle both rugby and hockey titles in two nail-biting finals from the sporting might of O'Doherty's.

Phelps' House this year has certainly been 'under the spotlight'. The performing arts and music departments are always developing at Abingdon and there seem to be shows and concerts on every week with Phelps' boys nearly always involved. The leading lights at the top of the School include **Paddy Appleton**, joint winner of Drama Cup for his performance as Henry Higgins in *My Fair Lady*, and **Finlay Taylor**: both boys were winners of the North Drama Prize for their comedy sketch show *FxP2*. **Finlay** also helped devise and held a lead role in the full-School production of *Sgt Pepper's Children*. Ever since the Fifth Form, these boys have been filling out *FxP2* performances and raising money for Cancer Research. After their final performance at Abingdon on 2 July, they headed to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. **Richard Oastler** has been on board to help them from back stage, winning both the Amey Theatre Service Prize and the Larkhill Trophy for service to the Amey Theatre. **George Dugdale** has been heavily involved Lower-sixth productions. The Film Unit has also given opportunities for Phelps' boys to shine: both **Paddy** and **Finlay** have produced marvellous pieces. **William McDowell** also has shown immense promise and his most recent production, *Um*, was very gripping. In music, **Tristan Mitchard** has impressed the whole of the School by winning the Music Society's Organ Prize and an organ scholarship to Somerville College to read music. He has also been awarded the Aitchison Cup for Musical Versatility and gained Grade 8 distinctions on six different instruments. Abingdon was also able to raise the immense amount of £3000 for teachers and schools in Sierra Leone through the event *Abingdon's Got Talent*. **Joni Bayfield** and **James Rhodes** were among the chief organisers, putting in a lot of time and effort. The event was a tremendous success with stellar performances from Phelps', including *FxP2* and **Yannick Hoegerle** on guitar for *Empire Safari*. The Debating Society has been as alive as ever, with a committee that consisted of **Finlay Taylor**, **Paddy Appleton** and **Thomas Metcalf**. The Society has brought up some very interesting topics, which I have enjoyed listening to and occasionally chairing. **Finlay Taylor** won the Mitchell Seward Cup for Debating.



Joni Bayfield (right)

The House has also been very involved the production of School publications this year. **Tom Metcalf** was one of the editors of a new newspaper, *The Martlet*, while **Will McDowell**, with help from **Jimmy Lam**, **George Dugdale** and **Mr Phelps**, set up *The School Newsletter*, which brings to life everyday events in School. Last year's editorial team of *The Abingdonian* also seemed to be dominated by men from Waste Court: **Ronald Liu**, **Geoffrey Wai**, **Timothy Kong**, **Harris Ho** and **Benjamin Fung**.

Waste Court has also been at the forefront of serving the School. No less than eight Upper Sixth boys were prefects: **Patrick Appleton**, **Joni Bayfield**, **Rhys Cadman**, **Joe Delo**, **Sam Dent**, **Timothy Kong**, **James Rhodes** and **Kroma Wenike-Briggs**, including Head of School **Sam Dent**, who has spent his time tirelessly working for the School. **Joseph Delo** won the Rotary Citizens' Award for continuous support to the elderly in Abingdon. **Kroma Wenike-Briggs** won the David Barrett Cup for Service. **Timothy Kong** and **James Rhodes** shared the Headmaster's Prize, **Joni Bayfield** won the Older Cup and Prize for Initiative and **Sam Dent** shared the TASS Quatercentenary Prize. I must also thank all the House Prefects for their support over this year, especially **Geoffrey Wai** and **Fabian Schrey** for their roles as Heads of Boarding and for overseeing a number of issues.

Good luck to this year's leavers and to all those involved with Phelps' House in the future, especially next year's prefects: **George Dugdale**, **Ryan Romeo** and **Jamie Wilder**.

Joni Bayfield



The *Abingdonian* editorial team at work, from the left: **Benjamin Fung**, **Harris Ho**, **Timothy Kong**, **Ronald Liu** and **Geoffrey Wai**



Tristan Mitchard

## School House



The spirit of School House 2007- 2008. George Bone, Oliver Alken and Jamie Graves on their way to the Rugby World Cup final

Writing a house report is a bit like writing a reference – you gloss over any failings there might be and concentrate very firmly on the positives, sometimes at the risk of over-egging the pudding. In a move away from that practice, I am going to start by admitting that School House has had more than its usual number of challenges this year; nevertheless, as many individuals as ever have achieved great things in a wide variety of activities and the community as a whole also has a lot of success to look back on. I hope, to some degree at least, to pay proper tribute to those achievements.

A big Upper-sixth group set the tone, as might be expected, and had their tutor, **Dr Willis**, to help them in that task. **Gus Bartholomew**, a relative newcomer, did a great job as Head of House as well as making a tremendous contribution to Abingdon music. His injury relatively early in the rugby season prevented him having as big an impact on the 1st XV's fortunes as he would have liked, but he took this, as well as everything else, very much in his stride. **Michael Chan**, a model of charm, intelligence and diligence, was the senior full boarder, and was another School House boy who contributed generously to both Abingdon music and sport. **Jamie Graves**, as debonair a School Prefect as one could wish for, was the third member of the ruling triumvirate, and another who will be remembered for his sporting performances at Abingdon, among other things. The academic achievements of the group should also be mentioned here – **Jamie**, **Kevin Cheung**, **Leonid Ganin**, **Edmund Long** and **Alexander Sandkamp** all have perfect A2 records. The majority of the others also met or topped expectations, and will be going to their first-choice institutions. I wish them well, and look forward to hearing their news. I would like to pay tribute to the whole

group for their good humour, their energy and their maturity, and particularly to those who have had to cope with great difficulties over the past few years. To a man, they helped create the spirit of School House 2008, and I am sorry not to have mentioned them all by name.

The Lower Sixth, guided through the year by **Mr Rodda**, made up for their lack of numbers with a style all of their own. Their contribution to Abingdon sport was second to none as a tutor group, something reflected by their resounding victory on Sports Day at the end of the year. Both **Matthew Pursell** and **Parathan Rabindran** played for our first teams in more than one major sport, and **George Bone** would surely have done the same had health problems not intervened. **Barry Tse** is yet another all-rounder, whereas **Sherif Sam-Sadeen** looked almost as classy on the rugby field as he did off. **Jojo Todd** was very much part of School House, and inspired great loyalty amongst his peers. **Carlo Dürbeck** made a big hit in his year here, as did **Ryuichi Murase** in his sixth year. They all made excellent house prefects in the second half of the summer term, and I was sorry to see **Carlo**, **Jojo** and **Sherif** leave – best of luck to them. Those remaining will continue to do a great job, I know.



Michael Chan conducting School House at the House Singing Competition



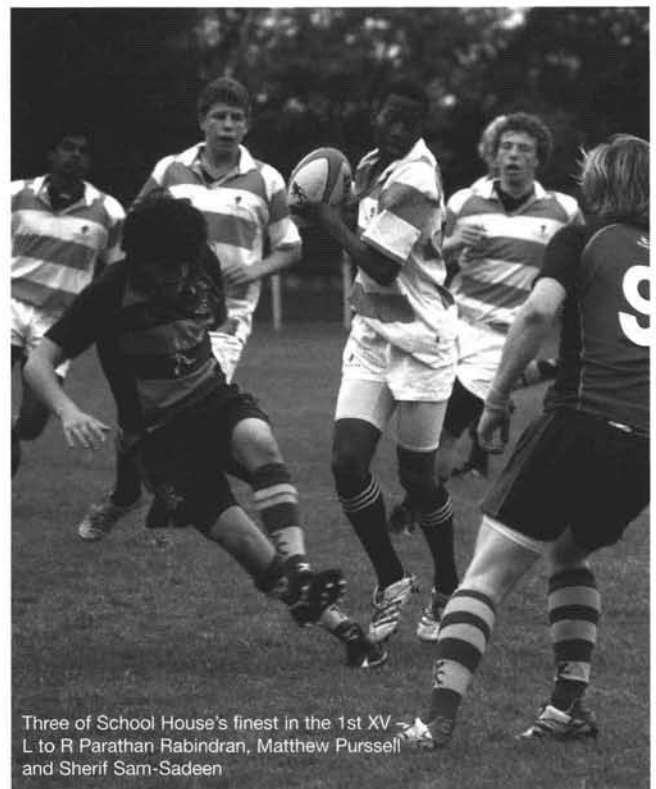
The Fifth Form got further used to life with **Dr Smith** as their tutor and did not like to contemplate school life without him ... They all got stuck into their GCSEs with a great sense of purpose, and earned their places in the Sixth Form. They will do well there. To name just two or three: **Daniel Boddington** worked very hard on the river, and has already begun to achieve success on an international level, **John Bartlett** was looking the business on the cricket pitch, as well as being something of a rugby player, and **Andrei Smirnov** just managed to survive the weekends when go-karting was not on the programme. Having had a difficult first year in School House, this is now as tightly knit a group as we have – well done!

The Fourth Form was obviously keen to give their tutor, **Miss Briggs**, an exciting first year of teaching, and I am sure she is grateful to them for that. Other new 'boys' were **Alex Leung** and **Kamran Hasanov**, one surviving on intelligence and charm, the other resorting also to Toblerone and Domino's pizzas. The two scholars in the tutor group, **John Mulvey** and **Nicholas Williams**, continued to set the pace academically and in other ways, **Vassilis Ragoussis** was big on the river, **Marcus Seller** likewise on the rugby pitch, and **Charlie Hall** again did his bit for Abingdon music. And the entrepreneurial spirit of **OA Edmund Lo** lives on in Tuck Shop impresario, **Forrest Radford**. Again I mention a few boys to represent the achievements of all, and wish them well for their GCSE year.

The Third-formers had the great **Mr Hall** to show them the ways of Abingdon School, but there were times when even that could not save them from themselves! They also had second-former **James Hebborn** for company, and it says a lot for all concerned that they got on as well as they did. Two weeks into the year I was able to tell their parents at our social evening that their sons had certainly made their mark – and that continued to be the case. This group of young men includes some superb sportsmen (hockey House winners, Sports Day runners-up), and some budding academics, but are to be admired as much as anything for their boundless energy; they also know how to turn on the charm! In case there is some reading between the lines going on, I would like to put on record that I believe this tutor group has the talent to be a huge success at Abingdon.

Once again I would like to thank the House staff for all their support, and genuine concern for the boys' welfare – **Di Faulkes** and the team, **Yvonne Aitken**, and the house tutors, in particular the departing ones. **Mr Rodda's** shrewdness and his ability to tell it as it is were much appreciated; **Dr Willis** looked after two successive Upper-sixth groups with intelligence and huge kindness, and **Mr Hall** completed five years of inspirational tutoring and real dedication to the School House cause (Monday nights will never be the same...). But just as much, I would like to thank all the boys in the House for saving me from myself.

Douglas Aitken



Three of School House's finest in the 1st XV – L to R Parathan Rabin dran, Matthew Purssell and Sherif Sam-Sadeen

## Crescent



Crescent at the House Singing Competition

Christopher Osakwe, Blues Society



As the year drew to a close, we said our farewells to **Mr Christodoulou**, who was leaving Crescent to become a Housemaster of his own House. We shall miss him in the House as a dedicated and popular tutor who showed a real sense of care for his tutees and indeed for the whole House when on duty. We also welcomed Samuel Price, and congratulate his doting parents, **Mr and Mrs Price**, resident in Cobban House. We also congratulated our Matron, **Mrs Milton**, on the occasion of her marriage in October.

At the end of the year we said farewell also to the largest tutor group to pass through the House for a long time. By the time Mr Price's tutor group left there were seventeen of them – not enormous by the standards of the day houses, but the average size of boarding tutor groups is about ten. Despite the size of this group, they were a cohesive and friendly bunch who achieved a lot in their time, winning awards and high grades. Academically they finished very well: **Howard Loh** made the national press by achieving seven A grades at A2, and two more boys, **Jonathan Lau** and **Mephis Ko**, achieved five A grades each. Howard

is now at Cambridge studying mathematics. **Peter Nikitin** and **Shashank Tandon** were active and helpful joint Heads of House and, as well as gaining School colours for service to the community along the way, were described as irreplaceable by the people with whom they worked on community service projects. Having rowed across the channel with his brother **Jamie Cook** the previous year, **Oliver Cook** represented the first VIII as a stalwart and rowed for Great Britain over the summer holiday.

Luke Powell at the Christmas Concert







Michael Nagi at the finish of the Road Relay



Ben Thoe, Blues Society

In the Michaelmas term, we dined in a large and friendly new group of Third-formers, formally welcoming them to the Crescent House community. The year ended too with a formal dining out of our Upper Sixth, an event which we held alongside the other boarding houses this year.

Inter-house competition teams were keen and active – Crescent House, as ever, punching above our weight. We showed well in

the Road Relay, but were disappointed not to perform well at the Sevens, where on paper we should have been contenders. After being overall winners the year before, we won the Fourth-form section of the inter-house athletics. Our senior public-speaking team of Oli Cook, Michael Nagi and Luke Powell, runners-up the year before, this year came out on top of the competition. The inter-house singing also went our way with a challenging song – *Bridge Over Troubled Water*, which, nevertheless, gave scope for a dramatic and impassioned performance.

So, as Crescent House continues to grow, with a new intake of day boys each year, we continue to work hard and play hard and look forward to further success next year.

Joss Williams



Oli Cook rowing in Boston

## Boyd's



Harry Hole conducting Boyd's at the House Singing Competition

The school year 2007-2008 was another enjoyable and exciting year for Boyd's House and in my opinion the House couldn't be looking better. Under the leadership of **Harry Hole** (Head of House) and **Matt Boxell** (his deputy), the House took part in many House activities and remained a pleasant environment for all the boys within it.

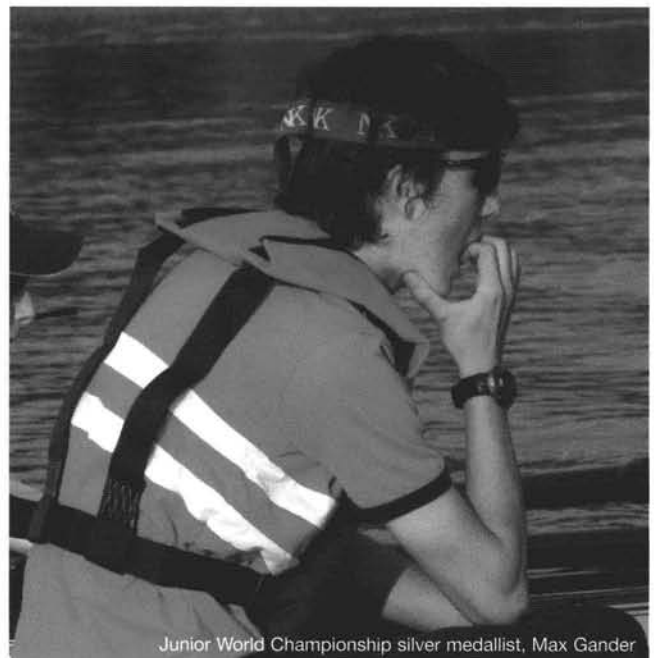
The year started well with our entry in the House Singing Competition. Conducted by the able **Harry Hole**, we sang a beautiful rendition of *Champagne Supernova* by Oasis. As always, the competition proved to be a useful way to get to know new Third-formers and, as always, Boyd's House missed out on a podium finish, coming in a competent fourth place.

Our Lower Sixth inter-house debating team was finally beaten in a controversial loss against Crescent House this year; commiserations to **Mark Heffernan** who hasn't lost an inter-house debating event since 2002. He was obviously disappointed by the loss, and so was the rest of the House.

The new Third-formers got off to a flying start last year, involving themselves immediately in most aspects of Abingdon School life. This included their victory in the inter-house rugby competition, a surprising victory considering Boyd's House track record in this event.



L to R Liam Craughwell, Harry Naylor, Ozy Tack



Junior World Championship silver medallist, Max Gander



The House Christmas party that took place just before Christmas was a great success. The evening provided boys' parents with the opportunity to meet each other, and the tutors, and to socialise over a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie. Another House social evening took place in the Spring term, which consisted of a quiz created by **Harry Hole**.

Redecorating in the House, and the addition of new Sofas and a pool table, provided the House with both an area to relax and read newspapers and, of course, the opportunity to play pool in break times.

There has been a large changeover of most of the House tutors. **Mr Butler**, a Third Year tutor, moved to France at the end of last year to do Christian work in a parish in Paris. The Fifth-form tutor **Dr May** has also stepped down as a Boyd's House tutor, but remains as an influential member of the history department. **Mr Callum** replaced **Mr Schofield** as Upper-sixth tutor at the end of the Michaelmas term last year. And finally, **Mr Evans** has become the head of Lower-sixth and **Mr Grills** (the great economics meister) has become the new Lower Sixth Tutor.

In terms of personal achievements, **Max Gander** was selected to row for Great Britain in the Junior World Championships at Linz in Austria, where his crew won silver medals. **Matthew Winters** in the Lower Sixth is to be congratulated on winning a scholarship to Sandhurst, where he intends to continue the military commitment he has demonstrated as part of the School's CCF. **Joe Buckley** was prominent in the joint senior production of *My Fair Lady* at St Helen's and regularly performed with the comedy trio *FxP2*.

All in all, the year went unusually quickly and from a Sixth-form perspective the house is looking in top condition – well done to our courageous leader, **Mr Boyd**.

Alex Clinkard 6 SJG





The winning Fifth-year Road Relay team, L – R Alex Muir, Tom Watkins, Joe McDonagh, Robbie Winearls

Head of House for the year was **Tom Durrands**, and among the House Prefects **Chris Newman** was awarded the special honour of being Head Boy. The two did a great job, contributing their many talents with unfailing energy and good sense. **Chris** was able to remain positive and reliable despite huge commitments in so many areas, and **Tom** was always authoritative and good-humoured in galvanising the house. I very much appreciated the time they and the other prefects spent in the house room, making sure that order prevailed in a friendly atmosphere.

The year began with the special challenge of the House Singing Competition. **Alex Corps** as our senior musician was an increasingly confident conductor, and **David Mears** at the piano was outstandingly calm to cope brilliantly with more than one adjustment of the key. The *Cabaret* song, *Tomorrow Belongs to Me*, rewritten around Abingdon School, was a bold – some would say stupid – choice, and although the prize did not at any stage look like belonging to us, our day will surely come.

But then, as so often before, we were redeemed and reborn in the Franklin's House Panto. *Willy Wonka and the Temple of Doom (A ladd in Trouble)* was a stunning success. **Dan Harris**, assisted by the ghost of his brother Ben, and by **Ed Hallett**, produced one of the most complex and brilliant plots of all time, incorporating elements from every myth, panto, and film ever written. The whole cast was superb: **Tom Durrands** was outstanding as a manic Wonka; **Henry Locatelli-Malacrida** as genie genius enacted the most suggestive dance ever performed

in the Amey Theatre; **Ed Hallett** was a horribly convincing valley girl Goldilocks; and **Max Kibble** as Cinders, well, smouldered. **Jacob Swain**, as hero, played it as straight as anything was going to get in this production, and carried it off superbly. And yet, despite all this talent, one name will go down in the annals for stealing the show. Packing more charge than seemed possible to contain in one compact blue form, **Oliver Howard** was The Smurf To End All Smurfs.



Joe Ridley in the House Panto

The show was a glorious critical success, and also raised £1000 for SSNAP, a charity helping the families of premature and ill babies at the JR Hospital. Thanks to everyone involved, and in particular to **Dan** for his energy and talent in writing, directing and performing.

The House Public-Speaking Competition was then upon us, and a wealth of talent was again on display. I enjoyed many splendid performances, amongst which **Chris Hyde** showed his developing skill with intelligence and sardonic delivery. **Joe Ridley** is another reliably confident and entertaining performer. Chief honours went to the Third-year team of **Henry Jenkinson**, **Finlay Curran** and **Oliver Howard**, who won their competition in great style. Our prospects for next year look very bright.

The Road Relay is one of the great events in the Abingdon year, and Franklin's House has an admirable record. This year was to bring success beyond even our usual high standard. Our brilliant duo of **Alex Muir** and **Tom Watkins** led our Fifth-year team with their customary talent and commitment, and **Joe McDonagh** and **Robbie Winearls** were superb in support. Not only did the team win the Fifth-year competition, they were the *fastest team in the school!* Gasps were heard in the Amey Theatre when **Alex's** time – the fastest individual time in the School for many years – was read out: 8 minutes 12 seconds! **Mr Pritchard's** thirty-year-old School record may not survive long...

Battles were fought in a number of arenas, and one was entirely internal. In the House pool competition, the standard was again very high. **Freddie Cleworth**, last year's House champion, made it all the way to the final. There he met his nemesis, **Tom Jenkinson**, and in a thrilling match **Tom** ultimately triumphed. Can he retain the impressive trophy next year? Only time will tell...

The inter-house cricket was another very enjoyable competition. We had many fine players and ultimately came out third. **Matthew Lake** was commanding as captain, and signalled his intentions to Crescent by scoring 7 off the first ball. He went on to score 33 in that game, and **David Grant** took five wickets. **Josh Bull** was a key player, scoring 38 against Webb's, and his bowling was outstandingly effective and exciting. **James Beer** and **George Bull** also took wickets, and **Harry Dennis** showed his commitment by fielding a sharp strike with his shin.

The House Athletics Competition brought some excellent individual and team performances. It was a disaster that the outstanding athletics talent of the Third Year, **Peter Barnshaw**, was away in the Team Maths Challenge and missed out on certain glory; maths is cancelled for next year!

Many individuals distinguished themselves over the year. **Jianghao Zhu** won the School Knock-out Chess Competition, and distinguished himself in many team games. **Ed Hallett** managed to excel in badminton, squash, rugby and javelin. **Max Kibble** showed both talent and commitment as a journalist, providing the backbone of the new school magazine, *The Martlet*. **Hugh Graham** played outstanding saxophone in the talented band Funk Lore, and his organisation of the jazz evening was brilliant, raising a considerable sum for charity and delighting the audience. **Tom Clee** played some excellent rugby, and his ability and leadership qualities were key in the 1st XV. **Andrew Hatzis** scaled new heights in his rowing career, winning a pairs event at Reading, and being selected for the *Coupe de la Jeunesse*

Alex Corps conducts the House at the House Singing Competition



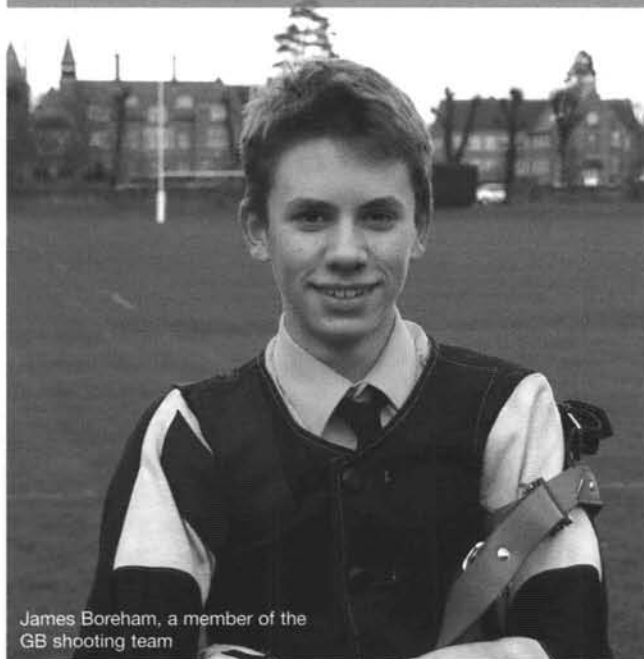
GB squad. **Henry Locatelli-Malacrida** acted in extraordinary numbers of productions with real talent. **Chris Newman** continued to shine as Captain of hockey, while somehow retaining his modesty. **Alex Muir** and **Tom Watkins** competed successfully at county level both for cross country and on the track, and have a very exciting future in the Sixth Form. **Peter Barnshaw** has also been an outstanding athlete, winning county gold medals in three different events, and setting new school records in five! **Robbie Winearls** has been developing as a rugby player and cricketer, and underpins every team he plays in with commitment and good humour as well as ability. **James Percival** was also a sportsman outstanding for both his contribution and attitude. **Matthew Lake** had a brilliant season in cricket, hitting an unbeaten century against Bloxham, and **Joshua Bull** terrorised many batsmen with his pace and accuracy. **Clym Buxton** and **David Mears** continued to shine in their musical accomplishments, and **David's** selection for the National Youth Orchestra was a tremendous achievement. **Clym** was also selected to be a Lower School Assistant, and he began to win respect from the start with his excellent attitude to the job.

Perhaps most importantly of all, the atmosphere in the house has been friendly and positive. Even though restrained by a rather small space, boys have been able to work, play and generally relax in a comfortable environment, and I am heartened by their attitude. This spirit would not have been attainable without the endless work of the tutors, and I am greatly indebted to them. I was delighted that **Miss Henderson** joined our team as Sixth-form tutor, and she immediately showed herself equal to all challenges with competence, friendliness and a sense of humour. **Mr Timberlake** also proved a warm and energetic character in his brief time with us; he leaves the House and School to pursue his teaching career, and we wish him well.

David Franklin



### Gooding's



James Boreham, a member of the GB shooting team



Saxophonist, Laurie Havelock and trumpeter Jack Tinker

Gooding's House has been as successful as ever this year, or even more so owing to the increased levels of hard work and sustained feel of 'community' within the houseroom. I know that this is something **Revd Gooding** has worked hard to achieve. Many will be aware that this has been **Revd Gooding's** last year as Housemaster, having taken over from **Mr Fishpool** three years ago. Nonetheless, I have much confidence in his successor, **Mr Christodoulou**.

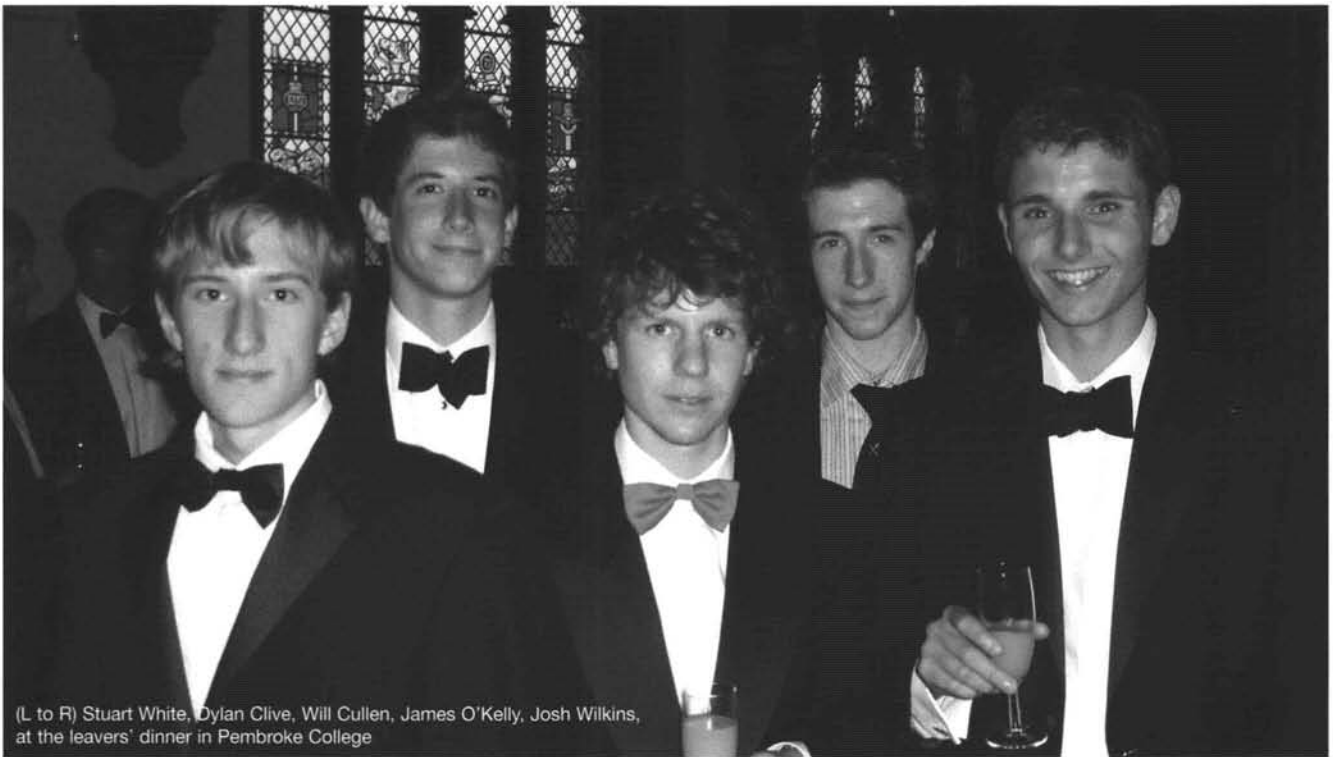
Of course, **Revd Gooding** is not the only one leaving; the current Upper Sixth are now looking to hand over the reins to the Lower Sixth. When looking at the variety of university courses and university choices, it is possible to see the wealth of talent that the School has been exposed to from the Gooding's Sixth Form boys.

I felt it might be a justifiable touch to ask each of the individual leavers their biggest achievements, and which university they are off to: congratulations are in order for all. **Will Cullen's** biggest achievement, he claims, was being awarded the role of cross country Captain this year, showing the same energy levels as in his studies, and attitude to school life. **Stuart White** was the leader of Big Band for this year, and was notable in his accomplished role of conductor in the annual House Singing Competition. This deserves particular note, not because of the awful ranking we received, but because of the passion he confidently instilled into a somewhat comic display of Three Lions. **Stuart** leaves us to pursue studies at Bath in the field of engineering. Renowned for his fiery red hair, **Dylan Clive** has been influential in all corners of school life this year, although his biggest achievement is being 'the biggest Chelsea fan in the school'. **Dylan** follows up on his excellent linguistic skills to study Spanish. **Ben Strickson** starred in the J15 B rowing team, setting the course record at the Schools' Head of the River; he leaves to study history at York. **Dean Walker** has also

become highly accomplished as a member of the 1st VIII rowing, and hopes for success at this year's Henley Royal Regatta; he moves back home to America and Stanford University. **James Howell** has overcome a remarkable set of hurdles on the rugby pitch, having battled through injury to play rugby once again; he is flying off to New Zealand on a Gap Year. **Laurie Havelock** is another esteemed musician in the ranks of Abingdon. He has featured in Big Band and 1st Orchestra, and leaves us to see the sights in Japan. Congratulations are in order for **Ian Vermes** and **John Coleby**, both of who are setting off on courses at Oxford University. Meanwhile, **Sam Dyson** is enjoying a Gap Year in pursuit of some music producing experience. Finally, **James Lloyd** has been stalwart in the successful running of the School Library throughout his school career. We wish all of our leavers the very best for the future.

With such a wealth of talent leaving, it is encouraging to see the injection of ability from the lower end of the School, and this year has been no different. Under the watchful eye of **Dr Bowen-Jones**, the Third-year boys have all excelled inside and outside of





(L to R) Stuart White, Dylan Clive, Will Cullen, James O'Kelly, Josh Wilkins, at the leavers' dinner in Pembroke College

school life. School sporting successes have seen representatives from the Third-year in everything from A, B and C team hockey, tennis, rugby and cricket. Particular mention must go to the likes of **Charlie Mannasseh**, who seems destined to follow in the footsteps of his older brother **James** in terms of sporting success, and **Oliver Bailey**, who has starred in B team rugby and A team hockey already this year. Meanwhile **James Campbell** has enjoyed similar success in C team rugby and 1st VI tennis. Outside of school, congratulations go to **Drew Finnigan** for his swimming successes. I am sure that he will be one of many who will excel, given the School's new sporting facilities that will open in October. **Drew** has performed at county level, coming 3rd overall in the County Swimming Championships at U15 level. Meanwhile, **Freddie Stott** and **Edward Wigmore** have both been regulars in 1st Wind Band and 2nd Orchestra.



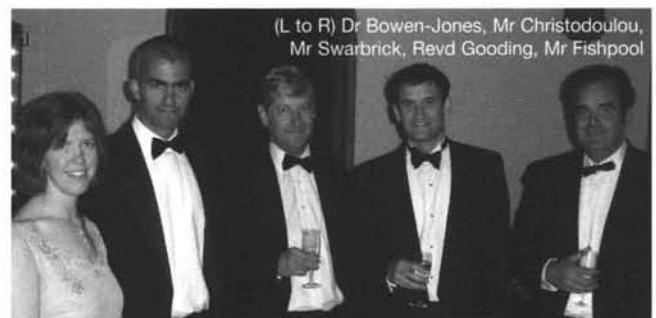
William Fotherby, GB fencing champion

It goes without saying that whilst there is huge talent departing this summer, the longevity of Gooding's (soon to be Christodoulou's) is ensured by the new Third-formers. Throughout the Middle School, however, there has been some excellent participation in CCF, music and sport, including fencing. Congratulations must be passed on to **William Fotherby**, who has excelled at GB level in sabre fencing, becoming the U17 Sabre Fencing Champion this year. He also received his School colours for this outstanding achievement.

I mentioned earlier the excellent 'community' that has developed throughout this year and previous years in Gooding's. I have been particularly lucky to experience this whilst undertaking my role as Head of House. Despite the shortfalls witnessed in our spectacularly poor rendition of *Three Lions* in the House Singing Competition, there is certainly one thing that can be drawn from the houseroom that I believe shines out above any other House: Gooding's boys are certainly lively but at the same time they have maintained integration between the years and I feel this is second to none at Abingdon School. Mr Christodoulou will certainly have to ensure this is maintained, but I'm sure many of us are excited about the changes he will bring to the House. Rumours of regular fitness drilling sessions at break-time certainly promise an exciting and fruitful career for the Gooding's boys as they are set to continue in their development.

Finally, I would just like to thank the members of the house for allowing me, along with fellow-House Prefects, **Dean, Dylan, Stuart** and **Will**) to enjoy our experience this year. It is a credit to them, and also the tutors and Housemaster, that such a paternalistic relationship was enjoyed. We thank you all.

Josh Wilkins VI APS  
Head of House 2007/2008



(L to R) Dr Bowen-Jones, Mr Christodoulou, Mr Swarbrick, Revd Gooding, Mr Fishpool

### O'Doherty's



Peter Statham (L), Simon Edwards (R) in *My Fair Lady*

It is at times of reflection, such as sitting down to write a House report, that one really appreciates the quite phenomenal talent and commitment of the boys in O'Doherty's.

The Upper Sixth never failed to remind me of the historic successes of Elliott's in the House Singing Competition but, despite having a great team of music captains, I'm afraid that the Cup had to be relinquished. *Lola* was performed with aplomb, however, and we deserved to be commended by the judge for an enthusiastic and harmonious rendition. **Tom Bennett**, **Tim West** and **Pete Statham** did a great job in organising rehearsals in a tight time-frame.

October half term saw a much needed refurbishment of the houseroom, which created a better work space, games room and upgraded music-playing facilities. Music was a strong area for the House throughout the Michaelmas term. **Guy Cutting** and **Tom Bennett** sang solos in the Choral Concert at Keble College, Oxford and **Pete Statham**, **Tim West** and **Simon Edwards** all had roles in *My Fair Lady*. For me the star of the show was **Guy Cutting**, who sang with breath-taking maturity and quality.



Tom Bennett (L), Peter Statham (R)

The House was very well represented at 1st XV level with seven boys playing a part this season. **Simon Edwards**, **Andrew Partridge** and **Jonny Bucke** were ever-present, while **Sam Fletcher**, **Tom Green**, **Oliver Raban** and **Richard Moore** battled with injury and form to fulfil important roles at various stages. Less impressive was the disturbing attire of the afore-mentioned athletes on the occasion of the annual lacrosse match against St Helen's.

The Lent term brought success in several inter-house competitions. The Fifth-year public-speaking trio of **Geoff Penington**, **Matt Copson** and **James Ridgley** dominated with topics as diverse as the arms trade and bottled water. Unfortunately, James left Abingdon after his GCSE exams and his main speaker role will be hard to fill. The Third- and Fourth-formers both won their respective Road Relay events and **Beno Edwards** made the schoolboy error of out-sprinting his Housemaster – he should have waited until after his UCAS reference was written! The House is lucky enough to have two outstanding runners. **Tom Foxon** and **Alistair Duff** made big contributions to a very successful season for the Cross Country Club. **Alistair** became Vale of the White Horse Champion this year and represented Oxfordshire at the National Championships in Nottingham. **Toby Warren** continued to impress as a squash player, competing in county competitions. **Josh Smith** represented the 1st XI at hockey this year, a good achievement for a boy in the Fifth Year, and **Jamie Soames** was voted Players' Player of the Year.

In the performing arts, **Matt Copson** gained acclaim for his short film *Underground Village*, which was an invited entry in the National Young Film-Makers' Awards at the Leeds Film Festival. **Matt** was joined by Stephen Hodgetts and lead, **Richard Moore**, in the student-devised production of *Sgt Pepper's Children*. This demanding and unusual production challenged the talents of our leading actors, but they rose to this and turned in excellent performances. **Josh Ogle** turned impresario to prove that *Abingdon's Got Talent*.





Guy Cutting

In the summer term, captain **Nathaniel Watkins**, opening batsman **Sam Fletcher**, and wicket-keeper **Josh Smith** led the 1st XI to a successful cricket season. In winning sixteen out of twenty games and the National 20/20 Independent Schools' Plate Competition, the team had its best season for many years under the strong influence of this House trio. **Nathaniel Watkins** richly deserved his sports scholarship award, as his sporting talent is coupled with strong leadership and modesty. The Sixth Form powered its way to the inter-house tug-of-war trophy and an overall fourth place was a respectable finish to the inter-house athletics competition. During the summer, **Simon Jeffreys** represented Great Britain at the Munich Regatta and won a gold medal, which was a tremendous achievement and also a reward for the hours of commitment he has made over the past five years to rowing at Abingdon.

This year saw some notable academic achievements. **Tom Bennett** gained a place at Christ Church College, Oxford to read Music, while the Lower Sixth produced an outstanding set of AS level grades, with two-thirds of all exams taken being awarded an A, and **Nick Howe** was selected to take part in the Senior Physics Challenge during a summer school at the Cavendish



O'Doherty's U VI tug-of-war team



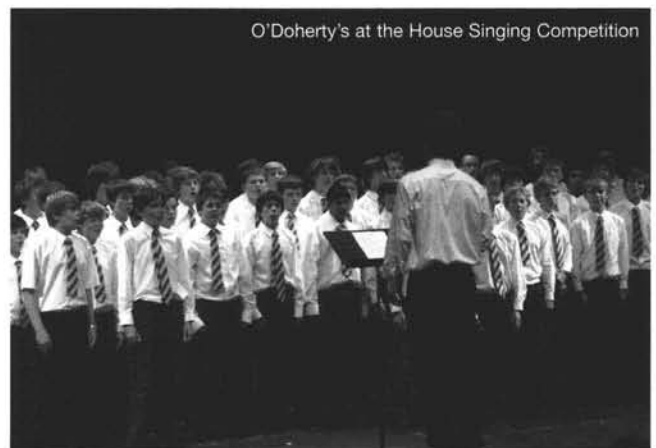
Simon Jeffreys

Laboratory in Cambridge. **Freddie Humfrey** was awarded an Army Scholarship against the toughest of opposition, and his fellow-Fifth-formers **Anthony Grieveson** and **Josh Smith** were placed in the top ten nationally by their exam boards in Design & Technology and Religious Studies respectively. The pinnacle of achievement belongs to **Geoffrey Penington** for his 12 A\* grades at GCSE and 2 A grades at AS.

Lastly, I would like to thank **Finola Donovan** and **Simon Whalley** for their committed contributions as House tutors. Neither of them is leaving Abingdon, but both will be part-time next year. Coincidentally, both of these fine tutors played a part in moulding the lives and academic careers of the departing Upper Sixth, whom we all wish well in their future studies and careers.

My great thanks goes to **Peter Statham** who was an excellent Head of House, much of whose work was done behind the scenes, and who was of great support to me in particular. **Peter** is a true Abingdonian – academic, soldier, musician and adventurer. I feel very privileged to have worked with all the boys in the House in my first year as Housemaster and look forward to continued success.

N J O'Doherty



O'Doherty's at the House Singing Competition

### Older's



Award-winning sailors: (L to R) Tom Altmann, Nick Wilkinson (O'Doherty's), Rory Spriggs, Jonty Cook

Another year has passed and it is again time to reflect on all that has been achieved by the boys in Older's House. As ever there have been highs and lows but, as ever, the former outweigh the latter. It is unusual for a week to pass without the media berating the poor behaviour of modern 'youth' and it is important to remind oneself that the boys at Abingdon School delight far more than they disappoint. The School hopes to foster an environment that encourages mutual respect and a strong desire to achieve and these qualities are present in abundance within the House. It seems that each year I am obliged to make this report longer in an attempt to do justice to the achievements of the boys.

Felix Wood



The spirit of the School was no more evident than in **Michael Coldwell**, who fulfilled his role of School Prefect with pride and ability; there are few boys who proved themselves so consistently capable in every field of School life. The two Heads of House, **Thomas Altmann** and **Tim McKenzie**, were excellent examples to the younger boys, impressing with their perseverance and ability, gaining success in sailing and football-coaching respectively.

Other notable contributions from the Upper Sixth came in a wide range of fields: **Paddy Gervers** continued the strong tradition of drama within the House, excelling within the confines of the syllabus and heading to Edinburgh as part of the *FxP2* trio; **Gus Raftery** combined success in the arts with a place in the 1st VIII; and **Sebastien Wilson** repeated last year's feat of a place in both the 1st XV rugby and 1st XI hockey.

Elsewhere, the manifold talent of the boys within the House was evident at every level. The Lower-sixth group highlighted the breadth of ability with successes in tennis, badminton, rowing, sailing, rugby and fencing, to name but a few. Their wholehearted commitment and tutor group unity were perhaps no more evident than in their second-place performance in the newly instigated inter-house tug-of-war competition. It will be an honour to have one of the newly appointed Heads of School within the House and a testament to all that **Felix Wood** has contributed to the School over the last four years.

The Fifth- and Fourth-formers have a burgeoning amount of talent, both academically and in the Other Half, making it difficult to single out successes without belittling the impressive achievements of the majority. This is also true of the new Third-formers, but it would be remiss of me not to recognise the outstanding academic achievements of **Edward O'Brien** and **Thomas Salt**; in a high-achieving group they set the standard for which others strive.

The strength in depth present in the House was illustrated in the inter-house competitions this year. We were once again the bridesmaids in the House Singing, with musical director **Joe**



Gus Raftery



Paddy Gervers

Mason and conductor **Jack Trotman** doing us proud. Although success in the tag rugby eluded us, both the Fourth- and Fifth-year groups won their respective hockey tournaments. The Lent term also saw success in the House Chess Competition, where Individual Middle School Champion **Edward O'Brien** saw us through to victory under the captaincy of **Henry Kibble**. The Lower Sixth provided the fastest foursome in their year-group in the road relay, whilst **Alexander Smith** led us to the final of the Senior House Badminton, where we lost to an exceptionally strong Webb's pair.

In the summer term, victory in the cricket plate was coupled with an impressive second place overall in the athletics, with some fine sprinting from **Pearce Taylor** in the Third Year. Because of the final flourish of second place in the Lower Sixth and Third-year tug-of-war competitions, I cannot remember such an impressive all-round performance since I became Housemaster.

Other notable achievements that should be mentioned include **Rory Spriggs** sailing the Atlantic, **Julian Thorn** passing a Diploma in Criminology, **Anthony Lloyd's** various prizes at the Oxford Music Festival, **William Davey's** and **William Summers'** appointments as Lower School Assistants, and **Ben Bryant** winning a national competition to design a gargyle!

As always, this only begins to scratch the surface of the boys' exploits and successes. I have not mentioned shooting, the Film Unit, or the various musical ensembles and team sports. It is inevitable, I fear, that I will have forgotten something but it is important to remember the collective pride that can be taken from all that is achieved. I remain astonished by the determination,

drive and talent possessed by the boys within the House – the very best of modern 'youth'!

Those leaving at the end of 2008 were: **Thomas Altmann**, **Adam Burniston**, **Michael Coldwell**, **Max Derbyshire**, **Alexander Dillien**, **Paddy Gervers**, **Ben Jackson**, **Richard Lai**, **Tim McKenzie**, **Henry Pigneguy**, **Gus Raftery**, **Sebastien Wilson**, **Toby Connick** and **Ben Juffkins**. We wish them every success for the future and hope that they will keep in touch in the years ahead.

Jamie Older



An Older's tug-of-war team.



### Webb's

Fergus McIntosh conducts Webb's at the House Singing Competition

As is the tradition in recent years, the boys from the House were brought together, stood shoulder to shoulder and fought the other houses in vocal combat, at the annual House Singing Competition at the end of the first half of the Michaelmas term. We armed ourselves with the mighty Beatles song, *With a little help from my friends*, with Fergus McIntosh at the fore, backed up by Euan Campbell on the piano, Ross Muir on the bongo drums, Oliver May on bass guitar and Charles Kingsman on acoustic guitar. The boys rallied together and, notably, the Third Form made their voices heard, helping the House earn a commendation from the judge.

In the break before the judge's verdict, the House kept pulling its weight when Mr Crook and Charles Kingsman kept the audience entertained by playing in the Blues Society band. I think they made the best sound of the afternoon, and certainly earned the loudest applause.

The Michaelmas term is also the term for rugby and the House was represented in the top two senior teams by Ross Muir, Thomas Bradfield and Richard Parkin-Mason, who all battled for the 2nd XV, though Richard earned his way up to the 1st XV for some of the matches. Richard can now look forward to another two years playing at this level, but even more importantly he helped the Fifth Form at the end of the term win the inter-house Tag Rugby Competition, and bring back the first trophy of the year.

The first half-term break seemed to be a time for School trips and several from the House took up the opportunities. George Rossiter and James Baldwin went on the Spanish Exchange, and that seemed to help later in their studies, while Mr Bliss had an even more glamorous time in Tanzania, where he led a group looking at the diversity of biology on offer, and, judging by the photos they all had an excellent time.

The second half of term did not have any inter-house competitions, but within the House there was some bitter rivalry to establish who was 'King of the Pool Table'. There were some strong contenders from the new intake, but in the end the more experienced contenders shone through and James Edwards earned the right to have his name engraved on the trophy.

In the middle of the term, Ben Hollins and Henry Dunbar showed the diversity within the House, and went to the National Film Theatre in London to watch the premier of *Gravel and Stones*, the Cambodia documentary that Ben, in particular, spent a lot of time producing.



Sam Walton



James Edwards

After Christmas, **Ben** continued his film work and, along with two others, he produced a documentary about the life of the Annesley mining community. This film was selected as one of the finalists for the National Young Filmmakers' Awards on Saturday 29 March as part of Leeds Young People's Film Festival. This is the first Abingdon Film Unit film, other than *Gravel and Stones*, to be entered for a national film festival, so I expect **Ben's** departure from the society will be felt this year.

The Lent term saw the switch from rugby to hockey, and many representatives from the House performed for the School on a weekly basis, but at end of the term, the year-groups got together. The Fourth-formers were our most successful year, beating Franklin's to earn a place in the final against Older's. Unfortunately, the boys in green proved stronger on that day, but there are a few years left to have another go.

In the House we had our second competition, this time from the ends of the table-tennis table. It caused some interesting games and unexpected results, but in the end **Joel Morris**, one of the favourites, came through to win. Considering that he will have another four years in the House, he will be one to beat in the future. To continue on a sporting note, the Road Relay was held on the last Monday of the Lent term. The House turned out in force, and the Upper Sixth produced the quickest of their year's tutor groups' times and **Matthew Rossiter** was the quickest in the whole year-group, with 8.42. He was not the quickest in the House, as Sam Walton got the Lower Sixth off to a good start, and was in the lead on the first leg back, with a time of 8.28. Webb's Upper Sixth team consisted of **Matt Rossiter**, **Tim**

**Gower**, **Jun Tao** and **Timothy Middleton**, and they all four got round in 39.27.

The summer term seemed to come around again before we knew it, and with it came the delight of exams, along with the pleasure of hearing the traditional noise of leather on willow. The exams, internal and external, were met by most in the House with a positive attitude, and the Fifth Form, in particular, seemed to rise to the challenge and achieved, on the whole, higher grades than expected. A couple of notable achievements came from **Euan Campbell** and **Julian Martin** who, between them, scored 19 A\*s and 2 As, plus a couple of AS levels.

Throughout the term on Saturday afternoons we had a large number of boys across the ages turning out in their whites, but our strongest year-representation must go to the Fourth-formers, notably **William Sensecall**, **Mark Francis** and **Ben Stockwell**. This year-group also added their fair share to the combined Third and Fourth Form team for the inter-house cricket competition, where they made the final for second year running.

The end of the year was highlighted by an afternoon of giving one rope to two groups of boys and seeing who could pull the hardest. All the years made a good effort, but one was more successful than the others, and again it was the Fourth Form, who really took on the challenge and won their event.

All in all, another good year for the House – the trophy cabinet wasn't filled but all seemed reasonably happy.

Mike Webb



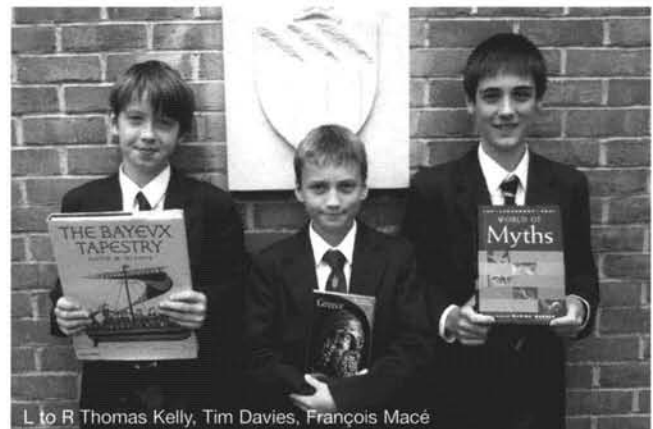
Lower-sixth tug-of-war team



Sixty-two First-formers began their time at Abingdon in September, some with excitement, some with no small amount of worry, but all with plenty of noise! It is perhaps easy to forget quite how massive the jump from Primary School is, whether in terms of the size of the school buildings, the need for greater personal organisation or even the advent of the horror that is prep, but this group of boys did make it look relatively straightforward on the whole, receiving expert guidance from the three tutors (**Alastair Summers**, **Estelle Slatford** and **Sue Wigmore**) and a new and enthusiastic band of Lower School Assistants. The number one worry when arriving at Abingdon is making new friends and we were very fortunate once again this year to have a team-building morning organised by members of the CCF early on in the term, which helped the boys get to know each other. The Other Half was embraced quickly by the vast majority of the boys, with lots of them involved in sport, music, drama and the arts. Special mention should perhaps be made of those boys who volunteered to be members of the newly formed Waste Force team, whose job it was to make the rest of the School more aware of ways in which it could save energy and resources. They worked tirelessly throughout the year and helped the School reduce its waste considerably by the end of the summer.

The Lent term was very short this year but we still found time to pack in lots of extra activities in Lower School: perhaps the

highlight was the production of *Oliver!* produced and directed by **Andrew Loughe** and **Finola Donovan**. Many First-formers were involved, devoting a huge amount of time to learning lyrics and dances, although playing the role of street urchins was perhaps not a huge artistic leap for some of them! Notable performances came from **Jack Squizzoni** as Mr Bumble and **Thomas Kelly** as the Rose-seller. The rugby season came to an end at half term and, although we perhaps suffered at the hands of some much bigger competition in some matches, the year-group showed a good team spirit that they will be able to build on in future years.



At the end-of-season dinner, **Edward Bryant, David Chadder, Freddy Horsell, Laurence Lilley, James Peirce, and William Sharp** were given awards for their contributions to the U12 teams. The road relay and the hockey tournament were both won by 1E, while 1W were triumphant in the public-speaking competition. **Daniel Chen** won the First-year pool tournament.

The Easter holiday saw the First-year adventure trip to the PGL Centre at Osmington Bay. Fifty-six of the First-formers attended and enjoyed five days of activities, including tunnel trail, abseiling, and the ever-terrifying Leap of Faith. Many of the boys pushed themselves out of their comfort zones (as did some of the staff) and overcame fears, while all benefited from strengthening existing friendships and developing new ones. As ever, the boys came away from the week together a much more coherent and confident group.

The year has seen considerable improvements being made to the fabric of the houseroom itself. Over the summer holidays, over 120 purpose-built bag racks were installed, so that for the first time every boy has his own space to store his equipment, rather than the previous open shelving. Then, at Christmas, a little festive cheer was injected by the appearance of a fully decorated Christmas tree and several sets of lights (the mystery of the missing Darth Vader Bauble was never quite satisfactorily solved). In January, a little comfort was added to the seating arrangements when five comfy chairs were installed to replace some of the wooden benching, and then at Easter, in a move almost as momentous as the toppling of the Berlin Wall, the houseroom was opened up by the removal of a partition wall. The greater sense of space and light created has been a huge success and has encouraged the houseroom to be seen more as a 'chill-out' space rather than an 'indoor adventure playground' (although the fact that the boys are now much more visible to passing members of staff probably helps as well). The addition of some houseplants (which despite the dire predictions of some are all still alive at the end of the year) and some Lower School artwork also increased the sense of calm. It would be wrong not to mention the fact that the final few weeks of the year also saw the addition of Gilbert, a life-size plaster model of a seated figure, whose calming influence has been much appreciated (as have the increasing number of props that the cleaning staff have been giving him each morning).

The summer term was, as ever, a very hectic one, with much of the focus being on preparing for the end-of-year exams, which for most of the boys were their first major tests. Despite some moments of uncertainty, the challenge was successfully faced and overcome, and special mention should be made of the three boys who topped their tutor groups and thus were awarded academic prizes at Prize-Giving: **François Macè, Thomas Kelly and Tim Davies**. They were joined at the presentation of prizes by the winner of the Layng Junior Reading Prize, **Johnny Burrow**. We never let exams completely take over, however, and the start of the summer term saw the inaugural *Junior Abingdon's Got Talent*, an event inspired by the success of a senior version earlier in the year. Several First-formers entered with notable contributions from **Thomas Kelly**, who performed a version of *Any Dream Will Do*, and **Thomas Lawler**, whose almost terrifyingly accurate impression of Mr Bean won the hearts of the audience but did not quite win him top spot overall once the votes of the judges were also taken into consideration.

The cricket season, while perhaps not a classic in terms of results, did have its highlights and it is clear that there is considerable individual talent amongst the First-formers, with **Robert O'Kelly and Freddy Horsell** particularly impressive with their performances with bat and ball. Tennis has also been a popular sporting activity during the summer months, and congratulations go to **Giles Waterson** for winning the Lower School individual tournament.

Once the exams were out of the way, the rest of the term went by in a blur of events and activities: a Modern Languages trip to Germany, a Classics trip to Fishbourne, and the Lower School Gala Concert where, as well as several great individual performances, the audience were treated to a very moving performance of some African folk songs sung by the whole First-year choir, accompanied by the newly formed Abingdon Drum Circle. I had often wondered throughout the year whether there was anything louder than the current First Year, and now I know that there is: eight drums being beaten to within an inch of their lives by some very keen Second-formers. 1E continued their dominance of the tutor group competitions, winning both Sports Day and the reinstated tug-of-war competition.

At the end of the year we said goodbye to Alastair Summers, who has been a Lower School tutor for the last four years and who now is moving on to take up a post at St Edward's. His contributions to the life of Lower School have been much appreciated, and it says a lot for his natural rapport with the younger boys that under his leadership so many of them have got involved in the Waste Force project this year. We all wish him well for the future.

It has been a great pleasure to get to know the latest batch of Abingdonians over the last three terms and I wish them every success as they move up through the school.

Adam Jenkins



Daishiro Nishida



Jamie Pearson, Harry Browning,  
Gabriel Burrow

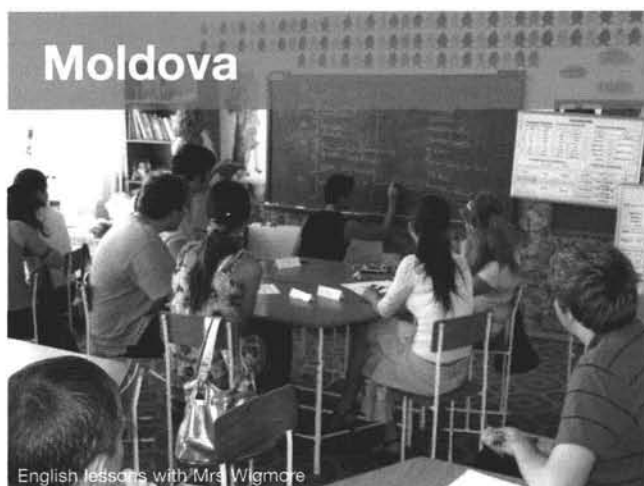


Charlie Brewer



Adam Scholey

# Service Activities



Moldova is perhaps not the first place where a group of Abingdon Sixth-formers would consider spending the first part of their summer holidays; nevertheless, that is precisely where a group of nine of us, plus two girls from Our Lady's and three members of staff, **Mr Jenkins, Mr Taylor and Mrs Wigmore**, found themselves heading on Monday 7 July 2008. The purpose of the visit was to continue the link between Abingdon School and *Agape*, a Moldovan charity which works predominantly with young people in order to bring about positive transformation in their home country, the poorest in Europe. This was the fifth year that a group from Abingdon has been to Moldova, while last summer a group of Moldovan teenagers spent nine days staying in Waste Court, having lessons at Abingdon, and visiting both Oxford and London amongst other things.

As with the last visit to Moldova in 2006, the main focus of the trip was to run a summer camp for young Moldovan children at the *Agape* Community Centre in Ialoveni, a town situated about half an hour away from the Moldovan capital of Chisinau. The group was met at Chisinau airport (having travelled via Vienna) and received a warm reception from some of the Moldovans we had met in Abingdon the previous year, who were ready to help us organise this year's camp for the younger children. From the airport we drove to Ialoveni, where we settled in with our various host families. Any anxieties about this process quickly evaporated as we were all met with a wonderful welcome, and various Moldovan snacks and drinks to boot – one group of boys were even pleasantly surprised to discover that their household contained a Playstation, complete with Pro Evolution Soccer!

Over the next few days our time was divided between both running various activities at the Community Centre and Gymnasium (formerly No. 4 School) in Ialoveni, and also embarking on various excursions further afield. On our first full day in Moldova, we took a minibus back to Chisinau where we



visited a cultural museum as well as the Cathedral of Chisinau, the largest such building in the country. There was also time for a stroll through Stefan cel Mare Park, which some of the group thought they recognised from Michael Palin's recent TV series, *New Europe*. Other such outings included one to the famed *Milestii Mici* wine warehouse, officially recognised by Guinness World Records as having the largest wine collection in the world with nearly two million bottles – no wonder we needed to drive through the cavernous network of tunnels in order to reach the much sought after tasting room! One day, after meeting the mayor of Ialoveni in the morning, we went to Vadul lui Voda, an artificial 'beach' resort built by the Soviets on the banks of the Dniester river (which marks the boundary between Moldova and Trans-Dniester, an area which is officially part of Moldova but which nevertheless acts, somewhat controversially, as an autonomous territory). Following a picnic lunch and a short boat trip down the Dniester, the Moldovan children who had accompanied us on the outing were introduced to the game of Kwik Cricket, and a handful of very promising 'big-hitters' were discovered (although quite how they would have coped had the lbw rule been brought into play is another matter). We were also fortunate enough, on one evening, to be invited to tea at the residence of the current UK Ambassador to Moldova, John Beyer O.A. Ambassador Beyer had visited the *Agape* Community Centre in Ialoveni two years previously, when the last Abingdon group had been in Moldova, and was pleased to catch up with members of his former school once more.

Meanwhile, back in Ialoveni, the summer camp was taking shape. During the morning, English lessons were given at the school under the guidance of Mrs Wigmore. There were two groups for the Moldovan students – an intermediate and an advanced – both of which focused on word games and general conversation practice. However, in addition to these two there



was also an absolute beginners group for the teachers at the school, who proved to be most entertaining for the volunteer 'teachers' from Abingdon – their satisfaction at mastering such basic phrases as "My name is..." and "My telephone number is...", as well as their eagerness to correct (or argue with!) each other, was a joy to behold. Whilst this was going on, Mr Taylor was busy organising film and photography-related classes. The younger Moldovan children at the Community Centre were given disposable cameras and sent out into laloveni with instructions to each take photographs that they felt captured what it was like to live in their village. After the photos had been developed, they chose their best five pictures to be put on display, and a few of the children were selected to talk about their favourite photo on camera, the result being "My Name Is...", the first (but presumably not the last) project to emerge from the newly formed Moldovan Film Unit (or MFU for short). At the same time the older Moldovans were busy planning and shooting for another film about life in their country and everything that entails. One thing is certain – there is no shortage of creativity and determination amongst the youth of Moldova! As well as the English and photography lessons, the summer camp also involved running various other activities at the Community Centre, including bracelet-making (which some got the hang of more quickly than others, with certain members of the Abingdon group finding it particularly hard going), paper aeroplane competitions, a treasure hunt, and lots of team games. The team games involved quite a lot of running round in circles on uneven ground, and it was during one such game that a rather over-enthusiastic **George Palmer** managed to cripple the slightly less athletic Mr Jenkins to such an extent that he spent much of the rest of the trip hobbling!

Most of the afternoons were spent engaged in some form of sport or other physical activity. Five-a-side football was popular, with England just about having the edge over Moldova, thanks largely to some superb goalkeeping from **Marcus 'The Goose' Smith**. However, the hosts totally dominated basketball, when even the experienced **Tudor Plapcianu** was embarrassed by laloveni's star player – who also happened to be a girl. Abingdon just about scraped a victory over the female Moldovan volleyball team, but were no match for their male counterparts. We were nevertheless able to restore a certain degree of pride in the 'athletics' contest (which involved running through hoops, a sack race, dart-throwing and even mathematical equations) and special mention must go to **Jamie Brown** for his superior 'keepy-

up' skills, which gained us a crucial point at a vital stage in the tournament. Aside from sports, the afternoons also provided us with an opportunity to practice a traditional Moldovan dance known as the Hora, which we knew we would be required to perform in public on our final night. A cruel man would have described our initial attempts as shambolic, but after a few lessons from the Moldovans we reached what could be called a near-adequate level.

During the morning of our penultimate day in Moldova we went to Chisinau once more, firstly to visit the Ethnographic Museum and then to see the *Agape* office. Here we were given a brief talk by Nicu, the head of *Agape* and all-round legend (and not only because he invited us round for delicious dinners on several occasions), thanking us for the difference we had made and emphasising the need for the link between Abingdon and *Agape* to continue. That afternoon we returned to the school in laloveni and began frantically preparing for the evening's concert – a variety show displaying the cream of the talent from both Western and Eastern Europe. We were told events such as this were rare occurrences in laloveni and as a result the town turned out in force to watch. Despite being so hastily cobbled together, a process which almost pushed Mr Jenkins to breaking-point, the concert was a huge success and notable performances included **Paddy Appleton**, **Sam Badenoch** and **Marcus Smith** starring in a Titanic-themed sketch, whilst both **Tom Metcalf** and **Tim Delaney** got themselves soaked, much to the amusement of the audience, proving that there are some jokes which transcend all language and cultural barriers. **Ryan Romeo** also managed to (sort of) pull off wearing traditional Moldovan dress, whilst the Abingdon party's rendition of the aforementioned Hora drew much laughter.

The following morning we said goodbye to our respective families, following the obligatory exchanging of e-mail addresses, and thanked them for their kindness and hospitality. We then took a minibus into Chisinau, where there was time for some last-minute souvenir shopping before heading off to the airport, each person's luggage laden with varying amounts of quality Moldovan wine. It was with sadness that we left Chisinau for Vienna, and ultimately Abingdon, but the fantastic memories gained from such an eye-opening and enlightening ten days will endure, and I would strongly urge anyone reading this to consider becoming involved with the Abingdon *Agape* link in the future.

Tom Metcalf VI ESD



John Beyer, OA, the British Ambassador to Moldova



Mr Taylor with the Film Unit



Members of the Cross-Country Club –  
L to R Michel Baumgart, Sam Dent, Simon  
Balderson, Will Cullen, Alex Muir, Tom Watkins  
– present cheque to Helen and Douglas House

The principal fund-raising event of the year was the first-ever *Abingdon's Got Talent*, which took place in November. Four Sixth-formers: **Joni Bayfield, Guy Raftery, Josh Ogle and James Rhodes**, worked tirelessly for weeks, organising the promotion of the evening, the auditions, the ticket sales and the smooth running on the night. Tickets sold out and the final line-up (of both Abingdon boys and St Helen's girls) was announced with an impressive range of acts from pianists, vocalists and saxophonists to Blues and Rock bands, from dance routines to 'object manipulation'. The event was hugely enjoyed by all and the popular and deserved winners were Fourth-former **James Yan and Saskia Hill**, from St Helen's, with their dance routine. The hilarious band *Galaxy* – **Joe Buckley, Henry Locatelli-Malacrida, Mike Summers, Laurie Havelock, Aidan Thorne and Luke Powell** – came in second, with the 'multiple minor talents' of **Ben Vaux, Laurie Barrow, Felix Wood and Ian Houlsby** in third place. The night was expertly compered by *FxP2* – **Paddy Gervers, Paddy Appleton and Finlay Taylor** – and couldn't have gone ahead without the excellent Amey Theatre Technical Crew and of course the judges, **Andrew Loughe, Estelle Slatford and Jeremy Taylor**.

All in all the ticket sales and refreshments raised a fantastic £2,890.30 for the *Christian Community Church Mission*, a charity dedicated to community development in Sierra Leone.

Other Michaelmas term events included the annual doughnut sale on Open Day, which raised £200 for *Children with Leukaemia*; the Poppy Appeal which raised £245.73 for the *Royal British Legion*; the Christmas Bring and Buy Sale which

raised £305 for *Asha*, a charity working to improve education and health care in the slums of Delhi, and Franklin's House Pantomime which gave over £997.79 to the charity SSNAP at the John Radcliffe. Parents once again gave generously at the Christmas Concert collection enabling us to send £819.51 to the Bangladesh Cyclone Appeal. £100 for *Light for the Blind*, a charity working with the blind and destitute in Southern India, was also collected from boys and staff at the Christmas Service.

Greetings cards designed by four Fifth-formers – **Matthew Copson, Daniel Butterworth, Bobby Aigbogun and Jack Metcalfe** – depicting the four seasons, were produced in early December and sold throughout the academic year at various



Doughnut selling on Open Day



Abingdon's Got Talent: L to R Adrian Lo, Guy Cutting, Tom Bennett, Peter Statham, Timothy West

School events raising £450 for *Helen and Douglas House*. Under Alexis Christodoulou, the Abingdon School Runners secured sponsorship for the various races that they ran over the Michaelmas term, raising a fantastic £2,050 for *Helen and Douglas House*.

The Third-form Charity Group, which meets every Tuesday as part of our services programme, and whose members change every half term, raised quite incredible sums of money this year. A card and cake sale in December raised £35 for *Helen and Douglas House*, doughnut and cake sales in the Lent Term raised a total of £130.60 for the *NSPCC*, the *Clive Project* and *StreetSmart*, while two sponsored fasts in the Lent and Summer Terms raised £185 for the *Chiltern Disabled Riding Centre* and £62.80 for *Peapods* – a Wokingham-based charity that supports parents of disabled children and works to improve services for them. Finally, a spectacular £401.10 for John Radcliffe Children's Hospital was raised through a sponsored silence in January.

The Lent term also saw the annual own-clothes day, which raised £1,529.75 for *Asha*, *Peapods* and *Afghan Connection*. Additional bucket collections were made for the *China Relief Fund* and *Water Aid*, raising £49.96 and £66.10 respectively. Twenty boxes of old text books were sent off to Tanzania via *Book International*, 1,500 supermarket vouchers were collected, and old mobile phones and ink cartridges were sent off to be recycled in aid of the *Chiltern Riding Centre for the Disabled* and *Book International*. Abingdon musicians also raised £405 for the *Children's Trust*, Tadworth by giving a concert at Pangbourne in March, and the *Way Back Home* concert raised £512.14 for *Emmaus*, a homeless charity in Oxford.

The Summer term, usually quieter in terms of fund-raising, still saw several fund-raising events. The Charity Football Competition raised a total of £650.74 for the *Meningitis Research Foundation*. By selling refreshments at the inter-house tug-of-war competition and Athletics Day, £115 was raised for *Sport Relief*. A sponsored run by Second-formers raised a further £139.52 for the *Children's Cancer Research Trust Fund*.

Also in the Summer term, Adam Jenkins put on *Junior Abingdon's Got Talent*, another hugely enjoyable show which

raised £240 for the Moldovan charity *Agape*. Toby Marlow, Tom Sishton, Harry Wilder and Alex Whitworth won the competition with their improvised comedy routine.

Crescent House Tuck Shop raised £80 for *BLESMA*, the Lower School Gala Concert raised £476.42 for *Light for the Blind* and the Leavers' Service collection raised £297.72 for the *Multiple Sclerosis Trust*.

Finally, as ever, the cleaners were also active on the fund-raising front, holding a number of raffles that raised over £1000 for a variety of charities.

A fantastic total of over £14,400 was raised last year and is thanks to the efforts of many boys and staff, but special credit must go to those mentioned already in this report, to Henry Kirk and Michael Stinton, and to Fourth-former Christopher Davis whose tireless efforts have helped the smooth running of many events.

Sophie Payne



Winners of Junior Abingdon's Got Talent.  
L to R Toby Marlow, Harry Wilder, Alex Whitworth, Tom Sishton

### Community Service



#### Abingdon Hospital

During last year, several members of the Sixth form participated in Community Service at Abingdon Hospital. They performed a wide range of roles from helping out with physiotherapy to simply providing a sympathetic ear for patients on the wards. I went once a week with another Sixth-former, **Barry Tse**, to help at the Day Hospital, where outpatients come from home once a week, usually to continue their rehabilitation after an operation or illness. We chatted with the patients and tried to make them feel at home as well as helping out with group activities. Once we had found our feet we were put in charge of some of these activities, giving the nurses more time to treat individual patients. The activities included planting tomato plants and painting and making collages. Each activity was designed to help patients with their problem areas, for example hand-eye coordination. Since we went on a weekly basis, we were able to get to know many of the patients and see their progress. They were always grateful for our youthful enthusiasm and would often bring photos of their childhood, children and grandchildren for us to see. Apart from the treatment it provided, the hospital visit was welcomed by many of the patients as a rare opportunity to leave the house and socialise, as lots of them lived alone. Seeing the patients progress until, in some cases, they no longer needed to visit the hospital at all, was very satisfying and I hope that we played some part in their treatment and recovery. If anyone is considering a career in medicine or other care work, or just wants to see that they can make a difference, I would strongly recommend getting involved with this scheme as I have learned a huge amount about long-term healthcare, as well as gaining the satisfaction of seeing directly the results of our help with the individual patients.

Felix Wood 6 SAE

#### Home Visiting

We have been visiting Mrs Hunt at her house every week since the beginning of last year. Visiting has been a great experience for both of us and Mrs Hunt has been very kind and friendly. She has told us lots of interesting stories about her life and since she used to be a teacher, has also been able to give us lots of useful educational advice. Her endless supply of tea and biscuits was an unexpected bonus! By visiting Mrs Hunt each week, and getting to know her, we felt as though we were making a difference to someone's life, which made completing our Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award service section much more enjoyable.

James Callow 6 TCG and Alex Bird 6 SJG

#### Residential Home Visiting

Every Tuesday afternoon, each residential home in Abingdon is visited by a group of boys. In a society where it seems that the elderly are often forgotten and sidelined, I think that this is a very worthwhile activity. While visiting the elderly, tea, coffee and biscuits are served and there is chance to chat. We prepare a quiz and everyone takes part. Sometimes we play card games like *Cheat* or dominoes. Occasionally musicians and dramatists will come with us and perform a play or recital. Towards the end of each term, in the School dining hall, a tea party is held. Food, drink and entertainment are on hand in what always proves to be an enjoyable event. After having been a part of the Community Service group for a substantial period of time now, I can honestly say that visiting the elderly is a very rewarding experience. Greater involvement in the local community has not only brought benefit to those we visit, but it also gives us the feeling that we have made a difference.

Charlie Beirouti 4 SAP



### Quotations from the Third-year Community Service Programme

"At the home there are a lot of people but I think that we entertained quite a few of the residents. Overall I think that most of the people enjoyed us coming and playing cards or dominoes with them."

Hector Millar 3 ACC

"I enjoyed this because the people were very friendly and quite witty ..... I think that it is nice that people who may feel quite lonely sometimes may feel happier because of what we have done this term."

Tom Salt 3 DJB

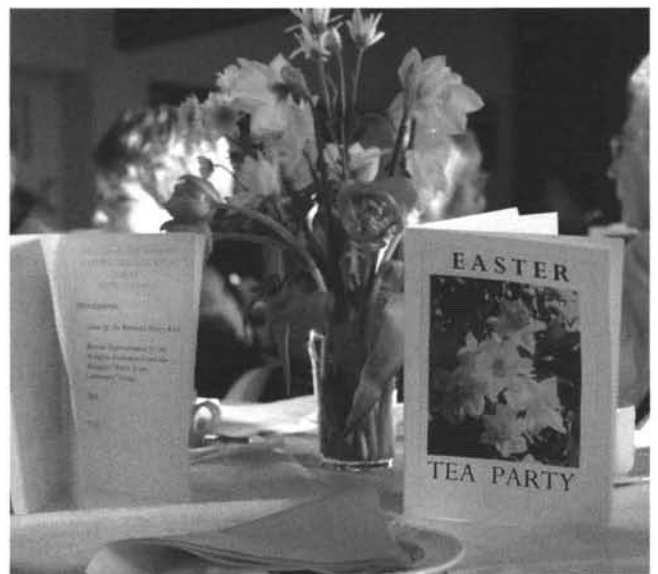
"The people that we visited were very interesting and really enjoyed our quizzes. I enjoyed the service and would recommend it to anyone."

Edward O'Brien 3 DJB



As part of the Duke of Edinburgh Gold award I spent six months volunteering weekly at St Nicolas' School in Abingdon. I was able to help out with teaching music, art and drama with Years 3 and 4 which was very rewarding. I accompanied various groups of children on the piano as they sang under the direction of Mrs Harrison (the St Nicolas music teacher), which enabled Mrs Harrison to conduct her choirs and guide the children better. I enjoyed helping out with art because it's something I hadn't done for a long time and it was relaxing. I'd definitely recommend helping out at a primary school to anyone considering it; it's something totally different and a valuable experience!

John Merritt 6 MAO



### Combined Cadet Force



Remembrance Day Parade, November 2007



CCF Biennial Inspection, 14 May 2008

The army section of the CCF has had another intensive and successful year. After the summer break, the September exercise got underway which proved a welcome change from school routine and allowed first time command experience for those in the Fifth year NCO cadre. In November, the army section joined with the RAF to take part in the Remembrance Day parades. This remains a very proud occasion for the CCF with drill this year at a very high standard, a testament to the hard work put in.

The Easter camp during the holidays was again highly successful and was both challenging and rewarding for those taking part. The Advanced Infantry Cadre began their final 48-hour exercise by being dropped by helicopter on to Salisbury Plain after a 20-minute tour of the plain. The pilots who hosted us were from the Special Forces Flight, who usually drop SAS, SBS and other special forces into unfriendly places. Their low-level flying was hugely impressive and memorable. Perhaps the highlight of the past year was the Biennial Inspection in May, where the contingent was inspected by Wing Commander Luck of RAF Benson and Major Joss Williams formally received control of the CCF from Major David Carson. A new contingent commander

represents a new and exciting chapter in Abingdon's CCF while the stepping-down of one so successful and respected leaves big boots to be filled. The inspecting officer praised the high standards of discipline and turnout while paying a particular compliment to the professionalism of the parade's colour party.

Individual successes were also plentiful this year with no less than four senior cadets gaining access to the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst for officer training: **Ben Kemp, Matt Winters, Sam Walton and Freddie Humfrey**. The CCF remains as strong and enthusiastic as ever with the training becoming ever more challenging, interesting and enjoyable. We welcomed a new officer to the Army Section – **Second Lieutenant Megan-Bowen Jones**, whose considerable experience of adventure training will be an asset to the unit.

This year the RAF section has been as active as ever, with a whole host of events and activities keeping us busy. As well as participating in most of the 'green' activities and exercises with the Army section, including both the weekend exercises, Easter Camp and the ski trip to Wengen in Switzerland before Christmas, the RAF section has had a lot to do.





L to R Sam Walton, Ben Kempe, Matt Winters

Cadets in the RAF Section normally have the opportunity to go flying at RAF Benson twice a term. They continued the process of individually developing flying skills in Grob Tutor 2-seater aircraft, but still found some time for aerobatics; performing some stomach-churning loop-the-loops, zero-gravity maneuvers and stall-turns. Better than Alton Towers for those who like that sort of thing!

Throughout the year, the RAF Section have been on field days to visit operational airbases. On the 12 March they visited RAF Brize Norton. They viewed the cockpit and cargo areas of several large carrier aircraft, and all leapt 50ft off the Parachute Training Section's Resistance Trainer canopy. At the Fire Section they had a chance to control the water-jets and drive the emergency vehicles, and each landed a VC-10 at Hong Kong airport (in the flight simulator, of course!).

Many cadets ventured further afield over the summer for two separate RAF camps hosted by airbases at Aldergrove in Ireland and Cottesmore. Highlights from both camps included visiting Harrier squadrons and an Army Air Corps base, Air Traffic Control, the National Space Centre, flying in Tutors and Pumas and trekking and shooting.

Special thanks are due to those officers who left the section at the end of the year: **Flight Lieutenant David Forster** and **Pilot Officer Keith Butler**. Specific congratulations are due to **Cpl Tom Davey** for his attainment of an RAF scholarship. Overall a very successful year with many unique experiences thoroughly enjoyed by all involved.

Major Joss Williams  
Colour Sergeant Jack Longden 6 PEH  
Flight Sergeant Chris Davis 6 ATH



Major David Carson (left) with Major Joss Williams

### David Carson

On 14 May 2008, on the occasion of the contingent's Biennial Inspection, Major David Carson stood down as Contingent Commander of Abingdon School CCF. Whilst working as Estates Bursar at the School in 1997, David, having previously served with the Royal Wessex Yeomanry – a cavalry reconnaissance unit – in Hong Kong and Gibraltar, joined the CCF and reconstituted the Army Section that had fallen into abeyance

In 2001 he took over as Contingent Commander. After attending his Basic Course in 1997 at Cadet Training Centre, Frimley Park, he was often invited back as a member of the Assistant Directing Staff and was ADC to Admiral Sir Fabian Malbon at the presentation of a new Standard to the CCF in September 2005.

David is a keen military historian and for the 1994 Bicentenary of the Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry, he was asked by the then Honorary Colonel to assist with the Freedom of Devises parade. After this he joined the Regimental Council and became Honorary Curator of the Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry Historic Property Collection.

David Carson has served with great distinction for eleven years. As well as reconstituting an Army Section that had ceased to exist, he built the voluntary contingent from less than thirty to over one hundred. The numbers of cadets joining the armed services has gradually increased under his guidance. He raised the status and quality of the contingent and created strong links with parent and local units to enhance the quality of the training and range of experiences available to cadets. He ran and attended two contingent camps every year and regularly organised training weekends. His manner was always confident, friendly and approachable; when on camp he gave no thought to his personal comfort and worked tirelessly to ensure training was demanding, fun and efficiently managed.

In recognition of his work he was recently awarded the Lord Lieutenant's Certificate for Meritorious Service.

Major Joss Williams

# Home and Abroad

## World Challenge Expedition to Morocco October 2007



In October 2007, thirty-eight pupils left Abingdon School for Morocco and an eight-day trekking trip in the Atlas mountains, with some time spent experiencing the cultural life of Marrakech. The pupils effectively 'owned' the expedition – managing the planning, preparation and fund-raising. A training weekend in September had the students getting used to their gear and gave the three teams the opportunity to bond and to experience the different roles of leader, map-reader, diary keeper, cook etc, that they would experience on the trip. Here are some reports on the experiences of the three different groups.

Sophie Payne

### Team One Report

The main trekking phase for Team One, accompanied by Mrs Payne and World Challenge Expedition leader Andy Jenkins, was in an area around Todra Gorge. It is hard to put into words how amazing the whole experience was. I learnt about a new culture, a new way of life that is so different from what we are exposed to in the UK. I also challenged myself and achieved things that I didn't think were possible. During the trek, we slept

in caves for one night. That is just one example of how different this kind of trip is. The area we trekked through was so isolated and cut off from human activity. This is what made it very special. The scenery was also breathtaking. People ended up taking so many photos to try and capture the beauty. The food we ate was also different from what we may eat at home. I really enjoyed it. We ate tagine, couscous and much more.

Marrakech, where we spent the last day, was so atmospheric. The market is great and there was snake charming, dancing and so much more going on in the main square that I can't even begin to describe. It was hard to take it all in! We all bartered for gifts to take home, which was great fun.

I would like to say that I am not a person who loves camping or is very outdoorsy as such. I took on the challenge because I wanted to test myself; I wanted to try something different. That is exactly what I got. The sense of achievement I now feel is overwhelming. It was tough, both raising the money and the trip itself, but certainly worth it.

Charlie Beirouti, 4 SAP





## Team Two Report

Team Two, accompanied by Miss Henderson and World Challenge Expedition leader Robert Molnar, travelled to the valleys of Jebel Siroua, home to the Berber tribe.

After a long hot drive through the mountains, we spent our first night in a simple but welcoming gîte d'étape, where we were greeted with what would be the first of many pots of sugary mint tea, followed by a traditional Moroccan tagine.

The first day of walking was wet and windy, but after reaching our campsite the weather improved and we had clear skies and hot sun for the rest of the week. We spent one night camping in a traditional Berber shepherd's village in a stunningly beautiful fertile valley, which made a welcome change from the often barren landscapes of the Atlas mountains.

Unfortunately, due to illness in the group, not all the boys were able to make it to the summit of Jebel Siroua but those that did enjoyed it immensely, despite it being a very challenging trek. Overall the team performed extremely well and dealt with the problems they met along the way, including bad weather and illness. Special mention must go to Will Durrands who, thanks to Air Maroc, coped admirably well for the entire trip without his luggage. (He was reunited with his rucksack about a month after our return!)

Patricia Henderson



## Team Three Report

Accompanied by David Haworth and by World Challenge Expedition leader Phillip Longbottom, Team Three set off on a stunning bus journey out of Marrakech and into the splendour of the High Atlas Mountains. The bus took us as far as the village of Imlil. From here we walked for around forty minutes to the Toubkal Guest House next to the village of Aremd. This was to be our base for the next two days.

The next day we went on an acclimatisation trek to a waterfall above Aremd. Having reached our goal we ate our staple food, bread and sardines. Unfortunately the weather closed in later and the summit of the mountain we intended to climb (Jbel Toubkal) was covered in snow.

Day four of our expedition was to be our trek to base camp, a five hour hike which took us right up next to the mountain, at an altitude of 3500m above sea level. The next day would have been our attempt on the summit but conditions were against us and so we had to call-off our climb. However an 'elite' team (this consisted of anyone who wasn't feeling ill) of five of us climbed to 3600m and reached a beautiful mountain pass. Next morning we made the trip back down to the Guest House where we drank more of the delicious mint tea which the people here have provided us with in vast quantities.

After a leisurely start, we set off back for Marrakech the next morning. There we haggled over fake boxer shorts, drank orange juice and relaxed for the afternoon and in the evening strolled into up-market Marrakech where we had a delicious final supper together. Our final morning in Morocco saw us get up extremely early and leave for the airport. An excellent piece of timing saw us catch our Atlas Blue flight to London three minutes before its scheduled departure.

Our warmest thanks must go to the staff from World Challenge and the school for making this incredible trip possible.

David Haworth

## World Challenge Expedition to India



Barafacha-La (4883 m above sea level) on the last day of the trek

After almost two years of planning, preparation and fund-raising, at the start of the summer holidays forty Fifth- and Sixth-year boys, (accompanied by Mr Barker, Mr Brenchley, Mr Cotton, Miss Henderson and three World Challenge leaders) set off for a month-long expedition to India. The itinerary for each of the three teams involved fifteen days of trekking, a period of voluntary work in local primary schools, and an opportunity for sight-seeing in Delhi and Agra.

Despite the inevitable challenges and frustrations presented by such a programme (buses breaking down, pack ponies being lost with provisions on board, as well as crossing and washing in ice-cold mountain rivers, to name but a few!), the expedition went extremely well. Highlights included the magnificent scenery of the Himalayas during the trek, the opportunity to interact with the local community during the project phase, and, of course, visiting the spectacular Taj Mahal.

Thanks must go to our excellent leaders, as well as the boys who must be commended for having managed the expedition for themselves on a daily basis.



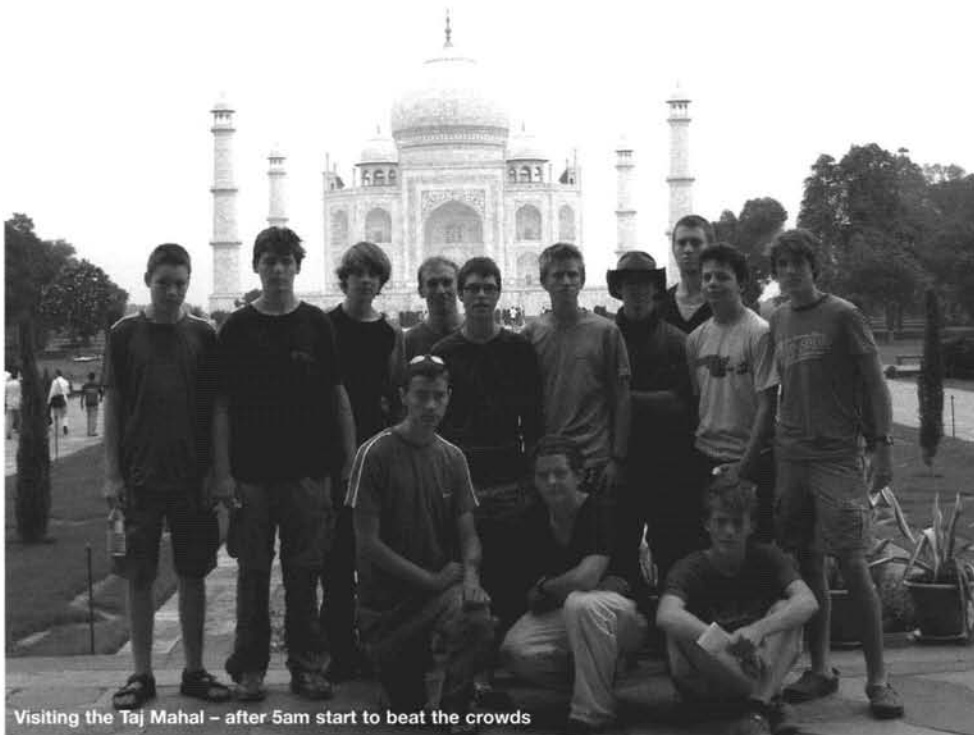
Cooking chapati on the project site, a primary school just outside Manali

### Team Two

The final goodbyes were shared with parents on Monday 8 July before we set off on a culture-shocking, character-building and life-changing journey to India. After a gruelling nine-hour flight, we arrived at New Delhi Airport and divided into our three groups. However, the relative safety of airport arrivals soon became our last memory of relative civilization. As we stepped outside into the sweltering humidity, we attempted to book taxis to the bus station where we were due to catch our coach to Manali. However, this was much more easily said than done, and our inexperienced and comparatively naïve team took an entire hour just to complete this task; this, our first impression of India, showed us the enormity of what we had signed up for. Finally, we were here, the moment that we had been building up for over a period of eighteen months, doing fund-raising, organising events and preparing ourselves with the necessary kit. All of that became a distant thought as we were swept along in the experience.

We did make it to Manali, eventually – after an 18-hour journey! – and our teamwork and organisation greatly improved as all the members of the team took responsibility for each other and every problem that appeared. It was from Manali that we set off for our project phase in a village, Parsha, where we were accepted into the community to paint the school classrooms, as well as tackling a bit of teaching and playing all manner of games with them. Washing in freezing cold streams, enduring nights of monsoon rain and lightning, and finding the toilet system to be rather foreign to us, were all part of this phase of our trip. Whether it was the heat, the hygiene, malarial mosquitoes or having to purify water, there was always so much to be cautious of, although great jokes and laughter made light of every small challenge and allowed us to enjoy it.

This was, however, just the beginning – now came the trek. Fourteen days at high altitude across all types of terrain: sand tracks, steep rocky paths, glaciers, muddy woodland and icy



Visiting the Taj Mahal – after 5am start to beat the crowds

Team One –  
Patricia Henderson  
and John Davis  
Chris Brash, Oli Mumby, Harry  
Porter, Chris Weller Jones,  
Jamie Wilder, Rob Crawford,  
James Hunter, Matt Stafford,  
Rob Walker, Tom Ryan, Jamie  
Laidlaw, George Constable

Team Two –  
Steve Brenchley, Richard Cotton  
and Robert Molnar  
Alex Beech, James Carter,  
Freddie Cleworth, Euan  
Campbell, Matt Copson, Ed  
Howe, Tian Ji, Adrian Lo, Tom  
Lowenthal, George Rossiter,  
Peter Ryan, Alex Ward, John  
Bartlett, Jamie Cook, James  
Humberstone, Max Edwards,  
Stuart Lonergan, Jack Tinker

Team Three –  
Jon Barker and Farid Bouyarden  
Will Shrier, Alex Baboolal,  
Dominic Berry, Oliver Boddie,  
Nick Howe, Ben Warwick, Alex  
Kempell, Tom Davey, Chris  
Dunster, John Davies, Tom  
Buffery, Mark Heffernan

ivers. The weather, too, varied from heavy rain and freezing fog to clear blue skies and scorching heat, only mitigated by the mountain breeze. This was our real challenge, and was where the team bonded into a unified group of friends, and faced each obstacle, physical or mental, together. We soon struck up a fond relationship with our guides and cooks, who had brought 31 ponies to carry all our food and supplies. Naturally, as the trek progressed, we began to miss the luxuries of western life and things that we usually take for granted: clean water, bathrooms and roast dinners! Physically, the walk was demanding, especially at five thousand metres where the air is much thinner. Similarly, emotions affected us all at some time or another, as numerous river crossings or illness and fatigue took their toll. Indeed, a handful of our team suffered badly from altitude sickness and twice had to leave the main group and return to Manali. However, the stunning views that surrounded us made it all worthwhile, although when finally we reached the end of our trek, the feelings were mixed – exhaustion, happiness and satisfaction all merged into one.

The remaining four days were set aside for some well-deserved rest and relaxation. Nevertheless, negotiating India's hotels and public transport systems was far from relaxing! So once again, leadership, delegation, decision-making and organisation came to the fore. By now our group was confident in its ability, having negotiated our way through a country so different from our own. The culture, if it had not already stunned us enough, shocked us all the more as we visited the Taj Mahal and escaped some close shaves on the vicious roads where two lanes became about fifteen! And all the while, hordes of local salesmen approached us with the classic pitch: "My friend, my friend, I give good price!"

It was a highly successful and rewarding trip, and I encourage anyone who is considering World Challenge to get involved.

Euan Campbell 5 VMW



## Classics trip to Sicily



Fergus McIntosh striking a pose among the seaside temples of Selinunte

During the Michaelmas half term a group of Middle and Upper-School boys travelled with the classics department to Sicily for eight days to view the many sites on the island and in particular the numerous famous temples there. Little did most of the boys know quite how many temples there would be...

After arriving in Sicily we soon set out from Palermo to visit the temple and theatre at Segesta. The temple itself is still almost all standing and remains impressive to look at (when many others only have a few columns still upright, never mind the entablature and pediments with their friezes!). While it looks in good condition now, it was never actually completed by its original builders since the roof was not added, nor were the columns fluted. After this there was a memorable journey up a hill to the theatre. Most of the group followed **Dr Burnand's** lead by taking a road which wound up around the large hill, but unfortunately for **Mr Jenkins** the group of boys he was following decided to begin an expedition upwards through the close-packed brambles and boulders rather than taking the easier route – needless to say he forgave **Alex Clinkard** afterwards in good spirit! Eventually we reached the theatre and we were rewarded with its stunning views and an entertaining double-act by the Edwards twins on the Greek theatre.

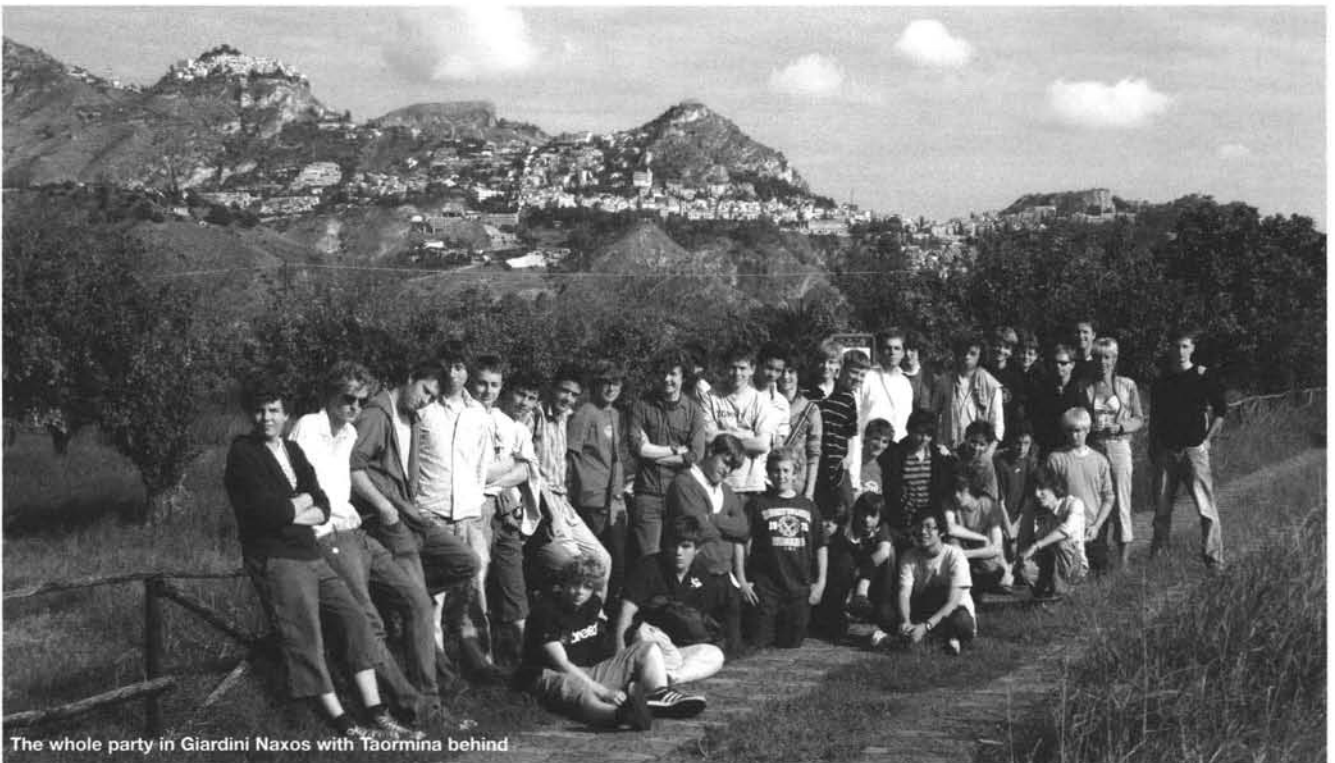
The next day we visited Selinunte where among seeing the temples and acropolis of the ancient city we also learnt about the origins of the word 'celery' as the vegetable happened to grow nearby in ancient times. The towns of Segesta and Selinunte not only competed in temple-building but also were often at war with each other owing to their close proximity, although neither side ever fully defeated the other. Having travelled to nearby Agrigento we were treated to a plethora of temples within

'The Valley of the Temples': Hera's, Concordia's, Herakles', Olympian Zeus' and the Sanctuary of Chthonic Deities (sacred to Persephone and Demeter) among other lesser ones. Some of them were no more than ruins, yet some still stood and were stunning – the temple of Concordia is arguably the best preserved temple from the Greek world (the other contender is the Hephaisteion in Athens).

The fourth day saw our first contact and conflict with French and American tourists in the villa at Piazza Armerina. It was once thought to have housed a Roman Emperor, and was certainly lavish enough to have done so. There were some amazingly well-preserved and enormous mosaics that we were able to view – once the perpetually slow train of French and American pensioners stumbled a bit further along the viewing-platform. The house was destroyed by the Norman ruler of Sicily, King William the Bad in around 1160 but was protected from looters



Benedict Edwards in the theatre at Seg



The whole party in Giardini Naxos with Taormina behind

by a landslide. A visit to Morgantina offered us a view of a typical Greek colony in Sicily.

The 'day off' from classical remains was unfortunately marred by bad weather. Originally it was planned that we would walk along the beautiful Alcantara Gorge, though it turned out that the river was in flood. We then attempted to climb part of Mt Etna, but in this case our route was blocked by too much snow to get close to the summit: we had to accept defeat.

The next day we visited the city of Syracuse, whose citizens had driven off the Athenians and so helped contribute to their defeat in the Peloponnesian War. The ruins remaining of the city were significant: parts of the strong walls that surrounded the fortress on Epipolae still remain (which Archimedes is believed to have strengthened). In the main city we also saw the surviving amphitheatre and excellently preserved stone theatre, as well as the stone quarries where the Athenian prisoners of war had been held in dreadful conditions.



The theatre in Taormina

On the last two days we saw Giardini Naxos (Sicily's oldest Greek city) and Taormina which contains a theatre with a stunning view of the sea and Mt Etna directly behind the stage in the direction the crowds would have looked. Lastly we visited the Norman Cathedral in Monreale which was built on the orders of King William the Bad's son – ironically called King William II 'the Good'. The main attraction was the detail and scale of the mosaics on the walls inside the Cathedral depicting religious scenes and figures from the Bible (the central mosaic of a majestic Christ Pantocrator reached out to embrace the congregation with his right hand alone over 6 foot in height!). Mr Boyd, who was finally in his element, shared his knowledge by giving a speech on the Byzantine Cathedral itself as well as offering to explain each mosaic.

The island of Sicily provided many more well-preserved classical sites than some people expected, and certainly far more temples! Overall it was a greatly enjoyable trip, a welcome break from school as well as offering insights into the history of an island which bridged the Greek and Roman worlds, and was the centre of much ancient conflict.

Jonathan Webb



Monreale

### Rugby Club Tour to Canada



At Niagara Falls

After an eventful plane journey we arrived in Toronto and checked into the Bond Place Hotel. After several health and safety checks, in which we were advised about the level of water consumption and how it can be fatal at times, we settled into our accommodation and had a wander around Toronto. A special mention here must go to **Mr Brennan** for organising such a fantastic tour in which we could experience the sights of Canada and also enjoy our rugby. We enjoyed a team dinner that night before our first training session the next day.

Our first session went well, though **Ross Muir**, a senior member of the squad, suffered an injury, which put him out for the whole tour. **Ross** deserves credit here for putting on a brave face: he was a great asset to the team throughout the tour and was also the main orchestrator of the Abingdon School chants, when situations were dull. We had the afternoon off to relax before our

match the next day. The following morning we had an open-top bus tour of Toronto and took the ferry across to the island where **Jonathan Bucke** was keen to experience some culture – the beaches – which **Nathaniel Watkins** and **Hugo Morrison** had visited the previous day.

Match 1 v Ontario Provincial Team (W 27-0) Toronto

Our first match was against Ontario RFU, in which we went into the break with a 5-0 lead. **Andy Cook**, **Jonny Bucke** and **Richard Milford** had great games here, with the forwards as a unit performing superbly. **Josh Smith** came on in the second half and dictated the game at fly-half. **Jacob Swain**, **Sherif Sam-Sadeen** and **Paz** also contributed with some great line breaks. The front row of **Russell Gordon-Jones**, **Andy Partridge** and **Hugo Morrison** stepped up against large

Algonquin National Park



Roger's Centre and CN Tower, Toronto





opposition. **Richard Parkin-Mason** also was a very solid no.8 in this match. We won the game against a strong Ontario team and we then enjoyed a meal after the game with our hosts, where we found out that the team consisted of many international Canadian players, which made the victory even sweeter. The team had acquitted themselves extremely well against much bigger opposition. A superior skills set ensured victory in a very hard-fought encounter. The game was played at Fletcher's Field, which had been host to the Churchill Cup just weeks previously.

The next day we had a training session and then a visit to the CN Tower, in which **Mr Middleton**, **Bobby** and **Sherif** overcame their fear of heights to experience the wonderful views of Toronto. We were going to watch a baseball game in the evening and the team had a cultural meal at *Hooters*.

### Match 2 v Markham Rugby Club (W 32-0) Toronto

Our next match saw **Joe McDonagh**, **Liam Smith** and **Freddy Humfrey** have great games on their 1st XV debut. **Nathaniel Watkins** and **Bobby Aigbogun** had good games in the backs. **Andrew Partridge** led the team very well in this match. The half-back pairing of **Dale Barker** and **Josh Smith** had a good game together and provided the link between the forwards and backs. When **Matthew Pursell** came on at centre and **Paz** at scrum-half, they too made a good contribution to the game. **Richard Parkin-Mason** again had a great game. This was an incredibly difficult encounter in which the team did well to try and play flowing rugby. The opposition did well to slow the ball at the break down, which made it difficult for us to employ the pace and handling skills that we wanted to by using the width of the field. In this game we lost **Cody** to injury and again, like **Ross**, he was a great asset to the team for the rest of the tour, even if he was on the receiving end of much banter.

The next day was spent at Canada's wonderland theme park and this was one of the most enjoyable days of the tour. The Behemoth rollercoaster was a big hit as it was the biggest rollercoaster in Canada, and even **Mr Middleton** was man enough to go on it. This was followed by dinner at the *Hard Rock Café*. At this point in the tour we had to say goodbye to **Mr Brennan**, who had put a lot of effort into the tour, since he was leaving to join Wellington in South Africa. **Mr Brennan** had put us in a great position for **Mr Cobbe** to take over. The majority of the next day was spent travelling to our next destination – Ottawa. We had training that evening in which we experienced some of **Mr Cobbe's** ideas for the team. The next day was spent white-water rafting down grade 4 rapids. This was a great team-building experience, in which the banter throughout the squad was free-flowing, along with the water.

### Match 3 v Barrhaven Scottish RFC (W 63-0) Ottawa

Our third match was a really good performance from the team. We had a chance to put into practice some of the ideas that **Mr Cobbe** had introduced to us in his first session. **Jacob Swain**, **James Plumb** and **Bobby Aigbogun** had superb games in the backs, and in the forwards **Barry Tse** enjoyed a good return to the side. **Andy Cook** put in some big tackles with **Tom Bradfield** and the team took pride in not conceding a single point in this match. This was a game that demonstrated our ability to play as a team: the superb offloading skills and quick rucking gave the backs the opportunity to run the ball effectively, scoring some tremendous team tries.

We then departed for Algonquin Eco-Lodge for three days. Some of the boys were a bit hesitant about this trip, **Matt Pursell** and **Jonny Bucke** in particular, but after experiencing the lake and the canoes we thoroughly enjoyed the eco-lodge. After the eco-lodge we transferred to Niagara for our final fixture. Unfortunately our fixture was called off because of a fierce thunderstorm, but we enjoyed the whirlpool jet ride, and the *Maid of the Mist* Niagara Falls boat ride.

Awards on the tour were given to **Andy Partridge** and **Bobby** for being joint top try-scorers, with 4 each. Thanks must go to all of the staff who came on the rugby tour, not only to **Mr Brennan** for organising the tour, but also to **Mr Hall**, who was a great tour manager, **Mr Middleton**, with whom we enjoyed fantastic banter, and **Mr Cobbe**, for being our coach and helping us improve our rugby.

**Paz Rabindran** 6 CSR and **Andrew Partridge** 6 TCG



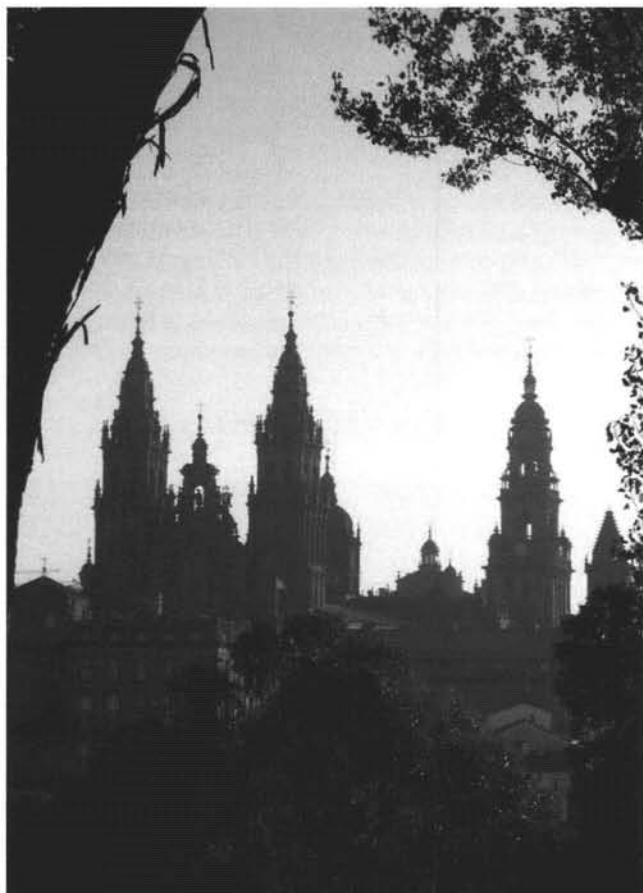
### Spanish Exchange



Late into the first term of the 2007 academic year, a group of thirty students from Abingdon and the School of St Helen and St Katharine travelled to Santiago de Compostela for the second year of the exchange with the Colegio Manuel Peleteiro. We were fortunate enough to have both Mr Loughe and Mr Barker joining us on our visit to northwest Spain. On the first day, having left School at an unearthly hour, we arrived at Heathrow for our short flight to La Coruña near Santiago. The trip was uneventful but everyone was fairly nervous, we had our first glimpse of the beautiful, rugged Galician countryside that surrounds Santiago.

On arriving at the school, we were introduced to our exchange partners. It just so happened that my partner's mother could speak fairly good English; this was a huge help over the first few hours as I settled in. The next week and a half went like a blur for me and the rest of the group. We did many things, both cultural and fun. The Spaniards were very keen on their football and so there was a hard fought football match every evening after school. This was great fun and it allowed everyone to relax in the stunning setting of Santiago, one of the most beautiful cities I have ever been to. It also has one of the most influential Catholic churches in the whole of Europe, Camino de Santiago has been the destination of millions of pilgrims for many centuries. This mix of culture lead to one of the best experiences of my life: the last Sunday of the trip also happened to be the final of the Rugby World Cup 2007. As a result we spent most of the week pestering our partners to find a café that was broadcasting the match. The trusty local café was found, and most of us trooped down there on the Sunday evening to watch the match. Irrelevant that we lost a game we should have won, we had a fantastic time and had a real laugh with the locals. If nothing else can persuade any GCSE students to take part in an exchange, the fact that it helped me get an A\* should be a good enough reason, as well as going on an awesome trip that both improves your Spanish and gives you friends for life in one of the most beautiful cities in Spain.

Freddie Humfrey 5 JAW





## French Exchange



At the start of the Easter holidays last year, a group of thirty-five boys in the Fourth and Fifth Year flew out to France on the second leg of the exchange visit, the French group from the *Lycée La Nativité* in Aix-en-Provence having visited a few weeks earlier. We arrived at the airport in Marseilles and waited nervously to be collected by our host families, not knowing quite what to expect from a weekend *en famille* with our exchange partners.

On Monday we all met up again at school and then visited many sites together during the week. This included a trip to Arles, the port of Marseilles, Avignon and, of course, a tour of Aix-en-Provence, to name but a few. These gave us a great insight into Provencale life and we were given free time to explore the sites by ourselves and do some souvenir shopping. Our exchange partners have been learning English for years so their command of English was often vastly better than our French, so it was difficult not to resort to talking in English at times. At home with the parents, however, we spoke French which hugely improved my command of the language – a lot more so than simply studying French in a classroom at school. The French families were very welcoming and hospitable and activities with them for me included go-karting, a trip to Cassis, which is right on the Mediterranean, and a trip to the backstreets of Aix where the tourists don't normally go.

Overall we had a very enjoyable and successful trip with a great deal of French being learnt along the way, and hopefully friendships with exchange partners that will last a long time. Many of us have already been back to visit again! Many thanks must go to Mrs Slatford for organising the trip and to Miss Henderson, Mrs Payne, Mr Pope and Mr Butler for accompanying us.

Steve Poland 5 SRB

## History Department's Visit to Paris 13 – 15 April 2008

The History Department departed from the new Eurostar terminal at St Pancras without incident (apart from Mr McGill spilling his coffee in an overexcited state of anticipation). We arrived in Paris and headed to the hotel where we left our bags. We then went for a river cruise and visited the Eiffel Tower. Tom Devlin misunderstood the common practise of having to pay for goods received on the Continent, and helped himself to an ice-cream from a stall. Interpol are still pursuing the case. That night, the group returned to the hotel and had a brief chance to sample some of the local nightlife. After a sober and responsible tour of some local tourist sights, the group returned to the hotel to enjoy a cup of cocoa and a quick read through Mr McGill's lovingly prepared guide to the attractions they would see the next day.

After an early start, the group headed to the *Louvre* to see the Mona Lisa and the paintings of David. After this it was a long haul to up to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and Arc de

Triomphe via key revolutionary landmarks and a visit to the tomb of Napoleon at Les Invalides. The day ended with the group enjoying a fine three-course meal at one of the top restaurants in Montmartre. Mark Heffernan and Nick Howe were confined to barracks that night, but the rest of the group managed to squeeze in a quick visit to a couple of local brasseries and then back to the hotel again.

The final day in Paris saw the group embark on a whirlwind tour of the Conciergerie and the Carnavalet museums, where the full drama and horror of the Terror was bought home to the students. There was barely time for a quick crêpe, before the group headed back to the Eurostar terminal at Gare du Nord. A bomb scare failed to dampen spirits and the group arrived slightly late back in London, having enjoyed an insightful tour of Paris.

David McGill



On 10 February, a group of boys from Abingdon School, accompanied by girls from the school of St Helen and St Katharine, set off for Bielefeld, in Germany. Our exchange school, the Bielefeld Ratsgymnasium, was celebrating 450 years of existence, so the visit had extra meaning.

After getting over the shock of a 6 am wake-up (for some it was even earlier) and the positively arctic weather, we were given a tour of the city on the first day. Excursions included trips to the cities of Munster and Cologne, and other highlights were a visit to a school museum, after which our 'Italian Job' – style coach broke down, conveniently giving us the opportunity to have a traditionally German lunch, consisting of sausages coated in numerous sauces, and chips. The coach miraculously reappeared when we had finished eating, saving us the walk to the ice-rink.

We experienced a German breakfast whilst discussing



stereotypes and unfortunately lost the traditional England-Germany football game. In our defence, it did go to penalties, so we did put up a fight!

The exchange was a success, with many sad to be leaving, but looking forward to drinking normal water (for some reason, we found Germans had a bit of an obsession with sparkling water!) and some rest to recover from the long days.

Ben Haveron 4 SAP

### Lower School Languages Trip to the Rhineland

Two Second-year boys give their impressions of this year's trip:

We left for Germany on Thursday evening, taking the coach to Dover. After the ferry to Calais we reached the Koln-Riehl Youth Hostel and had breakfast. We first went to Koln cathedral, which has the third-highest spire in the world – it was breathtaking. Next we went to the Imhoff-Stollwerk Chocolate Museum, which explained the history of chocolate, showing the machines that make the chocolate and with a tropical greenhouse to replicate the conditions in which the coco beans are grown. Following a visit to Beethoven's house, we went on a cruise down the famous river Rhine. The next day we went to a vineyard where we learnt about making wine. The Rudesheim torture museum showed millions of painful ways of torture a person. We finally went on a chairlift on the edge of the Rhine with great views. I really enjoyed the trip and will definitely sign up for the one next year.

Gabriel Burrow 1S

On the first day we visited Cologne cathedral – it was massive! Altogether we climbed 772 steps right to the top, from where we could see the whole city and it was amazing. The next day we visited the Lindt chocolate museum, where we had our own private tour of how the chocolate is made and what from. The best part was the gift shop – I bought five bars of chocolate. On the last day, we visited a vineyard near Koblenz (which comes from the Latin word 'confluentes'). We tried lots of grape juice. We all had a great time in the Rhineland and went home with happy faces.

Ben Yaxley 1S



## Sixth Form Study Trip to Paris

16-20 February 2008

In the Lent half term sixteen Upper School boys accompanied by Mr Loughe and Mrs Slatford went to Paris to visit some cultural sites and practise our French before we entered the busy exam season. We travelled to France by Eurostar from the then newly opened St Pancras International Terminal and emerged into Paris via the somewhat rough area surrounding the Gare du Nord and promptly walked to the Hotel Liege Strasbourg in the tenth arrondissement, with little idea of exactly where we were. The hotel was close to Gare de l'Est in an area infamous for its Afro-Caribbean-style barbers and the best African cuisine to be found in Paris. By day we visited a number of the traditional Parisian tourist attractions, including Sacré Coeur, the Arc de Triomphe and the Eiffel Tower, as well as some more obscure museums, including the Musée du Vin and a Cité Nationale de l'Histoire d'Immigration. We also took a stroll through Père Lachaise cemetery (resting place of many a French icon – Edith Piaf, Molière, Méliès and Chopin to name but a few...), took in the sights and sounds of the Cinémathèque Française and enjoyed a beautiful (if not too chilly) tour of Paris by night on one of the Bateaux Mouches. In the evenings we made a habit of sampling the finest food and wine that Paris had to offer which, although heavily denting our wallets, was highly enjoyable and an ideal opportunity to try something new or something one normally enjoys seeping with blood. Overall the trip was a great chance to practise our oral skills and see first hand some of the exhibits and other cultural highlights that we could go on to write or talk about in our exams. Thanks must go to Mr Loughe and Mrs Slatford for an excellent itinerary and frequent comic relief.

James Rhodes VI ESD



## Economics and Business Studies Visits



During the academic year 2007/08, the Economics and Business Studies Department took almost 50 pupils on trips to the BMW Mini plant in Cowley and the Coca-Cola factory in Edmonton, London. Visits of this kind allow students to see some of the concepts that they explore in the classroom in a real life context.

Since the 1970s, the workforce at Cowley has fallen from 24,000 to its present 4,000 workers. It was fascinating for pupils to see a capital-intensive plant where hi-tech robots had played a major role in raising productivity dramatically. However, the importance of a well managed and motivated workforce was also more than apparent. The effective use of teams and job rotation, as well as a constant focus on quality, gave the impression of a company that was highly successful and effective in a highly competitive global market.

The emphasis of the visit to Coca Cola was on the marketing of their product portfolio, which includes not only the famous Coca Cola, but also a variety of other soft drinks as well as bottled water and sports drinks. A short presentation about the history of Coca Cola was complemented by a marketing task for pupils: they were required to create a marketing campaign for one of Coca Cola's drinks and to ensure that it was aimed at a specific target audience. The tour of the bottling plant also gave pupils an insight into just-in-time production techniques as well as inventory control.

In the forthcoming year we will be taking trips to Lloyd's of London, the London Metal Exchange and the Bank of England, as well as a one-week trip for Economics and Business Studies students to New York.

Simon Grills

# ART AND DESIGN

The following pages show a selection of the art and design shown in the summer exhibitions of 2008. Further work can be seen at [www.abingdon.org.uk/go/gallery](http://www.abingdon.org.uk/go/gallery). All sizes are approximate.

## A2

A	Music	Josh Ogle	Acrylic on Canvas	60" x 48"
B	Life drawing	Youngsang Lee	Charcoal	A1
C	Shoulder	Edward Barrett	Plaster & card	A1
D	Still-life	Gus Raftery	Oil on canvas	60" x 48"
E	Four Phenomena	Matthew Halls	Mixed-media on canvas	each 24" x 24"
F	Flowers beside window	Youngsang Lee	Oil on canvas	A1
G	Abstract II	Gus Raftery	Acrylic on canvas	72" x 50"
H	Torso	Matthew Halls	Mixed-media	36" high
I	Figure	Edward Barrett	Collograph print	A3
J	Twist and Turn	Matthew Halls	Sculpture maquettes	each about 6"
K	Heads and hands	Josh Ogle	Mixed-media	A1



A



B



C



D



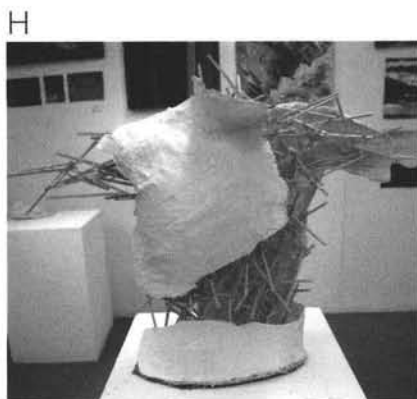
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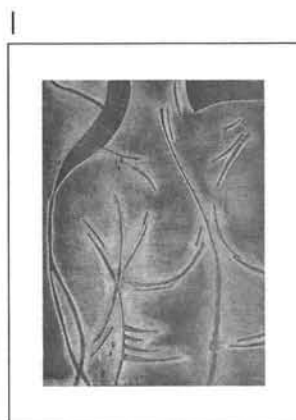
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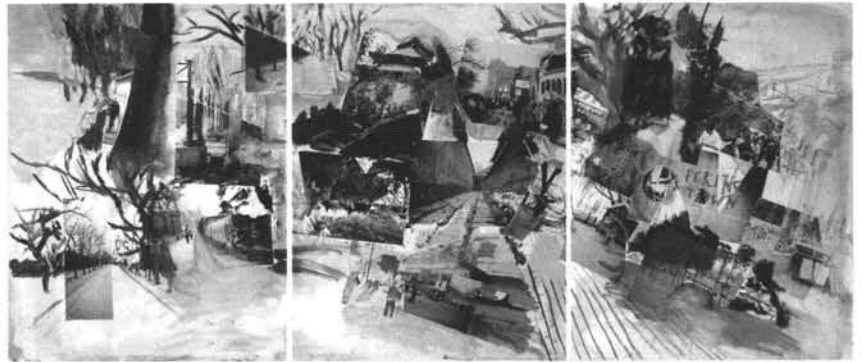
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K



A



B



C



D



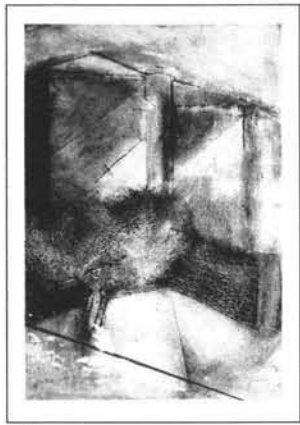
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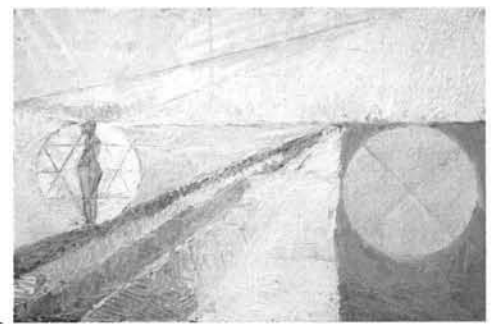
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J



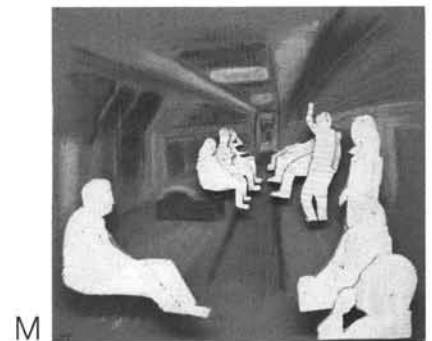
K



L

**AS**

A	Table Talk	Russell Gordon-Jones	Oil on canvas	A1
B	Chinese visit	Peter Wood	Mixed-media triptych	108"x 48"
C	Life drawing	Ted Stansfield	Charcoal	A1
D	Life drawing	Peter Wood	Charcoal	A1
E	Life drawing	Ben Vaux	Charcoal	A1
F	Rugby players	Russell Gordon-Jones	Chalk pastel	A3
G	Interior	George Bone	Mono-print	A4
H	Arts Centre Buildings	Jamie Wilder	Intaglio print	A4
I	Garden Wall	Charlie Barber	Mixed-media drawing	A1
J	View near Arts Centre	Yannick Hoegerle	Collage	A1
K	City of London	Chris Weller Jones	Oil on Board	48" x 20"
L	Figure in Landscape	Ted Stansfield	Oil on board	30" x 20"
M	Tube Journey	Jack Trotman	Card relief	A2

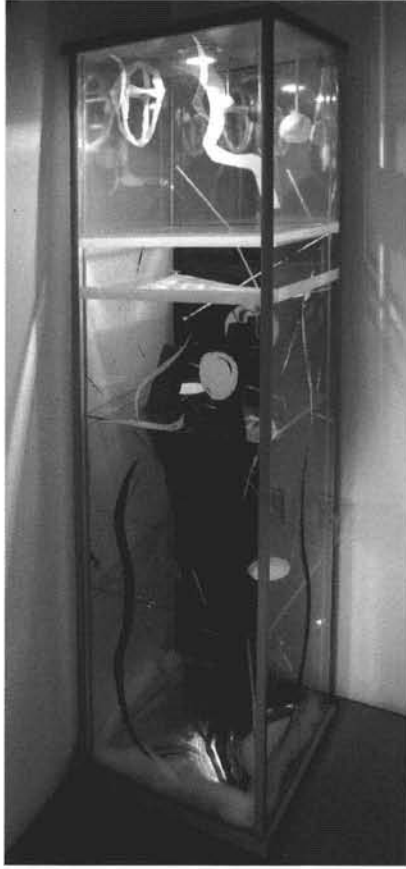


M

# AS

N	Shadow Figure	George Bone	Mixed-media light box	60" high
O	Encounter	Jamie Wilder	Oil on board	40" x 24"
P	Grasp	John Davies	Painting on board	40" x 30"
Q	Two Five Nine	Charlie Barber	Oil and collage on board	30" x 22"
R	Still-life	Ben Vaux	Oil on board	40" x 30"
S	Shell Form	John Davies	Smoke-fired ceramic	15" high
T	Dynamic Architecture	Jack Trotman	Painted Board	36" high
U	Upholstered	Oliver Mumby	Mixed-media	30" high
V	Landscape Studies	Chris Weller Jones	Various on paper	A3 - A1
W	Architecture unit display	Oliver Mumby	Various	A3 - A1
X	Curved form	Yannick Hoegerle	Mod-roc and card	40" x 24" x 36"

# N



O



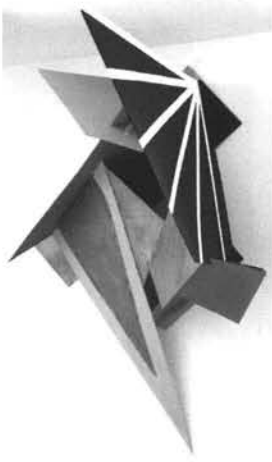
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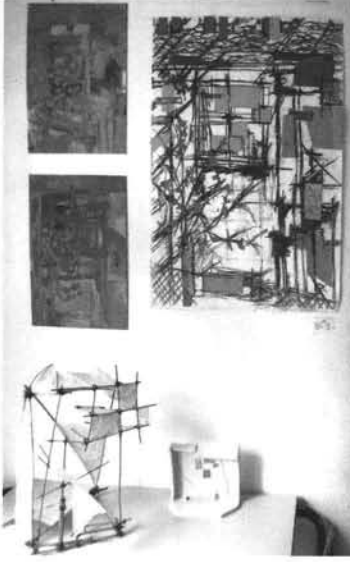


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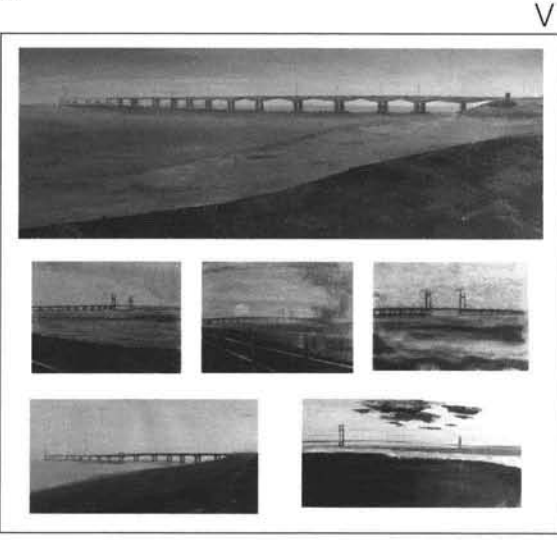
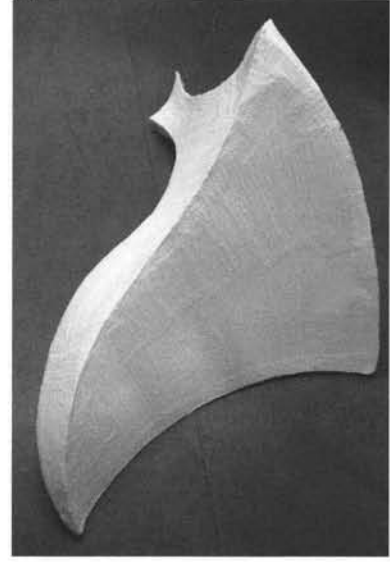


R

W



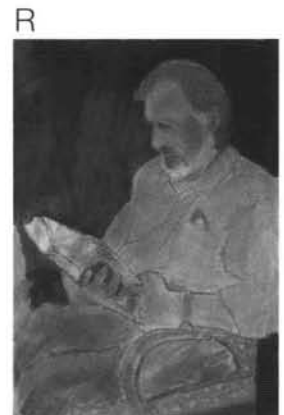
X

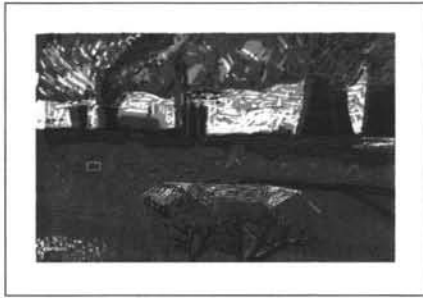


V

# GCSE ART

A	Winter mountains	Daniel Butterworth	Linocut print	A3
B	River Bank	Jack Metcalfe	Linocut print	A3
C	Still Life	James Edwards	Mono-print	A4
D	Autumn road	Benedict Edwards	Woodcut print	A4
E	Garden	Bobby Aigbogun	Linocut print	A3
F	Skiing Landscape	Edward Howe	Linocut print	A4
G	Head	Tom Lowenthal	Junk Sculpture	30" high
H	Head	Charlie Robertson	Junk Sculpture	36" high
I	Seated Figure	Freddie Cleworth	Plaster	36" high
J	Seated figure	Freddie Barber	Plaster an papier mâché	36" high
K	Jazz group	Jack Tinker	Linocut print	A4
L	Study for landscape	Aidan Watts	Charcoal	A1
M	River Scene	Jack Metcalfe	Acrylic on paper	A3
N	Self-portrait	Henry Beggin	Charcoal	A1
O	Portrait	Hugo Morrison	Mixed-media drawing	A1
P	Dr Z	Matthew Copson	Chalk	A1
Q	Self-portrait	Alistair Nicoll	Mono-print	A4
R	Dr Z	Bobby Aigbogun	Chalk	A1





S



T



U



W



X



Y



Z



AA



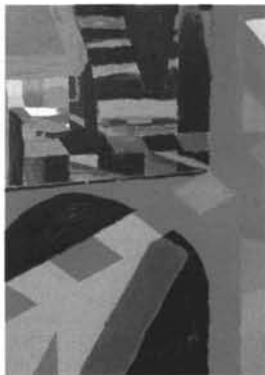
AB



AC



AD



AE



AF



AG



AH



AI

## GCSE ART

S	Industrial Landscape	Patrick Reece	Linocut print	A4
T	Garden	Veeral Manek	Linocut print and wash	A4
U	Townscape	Christopher Edwards	Acrylic on board	A1
W	Landscape	Alistair Nicoll	Acrylic on board	A1
X	Abstraction	Charlie Robertson	Acrylic on board	A1
Y	Garden Landscape	James Carter	Mixed-media drawing	A1
Z	Garden View	James Edwards	Acrylic on board	A1
AA	Jazz Group Triptych	Jack Tinker	Lazertran on canvas	each A4
AB	Garden Well	Freddie Barber	Acrylic on board	A1
AC	Abstracted Landscape	Christopher Edwards	Acrylic on board	33" x 14"
AD	Fauve Landscape	James Humberstone	Acrylic on paper	A2
AE	Abstraction	Daniel Butterworth	Acrylic on board	A2
AF	Runner	Benedict Edwards	Acrylic on board	A1
AG	Garden	James Carter	Charcoal	A1
AH	Fauve Tree	James Humberstone	Acrylic on board	A1
AI	Side of building	Edward Howe	Acrylic on board	A2
AJ	Inside Outside	Freddie Cleworth	Acrylic on board	A1
AK	Still-life	Hugo Morrison	Acrylic on board	A1







AL



AM



AN



AO



AP



AQ

## GCSE ART

AL Autumn Path	Henry Beggin	Acrylic on board	A1
AM Landscape	Aidan Watts	Acrylic on board	A1
AN No Littering	Tom Bateman	Mixed-media on board	A1
AO Through the window	Matthew Hinkins	Acrylic on board	A1
AP Tree landscape	Tom Lowenthal	Acrylic on board	A1
AQ Green Shoots	Patrick Reece	Acrylic on canvas	A2
AR Snap!	Toby Connick	Charcoal	A1
AS Seated Figure	Matthew Hinkins	Card sculpture	36" high
AT Horizon photos	Tom Bateman	Photographic prints	each 12" x 5"
AU Self-portrait	Toby Connick	Charcoal	A1
AV Dr Z	Veeral Manek	Charcoal	A2
AW Japanese cityscape	Matthew Copson	Painted card relief	A1



AR

AS



AT



AU



AV



AW



# GCSE GRAPHIC DESIGN

- |   |                         |                   |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------|
| A | One Snowy Night         | Stuart Lonergan   |
| B | Down with Red tape      | Stuart Lonergan   |
| C | Flute Player            | Anthony Grieveson |
| D | A day in the life       | Luke Abbott       |
| E | Mini Toys               | Alex Beech        |
| F | Blocked                 | Joel Collins      |
| G | Reading Festival poster | Alex Beech        |
| H | Alien vs Predator       | Richard Oastler   |
| I | Street Scene x 3        | Jack Rogers       |
| J | Eljo Characters         | Joel Collins      |
| K | Space Warriors          | Tian Ji           |
| L | Shadow Landscape        | Charles Brampton  |
| M | Illustration            | Ben Juffkins      |
| N | Transformers            | Luke Abbott       |



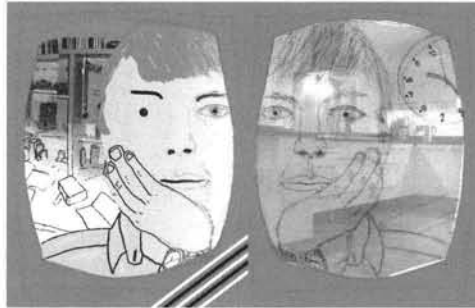
A



B



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M



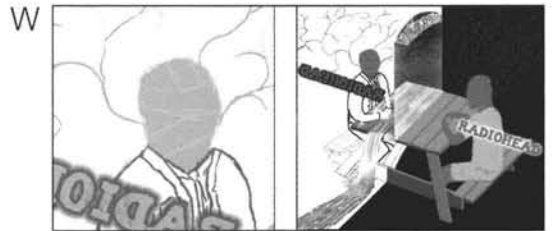
N



P



- O Tourist CD Charlie Floyd
- P Techno Henry Dunbar
- Q Amnesiac Cd Charlie Floyd
- R One-by-one Tim Richards
- S Jazz Guitar Poster Jack Rogers
- T Borsoletta Daniel O'Neill
- U Wrapped illustration Ben Juffkins
- V Cities Rise Anthony Grieseson
- W Radiohead Ben Juffkins
- X War with the Mystics Tian Ji
- Y Illustration Daniel O'Neill
- Z Beegu Charles Brampton
- AA Courage Andrew Nagi
- AB Draw the Line Henry Dunbar
- AC Present Andrew Nagi



U



# Drama

## Sgt Pepper's Children



The eve of battle: Jack (Richard Moore) briefs his men (Nick Williams, Jonty Cook, Charlie Beirouti, Joe Read)

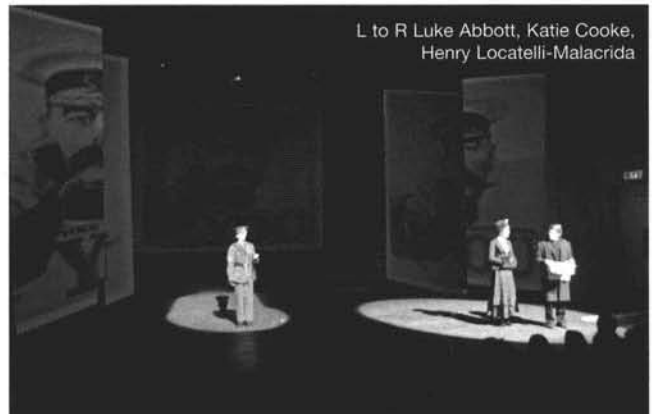
*Amey Theatre, February 13, 14, 15, 2008*

*A new play devised by Luke Abbott, Charlie Beirouti, Jonty Cook, Katie Cooke, Oliver Cook, Matthew Copson, Paddy Gervers, Dan Harris, Ruth Jackson, Sophie King, Anna Last, Henry Locatelli-Malacrida, Marina Michelson, Celeste Moberly, Richard Moore, Alexander Mugnaioni OA, Emma Nairne, Olivia Powell, Alison Quick, Meadhbh Raftery, Joe Read, Aidan Thorne, Finlay Taylor, Jeremy Taylor, Jack Trodd, Nick Williams*  
*With additional contributions from Oliver Boddie, Tessa Brummitt, Beth Carter, Rex Carter, Kate Harrison, Mark Heffernan, Lizzie Napper, Lindsey Russell, Josh Turrill*

In 1930, Noel Coward was looking for the subject of his next play when he chanced upon some old volumes of the *Illustrated London News* in Foyles Bookshop. There he saw a picture of a battleship departing for the Boer War: "At once I knew this was what I wanted...a pageant of the Second Empire". The play he wrote, *Cavalcade*, told the story of one London family between 1899 and 1929, and explored the effects on that family of events such as the relief of Mafeking, the sinking of the *Titanic* and the coming of the Jazz Age. The play cost an almost unprecedented thirty thousand pre-war pounds to stage, and kept a cast and backstage crew of three hundred people employed at Drury Lane for more than a year.



Jack Pepper (Richard Moore) prize-giving 1914



L to R Luke Abbott, Katie Cooke, Henry Locatelli-Malacrida



Curtain call - the cast of *Sergeant Pepper's Children* acknowledge the applause

Ever given to flights of fancy, I wondered at one stage over the summer holiday whether it would be possible to stage a revival of Coward's epic play as the next senior production at Abingdon. The idea of a play that covered a period of British history seemed appealing, particularly in the wake of Abingdon's 750th anniversary celebrations, during which all members of the School community had been encouraged to contemplate our past. So I read *Cavalcade*, but quickly took fright. Not only were its practical demands prodigious, but its overtly patriotic style and tone seemed at odds with our own more suspicious age. I wondered about trying to adapt it, but decided it would probably be easier to start from scratch. The idea of trying to devise our own piece took a dangerous hold.

As I continued the search, I read John Simpson's wonderful volume of memoirs *Days from a Different World*, in which the author recalls his early years growing up in Britain in the immediate aftermath of the Second World War. Blessed with remarkable powers of recall, Simpson paints a vivid portrait of the hardships and austerity of post-war Britain, a time in

which everyone's life was touched in some way by war. In one memorable section, Simpson describes a frightening encounter with his Uncle Harold, a veteran of the First World War, who had arrived on the doorstep of his sister's house during the appalling winter of 1947 to beg for money, food and shelter.

"For God's sake let me in. It's Harold. I'm freezing cold out here, you know, and I've nowhere else to go and no money. Let me in. You can't just leave me outside like this."

Alcoholic and destitute after failing to recover from his wartime injuries, Harold Simpson ended life as one of the down-and-outs on Waterloo Station in the 1960s. This was the same station from which he had embarked on the boat train for France as a Lieutenant in the East Surrey Regiment fifty years before. Then, he had been a very different character, with dreams of a place at Cambridge and a career in politics. The image of him lying on his bench at Waterloo surrounded by the trappings of the flower power generation was too hard to resist, and became the starting point for the devising process.



L to R Henry Locatelli-Malacrida, Anna Last, Richard Moore, Katie Cooke, Marina Michelson



Olivia Powell, Dan Harris, Ruth Jackson, Sophie King, Charlie Beirouti

Tim (Matthew Copson) meets Jack (Richard Moore)-  
the grandfather he didn't know he had



That process began in September 2007, and developed over the Michaelmas term with great commitment from the core of two dozen devisers who were given ideas for scenes and characters, and then improvised a storyline from those. Their energy and inventiveness were remarkable, not least because they were participating in something with no guarantees about the role they would play in the final production. Also vital to the process were co-directors Alison Quick and Alexander Mugnaioni, and costume consultant Charmian Hart, without whose tremendous flair, creativity and support the play would never have been finished. Chris Biggs and the immensely hard-working technical crew provided the final part of the jigsaw by making a stage environment in which more than 50 years of history could pass before us in the blink of an eye.

The action takes place between 1914 and 1968. Jack Pepper, played powerfully by Richard Moore, bids farewell to his public school headmaster (Oliver Cook) in the summer of 1914 with a place to read History at Cambridge and hopes of a career in politics ahead of him. When war is declared a few weeks later, he volunteers for the East Surrey Regiment out of a sense of

duty and finds himself embarking for France with his men at Waterloo Station just before the Great Push of 1916. (Luke Abbott, Charlie Beirouti, Jonty Cook, Joe Read, Nick Williams). His parents (Henry Locatelli-Malacrida and Katie Cooke) and sisters (Meadhbh Raftery, Anna Last and Marina Michelson) wait for news, but when it comes, they learn Jack has been seriously wounded and is being sent home. The action moves to a London Music Hall where a pair of comedians - Lineen (Paddy Gervers) and McCrombie (Finlay Taylor) - perform a questionable routine that reflects the blinkered view of war back home. When peace comes in 1918, Jack and his fellow-servicemen find life hard as everyone wants to move on. Jack's marriage to Gracie (Celeste Moberley) produces a daughter, Ruth (Sophie King), but the weight of Jack's demons is too great. He struggles to hold onto a job, his marriage breaks down and Ruth is adopted. Time jumps forward to the 1930s and Ruth's story. She is bullied at school by her classmates (Jack Trodd, Stephen Hodgetts, Celeste Moberley), and when another war comes in 1940, she is evacuated, now a teenager, and taken in by a far from sympathetic host family (Dan Harris, Charlie

L to R Meadhbh Raftery,  
Sophie King, Olivia Powell



Sophie King



Domestic dispute- Tim Pepper (Matthew Copson) comes between Ruth (Sophie King) and her second husband, Geoffrey (Dan Harris)



Beirouti, Ruth Jackson, Olivia Powell). She meets and falls for Roy (Luke Abbott), a young apprentice at the munitions factory who is awaiting his call-up papers. When these arrive, he heads for France like Jack before him, but this time there is no homecoming. VE Day sees Ruth nursing their infant son Timothy, and receiving another bitter telegram. Ten years later, Ruth has re-married, but her new husband Geoffrey (Dan Harris) has little time for her son (Matthew Copson). Times are changing and the voices of the young are increasingly strident. By 1968, Tim is a theatre technician and about to take part in the anti-Vietnam war protest at the American Embassy led by Jack's grandson and Emma Soames, an actress friend (Emma Nairne). A chance encounter at Waterloo Station brings Tim face to face with the grandfather he never knew, and the wheel of history turns once more.

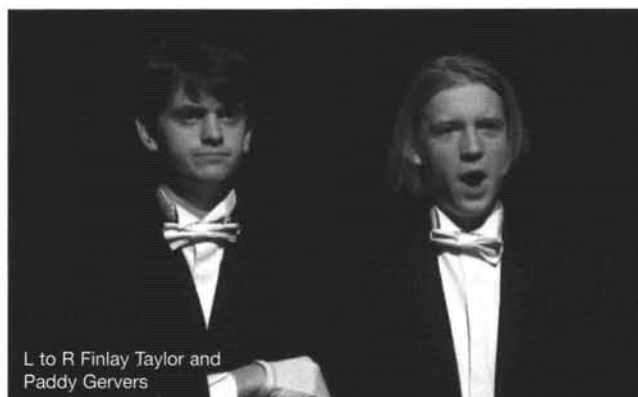
The performances were certainly spectacular, with archive documentary film clips projected across the stage tormentors and tabs by the resourceful crew led by Richard Oastler and James Harrison, with key assistance from Will Otterburn, Alex Iley, Felix Russell, Max Dooley, Anthony Grieveson, Ian

Galpin, Jack Swanborough, Mark Scott, Andrew Phillips and Alex Stuart-Kregor. Lighting, sound and costumes were no less important in creating period, mood and impact. Charmian Hart's achievements in the latter department were nothing short of extraordinary as she created individual costume plots for each actor and a strategy for getting each person into the right costume at the right time that would probably have made the backstage action just as compelling as the stage business it was meant to serve. The music was arranged and performed with aplomb by Aidan Thorne at the piano, and by Paddy Gervers and Finlay Taylor on ukuleles and a guitar. Alex Mugnaioni composed the show's final and poignant song. The show's dances were expertly choreographed by professional dancer and actor, Matthew Hawkesworth OA. Special thanks are due to the small army of helpers who made everything run smoothly over the three nights of the show's run in February, including David Carson, Ken Kerby, Shirley Kerby, Ash Verjee OA, Jo Watt, Caren Hardiman, Emily Hardiman and Cathy French.

Jeremy Taylor



Paddy Gervers



L to R Finlay Taylor and Paddy Gervers

## My Fair Lady



'Shift yer arse!' Eliza (Kate Shlugman) lets the side down at the races

Studio Theatre, St Helen's, December 2007

MRS HIGGINS I'm afraid you've spoiled that girl, Henry. But never mind, dear: I'll buy you the tie and gloves.

HIGGINS [sunnily] Oh, don't bother. She'll buy 'em all right enough. Good-bye.

*They kiss. Mrs. Higgins runs out. Higgins, left alone, rattles his cash in his pocket; chuckles and disports himself in a highly self-satisfied manner.*

So ends George Bernard Shaw's *Pygmalion*, written in 1913, the play on which both the musical and the film, *My Fair Lady*, were based.

In an essay on this ending Shaw wrote:

"The rest of the (*Pygmalion*) story need not be shown in action, and indeed, would hardly need telling if our imaginations were not so enfeebled by their lazy dependence on the ready-makes and reach-me-downs of the ragshop in which Romance keeps its stock of 'happy' endings to misfit all stories."

L to R Simon Edwards, Hugh Graham and Peter Statham



All this is obviously at odds with the pat-happy ending portrayed in the musical and the 1964 Audrey Hepburn movie, *My Fair Lady*. The original ending was altogether much darker, much more downbeat, yes, but more honest: who would **choose** to go back to a mentor capable of such unbecoming behaviour for a gentleman? Even if we are willing to consider for one moment Eliza Doolittle succumbing to a particularly virulent form of Stockholm Syndrome, the message of the story gets lost: that our heroine goes through a linear journey – call it womanhood, self-reliance, a sort of sentience – from a to b. A happy ending negates the prize and loops her story, so by the end she is no better off than at the start.

It was with this in mind that Jo Watt chose to direct *My Fair Lady* as the 2007 Senior Drama Production. The ending would undoubtedly shock those who were expecting a clone of the film, but it was the right path to take: Higgins being portrayed as a tyrant, childish and petulant. And in Kate Shlugman, an Eliza was found with the right balance of porcelain frailty and blossoming assertion – truly an Eliza that would win the day. Paddy Appleton's Higgins twinned with Joe Buckley's Colonel Pickering – two giddy schoolboys (their characterisation, not them personally) – portrayed an impressive marriage of misdirected intellect and immaturity. Although the principals shared the majority of stage-time, this was really an ensemble piece that included Guy Cutting as the lovelorn Freddy, who managed to ignore the swooning and fainting that emanated from the audience; Helen Freer, who played the fussing, maternal housekeeper Mrs. Pearce, and the strong vocal support that was provided by the maids and butlers who comprised the sonic backbone of the Company. The show was ably Musically Directed by Helena Rakowski and her on-stage band, and professional choreographer Sian Todd's services were employed to lend some gutsy physical spectacle to the proceedings.

Ash Verjee.



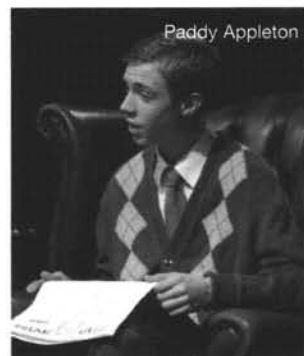
Her Master's Voice: Eliza (Kate Shlugman) and Colonel Pickering (Joe Buckley)



Guy Cutting



Paddy Appleton



Gabby Gleason and Tim West



Hermione Lake and Jamie Cook



## Junior Drama Club – Oliver!



Grand finale from an excellent cast

*Two of the stars of this year's production give their impressions on the show:*

On 28 and 29 February 2008, Lower School Drama Club did a production of the musical, *Oliver!* Olly Jackson played the part of Nancy, Mathew Hartshorne played Bill Sykes, Jack May played Oliver and Chris Mears played the Artful Dodger. The music was great to sing, and to listen to, and we all enjoyed taking part. The rehearsals were tiring but the overall result was, shall we say, pleasing.

Jack May 2 IAM

Last February, Lower School performed the marvellous musical *Oliver!* by Lionel Bart. For many boys it was a first-time experience performing such a classic musical. The cast included Jack May as Oliver, Olly Jackson as Nancy and Mr Bumble played by an extremely talented young man, myself! Owing to a lack of girls, the female roles were performed by us boys, wearing ridiculous Amy-Winehouse-esque wigs, glamorous dresses and high-heeled shoes. They did however play the roles almost too convincingly! The teachers behind this fantastic show were Miss Donovan and Mr Loughie. They are first-class drama teachers who have helped us all improve our acting skills. Everyone played their parts extremely well, especially the chorus who sang, acted and danced fantastically. We also must not forget the wonderful orchestra that lifted the whole production. For parents, friends and cast it was such a fun couple of evenings and definitely a roaring success.

Jack Squizzoni 1 SW

Jack May as Oliver Twist



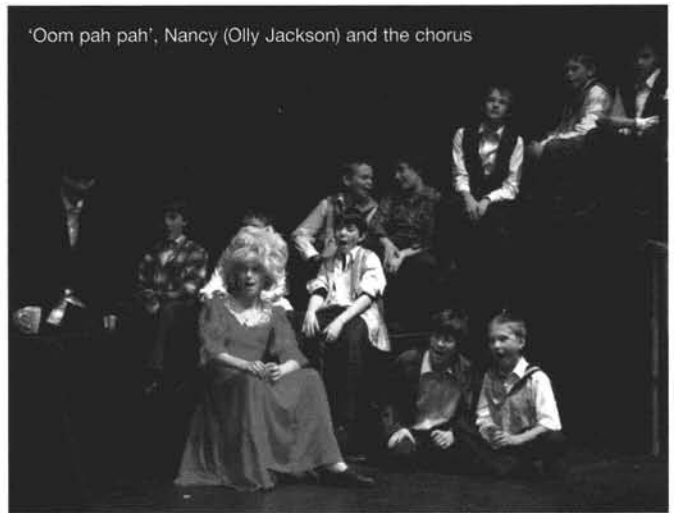
'Consider yourself at home', the chorus



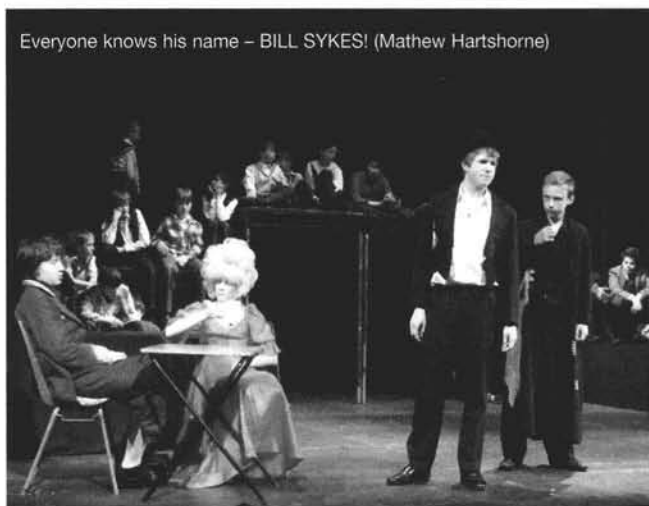
The chorus



'Oom pah pah', Nancy (Olly Jackson) and the chorus



Everyone knows his name - BILL SYKES! (Mathew Hartshorne)



Phillip Smith as Fagin



L to R Jack Squizzoni and Gabriel Burrow





Somehow, numbers have always been part of the equation for Abingdon's comic trio FxP<sup>2</sup>. The mathematical insinuation of their name was a frequent stumbling-block for the unwary, particularly in assembly notices – “Eff, Ex, Pee, Two” being the most common reading – so when Patrick ‘PJ’ Appleton, Paddy Gervers and Finlay Taylor decided to call their third and final Autumn show Three, perhaps it was not only a statement of the obvious, but also an olive branch to those who had hitherto wondered what it all meant.

If one of the pleasures of school life is witnessing the flowering of talent, then this evening of original comedy in the Amey Theatre was a very special treat for the 450 or more souls who were there, and especially for Will Phelps, whose inspired challenge to Fin and PJ to come up with something for a Phelps’ House Revue three years ago effectively lit the blue touch paper and set these three friends on the road as comic entertainers. They had all come on a great deal since that debut in the CMR one foggy November night in 2005. Now, the material was tighter, the delivery more accomplished, and there was a confidence, as of men who knew what they were about after the improving experiences of the previous shows.



(L to R) Joe Buckley, Patrick Appleton, Kate Shlugman, Finlay Taylor and Paddy Appleton

Nevertheless, some elements were familiar. Once again, the technical facilities of the Amey Theatre were put to good use as the show began with a filmed sequence that suggested a setting some years in the future. PJ was now chasing squirrels for a living, Paddy was some kind of gangster guitar hero and Finlay was Prime Minister (of course). Yet when the FxP<sup>2</sup> sign appeared in the sky, all three knew this was the signal for a reunion show. Cue swashbuckling music, a dramatic entrance down the stage left aisle, and we were off on a fast-paced charge through a comic landscape of witty, sometimes surreal and often downright silly sketches, in many of which Fin and the two Paddys were joined by the talented Joe Buckley and Kate Shlugman.

Many scenes made good use of the common ground shared by performers and audience, and took full advantage of the ample scope for fun afforded by life at Abingdon School. For example, there was an enjoyable parody of the Headmaster's morning notices, and a good spoof on the recently re-vamped school dining hall and its glitzy portals. There was an excellent sketch about school rugby practice that involved freeze frames and a series of monologues in which each character revealed their ‘black and dark desires’, and a hilarious reinterpretation of the Lower School Disco. Some of the sketches built on ideas or characters seen in the earlier shows, and were greeted by the audience with the enthusiasm of a returning friend. The zany and ridiculously over-enthusiastic presenters of the television history show *Time Team* were in this category, in a sketch that featured Paddy abseiling from the balcony on a piece of rope that removed all the skin from the palm of one hand and compelled him to complete the rest of the show with a handkerchief wrapped round it for protection.

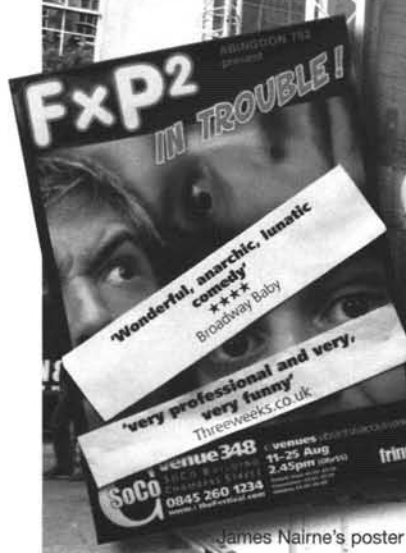
In other material, we saw the troupe with one eye on a future in which they would not be able to rely on the common denominators of an Abingdon education. This resulted in sketches that drew successfully on common cultural reference points such as the *Harry Potter* books, London's famous landmarks, the driving test, job interviews and popular television shows like *Countdown*.

As in previous shows, there was a spectacular musical finale, though I have a hunch that this one – a wonderfully ludicrous version of Westlife's song, *You Raise Me Up* – easily surpassed its predecessors in outrageous parody. Those of us watching through the filter of adult, health-and-safety-conscious eyes looked on in horror as performers and stage were drenched by buckets of water, leaving a small lake centre stage into which Finlay gloriously swallow-dived, before the three main characters retreated upstage for one final, hilarious and yet surprisingly moving tableau. There followed a sequence of baby photos and show credits on the big screen, accompanied by cheesily sentimental music that provoked laughter from the Abingdon fraternity, and a chorus of maternal ‘oohs’ and ‘ahs’ from the St Helen's contingent. The last slide read, ‘See you in Edinburgh, we hope!’ and as the audience filed out contentedly, they probably knew it was a hope they had helped move closer to reality since their generous and enthusiastic support for the evening had raised over £2,000 towards a Fringe expedition.

Jeremy Taylor

## FxP<sup>2</sup> in Trouble! Edinburgh Festival Fringe

Drumming up support on the Royal Mile, Finlay Taylor, Joe Buckley, Patrick Appleton & Paddy Gervers, conducted by Kate Shlugman



James Nairne's poster

Edinburgh, 11th - 25th August

At 6 am on 10 August, the five-strong cast of *FxP<sup>2</sup> in Trouble!* headed for Heathrow, a flight to Edinburgh and their long-anticipated run of shows at the world's largest arts festival. With them were Jeremy Taylor and Ash Verjee OA from St Helen's, numerous bags containing costumes, props, minidisc players, laptops and all the paraphernalia of a Fringe show. Arriving in Scotland's capital at about 10 am, we made our way to the well-appointed flat in Frederick Street that would be our home for the next two weeks, dropped off the bags and then set off for our first busking spot on the Royal Mile. At 2 am the following morning, we arrived at the C SoCo (C SoCo or C Soco?) venue on Chambers Street for our technical rehearsal, which finished at 4 am. We then trudged back to the flat for a few hours' sleep before another busking slot at 11am and the first show of the run at 2.45 pm. As a taste of what was to come, it was wholly characteristic: exhilarating, exhausting – the extremes of every day experienced and wrung dry for every minute of the 'Fringe experience'.

The shows went well. Audiences seemed to average between thirty and forty in a fifty-five-seat venue, although a number of shows sold out, and one – easily our worst – started with eighteen and finished with six! Such are the ups and downs of a performer's existence. The cast were excellent company for the duration of the run, and were joined by many friends who generously made the expedition north to offer support. A Level results day – one I had been dreading in case it brought happiness for some, and disappointment for others – came and went with triumphs for all, and was duly celebrated in style.

The reviewers appeared, and in some cases took their time to pronounce their almost always enthusiastic verdicts, but happily, this offering from *Broadway Baby* appeared very early in the run, and served as an excellent marketing tool for the remaining shows. The reviewer even commended James Nairne's excellent poster!

“ I stumbled into *FxP<sup>2</sup> in Trouble* out of an Edinburgh drizzle and initially thought to myself, oh well, another shower of rain, another comedy sketch show. Within minutes, the fresh faces and manic energy of this troop of five young performers had me in *transports of delight*. I had never heard of *Abingdon 752* (shame on me), a company which emerged from Abingdon School in Oxfordshire eight years ago, and which has scored up considerable successes. Here, they need not worry. They are quite definitely not 'in trouble'.

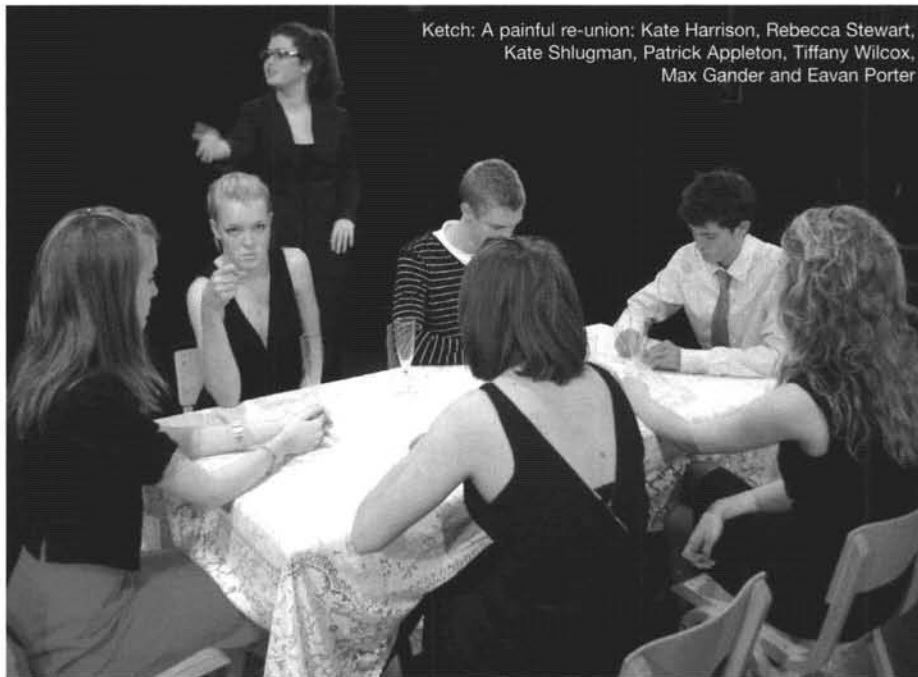
If one or two sketches didn't quite hit the mark – and believe me, they were very few in number – in true Pythonesque tradition there was always another one on the way. Even the best material never overstayed its welcome, a mark of true professionalism. From a spoof arts programme to a delicious politically incorrect vignette about a *Big Issue* seller, this troop graduated to a wonderful pastiche of *Crimewatch* called *Pratwatch*, a rugby match which veered off into gay monologues (see it, I really couldn't begin to describe it) and a camp cabaret finale which had the audience in stitches. And let's not forget *Time Team* trying to make history look – well, cool.

The show is written by Patrick Appleton, Paddy Gervers and Finlay Taylor (one may hazard a guess where the name FxP<sup>2</sup> comes from...), three lads who have clearly studied comedy and have a natural talent and a bright future ahead of them. They are joined here by Joe Buckley and Kate Shlugman, and all five are to be congratulated on creating such a hilarious fifty-five minutes of fast, wonderful, anarchic, lunatic comedy. I'd swap the tickets for ten late-night stand-ups just to see them again. I went back out into the Edinburgh rain wanting more and with a smile on my face.

Just one question. Do they put something in the water at Abingdon School to produce talent like this? Quite simply, I loved it. Oh, and a great poster too, guys.”

Jeremy Taylor

## A2 Theatre Studies Devised Pieces



Ketch: A painful re-union: Kate Harrison, Rebecca Stewart, Kate Shlugman, Patrick Appleton, Tiffany Wilcox, Max Gander and Eavan Porter



Ketch: Eavan Porter, Tiffany Wilcox, Max Gander, Kate Harrison, Patrick Appleton and Rebecca Stewart

### Ketch

The play *Ketch* was a devised piece, written and performed by A2 Theatre Studies students from both Abingdon and St Helen's schools. The piece tracked the life of Samantha, played by Kate Harrison, a worldly businesswoman intent upon bringing herself closure for the torment she had suffered at the hands of her classmates at school. In brief, Samantha invents the idea of holding a dinner party for her ex-classmates with the intention of challenging them about their past actions and the way in which they treated her. She invites four ex-classmates, Emma, played by Bex Stewart; Tara, played by Tiffany Wilcox; Alice, played by Evie Porter and Matt, played by Paddy Appleton. The plan hatched by Samantha goes swimmingly up until the point of the unexpected arrival of her old school-teacher, Henry, played by Max Gander, now married to one of the ex-classmates, Emma. This turns Samantha's plan upside down as she begins to be haunted by the lack of support she received from her teacher and the lack of protection he gave her at school from the bullies.

The piece is very stylised and has an outer story as well as the inner one described above. The piece opened with the ending, set in a courtroom, with Samantha making up her mind as to whether she could justifiably kill her ex-teacher for what he has done to her. The role of the barrister, played by Kate Shlugman, interwove the court scenes into the plot, whereby each ex-classmate was questioned as to their conduct towards Samantha at school. Through this court case, Samantha's past is revisited in a series of flashbacks. The end of the play resolves itself when Samantha realises that she has ended up better off than her classmates and that justice therefore does not demand the pain of killing her ex-teacher.

Paddy Appleton VI ESD

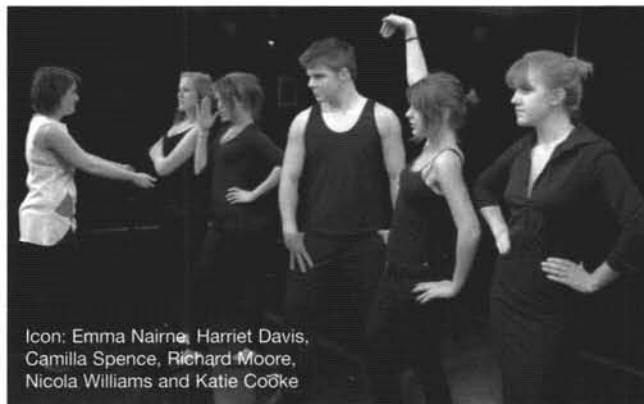
### Icon – Rise to Ruin

The ensemble cast of Finlay Taylor, Richard Moore, Paddy Gervers, Nicola Williams, Katie Cooke, Camilla Spence, Emma Nairne and Harriet Davis created a striking piece exploring the rise – and fall – of celebrities through recent decades. Characters as diverse as those inspired by, for example, Mary Quant and River Phoenix were celebrated, exposed and abandoned in the quest for the next “new thing”. Newsreaders set both the pace and the decade for each scene, effectively acting as narrators who created the context for each celebrity to shine, and fade. This fast-moving, witty piece was also a poignant comment on our modern obsession with the superficial allure of fame – and its often tragic consequences.

Finola Donovan



Finlay Taylor



Icon: Emma Nairne, Harriet Davis, Camilla Spence, Richard Moore, Nicola Williams and Katie Cooke



Marionettes: Kate Hawkins, Hugh Graham and Kate Rogers

## Where I End

One of our first tasks in A2 drama was to devise a piece of theatre. Our group toyed with different ideas of crime and punishment but settled by working from a quote by Joe Buckley, 'The dirty side of clean'. From this we wrote the script, which concentrated on the decline of Greg Flynn (Joe Buckley) who starts seeing a prostitute (Roz Chomacki) behind his pregnant wife's (Kasia Kirkland) back. However, she is also having trouble keeping her hands off her doctor, Hugh Fairweather (Henry Locatelli-Malacrida). Meanwhile there is a promotion at Greg's work, which raises the issue of nepotism when the Boss, Rick Stevenson (Aidan Thorne), has to choose between his daughter, Nicki Stevenson (Lizzie Napper), his son-in-law and his latest office fling, Tara Cuthbert-Seers (Dani Welch). These two worlds collide and Greg loses everything. Devising it was one of the most uplifting exercises of our drama career.

Aidan Thorne VI FAD



Marionettes: Kate Hawkins, Simon Edwards, Hugh Graham, Beth Carter and Kate Rogers

## The Marionettes

*The Marionettes* was a stylised performance that aimed to show the blending of normal and supernatural worlds. It confronted ideas about control and whether or not our lives are predetermined. The normal world was conveyed through a tainted love story of two couples whose paths cross; the couples were presented as puppets. The supernatural world was portrayed by the eccentric puppeteers who stopped and started action as they pleased and toyed with the other actors. This created an uneasy but exciting atmosphere. The enticing Kate Hawkins and Kate Rogers played the puppeteers, along with Hugh Graham – the head puppeteer. They used a mixture of live music and stylised movement to draw the audience into their supernatural world. Simon Edwards, Beth Carter, Joshua Turrell and Lucy Stewart played the two couples in the real world. They approached their roles with conviction and the resulting naturalism contrasted effectively with the puppeteers.

Hugh Graham VI JEF



Where I End: Aidan Thorne and Daniella Welch



Where I End: Joe Buckley and Kate Rogers

## A2 Theatre Studies Scripted Pieces



Art: Henry Locatelli-Malacrida, Joe Buckley and Aidan Thorne

### Art

Significantly different from devising, we had the task of cutting a script of our choice and creating a unique concept to fit a contemporary piece of theatre. *Art*, by Yasmina Reza, was an easy choice as it was written for three male actors, which was our group. Our concept came from a discussion on the fragility of life and of how in time the imprint we leave on it will be swept away. We wanted to create an atmosphere to reflect the characters. We set the piece in the character Serge's (Joe Buckley) flat, where he had just bought a painting, a white painting. The structure of the piece follows the story of how his two best friends, Yan (Aidan Thorne) and Marc (Henry Locatelli-Malacrida), react to the painting and to Serge. We wanted to show how three best friends can be torn apart by differences of opinion over something as trivial as a painting. Finally we used sand to show our imprint and how easily our imprint is kicked aside and our life becomes meaningless.

Joe Buckley VI GBC and Aidan Thorne VI FAD



Closer: Richard Moore and Katie Cooke





Faustus: Emma Nairne, Camilla Spence and Paddy Gervers

## Closer

This piece, by Patrick Marber, explores the tensions in modern-day relationships, when deception and duplicity can distort how people behave towards each other. The plot concentrates on four characters: Alice played by Nicola Williams; Dan played by Finlay Taylor; Anna played by Katie Cooke and Larry played by Richard Moore. Each character presents an idealised image to the world – visually reinforced by huge black and white photographs of each actor, which adorn the stark set. As the play progresses we begin to see the fragile truth behind each image. The resulting contrast between what each character seeks to present to the outside world – in collision with their darker, inner motivations – is what creates the play's comedy and pathos. As Alice says, "everyone loves a big fat lie" – the challenge for the actors to present, and for the audience to try and unravel, was the point at which the lie became more convincing than the truth. This was a superb set of performances from each member of the cast, which would have stayed with the audience long after the show had finished, the lights switched off and the studio deserted.

Finola Donovan

## The Tragical History of Dr Faustus

Christopher Marlowe's well-known foray into greed, power and damnation was given a new twist by Paddy Gervers playing Lucifer, Emma Nairne playing Mephistophiles, Harriet Davis playing the Priest/the Good Angel and the Seven Deadly Sins, and Camilla Spence playing Faustus. From the outset, the cast explored the voodoo and hoodoo influences on modern-day lives in certain sections of New Orleans. This research influenced the costumes and context of the piece – Faustus now becomes a woman who has lost a child in the devastating flooding following Hurricane Katrina. She sells her soul and turns to voodoo in the hope that the child might be returned to her. As the hour of reckoning draws ever closer, neither the haunting singing of the Good Angel, to try and tempt Faustus to salvation, nor the deliberations of Mephistophiles can prevent the inevitable fate to which Faustus has condemned herself. The final moments when Lucifer claims his prize were graphic – devilish horns spiking through his mop of hair, blood-red body paint streaking his torso, arms raised in triumph and Faustus screaming in horror as the lights faded, all left the audience in no doubt as to the despair and terror which underpins this tragedy.

Finola Donovan

## Tartarus

This fast-paced, funny and physical theatre piece was devised by Richard Spaul with the Cambridge Experimental Theatre in 1981. It is based on different myths about hell and the afterlife. The cast of Beth Carter, Tiffany Wilcox, Kate Shlugman, Lucy Stewart and Max Gander approached the piece as 'prisoners' trapped by their tormented minds. This became their hell – inescapable and appalling.

## Macbeth

The cast of Hugh Graham as Macbeth, Kate Harrison as Lady Macbeth/a witch, Simon Edwards as Macduff/a witch and Evie Porter as Banquo/a witch, were originally inspired to rework this tragedy with influences from Russia in 1917. As the rehearsal process continued, a starker, leaner interpretation emerged. The militaristic theme continued and the menace of the cast was evident in their performances. Perhaps most striking was the doubling-up of characters so that the tight-knit cast convincingly portrayed the interplay of mortals and witches, whilst not compromising the plot or horror of the piece.

Hugh Graham VI JEF and Simon Edwards VI FAD

Macbeth: Hugh Graham and Simon Edwards



Macbeth: Kate Harrison and Hugh Graham



Tartarus: Kate Shlugman



## Theatre Studies: AS Performances

Family Reunion: the Chorus



Family Reunion: the Eumenides

St Helen and St Katharine's Drama Studio 24, 25 April 2008

### The Family Reunion

As the opening performance of the evening, the task that confronted our group was always going to be a formidable one. The fact that we were to perform a one-hour version of T.S. Eliot's *The Family Reunion* only made the challenge a more difficult one. As a respected poet, Eliot's writing is perhaps not the most simple to decipher. To thrust such a play onto a fresh audience whilst successfully maintaining a clear understanding of events would require a maturity not usually associated with a group of this age. Thankfully, we were guided by the experience and intelligence of our director, **Alison Quick**. Together we aimed to provide an authentic performance that would shock and intrigue the audience in the manner that Eliot had intended.

*The Family Reunion* is a very powerful exploration of a family that is falling apart as its domineering and dying matriarch, Amy, looks on. The play carries an often frightening ability to take you inside the head of the eldest son, Harry, a misunderstood man drowning in isolation and despair. Set at the family home, the first meeting of the family for eight years is riddled with twisted relationships hidden behind a false social front. The play takes a dark twist with the revelation that Harry murdered his wife twelve months ago. Such news presents a problem for the family, whose public appearance is nothing short of exemplary. With the calming presence of Dr. Warburton, played shrewdly by **Ross Muir**, the play twists its way through various tangled plots to a chilling conclusion.

*The Family Reunion* provided us with many opportunities to extend ourselves as performers and we gained great satisfaction from seeing ideas that began early in the rehearsal process develop into key moments of our final performance. Two of these moments owed much to the classical Greek influence on the play. As well as providing an almost continual opinionated twittering that formed the background to the main plot, **Olivia Powell**, **George Dugdale**, **Ruth Jackson** and **Matthew Winters** combined to form the chorus. Between the four of us (and with vital input from our director when needed), we created five very different choral moments that provided the audience with both

a verbal and physical representation of the subtext that litters Eliot's work. Working as a choral group was a new experience for the four involved and provided us with a great deal of fun during the rehearsal process. After months of hard work, we were delighted with the end result. Alison Quick's creative style was evident in her shocking representation of Harry's mental ghosts – the Eumenides. Many ideas were experimented with, thrown out and modified before the actual performance. However, the appearance of dark figures wearing white half-masks behind a gauze curtain provided an intriguing image that aided the audience's understanding of Harry's mental state. The success of the chorus and the Eumenides owed much to hours spent in rehearsals and the ability to admit when something wasn't working. Much praise must also go to **Ash Verjee OA**, the technical expert at St Helen's, who turned our ideas into reality.

A great deal of credit must go to the performers. Hannah Wilson excelled in her role as Amy and her presence on stage never allowed others to drop their guard owing to the authenticity she achieved with her character's dominance. **Sam Walton's** energetic and often disturbing portrayal of a troubled mind showed maturity beyond his years. His ability to visit many emotions within a short space of time was noticeable during the performance. **Sophie Ball** played the difficult role of Agatha with confidence and poise throughout. **Ross Muir** provided a calming influence throughout the play with his mature interpretation of Dr Warburton, while **Natasha Edwards'** performance as Mary was noted by a St Helen's critic as being stronger than perhaps even she realised. The chorus members contributed to the authentic 1930s feel as well as performing the choral subtext with aplomb.

T. S. Eliot once said, "A play should give you something to think about. When I see a play and understand it the first time, then I know it can't be much good." Throughout the rehearsal process we developed a deep understanding of *The Family Reunion* that our audience may not have been able to grasp from one viewing. However, we are sure that through months of hard work and advice from those more experienced than ourselves, we created a performance that Eliot himself would have enjoyed.

George Dugdale 6 DRM

## A Christmas Carol

Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* was the second production on offer from the AS drama students this year. The play began in the cold oppressive atmosphere of Scrooge's counting house. Scrooge, played with emotional intensity by **Steve Hodgetts**, was given a counterpart in this production in the person of a sister, Miss Scrooge – a part delivered with brittle bitterness by Jo Hall. **Dan Harris** gave a compelling performance as the tormented Jacob Marley, the late business partner of Scrooge and in complete contrast **Cody Yellowlees-Bound**'s Spirit of Christmas leapt and tittered with childlike buoyancy.

Juxtaposed with the misery of Scrooge's counting house was the look into the past, which showed the annual Fezziwig ball. The audience could relax and enjoy the magnificent portrayal of a bumbling Mr Fezziwig played by **Jack Trotman**, while later in the scene Marina Michelson elicited sympathy as she ended her relationship with the young apprentice Scrooge in a finely judged performance. Tessa Brummitt's calmly authoritative Spirit of Christmas Present was portrayed with tremendous confidence, leading into the scene at the Cratchits' where Hayley Bater, a most convincing matriarch, ruled her noisy brood with domineering cheerfulness. The second time we see the Cratchit household, however, the tone has changed with the death of Tiny Tim. Here, **Andrew Partridge**, playing Bob Cratchit, didn't leave a dry eye in the house; he combined joviality with desolation masterfully.

The production was directed by Jo Watt with creativity and verve, with highly skilled assistance from **Ash Verjee OA** on all the technical aspects.

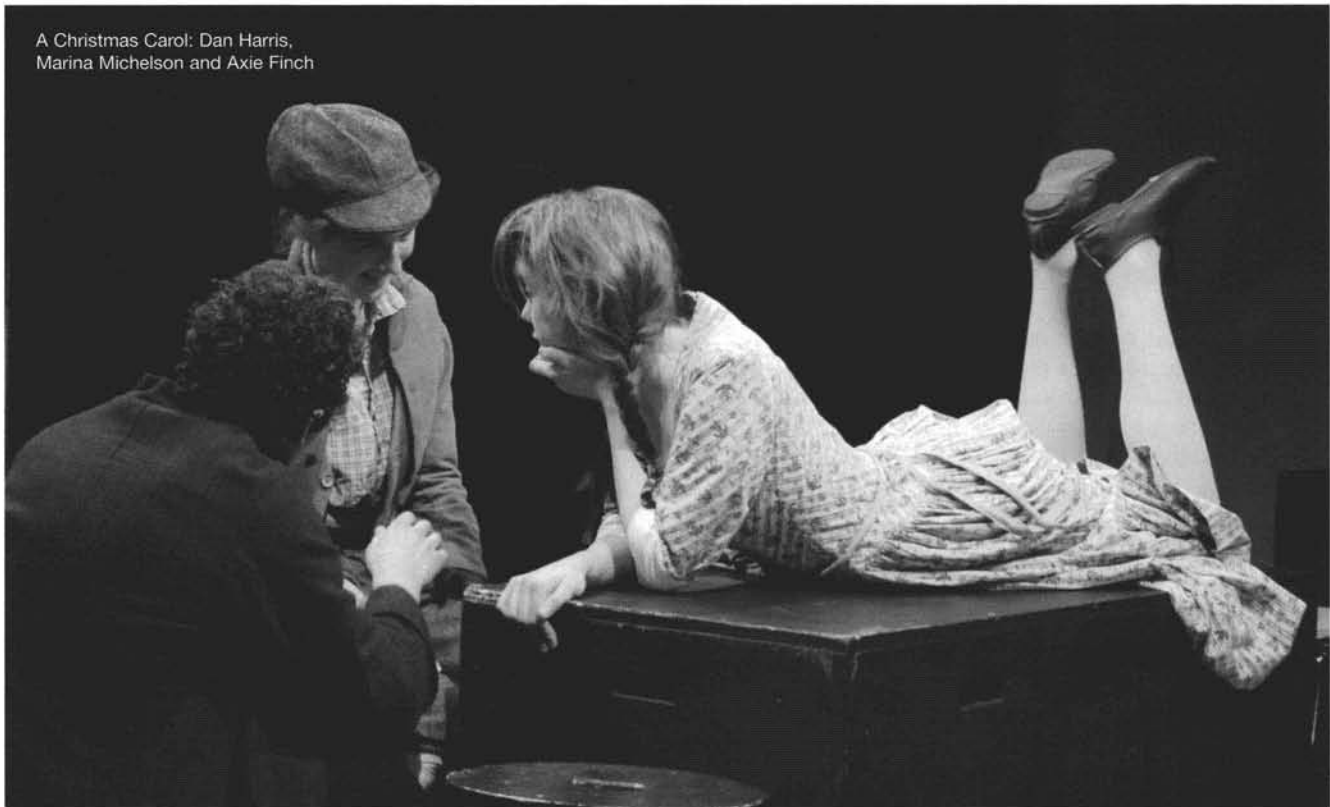
Steve Hodgetts 6 TCG



A Christmas Carol: Jo Hall and Dan Harris



A Christmas Carol: Stephen Hodgetts (Scrooge) confronts his past



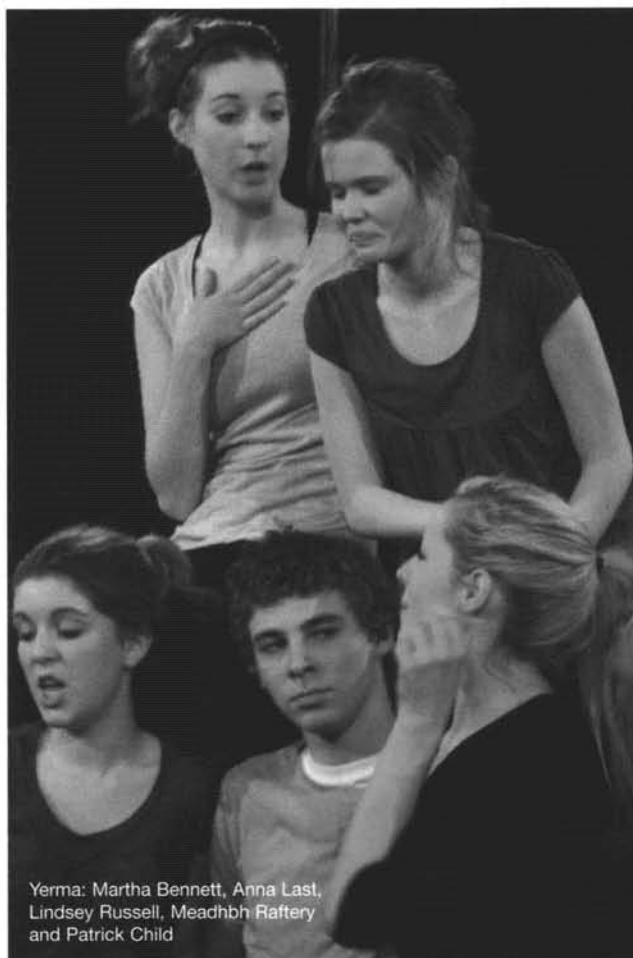
A Christmas Carol: Dan Harris, Marina Michelson and Axie Finch

## Yerma

When we found out we were to perform Lorca's *Yerma*, a play set in 1930s war-torn Spain, and tackling issues of infertility and fidelity, we were understandably slightly apprehensive. After Mr Hogben explained his concept, however, nerves were replaced with anticipation, and we rose to the challenge of making such a play relevant for a modern-day audience, where loyalty is often not prized as highly as it once was.

It is a cliché, but the rehearsal process was a truly rewarding and enjoyable time for all of us, with suspect puns and innuendo rapidly becoming the norm. Mr Hogben, soon emerging as something of a latter-day Stanley Kubrick, managed to engage us with techniques as wide-ranging as hot-seating, reducing **Mark Heffernan** to something of a nervous wreck, and communication-blocking, with Kingsley Hoskins showing a flair for Italian which was impressive, if slightly irrelevant. The concept was the fusing of naturalism and surrealism in a timeless setting, thus making the play accessible and allowing the focus to be on key issues, rather than the flamboyant flamenco outfits which most of the actors secretly yearned for. As part of this surrealism, we began to deploy ribbons and masks as symbols of restraint and multiple personalities, and after anxiety as to the effectiveness of these, ("not the ribbons again!"), we soon came to realise that Mr Hogben's vision, and his tools for reaching it, were both poignant and effective.

As with any production, our characters evolved over time, taking shape as we experienced a fragment of the emotions Lorca had embedded in them. We used a number of actors to play the eponymous lead, both because of the practicalities of giving everyone an equal part, and also because we liked the notion of a different performer for every aspect of *Yerma*. By the time of the performance, these personae had become clearly defined, with Martha Bennett opening the piece with a powerful and poignant representation of *Yerma*'s inner anguish and desire for a child, with many in the audience in tears before the first scene was out. Anna Last portrayed the obsessive and mentally crumbling side of *Yerma* so convincingly that many of us were afraid to talk to her for days afterwards, while Meadhbh Raftery showed a slightly darker side to the character, one who seemed to manipulate the men who claimed her love, although Meadhbh's natural charm

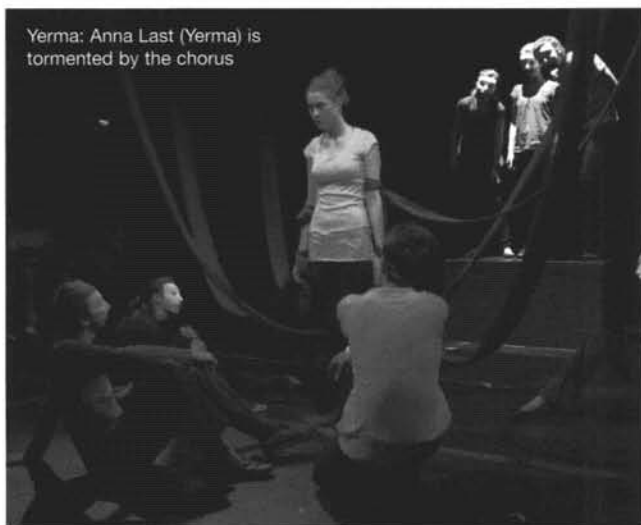


*Yerma*: Martha Bennett, Anna Last, Lindsey Russell, Meadhbh Raftery and Patrick Child

ensured the audience never turned against the heroine, even if they began to question her. Kingsley Hoskins and Lindsey Russell brought the play to a close in the final scenes, and Kingsley's breath-taking exhibition of *Yerma*'s final, devastating mental collapse, as well as her heart-breaking rejection of Victor, her true love, was a moment that stuck in the minds of all those watching. Lindsey revisited this mental anguish and both her struggle with *Yerma*'s demons, and her final, weeping goodbye to Victor had many in the audience crying with her, deserving all the plaudits it got.

Abingdon School's performers also held their own, with Dale Barker taking the character of Juan, *Yerma*'s husband, as his own, forging depth and subtleties where many of us originally saw none in the script. **Mark Heffernan** likewise turned Victor from the popular charmer we initially imagined to a pathetic, tragic figure who instantly garnered the support and empathy of the audience. **Paddy Child**, playing a variety of roles, all suspiciously rather evil, was utterly terrifying, be it performing *Yerma*'s inner fears as a rapist or as a haunting, unholy priest at Victor's demise. For all the acting, the play would have fallen apart without the efforts of Mr Hogben, who gained the trust and admiration of the cast and Mr Verjee, whose manipulation of music and lighting made for a piece that was stunning from beginning to end. For all of the power we hoped to convey in performance, the year will be remembered as one where we all unearthed a passion for drama which will remain with us.

Mark Heffernan 6 SJG



*Yerma*: Anna Last (*Yerma*) is tormented by the chorus

# Abingdon Film Unit

## AFU – Five Years On

The 8 May 2008 saw Abingdon Film Unit's fifth annual show. Five years may not amount to much in the wider scheme of things, but for a school, it represents a generation, and on this night we said farewell to our last founder member – **Ben Hollins** – so in that sense, the evening felt like a coming of age, and a chance to look back.

At the first screening in May 2004, there were six new films on view, all documentaries, and the show began with an interview with the AFU's mentor and eminence grise, **Michael Grigsby** OA. The following year saw seven documentaries, including one shot in Berlin on the Unit's first overseas expedition. By 2006, animation augmented the possibilities for AFU filmmakers, and the consequent rise in the number of films meant that original work filled the programme for the first time. In 2007, sixteen films rolled off the production line, including experiments in fiction. This time, there were seventeen new films, bringing the Unit's tally in five years to sixty.

Numbers are only part of the story, of course. Few of those at the first show can have guessed at the range of opportunities that would follow for those willing to take up the challenge of student filmmaking. There have been some wonderful surprises: screenings at foreign film festivals, at the National Film Theatre and the Curzon Cinema in London; awards, press articles and television coverage; and of course, the extraordinary experience of making a film in Cambodia. But more than all of those things, the Film Unit has been about promoting personal growth – through learning, exploring, making connections, taking risks, and trying to develop the difficult art of telling a story – as well as a fair amount of fun, and a great deal of hard work.

This year, the highlights included:

- a training expedition to Blackpool in September
- the New Shoots Festival at Wheatley Park School in October, at which the Unit picked up three awards (best fiction, best animation and best film)
- BBC and ITV television news coverage, including interviews with AFU members in connection with the launch of the Cambodia documentary
- the premiere of *Gravel and Stones* at the NFT in November
- participating in a seminar on film education at the Swedish Embassy in London in December
- the article by **Edward Hofman** OA about the Cambodia trip in the online edition of *Vertigo* magazine in January

- the re-launch of the AFU's website in February, making the films available for internet viewing for the first time ([www.abingdonfilmunit.com](http://www.abingdonfilmunit.com))
- **Matthew Copson** and **Patrick Reece's** film *The Underground Village* achieving third place in the National Student Film Festival in Leeds in March
- the screening of *Gravel and Stones* at the London International Documentary Festival in April, and at Raindance – the UK's largest festival of independent film – in London in October.
- the commercial dvd release of *Gravel and Stones* in France
- the development, with the Westminster branch of the United Nations and the BFI, of a new festival of films by young people inspired by the UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights

None of this would be possible without the talent, imagination and commitment of our young students, who this year have not only surpassed their forbears in the number of films produced, but also continued to raise the bar in terms of the ambition and standard of work produced. No less essential have been the parents, who have ferried crews to locations, kept a weather eye on progress and generally coped with the intrusions of filmmakers and their kit. Nor would it have happened without the constant support and backing of the **Headmaster, Bursar**, and the Abingdon Governors, especially Sir Michael Wakeford, whose active involvement and championing of the Unit are priceless assets we have been fortunate to enjoy from the start. But even that support would count for little without the team of professional tutors, who have devoted remarkable amounts of time, energy and care to the efforts of our pupils throughout the five years of the Unit's existence. To Mike Grigsby, Joanna Harrison, Jonas Mortensen, Mikkel Eriksen, Nikolaj Larsen and Arvid Eriksson, we extend our very warmest of thanks. Quite literally, it could not be done without them.

Jeremy Taylor

Abingdon Film Unit,  
2007-8

Will Abell Y3, Freddie Barber Y5, Tom Bateman Y5, Charlie Beirouti Y4, James Boreham Y4, Joe Brown Y4, Guy Bud Y4, Matthew Copson Y5, Henry Dunbar Y5, Charlie Floyd Y5, Laurie Havelock U6, Ben Hollins U6, Chris Hyde Y4, Tian Ji Y5, Nicholas Krol Y3, Pierre Leveque Y4, Jack Lindsay Y3, Marina Michelson (L6 SHSK), Jack Oliver Y4, William McDowell Y4, Forrest Radford Y4, Jack Rayner Y4, Patrick Reece Y5, Joe Ridley Y4, Aidan Robertson Y4, James Yan Y4, Evan Westenbrink Y4

Our thanks to the following people, whose support was been invaluable throughout the year: Chris Biggs, Martin and Beverley Copson, Geoff Dunbar, Sylvia Finimore, Anthony Grieveson, Charmian Hart, Tim Hollins, Steve King, Ken and Shirley Kerby, Alex Mugnaioni OA, James Nairne, Richard Oastler, Robert and Joanna Oliver, Mark Reid, Celia Shephard, Andrew Swarbrick

AFU Programme of  
Films, 2008

**Um...** (documentary) by Will McDowell, James Yan & Jack Lindsay  
Will McDowell selected eight people of varying ages and asked them the same eight questions. The result was a delightful mix of the comic, the touching and the profound.

**Bills** (claymation) by Joe Brown  
A story about a mad inventor who creates a machine that turns his bills into money. An ingenious response to credit crunch, featuring excellent plasticine modelling and animation.

**The Fly** (hand-drawn animation) by Charlie Beirouti  
A witty tale about a dog, a

bouncing ball and a fly. The sparse use of sound created suspense and humour.

**Mr Rolls, Mr Royce and Mr Ford** (documentary) by Jack Oliver, Nick Krol & Forrest Radford

Jack Oliver directed this film about a man who maintains vintage cars in a barn in rural Oxfordshire. Some striking images of the mechanic's working environment were accompanied by a carefully layered soundtrack of whistling, Radio 4 and other sounds of the workshop. Rescued at the eleventh hour from a defunct hard drive by Jack and his parents in an operation that could have been worthy of a film in its own right!

**Automatic Bunny and the Focusing Dream** (hand-drawn animation) by Freddie Barber and Charlie Floyd  
A zany story of a bunny who eats something that turns him into a giant creature, too large for the planet. After exploring outer space, the bunny comes down to earth with a bump.

**Thermostatic** (cut-out animation) by Aidan Robertson & Evan Westenbrink  
A colourful and stylish yarn about a cast of characters made out of thermostats (what else?). Steve's dreams of reducing global warming are dealt a blow when his arch-rival Pablo Polluto steals his idea for a recycling machine, but all turns out well in the end.

**A Brain Walked Into a Bar** (claymation) by Joe Ridley  
A young boy looking suspiciously like Joe Brown is literally bored out of his mind in a maths lesson. His brain goes for a walk, with unusual consequences. Excellent claymation by Joe Ridley.

**Falling** (hand-drawn animation) by James Boreham  
A cautionary tale about man's greed and his impact on the environment as the globe disintegrates under the weight of oil drills and bombs. A fine

piece of drawing by James Boreham.

**Delicate Boys of a Secondary Age** (documentary) by Tom Bateman, Laurie Havelock & Matthew Copson

Park Place is an old aristocratic mansion near Henley that fell on hard times and became a home for disturbed adolescent boys during the 1960s and 70s. Having subsequently closed under the pressure of modern financial cuts, the building is now being renovated for a return to residential use. Malcolm, a former pupil, recalls the special atmosphere of the place. A fluid combination of images, subtitles and ambient music (composed by Laurie Havelock).

**Perception** (documentary) by Matthew Copson, Marina Michelson and Ben Hollins  
A highly imaginative film about a school for blind children in Kent. Inspired by Nicholas Philibert's *In the Land of the Deaf*, Matthew Copson lets the camera follow a number of students at the school. It emerges that each person's experience of visual impairment is very different.

**Oh No My Dog!** (claymation) by Pierre Leveque  
A stylish and witty piece of claymation. A dog chases after a ball and is run over by a car. The vet's bill forces the dog's owner to explore a number of ways of raising cash, and although he is successful, there is a twist in the tale (and the tail) at the end.

**Sarah** (documentary) by Jack Rayner & Patrick Reece  
Sarah recalls her experience of homophobic bullying as a child at school. A straight-talking exploration of what it means to grow up being made to feel different.

**The Perfect Citizen** (hand-drawn animation) by Tian Ji  
This animation stood out

because of its dark, film noir style and sinister character voice-over (by Alex Mugnaioni OA). A Chicago hit-man narrates the events of a day's work. Both chilling and thrilling.

**The Room** (stop motion) by Henry Dunbar & Chris Hyde  
The black and white images lent this film the quirky air its creators sought to achieve. A man sits in a room, watching a film. A series of small, unexplained events draw his attention. Gradually, he realizes the room has a mind of its own, and he cannot escape.

**The Silent Massacre** (documentary) by James Yan, Guy Bud & Will McDowell  
Richard Auger was a member of the police armed response unit that was on duty on the day of the Hungerford massacre in 1987. In this film, James Yan managed to get beneath the exterior of the professional police officer to reveal the human and emotional impact of what Richard saw and experienced that day.

**Hiding** (fiction) by Ben Hollins, Matthew Copson & Forrest Radford  
Ben Hollins has directed no fewer than six films in his time with the Unit. His parthian shot was a typically clever, imaginative piece of fiction in which a sixteen-year-old boy realizes he has a strange form of wasting disease that makes him gradually invisible to others, including his mother. Shot on location in London, this was another fine film from Ben.

**The Lamp** (stop motion) by Will Abell  
A short, yet deliciously simple love story featuring a pair of anglepoise lamps. The completion of this film was a triumph for its debut director, Will Abell.

Jeremy Taylor

# Design Technology

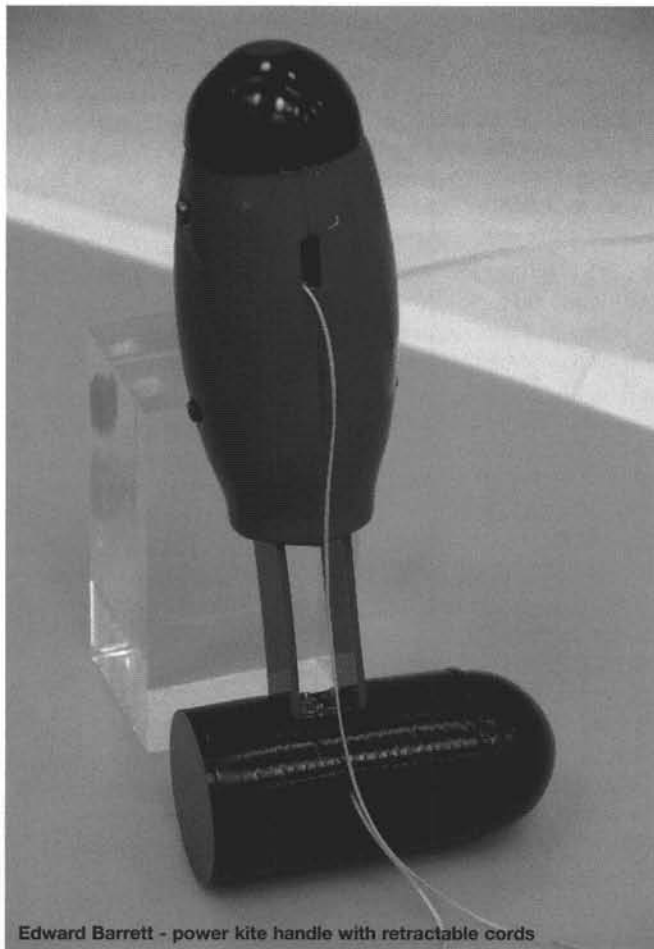
## A2 Design Technology – Product Design



James O'Kelly - cooling system for the Xbox 360



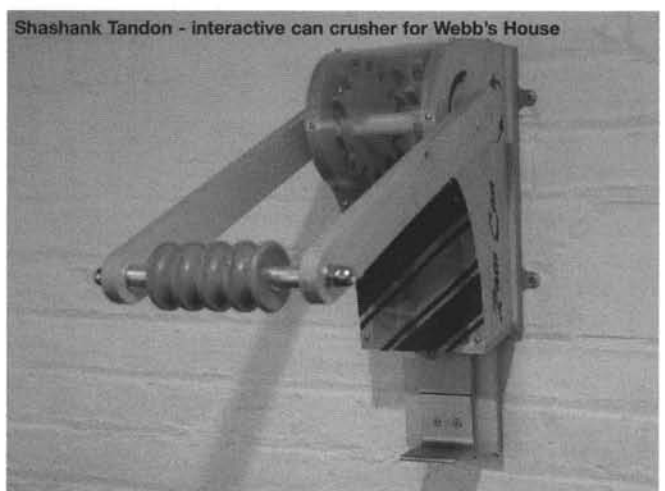
Paul Scopes - aluminium heated ice-cream scoop



Edward Barrett - power kite handle with retractable cords



Oliver Hampson - newspaper dispensing stand

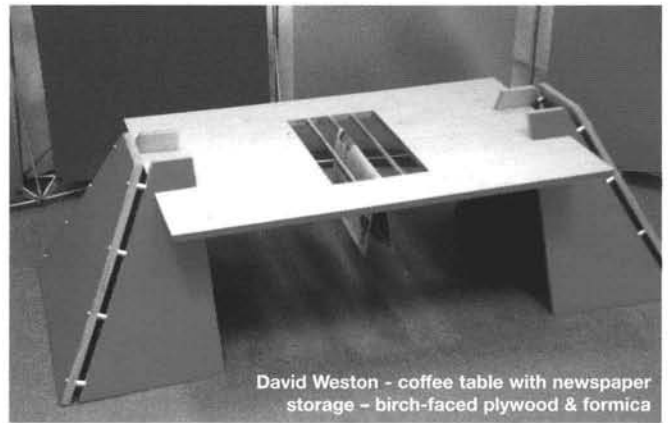


Shashank Tandon - interactive can crusher for Webb's House





Rory Copus - funky seating - MDF & steel

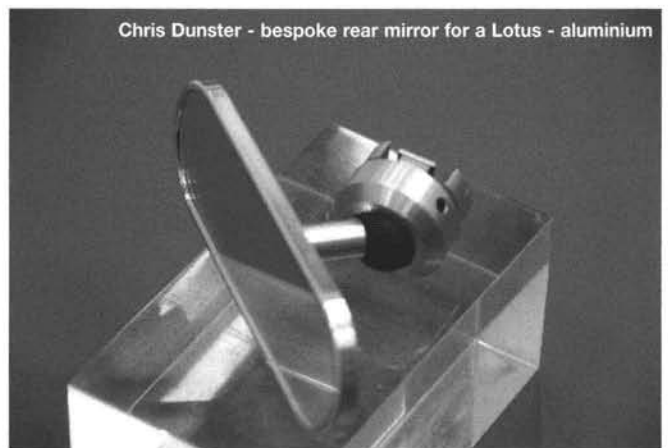


David Weston - coffee table with newspaper storage - birch-faced plywood & formica

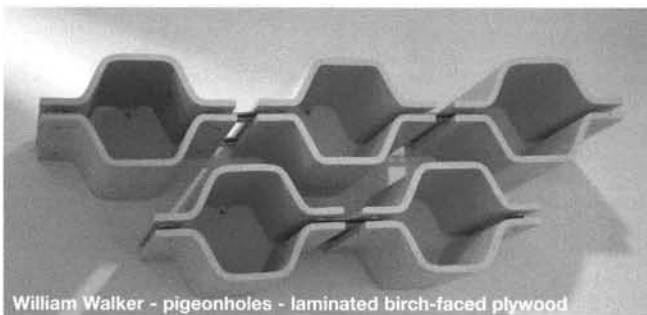


Chris Davis - Gothic secretaire - oak

AS  
Design  
Technology  
—  
Product  
Design



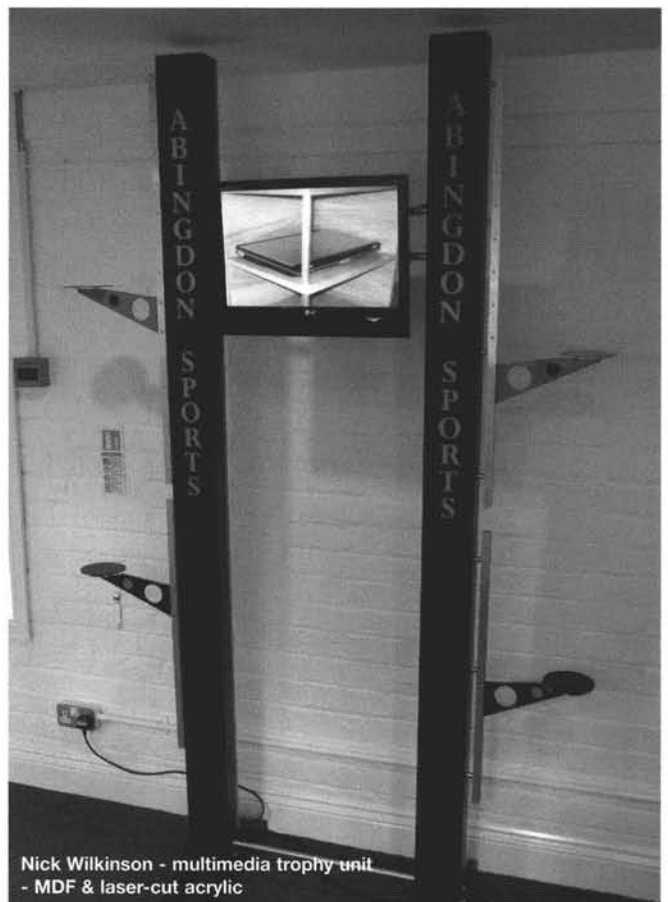
Chris Dunster - bespoke rear mirror for a Lotus - aluminium



William Walker - pigeonholes - laminated birch-faced plywood



Oliver Mumby - kinetic watch charger - aluminium and acrylic



Nick Wilkinson - multimedia trophy unit - MDF & laser-cut acrylic

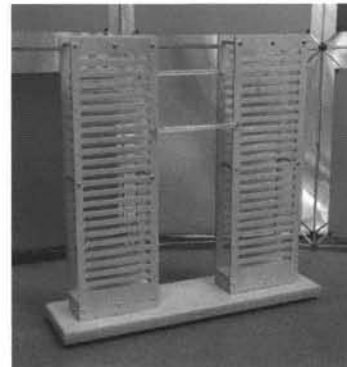
GCSE Design Technology – Resistant Materials



Anthony Grieveson - recycling storage



Stuart Lonergan - tennis training aid



Alexander Richardson - DVD storage

Chris Burgess - storage unit

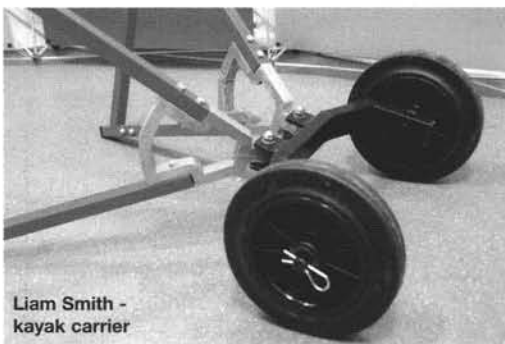
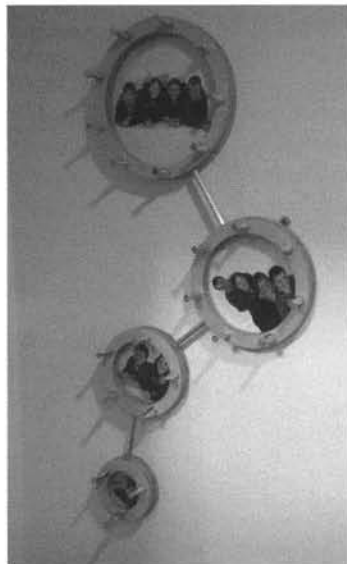


Henry Wood - adjustable Christmas tree stand

Daniel Choi - magnetic fridge bin



Johnathon lent - family key holder



Liam Smith - kayak carrier

Andrei Smirnov - boarding house bin



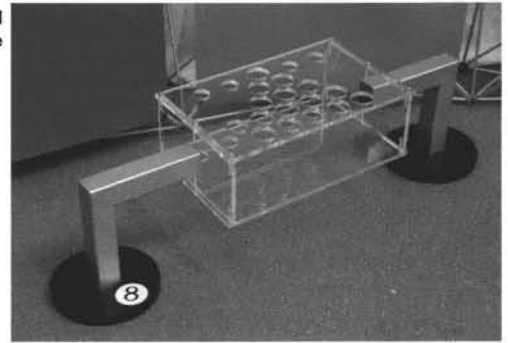
James Hutchings - oak bedroom desk



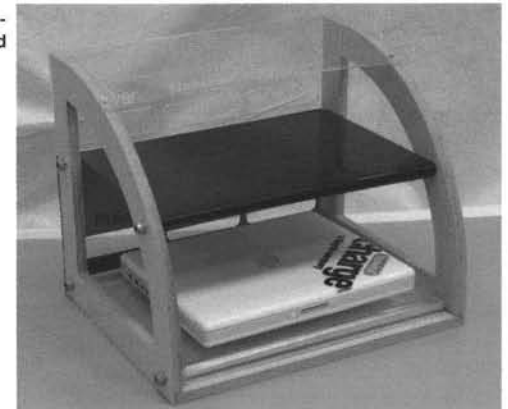
Charles Brampton - duck house



Harry Strong - pool accessory storage



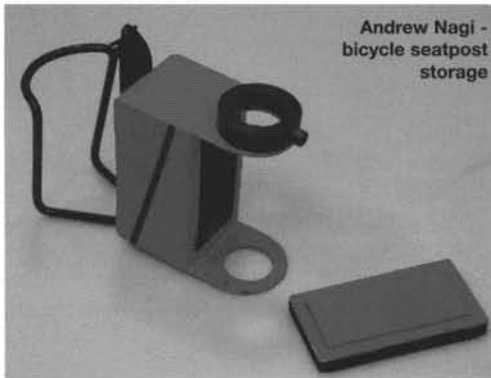
William Otterburn - laptop stand



Freddie Howe - laundry bin



Andrew Nagi - bicycle seatpost storage



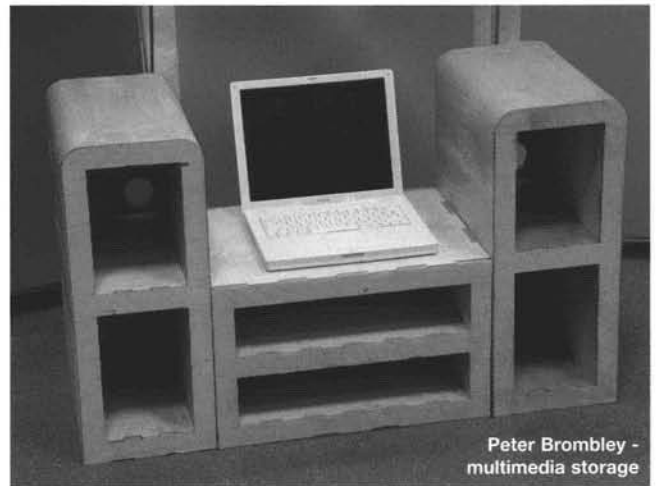
Ali Ibrahim - DVD storage



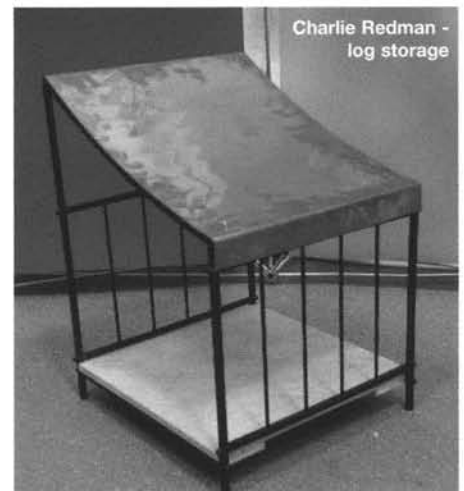
Alexander Beech - bedside table



Peter Brombley - multimedia storage



Charlie Redman - log storage



## Product Design Workshop by 'designers in residence'

The year got under way with the launch of our new design classroom. A team of designers came to run a workshop with our Sixth-form Product Design students.

Alister Fraser and Rebecca Lawson are both graduates from Loughborough University's design department, renowned for producing some of Britain's best industrial and product designers. They established 'designers in residence' to offer schools an effective way of linking education with industry.

The morning session was crammed with small focused activities. It began with the students investigating the area of design, and determining the role of a product designer. They then started to identify how the user of a product, and the environment in which it is used, are key factors in developing a solution. Students focused on the familiar household product – the toaster and developed concepts designed for camping, commuting and even one for Superman's utility belt!

During the second half of the morning, the students focused on developing a range of presentation techniques in order to be able to communicate their ideas. They worked in a range of media, including coloured pencils and magic markers. Before the students broke for lunch, they were encouraged to create a 'bug list'. They were asked to think of as many situations that could be solved by someone designing a practical solution.



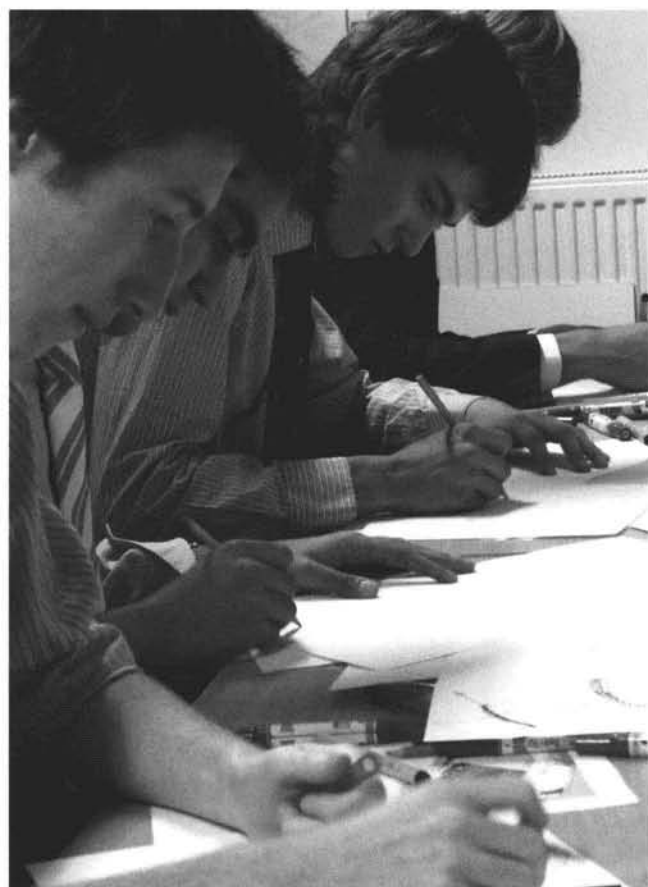
The afternoon drew together all of the experiences from the morning session as the students tackled a 'dragon's den' - style challenge. They picked a problem from their 'bug list' and used the idea-generation tools and presentation skills to create an A3 board from which they then gave a product pitch. Both students and teachers were given some design dollars and encouraged to invest in their favourite concept.

Chris Davis, our Arkwright Scholar, survived the dragon's den with his concept of a bug blaster, a humane but entertaining method of catching midges and dragonflies. Other concepts that stood out included a salt-cellar that only allowed you to deliver your recommended daily allowance of salt, a heated ice-cream scoop and a kinetic attachment for a mobile phone that allowed the phone to be recharged while being carried in your pocket.



Paul Scopes, Edward Barrett and Oliver Mumby used the concept identified during the workshop as their major projects: the results can be seen in the AS and A2 Galleries.

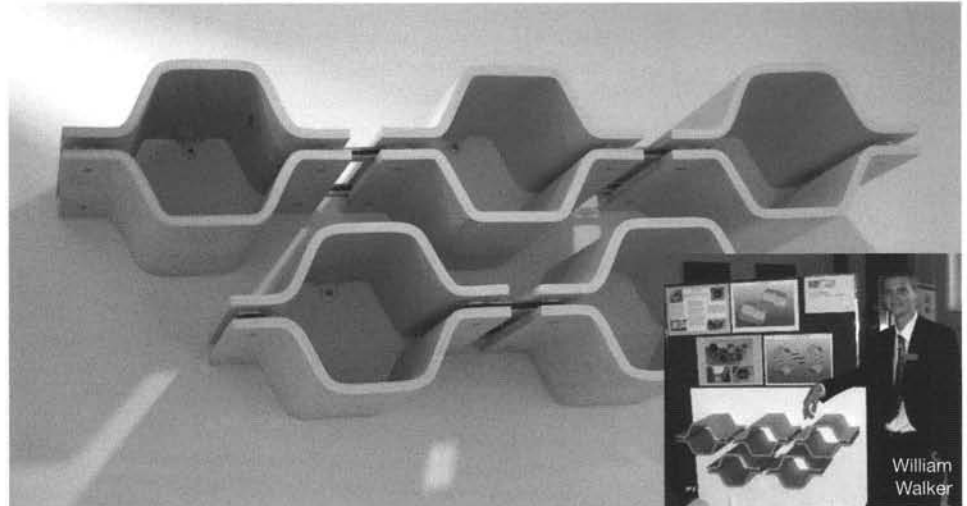
Dan Hughes



## Young Designer of the Year 2008

On 20 June, William Walker displayed his AS Product Design Coursework piece at the finals of Young Designers 2008, which was held at Dulwich College in London. This year saw the competition increase in popularity as over 1,000 entries were received from schools throughout the UK. Although William didn't receive the top award, he did receive a cash prize for reaching the final and thoroughly enjoyed discussing and presenting his work alongside the top student designers in the UK.

Dan Hughes



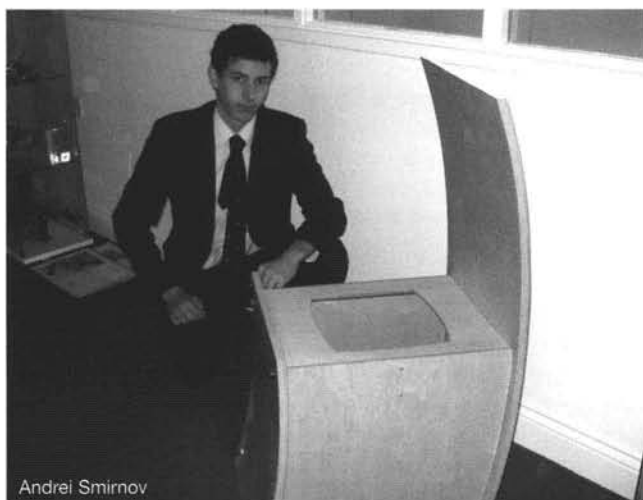
## Arkwright Design & Technology Scholarship

Andrei Smirnov and Henry Dunbar have been awarded Arkwright Design and Technology scholarships after successfully completing a rigorous selection process including a written design paper, a series of team engineering exercises and an interview where they presented a portfolio of their GCSE coursework.

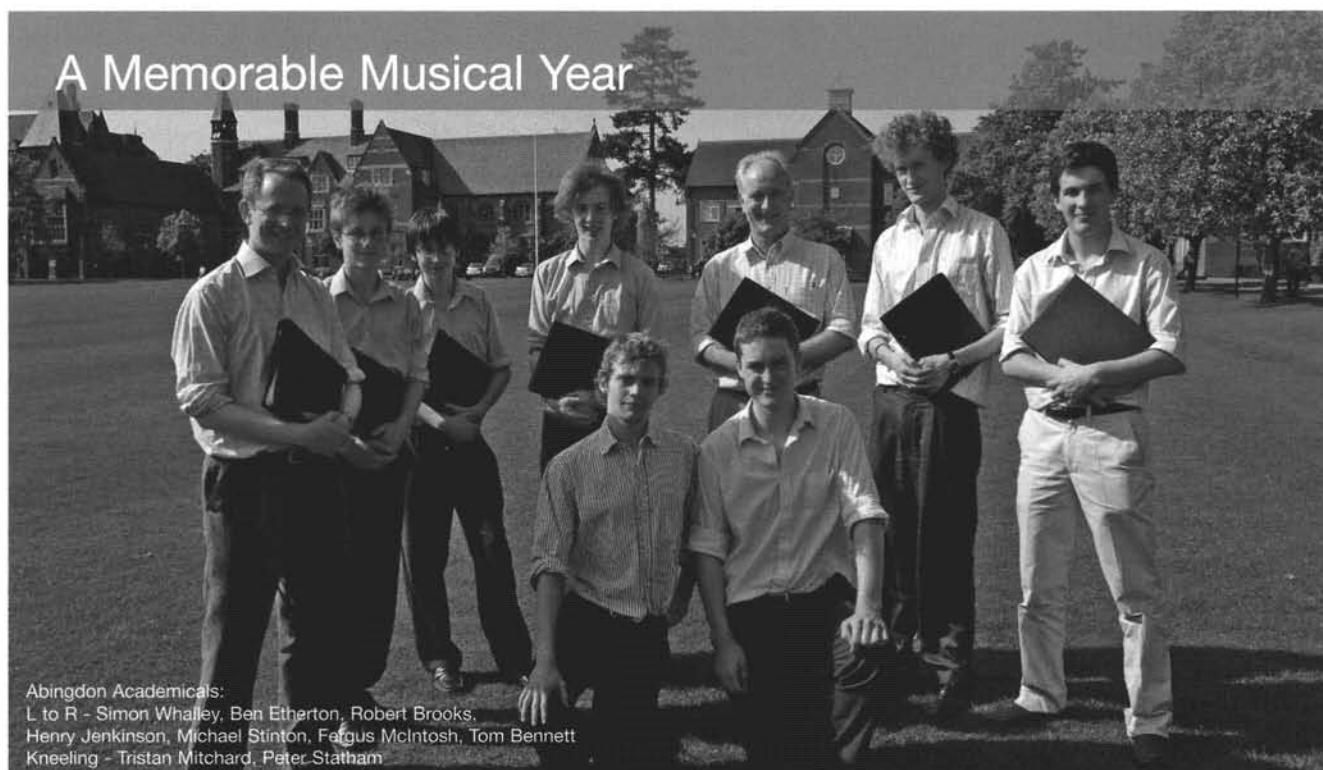
The Arkwright Scholarship is an external organisation that supports high-achieving scholars who are considering a future in design and engineering. Over 800 candidates applied for the scholarship.

Henry designed a modern piece of seating and Andrei produced a concept for a boarding house bin.

Dan Hughes



# Music



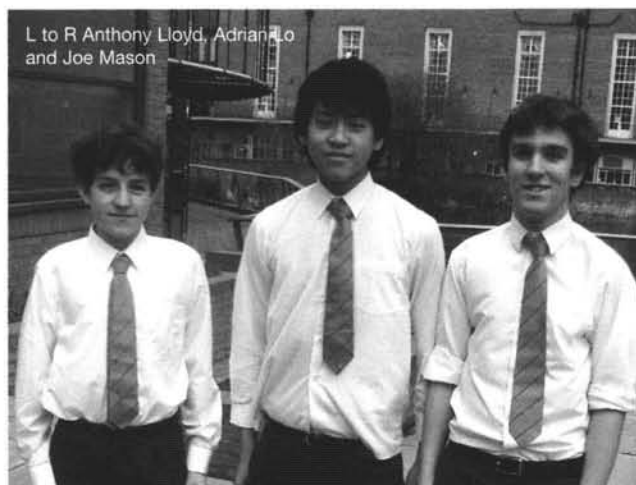
It is obviously a truism, if not a cliché, to say that the performance of a music department 'goes in waves', with peaks and troughs as stronger cohorts of musicians come and go. At Abingdon there have been particularly memorable years, often – and not surprisingly – ones when we have taken the opportunity to tour; the orchestral peaks have been 1995 (central Europe), 2002 (Vienna, Budapest), 2006 (Far East), and Big Band Jazz in 1998 (Southwest France), 2000 (Greece) and 2004 (Normandy).

2007-8 was the year that saw music scholars **Tom Bennett** and **Tristan Mitchard** at their peak, supporting and leading Chapel Choir, senior orchestras and chamber music. **Aidan Thorne**, jazz bassist extraordinaire, was a leading light of the Big Band and particularly gifted in encouraging young players around him, preserving the legacy that has helped give rise to a peak in Big Band numbers and performance that will result in a tour to Liguria, west-coastal northern Italy, in July 2009.

It was also a year that witnessed considerable changes in the staffing and structure of the Music Department, some more planned than others. The beginning of the year saw the arrival of a number of new faces: **Richard Hollingdale**, former Director of Music at King Henry VIII School in Coventry, came to cover for a term, replacing **Richard Elliott** before the arrival of **Jenni**

**Matthews** in January 2008 from Kingswood School in Bath. **Richard's** experienced pair of hands soon won the confidence of the music classes and examination sets and we enjoyed his expert playing in Chapel. **Jenni's** formative musical influences were as a pupil in Abingdon, where she was a leading light in Lin Marsh's Oxford Youth Music Theatre and had been a sixth-form pupil at the School of St Helen and St Katharine, where she had elected to study A level music under **Michael Stinton** and **Richard Elliott** at Abingdon. Needless to say, she was a star pupil who went on to gain a choral scholarship and double first in music at Cambridge. With a formidable reputation from her previous school as a charismatic choral director and evangelist of singing-for-all, we are looking forward to experiencing her work first-hand with her newly formed School Choir.

We were also delighted to appoint a new music assistant to the Department. **Olivia Newbold** came to us from the Royal College of Music, where she had completed a Masters in piano performance, having taken her initial degree at the Sydney Conservatorium. **Olivia** quickly found her feet, proving to be a gifted accompanist and hard-working administrator. Her calm demeanour and ready smile were not lost to us at the end of the year, however, as she has agreed to stay on as a piano teacher.



We welcomed a significant number of new visiting music teachers. **Tim Payne** (clarinet), **Paul Lambert** (trombone), **Dana Marsh** (organ and piano), **Guy Howarth** and then **Will Balkwill** (trumpet) and **Michael Wilkins** (saxophone) all joined us at the start of the year, and brought considerable experience as both players and teachers in the music profession. Late November brought us the news of **Fiona Parker's** departure as Bandmaster over nearly nine years. Her farewell tribute appears earlier in this publication. Several generations of her pupils and bandsmen will be grateful for her original approach, energy, high standards and sense of fun that she generated in rehearsal and performance. We were delighted in the new year to welcome **Andy Townsend** (Bandmaster and trumpet), **Julian Faultless** (French horn) and **Chris Fletcher-Campbell** (classroom teacher). Mr Fletcher-Campbell had previously served for many years as Director of Music at Bloxham School and has a well-known local profile as a percussionist, violinist, organist and conductor.

The year also saw some new faces among the committee of the Abingdon School Music Society, the previous year's chairman, **Polly Bennett**, having been succeeded by **Alyson Mason**. **Bob Tack** replaced **Paul Barrow** as treasurer and **David Brooks** became our new secretary. **Nicky Ereat** provided continuity as our events secretary. We all have reason to be grateful to the parents who so kindly provide refreshments at all our concerts and raise funds for masterclasses, music tours and musical instruments.

And what of achievements this year? There were many successes to report. It is always good to secure Oxbridge awards – this year **Tom Bennett** to Christ Church, as a choral scholar, and **Tristan Mitchard** to Somerville as organ scholar. Two boys, **Nicholas Ereat** (double bass) and **David Mears** (clarinet) won places in the National Youth Orchestra, and **George Bone** (French horn) in the National Youth Winds. **Chris Mears** (French horn) continued to enjoy his participation in the National Children's Orchestra, which this year saw a tour to Lady Walton's island of Ischia, off the coast of Italy. A notable achievement and school record, surely, went to **Tristan Mitchard** with his tally of six grade 8 distinctions in violin, viola, piano, organ, singing and, to cap it all, harpsichord. He is a most versatile musician who will be kept busy on all fronts at Oxford: choral, instrumental, as an organist and as an accompanist.

Several boys completed their professional performing diplomas, too: **Adrian Lo** (violin), **Tristan Mitchard** (viola) and **Guy Cutting** (singing) with an outstanding 87% for his ATCL (Associate of Trinity College, London).

Our chamber musicians, under **Mariette Pringle's** wise guidance, excelled themselves again, winning a place for the seventh successive year in the finals of the National Chamber Music Competition for Schools, now run by the organisation *Pro Corda*. **Anthony Lloyd** (flute), **Adrian Lo** (violin) and **Joe Mason** (piano) represented us at the North London Collegiate School with a trio by Martinu.

Many performances throughout the year stood out and some are referred to in the following pages and photographs. Prominent in mind, as I think back, are the Choral Concert in Keble College Chapel under **Simon Whalley's** direction, the singing masterclass with Robert Tear, the Abingdon Academicals trip to Normandy (for a celebration of Europe Day in May) and the orchestral concert shortly afterwards, when three Abingdon boys, **Ozy Tack**, **Guy Cutting** and **Tristan Mitchard**, took a movement each as soloist in the *C minor Piano Concerto* by Beethoven.

The charitable aspect in our music-making was also an important element in the last year. The Christmas Concerts and the New Year Concert, between them, raised £1400 to help Oxfam's response to the Bangladeshi Cyclone Emergency Appeal. In March we contributed over £500 to the Pangbourne College annual Joint Schools' Concert with a large sum raised for the *Children's Trust, Tadworth* (for children with multiple disabilities). The *Junior Abingdon's Got Talent* in May supported the Moldova Project, and the Lower School Gala Concert raised £476 for Father Thomas Rathapillil's charity, *Light for the Blind*, helping the blind and dying destitute of India.

To all our talented musicians, to our gifted and committed teachers and to our ever-supportive parents, I offer my congratulations and thanks for another memorable year of music making. With a Big Band tour planned for July 2009, a joint orchestral concert with a Japanese boys' school orchestra in March and a possible orchestral tour in 2010, there is much to which we can look forward in the years ahead.

Michael Stinton

## House Singing Competition

Jack Trotman conducts Older's House



The House Singing Competition at Abingdon was inaugurated in 1993 – its objective, in common with other well-known schools, to foster the civilised activity of singing and to develop a real sense of 'esprit de corps' within the Houses. I think it is fair to say that our competition has succeeded handsomely on both counts in recent years.

In the early days of the competition, the House system was structured differently, with the Sixth Form operating rather like the current Lower School with two Sixth-form housemasters (Mr Townsend and Mr Watkins) and Lower and Upper Sixth-form tutors without a House affiliation. With the arrival of 'through houses' in 1998, the House Singing Competition became a more inclusive and less voluntary activity, with all nine houses participating.

In this way, the House Singing competition took on a more significant role in our pastoral arrangements. Its position in the school year, on the eve of Michaelmas half term, has enabled it to become an early whole-House activity, with Sixth-form musicians taking a leading and directing role, with the new Third-year boys getting to know them and their housemasters in a more interactive and structured way.

We are not yet at a stage where we can ask each House to field both a unison song and a part song, although we did experiment with this in a voluntary way in the early days. But the unison song entry does give every boy the opportunity to participate and to represent the House. As we have seen from the excitement generated in recent House Singing Competitions, there is a real competitive edge to the event and an impressive focus during the final dress rehearsals.

It has been very gratifying to see how much benefit has been derived by individuals as far as their personal development is concerned. It really does require some nerve and commitment to stand in front of the whole school and direct your House performance, quite apart from keeping discipline in rehearsals and trying to inspire the troops in the rehearsals that lead up to the day itself.

We have had some excellent adjudicators over the years: three that spring to mind include Andrew Morris (Bedford), Jonathan

Willocks (Director of the Junior Department of the Royal Academy of Music), and this year, Ralph Allwood, Precentor of Eton College. All three are distinguished Directors of Music and were able to give both critical analysis and warm encouragement.

And what are the things that enable a House to really succeed? Well, the songs have to be understood, so the words must be heard. That means there must be good diction and a good sense of ensemble (singing together), with care given both to the beginnings and ends of words. One of the great mistakes is not to take enough care to end words together and this must be one of the most important goals of the rehearsal process. This can only be achieved if practices are successful – that means starting promptly with good discipline, people concentrating and focused, a director who has prepared and 'knows the score' well enough to give strong and clear entries, and a good pianist/backing ensemble who have made an effective arrangement and have practised the accompaniment.

Perhaps one of the most critical elements in the whole process is in the choice of the song. It is tempting to choose the latest chart-buster, but – be cautious! Invariably, the success of a pop song relates to its 'groove' or general sound, including rhythm and backing. The melody (if there is much of one) might be sung at high pitch by a solo singer and so is not suitable for unison singing by a company of seventy boys whose natural vocal register can vary enormously. The advice is to choose a song with a memorable tune and of a range that can be managed by everyone – this means that the key may need to be transposed.

This year's winning entry was from Crescent House with Simon and Garfunkel's *Bridge over Troubled Water*. It was an ambitious choice, as the vocal range in this song is huge. However, it came off magnificently because the commitment of the boys to the song was outstanding. They sang right through phrases and to the end of words and really 'went for it' with some of the higher passages. Great credit must go to them and to the director and piano accompanist, Benjamin Thoe and Adrian Lo. We look forward to 2008 with real anticipation!

Michael Stinton



## A Concert of English Choral Music – Keble College Chapel



24 November 2007

Our director and conductor for this year's performance was **Simon Whalley**, whose talents we share with Keble College, Oxford, where he is now a Junior Fellow in Music. 2007 marked the tenth anniversary of the re-founding of our School Choral Society which, in 1997, made a formal alignment with the School of St Helen and St Katharine under their then Director of Music, Andrew Tillett, who had a vision for equal collaboration, the direction alternating year by year between the schools.

The concert proved to be an excellent opportunity to explore the exciting acoustic of Keble College Chapel for a concert of English Choral Music in a programme of suitably seasonal music. The repertoire included music by Vaughan Williams,

Parry and Elgar in a concert of modest length, therefore not requiring an interval. The formula of a one-term commitment to rehearsals for a pre-Christmas concert, rather than a longer rehearsal period to March, acknowledged the need to ease pressure in a Lent term now dominated by mock examinations and coursework deadlines.

The programme included Vaughan Williams' *Five Mystical Songs* and *Fantasia* on Christmas Carols, and it gave a solo platform to two of our most experienced and committed singers, **Guy Cutting** (tenor) and **Tom Bennett** (baritone). Parry's *Blest Pair of Sirens* and *Jerusalem* saw the orchestra and choir in particularly fine form under Simon Whalley's clear and sympathetic direction on what is his home ground, as the building more usually hosts services for his College chapel choir.

### Scholars' Concerts

16 Nov, 13 Feb, 14 Mar, 11 June 2007

There were a total of four music scholars' concerts in the year, amounting to seventy-eight solo performances by our senior musicians. These concerts, attended mostly by parents, offer a fascinating insight into the work of gifted boys of all ages with their individual music teachers. There were some most inspiring performances in all instrumental departments from Corelli to Gershwin and Honegger, with, inevitably perhaps, our singers, pianists and string players predominating.

### Weekly Informal Lunchtime Recitals

Our weekly informal concerts are now firmly established with ten each term, on a rotating day each half, allowing scope for visiting staff to enter pupils for concerts on a day when they are likely to be teaching at Abingdon.

The concerts are held in the light, airy and lively acoustic of the Amey Theatre foyer – a most agreeable place to pop in on the way to or from lunch. **Olivia Newbold**, our music assistant, really took the organisation, accompaniment and presenting of these concerts to heart and we enjoyed no less than thirty over the year, offering young musicians of all ages and abilities an easy and relatively stress-free opportunity to perform, and their tutors a chance to catch up on how they were getting on. It has provided a wonderfully regular concert platform for our large cohort of musicians at Abingdon.

### Eric Wang (violin) and Cindy Ho (piano)

21 November 2007

We were delighted to welcome in late autumn a professional violin and piano duo, who brought with them an unusual programme of Brahms' three ferociously difficult yet sublime violin sonatas.

**Cindy Ho** (one of our visiting piano teachers) and **Eric Wang** (violin) are more often to be heard in concert halls or on the radio across the world – in London, Russia or the Far East – so it was a special honour to host them here. The concert was well received by the cognoscenti of Abingdon who formed a modest-sized audience for this concert, perhaps not ideally timed for a few days before our Joint Choral Society concert.

## Christmas Concerts – 10, 12 December 2007



Benjamin Thoe accompanied by the Big Band conducted by Simon Currie

This year the two Christmas Concerts shared the same programme – in previous years we have operated two versions in order to give all the bands, orchestras and choirs an opportunity to perform. However, the now well established New Year Concert fulfils that need, giving a slightly longer rehearsal span to the same ensembles.

The senior bands were all represented this year and joined for the first time by Blues Society, a new ensemble established by **Andrew Crook**. This has proved to be a welcome addition to our Wednesday afternoon offering and gives a platform for guitarists and vocalists interested in the 'funkier' end of the jazz-blues spectrum. *Superstition* by Stevie Wonder was performed notably by **George Potter** with Big Band some years ago – this time we were treated to a vocal performance by **Benjamin Thoe**, supported by **Charlie Kingsman** (guitar), **Aidan Thorne** (bass), **Mike Summers** (saxophone) and **Jack Tinker** (trumpet). First Wind Band and Brass Band were conducted by **Michael Stinton** this year in Holst's *Suite No. 2* and *Pirates of the Caribbean*, together with a series of short pieces – *Born Free* and *Gabriel's Oboe* (from *The Mission*) and *Clog Dance* – to finish. Chapel Choir, under **Simon Whalley's** direction, joined our First Year Choir for some seasonal fare: *Ding Dong Merrily on High*, *I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas* and *Away in a Manger*.

Orchestral work started and finished the concert. Chamber Orchestra, under **Mariette Pringle's** direction, played three works: *Praeludium* from Grieg's *Holberg Suite*, the first

movement from Bach's *D minor Keyboard Concerto* (**Guy Cutting** soloist) and a movement from *Palladio* by **Karl Jenkins**, a favourite with the players. The main work that had occupied the First Orchestra throughout the term was Tchaikovsky's exciting *Marche Slave* (Slavonic March), a work that gives ample opportunity for all sections to play idiomatically and with the stirring effect so characteristic of the composer. Particularly notable contributions were made by **Jack Tinker** and **George Rossiter** (trumpets), along with **Jung Tao** (bass trombone) and **Veeral Manek** (timpani), ably supported by an outstanding string section led this year by **Tristan Mitchard** with desk partner **Tom Bennett**. As is customary, we finished with a Christmas carol, accompanied by the orchestra, this year, *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*.



Michael Stinton conducts the First Orchestra



Mariette Pringle conducts the Chamber Orchestra

## New Year Concert 17 Jan

The concert this year was a refreshingly brief affair preceded by an audience reception in the foyer, avoiding the need for an interval and thus ensuring an earlier finish on a dark winter evening.

Second Wind Band was first on the bill. A well rehearsed ensemble took to the stage under the enthusiastic baton of **Nigel Somerville** in some 'big cat' repertoire – *Pink Panther* by Mancini and *Eye of the Tiger*, both played with considerable flair.

Second Orchestra followed – this time the theme was clearly 'operatic highlights' with melodies from *Rigoletto* (Verdi), *Cavalleria Rusticana* (Mascagni) and *March from Carmen* (Bizet). The performances were led by **Ozy Tack** and characterised by excellent orchestral discipline and tightness of ensemble.

**Ozy Tack** then took to the stage again, this time as piano soloist: Chopin's *Fantasia Impromptu* received a virtuosic rendering, causing a considerable stir among the audience and much discussed at school the following day. The finale in this concert was again reserved for First Orchestra – another performance of *Marche Slave* (the orchestra could not get enough of it!) and Smetana's evocative *Vltava*, a colourful symphonic poem, tracing the course of the Moldau from its source through the Bohemian countryside, arriving finally and majestically in the city of Prague.

The total of the retiring collection added to the Christmas Concerts' collections enabled us to give over £1500 to *Oxfam* for their Cyclone Appeal. The heavy swag bags were received with considerable delight at the *Oxfam* shop in Broad Street the following day.

## Chamber Music Concert 16 Feb

The chamber concert this year demonstrated not only the special emphasis that exists at Abingdon in this genre, but also the range of ensembles across the families of instruments – strings and piano, of course, but also woodwind (flute choir and double reeds ensemble), brass (horn quintet and brass quintet) and guitar ensemble.

The special thrill, of course, is to see ensemble-performing under pupil direction – the sense of the teachers having done their work and the boys moving on the next stage in rehearsal, listening, tuning, discussing matters of ensemble and presentation and finding their own motivation for practice and performance.

The concerts serve two kinds of musicians. The first group are those whose instruments do not lend themselves naturally to ensemble work (such as pianists and guitarists), where playing together adds a very welcome social dimension to what might otherwise be a rather solitary experience. The second are those rather elite players (of stringed instruments, particularly) who need the challenge of playing demanding and exposed music which will stretch them to the next level of challenging repertoire.

This year's concert made for a delightful evening, with repertoire ranging from Renaissance and Baroque (Scheidt, Purcell and Telemann) through Classical (Schubert) to Romantic (Brahms, Lachner, Wagner) to 20th Century (Martinu and Clapton!). I particularly enjoyed the glorious sound of four horns in Wagner's *Flying Dutchman* (Joe Mason, Joe Delo, Felix Wood, George Bone), the guitar septet (Kris Cao, Joe Brown, Tom Spears, Tom Bradfield, John Mulvey, Andy Mak and a guest, Joanna Brookes) in Clapton's *Wonderful Tonight*. The senior string quartet (Tristan Mitchard, Tom Bennett, Laurie Havelock and Fergus McIntosh) were immensely impressive, as was the 'Brahmsian' Lachner Piano Quintet (Guy Cutting, Adrian Lo, Andrew Doll, Caspian Mitchard and Harry Strong). The concert was concluded by the Jazz Quartet (Jack Tinker, Nicholas Ereaut, Mike Summers and Veeral Manek) with *Bernie's Tune*, a performance that demanded and received a worthy encore.

## Oliver! – Lower School Drama Club Production



The cast of *Oliver!* on stage for the finale

28 and 29 February

The Department was delighted to be invited to provide a band and the musical direction for a staged performance of Lionel Bart's *Oliver*, based on Dickens's novel *Oliver Twist*. **Olivia Newbold** had been working in rehearsals as repetiteur during the previous term, so the boys already knew the music pretty well.

A reduced band was put together from some of Abingdon's top players – and very successful it proved to be, with woodwind players **Anthony Lloyd**, **Tim Jones**, **Henry Jenkinson** and **Ian**

**Houlsby**, brass **Joe Mason** and **Euan Campbell**, percussion **Veeral Manek** and strings **Guy Cutting**, **Adrian Lo**, **Alex Ereaut** and his brother, **Nicholas**.

There were some excellent contributions from Lower School singers with principals **Jack May** (*Oliver*), **Chris Mears** (*Dodger*), **Philip Smith** (*Fagin*), **Matthew Hartshorne** (*Sykes*) and **Oliver Jackson** (*Nancy*) being particularly prominent. Co-directors were **Finola Donovan** and **Andrew Loughe**, while **Michael Stinton** conducted the band.

## Singing Masterclass with Robert Tear

27 February

Perhaps one of the most exciting events of the year was the life-enhancing and performance-transforming visit of the distinguished operatic tenor, **Bob Tear**. It was a matter of great fortune that a family acquaintance of **Polly Bennett** (mother of **Tom**) afforded us a contact with such a world-class artist as **Sir Robert**.

**Robert Tear** was, after **Peter Pears**, a favourite tenor of the composer **Benjamin Britten**, and so was in a unique position to comment upon and coach performances of this composer's oeuvre. **Andrew Yeats**, Abingdon's own singing teacher (also a tenor), was able to take this into account when choosing repertoire for his pupils.

We opened with **Guy Cutting** singing the prologue from Britten's dark opera *The Turn of the Screw*. What fascinated us all was both the warmth and focus with which **Sir Robert** engaged with all aspects of this performance. He was clearly excited to see the standard and potential of **Guy's** vocal

delivery. His approach was a subtle one: by concentrating on aspects of the drama – the timing and the engagement with the audience, rather than any technical musical matter (**Guy** was already 'on top of the notes') – the performance was truly transformed. It afforded us all the most extraordinary insight into the workings of an 'opera school' of the Music Conservatoire type, which **Guy** himself seems truly destined to attend.

What followed included a Bach aria sung by **Henry Jenkinson**, (a new chorister recruit from **New College** who went on to gain his **Grade 8** distinction in the summer term), and a Haydn recitative and aria from Mozart's *Marriage of Figaro* from **Fergus McIntosh**. The excitement was reserved for the finale in the vocal trio of **Tristan Mitchard** (counter tenor), **Robert Brooks** (tenor), and **Caspian Mitchard** (baritone) in Britten's *Journey of the Magi*, where, again, the music was brought to life by the dramatic understanding afforded by the coaching session that followed.

**Sir Robert** was clearly enjoying himself as much as the audience and the performers, and promised to return regularly to work with our singers. Our thanks must go to the Music Society who supported and financed this very worthwhile venture.

## Pangbourne Charity Schools Concert 1 March

Not content with two performances of Tchaikovsky's *Marche Slave*, First Orchestra were able to play the work one last time at a special annual local schools' charity concert staged by Pangbourne College in their Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel.

This provided us with a chance to help with some serious fund-raising for *The Tadworth Children's Trust*, alongside other schools, most of which are feeder preparatory schools for Abingdon: Brockhurst, Cheam, Cranford House, Dragon, Moulsoford, St Andrew's and Thorngrove. Although rehearsal was minimal and somewhat disrupted by sports fixtures and County Youth Orchestra commitments, we were able to enjoy a very varied concert and connect with many current and prospective parents.

I don't think our audience were quite prepared for the sheer power and excitement that can be generated by a romantic symphonic orchestra in full flight and I am not sure how often the barrel-like acoustic of Pangbourne's chapel is exposed to such sound. The boys were chuffed that they had created such a stir.

The chapel was full to bursting. The Abingdon audience alone brought in over £500 and many thousands were raised for this very special Charity that helps children come to terms with multiple disabilities and injuries but then to go on to live happy and fulfilling lives.

## Lunchtime Chamber Concert at St Nicolas' Church 23 April

Hardly had the summer term begun before Abingdon music scholars and chamber musicians were in action at St Nicolas' Church in the market square on a Wednesday afternoon. This provided a welcome showcase for our leading musicians and a new and appreciative audience outside School.

The programme included a number of ensembles – one particularly memorable item was Britten's *Ballad of Little Barnard and Lady Musgrave*, a highly dramatic narrative featuring a trio of singers plus pianist, in this case **Guy Cutting** (tenor), **Fergus McIntosh** (baritone), **Tom Bennett** (bass) and **Tristan Mitchard** (piano), the essence of the story hinging on the cuckolding of Lord Musgrave by Little Barnard. **Ozy Tack's** virtuosic pianism in Rimsky-Korsakov's *Flight of the Bumblebee*, an example of 'moto perpetuo', was another memorable highlight of this concert.



Ozy Tack



Guy Cutting



Tristan Mitchard

## Early Summer Concerts – Orchestral and Bands 7 and 12 May

The early arrival of public academic examinations brings revision leave and therefore our big school concerts are ever earlier in the Summer term.

The orchestral concert was particularly distinctive as it gave us a chance to perform one of the AS set works, Beethoven's *3rd Piano Concerto*, which then grew in scope as it became clear that we had sufficient senior pianists, and more, to perform all three movements with a different soloist in each. As a consequence, **Ozy Tack** (first movement) came to be joined by **Guy Cutting** (second movement) and **Tristan Mitchard** (finale). It helped that all the soloists are taught by the same teacher, **Lynette Stulting**, and that all played the violin – so as one soloist had played, a somewhat comical sequence of baton-passing (or, in this case, violin-passing) ensued.

It has certainly been beneficial to our exam candidates to have performed all the works set for musicological study in recent years. There is no better way of getting 'under the skin' of a work than to play it in front of an audience. As well as performances by Chamber and Second Orchestras, we were also able to perform a duet from Mozart's comic *Singspiel*, the *Escape from the Seraglio*, featuring **Guy Cutting** (Belmonte) and **Tom Bennett** (Osmin), the programme concluding with an orchestral medley of themes from James Bond 007.

The bands' concerts saw both senior and junior bands in action, **Nigel Somerville** opening the concert with Second Wind Band in exuberant spirits – playing Ellington's *It Don't Mean a Thing (if it Ain't Got that Swing)* and Chuck Rio's Tequila. First Wind Band made us reminisce about the 2006 China Tour with Moross' *The Big Country*, caused us to tap our feet in highlights from *Oklahoma* and feel patriotic in Ron Goodwin's *633 Squadron*.

The second half introduced us to our new Bandmaster, **Andy Townsend**, in three short numbers with Brass Band: Susato's *La Mourisque*, Goodall's *Vicar of Dibley* and *Pavane Bataille*, again by Susato. Finally, Big Band, under **Simon Currie's** effortless direction, gave us two classic Sinatra hits with solo vocalists, **Benjamin Thoe** (*Come Fly with Me*) and **Pete Statham** (*Witchcraft*), together with Hefti's *Splanky* and Chick Corea's challenging but exciting Latin-American number, *Spain*.

The concert gave us an opportunity to bid farewell to some really loyal bandmen who have supported Abingdon's music over as much as seven years: **Joe Delo** (French horn), **John Morgan** (flute), **Jun Tao** (bass trombone) and **Aidan Thorne** (bass).

Concert à Argentan, Normandie–Musiciens d'Abingdon School



17 May

An invitation from the Argentan's Twinning Association's Pierre Sillier resulted in a group of a dozen Abingdon boys and staff spending a weekend in Normandy to rehearse and perform a range of music to celebrate Europe Day at a special concert in the church there. So it was that Michael Stinton drove a minibus of high-spirited Abingdon Academicals, accompanied by Simon Whalley, Olivia Newbold and Jenni Matthews, to Portsmouth one Friday afternoon to catch the high-speed hydrofoil to Le Havre.

Met by a pair of minibuses sent by the Commune d'Argentan and hosted by supportive families, we enjoyed presenting a concert of vocal and organ music embracing several countries of Europe: England (Henry VIII, Tallis, Byrd), Austria (Mozart), Germany (Bach), France (Bizet, Faure, Alain) and Italy (Bell'Haver).

Two highlights were a performance of part I of *Thomas Tallis's Lamentation of Jeremiah* and a hilarious arrangement for organ duet by Simon Whalley of Bizet's *March from Carmen*, performed by Jenni and Simon. The finale was an outstanding organ performance of Jehan Alain's *Litanies* played by Tristan Mitchard.

We enjoyed our warm hospitality both before and after the concert – although some were unnerved to be asked to stand through a seemingly endless performance of the European 'hymn', *Beethoven's Ode to Joy*, at the start of the concert. The next day several of our party were to suffer, unfortunately, the effects of a turbulent return crossing, alleviated by reaching terra firma at Portsmouth.

## Music Society Riverboat Cruise

27 June

A fitting 'coda' to the summer term saw the Music Society braving the threatening weather on a Salter's riverboat cruise, featuring some of our distinguished leavers. Thankfully we were spared the rain and even the chill wind did not dim the spirits as we were entertained by the Abingdon Academicals and the Senior String Quartet. Particularly prominent were leavers Tom Bennett, Laurie Havelock, Tristan Mitchard and Pete Statham.

To them and to the many others, boys, parents and staff, we offer thanks for all the commitment that you bring and the resultant enjoyment and high standards that have so enriched another musical year at Abingdon School.

Michael Stinton.



## BBC Prom Concert Trip

A group of Sixth-form musicians and teachers attended a BBC prom at the Royal Albert Hall in September. The internationally renowned Berlin Philharmoniker, conducted by the enigmatic Sir Simon Rattle, played the *Prelude and Liebestod* from *Tristan and Isolde* by Richard Wagner and Olivier Messiaen's *Turangalila Symphony*. The themes of the concert were therefore love and death: *Turangalila* is a Sanskrit word meaning a combination of love, joy, movement, and the rhythms of life and death.

The *Prelude and Liebestod* were played with sparkling intonation and tremendous passion by the orchestra, although how they managed to follow Sir Simon's unconventional conducting is a mystery! We were on the edge of our seats and holding our breath for the duration of the piece and, despite being twenty-five minutes long, the music seemed to be timeless and to last only a moment.

The *Turangalila Symphony*, a huge work in ten movements, was wonderfully performed, taking the audience through the story of two lovers. The fiendish rhythms and structure, influenced by Indian raga, were played seemingly effortlessly, while the piece itself was ever more intriguing, with impressive piano-playing by Pierre-Laurent Aimard and ondes-martenot-playing by Tristan Murail. Overall, it was a fantastic experience of superb music.

Joe Mason 5 KJB

## Practical Music Examination Results 2007 – 08

Associated Board Practical Examinations Entries – 178, Distinctions – 40, Merits – 53, Passes at Grade 8 – 30  
 Congratulations to the following who gained Distinction in their music examinations this year.

Peter Barnshaw	Cello	5	133
Gabriel Burrow	Clarinet	1	130
Robert Brooks	Singing	8	131
John Carter	Singing	8	130
Guy Cutting	Viola	8	133
Tim Davies	Trumpet	4	132
Andrew Doll	Violin	7	130
Joe Ereaut	Trumpet	7	131
Ben Etherton	Cello	8	142
William Haines	Oboe	2	138
Henry Jenkinson	Singing	8	137
Thomas Kelly	Piano	5	130
Nicholas Krol	Piano	3	131
Jimmy Lam	Violin	1	134
Edmund Lewis	Jazz Alto Sax	2	132

Anthony Lloyd	Piano	6	133
Joe Mason	Singing	8	133
Jack May	Piano	6	131
	Cello	6	130
Fergus McIntosh	Cello	8	137
Christopher Mears	Piano	5	133
David Mears	Piano	8	141
Ian Middleton	Piano	3	133
Caspian Mitchard	Piano	8	138
	Organ	7	130
Tristan Mitchard	Harpsichord	8	142
George Ruck	Violin	5	131
	Piano	3	133
James Winters	Cello	5	134

## Lower School Gala Concert

Simon Whalley conducts the Drum Circle with First Year Choir



As the summer term draws to a close, there remains one final musical treat which always draws a large and enthusiastic audience. This year, the Lower School Gala Concert was held on Wednesday 25th June and, as usual, there was a buzz of expectation as the orchestra, supplemented by instrumentalists who included a pianist from the Preparatory School, took their places on the stage. What more appropriate opening could there be than *Summer Nights* from *Grease*, combining excitement, conveyed by the powerful brass section, and true romantic longing? The second excerpt was *Greased Lightnin'*, which was electrifying, bounding along with great energy and syncopation.

Our first soloist was Daishiro Nishida, a new boy who had been playing the cello for only nine months, and whose composure, fluency and rich tone were quite remarkable. Following his charming bow and exit, the Jazz Ensemble took the stage, five boys of major talent who listened to each other with real sensitivity to produce a brilliant sound. Jazz at its best combines improvisation with strict discipline, and the inspirational Nigel Somerville certainly delivered the goods on this occasion: from Christopher Mears's smooth and sophisticated solo to Jack May's delightful final squiggle, the whole show was steeped in the authentic spirit of the genre.

Next came two euphoniums, Daniel Belcher and Sean Maclachlan, whose solemn bows, Hoffnung-like, introduced a strong and measured performance of a Tudor piece hailing from the court of Henry VIII. Equally stately was Christopher Mears's performance, on piano, of *Espagnol* by Cornick, after which Joe Ereaud and Jack May reappeared as cellists to delight us with lively renditions and impeccable timing of a *Blues* and a

*Boogie*, which seemed to this reviewer to make light work of some extremely challenging notation and complicated bowing (no scraping).

Then back to brass, in the guise of Ian Middleton's pure, clear, imperious cornet sound in Jim Parker's *Ground Force*, the melodious second section contrasting beautifully with the commanding call to arms which surrounds it. *Buskin Dance* by Richard Rodney Bennett came next, a charming folksy piece for the violin, played with real spirit and conviction by George Ruck. And then we came to Jack May's third solo appearance, this time at the piano, whence he treated us to a wonderfully versatile performance of *Regrets* from Mendelssohn's *Songs Without Words*, demonstrating a fine range of mood and tone delivered with rare sensitivity.

The last solo before the finale of the first half was performed by Thomas Kelly on fiddle, playing a bright and breezy *Hungarian Dance* by Nalck, as Hungarian as it gets, with lots of quick and vigorous twists and turns. Finally, an impressively cohesive Junior Strings ensemble, under the baton of the illustrious Mariette Richter, delivered three contrasting pieces, particularly notable, perhaps, for the powerful cello sound in *Ode to Joy* and the remarkably tuneful shouting in Peter Wilson's *Carnival*.

Just before the commencement of the second half, our master of ceremonies, Michael Stinton, delivered an eloquent word or two about the Charity, *Light for the Blind*, which was to benefit from the proceeds of the retiring collection. Evidently, it was an exceedingly well disposed and generous audience which did in due course contribute towards this excellent Charity, and the





Nigel Somerville conducts Lower School Orchestra

donors can be assured that their offerings have already been put to good use providing hospice care for the dying and destitute in Tamilnadu, India.

By tradition, the second half opens with the First-form choir, always one of the most colourful and enjoyable performances of the evening, which was more than ever the case this year as we were treated to three really exciting African Songs, conducted by **Simon Whalley**, with piano accompaniment by **Ozy Tack**. Song by song the excitement increased, up to the point at which Abingdon's Drum Circle, newly formed by **Jenni Matthews**, began to create an incantatory element, made up of a mesmeric humming as well as the drumbeats, which steadily grew in insistence, volume and power to crescendo in a breath-taking explosion of sound.

Handel was an unlikely follow-on, but so persuasive was **Toby Marlow's** flute-playing that we all quickly readjusted to bask in his clear, pure, lively performance, after which we enjoyed the first of two extracts from Prokofiev's *Visions Fugitives*: **Tim Davies** played his chosen piece with a sure, calm and reflective touch. Then the versatile **Christopher Mears** took the stage again, this time to play the first movement of Strauss's *Horn Concerto no.1*, in which, complemented by Simon Whalley's majestic piano accompaniment, he gave a rousing rendition of what struck your reviewer as a fiendishly demanding piece, to enthusiastic audience appreciation.

The second sample from *Visions Fugitives* amply demonstrated some of the range and dynamism of Prokofiev's piano music, **Joe Ereaut's** brilliant performance inciting the audience to ever

wilder applause. The evening's second Handel composition followed, the lively, lovely *Hornpipe* from his *Water Music*, another Mariette Richter triumph, with the String Quartet exemplifying her trademark composure and beautifully textured sound.

Two more delightful short pieces followed. **Ivan Nikolaev's** bassoon-playing was elephantine only in its title and fully deserved the mammoth applause it received, while **Thomas Kelly**, this time on piano, delighted the audience with his lively and engaging performance of Bergmuller's *La Chevaleresque*. Our final soloist was **Joe Ereaut**, once again on cello – but what an amazing performance this was! The *Allegro Appassionata* by Saint-Saens requires the cellist to perform near-impossible feats of fingering, all of which **Joe** carried off with astonishing maturity, while creating a musical experience of such conviction that the audience yet again responded with tremendous acclaim.

After that, only a finale by the Drum Circle could have avoided an anti-climax, but the innovative and thrilling sounds once again rolled out around the auditorium to provide a stunning dramatic climax to an unforgettable evening.

Anne Soper

# Sport



## 1st XV Rugby

Ross Muir

The season began with a much anticipated pre-season trip to Somerset. The squad stayed at King's School, Bruton, where the excellent facilities allowed for some good preparation as well as a successful training game against our host school. On returning to Abingdon the team were thrown straight into their first fixture against Shiplake College. We started the game extremely well but, as the second half progressed, we began to allow Shiplake back into the match and their considerable forwards forced a very tight finish in which we were thankfully able to hold on. One game down, one win.

Next up we had a fantastic opportunity to gauge our game with a tough fixture against an Eton College XV fresh from a tour to South Africa. The first 60 minutes were a good contest, with Abingdon hassling Eton well and forcing them into errors. At 7-14 the game could have gone either way. A missed chance by Abingdon was quickly punished by an excellent Eton try that was quickly followed up by several more. A brave effort ended in a convincing and deserved victory for Eton. A midweek fixture in the *Daily Mail Cup* allowed for some confidence-building that was carried into the Oratory match. Again Abingdon started well, leading the match until the last minute, when the dangerous Oratory winger scored in the corner. The missed conversion left the scores tied at full time.

An away trip to St Paul's, Barnes is never easy and on this occasion the Abingdon team met an opposition who hit their very best form on the day. Abingdon battled bravely and never gave up, but were outclassed by an experienced St Paul's outfit. The midweek *Daily Mail Cup* fixture offered some respite, but the second heavy defeat of the season followed on the Saturday against Bedford School. It was a disappointing performance and a big lesson for the group.

Determination and passion were then displayed in plenty against Stowe and Bloxham, and despite some tense moments at the end of both games, the boys managed to hold on for a pair of deserved wins. Half term then arrived, offering the boys a well-deserved rest. Our first fixture on returning to School was against a tenacious and determined Pangbourne XV. Despite a lacklustre performance from Abingdon, we looked to have stolen victory at the end of a tight match. However, Pangbourne refused to lie down and managed to score in the dying seconds to be rewarded for their efforts and win the game.

The momentum we had built prior to half term had gone, but only temporarily. Our next game was against RGS High Wycombe, a school with a very strong rugby tradition. As expected, this was a tough encounter but, in my opinion and that of Mr Phelan, our best performance. Each player rose to the task and battled superbly against an opposition that had beaten St Paul's earlier in the season. Turning around 7-12 at half time, we were right in the match and continued to play with bravery, heart and no little skill. The bar, in terms of performance, had been set. Despite our defeat by RGS, the match was followed by a well-earned victory over a good Bedford Modern team and a narrow win against local rivals Magdalen College School.

St Edward's were the next visitors to Waste Court Field, in a match that we had every right to be confident of winning. Unfortunately we made the worst possible start, conceding two tries in the opening minutes. Despite this setback, the team fought back well and going into the final ten minutes it was anybody's game. Kickers from both sides traded penalties and the lead changed hands with them. Neither team deserved to lose on the day, but that day it unfortunately was us.

However, the belief within the squad remained strong and with Radley next on the horizon, motivation was as high as ever. The game was played in pouring rain and strong winds, conditions that the Abingdon team adapted to better than their opponents. Abingdon defended superbly, limiting Radley to only two penalties in the match, to record a solid victory. It was a just reward for the efforts the squad had put in during a tough season and reflected the developments they had made.

Our final trip of the season was to Marlborough where conditions were as bad as any we had come across. The pitch was extremely heavy with a gale force wind blowing directly down it. We chose to play with the elements in the first half, but did not play the game in the right areas of the pitch. This meant



Andrew Partridge lifted up in the line-out

that at half time we were behind on the scoreboard and faced an insurmountable task in the ever-increasing wind. Despite a brave effort and a superb try, we ended up losing our final fixture of the season by one try.

The season was a thoroughly enjoyable one and all of the boys involved deserve a huge amount of credit for the way they applied and conducted themselves throughout. **Sam Fletcher** and **Simon Edwards** deserve particular recognition for the way they both led a young 1st XV. With nine retuning players for next year's 1st XV, there is potential for another positive season. Both Mr Phelan and I feel privileged to have coached such a likeable group of young men and wish them all the very best for the future.

Kevin Brennan

1st XV Player of the Season – **Andrew Partridge**

Most Improved Player – **Ross Muir**

Full Colours – **Simon Edwards, Sam Fletcher, Hugh Graham** (2nd XV Captain)

Half Colours – **Richard Moore, Thomas Clee, Jonathan Bayfield, Matthew Pursell, Andrew Partridge, Thomas Green, Parathan Rabindran, Jonathan Bucke**

1st XV Squad: **Simon Edwards** (co-Captain), **Sam Fletcher** (co-Captain), **William Shrier, Andrew Partridge, Richard Moore, Jonathan Warlow, Ross Muir, James Rhodes, Thomas Green, Richard Parkin-Mason, Parathan Rabindran, Matthew Pursell, Sherif Sam-Sadeen, Joseph Buckley, Thomas Clee, Jonathan Bucke, Oliver Raban, Jonathan Bayfield, James Cookson.**



Matthew Pursell

Shiplake	W	20-15
Eton	L	7-39
King Alfred's (DM Cup)	W	48-0
Oratory	D	15-15
St Paul's	L	0-48
Gosford Hill (DM Cup)	W	68-0
Bedford	L	0-46
Stowe	W	18-10
Bloxham (DM Cup)	W	17-12
Pangbourne	L	12-15
RGS High Wycombe (DM Cup)	L	7-26
Bedford Modern	W	15-5
Magdalen College School	W	10-8
St Edward's	L	14-19
Radley	W	15-6
Marlborough	L	10-17

## 2nd XV Rugby

The 2nd XV, still known as 'the wild dogs', have experienced a fantastic season with nine wins and three losses. The team has scored a total of 243 points and conceded only 117. This is one of the best sets of results ever produced by an Abingdon 2nd XV.

The season started well with convincing victories over Eton and Oratory. Particular mention must go to **Matt Rossiter**: he scored a total of three drop-goals in these matches and established himself as a world-class 2nd XV fly half. We suffered a close defeat from Stowe, owing to a lapse of concentration in defence in the last five minutes. The second half of the season saw a run of four straight victories, culminating in a dramatic defeat over St Edward's. **Oliver Cook** and **Thomas Bradfield**, both playing in the back row, had outstanding games, making several try-saving tackles on the opposition's impressive backline. The forwards dominated in nearly every game with powerful players such as **William Stockwell** and **Max 'the Russian' Makarov**. Furthermore, the scrummaging of the two props, **Ben Jackson** and **Michael Coldwell**, would put the likes of Phil Vickery to shame. The backs also performed exceptionally throughout the season with players such as **Sebastien Wilson**, **Jamie Graves**, **Andrew Cook**, **Cody Yellowlees-Bound** and **Jacob Swain**, who effortlessly carved up the opposition with strong running and groundbreaking moves. As captain, **Hugh Graham** led by example, putting his head where others wouldn't put their feet.

This year's convincing results could never have been achieved without the help of the team coach **Mr Drummond-Hay**, whose coaching methods created a fun, yet disciplined, atmosphere that inspired the team to perform to its full potential.

Hugh Graham VI JEF

2nd XV Squad: **Hugh Graham** (Captain), **Ben Jackson**, **Michael Coldwell**, **Andrew Hatzis**, **William Stockwell**, **Oliver Cook**, **Thomas Bradfield**, **Max Makarov**, **Nicholas Howe**, **Barry Tse**, **Joshua Jackson**, **Dale Barker**, **Matt Rossiter**, **Cody Yellowlees-Bound**, **Sebastien Wilson**, **Jamie Graves**, **Jacob Swain**, **Andrew Cook**.

Shiplake	W	46-5
Eton	W	17-3
St Paul's	L	13-28
Bedford	W	23-5
Stowe	L	13-17
Pangbourne	W	33-0
Bedford Modern	W	48-0
MCS	W	24-0
St Edward's	W	25-24
Radley	L	3-17
Marlborough	W	17-5

## 3rd XV Rugby

The 3rd XV started the season with a 0-19 loss to Eton, although the overall performance and determination shown by the squad, especially with **Rex Carter** and **James Moulds** putting in smashing tackles from the back row, boded well for the rest of the season. The squad showed great 'bouncebackability' to beat Oratory 5-0 a week later, perhaps because of the return of 3rd XV stalwart **Henry Locatelli-Malacrida** at hooker. **Rex Carter** scored a good try, set up by direct running from **Simon Jeffreys** which, followed by strong defending, was enough to seal the win. Things only got better for the squad when we played St Paul's the following week, winning 6-5 with the performance of the season from all who were involved. The squad managed to secure victory following two penalties kicked by **Alex Sharp** and some fierce defending, much of which was on our own try-line throughout the first and second half. A very impressive result, especially as in twelve years at Abingdon not one of **Mr Evans's** teams had ever beaten St Paul's before! Despite a determined effort and tenacious tackling, the squad lost to a strong Bedford side the following week. However, our high levels of 'bouncebackability' showed once again on the next Saturday when we played Stowe, winning 29-7 and playing some flowing, attacking rugby from our pacy wingers, **Timothy Gower** and **Robert Stevens**. A tough game against Rendcomb's 1st XV saw the squad suffer a 31-5 defeat, despite great commitment from **Benjamin Kemp** in the front row. True to our recent pattern, the we demolished Bedford Modern the following week, 55-0, with **Timothy Deeks** producing many an incisive pass that left the Bedford Modern defence standing. For once, a lack of discipline and some defensive errors told as we lost 40-5 to St Edward's. One week later we faced the unbeaten Radley side, and in an epic display of 'muddy rugby' we were unlucky to lose 5-15 in a match that could have gone either way. Despite the conditions, there were some impressive performances, noticeably from the indestructible **Tom Durrands** and the returning **James Manassah**. To end the season the squad played an aggressive Marlborough side and produced a performance and result that sums our season up very well – a determined, 'never say die' attitude, scraping and fighting every inch in adverse conditions – resulting in a 0-0 draw with one of the best teams on the circuit. Of note were **Jack Maynard's** try-saving tackle, and tidy, explosive play from the ever-present **Oliver Hampson**.

I think the squad can be very proud of their performances this season: the attitude in training was first-class and the determination and passion really showed on the pitch. Finally, I would like to thank **Mr Evans** and **Mr Lichfield** for their international-standard training drills and coaching throughout the season.

Alex Sharp VI NJOD, Captain

3rd XV Squad: Oliver Hampson, Christopher Weller Jones, Edward Hallett, Justin Robinson, Luke Himpson, Robert Stevens, Alex Sharp, Timothy Deeks, James Manasseh, Timothy Gower, James Burford, Christopher Dunster, Jamie Laidlaw, Simon Jeffreys, Alex Baboolal, Sean Baker, Tom Durrands, James Moulds, Josh Turrill, Rex Carter, Henry Locatelli-Malacrida, Benjamin Kemp, Alexander Clinkard, Jack Longden.

Eton	L	13-19
Oratory	W	5-0
St Paul's	W	6-5
Bedford School	L	0-40
Stowe	W	29-7
Rendcomb 1st XV	L	5-31
Bedford Modern	W	55-0
St Edward's	L	5-40
Radley	L	5-15
Marlborough	D	0-0

## 4th XV Rugby

The 4th XV had a mixed but highly enjoyable season. After being completely outclassed by Eton in the first game (Lost 0-44), they improved considerably in their next two games, unfortunately coming away with another two defeats (5-29 against Oratory and 0-19 against St Paul's) when really the team had been sloppy rather than outplayed.

The fourth game of the season was a turning-point and saw the start of a really spirited and hard-fought run, which reflected more the true quality of this team. The tone for the game was set in the first minute when **Tom McKenna** stopped Bedford's winger dead in his tracks with a tackle that made those watching from the touchline wince. From that moment it was clear that nobody was going to cross the Abingdon line. In a very hard-fought but incredibly skilful contest, Abingdon took their chances and **Oliver Henstridge** kicked a 40-metre penalty to record a 3-0 victory.

In the last game before half term, Abingdon allowed Stowe to gain the initiative early on and tailed 3-10 at half time. In the second half, though, it was a different story, with Abingdon storming back and almost snatching something at the last. An 18-20 scoreline reflects how close it was, but really a draw, rather than the defeat, was merited.

The challenging goal that the team set for the second half of the season was to go undefeated, something that would have been unthinkable given our season's start. Pangbourne's 3rd XV was steamrollered 19-5, with **James Manasseh** starring on his return from injury. A last-minute try against St Edward's secured a 17-17 draw following yet another thrilling comeback. The next Saturday, Radley's 5th XV was beaten 10-0 in very cold and wet conditions. **Harry Porter**, with a typically elusive darting run, and **James Howell**, twisting and turning around tacklers, scored our two tries (one in each half). The team entered the final game full of optimism, hoping to end the season with another big scalp at



Marlborough. The tactics that had worked so well on the wet turf at Radley didn't work in the sodden Ypres-like conditions at Marlborough and the team were 0-24 down after 25 minutes. The team showed their usual fighting spirit and, taking the game by the scruff of the neck, made a real match of it in the second half. **Christopher Weller Jones**, jinking and swerving, and **Rotimi Erikitola**, rampaging and driving through the opposition, scored the tries, to put some respectability back into a 12-29 scoreline.

Overall this was an encouraging and enjoyable season for the large squad who played. Individual mention should be made of **Jamie Brown**, who was excellent as Captain and made many key decisions at the right times that helped to turn several games. **John Davies** was always threatening with the ball in hand anywhere on the pitch and turned defensive positions into threatening attacks. **Oliver Henstridge** was a very solid kicker from hand or at set pieces. The forwards were strong and powerful and really got into their stride as the season went on. **Dominic Flint** caught almost everything in the line-outs; **James Howell**, **Kroma Wenike-Briggs** and **Rotimi Erikitola** were outstanding and a real sight carrying the ball forward; and **Stephen Stinson** gets a mention to for hardly missing a tackle all season.

Mike Litchfield

Captain – **Jamie Brown**

Player of the season – **Romiti Erikitola**

Most Improved Player – **Steve Stinson**

4th XV Squad: **Jamie Brown**, **Chris Weller Jones**, **Dominic Flint**, **Ed Crystal**, **Greg Craven**, **Harry Porter**, **James Fergusson**, **James Howell**, **John Davies**, **Josh Ogle**, **Kroma Wenike-Briggs**, **Luke Powell**, **Marcus Cross**, **Matt Winters**, **Oliver Henstridge**, **Rotimi Erikitola**, **Ryan Romeo**, **Sam Badenoch**, **Steve Stinson**, **Tim Clarke**, **Tom McKenna**, **Yannick Hoegerie**.

Eton	L	0-44
Oratory	L	5-29
St Paul's	L	0-19
Bedford	W	3-0
Stowe	L	18-20
Pangbourne	W	19-5
Bedford Modern	W	48-0
St Edward's	D	17-17
Radley	L	10-0
Marlborough	L	12-29

## Senior Colts A XV Rugby

The season began on 8 September with a fixture against Shiplake, down on paper as a pre-season friendly, but the squad of 30 boys destroyed a Shiplake XV over four quarters, eventually running out 72-5 winners. We drew a lot of positives from this game as the squad showed how strong it was, with every man pulling his weight.

Our first real game of the season came against Eton. From the first contact we could tell this was going to be a tough game. We conceded an early try when we were caught sleeping, after which they ran in another two tries in a half where we felt were contesting but we just could not penetrate the Eton line. After a lengthy half time owing to a serious injury suffered by an Eton player, we began to play attractive attacking rugby, and were rewarded when space was found on the wing and **Richard Milford** crossed over the line to put us back into the game. It was a closely contested second half and after our try neither side was able to score until the last play of the game, where a lapse in concentration led to Eton running in a soft try from halfway. Despite losing on points, we felt this was a game we could have won.

Our second game, against Oratory, was a fixture where victory had always eluded the team over the past few years. The Oratory pack made their presence felt from the start and it wasn't long before we were 0-7 down. This suddenly made the team click and straight from the kick-off they had a line-out in their own twenty-two, which we won and then put a huge drive on with the whole pack. Once near their 5-metre line, **Richard Parkin-Mason** broke away from the maul, got tackled and superbly off-loaded to **Joe McDonagh** to cross over for a well-worked try. The resulting conversion was missed, but a penalty was added before half time. After leading 8-7 at half time, we were put back into our place after two quick scores from Oratory and once again our ability to break through in the final third failed us.

Next came a match against a strong St Paul's side: right from the off the pace of their play and players presented our defence with great problems, as they overloaded their back-line with fast-paced forwards and dominated the game. The only positive we could draw from this game was our strong line-outs.

Our fourth game came against Bedford. After conceding four tries in the first half, we picked up our game and won the second half 7-0, showing just what we could do. That showed we were good enough, and we just needed to fulfil our potential.

Our final game before half term brought a sign of things to come. The fixture against Stowe restored some much-needed confidence in the team, as our backs played with real flair and finally clicked. Despite winning comfortably, we still had defensive problems, but this match was definitely a turning-point in our season.

After the half-term break our first match was against Pangbourne. This was a heated affair, with emotions on both sides running high. Each score created more tension between the team, but the in-form backs were able to unlock the Pangbourne defence and **Joel Collins** was able to cross over the



line to give us a lead. From this point we were able to defend effectively and build on the lead to win convincingly.

Our seventh game of the season came on Saturday 10 November against Bedford Modern. We arrived in Bedford expecting a tough game, and for the first few minutes it seemed that this would be the case, but once we had scored two tries the floodgates opened and our mobile but tough pack, spearheaded by **Hugo 'Huge-O' Morrison**, obliterated an unsuspecting Bedford Modern pack. An inspirational performance in the backs from **Callum Keown**, who had missed much of the early season because of a broken arm, encouraged the other backs to play in the same ruthless manner. This was a game where we showed what we could do when we didn't give the opposition an inch. Victory was capped off when **Charles Brampton** fly-hacked a loose ball from the twenty-two, to dive over the line and score a try after some intense pressure from the pack.

After Bedford Modern came Magdalen College School. The packs seemed fairly matched, with neither side unable to penetrate each other's line, so it became a territory game and remained an intense midfield battle until a break from **Bobby Aigbogun** led to **Richard Milford** picking and driving with the rest of the pack to score a well-earned try, which was then converted to give us a 7-0 lead. It wasn't long before Magdalen scored a try of their own, then just before the end of the half, **Richard Milford** added a second try, which gave us a 14-7 lead at half time. The second half became a midfield battle where neither side was able to gain an advantage. It seemed that we were on track to phase Magdalen out, but with ten minutes to go Magdalen, after some sustained pressure, managed to score, but they missed the conversion, to our relief. The last ten minutes of the game became the stuff of legend: the defensive tackling of **Nathaniel Watkins** and **James Edwards**, coupled with **Liam Smith** stealing anything in the air from the line-out, managed to halt the Magdalen onslaught again and again. The unity of the team and the desire from the team not to allow Magdalen to penetrate our line was a performance we tried to replicate in our last few games of the season.

After the midweek clash with Magdalen behind us, came St Edward's. This was a strong performance, led by **Thomas Hughes** and **Hugo Morrison**, whose tackling and rucking were superb. **Charlie Redman**, as in the rest of the season, made

pass after pass with precision to **James Edwards**, whose kicking under pressure was superb. From the first kick-off we dominated, showing some great play and teamwork; it was a great effort and the 27-0 win reflected our dominance.

Next came the big one, the game we had been building up to: Saturday 1 December, the day we played Radley. Upon our arrival in the rain and sleet, we knew this was not going to be a pretty game. The first half was close, with neither side able to penetrate, and the match seemed to last hours, as no-one could break the stalemate. However, it was a good traditional game of rugby, in 'real' British conditions. Just before half-time Radley put a penalty over the bar to lead 3-0 at half time. At half time we knew we could win this, but despite all our efforts we still couldn't find a way to penetrate their line in a half where we dominated. When Radley finally found a way into our half, they were awarded another penalty in front of the posts, an easy kick over the top and they led 6-0 with ten minutes to go. Our spirit and desire to win were evident in those final ten minutes: our heads never dropped and we believed that we could still win this game right until the end. Sadly, we were unable to make that vital score, despite breaking into their 5-metre line, and this was a defeat which we found hard to take.

Our last game of the season was a home fixture against Marlborough, and we really wanted to sign out on a high point. Marlborough were a strong team and dominated the play, but in a game of few tries, and having defended in our half for much of the game, we were able to hold on to emerge as victors, winning 12-10.

Most people will tell you that games at under-16 level are close, and our season confirmed this, matches being won and lost by one or two kicks. The squad showed great character. The unchanged front row of **Thomas Hughes**, **Benedict Edwards** and **Hugo Morrison** was supreme and a solid rock to build from. The second row of **Alexander Ward** and **Liam Smith**, was always strong and ready. The mobile back row of **Richard Milford**, **Freddie Humfrey** and **Joe McDonagh** at 8 was always quick to the breakdown and always kept fighting to the end. **Charlie Redman** at scrum-half was superb, being reliable throughout the season with his passing. **James Edwards** and **Nathaniel Watkins**, at fly-half and inside-centre respectively, were always defensively strong and did exactly what was expected of them. Outside-centre **Callum Keown**, was always a threat with his pace and power. The wingers, **Bobby Aigbogun** and **Freddie Howe**, had impressive seasons, offering a lot of pace on the wings. Finally, **Joel Collins**, full-back/centre for much of the season, played with confidence and flair throughout. **Edward Howe**, **Euan Campbell** and **James Plumb** were also important members of a squad which has great potential for the future.

Thanks must go to **Steve Kemp**, whose coaching helped the forwards adapt to senior line-outs and also for improving all of our games a great deal by his no-nonsense training methods and his ideas on how forwards should go about their games.

Thanks must also go to **Mr Hall**, who taught us to play with flair and ensured that our fitness would never let us down. He was fully committed to us from start to finish, making clear how we can improve, and teaching us to play with passion, intensity and spirit.

Joe McDonagh 5 DMH



## Senior Colts C XV Rugby

This was certainly the most talented C team I have seen and their record bears this out. Against many an opposing team I was left thinking that they would have given the opposition B team a good match. The scrum was dominant in most games, and the backs rewarded them with many tries, particularly from positions on the wing, **Alexander Black**, and outside-centre, **Timothy Richards**. **Ben Read**'s kicking was very impressive (see below). Our toughest game was against St Paul's, which was also our best performance; it was great to see two evenly matched teams playing at their best, a rare occurrence at C team level. The game against Reading Blue Coat School, who were fielding their A team minus a few of their best players, was immensely frustrating and could have gone either way. This match did however contain my favourite try, scored by **Joe Oldham**, where the ball was moved through several phases of play, including about ten passes, before **Joe** scored. The team's greatest improvement was in their support play, which overwhelmed most opposition. Much of the time we seemed to have many more players on the pitch owing to the work-rate of the forwards in getting about the pitch. However, the team did struggle with discipline and lacked a consistent and commanding captain, though many gave this role a good shot.

Most Reliable Player – **Richard Meadows**

Best (relative) newcomer – **Henry Wood**

Most Improved Players – **Oliver Read** and **Andrew Dart**

Star Player – **Alexander Black**

Senior Colts C XV Squad: **Ali Ibrahim**, **Tommy Pritchard**, **Christopher Edwards**, **Andrew Dart**, **Henry Wood**, **Jacob Fries**, **Rob Fife**, **Peter Brombley**, **Richard Meadows**, **Oliver Read**, **Peter Ryan**, **Michel Baumgart**, **John Bartlett**, **Ben Read**, **Henry Beggin**, **Harrison Gray**, **Timothy Richards**, **Luke Parker**, **Jo Nam Hweu**, **Alexander Black**, **Joe Oldham**.

Eton	W	20-5
Oratory	W	74-0
St Paul's	W	17-3
Bedford	W	31-12
Wellington	W	19-0
Reading Blue Coat A/B	W	12-14
MCS B	W	51-7
St Edward's	W	57-0
Radley	W	38-5
Marlborough	W	26-0

## Junior Colts A XV Rugby

After a trial match against Shiplake, the proper season started away at Eton. In very hot conditions, effective and committed defence kept the score close. **John Carter** and **Jonathan Bouchier** started to show the first signs of a promising centre partnership. A strong forward performance won the away game at Oratory, with **Jamie Hall** having an outstanding match, and this was followed up by a comprehensive win away in the first round of the *Daily Mail Cup*. The home match against St Paul's was a wake-up call. Good performances from **Robin Veale** and **Amir Garmroudi** could not hide the differences between the two sides.

The cup match against Stowe, four days later, provided the perfect opportunity to bounce back. In an intense performance, which intimidated the opposition, Stowe were blown away and lost by 38-0. The forward platform provided by **Harry Copson** and **Ben Stockwell** proved crucial. Stowe were beaten again in a regular fixture two weeks later, with **Tim Gladstone** scoring an interception try. Sandwiched between these matches was a tough away trip to play against a talented Bedford School side. The first half of term ended with a cup defeat at RGS High Wycombe. This was a close encounter against excellent opposition, with **Sam Murrell** and **Matthew Boyd** performing strongly.

Pangbourne were the first opponents after the break, the result being a controversial defeat in a match that will be remembered for all the wrong reasons. **James Percival** scored the only try for Abingdon. A draw at Bedford Modern followed, but the team really started to pick up form in the home match against Magdalen College School. **Chris Green**, **Harry Dennis** and **Jack Channon** had strong games as the local opposition was blown away. St Edward's were defeated in the next game and this set up the Radley match. In very demanding conditions the side struggled, although the ever-improving **David Snead**, **Matt Lake** and **Andrew Elliott** stood out. The final match of the season was at home against Marlborough. They had the strongest pack of forwards that had been encountered all season, and the heavy conditions were in their favour. Organisation and tackling limited the defeat to 3-10.

The A team squad demonstrated a tremendous attitude in training and approached matches with the required professionalism and focus. **Mark Francis** was an outstanding captain. He demanded high standards from his team and delivered excellent team talks.

Ian Middleton



Senior Colts Freddie Howe

Junior Colts A XV Squad: **Mark Francis** (Captain), **Chris Green**, **Tim Gladstone**, **James Percival**, **John Carter**, **Jonny Bouchier**, **Jamie Hall**, **David Snead**, **Jack Channon**, **Robin Veale**, **Amir Garmroudi**, **Andrew Elliott**, **Harry Dennis**, **Matthew Boyd**, **Ben Stockwell** (pack leader), **Sam Murrell**, **Harry Copson**, **Matthew Lake** .

Eton	L	7-22
Oratory	W	17-5
Waddeson	W	55-0
St Paul's	L	12-35
Stowe	W	34-0
Bedford	L	0-35
Stowe	W	22-7
RGS High Wycombe	L	0-24
Pangbourne	L	7-24
Bedford Modern	D	12-12
MCS	W	38-0

## Junior Colts B XV Rugby

The Junior Colts B's season kicked off with a tough fixture against Eton. Although the boys competed well, the superior organization of the opposition proved too much for them so early in the season. The following week, Abingdon took Oratory 'to the cleaners' with a large victory. The next two performances against St Paul's and Bedford were both outstanding and defensive performances, which resulted in a narrow loss to Bedford, 5-10, and a draw against St Paul's. From then on the boys began to play some terrific rugby and won (with the exception of Cokethorpe A) the rest of their games in some style. The reliable throwing and hooking of **David Grant** meant we won consistent first phase ball and the back row of **Jack Trodd**, **Edward Otty** and **Stanley Ng** began to produce a quick ball around the park. This allowed our big runners to get some space, and the sight of **James Cross**, **Xilin Song**, **Ben McGuire**, **Stanley Ng**, and **Marcus Seller** rampaging up the park was as inspiring as it was frequent. The half-back pairing of **William Durrands** and **William Sensecall** also began to flourish, giving more opportunity for **Christopher Wilkinson** and **Tom Price** to hit the ball with greater pace and penetration. Opportunities for the back three of **Charlie Uden**, **Jack Perry**, and **Edward Arnold** to show their running talent began to open up, with some fantastic team tries being scored.

The match against Cokethorpe A was a match too far for a B team weakened by injury, but it nonetheless taught us a number of valuable lessons in defence. This kept us in good stead for the big rival match against Radley. As the boys stepped off the bus, with perfect timing, dark clouds rolled in, the pleasant breeze turned to a gale, and the heavens opened. This, coupled with playing on the muddiest pitch in Radley, meant this was going to be one of those days that only a forward could enjoy, and enjoy it they did. There were outstanding performances from the pack with **Vassilis Ragoussis**, **Marcus Seller** and **Angus Innes** leading the charge, coupled with astute tactical kicking by **Charlie Uden** and a brilliant try from **Tom Foxon**, which all proved too much for Radley, leaving Abingdon to power to a hugely satisfying 14-5 win.



The final game of the season was another fiercely competitive fixture against a strong Marlborough side. The conditions decided another forward-dominated game. Early in the second half **Ben McGuire** smashed through the Marlborough line from 8 metres out, leaving Abingdon with twenty minutes of heroic defending to do to close out the game 7-0.

All in all it has been a great season. My thanks go in particular to **Will Sensecall** for captaining the team so well. **Edward Otty's** consistent quality in every game earns him Player of the Season, with **Tom Price** being awarded Most Improved Player. The team gelled together impressively and developed a fantastic fighting spirit that made them the envy of the U 15s. Well done!

Mark Forth

**Junior Colts B XV Squad:** Ben Maguire, Xilin Song, David Grant, James Cross, Angus Innes, Vassilis Ragoussis, Marcus Seller, Jack Trodd, Stanley Ng, Edward Otty, William Durrands, Harry Aitken, William Sensecall, Charlie Uden, Tom Price, Christopher Wilkinson, Jack Perry, Edward Arnold, Marc Woolley, Christopher Green, Joshua Bull, Tom Foxon.

Eton	L	7-22
Oratory	W	17-5
Waddeson	W	55-0
St Paul's	L	12-35
Stowe	W	34-0
Bedford	L	0-35
Stowe	W	22-7
RGS High Wycombe	L	0-24
Pangbourne	L	7-24
Bedford Modern	D	12-12
MCS	W	38-0



Senior Colts Nathaniel Watkins

## Junior Colts C XV Rugby

The Junior Colts Cs had a successful season, winning 6 and losing 4 matches. They scored 276 points and conceded 192.

The team benefited from a wide range of coaching experience, with **Mr Williams** concentrating on contact drills and recycling quick possession. When the team managed to work these drills we were hard to stop and a number of tries were scored as a result. The match against Stowe was particularly memorable in this regard. We also tried to learn to read the game better and anticipate where we should be next, rather than moving to where it was already too late to help. **Mr Barrow**, a gap-year student, brought considerable expertise to the backs and improved the team's handling. **Mr Brenchley** also assisted on Thursdays and we learned a lot from him about spacing and timing.

The player of the season was **William Davey**. As hooker, he was both strong in the scrum and at the line-out and scored eleven tries. Another outstanding player was the lock, **George Kaye**, who scored six tries. These tries included one incredible solo effort in the match against MCS, when he ripped the ball from a maul on Abingdon's 22 line before running through the MCS defence to score.

Christopher Moore 4 LM (Captain)

**Junior Colts C XV Squad:** Matthew Roberts, Stanley Ng, William Davey, Christopher Jones, Stephen Horlock, Samuel Bowers, Joseph Read, Benjamin Brazel, Tim Shin, Christopher Moore, Andrew Russell, Tom Fishpool, George Kaye, Edward Kempell, Jamie Copus, Dominic Graham, Nicholas Acutt, Vassilis Ragoussis, Oliver Jackson, Tom Price, Michael Garner.

Eton	L	5-37
Oratory	W	25-22
St Paul's	L	5-48
Bedford	L	12-39
Stowe	W	67-0
Pangbourne	W	24-0
Bedford Modern	D	51-0
MCS	W	24-5
St Edwards	W	63-5



1st XV Mathew Purssell

## Juniors A XV Rugby

The Juniors A XV had a promising season this year. Many new boys coming into the team added to the effectiveness of the already very successful group of Abingdon boys. Most Abingdon boys already knew some of the new players through school and club rugby and this helped the team fit together well.

The first match was meant to be against Shiplake after only three days of the academic year. Sadly, this was cancelled, but it gave the coaches more time to get an idea of the ability of the boys and train them ready for the next match against Eton.

Eton was very tough opposition. They had a big and well-drilled pack and some useful backs too. Our back line, however, exploited the gaps in their defence well and our forwards put up a very brave fight against theirs, especially **Michael Deeks**, who was all over the field. This gave us a very hard-fought victory: 17-5. A great start to the season.

For our second match we travelled to The Oratory School. With their reputation preceding them, we knew we would have to work hard. In contrast to the first match, the members of their pack were quite small. With some brilliant off-loading in the tackle and some great loose play by **Pearce Taylor**, we managed to put a lot of pressure on them. Also a great kicking performance by **Andy Halls** helped us to win 35-5.

The next match against St Paul's gave us another well-earned victory. With some fancy footwork by **Toby Ogg** and some strong attacking through the forwards by **Lloyd Cadman**, we managed to hold on, despite going down to fourteen men in the last five minutes. The final score was 28-7.

Our first loss came when we played away against Bedford. With a strong defence they controlled our backs and with some mistakes made, they got an easy break-away try. **Toby Blong** was solid in catching at full-back and we came back at them towards the end, but it was too late. It finished 9-10. However, we learnt from this match and were determined to win our next game against Oakham.

It was our last game of the first half of term and we desperately wanted to end on a high after Bedford. Oakham arrived late and they looked a well-coached and big team. Right from the start, we were into our stride. **Peter Allan** controlled our backs well, with **Henry House** finishing some flowing tries, whilst **Patrick Stinson** and **Hamish Grant** got the pack moving effectively. A good result: 48-5.

We played Pangbourne at Cox's Field. We got off to a bad start with them scoring first. They had some quick backs and we did some poor tackling in mid-field. We picked ourselves up though and came back at them, till eventually we were ahead. Towards the end, they started to run out of steam and we capitalised on this with some well-worked tries. A difficult but well deserved victory of 25-12, with **Edward Hughes** and **Alexander Hatzis** working well together in the centres.

Next we were to play Bedford Modern, Magdalen College School and St Edward's before what was going to be two of our toughest matches against Radley and Marlborough. Unfortunately, these schools fielded weak sides and although we

could practise our attacking moves and try out some emerging Bs players, we couldn't practise our defence much. Up-and-coming Bs players, **Charles Studdy** and **Jack Ponting**, both came on and performed well. The scores were 62-0 against Bedford Modern, 51-0 against Magdalen and 87-0 against St Edward's. They were all outstanding performances.

We played Radley on Lower Field. The conditions were awful. Radley had a very strong and well-drilled pack but there were some great performances by our front row, **Samuel Hughes**, **Gregor Hearn** and **Chad Hutchinson**, who battled hard to keep Radley out for the first half. However, in the last couple of minutes a lack of clearing the ball conceded a try. Everyone was very disappointed as the final score was 0-7.

The last game of the season was away against Marlborough. The weather wasn't as bad as it had been for the Radley match but it was still wet and muddy under foot; also the pitch sloped towards one corner. **Felix Newman**, who joined us midway through the season, worked very hard. We all put everything in as it was the last game and even though we were pinned in our own half in the second half because of the slope, we managed to beat a good side 25-7.

A big thank you to **Mr Brenchley** and **Mr Davies** for helping us towards a very successful season. Also, well done to all the players who worked very well together and developed so much during the season.

Edward Hughes 3 AJPE

Juniors A XV Squad: **Toby Blong, Henry House, Edward Hughes, Alexander Hatzis, Toby Ogg, Peter Allan, Hamish Grant, Patrick Stinson, Pearce Taylor, Andrew Halls, Chad Hutchinson, Felix Newman, Michael Deeks, Gregor Hearn, Samuel Hughes,**  
Substitutes from the B Team: **Jack Ponting, Charles Studdy**

Eton	W	17-5
Oratory	W	35-5
St Paul's	W	28-7
Bedford	L	10-19
Oakham	W	48-5
Pangbourne	W	25-12
Bedford Modern	W	62-0
MCS	W	51-0
St Edward's	W	87-0
Radley	L	0-7
Marlborough	W	25-7



## Juniors B XV Rugby

One missed tackle three minutes before the end of the Eton game on the first day of the season robbed the team of a 100% playing record. Only Eton, St Paul's and Radley provided a test against a quick and strong side.

Eton had a big pack and strong tackling was needed from all players to keep us in the game. We were better technically but succumbed eventually to their power. This would prove to be the only defeat. Oratory were unable to get out of their own half as 61 unanswered points were amassed. We saw first evidence of the strong running of **Guy Giles** in wide open spaces but the highlight was a skilful individual effort from centre, **James Tracey**. The boys were pumped up for a St Paul's team who had drawn with Wellington the previous week. An awesome forward effort with very big performances from **Ben Bryant** and **Dan Lloyd** destroyed the opposition. **Freddie Calder** took charge of the game with excellent tactical kicking and the referee kept St Paul's in touch but the game was won 17-5.

Bedford provided a rough test up front and we were flattered slightly by the 31-5 victory. The talented and experienced back-row pairing of **Oliver Bailey** and **Joe Hogan** were able to match the Bedford spoiling tactics and have both been excellent all season. Oakham, Pangbourne and Bedford Modern were dispatched without conceding a point, before St Edward's were demolished 92-0. Top try-scorer **Peter Barnshaw** weighed in with four tries and even **William Hollier's** trademark dummy was bought by the St Edward's back line. It was difficult for the boys to maintain high standards during this middle part of the season and we generally gave ourselves six or seven out of ten for performances against extremely inferior sides. However, it is to the boys' credit that they were able to raise their intensity and quality of play for the final two fixtures.

In atrocious conditions, a big and well-organised Radley team was demolished by another huge forward effort. As **Charles Buchan** said during the second half, "We're harder than them" – and he was right. Number 8, **Guy Giles**, scored early in the first half and had an awesome game. With five minutes left and with only fourteen men on the pitch, **Calum Smith** powered over from close range for the winning try.

The final fixture against Marlborough exemplified the quality of this team but also showed how far they had come tactically. Abingdon started at a pace and intensity that Marlborough couldn't live with. Quick, powerful breaks around the fringes of the ruck led to four unanswered tries in the first fifteen minutes. In the second half, playing into a very strong wind on a wet surface, the forwards took control and played with high-level contact skills to maintain possession. Whenever Marlborough's talented back line threatened, the Abingdon backs put in excellent tackles.

Few teams could cope with the class of players like **Jack Wilson** and **Charles Studdy**. Just as important, however, were the consistency of **Joseph Foxon** and **Daniel Leyland** and the versatility of **Jamie Ward**. The team conceded only six tries in the whole season. The boys trained with enthusiasm and quality and improved significantly as individuals over the course of the season. In victory and in their only defeat they were gracious and always accepted the referee's decisions, despite not understanding them from time to time.

The team was a pleasure to coach. I wish them every success in the Colts.

Nick O'Doherty

**Juniors B XV Squad:** Michael Deeks, Dan Lloyd, Jamie Galyer, Calum Smith, Charles Buchan, Ben Bryant, Daniel Leyland, Jack Ponting, Joe Hogan, Oliver Bailey, Guy Giles, Freddie Calder, Jack Wilson, Michael Shortis, Daniel Leach, Joseph Foxon, William Hollier, James Tracey, Charles Studdy, Peter Barnshaw, Jamie Ward

Eton	L	14-15
Oratory	W	61-0
St Paul's	W	17-5
Bedford	W	31-5
Oakham	W	27-0
Pangbourne	W	39-0
Bedford Modern	W	56-0
St Edward's	W	92-0
Radley	W	10-5
Marlborough	W	35-0



## Minors Rugby

### U13A XV

After the first match of the U13 season it looked like the team had turned over a new leaf from their disappointing first season. **Sasha Barras** scored in the last minute to seal the U13As their first win of the season, against a fairly good Rendcombe side. The other try came from **Rory Brampton**, and the match was won 10-7, which led all the team to think that maybe this would be a more successful season than our last one.

However, not all went to plan, the win was followed by a close loss of 7-0 to rivals Magdalen. This match did have a few positives with great performances from **James Dewar** and the always hard working **Luke Carter** who very nearly grabbed a try for himself. After this, the season didn't get any better with a 5-24 loss to Bromsgrove and several more losses. With two matches of the season to go, Abingdon played Reading School in a home fixture. Abingdon played fairly well and just scraped a 12-12 draw with very good performances from our three backs, **Fraser Capill**, **Toby Brown** and **Jordan Anning**. There was also a solid performance from **Sam Ward**.

In the last game of the season Abingdon went to Moulsoford, who were a good side. Within the first twenty minutes we were 0-24 down, but despite a show of heart from the Abingdon boys, in particular some tackles from **Henry Otty** and **Chris Tayler**, the score at half time stayed at 0-24 to Moulsoford. In the second half, Abingdon stepped up their game but still conceded two tries in quick succession. The score stayed at 0-36 for the next twenty minutes, and with ten minutes to go it seemed pointless match for the Abingdon boys to carry on. But then **Ed Maclaughlan** stepped up, and with some strong runs from **Charlie Stenton-Putt** Abingdon were five metres from a try. Then **Ed Maclaughlan** scored, and five minutes later he scored again. Both these tries were converted by **Sasha Barras** so that left the score at 14-36. Abingdon could have increased the score had **Luke Carter** not been being flagged in touch as he ran and scored.

This loss rounded up a very disappointing season for the U13 As, their results: played 9, Won 1, Drawn 1, and lost 7.

Sasha Barras 2 JSB



U13A XV Squad: **Sasha Barras** (Captain), **Henry Otty**, **Jack Maxted**, **Rory Brampton**, **Christopher Tayler**, **Alex Hewetson-Smith**, **James Dewar**, **Luke Carter**, **Ed McLaughlin**, **Sam Ward**, **Jordan Anning**, **George Stoneham**, **Charlie Stenton-Putt**, **Fraser Capill**, **Toby Brown**, **Sam Pope**

Rendcomb	W	10-7
MCS	L	0-7
Bromsgrove	L	5-24
Cokethorpe	L	0-43
Summer Fields	L	0-20
Cothill	L	0-17
Reading	D	12-12
Berkhamsted	L	5-26
Moulsoford	L	14-36

### U13B XV

We started the season training every Mondays and Wednesdays after School with Mr Evans. We played our matches after period six on a Wednesday, usually on Lower Field. The team comprised of mostly Second Years and a few First Years. The first game of the season was played by an A/B team against Rencombe. We won the game in the last few seconds by a wonderful try by our A team's scrum-half, **Sasha Barras**. From that game onwards we didn't have such a successful season. In fact we lost all of our matches from that point onwards, mainly as a result of the simple fact was that the opposition was bigger and better.

However, there were some good areas of play throughout the season. Our surprisingly big forwards worked very well in scrums with **Russell Orr Burns** and **Joe Heade** as our props and with **Will Sharp** filling in as hooker (occasionally **Harry Wilder**). The second row comprised of **Tom Shiston** and **Toby Marlow**, with **Tim Grant**, **Leo Calnan** and myself, **Charlie Roberts**, in the back row.

The line up with the backs: **Will Sharps** as scrum-half, part-time captain **Matt Workmen** as fly-half, in the centre, **Peter Honey** and **Sam Pope** and last but not least, the wingers, **Josh Miles** and **Robert Fishpool**.

Charlie Roberts 2 JSB

Mr Evans writes:

The U13B squad should be congratulated on their efforts this season. They were unlucky to come across tough opposition in all cases – but they stuck to their guns well and definitely improved through the season, in terms of skills, fitness and tactical awareness. They deserved to win at least one of the drawn games in the middle of the season, (against MCS and Cokethorpe). They continued to train with a good level of dedication and application and they were a good squad to work with. They showed a positive approach and an appreciation of the areas they needed to improve – as well as a willingness to do. I very much hope they will continue to enjoy their rugby as they move up through the School. They certainly have the talent to do well – and I am sure before too long they will enjoy the sweet taste of victory!

U13B XV Squad: **Matthew Workman** (Captain), **Joe Heade**, **Freddie Locock-Harrison**, **Tom Sishton**, **Matthew Hague**, **Charlie Roberts**, **Tim Grant**, **Leo Calnan**, **Will Sharps**, **Joe Greenman**, **Peter Honey**, **Chris Garratt**, **Robert Fishpool**, **Ben Thompson**, **Toby Marlow**, **Josh Miles**. **Russell Orr-Burns**, **Andrew Birch**

Bedford Modern	L	0-48
Bromsgrove	L	5-22
MCS	L	0-43
Cokethorpe	D	12-12
Summer Fields	L	0-51
Cothill	L	0-10
Berkhamsted	L	5-22
Moulsford	L	0-28

## U12A XV

The U12As had a very successful season, winning over 60% of their games. The forwards were very effective and formed a strong pack; they were also extremely fast. The team dominated line-outs and scrums and had a lot of turn-over possession. One memorable try was the result of a turned-over ruck, which saw **Will Sharp** run from the half-way line to score, and another came from **Laurence Lilley** who ran half the length of the pitch to score against Abingdon Preparatory School.

There was a lot of excellent handling and kicking from scrum half, **Laurence Lilley**, and fly half, **Jamie Pearson**, who worked well together with good teamwork and good communication. The backs too worked well as a unit in both attack and defence and, as a result of good passing, were able to score lots of tries. **Freddy Horsell** took the conversions and **Jamie Pearson** the restarts.

Jamie Pearson

U12A XV Squad: **Tim Grant** (Captain), **Malcolm Marecki**, **William Sharp**, **Gem Vongseenin**, **Henry Lambe**, **Francois Macé**, **Jamie Irwin**, **Freddie Horsell**, **Laurence Lilley**, **Jamie Pearson**, **Charles Brewer**, **Ben Yaxley**, **Jamie Aspinall**, **James Hearn**, **Robert O'Kelly**

Bedford Modern	W	15-5
Akeley	W	15-5
MCS	L	7-10
Cokethorpe	W	28-0
Abingdon Prep	L	14-24
Reading	W	10-0
Berkhamsted	W	10-0
Moulsford	L	7-24



## U12B XV

Small in body but big-hearted, courageous and endlessly optimistic would be an apt summary of the Under 12B's rugby season. Often faced with a physically larger opposition, the team learned a lot about the importance of body position in the tackle and maul. We also slowly learned the lesson that we have to take our opponents on and break their defensive line in order to score tries, too often thinking that running away from them, or around them, would be effective. Even in the adversity of several defeats, the team never lost their sense of humour and their enjoyment of the game, taking positives from even the heaviest of defeats. This was due in no small part to the calm and encouraging leadership of skipper **Edward Bryant** – the players' player-of-the-season.

Summer Fields U13D overwhelmed us with their combination of physical maturity, fitness, effective rucking and slick handling. **Karan Mukhi** made a notable debut and impact showing exemplary courage in the tackle. It is a tribute to the team's resilience and self-belief that they learned lessons from this defeat and ran out easy winners on a wet, slippery day against Cothill. In this more evenly sized encounter, we started brightly with **David Chadder**, the player-of-the-season, running in a brace of tries and **Adam Scholey** taking his opportunities well with the boot. **Jack Squizonni** brought some much needed ballast to the scrummage and the loose and was an extremely effective impact substitute.

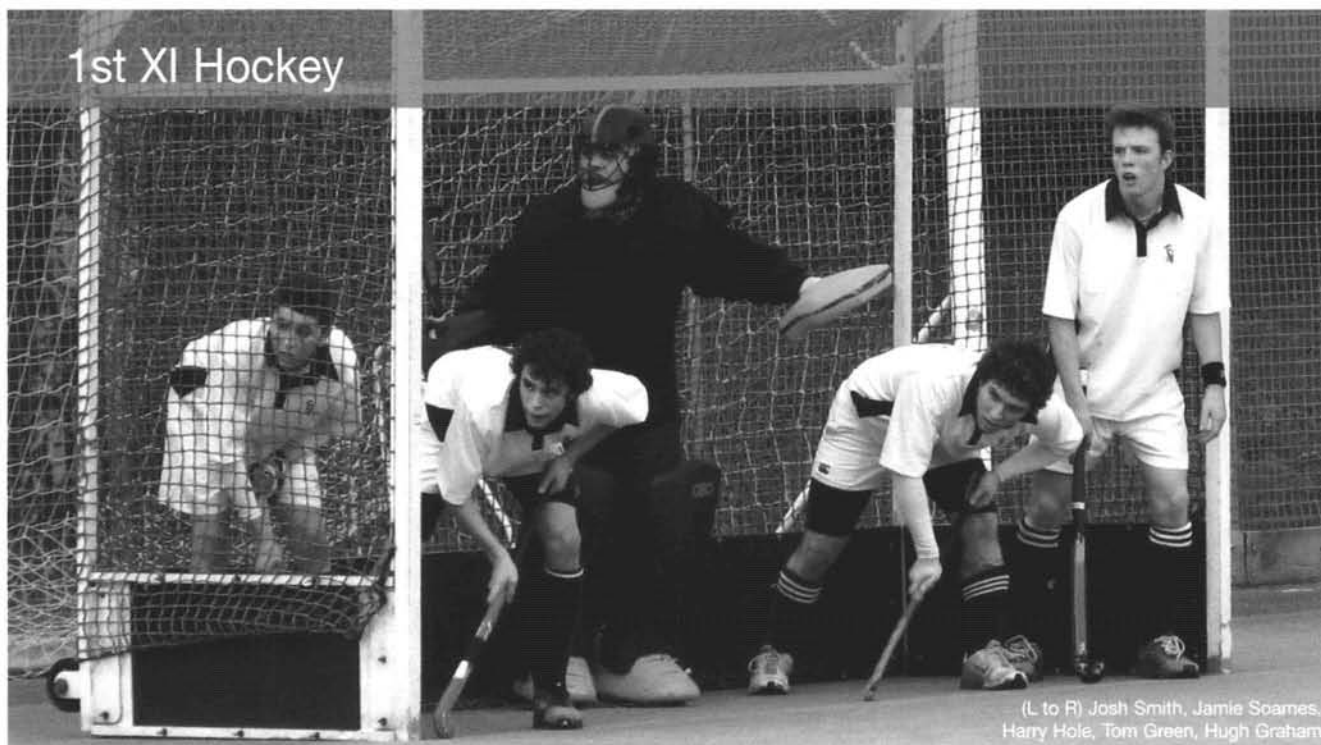
Against both Reading and Berkhamstead we were out-run and out-passed by fit, skilful sides who weren't afraid to run the ball at us and our defence was unable to resist such constant attack. They were hard lessons but we learnt, yet again, that if we don't tackle hard and low we will lose. The sun shone on our last outing against a depleted Moulsford side. We started slowly and weakly going 17-0 down in the first fifteen minutes. To their credit, the U12Bs showed their mettle and battled their way back into the game. **Sam Ashby-Crane** was strong in the maul and **James Peirce**, the most improved player of the season, punched through the Moulsford defence numerous times with his bullocking runs. We clawed the score back to level terms and three times mauled our way over the try line only to be held up by the opposition. In the end, a draw was a good result in a match we really could have won. Maybe we will next year, when we're all a year older, wiser and bigger.

Gareth Callan

U12B XV Squad: **Sam Cartlidge**, **Daniel Chen**, **Sam Ashby-Crane**, **William Nash**, **Ben Robinson**, **James Peirce**, **Andrew Stoney**, **Jibran Huq**, **Edward Bryant**, **Adam Scholey**, **David Chadder**, **Karan Mukhi**, **Luke McCormack**, **Alex Rudd**, **Michael Lloyd**, **Richard Matthews**, **Michael Lloyd**, **Jack Squizonni**, **Michael Esnouf**, **Dishiro Nishida**, **Ivan Nikolaev**, **Noah Rogers**, **Jacob Walls**, **Thomas Lawler**

Akeley	L	7-10
MCS	L	5-64
Cokethorpe	W	19-5
Abingdon Prep	L	10-25
Reading	W	0-52
Moulsford	D	17-17

## 1st XI Hockey



(L to R) Josh Smith, Jamie Soames, Harry Hole, Tom Green, Hugh Graham

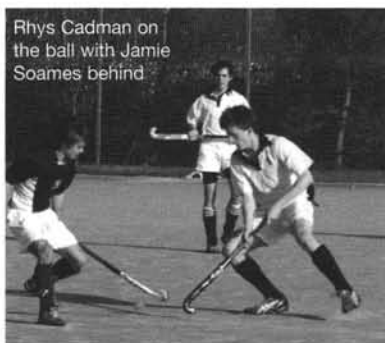
With the aim of completing an unbeaten season and with a talented team more than capable of attaining such a target, we set up a pre-season training base at Bryanston School, Dorset. For the term ahead, the boys were looking forward to an ever tougher fixture list, playing in the curtain-raiser for the Varsity match, and a chance to improve upon last year's runners-up spot in the County Championship.

We based ourselves for the pre-season camp on the beaches of Bournemouth, but this setting was in stark contrast to the intensity that was to be seen on the hockey pitch. With the Head of Hockey, 1st XI coach and official photographer/driver **Mr Drummond-Hay**, an all-star coaching team was in place for a productive few days.

After a couple of days spent organising our set-up, we went out to play the hosts. The game saw **Harry Hole** put in an all-action display and the boys in pink notched up their first win of the season with goals from **Parathan Rabindran** and **Matthew Pursell** on debut. The next game we went out to play a strong Salisbury Hockey Club, who demonstrated the importance of maintaining possession and taught the boys a valuable lesson.

Back at school, the team were shaping up well, becoming accustomed to the formation and the responsibilities in each position. **Chris Newman** was in his second season of captaining the 1st XI and he was looking almost regal, spraying the ball around from the centre of midfield.

Rhys Cadman on the ball with Jamie Soames behind



His vice-captain, **Rhys Cadman**, was an inspirational figure and was always going to be a threat with his stick skills down the right-hand side. Other senior pro's in their second season in the 1st XI had an important role to play. **Jamie Soames** and **Hugh Graham** looked solid in defence, **Joni Bayfield's** experience was going to be needed on the left of midfield, and an attacking trio of **Paz Rabindran**, **Matt Pursell** and the spearhead, **Seb Wilson**, were always going to score goals.

The fixture against St Edward's is always a tough game and we made it even harder by going down 1 – 3, only to regain control and run out 6 – 3 winners. Once the boys settled, they played some fluent hockey and skipper **Chris Newman** bagged a hat trick.

It was then Repton's turn to visit Tilsley Park, on a bleak Saturday that wasn't reflected in the standard of hockey. Although I never felt we got into our rhythm, we were able to open up an organised Repton side and it needed **Seb Wilson** to slot home a rebound to secure the win.

With momentum building we travelled to Pangbourne and played at a high tempo from the outset. Abingdon controlled large periods of the game and created a good deal of chances, winning 7 – 0.

Another tough fixture lay ahead against Dean Close and it took something special to seal another good win. Neither team was able to assert their authority on the game and at 1 – 1 it looked to be heading for a draw, only for **Chris Newman** to stroll into the D and roof a reverse stick strike beyond the keeper, which led to wild celebrations.

A disappointing performance next saw MCS inflict our first defeat of the season. They were able to break up much of our attacking play and caused us problems from short corners.



The First XI at the Varsity match  
 Back row (L to R): Steve Brenchley (coach), Harry Hole, Oliver May, Joni Bayfield, Rhys Cadman, Ed Barrett, Matthew Pursell, Josh Smith.  
 Front row: Seb Wilson, Jamie Soames, Hugh Graham, Chris Newman (captain), Parathan Rabindran, Tom Green, Freddie Howe

We responded well to this defeat and Stowe were unable to deal with the movement of Pursell and Rabindran up front, which allowed Chris Newman and Seb Wilson to score 4 goals each, earning Abingdon a 10 – 1 win.

We had narrowly beaten Bloxham the previous year and were well aware of the talent they had available. After a disappointing start, we looked stronger as the game progressed and got ourselves 4 – 3 up. This score-line, and with only two minutes to go, prompted our defence to go on the attack and our sweeper was last seen wobbling into the D when Bloxham surged forward. It took the intervention of Oliver May to pick up a through ball on his reverse stick with consummate ease and clear the danger.

A new fixture against Rugby was next and the Abingdon side were looking forward to showing the quality of hockey they are capable of playing. The game was controlled early on and some timely interceptions at the back from Josh Smith and Jamie Soames nullified their attacking threat, which enable us to run out 8 – 1 winners.

This was a good confidence-boost ahead of the curtain-raiser for the Varsity match against Cranleigh, to be played at Southgate Hockey Club. The 1st XI were looking forward to exhibiting their movement and passing game in front of a big crowd. Abingdon took an early 1 – 0 lead, only to be pegged back by a quick and skilful Cranleigh side. After going level, Cranleigh were able to

get the all-important second goal and won the game. It was a slightly disappointing score-line and performance, but a day that all the boys enjoyed.

The Bradfield match was a strange one, and one in which we seemed intent on giving away goals early on. At 1 – 4 down the midfield took control of the game and Joni Bayfield scored the winner to finish 5 – 4.

The kit finally arrived for the last game of the season against Radley, but although we looked good, we weren't able to get a win. Radley played a direct, quick game that saw us chasing the play and they ran out deserved 3 – 2 winners.

On reflection it was great season and a fitting finale to many boys who have contributed so much to hockey at Abingdon. Jamie Soames was named Player of the Season and full colours were awarded to Rhys Cadman, Hugh Graham, Joni Bayfield, Jamie Soames and Seb Wilson, with Harry Hole gaining his half colours.

Steve Brenchley

1st XI Squad: Chris Newman, Seb Wilson, Paz Rabindran, Matt Pursell, Rhys Cadman, Joni Bayfield, Jamie Soames, Hugh Graham, Tom Green, Josh Smith, Harry Hole, Oli May



Jamie Soames makes a tackle

Bryanston	W	2-1
St Edward's	W	6-3
Repton	W	3-2
Pangbourne	W	7-0
Dean Close	W	2-1
MCS	L	2-3
Stowe	W	10-0
Bloxham	W	4-3
Rugby	W	8-1
Cranleigh	L	1-2
Bradfield College	W	5-4
Radley	L	2-3

## 2nd XI Hockey



Tim Deeks on the ball with Josh Ogle, Robbie Stevens and Nick Croft-Simon L to R behind him

The 2nd XI worked hard this season to improve on last year's rather disappointing results, and we achieved that. Although we still lost seven matches, we won four instead of only the one last year. We retained four players from 2007 but **James Cookson** injured himself in almost the first training session and didn't return all season. **Joshua Ogle** was an excellent captain, bringing a strong team spirit to every occasion. He also continued to conjure the most fantastic goals from almost nothing. His dipping lob over the keeper against St Edward's was spectacular. **Alec Plint** wasn't able to make many practice sessions owing to his commitment to another ball game but his classy control and distribution were much appreciated. **Edward Barrett** was an excellent and secure back with increasingly good attacking skills. Of the new players, **Justin Robinson**, **Cody Yellowlees-Bound** and **Tim Deeks** stand out as players who will be pushing for 1st team places next year.

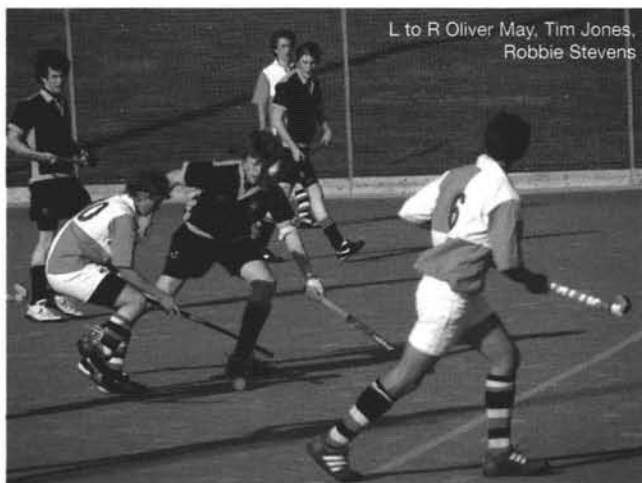
After our usual poor start against St Edward's, the game against Repton was an exciting match with aggressive attacking play from both sides. We went 2-0 up so it was very disappointing to lose 4-3. Dean Close is often the best team on the circuit but

this year we worked very hard and managed to sneak a win. We played well in the first half and made more chances than they did but failed to score. In the second half we began to get the better of them after their initial attacks. The winning goal came in the last minute from a shot which **Joshua Ogle** deflected past the keeper into the corner of the net. The loss against local rivals Magdalen College School was disappointing and the win against Stowe very pleasing, although our passing and running off the ball were not improving as they should have done. While we beat Bloxham they played some good hockey, whilst we relied too much on individuals. The last four games all ended in 1-4 defeats against strong sides that ran harder and out played us.

We have strong U16 sides coming through next year and will retain many from this year's team, so I am hopeful that we will produce better performances next year against our tough fixture list.

James Nairne

**2nd XI Squad:** Edmund Long, Lewis Davis-Poynter, Edward Barrett, Tim Jones, Justin Robinson, Cody Yellowlees-Bound, Oliver Bouchier, Oliver Verdon, Robbie Stevens, Alec Plint, Alex Kempell, Tim Deeks, Josh Ogle (Captain), Nick Croft-Simon



L to R Oliver May, Tim Jones, Robbie Stevens

St Edward's	L	1-6
Repton	L	3-4
Pangbourne	W	4-0
Dean Close	D	1-0
MCS	L	0-1
Stowe	W	3-2
Bloxham	W	2-1
Rugby	L	1-3
Bradfield College	L	1-4
Rendcombe 1st XI	L	1-4
Radley	L	1-4



## 3rd XI Hockey

The 3rd XI has had a mixed season and the results do not reflect the good standard of hockey that has been played. The team was unlucky in many circumstances and had to cope with the regular changes of alternating between grass and astro surfaces. The strength-in-depth meant that for the first time in recent memory we were able to field a 4th XI on several occasions. The improved playing quality of this circuit meant that each game was hard-fought and there were no easy matches. After a poor start to the season we did however take up the challenge and improved as the season progressed. We were always organized and committed in our approach. The season's best performance was kept for the end of the season, with a spectacular 6-0 win against Rugby School.

It was a relatively new side, largely made up of boys in the Lower Sixth, and many are still learning the finer details of the game. The lack of experience when playing against boys mostly a year older meant that several games that were drawn should have been won, but we were outclassed only twice – against Radley and St Edward's. When we moved the ball around we were capable of beating any team set before us, but on many occasions we looked to try to penetrate too much through the centre. This ultimately cost us possession and consequently we did not create enough goal-scoring opportunities. In hindsight we needed to be more patient and deliberate in our approach. However, players such as **Timothy West**, **Alexander Kempell** and **Nicholas Howe**, with immense skill and concentration, beat a number of defences and ended up scoring excellent goals, the highlight being the drag-flick by **Nicholas Howe** against Stowe, which left everyone stunned. The team also benefited from our superb goalkeeper, **Lewis Davis-Poynter**. The midfield was workmanlike and capable of playing in several different formations, consisting of combinations of **Thomas Buffery**,

**Shashank Tandon**, **Timothy Jones**, **Julian Thorn**, **Robert Walker**, **Stuart White**, **Alex Corps** and **Gabriele Caprotti**.

By the end of the season, the team had become very strong and the defence, held together by **Thomas Devlin**, **Robert Kenworthy**, **Oliver Trotman** and **William Chang**, proved to be very successful and particularly on astro gave very little away. However, with the experience gained and some promising individual talent, next season should be even more successful.

Shashank Tandon VI HFCP

**3rd XI Squad:** **Lewis Davis-Poynter**, **Thomas Buffery**, **Shashank Tandon (Captain)**, **Timothy Jones**, **Julian Thorn**, **Robert Walker**, **Stuart White**, **Gabriele Caprotti**, **Thomas Devlin**, **Robert Kenworthy**, **Oliver Trotman**, **William Chang**, **Timothy West**, **Alexander Kempell**, **Alex Corps** and **Nicholas Howe**

Radley	L	1-6
Bradfield College	D	0-0
Rugby	W	6-0
Bloxham	W	2-1
Stowe	W	2-1
MCS	D	2-2
Dean Close	W	1-0
Cheltenham	D	3-3
Pangbourne	L	1-4
St Edward's	L	0-5



Oliver May on the ball with Alex Plint



L to R Oliver Verdon, Robbie Stevens, Tim Deeks on the ball



L to R Josh Ogle and Tim Deeks

## Senior Colts A XI Hockey

It took a little while for the Senior Colts As to get into their stride this season, but when they did, it was with some style. It was a difficult start, with the squad struggling to adapt to a new system and to the loss of **Joshua Smith** to the 1st XI. The first game was a frustrating 0-1 loss to St Edward's, and when this was followed by a 1-6 mauling at the hands of a very classy Repton side, things looked a little bleak. The only upside was that our one goal was a fine example of passing hockey and showed a glimmer of the potential within the squad.

The next day was the County Cup competition and, bolstered by **Christopher Green** and **Mark Francis** from the U15 squad, we posted some pleasing results: draws against Bloxham, MCS and, most satisfyingly, Radley, with another 0-1 loss to St Edward's the only disappointment. The next game was against the traditionally strong Dean Close and it was evident that the side was beginning to gel, as we were unlucky to lose out 1-2 in a hard-fought match.

The following week was an away fixture against MCS, with whom we had drawn 3-3 in the County competition, and we were hoping to show how much we had improved. What followed was beyond our wildest expectations as we romped to a 4-1 victory. Indeed, the score line did not do justice to the complete control that the boys had over their shocked opposition in a fine display of team hockey. Galvanised by this result, we went into the fixture against Stowe with some confidence. It proved to be justified as we again played with flair and skill, dominating the game, although it took a goal scored at a penalty corner after the final whistle by **Veeral Manek** to seal the victory, 3-2.

The half-term break did not dampen the new-found enthusiasm and team spirit and we went into our next game against Bloxham expecting more of the same. Unfortunately, an older, stronger 3rd XI side out-muscled us and we were unlucky 1-2 losers. The following game, against Rugby, provided the chance to return to winning ways, which we did in some style, out-classing a far weaker side 8-2. Further victories against Bradfield College (2-1) and Rendcomb (6-1) meant that we were heading into the last game of the season against Radley in good form.

Having struggled to a 0-0 draw against them in the County Cup, we knew we were in for a stern test and it did not require a great deal to motivate the boys. A focused and confident side, we showed our commitment from the first whistle, even surprising ourselves with the quality of some of our play. The Radley team simply had no answer to the controlled aggression with which we played the game. A 5-0 victory ensured that we finished with a winning season, and some very happy faces, not least the coach's, greeted the final whistle.

The improvement in the squad was marked and all the boys threw themselves into the matches with energy and pride. Our overall record of 6 wins and 4 losses against some very good opposition represents a thoroughly impressive season.

Jamie Older

Senior Colts A XI Squad: **Ben Juffkins** (GK), **Veeral Manek**, **James Carter**, **Will Hutton**, **Robert Henley**, **Callum Keown** (C), **Nathaniel Watkins**, **Edward Howe**, **Peter Ryan**, **Joe Kempton**, **Alexander Veale**, **Freddie Howe**, **Joe Oldham**, **Dylan Robinson**, **Henry Mills**, **Bobby Aigbogun**, **Joshua Smith**

St Edward's	L	0-1
Repton	L	0-6
Dean Close	L	1-2
MCS	W	4-1
Stowe	W	3-2
Bloxham	L	1-2
Rugby	W	8-2
Rendcomb	W	6-1
Radley	W	5-0

## Senior Colts B XI Hockey

The fact that this year's Senior Colts B hockey team was almost as good as the players kept telling me they were says a lot. In terms of results, this was a tremendous season, as the table below bears out. It was very close to being an unbeaten season, with only two mad last minutes at St Edward's spoiling the 100% record.

Even in this match, the first of the season, the team largely dominated play and in the end paid dearly for an inability to convert chances. This failing was certainly short-lived. The two goals scored in the win against a competitive Repton side turned out to be conservative compared with what followed. Over the season, the team scored eight times for every goal conceded. We must have been doing something right in training.

The glory boys up-front – **Joel Collins**, **Joe Oldham**, **Bobby Aigbogun** and latterly **Robert Winearls** – scored a couple of dozen goals between them, and in so doing showed many of the qualities needed. There was skill and speed in abundance, hard shooting, a lack of fear of the physical side of the game, and a real hunger for goals. In particular, all four made a huge contribution in the longed-for defeat of Radley College at the end of the season.

A further strength was the approach play, and a talented mid-field made sure the forwards saw plenty of the ball. Many of the goals came from **Ben Read**'s ability to split defences with aggressive running and shrewd passing, complemented by **Dylan Robinson**'s dribbling skills, and the good positional sense of **Charlie Reedman** or **Oliver Read**. None of this quartet ever ran away from a scrap – sometimes a laudable quality, sometimes not ...

Some sound defending ensured that **Harry Strong** and his two understudies in goal, **Nam Hweu Jo** and **Jonathan Ient**, had a rather dull season. All three of them did however pull off tremendous saves in the middle of long periods of inactivity. **Henry Mills** was tireless playing in front of defence, **Harrison Gray** looked more and more composed as the season went on,

James Plumb had more than the average defender's flair, and both Richard Meadows and Henry Kibble improved with every match. A total of six goals against us in over nine matches shows how valuable this group of players was to the team.

Other players who have not yet been mentioned, but who will in years to come be able to say to their grandchildren, 'I was there', were James Baldwin, Alexander Beech, Henry Beggin, Thomas Buffery, Andrew Doll, William Lloyd (who came very close to scoring what would have been the goal of the season) and, back from retirement, William Shrier.

I would like to thank the whole team for being such good value, for laughing at my jokes, and for sometimes listening to my team talks, including the bit about being gentlemen first, hockey players second. Henry Mills was a great captain, and also deserves my gratitude – as does the great Dr Older, for providing the hard-core coaching. It was fun.

Douglas Aitken

Senior Colts B XI Squad: Joel Collins, Joe Oldham, Bobby Aigbogun, Robert Winearls, Ben Read, Dylan Robinson, Charlie Redman, Oliver Read, Harry Strong, Nam Hweu Jo, Jonathan lent, Henry Mills, Harrison Gray, James Plumb, Richard Meadows, Henry Kibble, James Baldwin, Alexander Beech, Henry Beggin, Thomas Buffery, Andrew Doll, William Lloyd, William Shrier

St Edward's	L	1-3
Repton	W	2-0
Dean Close	W	4-0
Stowe	W	3-2
Bloxham	W	8-0
Rugby	W	3-0
Bradfield	W	5-1
Rendcomb	W	8-0
Radley	W	4-2

## Senior Colts C XI Hockey

This was quite a mixed season, which saw our first game cancelled owing to bad weather; we had to wait until the penultimate week of term to have a match. Then we found ourselves with three in seven days.

Bradfield was never going to be an easy game, with many debutants such as Liam Smith, Daniel Choi, Ben André, Thomas Hughes, Nam Jo, Christopher Edwards and others. Some good play between Andy Doll and Robbie Winearls on the right and left wings, followed by a great shot from Andy, saw us go in 1-0 up at half time. Bradfield started the second half stronger and with much possession equalised. At 1-1 with 15 minutes left the pace got quicker, there were more gaps appearing in both defences, and a great run from Andy Doll resulted in a tap-in goal for Robbie Winearls. After just managing to hold on, we won our first game 2-1.

Here a special mention needs to go to Mr Kirk, Mr Aitken, Xilin Song and Tom Foxon, because without them there wouldn't have been a mid-week fixture against Rendcomb. Despite two younger players making their debut for Senior Colts Cs, we started the game stronger with many opportunities. Good link-up play between Tom Foxon, Henry Beggin and Xilin Song resulted in a goal for Xilin. The second half was a similar story: Abingdon were by far the stronger team but we couldn't convert our chances. After a goal from Henry, we won 2-0, but we knew we had to improve before our final match against Radley.

The conditions didn't help anyone in this match. Playing on grass in heavy rain made it harder to play the hockey we wanted to. After a momentary lapse in concentration, we found ourselves 0-1 down, and shortly afterwards a blinding shot left us in shock. 0-2 down and we hadn't really realised what we had done wrong. After being fired up from a well rehearsed speech from Mr Kirk at half time, we went for it. Again, a very polished short corner move from Radley saw us 0-3 down. However, with fifteen minutes left, something happened. We started to play more as a team, talking to each other, looking up, going for the easy ball and we were playing the best hockey we had done all season. It's no surprise then that goal of the season came from Tom Hughes: a hard ball into the box and, sliding in on his knees, it was smacked past the goalie. At 1-3 with about 7 minutes left we genuinely believed we were in with a chance. Radley were getting frustrated and we weren't letting go. In the final minutes we had a short corner, which resulted in a great shot from Henry, just blocked by the goalie, which fell straight in front of the captain. Fittingly, the last touch of the season was a goal against Radley. The atmosphere in the last fifteen minutes of that game was what hockey should be about, even though the score line read 2-3 to Radley. Considering that a week earlier over half our team had never played hockey for the School, it was a tremendous achievement. Thanks to everyone involved with this team, especially Mr Kirk, Dr Bowen-Jones and Mr Crook.

Jasper Marlow 5 CJM

Senior Colts C XI Squad: Jasper Marlow (Captain), Nam Jo, Richard Meadows, Hugo Morrison, Jonathan lent, Ben Andre, Robbie Winearls, Andrew Doll, Will Lloyd, Henry Beggin, Liam Smith, Henry Kibble, Tom Hughes, Ted Thompson, Chris Edwards, Daniel Choi

Bradfield	W	2-1
Rendcomb	W	2-0
Radley	L	2-3



## Junior Colts A XI Hockey

A very mixed season but one the boys should be very proud of. The first game against St Edward's was a solid performance, with rusty hockey getting its first work-out of the season and, through grit and determination against a strong side, we emerged victorious in the last few seconds of the game, winning 1-0. Our next test would be a tough one against Repton, who had beaten the team 3-1 last year. We played some of our best hockey ever and really raised our game, with noticeable performances from **Jonathan Bouchier**, **Mark Francis** and a few great goals from our captain, **Christopher Green**. Unfortunately, after being 2-1 up, we eventually lost 3-4. However, we showed that we could score well-worked goals against top opposition. With this momentum behind us, we beat Pangbourne 2-1 with a very solid performance.

Then came Dean Close: a well-drilled team who had a natural centre-forward with a goal-seeking missile launcher in his arsenal. The first half we played very deep and soaked up a lot of pressure and, with a fantastic performance from our keeper **Jack Perry**, we managed to keep the half time score to 0-1. Eventually we tired and lost 0-4 to a very good side. Next, we set our sights on MCS and knew that we needed a good performance against our local rivals. It was a very even match, where we were never behind and were unlucky to draw 2-2 to a very relieved MCS side. Stowe were next and our team was seriously depleted because six of our A team players were away on a German Exchange trip. A call-up for five B team players and a C team goalkeeper gave the opportunity for **Jamie Hall** to break his way into his regular starting position. Good performances from **Edward Arnold**, **Harry Copson** and **Marc Woolley** were not quite good enough and we sank to a 2-3 defeat to a side which a full-strength A team would have dominated.

With a fully rejuvenated A team, we posted a fantastic performance against a strong Bloxham side and came out 2-0 winners, with great defending from **Edward Kempell** and **Tom Fishpool**. With our heads up and running strong, we travelled to Rugby School. A very good match with some fantastic counter-attacking hockey found Rugby wanting and left us with a well-deserved 4-3 victory. Away to Bradfield College was our next challenge and poor defending and sloppy tackling let us slip to a 1-2 defeat at the hands of a mediocre team.

Finally, the old enemy, Radley College, stood between us and a positive end to the season. We wanted this match with every ounce of our beings and this was shown in the fantastic start to the match. Some swift passing and brave defending put us constantly in the opponents' half. At half time it was 1-1 and we had it all to play for. A sleepy five minutes into the second half saw two counter-attacking goals slip past us, which was very unfortunate as we had finished the first half so strongly. Then came our relentless attack: we dominated possession and field position and whenever we lost the ball everyone sprang into action to recapture it. However, the finishing was sloppy and even though we pounded away at their defence for a solid twenty minutes, it was unbreakable. To add salt to our wounds, in the last minute they emphatically ended any hope with a stunning goal that broke our collective hearts, and the final whistle bought

about the reality of 1-4 loss. It was a flattering score-line for Radley, but it was a bitter pill to swallow for us. However, the final post-match talk showed the team how far they had come, for they had achieved only a single win the previous season against the same oppositions. On a personal note, this group of talented players have shown an aptitude for great improvement and a fantastic attitude towards hockey training, and they have been a pleasure to coach.

Philip Timberlake

Junior Colts A XI Squad: **Jack Perry**, **David Grant**, **Edward Kempell**, **John Mulvey**, **Rajan Sehmi**, **Tom Fishpool**, **Chris Moore**, **Edward Arnold**, **Christopher Green**, **Mark Francis**, **Jonty Cook**, **Jonathan Bouchier**, **Jamie Hall**, **Mark Woolley**, **Harry Copson**, **Samuel Clarke-Warry**

St Edward's	W	1-0
Repton	L	3-4
Pangbourne	W	2-1
Dean Close	L	0-4
MCS	D	2-2
Stowe	L	2-3
Bloxham	W	2-0
Rugby	W	4-3
Bradfield	L	1-2
Radley	L	1-4

## Junior Colts B XI Hockey

The Junior Colts Bs got off to a flying start with an unbeaten run right up until half term. A great but rather controversial win against St Edward's saw a number of players stand out as potential A team players. A second win against Repton confirmed this and **Tom Fishpool** soon got promoted, having been a stalwart in defence. However, his partnership with **Matt Roberts**, **Matt Haywood** and **Andrew Crawford** had played an important part and these three continued to play together throughout the season. **Daniel Bayley** got his first goal against Repton and developed hugely as a player over the following weeks.

Three more convincing wins followed and **Ben Stockwell** got a hat trick against MCS, which demonstrated how much of a good player he was developing into. As a versatile player, he was generally used as a rock in defence, but also sprang forward to make darting runs through the opposition mid-field. **Mark Kardos** also developed and began to use the width of the pitch more and more, although he did have a tendency to fall over, especially in the Dean Close match.

The Bielefeld Exchange hugely depleted the A and B squads and so dramatic changes had to occur. Unfortunately, no one could connect to the crosses coming in, except for one disallowed goal, which was kicked in.

With the full team back, we were 1-0 up against Bloxham within the first minute. This progressed to 3-0, but a tired display in the second half conceded two goals, although the team held on

for the win, with one outstanding save from Xilin Song. Xilin was one of three goalkeepers who played for the B team. Jack Trodd and Chris Audley also played their parts in a successful season and Chris pushed Xilin for the position in the B team, week in and out.

Bloxham was the last game that Jamie Hall played for the B team, as he confirmed his position as an A team player after several feisty and determined performances. An excellent comeback against Rugby meant that Digby Coulson got the equaliser, but a potential winner was disallowed as the whistle had already gone for an earlier incident. Digby was certainly the most improved player during the course of the season. He worked tremendously hard to get into the team and developed his technical ability as well as his distribution and was one of the first names to be put on the teamsheet by the end of the season. While others lost their heads against Bradfield, as the team hit the self-destruct button, Sam Bowers stood out as the one who kept going and continued to motivate players throughout the game. As top-scorer for the team, Sam was certainly one of the players of the season. The score was unfortunate and flattered our opponents, who were technically superior, but not dramatically so. The scorer that day was Matt Boyd, making his debut for the B team after scoring a hatful of goals for the Cs. He never looked out of place. Rajan Sehmi was a key player in the latter half of the season, as a hard tackler and excellent distributor of the ball. Henry Gibson led the front-line with Sam Bowers for much of the season and played well, often linking up effectively with the right wing. Tom Foxon managed to balance his commitments with cross country to use his pace on the hockey pitch. Mark Woolley, Will Summers and Tim Gladstone also deserve a mention for the part they played in a match each.

The final game of the season was a cracker! The first half had so much pace and energy that it was tiring to even watch. Unfortunately, we couldn't sustain it and let in three goals in the second half to lose 0-3. Again, it flattered the opponents, but the quality of the game as a whole meant that the team went out on a high. Overall, it was a highly successful season and everyone who played a part in that deserves a pat on the back. Lessons were learnt during the course of the year and the team will certainly be stronger for next year.

Jon Barker

Junior Colts B X11 Squad: Song, Audley, Trodd, Stockwell, Crawford, Fishpool, Hayward, Bayley, Kardos, Bowers, Gibson, Hall, Foxon, Coulson, Cook, Summers, Woolley, Arnold, Roberts, Brash, Rajan Sehmi

St Edward's	W	1-0
Repton	W	3-0
Pangbourne	W	3-0
Dean Close	W	4-1
MCS	W	4-1
Stowe	L	0-2
Bloxham	W	3-2
Rugby	D	1-1
Bradfield	L	1-6
Radley	L	0-3

## Junior Colts C XI Hockey

A very impressive season from the Junior Colts Cs ended in despair as we lost our unbeaten record on the very last day of the season and to Radley of all people! Unfortunately, player-poaching by the B team and school trips left the C team depleted, and it showed.

Christopher Audley showed himself capable of producing point-blank saves at key times, and William Summers was the rock on which the team was built. Campbell Garland made aggressive runs from left back, and on the right back Tim Gladstone showed a speed and power that no opposition could cope with. Patrick MacMahon rounded off the defence with his calm head. Benjamin Brazel showed incisive passing from the centre of mid-field, whilst Stephen Horlock showed great ball skills and Hugh Brash powered the sort of hit that no goalkeeper wants to save. Matthew Boyd showed unstoppable finishing and became the team's top goal-scorer with numerous hat tricks. Thomas Spears had good vision and supplied some goal-scoring crosses from right forward. Otta Jones, who held the left forward position, showed good strength and skill to beat opposition defenders.

Benjamin Brazel

Junior Colts C XI Squad: Christopher Audley, Xilin Song, Jack Trodd, Tim Gladstone, Alexander Bowyer, William Summers, Patrick MacMahon, Campbell Garland, Stephen Horlock, Hugh Brash, Thomas Spears, Benjamin Brazel, William Durrands, Otta Jones, Matthew Boyd

St Edward's	W	6-3
Cheltenham College	X	x-x
Stowe	W	8-0
Bradfield	D	1-1
Radley	L	0-4



Junior Colts A

## Juniors A XI Hockey

The Junior As had a good season – as Captain, I am very pleased with the team's performance and consider our playing record, together with our progression through the county tournament, as nothing short of commendable.

Our season started off extremely well with an 11-0 defeat of St Edward's, which our performance deserved. This meant our confidence was high as we went into our second game against Repton, and put in another big score, inflicting a 5-0 defeat, the highlight of the game being Tim Li's sensational save from a drag flick aimed at the top corner.

We went into the county tournament in high spirits, with one aim – qualification. However, we didn't start off as expected, quickly conceding in our first game, but we soon came back, winning 2-1. The next three games ended in victories for us.

Our fourth match, against Pangbourne, was again very successful. We won 8-0, but this time our play was not deserving of the score. Our next match, against Dean Close, was a very tight affair. We played poorly in the first half, with our only lifeline being their poor finishing. However, after half time we came out strongly, with Daniel Leach equalising by diving at the ball at the back post. The game then broke down owing to lack of energy. After great play between Toby Ogg and Gregor Hearn, we got the winning goal from a fantastic lifted strike by Toby Ogg on an acute angle. After this we came up against MCS, whom we beat 5-0 – it is always nice to beat one of our main rivals on the hockey circuit. In our seventh game we faced Bloxham, which we knew was going to be a hard fixture. In the first half we were bogged down in our own half, owing to slow tempo and sloppy passing. But in the second half our sustained pressure ended up with us scoring five goals in quick succession.

Our second tournament loomed, the regional finals. This did not go as expected and we were very fortunate to escape with a draw. The second game went even worse: we lost heavily, 6-1, and this was not acceptable for a team of our calibre, so in the third game we performed much better, and it was only because they scored a goal when Tim was on the floor that we were denied a draw. In the final game we upped our game again, this time coming off with a win, helped along by two penalty flicks.

Unfortunately, our winning form came to an abrupt end with a large defeat, 1-6, at the hands of Rugby School. We performed badly and seemed to lie down and accept the beating instead of raising our game and keeping some pride. Sadly, our losing form continued into our ninth game against Bradfield. We lost 2-3, having been winning 2-1 at the break. Going into our last game, we were hoping to end the season on a high, but this did not come about and, unfortunately, it was a 1-3 loss to Radley. However, we played well and were denied two goals by great saves by the Radley keeper.

To conclude, we have had a very pleasing season, crowned by winning the County Championship. For next season we need to work on our passing, pace and accuracy, general team work and attitude. I hope that the team can fulfil our huge potential in the coming years and seasons.

Toby Blong 3 ASH

## Juniors B XI Hockey

The Junior Bs had an enjoyable and competitive season despite the fact that the results seem disappointing. There were several high points against Pangbourne and Bloxham but unfortunately several low points as well. Nevertheless, as the season progressed, we started to bond better as a team.

Our strong defence, consisting of George Jorgensen, Jake Ampleford, Chris Hall and George Bull, showed significant improvement through the season. The mid-field also had a good season with solid passing and pace on both the right and left half from Hal Parke and Michael Shortis, with Hamish Grant in the centre. They did their best job to supply the hungry attack of Jack Ponting, Finn Ryley and Laurence Copson. Lastly, Freddie Calder played the important role of goalkeeper throughout the season, despite never having played hockey before. He performed especially spectacularly against Dean Close, where their continuous shooting didn't manage to get past him as much as they would have liked!

Out of the eight goals scored this season, one came from Michael Shortis, two from Finn Ryley, two from Hal Parke, both of which raced past the posts like scud missiles, and three from Laurence Copson at Radley, Bloxham and Pangbourne.

Overall the season was one where we improved our hockey and enjoyed our hockey and bonded increasingly as a team.

Laurence Copson 3 CS

**Juniors B XI Squad:** George Jorgensen, Jake Ampleford, Chris Hall, George Bull, Hal Park, Michael Shortis, Hamish Grant, Jack Ponting, Finn Ryley, Laurence Copson, Freddie Calder

St Edward's	L	0-1
Repton	L	1-2
Pangbourne	W	2-0
Bloxham	D	1-1
MCS	L	1-2
Dean Close	L	1-3
Bradfield	L	1-2
Rugby	L	0-4
Radley	L	1-4

**Juniors A XI Squad:** Daniel Leach, Toby Ogg, Gregor Hearn, Tim Li, Toby Blong, Oliver Bailey, Sebastian Black, Jonathan Hunter, Toby Warren, Lloyd Cadman, Joe Foxon, Hamish Grant, Chris Hall

St Edward's	W	11-0
Repton	W	5-0
Pangbourne	W	8-0
Dean Close	W	3-2
MCS	W	5-0
Bloxham	W	5-0
Rugby	L	1-6
Bradfield	L	2-3
Radley	L	1-3

## Juniors C XI Hockey

The Juniors C team had a good season this year despite the results, which didn't always reflect their performance and improvement throughout the term. The side was captained by **Sarab Sethi** and for the latter part by **Rob Noyes**.

The season began with a closely fought 3-3 draw with St Edward's. The team then went from strength to strength, learning from experience and adjusting to squad changes as boys moved up to the B team or helped form a D team.

After a lengthy break for half term, the team came back refreshed and eager for a win. Our first win came when we defeated Bradfield 1-0 with a battling mid-field performance from **Tom McGivan** and outfield player-of-the-season **Dominic Ramli-Davies**. The confidence to attack came from a strong defence bossed by **Rob Noyes**, and courageous goalkeeping from **Charlie Howard**, whose expert saves kept the team in contention in all the matches and enabled **Miss Shephard** to give 'we can win this' half-time talks.

Sarab Sethi 3 JEJO  
Rob Noyes 3 MBJ

**Juniors C XI Squad:** Charlie Howard, Rob Noyes (Captain), Finlay Curran, Tom McDonald, Luke Terry, Ollie Wheatley, James Boddie, Nick Krol, Will Abell, Jake Ampleford, Dom Ramli-Davies, Tom Jeffery, Ben Hollins, Tom McGivan, Hector Millar, Charlie Studdy, Charlie Buchan, Sarab Sethi (Captain), Lawrence Copson

St Edward's	D	3-3
Bradfield	W	1-0
Radley	L	7-0
Rugby	L	0-2
Bloxham	L	1-3

## Minors B XI Hockey

We have had a very successful season with a huge amount of improvement from all the players. Our first game was against MCS. They were a very good side who were able to move the ball well but after a thrilling first half, where the score remained at 1-1, we were able to score a well-worked goal to win it 2-1 in the last few minutes, scored by **George Stoneham**.

With our heads up and confidence running high, we played New College School. Our skill level was much better than theirs from the start and a wonderful hat trick from **Tim Grant**, one of the First-formers in the team, as well as good performances from **Sean MacLachlan**, who was the star defender of the season, **George Stoneham** and **Charlie Roberts**, saw us shoot to a 7-0 win. However, the first half ended with the score at only 2-0 and the boys needed a tactical talking to so that they could take advantage of a real opportunity to produce top quality goals.

We then headed for Bloxham, a formidable team who have caused us problems in the past with their well-drilled play. Another hard-fought game, which provided end-to-end hockey that was great to see. Good performances from **James Hebbbron** and **Tom Sishton**, along with a good team spirit, were both pleasing aspects of this game. The team were never behind in the 3-3 draw and showed that they could play some good attacking hockey.

Winchester House was our next target. They had come off the back of a six-game winning streak and they had played eleven games in total to our three. They showed how swift passing and good running lines could be used to devastating effect. They ran rings around our defence, who seemed bewildered by their skill

level and work rate. There was a distinct lack of communication in our defence and by the time we sorted it out after the half-time talk, we were already five goals down. We were soundly beaten but learnt a lot from the experience.

The final match was against our local rivals, Radley. As they do not have a Lower School, we were playing against much larger, older boys. However, after a timid first ten minutes of being scared of these larger boys, the team showed that they could move the ball much better than the opposition. A wonderful link-up between **Peter Honey** and **James Hebbbron** to score the goal was the difference at half time. However, hearts sank as they scored an equaliser in the last two minutes of the game.

The boys should be very pleased with their improvement over the term and I hope that they will continue with this great attitude towards hockey as it made it easy to coach them.

Philip Timberlake

**Minors B XI Squad:** Chris Garratt, Joe Ereaud, Sanjay Bhattacharya, Ian Middleton, Tim Grant, Sean MacLachlan, Charlie Roberts, Peter Honey, Richard Matthews, Joshua Miles, James Hebbbron, Tom Sishton, George Stoneham, Rory Brampton

MCS	W	2-1
NCS	W	7-0
Bloxham	D	3-3
Winchester House	L	0-7
Radley	D	1-1



After a desperately rain-affected season in 2007, everyone had their fingers crossed that the summer of 2008 would allow more cricket. Hopes were also high for a successful season, given the experience of the side. However, hopes on both fronts were to be dashed in the first two matches: against Eton the game was washed out after only a couple of hours' play, whilst the team suffered a heavy defeat against Stowe, after being dismissed for a mere 90 runs.

This start increased the importance of the match against Reading School, a new fixture. A very disciplined bowling performance kept their scoring rate down, as they took 67 overs to score 229, with **Nat Watkins**, the captain, bowling a mammoth spell of 21 overs for only 47 runs. However, the length of their innings left us only 48 overs to score the runs, and our performance against Stowe did not bode well. An excellent, if long overdue, contribution from **Sam Fletcher** (75) set us on our way, before in the final over **Josh Smith** saw us home (85\*) in partnership with **Jamie Graves**, who used his head not only metaphorically but also physically to score the required runs. This was to be only the first of many exciting finishes.

Our next fixtures were three Twenty20 games on one day at Wellington, in the preliminary round of the national competition. Good batting by **Smith**, **James Manasseh**, **Fletcher** and **Watkins** saw us win comfortably against St Benedict's and Shiplake, but in between we were heavily beaten by Wellington, when our batting again failed badly. This performance was good enough, however, to get us into the plate competition, and the fact that so many of our batsmen had now scored some runs mitigated the disappointment of the second batting collapse of the season.

A comfortable win against Bloxham saw **James Edwards** (67) make his debut 50 for the eleven as well as some powerful hitting from **Robbie Winearls** down the order and 4 wickets for **Matt Pursell**; St Edward's, who were at the time unbeaten, promised a stiffer challenge. In tricky conditions we battled to a slow 166 (off 60 overs), but an outstanding bowling display by **Tim Deeks**

and **Robbie Winearls** (who took 5 and 4 wickets respectively) helped us to a comfortable win by 34 runs. This was a key game as it gave the team confidence that they could defend almost any total, however small. This was in part due to accurate bowling, but just as important was our fielding, led by our outstanding keeper, **Josh Smith**, who set the tone with a total of 25 stumpings over the course of the season. This confidence was vital, given a batting line-up that was prone to misfire too often.

The next game was the first round of the Twenty20 plate competition and was in many ways the most satisfying of the season as it gave us the opportunity to put the record straight against Stowe. **Fletcher** got us off to a rapid start, before **Watkins** weighed in with a fifty at more than a run a ball. The exciting hitting of **Winearls**, with consecutive sixes in his 23 off 11 balls, saw us post a challenging total of 163. We then dismissed Stowe for 72 in the best fielding display I can remember seeing in school cricket. A comfortable victory against RGS High Wycombe followed, in which **Manasseh** made his maiden 50 for the side. This was followed by a couple of disappointing Saturdays on which we lost to both Radley and Bradfield, the former through another disappointing batting display on what was a much bouncier track than we were used to playing on. **Edwards**, however, excelled again with a gritty 52, and **Deeks** showed promise of what was to come at the end of the season with a fluent 36.

The boys recovered well, however, to record two victories in the following week, first against King Edward's, Birmingham in the quarter-final of the Twenty20, a win notable for **Fletcher's** 65, **Edwards'** 40 and **Graves'** four wickets. The victory over the men's side, South Oxfordshire Amateurs, was notable for an all-round performance by the captain in which he took 5 wickets and scored an unbeaten 76. However, the defeat against a very strong Bradfield side took the gloss off the week. Their side included **Riazuddin**, who had played several times for Hampshire, but they were dismissed for 176, despite **Riazuddin's** 96. This looked well within our compass at 87 for 1, but our batting could





L to R Matthew Pursell, Robert Winearls, James Edwards, Jonothan Bourchier, Stephen Poland, John Bartlett, James Manasseh, Timothy Deeks, Joshua Smith, Nathaniel Watkins, Sam Fletcher, Jamie Graves, Gladstone Small

not cope with the pressure of the closing overs and we contrived to lose a game we had been winning most of the time, despite another impressive performance from **Edwards** (75).

However, this was perhaps the key turning-point of our season, as the boys responded well to the disappointment of defeat. This was important as the last nine days of term promised a busy seven days of cricket. The first was our Twenty20 semi-final, away again, this time at Hampton, who had reached the main final twice in recent years. Batting first, we achieved only a paltry 126 but an extraordinarily committed performance in the field saw us bowl them out for 103 after they had been 45 without loss. The two main architects of our victory were **Graves** with another 4 wickets, and **Smith** with three stumpings, which showed great character on his part after a disappointing effort with the bat.

The next game marked a new institution, the first in what is to be an annual series of games against the town club, Abingdon Vale, in memory of the groundsman and much-loved figure at both the School and club, David Bagshaw. In the absence of some key players, the School struggled to reach 133, despite another fine 46 from **Edwards**, but tigerish fielding and 5 wickets for **Pursell** contrived to dismiss the Vale for only 106. The following day brought a game against the MCC, and the School were left to chase a daunting 236 after repeated appeals from bowlers and fieldsmen fell on deaf ears. However, **Fletcher** led the way with a rapid 62 and almost all the batsmen contributed before **Deeks** and **Graves** saw us home with a couple of wickets to spare. It was a testament to the side's ambition that they pressed on for a win, when most other school sides might have been happy to shut up shop and settle for a draw; it also showed the depth of our batting, which was to prove important again the following week.

After a couple of days' rest, Sunday marked the Twenty20 plate final at the picturesque Getty ground on the Wormsley estate against St Joseph's, Ipswich. Here, we took advantage of the excellent conditions to bat first, with **Edwards** and **Fletcher** putting on an opening stand of 58 off only 33 balls. **Manasseh** with 73 off only 45 balls and **Josh Smith** with 24 off only 15 then saw us to the commanding total of 185 for 5 off our 20

overs, as the St Joseph's bowlers were hit in all directions. Their problems were compounded when **Edwards** ran out their star batsman on the first ball of their reply, and an excellent bowling performance (**Graves** and **Watkins** both took 3 wickets, the latter bowling especially well) ensured they were never in the game. Again, however, the fielding was the highlight, with **Winearls** – for the second time in the season – pulling off the crowd-pleasing feat of running out one of their batsmen with a direct hit from the boundary.

That afternoon the squad travelled north to Lytham St Annes to participate in the customary end-of-term festival. On the Monday, our batting failed horribly against University College School as we seemed to have left our collective brains behind in the south of England. From the depths of 62 for 9, **Graves** and **Deeks** (who scored 53) saved us, by adding 70, and justifying our boasts that we batted all the way down the order. They carried on with the ball, taking 3 wickets each, and giving us victory by 10 runs.



James Edwards

Wicketkeeper Josh Smith



The next match was against a much stronger Birkenhead side, who had won all the previous thirteen matches of their season, and were perhaps the strongest team we played against all season. However, with an outstanding bowling and fielding performance, we dismissed them for 152. We passed their score for the loss of 6 wickets, with **Smith** appropriately seeing us home with an unbeaten 35 to cap another first-class wicket-keeping display. The final game against Lytham was not such a taxing challenge. After dismissing them for 121, with the captain again leading the way with 3 wickets, we got the runs for the loss of 5 wickets: **Deeks**, who had deservedly been promoted in the batting order, scored a second 50.

The successful defence of our title in the festival meant that the team had enjoyed a terrific run of seven wins out of seven in the last nine days of term. As a whole, the season's record was a fine one: in 20 games there were 16 wins with only 4 defeats, and these included one against the MCC and two others against previously undefeated school sides. The team was ably led by the youthful **Nat Watkins**, who generated a tremendous team spirit even though he contributed with the bat less frequently than he would have probably liked. In this he was supported hugely by **Josh Smith**, who set the tone for our excellent performances in the field, both in the warm-ups and by his personal example behind the stumps.

It should also be noted that this year marked the departure of three individuals who did a huge amount for cricket at Abingdon in their time at the School. **Mike Hill** was with us as coach and master-in-charge for just one year, but he will be forever remembered for his jellybeans, infectious enthusiasm and endless hours on the roller (did he sleep on it?). **Jamie Graves** and **Sam Fletcher** were loyal servants of the eleven for three years, and contributed hugely to the success of this season in particular.

For **Sam** it was great that the expected weight of runs finally came, as his mind was liberated from concerns over coaching orthodoxy. **Jamie** was a stalwart of the attack, able to bowl as fast up the hill into the wind as he could with the elements behind him; his fielding was better than he was ever given credit for, as was his batting, although it might not be quite as good as his massive hundreds for his village suggested.

This was a hugely enjoyable season, and the team is about the nicest group of boys it would be possible to imagine, and they possess a keen competitive edge; all but **Sam** and **Jamie** of the regular players are returning. There remain big areas to work on, most particularly consistency in batting, but this is an exciting time for Abingdon cricket and we look forward to the arrival of a new full-time coach and master-in-charge, **Mr Damian Shirazi**.

Chris Burnand

#### 1st XI Results

Excluding 6 earlier rounds of twenty 20 tournament

Eton	Match abandoned for rain
Stowe (h)	Lost by 82 runs
Reading (a)	Won by 4 wickets
Bloxham (a)	Won by 160 runs
St. Edwards (h)	Won by 34 runs
RGS High Wycombe (a)	Won by 77 runs
Radley (a)	Lost by 53 runs
S.O. Amateurs (h)	Won by 8 wickets
Bradfield (a)	Lost by 7 runs
Ab Vale (a)	Won by 28 runs
MCC (h)	Won by 2 wickets
UCS Lon (a)	Won by 10 runs
Birkenhead (a)	Won by 4 wickets
Lytham (a)	Won by 5 wickets
Twenty 20 tournament –	Plate final, Wormsley Won by 36 runs

## 2nd XI Cricket

In comparison to last year's all-conquering team, the 2nd XI were a very young side this season, and inexperience, a lack of strength in depth and some physical mismatches were partially responsible for a losing season.

Things started well in the rain against Eton College, however. Some good fielding and three wickets from **Dylan Clive** restricted the opposition to just 110. A quick tea, and preparedness to stay out in some quite heavy rain, gave Abingdon a chance to chase a small target. In addition, some excellent stroke-play from **Keown** was solidly backed up by **Baumgart** and a 9-wicket victory was gained.

The match against Stowe typified much of the season. Abingdon started brightly, but bowling that was too straight allowed Stowe's pinch-hitter to score quickly on his favoured leg side. **Ben Read's** 'Radar' got going during this innings, but Stowe were allowed to make 40 runs too many. A slow but steady partnership between **Soames** and **Baumgart** showed promise, but after their dismissals the middle order collapsed and the game was lost. A captain's innings of 39 from seamer **Guy Cutting** was the sole highlight of a 10-wicket thrashing by Pangbourne's 1st XI.

Ironically, the victory against MCS was due almost entirely to two U15 players. The two **Wills**, **Sensecall** and **Stockwell**, took a poor game by the scruff of the neck and put their elders to shame. **Stockwell** produced an aggressive spell to take 3 wickets, and **Sensecall** batted flawlessly to guide Abingdon home to a victory that should never have been so close. Although our top four never produced enough runs during the season, the middle and lower orders mostly specialised in rash shots and ran poorly between the wickets.

Against Bloxham, Abingdon produced an almost carbon copy of the performance against Stowe, being outplayed by a team that was technically less adept. Field placements were unimaginative and we bowled poorly at another batsman with a good eye but poor technique. **Michel Baumgart** continued to show that his batting was continuing to progress with a neat 36 against St Edward's, and **John Bartlett** took 3-11. Consistent spells like this

one earned **John** a call-up to the 1st XI at the end of the season. But sporadic individual performances weren't getting us very far and the game was lost by 7 wickets.

Radley's opening pair put on 150 and were too classy and experienced for the Abingdon boys, who were mostly two years younger. Whilst 226 in 30 overs was always going to be a stiff target, the Abingdon innings saw **Chris Newman** sign off with an aggressive 45.

The season came to an end with a victory in a new fixture against Bradfield. Abingdon batted slowly but sensibly to record 124-5, with captain **Jamie Soames** scoring the team's only half century of the season, ably supported by **George Rossiter** (31). It would have been good to have had **George's** talent more regularly, but rowing commitments took him away from us in the early part of the season. Bradfield were finally bowled out for 112 in a nail-biter for just the third victory of a disappointing season.

The batting order never looked particularly strong or experienced beyond number four and the boys let a couple of sides get away with some quite poor technique. I'm sure that the 2nd XI will bounce back next season and will be physically more of a match for other senior sides.

N J O'Doherty

### 2nd XI results

Eton	Won by 9 wickets
Stowe	Lost by 54 runs
Pangbourne 1st XI	Lost by 10 wickets
MCS	Won by 2 wickets
Bloxham	Lost by 35 runs
St. Edwards	Lost by 7 wickets
Radley	Lost by 95 runs
Bradfield	Won by 12 runs

2nd XI Squad: **Michel Baumgart**, **Callum Keown**, **Max Neil**, **Jamie Soames**, **Christopher Newman**, **Freddie Howe**, **Luke Himpson**, **Guy Cutting**, **Oliver Read**, **Ben Read**, **Stephen Poland**, **John Bartlett**, **William Sensecall**, **William Stockwell**, **Timothy Gower**, **Christopher Burgess**, **Robert Kenworthy**, **Joshua Ogle**, **George Rossiter**, **Julian Thorn**, **Alexander Veale**, **Fayez Ahmed**, **Ben Andre**.



Junior Colts

## Junior Colts A XI Cricket

Our final statistics represent a successful season overall: played 14, won 9 – including victories against Stowe, Reading, Bloxham, RGS High Wycombe, Bradfield and MCS – lost 4, with 1 abandoned and victory in the Oxfordshire section of the Twenty20 Cup.

The highlights of the season for me were the excellent victories over Bradfield and MCS in the final two block fixtures of the season. On both occasions Abingdon batted first and struggled to establish a platform early on until **Jack Channon** and **Sam Clarke-Warry** dug in to build vital partnerships which hauled us up to modest but defensible totals. Both Bradfield and MCS started off strongly and were well placed to cruise home at the midway stage, but accurate bowling, particularly from **Josh Bull** and **Andrew Russell**, backed up by some sharp fielding, enabled them to increase the pressure on the opposing batsmen and gain notable victories in the end. The MCS game in particular was a nail-biter, with all results still possible off the final ball, but the team held their nerve to finish the season off in style.

The side's successes were generally based around a tight, disciplined, bowling attack. However, in the national rounds of the two Cup competitions, where they were pitted against strong sides from Whitgift and Oundle, Abingdon batted first on both occasions. They were unable to post anywhere near the sort of competitive total that might have allowed the bowlers the opportunity to show what they were capable of, which was disappointing.

The most frustrating match had to be the defeat by St Edward's, which should never have been! After a good bowling display had restricted them to 137 from their 30 overs on a small pitch, confidence was high and, despite losing an early wicket in dubious circumstances, Abingdon were well placed at 42 for 2 off the first 10 overs. Then came a crazy seven-ball period where some loose shots saw four wickets thrown away, and despite a heroic last-wicket partnership of 43 between **Henry Gibson** and **Sam Bowers**, who showed the benefits of patience and good shot selection, the team fell agonizingly six runs short.

The individual batting highlights of the season were watching **Matthew Lake** rip apart the Bloxham attack on his way to a fine unbeaten century, **Jonny Bouchier's** classy 83 against Radley and **Tom Price's** well constructed innings of 70 not out to dig the side out of a hole when the top order had failed against King Alfred's. With the ball there was **Ben Stockwell's** hat trick against Bicester Community College and **Andrew Russell's** comeback performance that turned the game against Bradfield.

The side's strength was in their bowling attack, which had plenty of variety and bowled the opposition out for 100 or less on six occasions. The leading wicket takers were **Josh Bull** (18 wickets at 10.5), whose consistency and nagging accuracy always made him difficult to score off, and **Ben Stockwell** (18 wickets at 13.9), who provided some pace to the opening attack. They were ably supported by the swing and seam of **Tom Price** (10 wickets at 19.3) and the left arm swing of **Henry Gibson** (7 wickets at 15.7), whilst **Matthew Lake** (13 wickets at 18.6) picked up several vital wickets with his leg spin, and there was even more competition



for places when **Andrew Russell** (5 wickets at 10.8) returned from injury towards the end of the season. **Sam Bowers** (8 wickets at 4.1) and **Harry Granger** (2 wickets at 24) also bowled well when given the opportunity, such was the strength in depth within the squad.

There's plenty of potential amongst the batsmen too, but the batting as a whole was fragile and this was the area that let the side down whenever they came up against the tougher opposition. They must learn to tighten up their defence generally, look to rotate the strike better early on in their innings and make sure they punish the loose balls. The leading run-scorers were **Matthew Lake** (273 runs at 22.8) and **Tom Price** (185 runs at 16.8), who both produced several vital innings, whilst **Jack Channon** (149 runs at 29.8) really developed well and grew in confidence as the season progressed. **Marcus Seller** (122 runs at 17.4), **Harry Copson** (46 runs at 11.5) and **Mark Francis** (94 runs at 9.4) all have the ability to strike the ball well and produced some cameo knocks but lacked consistency, whilst **William Sensecall** (96 runs at 9.6) and **Sam Clarke-Warry** (61 runs at 7.6) both have bags of ability but struggled to get going on most occasions.

Fielding is often an under-valued part of the game and there are certainly a few members of the squad who will need to develop this aspect of their game before entering the senior squads next year, but special mention must go to **Sam Clarke-Warry** who was outstanding in this area throughout. **Matthew Lake** and **Tom Price** each displayed a very safe pair of hands and **Mark Francis** did a tidy job behind the stumps, always encouraging and trying to keep his team-mates on their toes.

Finally, I'd like to mention the captain, **Matthew Lake**, who did an excellent job juggling things around and it's good to see a captain showing the conviction to 'think outside the box' and adopt some inventive fielding positions. It's been an enjoyable season where the side have shown a good team spirit and worked hard to improve their individual games and I hope they'll continue to develop in the senior squads next season.

Andrew Broadbent

### Junior Colts A XI results

Eton	Match abandoned
Stowe	Won by 25 runs
Reading	Won by 84 runs
Bloxham	Won by 148 runs
St. Edwards	Lost by 6 runs
RGS High Wycombe	Won by 2 wickets
Radley	Lost by 43 runs
Bradfield	Won by 34 runs
MCS	Won by 2 runs

## Junior Colts B XI Cricket

The most striking aspect of the Junior Colts B's performance this season was the positive spirit with which they competed and supported each other. We had cricketers with good potential in the side and competition for places was strong. Spring rains put a damper on early fixtures but by May, B's Captain, **Jack Channon**, had successfully argued his case for inclusion in the A squad and **David Grant** earned his promotion to the Bs with strong batting performances. **Jamie Hall** stepped up as captain and ably skippered the side from behind the stumps. Both the Pangbourne and Bloxham fixtures were mismatches of differing sorts, the latter doing batsmen's averages no harm. Particularly pleasing was the victory over St Edward's where **Rajan Sehmi** bowled and set the field immaculately to frustrate their batting. Abingdon later held their composure through heavy drizzle in Oxford whilst our opponents lost theirs and the match.

**David Grant** seldom surrendered his wicket cheaply and turned in some notable performances. **Jamie Hall's** swashbuckling knocks were rarely short on fireworks. Too often our lack of patience let our batting down and an ability to pick and defend a straight ball was a recurring weakness which was vigorously exploited by Radley College. **Harry Granger** was a consistent threat and returned tidy figures, as did **Campbell Garland**, showing how effective line and length can be. **Edd Arnold** contributed well

with both bat and ball. Each of our bowlers has talent, so greater consistency from one match to the next will be the key to their progression. All of our Junior Colts B cricketers can be rightly proud of the team and the keen sportsmanship and tight fielding with which they secured a good deal of success.

Gareth Callan

### Junior Colts B XI results

Eton	Match abandoned
Stowe	Match abandoned
Pangbourne A	Lost by 9 wickets
Oratory	Match abandoned
St. Edwards	Won by 8 wickets
Shiplake A	Won by 14 runs
Radley	Lost by 101 runs
Bradfield	Won by 7 wickets
MCS	Won by 36 runs

Junior Colts B XI Squad: **Jack Channon** (Captain), **Jamie Hall** (Captain) (WK), **Harry Aitken**, **Edd Arnold**, **James Barratt**, **Sam Bowers**, **Matthew Boyd**, **Sam Clarke-Warry**, **Harry Copson**, **Tom Fishpool**, **Campbell Garland**, **Henry Gibson**, **Harry Granger**, **David Grant**, **Chris Moore**, **Andrew Russell**, **Rajan Sehmi**

## Juniors A XI Cricket

Compared with the successful Juniors A sides of the last three years, this team was middling, lacking about two players of A ability. The season began well but then the boys had the misfortune of meeting some sides that were rated by their schools as the best in years. However, adversity is no bad test of character: some gritty batting against Bradfield and tight bowling against Clifton meant that the season could finish with heads held high and humour intact, even if of the gallows variety.

The team was superbly led by **Michael Shortis** – in umpteen years of junior cricket I have not seen a better tactician. The batting was heavily dependent on **William Bibby**, who demonstrated immense power and timing in scoring 373 runs at an average of 41.4. When he learns to offer fewer catches in driving the ball he should achieve even greater success. **Charlie Manasseh** opened the batting and revealed an excellent eye for the ball in scoring 221 runs at 24.6, including a superb 50 against a strong Radley team. Of the rest, **Hamish Grant** (141 runs at 15.7), **Gregor Hearn** (113 at 14.1) and **Michael Deeks** (99 at 12.4) scored most runs. Too often, alas, the team was dismissed with overs for batting remaining unused.

The wickets were evenly shared between **Guy Giles** (14 at 11.9 runs per wicket), **George Bull** (14 at 14.1), **Michael Shortis** (14 at 17.5), **Charlie Manasseh** (13 at 17) and **William Bibby** (13 at 17.9). **Guy**, bowling the straightest, was the most economical. **Charlie** bowled fast but often too short. **George** and **Michael** were surprised when some balls of reasonable length were slow enough for good batsmen to hit back over their heads.

**Gregor Hearn**, with 6 catches and 4 stumpings, showed promise as the wicketkeeper. He will improve when the speed of his feet matches his quickness of eye. Generally the fielding and the running between the wickets lacked intensity. **Guy** showed that he is a speedo not just in the swimming pool. He had to bat at number 11 because no partner could match his running. **Sebastian Black** showed poetry in slow motion as an elegant fielder at point.

During the season an athlete and a tennis player joined the team – a testimony to the team's quality or, possibly, need.

Henry Kirk

### Juniors A XI results

Eton	Match abandoned
Stowe	Won by 33 runs
Reading	Won by 143 runs
Bloxham	Lost by 6 wickets
St Edwards	Lost by 54 runs
RGS High Wycombe	Won by 91 runs
Radley	Lost by 193 runs
Bradfield	Lost by 75 runs
Clifton College	Lost by 2 wickets

### Lord's Taverners County Competition

1. King Alfreds	Won by 9 wickets
2. Lord Williams's, Thame	Won by 6 wickets
3. Semi-Final v MCS	Lost by 5 wickets



At the start of the season, the senior rowing squad showed great promise with a number of returners from last year's 1st VIII and from the Henley-qualifying 2nd VIII, as well as a strong set of new members from the Lower Sixth after their successful J16 season. We all wanted to make **Mr Martin's** last year as coach a success.

During the Michaelmas half term, after some chilly winter training, the rowers and coaches together with **Mr Hall** jetted off to sunny Boston. We were hosted and lent boats by St John's High School and after a couple of days of training on Lake Quinsigamond, and on the River Charles itself, the race was quickly upon us. Our comparative lack of Vllls-work showed and both our crews suffered from 'soggy' starts. Despite this, both finished well and beat a fair few decent schools, despite not quite getting the results we had hoped for. Back at the lake the next morning, the excitement was tangible before the traditional Abingdon v Abingdon Boat Race. After eleven minutes of side-by-side racing, **Gus Raftery's** crew eventually pulled away to win convincingly!

Our next event was Peterborough Head in February. We had some success in pairs and **Matt Rossiter** won the S3 sculls. He went on to come 16th in the Senior GB sculling trials a week later. Peterborough proved useful practice for the 5km GB pairs trials two weeks later and, following on from some solid performances in the sculling trials the previous term, all Abingdon entrants qualified for the next round.

The most important race of the season so far was the Schools' Head of the River in March. Despite the shortening of the course owing to strong winds, the 1st VIII quickly (and very satisfyingly!) overtook Radley to finish second, 3 seconds behind Shrewsbury and just ahead of Eton. The 2nd VIII were disappointed to finish 10th after a few weeks of injury-laden preparation. A few weeks later, over the full course this time, we raced again at the Men's Head of the River: the 1st VIII finished 2nd out of the schools, 2 seconds behind St Paul's, and the 2nd VIII were pleased with their improvement since the Schools' Head.

At the very beginning of the Easter holidays, it was off to Nottingham for the next round of GB trials. Again, all those who entered progressed to the next round. Immediately afterwards, it was off to Hazewinkle, Belgium, for the annual training camp. Despite the strange and ever-present odours surrounding the lake, lots of useful seat-racing and training were completed and both senior crews performed well in the inter-class race on the last day.

At the BASHER Regatta at the end of April, our improvements showed by the 2nd VIII finishing 2nd in their event and the 1st VIII holding off a strong charge from Eton to win by three feet or more – if you listen to **Mr Martin's** account!

At Wallingford Regatta, both senior crews performed well but the 1st VIII ultimately missed **Max Gander** and **Simon Jeffreys** who were in Munich winning gold medals for GB.

Much to everyone's disappointment, the National Schools' Regatta was cancelled as a result of the crews sinking in the Atlantic conditions. I am sure the MDM crew would have been fine, though! By way of compensation, Eton hosted a Schools' Regatta after half term. The 1st VIII won the semi-final but perhaps gave too much and came 3rd in the final. The 2nd VIII finished 4th in their division.

At Reading Amateur Regatta a week later the 1st VIII faced no real competition in their event but still made a point of posting one of the fastest times of the day. The 2nd VIII performed admirably, beating both Southampton University and St Edward's 2nd VIII before losing to Bristol University in a very close final.

Marlow Regatta was the last competition before Henley. The 1st VIII showcased the fruits of their training by winning the Senior 2 event ahead of many foreign and university crews. We were pleased with what we felt was one of our best races of the season so far. In difficult conditions, on the Sunday in the U23 event, the champion University, Durham, proved just a bit more experienced and the 1st VIII finished second. **Andy Hatzis**

and **George Bone** won their pairs event at Thames Valley Park Regatta on the Sunday.

After yet more bad luck in their build-up training, the 2nd VIII raced determinedly but just missed out on Henley qualification by one second on Friday 27 June.

The 1st VIII raced well at Henley, beating Kingston Grammar School convincingly in the first round and Salisbury School, USA, by one length the next day. On the Saturday, in the strong stream and headwind, the frankly ENORMOUS Shawnigan Lake School from Canada proved too strong for us, despite what we felt was our best possible performance. The fact that we posted the second quickest time of the event and were knocked out by the winners was scant consolation and all of us attending GB trials were hoping for better things the next week.

All the senior rowers and coxes – apart from **Simon Jeffreys** who unfortunately missed out due to illness – who attended the trials were selected for GB crews and achieved the following results:

Matt Rossiter – 5th in U23 VIII at World Championships

Max Gander – 2nd in Junior 4+ at World Championships

Gus Raftery – 5th in Junior 8+ at World Championships

Rory Copus – 1st in Junior 4+ at the *Coupe de la Jeunesse*

Felix Wood – 1st (by 0.02 seconds over France) and 3rd in Junior 8+ at the *Coupe de la Jeunesse*

Oli Cook – 8th and 5th in Junior 4s at the *Coupe de la Jeunesse*

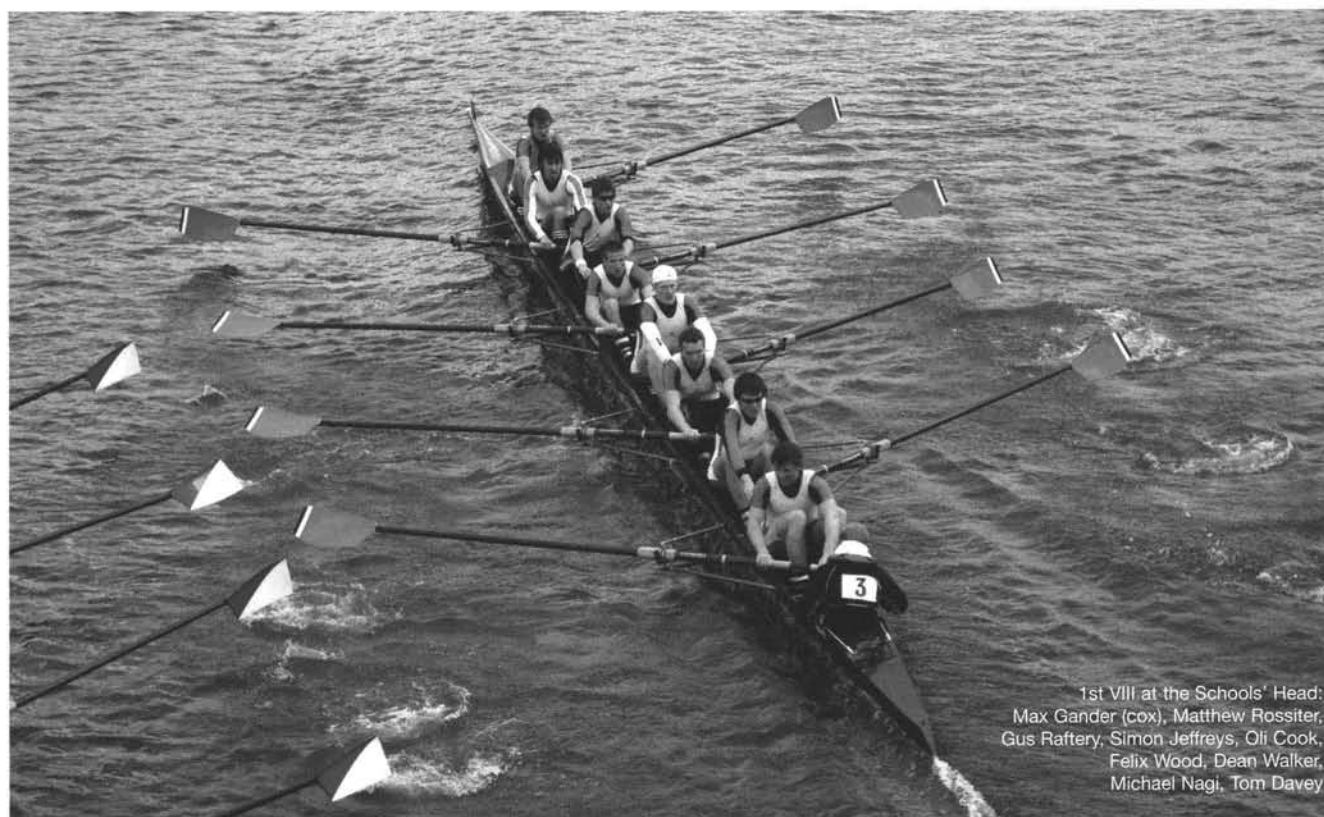
Andy Hatzis was selected for the GB spare pair at the *Coupe de la Jeunesse*



Matthew Rossiter

I would like to thank all the rowers for their hard work this year and the coaches for their patience, time and skill. We wish Mike Martin well in his new job in his homeland.

Felix Wood 6 SAE



1st VIII at the Schools' Head:  
Max Gander (cox), Matthew Rossiter,  
Gus Raftery, Simon Jeffreys, Oli Cook,  
Felix Wood, Dean Walker,  
Michael Nagi, Tom Davey



It would be fair to say that no one was really sure how the season would pan out following the loss of so many of our squad members, so we had no option but to set about making this a season to remember without them.

The year started in bright form, full of hope and expectation. Not to be put off by the high levels of the Thames at the start of the season – something we have come to expect – training was based mainly around the ergos for a few weeks before the build-up to one of the calendar's biggest races, the Schools' Head.

With the team for the race decided, we knew we wanted this to work and with the expectation of last year's winning A crew, we too thought we would be going home all medalled-up. Sadly it was not to be, and even some gallant cries from **Jacob Fries** were not enough to stir us to higher than 3rd in our class. This was where we got our first glimpse of the Eton crew that we were to track for the whole season, who came in 9th overall. The best part of the day, personally, was **Rory Copus'** high-pitched reaction to a malfunctioning cox box, which left us wondering how we had ever let this guy control the eight of us in a boat. Luckily, for the sake of the strange looks we were getting, the cox box fixed itself before the race began.

All was to change, however. Rowing camp this year took place in Hazewinkel, Belgium and on arrival, just after stepping off the bus, hardly having marvelled at the beautiful regatta course, we were subjected to a trial ergo. Although that didn't go down particularly well, the camp went generally to plan, with pairs matrixes, seat racing and ergos a-plenty. A camp to remember, especially for **Ben Hogan**, who fell asleep for a whole rowing session – well, he can't deny he believed it!

The B crew's collapse was the result of a combination of factors: the loss of members, exam work, tiredness and lack of commitment, all of which was very frustrating to committed members of the B crew.

Bedford Regatta would probably go down in many of the crew's minds as our best-ever race as a crew. The comfortable, relaxed approach, with **George Rossiter** now at stroke, saw us blow

the first few rounds of the Novice 8's out the water, beating a University crew in the final, to take our pots and finish the day in fine form. The J16 event saw us sit up on Radley by a good length of clear water and just stride it to the finish to the noise of cheering Abingdonians on the bank. Unfortunately, we were beaten in a later final by the all-dominating Eton crew... but we were getting closer.

At the National Schools' Regatta, there was a buzz going around: those who last saw us at the pre-season events couldn't believe that we could have turned round a last place in the first heat the previous year, to possibly take the gold this time around – and come that, neither could we! Confidence was high and the journey up saw everyone in good spirits. Even the dismantled B crew had agreed to re-form for the day. We knew we could do it.

Arriving at the course to see several overturned 1st Vllls was not part of the plan. After a long wait, racing for the day was cancelled and we all left somewhat depressed, trying to refocus for the Eton Schools' Regatta, which was to be held in two weeks' time.

Having stepped on from there, or so we thought, we were very disappointed to be placed 3rd at Eton, having been beaten by the Radley crew we had so comfortably thrashed just weeks before. However, it was a medal, and I have never been one to throw away a medal.

After the race, the four that had been selected to trial for the GB-France match (**Tim Richards**, **Rob Fife**, **Dan Boddington** and **Charlie Brampton**) decided that along with **Hugo Mendus**, our cox, we were going to make the IV work, and we were going to be sitting on the start line for Great Britain on the 13 July.

Training didn't click straight away. The confidence simply wasn't there, and our positions were constantly changed to try and find the right combination. Weeks at regattas just showed up our weaknesses. At Thames Valley Park we were beaten by an unheard-of Reading Blue Coat crew, (although our spirits were lifted when we saw **Tim Richards** compete in a single sculling





race, and Jamie Cook and Rob Fife win the pairs race) but overall, we knew we needed to improve. A week away for work experience, in my view, did us the world of good, and the five of us came back with renewed self-belief and the hunger to win.

At Nottingham we qualified by a cool 0.3% of a point, which equates to basically less than a second. This was apparently not

important to Dan, who almost turned the minibus over when we found out! Good news, so we went home to pack for the 5 am start to Vallenciennes the next day. We were going to France! We trained and competed in the VIII with two boys from Eynsham and two from Bedford Modern. All went to plan, as we beat the French in our race, even though their final surge had a few eyebrows raised and foreheads wiped!

Looking back at my season, there are many highlights and it will definitely go down well in the memory. I would like to thank all the people who made it possible: Rory Copus, without whom we couldn't have raced, Hugo Mendus for his help in France, and Mr Hundermark for his undying belief in the crew. Lactic really is my best friend... ish.

Rob Fife 5 JPN



J14 winners at Reading Town Regatta: L to R George Eason, Joe Hogan, James Chitty, Ed Hughes, William Hollier, Robbie Brough, Harry Williams, Howard Winfield, David Munro

Third-year rowing looked to be very promising this year, if a little hectic for the coaches as they busied themselves organising the 70 boys who signed up for rowing at the start of the Lent term. As usual, the river didn't help, quickly flooding its banks. However, the ever-enterprising team of coaches used the 'rowing lake' created by the flood in front of the boathouse to get the boys on the water, and much coaching of technique was done on the ergos. The first term ended with a trip to Bedford to take part in the quadruple scull event there, where we won a few medals in the lower divisions, and a match against St Edward's School on home waters.

Towards the end of the term the coaching team was joined by ex-triple World Champion single sculler, Peter Haining, who quickly got the boys thinking about their sculling with some innovative exercises, including sculling on-land. At least the Boat Club, bereft of one crazy Scotsman, has found a replacement in Peter! Peter was a great help at the second annual Easter single sculling camp, which was enjoyed by thirty or so of the boys.

As the summer term began, the squad was showing such talent overall that selection for crews was a difficult task. Whichever A crew was selected, the B crew was nipping at their heels; strength in depth was clearly the theme of the season. The BASHER, held at Dorney Lake, was the first event where the A crew came second behind a Bedford crew which we would be measuring ourselves against all season, but the B and C crews came first in their categories, beating several A crews.

At Bedford Regatta, the A crew yet again came up against Bedford, the eventual winners, while the B and C crews thrashed everything in their way to finish up racing each other in the B final (fortunately for the selectors, the B crew beat the C crew to win their first pot).

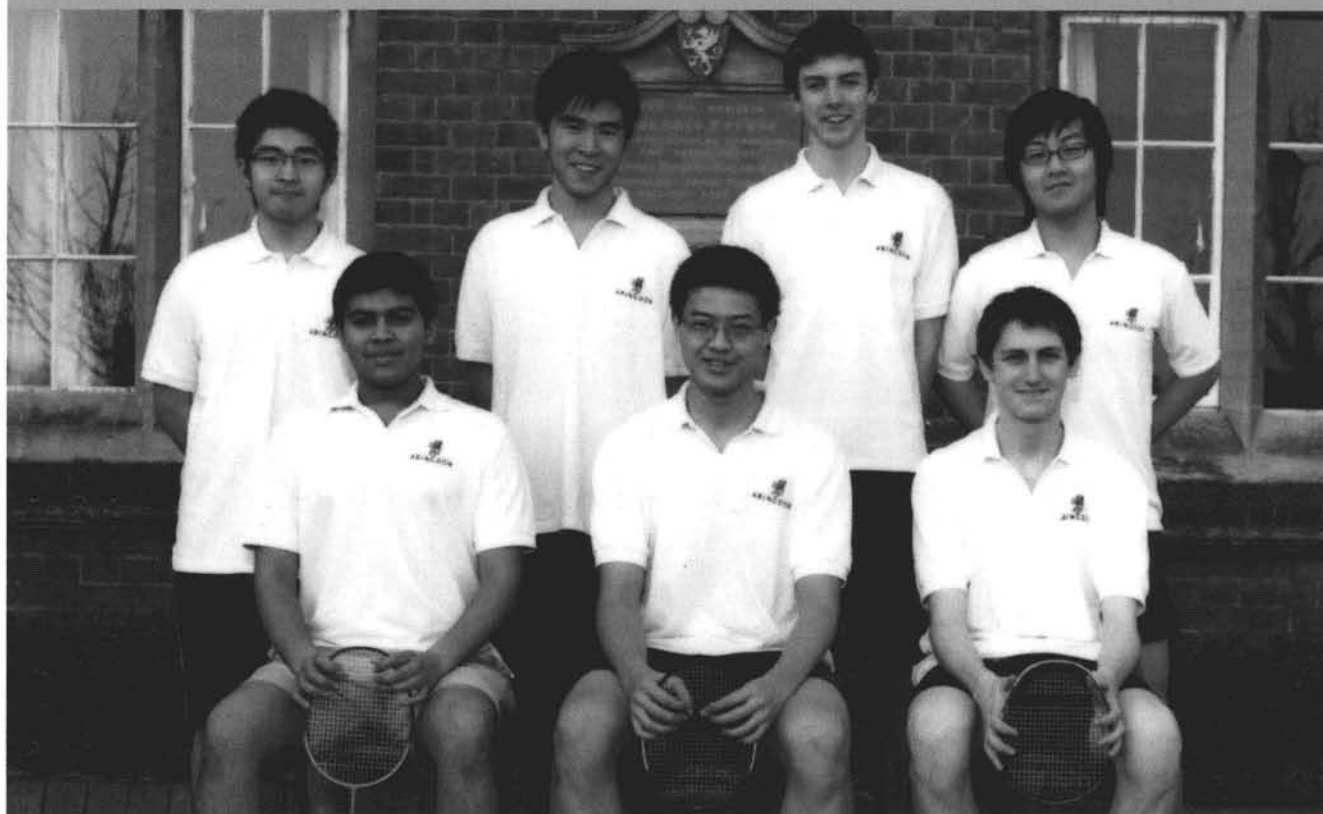
The National Schools' Regatta fell too early for Abingdon J14 crews, as it usually does, and so it was in a fairly rough-and-ready fashion that we took on schools that had been training for the whole year, or even clubs who had started at J13 level! The A crew rowed valiantly but just missed out on the final by one place. The B crew, in the B crew event, having led for the first 800m of the final, caught a crab and were overhauled by Yarm A crew, Shrewsbury B crew taking the bronze medal.

While the other schools had reached their top speed by this stage in the season, Abingdon still had more potential to fulfil. At Marlow Regatta, a rearranged A crew found themselves up against the 1st, 3rd and 4th places from the National Schools' Regatta. Abingdon showed greater stamina over the 2km course and destroyed the field by over a length, finally putting Bedford to the sword. The remainder of the season was spent sprint racing at Thames Valley Park and Reading Town.

The successes in depth show that this is a very promising year group, who have been great fun to coach for Cherry Briggs, Keith Butler, Tom Barrow, the gapper, and myself.

Hugh Price

## Badminton



Under 19 Badminton Team L to R - Back row: Jonathan Lau, Kevin Cheung, Timothy Middleton, Youngsang Lee  
Front row: Ruchit Patel, Jun Tao, Alexander Smith

Photograph: Richard Snart Photography

### Michaelmas Term

The Michaelmas term proved to be a very strong one for badminton, with a string of victories against our opponents. Being without a sports hall has meant that all our matches have had to be played away. This has meant that we have had to drive to every match and this has been on top of the day-to-day drive to the Vale of White Horse Leisure Centre just to get on court for practice; the players, plus Mr Macdonald and the minibus, clocked up over a thousand miles.

So, was it worth it? Of course: this term we won over 150 individual games against other schools and conceded fewer than ten.

Alexander Smith 6 JEJO

### Lent Term

After waiting for a number of years in Lent 2008 we finally played two neighbours, Cokethorpe and MCS, as well as the familiar pattern of schools in the area and further afield. Sadly, the planned matches against Oxford University and St Clare's fell through, as did the second fixture against Millfield through a calendar snarl up in Wiltshire.

The 'B' and 'C' teams visited Rugby School and prevailed nearly as comprehensively as the full strength team did last term. A mostly 'B' and U16 team beat Wellington College.

Mixed matches against schools in Oxfordshire (as usual in combination with The School of St Helen and St Katherine) worked quite well, and we were able to play U19 boys' matches against Wood Green School and Henry Box School in the rump of the old Oxfordshire Schools' League.

The matches against MCS, at U14 and U16 level, were for the honour of representing Oxfordshire independent schools against the Oxfordshire State Schools Sports Partnership, and in the County round of the competition the Abingdon U16 team emerged as runners-up to St Bartholomew's.

The players were Josh Ridley, Adrian Lo, Julian Martin, Richard Moon and Edward Callow.

The U14s also reached the County round and emerged having won some games and learned a great deal.

The U14 team consisted of Daniel Chen (1EMTS) Nicholas Topping, Paul Woo and Edward Norris.

Maybe it was only from a distance but we were able to glimpse the top of the badminton mountain when we went as spectators to the NIA at Birmingham for the All England Championships.

For the second term in succession we have quartered the country in playing all our matches 'away', but at least the hours on the road gave Ruchit Patel the chance to look out for exotic and expensive cars; maybe his best haul came in the Wellington College car park where he was already quite content having seen a Maserati and an Aston Martin – his cup ran over when he met the Lamborghini!



Under 16 Badminton Team L to R - Back row: Adrian Lo, Ramon Bonfield, Edward Callow - Front row: Richard Moon, Joshua Ridley, Julian Martin

The badminton this term continued to consist of bouts of on-court activity prefaced and succeeded by spells of indolence in a minibus because the V of WH Centre is where we practise, and all matches have, perforce, to be 'away'. Some dedicated souls have taken to running to the V of WH courts when the minibus has proved to be full and I'm sure that they are all the fitter for it.

#### Personalia

After four exemplary years **Jun Tao**, captain 2007-8, is moving on. He joined in the Fourth Year, instantly impressed with his mobility and skill and formed a cheerful partnership with **Harry Richards**. For some time he has clearly been the best player in the School, but Jun is able to get some social fun out of matches and is happy to offer advice and coaching to anyone prepared to listen. The mark of a talented player is that he makes the game look natural and easy; Jun has this ability: his technique is deceptively clean, apparently simple, and easy to watch while his speed of understanding as well as movement typically mean that he doesn't have to blast his way out of trouble, rather he is waiting for the shuttle to arrive, whereupon he can wrongfoot the opposition to win the point.

**Tim Middleton** was secretary for 2006-7 and has continued to keep a helpful eye on our organisation. Although not as instinctively gifted as some, he is a continuously thoughtful player, consciously improving his game and very determined not to be outdone. He knows that although success is most enjoyable, the game stops when one leaves the court.

**Kevin Cheung** is a classic example of the gains that come with patience. He has recently made great strides as **Jun Tao's** doubles partner. With growing skill have come cheerfulness, relaxation and even – given his natural talent – more development. Kevin has always been a strong striker of the shuttle but his current game is increasingly varied and subtle.

**Michael Chan** may be strategically less ambitious than some but he plays with energy and dexterity when ahead in the game.

In another field a colleague described **Jonathan Lau** as 'lighting up the stage' and it's just as true of his badminton. He always seems happy to play when asked, and has never given less than his best. Rueful but still cheery and animated even when outplayed, he encourages younger protégés and backs up his peers and partners.

**Youngsang Lee** has been one of the success stories of recent teams. He plays a psychological game and once he finds a weakness his opponent is not going to have a happy match.

**Ruchit Patel** has been **Youngsang's** partner for two years: he is one of those lucky sportsmen who can convert from tennis to badminton without apparent effort. While retaining his power, he has broadened his repertoire of shots this year with touch play and subtle angles. **Youngsang** and **Ruchit** know when they are playing well together; they have the knack of smoothly covering the court without need for consultation. On days like this (and they are pretty frequent) they take evident and justified pleasure in their success.

Some stories would have it that we will be back in 'our ain midden heid' at the start of the 2008-9 season. I'm less sanguine than that and will be happy with an early Christmas present.

Ian Macdonald

## Badminton Results

### Michaelmas Term

Stowe: A & B	9 - 0, 9 - 0
Cheltenham: A & B	9 - 0, 9 - 0
Oratory: 4 pairs	12 - 4
Radley: U15s	9 - 0
Bloxham: 4 U15 pairs	11 - 5
Wellington College: 4 pairs	16 - 0
Cheltenham & Malvern: Abingdon A	9 - 0, 9 - 0
Rugby: A & B	9 - 0, 9 - 0
Millfield: A & B in 5 pairs	13 - 0; (10 - 0 singles)

### Lent Term

Rugby: A & B	8 - 1, 9 - 0
MCS: U14 & U16	4 - 1, 4 - 1
Wood Green: U19	7 - 0
SSSP (county round): U14 & U16	U16 were runners-up
Burford: U19 Mixed	8 - 1
Henry Box School & Wood Green: U19	4 - 5, 5 - 4
Henry Box School: U19	6 - 1
Wellington College: U16	10 - 6
Cokethorpe: U19	7 - 0
House Matches: in the finals	
Middle School	Boyd's bt. Webb's
Upper School	Webb's bt. Older's
Cheltenham & Malvern: Abingdon A	9 - 0, 8 - 1
Abingdon successes in Oxon Schools Badminton Tournaments	
Ruchit Patel and Youngsang Lee (VI) -	
U19 Schools Boys Doubles runners-up.	
Richard Moon and Julian Martin (5) -	
U17 Schools Boys Doubles winners	
Daniel Chen - U13 restricted Boys Doubles winners	
Alexander Smith - U21 restricted Mixed Doubles runners-up pair.	



Members of the Cross-Country Club - L to R  
Back row : Simon Balderson, Chris Burgess Peter Barnshaw, Patrick Lay, Alex Muir, Sam Dent, Tom Foxon,  
Michel Baumgart, Will Cullen, Chris Davis, Joe Delo, Leonid Ganin, David McGill  
Middle row: Rory Marsh, Clym Buxton, Joe Foxon, Fraser Capill, Stuart Jones  
Front row: Ted Stansfield, Tom Watkins, Christian Reedman, Chris Jones, Josh Ridley

What follows is a chronicle of the Cross-Country Club's season: one of raising thousands for charity, winning races and the enjoyment of running for what it is...

#### Longworth 10k - Sunday 23 September

This was our first of five externally organized events, but one which the boys seem to enjoy a great deal, returning to the local countryside after two months' holiday to test their base fitness. Eleven runners from the cross-country club, two ex-pupils and two members of staff ran the Longworth 10k. Conditions were ideal and so we managed five runners in the top 20. **Alexander Muir** won a trophy for the fastest person in his age-group.

#### Blenheim Palace - Sunday 30 September

Our runners excitedly returned to compete in the beautiful grounds of Blenheim Palace. The hills were always there to test individual resolve and power. This event was in support of Cancer Research UK, and the boys displayed the appropriate attitude on the day. Once more, the support by staff and parents seemed to have an effect, five runners finishing in the top 20. **Michael Nagi** finished in bronze medal position, coming 3rd out of 2,100 other runners. The remainder of the team pushed themselves hard to achieve much improved 10k times.

#### Bicester 10k - Sunday 9 December

The Club entered a team of 25 boys, staff and parents to run the Bicester 10k road race on Sunday 9 December, with the aim of raising sponsorship for Helen & Douglas House. Despite strong winds and downpours, all the boys ran well, with exceptional performances by our first two runners, **Alexander Muir** and **Thomas Watkins**, who registered times of 37:46 and 37:48 respectively. Other notable fast performances included **William Cullen** (39:37), **Mr. Balderson** (39:41) and a time of 43:10 for the first-ever race by **Michel Baumgart**. We are always grateful for the pledges made and the continuous support of parents at the finish line.

#### Knole Run - Saturday 12 January

This year there was glorious sunshine, which made it a good day out for spectators, but as usual the conditions underfoot were difficult, with most of the course being very muddy. Both the A and B teams performed very well: the A team scored a top 10 position, which was the target this year. **Alexander Muir** and **Thomas Watkins** scored a very respectable 16th and 34th position respectively. The surprise, to a certain extent, was **Alistair Duff's** race time, which saw him in 65th position overall – good work for a Third-former in his first Knole Run. Indeed, **Alistair** was representative of a younger, talented B team, most of whom were on a 'reconnaissance run' in preparation for future success: **Clym Buxton**, **Joseph Foxon** and **Stuart Jones**. Mention should also go to **Michel Baumgart**, who seems to be becoming faster every race – a star of the future. The senior runners, along with **Tom Foxon**, also did an excellent job with their speed and reliability, ensuring that the A team secured a very good position.



#### Vale of White Horse Championships - Thursday 24 January

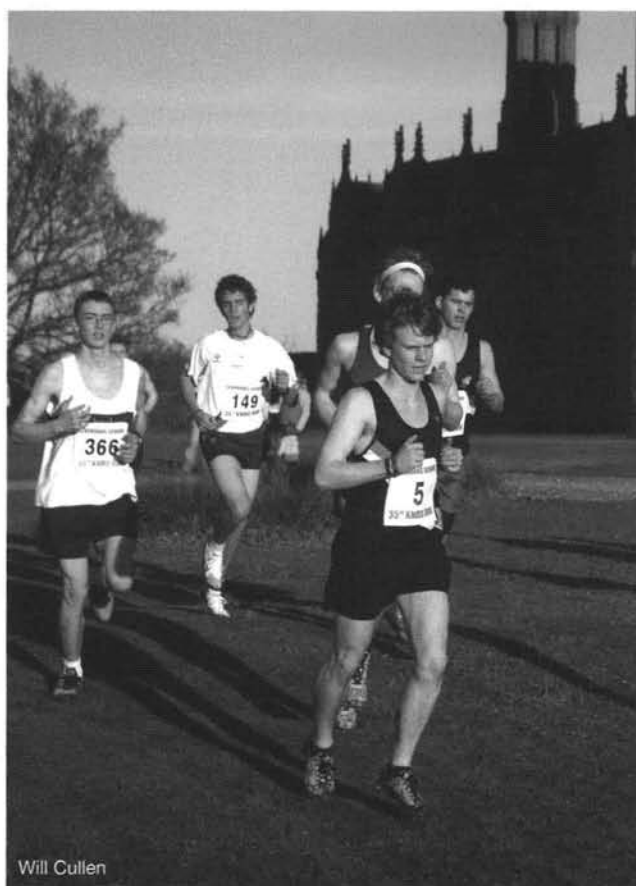
For this event, the U19s put on a team performance that saw them winning their comprehensively. The U17s continued to be unbeaten, while the U15s felt decidedly focused and determined and managed to score a record result and win their section too. **Alistair Duff** and **Alexander Muir** won their respective races.

#### Helen and Douglas House - Wednesday 30 January

Abingdon School runners travelled to Helen and Douglas House in Oxford to present a cheque for £2,050.

#### Six Schools at Marlborough College - Thursday 28 February

The U17s and U15s competed for the second time this term at the classic cross-country course of Marlborough College, which although demanding offers exciting racing. Both teams did brilliantly yet again, with exceptional performances from **Alexander Muir**, who won his division, and **Alistair Duff**, who came 3rd overall in his.



#### Wellington College Relays - Saturday 2 February

The course at Wellington was a 1.2 mile sprint which saw the U17s lead most of the way, only to give away 1st place by a few seconds: **Muir, Watkins, Foxon, Baumgart** and **Ridley** ran very well. The U15s remain undefeated in the circuit and this event saw them win emphatically: **Barnshaw, Foxon, Reedman, Jones** and **Duff** were magnificent to watch.

#### Radley Relays - Thursday 7 February

The U19s put on a very brave performance in the face of very strong opposition to score 5th place overall. The U17s ran an excellent race and dominated the field, scoring 1st place with more strong individual performances from **Alexander Muir, Thomas Watkins, Tom Foxon** and **Michel Baumgart**. The U15s scored what would have been for them a disappointing 2nd place. Nevertheless, race experience will eventually help them avoid such future close calls.

#### County Championships - Tuesday 5 February

The U17s and U15s won 1st place in their events over a familiar but arduous course at Radley College. While exceptional individual performances did take place it was, as usual, the collective talent and resolve of each team that really stood out. The U19s' last race saw them scoring a strong 2nd place. A large number of boys were selected to represent Oxfordshire at the All England Race in March: an excellent end to the season.

Alexis Christodoulou

## Tennis Club



Jack Wilson and Edward O'Brien

The Tennis Club experienced another successful season, starting with a lively two-day, pre-season camp under the watchful eye of Alex Harvey, tennis professional at the Roehampton Club. This gave the boys the opportunity to get back into some structured hitting and gain some individual technical feedback from the coaching staff. The coaching this year was done by two young guns: Tom Wilsden and Tom Francis. The boys are truly grateful for all their enthusiasm and for the quality of lessons that they have delivered throughout the year. The coaching set-up continues to have a major influence on the boys' progress. The Club was captained this year by **George Collier**, now playing in the 1st VI for a third year. He has been a great asset to the Club and together with **Oliver Raban** has formed an imposing first pair. **George** and **Oliver** set a fantastic example to the rest of the School in terms of attitude and they will both be hugely missed next season. The Buckley Cup was won for the second year running by **Sam Murrell**, beating **Joel Morris** in the final. Full tennis colours were awarded to **George Collier**, **Oliver Raban** and **Jonathan Bucke**.

### Senior Tennis

The first fixture of the season was Radley and this proved to be the 1st VI's only loss in the first half of term with a full-strength side. **Jonny Bucke** and **Euan Campbell** played at second pair, and **James Burford** and **Ruchit Patel** as third pair. The boys competed well, but went down to a hard-hitting Radley side 3.5 – 5.5. After the Radley game the seniors went down to MCS to play on beautifully maintained grass courts. The Abingdon

lads were quick to adapt to the new surface and played some decent tennis to win at both 1st VI and 3rd VI. **Jonathan Bucke** and **Euan Campbell** were crucial to the 1st VI's victory, winning all three of their matches. With the Shrewsbury fixture being cancelled, the next match was Stowe, where the 1st VI and 2nd VI came away victorious. They played some excellent tennis against a team that were solid from the back of the court, with **Jonathan Bucke** and **Euan Campbell** again proving to be the difference between the two sides. The St Edward's match doubled up as the Glanvill Cup fixture, with the 1st VI playing both singles and doubles on the day. The match proved to be an epic, with both teams having won three matches each after the doubles and singles rubbers. It was then left to **Oliver Raban** to step in and play a deciding singles tie-break, which he eventually won 13 – 11. The 2nd VI and 3rd VI also won at St Edward's and were now showing what strength in depth there is at the top end of the School. The next round of the Glanvill Cup was against Bradfield, and was played indoors at the Vale of White Horse Leisure Centre. Strangely, this headed the same way as the previous round and the scores were tied after the singles and doubles. **Oliver Raban** again stepped up and, despite having lost his singles match, he managed to beat his opponent in the deciding tie-break. The last fixture before the exam season was played against an under-strength Eton team and the 1st VI played some solid singles and doubles in the rain to win 6 – 3. After half term, the 1st VI travelled to Wellington and won, before hosting Marlborough on the clay. This was a successful day; Abingdon started the matches aggressively and looked far more comfortable on the surface. The next round of the Glanvill Cup was against Queen Mary's College, Basingstoke, again on the clay. This match saw **Sam Murrell** debut for the 1st VI after having a hugely successful season with the Junior Colts. The Queen Mary's team was too strong and it was they who progressed through to the last 32 in the country. The next block fixture was against Bradfield, on the lightning-quick indoor courts. This was a team we had scraped past in the Glanvill Cup competition, but without putting out a full-strength team we were outclassed by strong Bradfield team. In the last game of the season the seniors travelled down to Harrow, where they were unable to cap off an excellent season and went down to a narrow loss, four matches to five.

#### Senior Results

Opponents	1st	2nd	3rd
Radley	L 4 - 6	L 2 - 7	L 3 - 6
Bloxham		W 5 - 4	W 5 - 4
Pangbourne		W 8 - 1	W 7 - 2
MCS	W 6 - 3	D 4 - 4	W 9 - 0
Stowe	W 6 - 3	W 6 - 3	L 4 - 5
St Edward's	W 6 - 5	W 6 - 3	W 6 - 3
Oratory		L 4 - 5	
Eton	W 6 - 3	L 1 - 5	
Shiplake		W 5 - 4	
Wellington	W 3 - 2		
Marlborough	W 7 - 2		
Bradfield	L 0 - 9		
Harrow	L 4 - 5		

## Colts Tennis

The Colts have a large number of very talented tennis players and they were massively successful in the fixtures they played, with the U16A VI winning all of their matches. Dylan Robinson and Joe Oldham were a strong first pair and their results were complemented by some good results from Henry Kibble, Henry Mills and James Baldwin. The U16A VI started well in the first fixture of the season, beating Radley 7 - 2. The B and C team couldn't follow suit, but there were wins across this age-group against Stowe and St Edward's. This year-group have won the majority of their matches throughout the last three years. Things will be looking strong at the top next year when all these boys go into the Sixth Year.

### Colts Results

Opponents	U16 A	U16 B
Radley	W 7 - 2	L 3 - 6
Stowe	W 8 - 1	D 9 - 0
St Edward's	W 9 - 0	W 7 - 2

## Junior Colts Tennis

The Junior Colts were led by the inspirational Mr Forth, who proved to have the midas touch as he led the A team to win all but one of their 10 games. On court, Sam Murrell and Josh Ridley formed an irresistible partnership, losing only two sets all season. Xilin Song, George Kaye, Edward Kempell, Joshua Bradlow and Hugh Brash all represented the A team, helping Abingdon to wins against Radley, Stowe, MCS, St Edward's, Eton, Wellington and Bradfield.

### Junior Colts Results

Opponents	U15A	U15B	U15C
Radley	W 6 - 1	W 8 - 1	D 4 - 4
MCS	W 8 - 1	D 4 - 4	
Stowe	W 8 - 1	W 9 - 0	
St Edward's	W 8 - 1	W 9 - 0	
Oratory	W 5 - 4		
Eton	W 5 - 4	L 4 - 5	L 1 - 8
Shiplake		L 4 - 5	
Wellington	W 7 - 2	W 8 - 3	W 5 - 4
Marlborough	L 4 - 5	W 5 - 4	L 1 - 8
Bradfield	W 7 - 2	L 1 - 8	L 3 - 6
Harrow	D 4 - 4	L 3 - 6	L 2 - 7

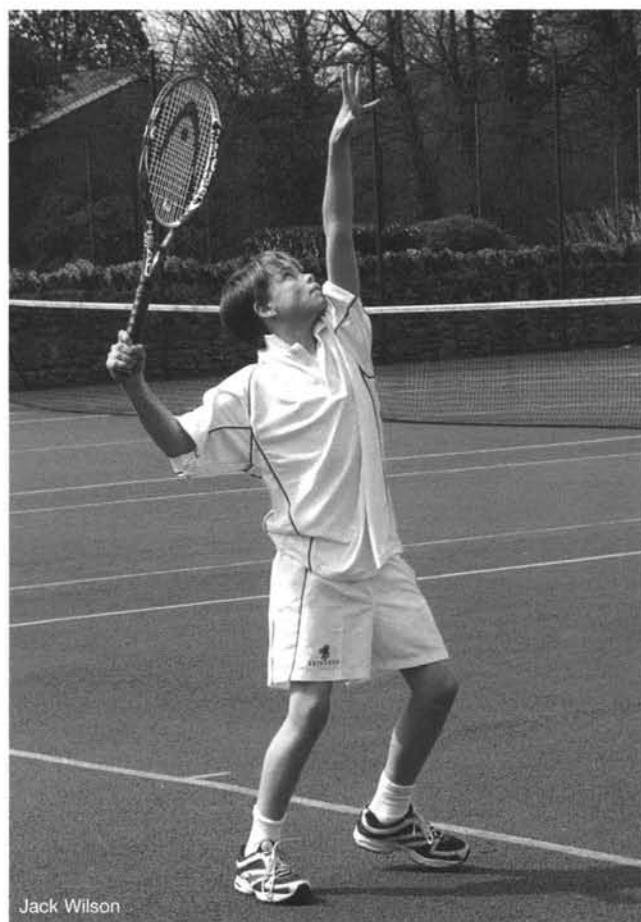
## Juniors Tennis

The Juniors also have a good deal of talent, especially at the top end where Joel Morris and Jack Wilson look like stars of the future. Edward O'Brien and Tom Jeffery played an important part in the season and Mr Gooding worked hard to get the best out of the boys. Their season started with wins against MCS, Stowe and Eton, before losing to Wellington in a match that could have gone either way. They followed this up by an impressive win against Marlborough, only to lose the last match of the season against Harrow.

### Juniors Results

Opponents	U14A	U14B	U14C
Radley	L 3 - 6	L 0 - 9	L 0 - 9
MCS	W 6 - 9	L 3 - 6	
Stowe	W 7 - 2	W 7 - 2	
Dragon	L 4 - 5		
Eton	W 6 - 3	L 2 - 7	L 1 - 8
Wellington	L 4 - 5	W 6 - 3	W 5 - 4
Marlborough	L 4 - 5	W 5 - 4	W 5 - 4
Harrow	L 5 - 4	L 0 - 9	

Steve Brenchley



Jack Wilson



L to R Charles Steady and Peter Barnshaw

Expectations for this year's athletics team were high. Over the last few years, the Club's athletes have grown in quality and quantity, showing steady improvement in performance and commitment.

In many ways this expectation was fulfilled. Two athletes competed at the highest level. **Michael Summers** reached the National Schools' finals in the 100m for the second time, with a very creditable qualifying time of 11.1 seconds, managing at the same time, of course, to break the 100m school record for about the fifth time. This year he was joined by **Peter Barnshaw** in the 400m. **Peter** also represented the county at the combined events' finals, winning a gold medal in the team event. We have certainly been fortunate in having an elite group of athletes who are going through the School, setting school records at every level. **Peter Barnshaw**, for example, has finished the year with U15 records in the 80m hurdles (12.03s), the 400m (54.5s) and the high jump (1.68m). **Michael Summers** has U17 records in 100m and 200m (23.2s). They are joined by **Alexander Muir** (U17 800m and 1500m), **Thomas Watkins**, who gained the U20 steeplechase record (7.26.0) in spite of being U17, **Joshua Jackson** (U17 Discus, 29.95m), **Tom Foxon** (U17 400m) and **Marc Woolley** (U17 100m hurdles). At Senior level, **Edward Hallett**, in spite of never quite hitting form because of injury, still gained the U20 javelin record (43.36m).

We were also not disappointed by the high levels of enthusiasm and ability in the newcomers to the Club at U15 level. Aply managed by **Mr Balderson**, they always put out competitive teams and had some excellent individual and team performances. The likes of **Alexander Cornish-Moore**, **Lloyd Cadman**, **Charles Buchan**, **Christian Reedman**, **Toby Warren**, **Toby Ogg**, **Joseph Foxon**, **Charlie Studdy**, **Henry House**, **Alistair Duff**, **Stuart Jones**, **Rory Marsh**, **Peter Allan**, **Oliver Bailey**, **Andrew Reece** and **Pearce Taylor** were reliable and consistent in effort and results. At Inter and Senior level we were more commonly made

competitive by a few excellent or dedicated performers, rather than by the large teams we had hoped for at the beginning of the season. **Marc Woolley** was always ready to get us points on the board, as were **Tom Foxon**, **Tim Gladstone** and **James Percival** at Inter level, with additional support from **Joe Kempton**, **Alex Ereaut**, **Joshua Jackson** and **Ben Juffkins**. At Senior level, we were even thinner but even more ready to have a go, with **Simon Edwards**, **James Cook**, **Joseph Delo**, **Matthew Boxell**, **Timothy Middleton** and **Michael Coldwell** (who really would try anything) filling in all the gaps.

The disappointments arose as fixtures were cancelled for insufficient reasons – three out of six – and it became increasingly clear that the erosion of the summer term owing to earlier and earlier exams, and the consequent increased difficulty in recruiting team members, was undermining the athletics season. A new approach is needed for next season. It may be that in an Olympic season we may find inspiration.

George Moody





## The Sailing Club



Nick Wilkinson sailing an RS500 at Farmoor

### Youth National Match Racing Championships

At Easter we entered the National Schools' Match Racing competition at Queen Mary reservoir near London. We won every race and hence the championship.

Abingdon School also entered a team in the RYA Youth National Match Racing regatta at Weymouth in August. **Sam Goodchild, Rory Spriggs, Tom Altmann, Nick Wilkinson and Jonty Cook** had a landslide victory at the event, winning all 18 of the races, a feat never before achieved. This result will mean that the team will now go forward to the National Match Racing Finals and then to the Governor's Cup in California, one of the most prestigious events in the Youth Circuit.

### Sailing near Abingdon

Farmoor Reservoir is where we sail and practise every week. We use the School's sailing association dinghies for initial training and then for the more advanced helms and crews the School owns two 29er racing dinghies and an RS500 dinghy. We train pupils of all abilities, teaching those who are already competent sailors to race, as well as teaching pupils with limited experience using the RYA scheme and certificates. Some pupils will progress on to the instructor qualification before they leave school, and will subsequently teach the younger boys and continue to improve their own skills.

### Yachting

We have also chartered yachts on the south coast and prepared for Day Skipper, Coastal Skipper and Yachtmaster qualifications. This year, four passed the Day Skipper exam, one the Coastal Skipper and next year we hope to move on and have the first pupil Yachtmaster from Abingdon.

### Greek and Caribbean sailing

In October 2007 the Sailing Club took a party of ten to the Caribbean. There we chartered a 38ft catamaran that served us well as we set off from Grenada and sailed up to Carriacou and then on to the Tobago Cays. The conditions were excellent for cruising in the clear blue waters of the Caribbean. During our trip the one fish that was successfully landed was very tasty cooked on the beach on a small deserted island. The Tobago Cays were a great place to visit, a complex of small uninhabited islands with turtles and many other fish swimming on the coral reefs.

In July 2008 we took a party of ten to the Greek Island of Kos where we chartered a Beneteau 49ft yacht and sailed north and west. Sailing between 10-30 miles each day, the boat performed well in the nearly ideal wind. Not a cloud was to be seen until the last day when one, very lonely cloud floated by. The Greek Islands are unique and very interesting, the majority only have a few small settlements and a taverna.

David Bickerton



Tom Altmann sailing a foiling Moth at Farmoor

# Leavers

Bath					
Fletcher S	Economics	2009	Wildish C	Classics	2008
Tao J	Economics	2008	Wilkins J	Geography	2008
White S	Mechanical Engineering	2008	Withnall A	English Literature	2008
Birmingham			East Anglia		
Chan J	Chemistry	2008	Corps A	Literature & History	2009
Derbyshire M	Human Biology	2008	Exeter		
Holland O	International Relations	2008	Clive D	Spanish	2008
Brighton			Collier G	Economics	2008
Paxton A	Physiotherapy	2008	Cullen W	Geography	2009
Bristol			Flint D	Geography	2009
Allen B	French & German	2008	Graham H	Geography	2009
Bartholomew A	Civil Engineering	2009	Jackson B	Mechanical Engineering	2009
Clegg W	Economics & Management	2008	Moulds J	Mechanical Engineering	2008
Graves J	Economics & Management	2009	Palmer G	Geography	2008
Nikitin P	Sociology	2008	Prior B	Business Economics	2008
Patel R	Mechanical Engineering	2008	Smith M	History	2008
Simpson T	Law	2008	Statham P	Geography	2008
Taylor F	History	2008	Wimborne H	Geography	2008
Brunel			Herriot Watt		
Scopes P	Product Design	2009	Steeple J	Business & Finance	2008
Cambridge			Imperial College London		
Ai Y	(Clare) Mathematics	2008	Baker S	Chemical Engineering	2008
Coldwell M	(St Catharine's) Natural Sciences	2008	Durrands T	Medicine	2008
Hollins B	(Clare) Oriental Studies	2009	Hallett E	Mechanical Engineering	2009
Loh H	(Trinity) Mathematics	2008	Ko M	Biochemistry	2008
Middleton T	(Jesus) Natural Sciences	2008	Kong T	Chemical Engineering	2008
Morgan J	(Downing) Natural Sciences	2008	Lau J	Chemistry	2008
Scarlett H	(Sidney Sussex) Music	2008	Wai G	Chemistry	2008
Cardiff			Kings College London		
Hampson O	Geography	2009	Bedford J	Ancient History	2008
City			Cookson J	Geography	2009
Naqvi S	Banking & International Finance	2008	Mak A	Law	2008
Durham			Siu E	Law	2008
Appleton P	Ancient History	2008	Wilson S	English & French Law	2008
Barrow T	Music	2008	Lancaster		
Quarterman C	Classics	2008	Gower T	Law	2009
			McKenzie T	Economics	2008
			Leeds		
			Johnston S	Geography	2008
			Kibble M	English Language & Literature	2008
			Powell L	International History & Politics	2009
			Rhodes J	Biology	2009
			Liverpool		
			Ogle J	Architecture	2009
			London School of Economics		
			Aiken O	History	2009
			Cadman R	Law	2009
			Leung M	Economics	2008
			Schrey F	Geography with Economics	2008
			Tandon S	Management Sciences	2008
			Loughborough		
			Barrett E	Product Design & Technology	2008
			O'Kelly J	Civil Engineering	2008
			Zheng H	Mathematics & Accounting	2008
			Manchester		
			Boxell M	Classics	2008
			Lai R	Latin	2008
			Mak K	International Management	2008
			Stockwell W	History	2008
			Newcastle		
			Freeland A	Natural Sciences	2008
			Kerr C	Architectural Studies	2008
			Nottingham		
			Fogg A	Management with Asian Studies	2008
			Halls M	Medicine	2008
			Pigneguy H	Philosophy	2008
			Taylor B	Geography	2008
			Tucker C	Industrial Economics	2008
			West T	Industrial Economics	2008
			Oxford		
			Bennett T	(Christ Church) Music	2008
			Cheung K	(St Peter's) Chemistry	2008
			Coleby J	(Christ Church) Theology	2008
			Delo J	(Magdalen) Medicine	2008
			Dent S	(St. Anne's) Philosophy, Politics & Economics	2009
			Desmond H	(St John's) Physics	2008
			Ganins L	(Balliol) Engineering	2008
			Hammett J	(Brasenose) Geography	2008
			Himpson L	(Christ Church) Classics	2008



Oxford (continued)

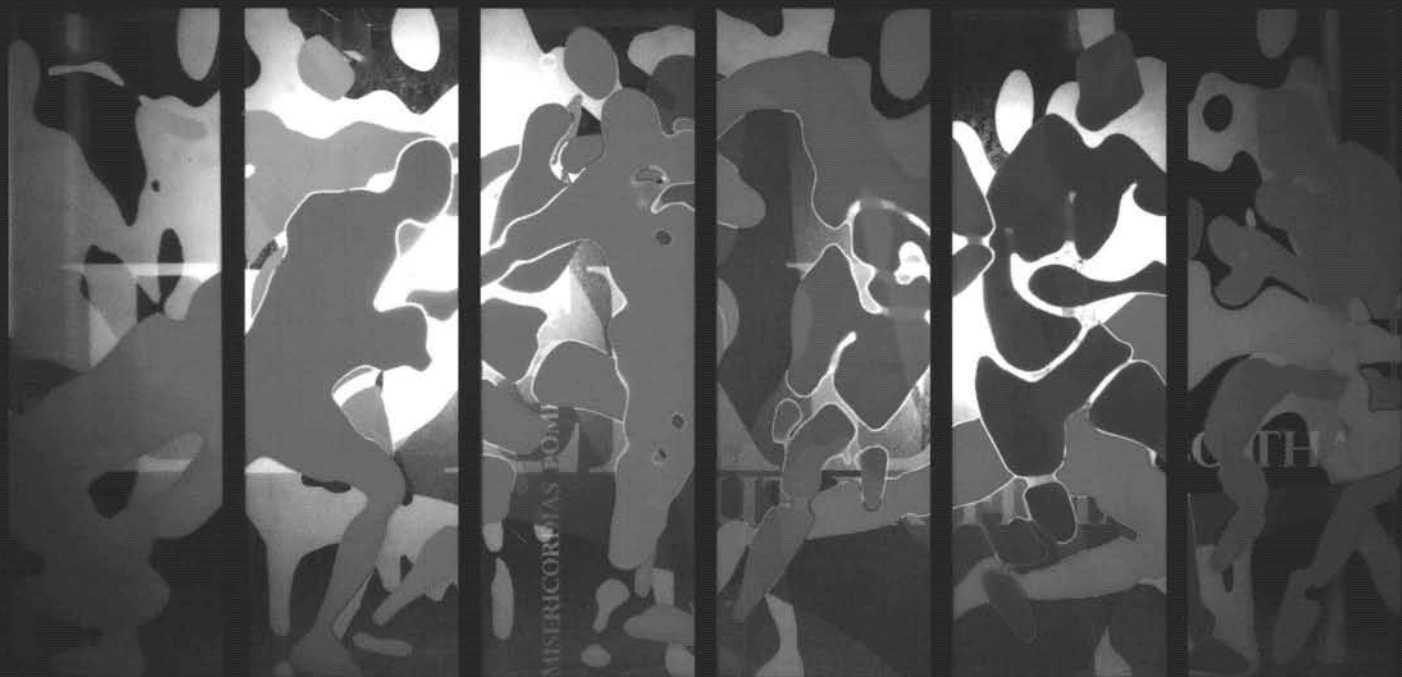
Hyde A	(Mansfield) Theology	2008
Jin H	(Exeter) Mathematics	2008
Long E	(Corpus Christi) Materials Science	2008
Mitchard T	(Somerville) Music	2008
Newman C	(Lincoln) Chemistry	2008
Sandkamp A	(Pembroke) Economics & Management	2008
Stockdale W	(St Catherine's) Geography	2008
Vermes I	(Queen's) Biochemistry	2008
Oxford Brookes		
Rafferty F	Architecture	2009
Queen Mary College London		
Ip T	Chemistry with Forensic Science	2008
Jadanov R	Business Management	2008
Thoe B	Economics	2008

Rose Bruford

Mugnaioni A	Actor Musician	2008
Parmenter H	Acting	2008
Royal Holloway London		
Buckley J	French & Spanish	2008
Jo N	Management	2008
Royal Veterinary College		
Barton W	Veterinary Medicine	2008
Sheffield		
Nagi M	Chemistry	2008
Neil M	Geography	2009
SOAS		
Chan M	Law	2008
Southampton		
Hawkes J	Ship Science	2009
St George's Hospital, London		
Dong Z	Biomedical Science	2008
Surrey		
Hole H	Business Management	2008

Swansea

Moore R	Geography	2009
Warlow J	Business Economics	2008
University of Wales Institute, Cardiff		
Spencer D	Sport & Physical Education	2008
University College London		
Bayfield J	Geography	2009
Erikotola O	Chemical Engineering	2008
Gander M	Geography	2009
Hurley-Rawlins A		
	English	2009
Kim S	Biomedical Sciences	2008
Plint A	Modern Languages	2008
Soames J	Modern Languages	2009
Warwick		
Davison J	Maths & Philosophy	2008
Metcalf T	History	2009
York		
Lloyd J	Computer Science	2008
Sharp A	History/Economics	2008
Strickson B	History	2008
Welch S	History	2008



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