



# notting hill and ealing high school



## Year 7 History at The Tower

*Freya McNeill and Aliyyah Tahir*

We began our trip to the Tower of London by walking the Walls and were able to go to all the various towers and see some of the defences of this ancient fortress, as well as medieval toilets and a menagerie!

At the Education Centre, we handled artefacts found at the Tower over the years and we had to decide what they were, what we thought they had been used for and what they could tell us about the Tower of London. These artefacts included a small cannon ball, a piece of pottery and a tile.

We then set off towards the Crown Jewels. Upon entering the Jewel House we viewed a series of screens showing all the monarchs who had worn the jewels. We walked through several different displays and finally entered the crown jewels showcase itself. It was amazing to move along the travelator seeing all of the crown jewels one by one. The golden structures and the jewels were set against rich purple velvet and each crown and every jewel was perfectly displayed with their

intricate designs shown from every angle.

Next, we walked excitedly to the White Tower where we were met by the sight of racks of armour – so much of it that the room seemed rather daunting. The White Tower has been used to store armour, weaponry and artillery for over 500 years. These displays were a brilliant way for us to visualise how people would have looked and acted on the battlefield and during training. Upstairs we were able to see *The Line of Kings*, the longest running tourist attraction in the world! We followed the display with its armour, model horses and carved heads of various kings marvelling that this attraction has been running since 1660.

The Tower of London was full of breath-taking sights and fabulous artefacts all of which helped to expand our knowledge of Medieval life. It was a 'historic' opportunity for Year 7 and one we truly enjoyed.

## Charities Update

*Louise O'Leary and Anousha Baboolall*



Year 11 got charity fundraising off to a great start this term with over £1500 (and counting) raised for their chosen charities.

11LE collected of clothing for CalAid, the charity working to provide humanitarian assistance to refugees in Calais. They girls chose the charity because of what many of them had seen passing through Calais this summer en route to family holidays. They packed Miss Eells car with bags of donated clothing and their 'own clothes' day was as a huge fundraising success.

11AR also feel they have a personal connection with their chosen charity. They were raising money in aid of Motor Neurone Disease which is one of the causes being supported by our own Mr Kerrison as he undertakes the challenge of the round-the-world Clipper Race. They also reprised the fantastically popular 'Throw a



Sponge at a Teacher' introduced by Mr Kerrison's form last year. Thank you all those teachers who agreed to get soaked in a great cause!

11SL offered teachers the chance to order a custom made cake (always a sure fire winner). The highlight of their week in support of their chosen charity, Aware NI, the mental health charity for young people, was their Friday Event, a game of "Ninjas" the stealth spy game. Meanwhile, 11PQ's Friday Event was a lunchtime edition of 'Teacher Take Me Out' in aid of Cardiac Risk in the Young, and in which they had secured the (willing?) participation of a large



panel of teachers.

Finally, the whole school came together for Harvest. Everyone brought in donations of food and we collected a total of 155.55 kilos in support of the Ealing Food Bank.

Year 11, you've been great! A huge thank you to girls, parents and staff for buying the raffle tickets, eating the cakes, making donations of all kinds and turning out in support of all the Friday Events.

After half-term it's the turn of Year 10.

## Pi Club

*Helen Critcher*



Pi Club has got off to a fantastic start this year. Every Friday we have had about 20 extremely enthusiastic Year 7 students coming along to make some beautiful polyhedra just by folding paper. Students seem to

be turning up earlier each week to ensure they get a seat!

The photo shows some of the members at the recent open evening practising their new skills.



Year 9 PE lesson—trampolining



Lunch time—netball clubs

## Year 11 Futurewise

*Christine Maynard*



During September Year 11 girls completed their Futurewise interviews with professional careers advisers.

These interviews are part of the personalised and practical career-related service offered to our students by the company

Inspiring Futures. The interviews aim to help girls formulate a general plan which, coupled with the A Level advice offered by tutors and Heads of Department and opportunities to discuss courses at the Into the Sixth evening, will help them move forward with their planning for the Sixth Form and beyond.



Year 7 Sports lesson—fitness training



## Year 12 Art

Year 12 art students joined their teachers at the Royal Academy for two exhibitions: the exquisite boxes of Joseph Cornell and Ai Wei Wei's monumental installations, which explore his uneasy relationship with his homeland. In the afternoon, we gathered to sketch at the extraordinary Hunterian Museum, which is tucked away within the Royal College of Surgeons.

Sophie Plowden



## GDST Rally

Our U15 netballers put in a strong performance to finish fifth out of 24 teams at the GDST Sports Rally hosted by Nottingham High on 5 October.

## Da Vinci Club

Iva Grujic and Shalini Chohan



Grimm meets a Primitive Indo-European.

The Da Vinci Club session run by Mr Smith explored the origins of all Proto-Indo European languages (Sanskrit and European languages). We began by going to early languages, such as Ancient Greek and Latin, and comparing words as well as sounds to modern English. For example we took the word for father in Latin and Greek, *pater*, and looked at the transformation from that to the modern English equivalent, *father*.

Doing this showed how sounds have changed and evolved over the centuries, for example the sound *p* to *f*. We then came to learn that sound changes were mostly regular. Then we questioned "If we can work out how languages link together, can we trace back to the very first dialect that split into all these different languages across Europe and North India?" We then formulated some words that could have been used in the first ever dialect spoken,

and some rules to accompany our words. Finally, at the end of this, we asked ourselves how realistic our representations of the first words were. Eventually, we came to the conclusion that languages do not evolve at the same rate over centuries, but grow exponentially.

We learnt how languages are constantly evolving, even if we don't realise it. For example, the word factory; most people do not pronounce how it is spelt anymore, maybe because of its constant use, or the rate at which we say it. Nevertheless, this is only one of thousands of words that are being moulded and changed into different words and sounds.

We found this session a really fascinating experience and feel much more knowledgeable about languages in general now and how they link, as well as how we can use other languages to decipher words we don't know. Thank you Mr Smith!

## Friday Night Presents

*Lucia Hull*



*Philippa Boyle, Pippa Evans and Rachel Mars  
Photo: Rebecca Cousins*

When word got out that three Old Girls, now professional performers, were returning to the NHEHS studio theatre for a special Friday night show it wasn't long before tickets were sold out

Pippa Evans, host for the evening, opened the show in front of an audience largely made up of other Old Girls, their parents and former staff by proudly declaring that she had been Head Girl back in 2000. Now a comedian and improvised comedy star, Pippa is a regular on BBC 4's *Now Show*,

and a member of the cast of *Showstopper! The Improvised Musical*, currently at the Apollo Theatre. As well as reminiscing about her schooldays she introduced the audience to a number of her comic characters with wickedly funny, improvised songs and routines.

Rachel Mars, performance maker with a background in theatre, live art and comedy, started with a bit of stand up built around how odd it was to be back at school, 17 years after leaving, performing

In front of former teachers and fellow Old Girls. Her set included a Pecha Kucha on heroism and courage.

Pippa and Rachel were joined by comedy guest, Liz Mee and, after the short interval, a change of pace and style was provided by Philippa Boyle. A classically trained opera singer Phillipa gave us a bravura performance singing in Italian and Russian before rounding off her performance with a bit of Cole Porter. It was a remarkable experience to hear such a sublime voice in the relatively intimate space of the studio theatre.

This was a thoroughly enjoyable evening. It gently poked fun at many of the quirky NHEHS traditions we Old Girls remember but what shone through, was the affection in which these Old Girls (and their audience) still hold their school.

## LSE Lectures

*James Adams*

Year 13 Economics and Government and Politics students went to the LSE to hear Professor Simon Hix talk about the future of the UK and EU. Professor Hix has written several books on EU and comparative politics and this was an excellent lecture discussing possible options for the reform of Britain's relationship with the EU and the likely long-term consequences for the UK and the EU of a Yes or a No vote.

Year 12 Economics students have also been to the LSE, this time to hear Harvard's Dani Rodrik talk about his new book *The Rights and Wrongs of the Dismal Science*. This was an accessible introduction to the strengths of the discipline of economics and why it is so often misunderstood, not least by its practitioners.

## HOAC

### *Kitty Scales*

Year 7 enjoyed a day at Hillingdon Outdoor Activity Centre in a chance make new friends, get to know their tutors and have fun at the end of their exciting first week at NHEHS.

It was a beautiful sunny day and the girls enjoyed activities such as orienteering, mathematical problems, and even seeing how many girls they could fit onto a square foot of tarpaulin. The rafting was excellent. The girls built their own rafts out of barrels, rope and lengths of wood and for the first time in some years we managed to have an actual rafting race rather than the activity disintegrating (along with the rafts) and the activity turning into a swimming race.

The girls had a wonderful positive attitude throughout the day, working together brilliantly with a good sense of competitiveness and fun.



## Euripides' Bakkhai at the Almeida

Ashani Benning and Emma Bamber



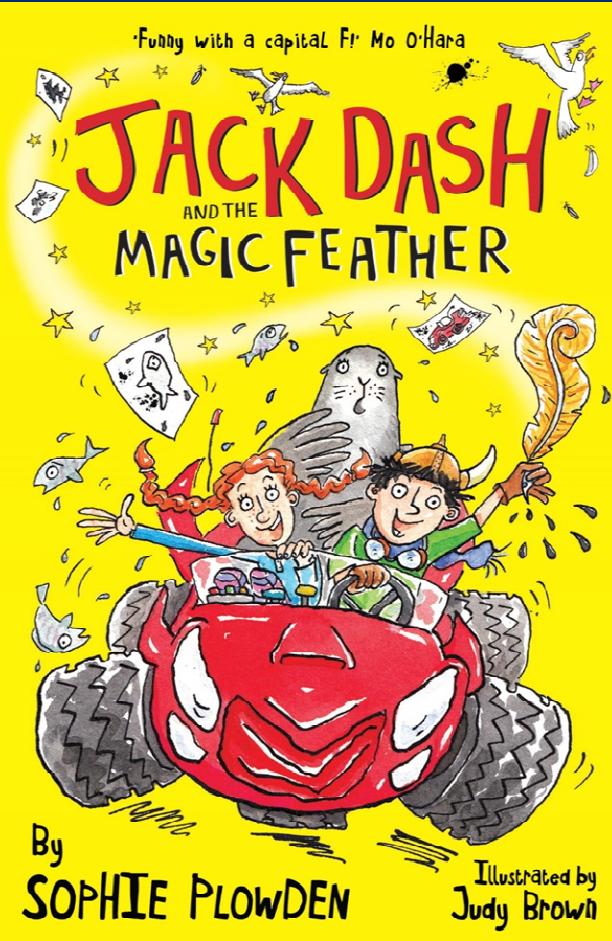
On arriving at the Almeida Theatre, we immediately warmed to the atmosphere and were struck by the simple staging which depicted a mountainous setting. Thanks to our teachers' planning, we had front row seats, which helped make for an exceptional experience.

The play started off with the god of wine, Dionysus, returning to his birthplace, Thebes. He introduced himself to the audience in human form. He had returned to punish the city for not allowing people to worship him. This law was enforced by Pentheus, a true opponent of Dionysus' morals and life-style. The plot continued to show the ongoing quarrel between the two.

The cast of three actors each took several roles which showed their excellent skills and was possibly how the play would

have been performed in Euripides' time. Another highlight was the continuous input from the chorus, entirely made up of women. They provided an explanation of the plot, acting as narrators; however, not in the way you would expect. Their creative harmonies and innovative use of sound made them a focal point of the performance. They used props such as wooden sticks, as well as using their hands as instruments.

Overall, our trip was a huge success. Although the play is "a tragedy" and billed as "... a struggle between freedom and restraint, the rational and the irrational, man and god ..." we thoroughly recommend it to anyone wanting to be entertained!



## Jack Dash

On a sunny afternoon at the end of September, girls from Years 3-6 from the NHEHS Junior School and their parents joined Sophie Plowden, our Head of Art, in the balloon-filled atrium of the Senior School. They came to celebrate the launch of Sophie's new children's book, *Jack Dash and the Magic Feather*.

A carnival atmosphere prevailed, with food and drink and entertainment provided by a magician and face painting by sixth form art students. The author gave a reading and the book signing queue was possibly the longest we've ever seen.

This is the first in a series of stories to feature Jack, who finds a magic quill pen which makes everything he draws come to life. The only problem is Jack isn't very good at drawing (not having had Miss Plowden's excellent teaching!) and chaos and a series of hilarious adventures quickly ensue.



## Year 12 Oxford Classics Trip

On 8th October, 6 Year 12 Latin girls gathered at school prior to setting off for Hillingdon to catch the Oxford Tube. After a comfortable journey, looking at the scenic views from the motorway, we arrived in Oxford. We quickly grabbed a coffee, and then headed to the Ashmolean Museum for our Classics lectures.

The first two lectures were about Greek and Roman civilisation, focusing on the Macedonians' love of drinking, hunting and fighting, as well as the role of every individual within the Roman *Familia*. The next lecture gave us an insight into the Classics courses offered at Oxford University, which I found particularly interesting.

We had a quick lunch, after being treated to a tour of Christchurch, and then returned to the museum for some interesting group workshops. The professor who discussed Roman and Greek coins made the session particularly enjoyable by asking us to consider the agenda behind the images struck on the coin faces.

The final session of the day was about Linear B (the earliest deciphered Greek script), which, although we have never studied it, was very interesting and helped us to understand the origins of Greek language.

This day offered a great opportunity to further explore Classics, and the courses offered in the subject at Oxford University.

Ciara Paris

## Year 11 Geography

Christine Maynard



The Year 11 Geographers went to the Isle of Purbeck, Dorset on Friday and Saturday 11/12th September. The purpose of the visit was to collect primary and secondary data for their GCSE Controlled Assessment the title of which is 'To investigate the positive and negative economic impacts of tourism in a rural area'.

The weather was perfect and the students worked very hard with excellent spirits to gather information for their research. The weekend was also made special by

the presence of a large film crew in Lulworth Cove who were filming a major Bollywood film. The presence of 'stars' was thrilling for many of us and certainly added a bit of 'sparkle' to the traditional views in the area.

The fieldwork and data collection went well. The girls are now in the midst of completing their investigations and should be commended on their dedicated approach to this important element of their GCSE course.

## Parents' Guild—Save the Date

Saturday 14th November

Parents' Quiz Curry Night

£22.50 per head. Individual tickets or a table of 8 or 10

To book contact Andrew Hall at [schooleventtickets@gmail.com](mailto:schooleventtickets@gmail.com)

Monday 16th November

Parents' Guild AGM

Christmas Tree Sale  
Collection Day

Friday 20th November - last orders  
Saturday 5th December

NHEHS Christmas Bazaar

Saturday 28th November - 12-3.30pm

Burns' Night Supper

Saturday 23rd January 2016

## D of E Update

*Paul Quarmby*

80 girls have just received their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze awards and 42 girls their Silver awards. This year there are 84 girls working towards Bronze and 48 working towards Silver.

Those working towards their Silver awards undertook expeditions to Dorset at the end of September.

*Photos: Josh Schneider*



## OGA Annual Tea Party

*Lucia Hull*



The 2015 Tea Party welcomed over 260 Old Girls back to school with our 'oldest' OG of the afternoon having left the school in 1948. This year there were particularly large contingents from the 1960s and from 2010.

The most important bit of the event is, of course, the catching up, but guests also heard from Lucinda Hunt who gave an update on things at NHEHS and Jane Sigaloff, OGA Chair who

talked about recent changes and developments, including the fact that all alumnae are now automatically members of the Old Girls' Association, with no fees to pay. She also invited everyone to take a moment to quietly remember Lucy Cousins, who died earlier this year, and to whose long and remarkable stewardship the OGA owes a huge debt.

Plans are already in place for next year when we look forward to welcoming even more Old Girls, particularly those from 2011, 2006, 1996, 1991, 1986, 1976, 1966, 1956 and 1946.

## Sixth Form Prize Winner

*Rebecca Irwin*

We are very proud to announce that Leila Sackur is this year's winner of the GDST's Somerville and Gurney Award. The competition, which has a very large number of entries, is open to girls in Year 12 in all 26 GDST schools and they sit an examination paper in which they are required to write two discursive essays from a choice of subjects which cover politics, ethics and social issues.

Leila chose to answer "How easy do you find it to empathise with someone who holds views totally different from your own?" and "Should the voting age be lowered to 16?"

This year the papers were marked by Marianne Talbot, the Director of Studies in Philosophy at The Department for Continuing Education, University of Oxford. She said of Leila's answers:

"The first essay asked for the sort of introspection that often becomes nothing more than a 'stream of consciousness' rant. In this case the candidate identified one of her traits and discussed it almost dispassionately, using illustrations and examples to press home the points she was making. I came away from reading the essay thinking I should enjoy a discussion with this student and that I'd like to get her into a tutorial! The second essay was equally well answered. The candidate came down quite strongly on one side, but considered the other side, bringing to bear examples, facts and figures to illustrate her arguments."

# National Poetry Day

*Lucy Wheeler*



The theme for National Poetry Day 2015 was light.

Students across each Year group had written poems based on the theme and the winning entries were read in Assembly that morning.

The winners were:  
Edith Elwes (Year 7)  
Nikhita Claerhout (Year 8)  
Katya Federovskaya (Year 9)  
Natasha Nadel (Year 10)  
Kate McGregor (Year 13)  
Special commendations – Lydia Buckroyd and Medea Nikolv in Year 11

Our guest for the day was the poet Mona Arshi, who ran creative poetry writing workshops with groups of Year 10 students. Mona was the winner of the Manchester Creative Writing Competition 2014 and also won first prize in the Magma Magazine Poetry competition in 2012. Her debut

poetry collection, *Small Hands* recently won The Felix Dennis Prize for Best First Collection 2015 (part of the prestigious Forward Prize).

Mona was born in 1970 to Punjabi Sikh parents in West London and grew up in Hounslow. She worked for a decade as a lawyer for the human rights charity Liberty UK before finding a different voice in poetry. She uses a wide range of poetic forms from terza rima and lyric ghazals to ballads

Her sessions with Year 10 involved students working closely with her on a range of analytical and creative tasks. She began by focusing on her own poetry with the girls and then opening the session up to individual, creative writing on various topics such as family, culture and identity.



## Football

Football at NHEHS is thriving under the expert eye of coach, Craig Brown, from Brentford FC. Craig has been running a weekly session at school since the beginning of January 2014 and the mixture of fun, social sessions and technical sessions has proved very popular with an increasing number of girls getting involved.

Some NHEHS girls represented Brentford in the FA National Girls Football Festival at Wembley this summer which involved more than 200 girls from 20 teams playing five-a-side matches, ahead of the Women's FA Cup Final between Chelsea and Notts County. Michela Mascioli, (Year 11) who plays for the NHEHS team and who also took part in the football festival says: “I really enjoy the training sessions, I get to play football and have fun with my friends, I have learnt lots of new skills and I have seen all of us improve.”

The school is currently part of the Female Football Development (FFD) Programme which aims to increase participation among women and girls at the grassroots and towards the end of term one of our training sessions was watched by Charlotte Tanner, Captain of Brentford Womens FC. As a result, a number of girls have been invited to the initial stages of trials for the development programme at the club. Let's see how they get on!

*James Adams*



## Hockey

Year 7 and Year 8 teams have begun the season by playing in two tournaments. In the 7-a-side tournament hosted by Latymer the Year 7 team ended up in the Plate competition where they beat Tormead in the semi-final on penalty shuffles and then won the final against Godolphin, again on penalty shuffles. The Year 8 team also ended up in the Plate competition. They beat Kingston Grammar on penalty shuffles in the semi-final but then lost to Tormead in the final.

*Annette Greenslade*



## Cross Country

NHEHS was well represented at the first two Ealing Borough Schools cross country meets this month. The event attracted hundreds of competitors, from 17 secondary schools and 32 primary schools. Congratulations to Cameron Thomas who brought home gold in the Year 10 and 11 race and Vicky Newton who won gold in the Year 7 and 8 race. Well done to everyone who took part, especially all the medal winners and the many NHEHS team members who turned in personal bests.

## Arkwright Scholarship Winner



We are delighted to announce that after a rigorous and highly selective selection process, including a written exam and interview at Brunel University, Ammaarah Felix (Year 12) has been awarded a highly prestigious Arkwright Engineering Scholarship.

and her sponsoring organisation will be the Happold Trust, who specialise in architecture and structural design.

She explains "As well as getting a mentor from within the Trust, I also have money to support my STEM

enhancement during the sixth form, a cash prize for the DT Department, work experience opportunities and places on Headstart and special uni days. My interests lie mainly in architecture, but the scholarships really are for anyone interested in any area of architecture, engineering or technical design. I cannot urge you enough to research

Students apply while they are in Year 11 and if successful they win the support of one of the sponsoring organisations who will mentor them through the two years in the sixth form and while they are at university. Ammaarah focused her application on her interest in architecture, particularly green architecture,

Arkwright and talk to the DT Department about it, because it honestly is an amazing opportunity.

We agree and wish Ammaarah a flying start to what we are sure will be an outstanding career.

# Notting Hill Girls March for Women

Liz Breokman

With the film *Suffragette* on general release, now seems a good a time to acknowledge and celebrate the contribution some of Notting Hill's Old Girls and staff made to the emancipation of women.

**Aeta Adelaide Lamb** was one of the longest serving organisers in the Women's Social and Political Union, a militant organisation which campaigned for women's suffrage. She joined in 1906 and remained active until the outbreak of war. Some of her time was spent at the WSPU headquarters in London where one of her jobs was to write speeches for Christabel Pankhurst.

Other Old Girls and staff who we know were involved in the WSPU were **Ernestine Evans Bell**, who befriended Sylvia Pankhurst while at the Royal College of Art, **Hertha Ayrton** – a Science teacher here in the early 1880s, her daughter **Barbara Ayrton Gould** who later became the Labour MP for Hendon North and **Margaret Haig Thomas**, later 2nd Viscountess Rhondda. All took part in rallies and militant activities and several were imprisoned, some taking part in hunger strikes while incarcerated – including Lady Rhonda, Aeta Lamb and **Gertrude Lowy** whose hunger-strike medal appeared at auction last year.

Not all the Notting Hill girls adopted a militant approach.



**Helen Swanwick**, daughter of the artist Oswald Sickert, disagreed with the violence used by the WSPU and joined the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies instead. Its vice-president was, for a while, ex-teacher Hertha Ayrton. Helena was editor of their weekly journal and remained on the Executive Committee until 1915. Serving with her on the Committee was Signora Gambardella (nee **Alexandra Wright**) who later joined the New Constitutional Society for Women's Suffrage together with her sister, **Francis**.

Some of the women put their special talents to work to promote the cause. Ernestine Evans Bell, a trained artist, designed suffragette badges and **Winifred Holtby**, a History teacher at the school in the 1920s - who had previously worked as a journalist - produced a booklet entitled *A New Voter's Guide to Party Programmes* to help women voters engage with the political process after they got the vote in 1928. She was a

friend of Vera Brittain and she and Brittain are commemorated on a blue plaque at 52 Doughty Street, London.



**Clara Rackham (née Tabor)** was a non-militant member of the suffragette movement who gave speeches all over the country. She can be seen here as a young girl with her family (seated front)



On one occasion, she was rebuked for showing her ankles in an unladylike manner on the speaker's platform! She summed up what the women of the time were striving for when she proclaimed:

***We are tired of always working for men and through men. We want to work as voters, side by side with men.***

We are proud that so many Notting Hill girls played such an important role in helping this dream become a reality.

## Art History

*Theresa Morgan*



Sixth form Art History students visited the British Museum, where we spent an afternoon looking at the Parthenon sculptures. We also visited Tate Britain for the University of Sussex-led 'Themes in Art History' study day. Afterwards some of the students enjoyed the Barbara Hepworth exhibition and were able to look at art works such as the Tracey Emin Bed.

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## Sixth Form News

*Rebecca Irwin*

In a popular move the sixth form lecture programme now involves Year 11 as well as Years 12 and 13. Highlights thus far have been a talk from the British Exploring Society and a session on personal safety and how to be "street-wise".

Another new feature of sixth form life is Personal Development Time which has been launched this term for Year 13 to help them bridge the gap between school and university. Girls have been using this curriculum time to work on their EPQ, follow a MOOC, read around their subject or enjoy a game of netball or badminton.

## Year 13 vs Old Girls Netball Match



It was with some trepidation that the Old Girls took on the Year 13 team. Would their netball skills have stood the test of time? Would they be far outshone by their younger, more practiced counterparts?

Year 13 got off to a great start but by half time the Old Girls were showing some form and were leading 10 - 7. Things started to go a little downhill in the third quarter, the Year 13's clearly had youthful stamina on

their side and took the lead. However NHEHS gives you a fighting spirit which never leaves you and the Old Girls got themselves back into the game. The final result? A tie at 18 all!

It was a fantastic match. Cleo Rocket, class of '91, was named player of the match for her brilliant performance as GD. All the players are very much looking forward to the next fixture.



## Edinburgh Fringe

The NHEHS Drama Department's production of Lorca's "*Blood Wedding*" at the Edinburgh Fringe this summer was a sell out success.

Review website "Three Weeks" described it as "... powerfully acted and thoughtfully presented" and praised our all female cast for creating "... a restricted, claustrophobic atmosphere – essential to a play about the limited choices afforded to women within the confines of rigidly traditional, provincial Spain."

The days flew past in a whirlwind of performances, flyering and of course seeing as many other shows and performances as we could. Our Minerva company of twenty four performers, one costume designer, one stage manager and a company manager loved the whole Edinburgh experience. This included the initially daunting taster performances, given as part of their publicity drive, on one of the open air stages in front of the crowds thronging the Royal Mile.

*Debbie Whitmarsh*

## GSA Netball Tournament

*Dianne Dunkley*



Our Year 9 netball teams were very successful in the 2015 GSA Netball Tournament Teams at Condover Hall in Shropshire

The A Team were runners up in the Cup while the B Team won the Plate competition.

## Staff News 2014-2015

*An important and popular feature of the annual NHEHS School Magazine is Staff News, a round up of births and marriages, arrivals and departures. This year an error resulted in only a small proportion of the news being printed so we have included it here in full. (pages 16, 17 and 18)*

September 2014 saw the arrival of a number of new members the NHEHS family, among them Imogen Davies as Head of Psychology, Elly Nicoll in the Classics Department, Gale Heath in Maths, Rachel Gordon in History, Marcia Teusink in Art, Sachin Sehgal in Economics, Julia Sheikh in Spanish, Josh Schneider in Physics, Chin Hwa Myatt in English and Mei Zhi Li in Chinese. They have quickly become part of school life.

Huge congratulations to Viki Leung, who got married last August and Caroline Elderkin, whose son was born in January. We're very grateful to Mike Grundman who has done such a super job in holding the fort in the RS Department. Mike's passion for tennis and the Arts is infectious, and he is leaving us for an exciting globe-trotting adventure. August will be a very happy month for two members of staff: Lauren Eells in the History Department is getting married, and Mrs Stenning, who runs the front office, will be going on maternity leave.

In the Spring Term we welcomed several other new members of staff: Drusha Patel in

the Humanities Department, Souad Aharbil as our Examinations Officer and Lucia Hull in the new post of Alumni Relations Officer.

We also had to say goodbye to a number of key members of staff in the Spring Term. Alex Glasson has been our school nurse for the last seven years and was a huge asset to our pastoral team. She has certainly been a tremendous support to all the girls; always with a kind and sympathetic word and a hugely experienced response to any mini-crisis, she managed to achieve the near-impossible: the ability to be calm and nurturing while also giving the appropriate message of resilience and toughness when required!

After several years of managing the staff's IT woes with aplomb, David Newell brought his usual attention to detail and thoughtful approach to bear in his role of Examinations Officer and Reports Manager. He took brilliant care of the girls during examinations; highly attentive and sympathetic, he knew how to manage even the trickiest situation in a calm and reassuring way.



Roger Walker, our Director of Finance and Operations, was a wise counsellor to many and an attentive and humorous friend to all. He brought to his hugely diverse role in school all the best bits of his military background: his sense of responsibility, duty and respect for everyone, whatever their job or position, and an understanding of what it means to work together towards a common aim. Roger continues to bring his expertise and wealth of experience to the role of Bursar at Pilgrim's school; our loss is their gain.

## Staff News 2014-2015 .../ Cont'd

The summer term also brought a number of sad farewells. Lauren Munro-Hall has been our super-efficient and ever cheerful Gap Year student in the PE Department. She is now going on to begin her PGCE so we haven't put her off teaching and who knows, maybe we will see her back here again at some point?

Gale Heath joined the Mathematics Department in 2014, bringing a caring and professional approach to her teaching. Her soothing, transatlantic accent has charmed us all and it has been a pleasure to work with her. Mrs Heath is looking forward to spending more time with her young family.

Andy Kerrison has been at Notting Hill & Ealing for three years and has put his heart and soul into raising the profile of Design Technology. In that time he has transformed the teaching of DT to include understanding of the whole process of product design and manufacturing, the importance of computer-aided design, robotics and of course, 3D printing. He has opened up new ways of thinking and collaborating and has been an inspiration to many of us. We are going to miss him enormously, but we will be keeping up with his adventures in the Round the World Clipper Race from the dry safety of NHEHS. We are sure that his crew will value his thoughtfulness, professionalism and enthusiasm as



much as we do. We wish him the best of luck.

Juliet Learmouth joined the school as Head of History of Art in 2010. She has gathered an immense following of girls who have been completely beguiled by her passion for her subject and her ability to bring a painting alive in front of their very eyes. She is inspirational in her excellence and elegance, leading numerous trips to ensure her pupils make the most of the London's rich gallery life! She has been awarded a place on a very prestigious MA course at the Courtauld, so we wish her well with that and hope very much that she will stay in touch.

Catherin Tidmarsh joined us as our SEN Teacher in 2008 and has developed the teaching support for a wide variety of educational needs through her seven years here. Ms Tidmarsh has helped all the girls feel confident and comfortable about finding the help and support that they each

need and 'The Zone' has now become a buzzing, positive and forward looking space in our school. We thank her for that fantastic legacy, and we hope she enjoys spending time with her family in Paris and her grandchildren in her happy retirement.

Arna Peric-Matthews joined the school in 2004 having made the leap from civil engineering to mathematics teaching. As well as inspiring and encouraging girls in her maths lessons over the last 10 years, she has inspired all of us with her assemblies about her previous career, as well as her favourite bits of maths. The girls have really enjoyed her Enigma Club and her ability to de-mystify the workings of the Big Build was an enormous help to all of us. Now she is leaving us to return to Croatia for a new phase in her own life: having seen the photos of her home near the beach, we can't help feeling very envious and wish her every happiness!

*Cont'd/ over page*



## Clipper Update

**We have all been following Mr Kerrison's adventures in the Round the World Clipper Race and were delighted to receive an update from him as the race reached Cape Town :**

"For those of you following the race and Garmin's progress you will know that we are currently 5th overall in the race standings. This is after our 5th place into Rio and our 3rd place into Cape Town. So far the race has been an emotional roller coaster, we just missed out on a podium finish into Rio due to gear breakage (we tore our Code 1 Spinnaker in half) and after leading for 95% of the 2nd race into Cape Town only finishing 3rd was heart breaking; again due to a damaged track on the main which meant we had to come in under full sail. In a 65 knot wind this was like being on a wet and wild ride at Thorpe Park! It was great to get on the podium for the 3rd place but the team was most happy about winning the Stormhoek Social Spirit Award which is about integrating the entire 55 crew of Garmin into a team. For us it proves that you can have both a happy and competitive boat.

The race so far has been amazing and everything I had hoped it would be. Both legs so far have been very different with Leg 1 giving us blue skies and relatively flat seas for most of the race then on to Leg 2 which was dark, stormy and grey most of the time with big seas. I feel that the Leg 2 experience has given us a little taster of what is to come in the Southern Ocean".

***Garmin has now left Cape Town and is headed for the Cape of Good Hope en route to Albany, Western Australia***

## Staff News 2014-2015 .../ Cont'd

Lula Clifford has been working behind the scenes in the Biology Lab for the last twelve years, making sure that everything runs smoothly for all biology practicals and exams, from the first 'how to use a microscope' right through to A level practicals, often in three labs simultaneously!

Her positive approach and sense of fun will mean that she is hugely missed. She has always been involved in the wider life of the school; from performing Karaoke and Indian dancing, to teaching Russian for beginners. We wish her well and every happiness in her retirement.

Rashida Safarfashandi joined NHEHS in 2002. In 13 years of service to the school she has shared her passion for Chemistry and her deep knowledge of the subject, as well as leading a dedicated team of chemists. She has contributed to Science Weeks and is famous for her contributions to Open Evenings



where she amazed many visiting 10 year olds who watched open mouthed as she appeared to hold flames in her hand or explode the air in front of her. She also caused quite a diversion last year by setting off the fire alarm on an open evening and causing an impromptu but ultimately rather successful and impressive evacuation of the school in the middle of the evening! Her personal jewellery collection has been the envy of many; she is a skilled jewellery maker and has shared her passion with Year 10 when making molecular jewellery. We wish her all the best in her new ventures and look forward to hearing her news.

## GDST Travel Prize Winner



In 2014 Daisy Bidault (Year 13) won a GDST Travel Prize. You can read more about her travels in Central and South America on the NHEHS website at: [www.nhehs.gdst.net/travel-bug/](http://www.nhehs.gdst.net/travel-bug/)

## Published Work!



What do Andy Warhol's strangest birthday party, the boy who tripped and damaged a valuable painting in a Taiwanese museum and Damien Hirst in the Great British Bake off have in common? Not sure? Well NHEHS sixthformer Arabella Hull, an enthusiastic writer on art and art history, can supply the answer.

One of her recent pieces an art-themed satire piece about Andy Warhol was picked up and published by FLUX an independent style and culture magazine distributed across the UK and beyond.

She has since contributed another piece on the 12 year old Taiwanese boy who punched a hole in the painting 'Flowers' (worth. \$1.5 million) by Baroque artist Paolo Porpora, and another on what it might be like if Damien Hirst graced our screens for Celebrity Great British Bake Off.

If you'd like to read Arabella's articles you can see them in the online version of the magazine <http://www.fluxmagazine.com/category/art/>

## Model UN

*Lauren Eells*



Our MUN team were in action again this term attending the MUN Conference at Godolphin and Latymer in early October,

As the representative from Lithuania, Chile, Nigeria and France they debated issues connected with security and terrorism, mental health in education, the problem of obesity, the war in Syria, the threat from Iran's nuclear programme and the situation in Ukraine.