



Dracula

Erin Blackmore

Blood, vampires and fangs can only mean one thing at Notting Hill...and no we don't mean 'Twilight': it's this year's production of *Dracula*!

We had great fun bringing this gothic tale to life using effects such as dry ice; the fog even enveloped the audience at times and drew them further into the fantasy world of Bram Stoker. It was great having a wider range of year groups participating in the production this year and we really hope that they are now inspired to keep up their involvement in NHEHS drama in years to come.



This year we also had the excitement of performing at Watermans Art Centre which was a fantastic opportunity for us to gain an insight into the inner workings of a professional environment, though we are of course looking forward to exploring the new facilities the school will soon have to offer.



This wonderful production could not have been achieved without the commitment and enthusiasm of all involved and we would like to say a special thank you to Ms Whitmarsh and Ms Craggs who have yet again made the experience so memorable for cast crew and audience.

*For more pictures go to
www.nhehs.gdst.net/Dracula*

Criminology

Charlotte Burton



Criminology is the fastest growing undergraduate course in the country and our A Level Psychology students attended a

one day conference designed to give them an insight into the academic study of the subject. The conference was chaired by

Professor David Wilson one of the country's leading Criminologists and included a range of high profile speakers. The girl's undoubted favourite talk of the day was given by Noel "Razor" Smith author of *A Few Kind Words and a Loaded Gun* who described his career as a bank robber and discussed why after 32 years in prison and £1m of stolen money, he finally went "straight" after being refused permission to attend his son's funeral.

Some Like it Hip Hop

Isobel Alexander

On a wet weekday evening, eight girls from Year 10 and a couple from Year 11 made their way to Ealing Broadway Tube Station where they met Ms Evans and Ms Lowen for the beginning of an exciting evening.

After a dash through the crowds of Holborn we arrived at the doors of the Peacock Theatre. We stumbled down the stairs and took to our seats (amid much shuffling and "Are you sitting here?", "I thought I was sitting there" and "I DON'T KNOW WHAT I AM DOING!"). Then the curtain went up and the performance began.

To say we were impressed would

be an understatement. Though we arrived pondering over the title *Some Like It Hip-Hop* by the last dance we wondered how it was not 'Everyone Likes It Hip-Hop'. The show was choreographed by Tommy Franzez a professional dancer who is well-known for being a contestant on TV's *So You Think You Can Dance*, aired in Autumn 2008 and is a mix of different dance styles, including lyrical, jazz and of course hip-hop.

In some scenes the dancers displayed extremely chiselled abs, causing much of the audience to 'whoop' with delight. Our group was tempted to join in



but narrowly managed to retain their dignity. However, our remaining composure was completely destroyed at the end of the show, when the performers encouraged the audience to stand up and dance. But who cares, we enjoyed ourselves immensely!

On a more serious note, it was amazing to see a group of talented young people do what they love.

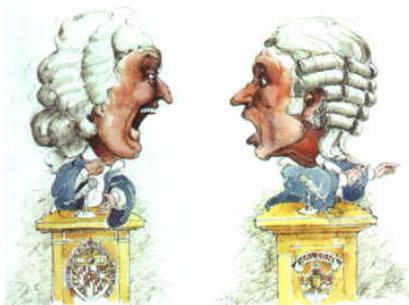
Debating Workshop

Sorrel Evans

One dark, rather chilly Friday evening, Mr Pepper and myself set off for a debating workshop at St Paul's Girls' School.

Once through the imposing gates we were welcomed with delicious refreshments and I started up a conversation with a few of the other students there on the topic of sandwich fillings (completely riveting, I assure you.)

The talk, and following workshop was absolutely marvellous giving down to earth, practical and honest advice about debating in the British parliamentary format. The workshop was led by a girl of 18, who had already debated at an international level, and is



currently studying at Oxford - in other words an absolute poster girl for debating!

Following rational, logical steps we went through the minutiae of debating technique; Points of Information; Points of Clarification; the areas your argument should try to cover and the best way to go about it.

It was a fantastic experience, and hopefully, the benefits will show in our next debate!

Chocolate Comes to Life

Sally Cohen



The Geography Department and Year 9 had a great day at Cadbury World investigating the workings of a transnational corporation.

As well as enjoying a very informative talk about the global operations of Kraft we were treated to a tour of the packaging plant and the opportunity to make our own chocolate combinations.

Free samples of chocolate and a visit to the shop, all made the day run very smoothly!



Rome and Pompeii

Classics trip, October half term 2012

Read more on pages 12-13.



Berlin

History trip, October half term 2012

Read more on page 21.



Paris

French trip, October half term 2012

Read more on page 20.



Christmas Room Decorating

Katie Swift

This year we saw the highest standard ever in the Christmas Room Decorating competition. With a theme of 'Christmas Spirit' the girls had to give it real thought and came up with some very creative, funny and moving ideas. As ever, there was a lot of singing, some blatant bribery and an amazing showcase of different talents.



The Sixth Form got us in the mood with a spirited rendition of *It's Beginning to Look a Lot like Christmas*. Year 10 had everything from Christmas in a recession (10AS) and Christmas 'spirits' with wildly backcombed hair (10PQ) to Santa's Grotto complete with Mr Cheney giving out presents (10RC). Mrs Peric-Matthews' form were highly commended for their brilliant Christmas Spirit pub. The attention to detail was fantastic: there were tables with bar snacks, a bar with cocktails, a 'specials' board and live music from 'The Innkeepers'.



Christmas Assemblies

Year 9 and 10 enjoyed a special Christmas assembly with impressive performances from both year groups.

The Year 9 performance featured a pitch perfect rendition of Mariah Carey's *All I want for Christmas* from Ammaarah Felix performed with an array of backing singers and dancers from 9N. 9H sang *Last Christmas I gave you my Heart* with an excellent range of moves to match, while 9E brought us Slade's *I wish it could be Christmas Every Day*.

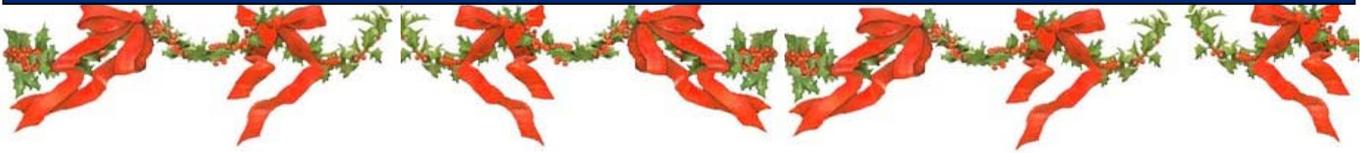


Year 10 staged a novel and very creative Nativity Scene. Everyone was dressed in fabulous costumes, including a beautifully lit up north star!

Kitty Bradley



Year 9 surpassed themselves this year. 9N transported us to a wintery Christmas market and 9H were highly commended for their fantastic wartime Christmas, with letters to soldiers on the front, rationing and a news broadcast they had filmed themselves complete with flickering black line.



9E's Eliot Family Christmas was joint winner with 8E's Snowman's Journey. We felt that both forms really captured the spirit of Christmas. 9E had everything you could possibly want in a family Christmas including a great Queen's Speech (perhaps we should send her the notes!). 8E's beautiful snowman's journey scenes, spirit-ometer and *Power of Love* finale particularly impressed Miss Davies, who was moved to tears.

8H-ville, a small but friendly town, wowed us with interpretative dance and a



market complete with fortune teller and lucky dip and 8N showed us brilliant team work in their elves' workshop (I'm not quite sure why I was on the naughty list though!).

We all thought that Year 7 did an excellent job with their room decorating. Mr Nelkin was particularly impressed by 7N's Past, Present and Future Christmases, enjoying a taste of what Christmas might be like on Mars in years to come. We learnt a lot in 7H's International Christmas. We were very impressed by the attention to detail and level of research, allowing us to learn about how we celebrate Christmas in England, Poland, France and Holland accompanied by appropriate music.

7E's Family Christmas was delicious, including a fantastic cake and the best animated fireplace of all.

The girls really rose to the challenge and the judges (Mr Nelkin, Ms Davies and Mrs Swift) had a terrible time trying to decide on winners.

Congratulations to everyone and special thanks to all the tutors who helped make it possible.



Senior Team Maths Challenge

Helen Critcher

Our intrepid Senior Team Maths Challenge students travelled to Imperial College in November to tackle three rounds of challenging problems in a competitive, yet friendly, environment.

They did particularly well in the relay and were delighted to finish in 6th place, which was one above their position last year. It was a very uplifting to be in a room full of sixth form students eagerly solving problems quite late into the night!



*Well done to the team of Lauren Chippendale, Harshini Pattni
Crystal Leung and Ellen Coleman*

Gym Club Competition

Jennie Scott

Congratulations to everyone who took part in the Gym Club competition this year. The event was designed to test the skills on floor and vault which girls have enjoyed learning this term. Those taking part performed to a very high standard.

A special thank you goes to Anna Kovacs (Year 10) who has coached the group this term and to Charlotte Day (Year 13) and Rebecca Eastwood (Year 12) for their help on competition day.

Top scorers on Floor were :
Issy Stronge (Year 7) and



Chloe Martin-Cupit (Year 8).
Top scorers on Vault :
Ally Valero (Year 7)
Jemima Bradley (Year 8).
The overall champions were
Lara Defries (Year 7) and
Chloe Martin-Cupit (Year 8).

In the Year 9 competition,
Elisa Defries made a clean sweep of
all the honours, with a stylish vault
and a precise and beautifully
performed floor routine to become
a worthy winner of the overall title.

140 Things You'd Like to Know

Elizabeth Broekmann



In 2013, NHEHS is celebrating our 140th birthday. This is a great landmark for the school which is the oldest member of the Girls' Day School Trust.

As part of our 140th celebrations, we will be finding 140 items linked to the school's history and putting pictures and information about them on our website.

We will be looking at people, buildings, traditions, furniture, documents and much more. And this is where you come in! We want YOUR suggestions on what to include. What would YOU like to know about YOUR school? Then we'll do our best to find an answer in the school's archives.

You are invited to put your suggestions on the special notice board in the library. Post-it notes and pens will be provided. You just need to bring your ideas and suggestions!

A2 Latin Text Day

Jessica Zhang

The Year 13 Latin group and Miss Marsden met at Conway Hall for an A2 Latin Text day which began with a lecture on Nero's reign. This explained how Nero transformed and influenced Rome using spectacular architecture including the Domus Aurea or the Golden House.

Richard Jenkyns, professor of the Classical Tradition at Oxford, spoke about Troy, Carthage and Rome in the Aeneid giving us an in-depth analysis on the background of the Aeneid and the various contextual links that feature throughout the epic.

A break for lunch and hot coffee was followed by the last lecture given by Llewelyn Morgan, Fellow of Brasenose College, Oxford, on the Aeneid which is our A Level set text. Dr Morgan provided a tremendous finale to this valuable trip talking us through the text and providing insightful analysis which we found invaluable in developing our understanding of the text.



Year 10 River Work

The Year 10 Geographers collected river data along the River Chess near Amersham to investigate changes along a river course. Despite the rain, and a couple of falls into the river, the girls kept their spirits high and collected very reliable data on a wide range of river variables.



In advance of the field trip they were required to propose a certain number of hypotheses on river flow and dynamics based on their theoretical knowledge of the subject. In the main their hypotheses were proved correct.

Staff at the field study centre at Amersham were very impressed by the girls and their hard work

Sally Cohen



Senior Maths Record

Congratulations to the students who recently took part in the Senior Maths Challenge a national competition organised by the UK Mathematics Trust.



We are delighted to announce a NHEHS record with this year's group being awarded the most certificates ever!

In total there were 21 certificate winners – 3 Gold, 9 Silver and 9 Bronze. Special mentions go to Grace Richardson Banks who was 'Best in School' and Ellen Coleman who was 'Best in Year 12'.

Helen Critcher

Medea

Isobel Alexander, Alice Blows, Florence Bell and Annie Khabaza



This was a modern version of a Greek play, which made it very accessible but consequently more frightening. The focus was very much on Medea herself and the play follows the typical structure of a Greek tragedy, with few characters, one setting, and taking place in a period of under twenty four hours .

The play is a strange mix of *Downtown Abbey*, *Orphan* and *Paranormal Activity*, but as it progresses, the sinister undertones begin to bleed through (and yes, we mean bleed). There is dark humour: when the eponymous character Medea demonises the whole male gender. Adorable moments: when Medea's mute son hugs his mother because he thinks he will have to live with her father, and surreal moments: when Medea offers to be a surrogate for her next door neighbour (who would hide her from his wife at their house in Spain). But as the play progresses, it gradually becomes increasingly dramatic. As Medea creeps into her son's bedroom with a knife, the audience draws

in a collective breath, which morphs into a sigh of relief when she looks at him and goes back downstairs. However, this relief doesn't last long as the son creeps downstairs, then runs back upstairs pursued by his mother.

At this point we would like to make it clear: this play is very good. It is the best thing that has ever emotionally traumatised an entire audience. As Medea stood on the collapsing roof of her burning house with her son's corpse, both of them covered with blood, Florence's arm gradually lost feeling as Alice clung to it and cut off the blood supply, and the Year 11s collectively bust into tears.

We went home emotionally exhausted. As well as a supremely powerful story this was a showpiece for the collective talent of a brilliant cast. We would heartily recommend it, although it is not for the faint of heart: those therapy bills will take years to pay off.

Autumn Term Concert 2012

Paul Jeanes

On Wednesday 10th October, the Recital Hall was full to capacity for the Autumn Term Concert and once again, the audience was treated to some very fine solo and ensemble performances.

The concert opening with Mozart's infamous *Serenade* from *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik*, performed with energy and verve by the Chamber Orchestra.

Notable solo performances were given by Scarlett Regan, who performed Prokofiev's technically demanding *Prelude for Piano Op.12*, Erin Holder, who played Bach *Gigue from Suite No.2* from memory, and Maya Caskie, who gave a beautiful performance of Chopin's *Waltz in E Minor*.

The second half featured some lighter music, with the inaugural



performance from the NHEHS Jazz Band, who gave a stirring rendition of the *Soul Bossanova*, made famous by the Austin Powers movies, whilst Lydia Altman gave a stunning performance of *Cry me a River*, sung with real style and panache.

The concert finished with an

outstanding performance of the first movement from Beethoven's *Symphony No.1* by the Symphony Orchestra.

All of the girls involved had worked very hard indeed in the preparation for this performance, which was evidenced by a concert of real quality and a very appreciative audience.

Wallace Collection

Kitty Bradley



Year 12 History and History of Art students visited the Wallace Collection and attended a workshop on Liberté, Egalité and Fraternité – all focused on the French Revolution.

We learnt about the logical, enlightened history behind the guillotine and the revolutionary calendar and enjoyed a wonderful tour of the collection where

highlights included Marie Antoinette's writing desk, her and Louis's wedding cameos and some Sevres porcelain from the Revolutionary era.

The History of Art students were particularly excited by the chance to see Fragonard's *The Swing*, and the collection of Boucher paintings.

Movember

Andrew Kerrison



During November each year, Movember is responsible for moustaches sprouting on the faces of over 1.1 million men around the world. The aim is to raise vital funds and awareness for men's health, specifically prostate, testicular and other cancers that affect men.

On Movember 1st, men register at Movember.com with clean-

shaven faces and then for the rest of the month, these selfless and generous men, known as Mo Bros, groom, trim and wax their way into the annals of fine moustachery.

This year, Mr Kerrison registered the school's team as the "Notting Hill and Ealing High School Mo-vement" and the following men sprouted a range

'tashes' in a variety of styles: Messers Crame, Smith, Nelkin, Bent, Pepper, Quarmby, Patel, Newell, Walker, Conley- Harper and Cheney

The response from the Notting Hill and Ealing High School community, friends and family has been magnificent with £1014.54 (and counting) donated over the month long period. Thank you all!

Science Club

Andy Crame

More exciting sessions of Year 7 Science Club this half term! We started off with an old favourite and made slime from glue and Borax. This produces a quite disgusting looking slime, which the girls in Year 7 (and Year 13 if they can get near it) love to play with.

The following week we looked at different methods of making paper aeroplanes and to test them we adjourned to the Big Space for some flying practice. We even tried an electronic plane launcher! The



next session involved making our own fire extinguishers using baking powder and vinegar and then trying to put out a candle which proved surprisingly difficult. In the same session we tried some 'fire writing' with saturated potassium nitrate,

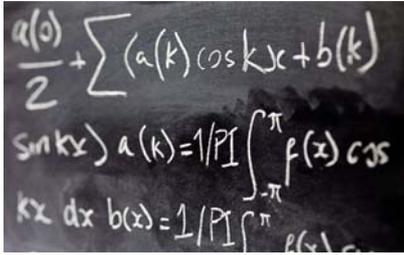


for which, thankfully, we did not need the fire extinguishers.

Finally, over the last two weeks of term the girls grew crystal Christmas trees which were some of the best ever produced.

Maths Inspiration

Helen Critcher



Have you ever wondered why we study simultaneous equations and vectors at school? Or what is the 'safest' age to be? Or why there are so many hilarious maths jokes in the Simpsons? If so, ask someone in Year 11 as they were lucky enough to attend a morning of inspirational maths lectures at the Palace Theatre in London last month. They heard three speakers whose

talks were entitled *From Google to Gaming*, *The Subtle Science of Uncertainty* and *Maths in the Simpsons*.

The lectures showed how many of the topics we study in the classroom are used in the real world and provided ideas for future careers, some of which might not readily be associated with mathematics.

The liveliness of the discussions amongst the students as we made our way back to school showed that they really had been inspired by what they had heard.

Etching

Sophie Plowden

In November, Year 13 art students went to the London Print Studio for a day's course to learn how to etch.

It is a complicated process that dates back to the fifteenth century: acid is used to make drawings into metal plates, which are then inked up and run through a printing press. The technique takes several years to master so our students did astonishingly well, each



By Flora Caulton

returning with a stunning set of prints.



Year 11 at Lulworth Cove

Geographers from Year 11 had a very enjoyable two days in picturesque Lulworth Cove, Dorset collecting data for their GCSE controlled assessment. They collected a range of information about the pressures resulting from tourism in the area via questionnaires, carrying out footpath transects, completing land use maps and a variety of other surveys.

Well done to all the girls. Controlled assessments are now almost complete and fingers are crossed for great marks!

Sally Cohen



Sleeping Beauty

Dance has always been popular at NHEHS and we are looking forward to having our own dance studio when our fabulous new facilities are completed. To provide an introduction to just one dance style the P.E. department organised a trip to the Ballet at Sadler's Wells for 80 pupils from Years 7 and 8 to watch *Sleeping Beauty*.

The girls were enchanted by the story's modern twist, Matthew Bourne's choreography and the classical music of Tchaikovsky. For many of the girls this was their first experience of the ballet and we all enjoyed a simply perfect performance.

Nicola Evans



Caecilius

The highlight of Pompeii for many of us – perhaps of the whole trip- was Caecilius’ house*. Having waited most of the day to visit it, we finally saw where our favourite Pompeian friend lived all those years ago.

Unfortunately, there were gates outside stopping us from entering because the house is so well preserved but we could look in to see most of the house; including the atrium and even as far back as the kitchen (where Grumio, his slave, would have worked). At NHEHS, the phrase ‘Caecilius est in horto’ is famous – it was even a team name on Quiz Night. So, it was amazing for those of us on the trip to actually be in the *horto* – or at least to look at it longingly from behind the gates.

**As any girl (or parent who has ever helped with Latin homework) know, Caecilius is the illustrious star of the Cambridge Latin Course (Book 1). His character is based on one Lucius Caecilius Lucundus a rich banker who lived in the house in Pompeii during the first century A.D.*



Classics Trip



On 23rd October, at 3 o’clock in the morning, 40 or so shivering Notting Hill girls, armed with packets of Haribo and suitcases which could have competed with Vesuvius itself in size, stood outside school waiting for a coach the arrival of which would signal the beginning of the much anticipated Rome Trip.

First stop, the Coliseum, and naturally, we started as we meant to go on, with endless photos and fevered searching of the stalls for souvenirs. But it wasn’t long before Mr Smith, clasping a microphone and guidebook, herded us inside to explain the history of the famous building. We then walked through the city to the Trevi Fountain - not only the place where attractive Italian men are found in films such as *The Lizzie Maguire Movie* but also the largest baroque fountain in Rome and perhaps one of the most famous in the world.

The next day we visited even more sites. The Palatine Hill (Romulus and Remus), the Forum (centre of the bustling ancient city and scene of the murder of Julius Caesar) and the Pantheon (largest unreinforced concrete dome in the world). We then went on to the Ara-Pacis. Originally named the AraPacisAugustae, the AraPacis is an altar to the Roman goddess, Pax. The altar was originally located on the northern outskirts of Rome but was moved in 1938 by Mussolini as part of his ‘theme park’ to glorify fascist Italy.



Before dinner (much anticipated), we visited the

.....to Rome and Pompeii

Capitoline Museums, which offer a range of fascinating artefacts and artwork, including the Capitoline Wolf, a bronze statue of Romulus and Remus suckling on the she-wolf.

We spent our last day in Rome in the Vatican City walking there via the Spanish steps, where we took group pictures and posed like tourists. We split into groups to look around, meeting up later in the Sistine Chapel, where we joined everyone looking up at the ceiling at Michelangelo's famous "Creation of Adam". In St. Peter's Basilica which contains the Baldachin altar by Bernini, opinions were divided, as some of the group thought it was beautiful, while the rest found it too gaudy and overdone.

On the last day of our trip, we were lucky enough to visit the ruins of Pompeii. Because the city is so well preserved we felt we were walking through the streets just like its original inhabitants would have done 2,000 years ago. We were also interested to see how structured and similar it was to towns today. There were sophisticated roads and pavements with stepping stones like our zebra crossings, so people could cross safely without getting their shoes dirty. We also



discovered the Romans' equivalent of fast food restaurants and even a bakery which was so well preserved that you could see the ovens used to make bread.



We also went to see the Stabian baths, Pompeii's most ancient baths built around 2nd century BC. Here we saw the plaster casts of bodies made by the archaeologists excavating the site when they came upon air pockets into which they poured plaster. You can clearly see the body positions and facial expressions of those trying to hide during the eruption.

Next, we visited the 'saucy side of Pompeii'. We were taken to a brothel. Before we went in, Mr Smith tried to explain to us, and a group of elderly tourists who

were listening in, what we were about to see. He said that there were pictures along the walls, each showing different situations, and that there are two theories about these. One, that they were to get customers 'into the right mood', or two, 'that it was like a menu, and you would point and order what you wanted.' When we entered the small bare building, it was just as we'd been told, with some remarkably clear pictures on the walls, and 3 stone beds. Some of us attempted to take pictures, but most quickly ran through, giggling awkwardly.

We were certainly sad to leave Italy. Most of us spent a good deal of the trip working out where in Rome we might live when we are older. We all enjoyed the visit and discovered much more about the ancient world. We would like to thank Mr Smith and all the teachers who came with us, it really was the trip of a lifetime.

Co-written by : Sara Malik, Shyma Zitoun, Mary Sheard, Diviya Davabalan-Thevarajah, Anna Kovacs, Martha Trevail, Lola Towle, MariaGorniok, Alice Reynolds and Phoebe Cramer

Top of the Bench

Erin Holder



On the 22nd November, eight girls from Years 9, 10 and 11 set off for St Benedict's to take part in regional round of the Royal Society of Chemistry's *Top of the Bench* competition. On the way we split into two teams and warmed up by asking each other questions and then panicking because we knew the answers but couldn't remember them!

At St Benedict's we were seated with our opponents and

assigned a supervisor who was a teacher from a different school. There were eight rounds covering different topics, some of which could only be answered by the individuals from a certain year group in the team. There were some questions which tested factual chemical knowledge, and a team exercise solving a practical chemical problem. Our team didn't have any disagreements on answers and we also

managed a lot of laughs. In the end we finished in 7th place out of the twenty schools taking part. We were really pleased with the result as this was the first year NHEHS had entered a team in the event and we weren't entirely sure what to expect. It was a really interesting and fun evening and we all look forward to going back next year to improve on our scores

The NHEHS team were Erin Holder, Nida Adnan, Elena Colato, Yssie Richards (Year 9, pictured), Pooja Gupta and Emma Kingsbury (Year 10), Louisa Hamre and Joanna Vale (Year 11). The winners on the night were RGS.

King Lear

Samara Jundi

In late November the Year 13 A Level English Literature group attended a conference on Shakespeare's 17th century tragedy *King Lear*. Having studied Webster's *The White Devil* prior to the conference, the lectures enabled us to form early comparisons between the two texts and explore their common themes such as human suffering, revenge, gender roles and power struggles. The conference gave us the opportunity to deepen our own analysis of the texts and we enjoyed the lectures by eminent speakers from the Universities of Manchester, Birmingham and King's College London on *King Lear and the Problem of Human Suffering*, *Kings of Madness in King Lear*, *The Poetry of King Lear* and *King Lear and the Nature of Shakespearean Tragedy*.

The lectures also allowed us to experience university-style teaching which required us to decide for ourselves which aspects of the topics were the most relevant, choose what to note down and then link this information with our existing knowledge of *The White Devil*. The connections between the two texts were thought-provoking and will be immensely useful for our study of *King Lear* in the spring term, preparing us for a thorough engagement with the text.

The Changeling at The Young Vic

Erin Blackmore



I really enjoyed this somewhat bizarre, modern interpretation of *The Changeling* by Elizabethan playwright Thomas Middleton, even with little knowledge of the play beforehand.

For this production, directed by Joe Hill-Gibbins, The Young Vic yet again adapted its space to engage the audience from the offset. I found the wedding scene particularly poignant due to the use of physicality which offered a contrast amidst this densely wordy play. This was done by 'infiltrating' a dance to Beyonce's *Single Ladies*, automatically bringing the

action into our contemporary world. This gave the audience an enhanced sense of relevance, immediately got us laughing and relaxed, and drew us into the action; it was a moment that came as a relief in this otherwise dark Jacobean tragedy. Yet, what was both masterful and terrifying was that the rape scene was then staged amongst this frivolity making the audience feel guilty and somehow culpable for witnessing, and essentially being entertained, when we should be fully acknowledging the awfulness of this act.

This production of *The Changeling* was inspiring in regards to its directorial craft yet one does need to be prepared for the rather bleak subject matter.

Mandarin Teachers' Conference

Tracy Cheng

Early in the term NHEHS was host to a meeting of Mandarin teachers from around the GDST.

It was an enjoyable and successful day and the group were able to discuss syllabus development, developments in Mandarin teaching and learning



and also come up with plenty of ideas for sharing resources.



Record Breaking Science

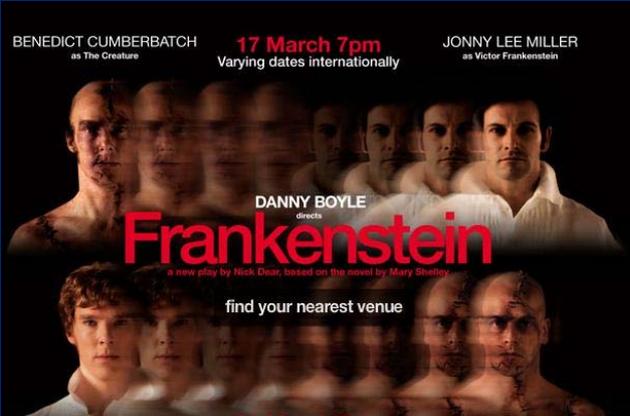
On Tuesday 13th November 108 girls from Years 6, 7, 8 and 9 took part in a bid to beat the Guinness World Record for the largest simultaneous science lesson.

26 schools in the GDST group ran the same lesson (a physics lesson on measuring the acceleration due to gravity with yo-yo's, bean bags and timers). At NHEHS Ms Bushell, Head of Physics, led this very exciting event in the Big Space. Independent verification, witness and stewardship was provided by Student Ambassadors from Brunel University.



Each of the schools taking part sent in their experiment results and signed statements from witnesses and stewards. Each school also had to provide photographs and video film proving that all the girls who signed in at the start of the lesson remained in the room and took part throughout.

On 9 January we heard that we had done it! The girls of the GDST successfully set the record for the world's biggest multi-venue practical science lesson! Well done everyone!!



Frankenstein - The Play

To accompany our study of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, AS English Literature students went to see a screening of Danny Boyle's stage interpretation of the novel, starring Jonny Lee Miller and Benedict Cumberbatch, who switch roles between Victor and the monster with each performance.

We were all excited to see a different version of the novel we had been studying so closely and one which had received such excellent reviews. However, some girls may have been pre-occupied by the opportunity to stare unashamedly at Cumberbatch for an hour and a half, even if we might be watching him play a monster made from the remains of human corpses.

Yet once we were watching the screening we could not be distracted, watching Miller play the child-like and, when first created, innocent monster. There were cries of outrage and confusion when two characters, who we believed to be brother and sister, were married, making us question whether we had understood the novel at all, but we enjoyed the production immensely. Boyle's version is both very similar and altogether different from the novel, telling the story from the monster's perspective, unlike the earlier classic film versions. It was an amazing opportunity to help us gain a deeper understanding of the novel.

Sasha Duszyńska Lewis

Frankenstein – The Conference

Flora Steafel, Amelia Williamson and Zoe Power



On a dreary November day Year 12 English Literature students attended a conference on this term's set text *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley.

Frankenstein is a classic Gothic novel and is often cited as a pre-cursor to science fiction. Known for its many film adaptations, it tells the story of Victor Frankenstein's monster, and his journey to destroy his creator.

After settling down on the hard, wooden pews of City Temple among hundreds of other students, we began with a talk from Professor John MacRae of the University of Nottingham. His lecture dealt with narrative voices and structure in the novel, focusing on the theme of social isolation. We had a further presentation from a lecturer from Durham University, Matthew

Hayward. He spoke about setting in relation to the Gothic. The third lecturer discussed the developments of science in the 1800s, which proved very valuable in relation to considering the character of Victor and his pursuit of knowledge in the novel. We finished with a lecture from an entertainingly eccentric exam assessor, Jon Rich, who sporadically shouted things like 'aah my pace-maker', to wake up the boys at the back.

The lectures stimulated broader ideas about the interpretation and context of the novel, though leaving the glutei maximi of the girls profoundly numb. However the experience was valuable and essential to understanding the text and we would like to thank Miss Crothers and Miss Wheeler for organising this enriching experience.

Model United Nations

Sarah Brooks



MUN (Model United Nations) is an exciting opportunity to debate world issues as a representative of a country and to meet people from other schools .

This was my fifth MUN conference and I was thrilled to be able to apply for the role of Chair. A Chair is a converted position at MUN, seen as all-powerful and all-

knowing, they are responsible for maintaining the flow of debate making sure it keeps the attention of all delegates and abides by UN regulations. I was the only female Chair out of 20 Chairs at the conference and along with two boys I was assigned to Chair the Environment Committee.

I decided to assert my newfound power by chairing the first debate. Though I was nervous at first I quickly found my stride deciding whether delegates had the “right to reply”, whether a “point of order” was valid or not as well as taking votes on resolutions and

amendments. Along with my co-Chairs we managed to undertake four debates on two different resolutions, “The Shale Revolution” and “Dirty Tourism”.

Debate is always fierce though there is room for humour. Interesting amendments passed to the Chair included one suggesting that we forget shale gas altogether and instead use giraffes running in hamster wheels as a source of electricity. Needless to say this amendment failed!

Nine Lessons and Carols

Paul Jeanes

At the end of term the Senior School Carol Service took place in the beautiful setting of St Barnabas Church, Pitshanger Lane. The church was filled with girls, parents and staff, who had come to hear the traditional Nine Lessons and Carols performed by the Senior, Chamber and Harmony Choirs.

The first verse solo of *Once in Royal David's City* is perhaps one of the most nerve wracking for any girl to sing. This year, the solo fell to Alice McGregor, who sung it beautifully with great clarity, and also flawlessly in tune, which is no mean feat when all eyes are watching!

There were some stunning carols sung by the Senior Choir, including John Rutter's *Candlelight Carol*, which included a solo quartet refrain sung by Ellen Coleman, Emily Caulton, Olivia Foster and Hiral Jhala, and the beautiful Appalachian carol *I Wonder as I Wander*, with the first verse solo sung by Katie Byford with a superb crystal clear sound.

The Harmony Choir treated us to a performance of Rutter's *Carol of the Children*, delivered with a fully rounded tone and excellent diction throughout.



A special mention must also go to our readers, who had given much time in preparing their readings and all of whom read with great assurance.

Once again the concert proved to be a highlight of the school year, and at the end of the service one was left in doubt that Christmas had truly begun.

Big Build

Roger Walker



Anyone who visited the site in recent months may have noticed several rather weather-beaten, rusty, metal pipes about 1.5m in diameter stretching between the walls of the building. These were temporary props which have been taking the strain of the weight of the building during the construction phase as the walls, floors and ceilings have been installed. These props, each supporting some 400 tons of weight, have now been removed and the strain gradually transferred into the

new building structure. This was a complex operation carried out by specialist contractors during the Christmas holiday when, in very simple terms, a series of holes was cut into each of the props causing them to gradually weaken to the point of collapse and allowing the weight to be transferred.

The other key event that took place over the Christmas break was the removal of the crane. In an exciting operation, the

crane was dismantled and extracted (by an even larger temporary crane) and lifted over the roof of the Science Block before being removed from the site.

We are now at the point of entering the final phase of the project.

The planned completion date in May is very close to start of the Public Examinations and to provide a sufficient margin, and to ensure proper organisation of this key time of year, we will still make use of The Big Space for the 2013 public examinations. This means that some work such as removing the temporary accommodation units and restoring the netball and tennis courts will take place during the summer holidays along with restoring the garden area and final landscaping and tree planting.

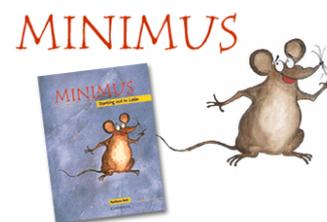
Minimus Club

Alex Smith

Last year a group of girls studying A Level Latin went along to the Junior School to teach Latin to 20 girls from Year 4, introduced them to a mouse called Minimus and helped them write and perform a play which

won Group Prize in the national Minimus Mythology Competition.

In the spring term as well as running Minimus Club in the Junior School, this year's A Level students will also be running the



programme for pupils at North Ealing Primary School.



Hans Woyda Update

Colin Porter

In early November, NHEHS travelled to City of London Girls' School in the Barbican for a second match of this season's Hans Woyda Mathematics competition. Hannah Lefroy (Year 9), Louisa Hamre (Year 11), Ellen Coleman (Year 12) and Victoria Greenhalgh (Year 13) made up a cracking team, but they were narrowly pipped at the post in the very last round by a lively CLGS side. The final score was 22-20.

Our final match of the term was again an away fixture, this time against Preston Manor High School in North Wembley. The NHEHS team of Anais Najera Groeninckx (Year 9), Joanna Vale (Year 11), Martina Aghopian (Year 12) and Harshini Pattni (Year 13) battled bravely, and secured a memorable victory in the very last round. The final score this time was 13-11.

A huge thank you to all of the students who have taken part this term. Your competitive mathematical prowess under pressure has been remarkable, and we in the Mathematics department are very proud of you.

UK Chinese Essay Writing Competition

Tracy Cheng

More than 400 pupils from 39 schools took part in the 7th UK National Chinese Essay Writing Competition and NHEHS was the most successful school, winning an outstanding seven certificates.

Writing in any genre on any subject is accepted as long as it is the candidate's original work and the best work, selected on a national basis, is awarded certificates graded first, second, third or highly commended.

Congratulations to Ellen Coleman whose work won a first prize, Yasmin Alumyar who achieved a second and Misha Sahba who achieved a third. Well done also to Jas Willis, Megan Soper, Martina Aghopian and Helen Evangelidis whose entries were Highly Commended.



ESU Debating Competition

There can be nothing more ironic than a debate about religious symbols in a room with crucifixes hanging on either wall but armed with nothing but our speech plans and a school name which couldn't fit on a visitor's badge, we arrived at St. Benedict's school for the ESU Debating Competition.

After an awkward introduction to our opposition and calming our nerves with jam doughnuts, we took our places, and began. Our opposition proved to be hard fighters; and although this intimidated us at first, Miss Crothers' encouraging nods helped us to persevere.

Once we had finished our debate, we had the opportunity to listen to the remaining two debates. The most entertaining by far were the team from Cardinal Wiseman School. Discussing whether the Olympics were a success or not, the speaker engaged the audience directly, entertained them and made them laugh. It was clear that this was the team that would win.

We came second but despite that we regard this debate as one of the best we have done together. Thank you to Miss Crothers for accompanying and encouraging us.

Sara Malik and (not her sister) Hafsa Malik



“Evening activities included French rounders, (which is the same as English rounders) and getting competitive (but not as competitive as the teachers) building Eiffel Towers from straws and tape. “



“Each group bought ingredients for lunch. Everyone in the market was very kind and seemed to understand our French!”

Paris Trip

Deepa Lalwani, Lily Johnston and Amy Swift

At the start of the Autumn half term, 30 girls from Year 10 got up ridiculously early on a Monday morning to start their long journey to Paris. We arrived at the Etoile Centre where we were staying in the early evening and were greeted by a very enthusiastic French *animateur* called Juju who was going to be our guide during our stay.

There then followed 4 action packed days . We began in a local market where we undertook “the market mission” where each group is charged with buying ingredients for lunch. We ate our lunch in the Jardin des Tuileries, and then walked down the Champs Elysees to the Arc de Triomphe. Next was the Eiffel Tower where the excellent weather meant we could see all of Paris. Most of us took the lift down but some people braved the 668 stairs to the bottom, with Mr Quarmby in the lead!

On Wednesday we headed for Notre Dame, where we wandered around inside the church and admired the huge stained glass windows and the gothic exterior. We then walked to the Pompidou Centre and went on to the Louvre, for a guided tour and a look at many renowned artworks including the ‘Mona Lisa’. By this point we were all very tired but a



trip on a boat on the River Seine, meant we could sit down and enjoy the view.

On Thursday we were up bright and early for the most anticipated part of the trip – Eurodisney. By far the most popular ride was Space Mountain but “Indiana Jones”, “Thunder Mountain” and even the “Tea Cups” all had their fans.

On the last day, we packed our bags and said goodbye to Juju who had done a great job of making us speak French and began our return journey to Calais. On the way we stopped at the Vimy Ridge trenches, site of the Canadian attack on German positions in World War I.

We had a great trip. Many thanks to Miss Swift, Mr Quarmby, Miss Genge and Miss Romero for taking us and making learning French such fun.

Berlin

Richard Petty



From the financial collapse of the 1930s, the rise of National Socialism, World War II, and the Cold War to the fall of the Wall and reunification, Berlin occupies a pivotal place in the twentieth-century History of Europe and the World. During the October half term 30 GCSE students from Years 10 and 11 and 10 AS Level students from Year 12 enjoyed a taste of both the exciting modern city and its tumultuous past.

A 3-hour walking tour on the first day helped us get our bearings even if it was quite exhausting after a 0515 rendezvous at Heathrow! However, we were revived by cocktails (non-alcoholic!) at the top of the TV Tower, a classic DDR building and a little bit like stepping back into the 1970s.

On Monday we concentrated on the Cold War with visits to the DDR Museum, Stasi Museum and the

Stasi Prison Museum which featured in the classic film *The Lives of Others* and in the evening we visited the Reichstag enjoying the stunning views of Berlin at night from this iconic Norman Foster building. On Tuesday an unscheduled detour to the classical Pergamon Museum, was followed by a visit to the Bernauer Strasse Berlin Wall Visitor Centre which helped put the Wall into perspective, and then we went on to explore some Nazi-era and Cold War-era underground bunkers, which were accessed from an unassuming door in the middle of a tube station!

Wednesday was an intense day during which we visited the Wannsee Conference House, where the Nazis took the decision to undertake 'the Final Solution' in 1942 (the extermination of European Jewry, as they put it), and then Sachsenhausen Concentration

Camp just outside the city.

On the last day we enjoyed a visit to the superb 'Divided Heaven' art exhibition at the New National Gallery, showcasing art from the former East and West Germany highlighting the globally politically eventful years between 1945 and 1968, which tied in very nicely with our learning through the week.

In the evenings we enjoyed some down-time and a break from what were some emotionally exhausting excursions with a little bit of shopping, a trip to a bowling alley (some modest scoring but great fun) and a cinema trip where we sampled the delights of *Madagascar 3* in 3D or the latest Bourne adventure.

Year 7 Drama: Where the Wild Things Are

Daphne Argyropoulos



This is the story of a boy named Max who is up to mischief, like attacking the dog and nailing his washing line to the walls. When his mother notices the mess that lies in his wake she calls him, “Wild Thing,” and sends him to bed without his supper. That same night, Max lies motionless as a forest grows in his bedroom and he sets off to explore. He sails to Where the Wild Things Are, and though the Wild Things try to scare him off, they are



instead amazed by his courage and crown him their king. Eventually, Max gets bored and travels home to find his supper on his dresser, still warm.

7H’s drama class were given complete freedom, except for this storyline. We were divided into groups of six and our first task was to think up a title for our “theatre companies”. These ranged from *OOD or Bing Bang Bong*, to *The Drumroll of Dionysus* (Dionysus being the God of Drama and Theatre). One group, *Bing Bang Bong*, even went to the trouble of personalising white Tees with their name and their company logo! Each group also invented a slogan to represent their ideas. These included “It’s so good... it’s almost criminal!” and

“Dive into the pool of drama”

The five groups worked their fingers to the bone. Starting with costumes, these girls went to town. From bandanas to wolf hats, we had it all! If it wasn’t hats, it was masks – if it wasn’t coats, it was onesies of one kind or another! Honestly, all the work was exceptional. Then there were the sets! *OOD’s* set manager, Cassia Fillingham, arranged with Mrs Whitmarsh to borrow a bath tub as a boat and developed a library/jungle backdrop for the performance. All groups were allowed access to the Art department for prop and set creation and took full advantage of this. *Bing Bang Bong* painted a lovely set of trees and other groups used the facilities to make waves for the sailing scene or beds for the first scene set in Max’s bedroom.



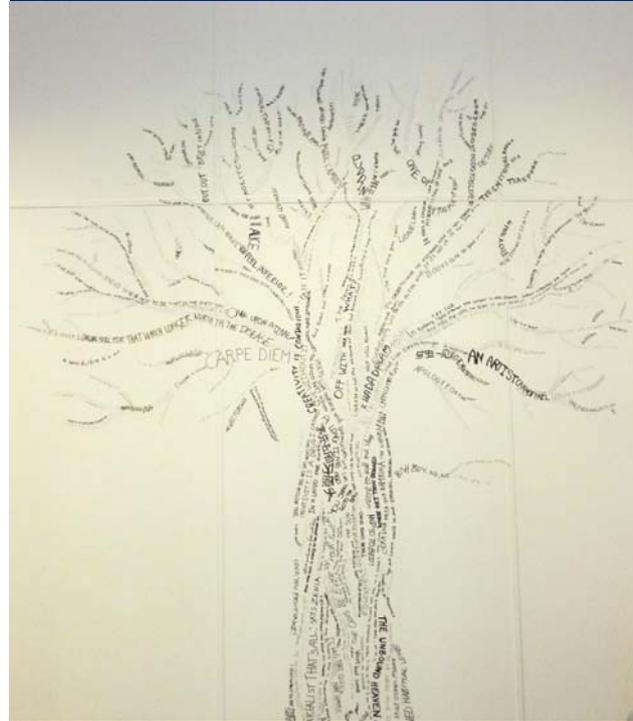
Where the Wild Things Are



For some groups, arts and crafts were key, spending lots of time with large bottles of PVA glue and scissors. Other groups turned to YouTube, music, PowerPoint presentations and animated backdrops using programmes and skills we've been introduced to by Mr Nelkin in IT this year. One group used music to dance to the "Wild Rumpus" in the story, another had a routine to the theme of Michael Jackson's *Thriller*, one employed jump-and-fist-pump dance, while some settled for a do-as-you-please sort of idea where you danced however your mood took you!



As the weeks flew past and the calendar flipped over to December, we all became more serious, more conscious of the time we had left and what we still had yet to do. Everyone handled their time brilliantly and perfectly sanded, buffed and polished performances were ready to show the entire class on December 14th 2012.



Mural Design Competition

The Art Department ran a competition to design a mural on the theme of 'text' to enliven the very large white space provided by the temporary wall in the Portrait Room.

We received some wonderful entries, but in the end, we loved the idea of using words to create the image of a tree, which was submitted in different formats by several girls: Arabella Hull in Year 10, Rebecca Bollard, Saskia Vrensen, Eva O'Mara in Year 9 and a combined effort from Olivia, Katia, Natalija and Dina.

The Art Department and Art Secretaries used these drawings to design a mural, which was then transferred onto the wall in the Portrait Room by willing members of Art Club.

Do please have a look at their brilliant efforts next time you're passing!

Sophie Plowden

U16 Hockey

Jess Brisley



This year the U16 hockey team have been on an exciting journey, which has led us to become one of the top eight schools in the South of England.

Back in October, our team took part in the London Cup, playing three matches against different schools. The tournament was a great success and saw us beat schools such as Wimbledon High and Nonsuch with some brilliant goals from Lauren Oliver, Jess Brisley and Sarah Ashraf. We narrowly lost 1-0 in the final pool game against Kingston Grammar

School but with the top two teams in each pool progressing to the semi-finals, we were through to the next round.

In November, the team faced the challenge of the semi-final round with high hopes, and everyone was in good spirits. A spectacular performance against James Allen Girls School, and some well worked short corners, gave us the 3-1 win that we needed to go through to the final. Unfortunately, we lost to Kingston Grammar School

2-1, however as we had come second in the whole of London we were guaranteed a place in the South Regional rounds of the National Schools Hockey Cup which took place the following week at Tonbridge School.

We made our way to Kent, to play against the best teams in the south of England but although everyone tried their absolute hardest, the competition was too strong. As the day progressed, the standard of our hockey dropped and we came away having played some good quality hockey but unfortunately not good enough to progress through to the finals of this regional tournament.

Well done to all the girls in Years 10 and 11 who took part and let's look forward further successes in the New Year.

The U16 Hockey team have had an exceptional term and they should be extremely proud of their achievements. To compete at regional level of a national competition is not an easy feat and they have all improved as individuals and as a team, working together to compete against some of the best schools in the country. Well done to all girls who were involved!

Beth Lowen

U14 Hockey

Elena Colato

On a miserable, freezing November morning the Year 9 hockey squad headed off to Teddington School and the U14 London Schools tournament.

We beat Nonsuch in a great first game. Though the score was only 1-0, it seemed to us that the ball never entered our half of the pitch, Nichola (the goalie) resorted to leaning on the goal post and hoping for a game in which she would actually see some action. She did when we came up against Richmond next.

They beat us but we went on to win our next two games against Teddington and St Benedict's. In the semi finals we played Surbiton High School and won 2-1 and we were through to the final.



Richmond was playing another team on the other pitch and as they had beaten us already we were anxiously waiting and hoping that we wouldn't have to play them in the final. In the end Richmond lost and we played Streatham and Clapham High

School, a sister GDST school, and won! We were so happy. Last year at the very same tournament we hadn't even made the Semi's. We were especially excited as we knew that as we had won we had qualified for the Southern Regional Tournament.

To be honest we thought we had no hope! We headed off to the Tournament which was held at Surbiton High, revved up but knowing we were going to come up against some amazing teams.

We finished the first match on a high as we won 2-1. Next game we came up against a side that were rather tough and we drew 0-0 with them, though at one point Ellie had a shot at goal that looked like it had gone in. Miss Dunkley had already started her celebratory cheer, but she soon stopped when she realised the goalie had saved the shot. We went on to lose our next two games but I have to admit they were very good teams. Over all we came 3rd and went away with our heads held high!



U14 Hockey Team

Well done to Hannah Brisley, Ellie Benson, Elena Colato, Beccy Bollard, Amrit Sandhu, Nichola Greenhalgh, Yssie Richards, Olivia Wong, Megan Burns, Imogen Kurek-Smith, Lily Obadiah and Robyn Mellor.



GDST Rally

The GDST Senior Hockey Rally took place in Northampton in October, and NHEHS took along a team of 12 girls in Years 11- 13. In our pool matches we finished in first place, beating Oxford 2-0 and drawing 0-0 with Bromley.

In the quarter finals we met Royal High School, Bath and won on penalties. In the semis we came up against Central Newcastle High School in a match that ended in a draw. Unfortunately we were knocked out on penalties, but we went home having finished in a fantastic joint-third place. Well done to the whole team who played really well in every match: Emily Thompson, Amaya Vao, Victoria Macdonald, Sophie Swift, Eleanor True, Isabelle Farrow, Ava Daruwalla, Rebecca Eastwood, Sasha Parkinson, Lara Turner, Saskia Budget and Lauren Oliver.

Rebecca Eastwood

Sports Reports

Nicola Evans, Annette Greenslade, Beth Lowen, Jennie Scott and Diane Dunkley



Cross Country

The NHEHS Cross Country Team are Ealing Champions.

The girls won both the Primary and High School Shields in the girls' competition and in the final individual races of this three meeting competition on 17 November, Olivia Will, Anna Maude and Joanna Vale took 1st, 2nd and 3rd places respectively in the Year 10/11 age group.

Girls from this highly successful team so far confirmed as members of the Ealing borough team at the London Youth Games include Sophie McGowan, Loula Omaar, Cameron Thomas, Anna Maude, Ellie Benson, Ella Kotecha, Oliva Will, JoannaVale, Emelia Newton-Jones, Katrina Will, Lara Kotecha and Saskia Budgett.

Netball

Congratulations to the U15 Netball squad (which included Georgia Glenn U14s) who have successfully qualified for the Middlesex Schools County finals which will be held on Saturday 9th March 2013.

Well done also to the Year7 squad players who have started playing netball for various netball clubs outside of school.

U15 Hockey

We had a great run in the London Schools U15 Hockey Cup Competition coming 2nd in our group.

We then played JAGS in the semi-finals and lost 1-0.

It was fabulous to finish in the top 4 though!

