



Twist and Shout!

Sarah Davies

The school gathered on a bleak, grey and icy cold spring day for the 8th annual House Shout competition – held for the last time in our temporary (and acoustically-challenged) Big Space.

As ever, the girls did what true Notting Hillers do best – work as a team, show off their incredible talents, and do this with a fine sense of style and fun.

We were impressed yet again by our girls' ingenuity and positivity (squeezing over 500 into a tight space complete with keyboards is a still a feat of logistical magic) and bowled over by their keen sense of competition and "lively" interpretation of this year's theme – as it was the 50th anniversary of the formation of "The Beatles", we saw this as a perfect opportunity to sing some British Classics from their immense back catalogue.

Highlights this year: Eliot's (not so) subtle changing of the lyrics of their song to showcase their mischievous sense of competition

("E all live in a yellow submarine"); Hepburn's inventiveness with their own "Beatles Mash-up" and N's triumphant *Here Comes the Sun* – particularly ironic on a bitterly cold and dark day! It was a close call, but the eventual winners were Eliot.

As always, I was profoundly struck by how magnificent our girls are when they get a chance to show us what they can do. Well done to all the House Teams for pulling out all the stops yet again, putting on an amazing show and ending the term for everybody in fine voice! Remember: "sun, sun, sun: here it comes" just in time for Easter too!



Maths Challenge

Helen Critcher

In February, a number of students from Years 9 and 11 took part in the Intermediate Maths Challenge a national competition organised by the UK Mathematics Trust.

The maths department are delighted to announce that 46 students have been awarded certificates. These were: 3 gold, 16 silver and 27 bronze certificates.

The 3 gold winners (pictured above) were Louisa Hamre (Best in Year 11 and Best in School), Joanna Vale and Victoria Lennox



(Best in Year 9). As a result of doing so well, Louisa, Joanna and Victoria have recently taken part in an additional international competition which originated in Australia and is called the 'Kangaroo'.

Well done to all who took part with such enthusiasm and a very special mention to the Year 9s who we entered for this challenge for the first time and who did very well with 15 of them achieving certificates.



Chemistry Olympiad

Philip Sheldon

Congratulations to Rebecca Braine (awarded Silver) and Nishma Suthar (awarded Bronze) in the UK Chemistry Olympiad the national competition run by the Royal Society of Chemistry and which this year attracted 4500 entries from the UK's brightest sixthform chemists.

Classics

Alex Smith

On Thursday 28th February, GDST Heads of Classics from around the country gathered at NHEHS to discuss how to drive forward the teaching of Classics. We enjoyed debates about raising the profile of the subject, supporting differentiation, using ICT and even setting up a GDST Classics Drama Festival.

The meeting was great success and even had teachers attending via video link from as far away as Newcastle (a real pleasure to see Classics at the head of the digital age). The meeting really helped us take advantage of the support of the GDST network in sharing ideas and good practice.

Sixth Form Triathlon

Rebecca Irwin



To help combat the stress of mocks and exam preparation, not to mention blues brought on by the icy spring, girls from the NHEHS sixth form, along with sixth form teams from schools throughout the GDST, have been competing in a challenging competition to complete a triathlon by cycling, rowing and running, through London, the Welsh valleys and across Hadrian's Wall.

Completing the miles on the bike, rowing machine and

treadmill in the comfort of the gym in the sixth form centre the challenge has been to cycle the 100 km length of Hadrian's Wall, row the 40km from the Thames Barrier to London Bridge and replicate the 30 km of the Welsh Highland run.

In teams of three the competitors had just 3 weeks between 6 and 22 March to complete the challenge. We are delighted to announce that the winning teams are: Year 12 'Team Bolt': Mia Longley, Natasha Maynard, Martina Aghopian and Izzy Farrow and Year 13: 'Team Jetpacks': Anna Dziedzic, Victoria Greenhalgh, Sarah Brooks and Rebecca Braine. The winning teams have all been awarded cinema vouchers (and a nice sit down).



World Book Day

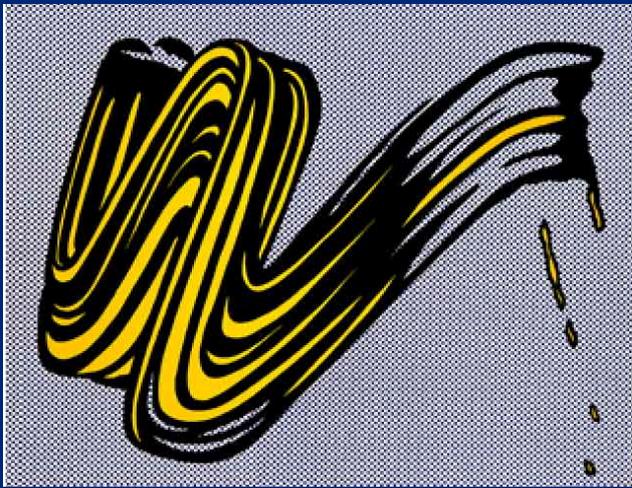
Winner: the Black Panther from Marvel comics.



Runner up: Weeping Angel from *Doctor Who*



Mrs Irwin as Alex from *A Clockwork Orange*



Curator's Talk at the Roy Lichtenstein Exhibition

On an exceptionally cold and wintry evening, the Year 13 Art Historians ventured south across the Millennium Bridge to attend the Curator's Talk of the Lichtenstein exhibition currently on show at Tate Modern.

After an eye-opening presentation from Richard Thomas, whose own presentation style seemed to mirror the dead pan humour so characteristic of Lichtenstein's oeuvre, we were treated to a private view of the exhibition. We had been studying Roy Lichtenstein in class that very afternoon so it was truly inspiring to see such iconic works as "Look Mickey" (1961), "Girl Drowning" and "Whaam" (1963) with the naked eye. Only when seen in their original version can the scale of these works and the meticulous precision of Lichtenstein's technique be truly appreciated. Perhaps most eye-catching of all were his paintings of the supposedly spontaneous brushstroke, an ironic response to the grand and heroic gestures of the Abstract Expressionist painters. As Lichtenstein himself explained: "Brushstrokes in a painting convey a sense of grand gesture; but in my hands, the brushstroke becomes a depiction of a grand gesture."

Plenty to think about for year 13 art historians!

Juliet Learmouth

Science Club

Andy Crame



This term Science Club has had a good time looking at smart materials, such as plastics that act as an insulator until they are pressed when they then begin to conduct electricity and springs that 'remember' to expand when they reach a certain temperature. The item that caught the imagination most, however, was the thermo chromic putty which both stretches and behaves like rubber when moulded into a ball. It also changes colour on warming

up as it is being worked.

We made electrical circuits using Play Dough as wires. This initially caused some raised eyebrows, but the girls found that it did indeed conduct sufficient electricity to light up several LEDs and we had a competition to see who could get the most LEDs to light up at one time. The Play Dough began to resemble a Christmas tree!

The girls also found that you could make a Play Dough switch and discovered how thin a Play Dough 'wire' they could make and still conduct electricity (the answer is very, very thin!)

Science club has now finished for the summer term (even scientists have to get out into the fresh air), but we will be back again in September.



Sci-fi Fan-tastic!

Sarah Davies



World Book Day took NHEHS by storm yet again – but this year, with a theme that was just a little bit different. In collaboration with the Science department and their Science Week which ran at the same time, we struck on the novel (!) idea of having ‘Science-fiction and Invention’ as the overarching theme between the two week long events. The English department secretaries got busy with a teaser poster campaign, complete with Vogon Destroyers and time machines, which made for an exciting build up to the day.

Staff revealed their favourite Science fiction novels with *The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy* and anything by Philip K Dick proving to be popular choices, and on Book Day itself students went all-out to impress in ‘sci-fi and invention’ related costumes, which ranged from *The Hunger Games* to *The Hitchhiker’s Guide*

to the Galaxy. There was even a flock/pack/herd/swarm of zombies (what’s the collective noun for a group of zombies?) wandering the corridors, but many had opted for more “traditional” science-fiction fancy dress in the form of aliens or Frankenstein and his monster (courtesy of Miss Wheeler and Miss Crothers!)

Final winners of the fancy dress competition were in third place Alice Pygram (Year 7) who came as Marvin the Paranoid Android from *Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy*; second was Julia Flint (Year 8) who was a particularly effective Weeping Angel from *Doctor Who*; and the honour of first place went to Nichola Greenhalgh (Year 9) who was Black Panther from Marvel comics.



Also on the day Year 10 were treated to some inspiring master-classes held by writer and poet Aoife Manning, (see page 13) while all over the school throughout the week students were busy

accumulating vast numbers of house points with our usual ‘Get Caught Reading’ activity. In English Club the science-fiction theme continued, as club members embarked on a heated discussion about the genre of Science Fiction itself, followed by the eating of some bright-green alien-shaped cakes thoughtfully provided by Emily Caulton in Year 13!



Many students also entered the Book Week competition to design a book cover for Julia Golding’s new novel *Young Knights of the Round Table*, submitting some brilliantly inspired designs, with particular commendation to winners Rinda Naresh, Bella Szczech, Annabelle Sanders, Adriana Tombolis, Evie Chiles, Esme Coy, and the overall winner Molly Williams in Year 8.

Whew – a busy and exciting week for all - see you next year. If I had a time machine à la H.G. Wells, I’d be able to see what fun there was in store...

GDST Foreign Language Spelling Bee

After their success in the semi-final heats of the GDST Foreign Language Spelling Bee the NHEHS Year 9 Latin team and our Year 8 and 9 Mandarin teams headed for Howell's School, Lanndaff to take on students from 16 other schools in the finals of this competition, just one of the events being held to celebrate the GDST's 140th birthday.

Howell's were wonderful hosts and kept us entertained throughout the day with a varied programme of musical performances. Highlights included a 'Welsh Welcome' celebrating the language and culture of Wales and a chance to sing the Welsh National Anthem. At the end of the day they sped us on our way with Welsh Cakes delivered by girls from the Reception class in Welsh national dress.

Tracy Cheng, Alex Smith and Felicity Marsden

Anouschka Rajah of the Year 9 Latin team describes the competition:

"On arrival we were separated into our languages, with the Year 9 Latin team, year 8 Chinese team and Year 9 Chinese team all heading in different directions. I was part of the Latin team, and we followed a teacher into a classroom where everyone had to pick numbers out of a bag to decide on the order in which we would compete. It was decided our school would go last, which we were relieved about because we had been terrified of picking number 1, but it made for a tense, nail-biting wait. We watched everyone else take their turn, which consisted of going up to the front and sitting in a chair with your back to the other students, in front of a screen which would flash up Latin words which you had to translate - as many as possible in one minute. When it came to our turn we went up one by one which was scary but the minute went faster



than expected and was quickly over. The session ended with us being given finalist medals. Counting each other's results we thought we had a joint score of around 135, which we were very

pleased with as it greatly exceeded our expectations

It was then time for lunch and we met up with everyone from our school again and exchanged

GDST Foreign Language Spelling Bee



stories. The Chinese competition had been slightly different, with flashcards of English words, and two minutes to write out the Chinese characters and say the pinyin, but all the groups seemed to have done well and we were relieved to have it behind us without any disasters.

Finally the time came for the eagerly anticipated results. It was revealed that the Year 8 Chinese group had come second and the Year 9 Chinese team had won in their category so they went up and were awarded their medals. The Year 9 Chinese team also received a trophy for the

highest Chinese result in the competition. Our Year 9 Latin group won first place in our category as well and we happily collected our medals. We were all proud and overjoyed at this all round success.

We then posed for pictures with our prizes before returning to the coach and making the long drive back to London. It was much more enjoyable this time as a result of the medals around our necks and trophy at our feet serving as constant reminders of a wonderful day."



Prize winners from around the UK



The Winning Teams

Year 9 Latin

GDST Foreign Language Spelling Bee
Winners of the Year 9 Latin competition:
NHEHS
Anouschka Rajah
Rachel East
Risako Sakatsume (9H)

Year 9 Mandarin

GDST Foreign Language Spelling Bee
Winners of the Year 9 Mandarin competition:
NHEHS
Maya Caskie
Risako Sakatschka
Natash Sharma

Year 8 Mandarin

GDST Foreign Language Spelling Bee
Runners up in the Year 8 Mandarin competition:
NHEHS
Lily Stott
Celia Riddiough
Emma Bamber





Flamenco at Saddlers Wells

23 girls from Year 11, Year 12 and Year 13 enjoyed a colourful and vibrant display of flamenco dancing by Ballet Flamenco de Andalucía at Sadler's Wells theatre.

The flamenco dancing was superb and very dramatic; the dances were quite varied some featuring guitar music with a solo dancer while others involved a large group of dancers with the whole music ensemble. We were whirled into a Spanish world of flamenco where the men danced with such elegance and poise but it was the women who astounded us all. The fact that they were dancing in dresses that contained around a gazillion layers was most definitely impressive. The trains on these were long enough to trip over but with great skill and panache the dancers kicked up their trains in a froth of frills and fabric on each dramatic turn!

The time seemed to move as fast as the pace of the dancing. The first hour flew by and at the interval we tried to describe what we had just seen but it was impossible and we were unable to articulate it. Most of us were left speechless apart from 'wow' and 'just wow'.

That night we saw a lively and original side of Spain that just can't be expressed in class. Learning Spanish has its own satisfactions but seeing Spanish culture and having Spain brought to us in this way was simply brilliant.

Annabel Roderick and Resham Khan

Bhaktivedanta Manor

Dorothy Geary Jones



Year 8 made their annual visit to Bhaktivedanta Manor on a very cold day in March. This visit is part of their studies of major world religions and successive generations of Year 8 girls have been made very welcome by the community there.

I thought that this year, I would write something about Indri, our main speaker at Bhaktivedanta Manor for many years. He still seems slightly surprised by his own status as a white Hindu from Birmingham and he always expects our pupils to be taken aback by this. He still hasn't realised that Notting Hill girls take everything in their stride. The pupils are always told to look particularly at the way the people

at the Manor live out their faith in everything they do and Indri is certainly a very good example of this. He speaks with joy about his visits to India and has certainly embraced the Hindu respect for all life, practising vegetarianism and abstaining from any stimulants. This year he spoke in more detail than usual about the Hindu belief in reincarnation, samsara. In the West, we are used to being aware of the consequences of our actions but as a Hindu, Indri obviously believes his actions can have repercussions for many generations into the future. As we have just observed Climate Week at school, perhaps this message about the far reaching effect of what we do, was timely.

Year 9 trip to Fishbourne Palace and Bignor Farm

Jessyka Battle and Catriona Barnard



On Thursday 7th of March the whole of Year 9 set off on a couple of coaches to enjoy a day filled with Latin activities.

Our first destination was Fishbourne Palace; we watched an interesting video on the discovery of Fishbourne and the opinions of archaeologists and historians which explained how the palace might have been laid out. Then we got into our project groups to find out more key facts.

We looked round the magnificently green gardens and through the exhilarating displays of mosaics and other artefacts.

Soon it was time for our workshop which helped us to understand what life would have been like for Britains during the Roman period. We also got to look first-hand at 2000 year old artefacts and discussed their origins. After we had taken a few hundred photos we got back on the on the coach to go to Bignor Farm where after lunch in a small cabin, which was a squeeze, we continued the day's activities.

First we were shown around Bignor villa by our tour guide, who presented us with interesting facts about the remains of the villa as well as insights about what life

might have been like for the people living there. The villa was filled with amazing mosaics which all had a story behind them. For example, we noticed the swastika sign several times and we were intrigued as to why this sign was featured in the villa. We found out it was because the Nazis had actually stolen this sign used previously to mean 'prosperous'. After many excited "oos, ahs and ohs", including from Mr Smith as well as the girls, we were allowed one freelance opportunity to investigate the site. Sadly it was soon time to go home.

We set off on the coach filled with knowledge and brimming with enthusiasm to present our projects in class when we returned. Thank you to all the teachers who organised, assisted and prepared the trip.



Inspired by the mosaics at Fishbourne and Bignor, Year 9 have been designing their own mosaic patterns in maths lessons and looking at some of the patterns that underpin mathematical ideas

“euge! Minimusoptimusest!” - Teaching Latin at North Ealing Primary

Katie Byford



For ten weeks at the beginning of 2013, the A2 Latin set – Eleanor Vale, Imogen Cosgrave, Abigail Thompson, Jessica Zhang and myself – spent half an hour after school each week teaching the Minimus Latin course to Year 5 and 6 pupils from North Ealing Primary. Though we had a similar experience last year, successfully offering this course to the Year 4s of the Notting Hill and Ealing Junior School, we wondered whether we could repeat the success.

We soon discovered that our

class showed a tremendous enthusiasm for learning Latin and discovering the Classical world. The first half of lessons were devoted to the linguistic exercises of the Minimus course, allowing the pupils to get a feel for Latin by completing grammatical exercises, following picture stories of the central family’s activities in Latin, and even speaking and forming some Latin phrases of their own. The last few weeks we set aside for the class to construct a play from scenes of the ‘Pandora’ myth in Latin, an

effort which we filmed in the last session of the course and will be submitting to a national Minimus competition.

What we found most inspiring during these sessions was the eagerness we saw from our students week after week, and their absolute willingness to involve themselves in this extra-curricular subject. They really enjoyed activities such as designing birthday cards in Latin and rose wonderfully to the challenge of reading their Latin lines when acting out the ‘Pandora’ myth.

The Year 13 team are incredibly proud of their North Ealing class and their progress, and hope that next year’s A2 class have the chance to get involved in this highly rewarding scheme.

Stop Press

Christine Maynard

Many congratulations to Resham Khanin (Year 11) who is interested in a career in journalism and who has shown what initiative, commitment, flair and tenacity can achieve. She composed her CV and wrote a Personal Statement, put together a portfolio of articles, asked Mr Petty for interview advice and contacted The Telegraph. She secured an interview with the Editor, Tony Gallagher, and impressed sufficiently to be offered a week’s work experience placement, something rarely offered to students from this age group. We look forward to reading all about it!

Year 10 UCL Visit

Richard Petty



UCL, a college of London University and ranked 4th best university in the world in the 2012-13 QS tables, recently hosted 37 Year 10 girls. Student ambassadors, ranging from undergraduates to PhD students, took them around and answered their questions providing an excellent opportunity for the girls to work out what university is all about.

There were some excellent questions from the girls about university study and student life (both academic and social) and

the afternoon helped each girl think further about her future plans.

Following on from earlier trips to Oxford and Cambridge, this means that every girl in Year 10 has now been on a trip to a world-class university, to raise their horizons and encourage them to think further about what might await them in a few years' time.

Thank you to Miss Marsden and Mr Pepper for accompanying us on the trip.

Now that the university visits have concluded, girls and parents who are looking ahead to university and sixth-form choices may like to consult the excellent Informed Choices booklet published by the Russell Group of leading universities in conjunction with the Institute of Careers Guidance. The booklet, which you can find at www.nhehs.qdst.net/seniorschoolcurriculum, offers impartial advice from educational experts about the value of a wider range of subjects for university applications.



Psychology Conference

Year 12 Psychology students attended a conference in central London linked to their AS Level syllabus.

The conference featured a very famous guest speaker, Professor Elizabeth Loftus, who talked about her famous memory experiments, and how they relate to eye-witness testimony. Professor Loftus is one of the authors of one of the core studies we cover at AS Level and it was a really wonderful opportunity for the girls to hear one of the leading researchers in Psychology talk about her work.

Other lectures offered a good mix of wider content and subjects covered in the AS Level syllabus. These included a session on the relatively new area of peace psychology, a discussion on the validity of obedience research and another on how the psychological decisions and meaning of everyday interactions can illustrate how Psychology relates to everyday life. The afternoon closed with a session that led into Year 13 work on criminology with a lecture from Professor David Wilkinson on the phenomenon of serial murder.

Charlotte Burton



Sixth Form Conference

Just before half-term Year 11 girls spent a day looking ahead to the sixth form. They heard about the opportunities in the sixth form at NHEHS from a range of speakers, and enjoyed a small taste of our inspirational sixth form lecture series with a great talk from guest speaker Lorraine Heggessey. She spoke about her career in the BBC, her time as Controller of BBC One and as Head of Children’s BBC, moving to Talkback Thames, working as an entrepreneur, being a mother, dealing with set-backs and doing something you love!

There was a chance to hear from some NHEHS Old Girls and ask them questions on their sixth form experience and how it had prepared them for university and the wider world. There was an interactive session about the House system and how the girls might ‘mould’ life in the sixth form to be as they’d like it! In the afternoon, they busted away GCSE stresses with a highly successful boxercise session.

The feedback on the day has been very positive, with particular thanks to Bushra and Reginda for supplying endless quantities of scrumptious food, hot chocolate and cookies!

Rebecca Irwin

140 Things and 140 Years

Elizabeth Broekman



From the archives...

What is this?

What was it used for?

In September 2013, Notting Hill and Ealing High School will be celebrating its 140th birthday. As part of the birthday celebrations we have opened up the archives and girls, parents, and staff have been asked to come up with some questions about our history. We hope the answers will provide us with a series of snapshots of the school’s last 140 years. The aim is

to provide at least 140 such items, along with pictures and documents. These are now starting to appear on the school’s website.

So, in the meantime here’s a picture from the archives. What is this? What was it used for?

To find out have a look at www.nhehs.gdst.net/140-Years

AS Level Latin Set Texts Day

The AS Latin group enjoyed a series of lectures at the Conway Hall in central London to develop their understanding of the set texts of Ovid and Cicero on which they will be examined this summer.

Sara Malik writes “Speakers included Ingo Gildenhard, a lecturer in Classics at the University of Cambridge and the author of many of the commentaries and works which we have read alongside our set texts. All the speakers delivered stimulating and lively lectures making for an insightful day that has allowed us to view the texts with fresh eyes.”

Creative Writing Master-Class

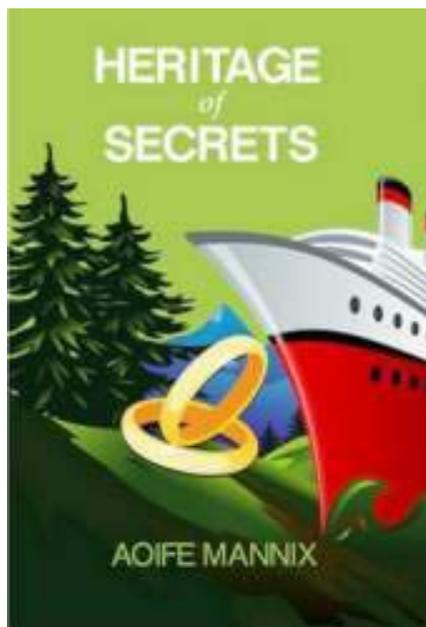
Naomi Lefroy



To start the practical side of the workshop we played a quick game where you wrote down one lie about yourself and two truths. After reading them out (and trying to keep a poker face!), the other people in the group had to guess which was the lie. Aoife explained to us that to write novels and poems, we had to be able to tell convincing lies so as to make the character more substantial.

On World Book Day some of the budding authors from Year 10 gathered in the Portrait Room to begin a creative writing workshop with Aoife Mannix. Aoife has written four collections of poetry: *The Trick of Foreign Words*, *The Elephant in the Corner*, *Growing Up An Alien* and the recently published *Turn The Clocks Upside Down* - and also a book called *Heritage of Secrets*. Her work has been described as 'sharp, succinct and wry'.

We started by listening to a recital of one of her poems which was called *Fashion Statement*, it was truly inspiring. Her poem was the basis for the workshop as it was all about inventing imaginative items of clothing and accessories, which could be made out of absolutely anything.



We were told that we were going to a ball on Venus, so we had to make a weird and wonderful outfit that we believed would be suitable for such a memorable occasion. We came up with some interesting, ornate and slightly zany ideas such as egg shell shoes, a dress 'as dark as the indigo night

sky' studded with stars and embroidered with a hem of planets, or a handbag which contained everything from a supersonic screw driver to a pen that transformed into 'just about anything'. We then decided on a mode of transport to take us there and the thing that popped straight into my mind was travelling by zip wire, which had a built-in mini fridge. Others were going by Santa's sleigh or having a convenient lift from their parents! To finish up we combined all of our ideas into a speech saying thank you for receiving first prize for our outfits, explaining why we thought we had won, describing our journey and thanking various imaginary people

Overall I believe everyone had a fantastic time and thoroughly enjoyed learning that actually, when writing books and poems, you can make them extremely extravagant without people ever questioning 'why?' Aoife also helped us to understand that we shouldn't be afraid to write from our own experiences because, even though they may seem dull and uninteresting at first, you can manipulate them so that they show subtle tones of your true personality that bring them to life.

Gym Club

Jennie Scott



Gym club members have worked hard this year to learn new skills in a variety of disciplines. We have run three clubs a week since September, attended by girls in years 7-9. Gymnastics is one of the sports in which girls have the opportunity to benefit from interacting with other age groups. Gym members have been enthusiastic and energetic, and have mastered complex skills on floor, vault and the trampette they have also enjoyed the challenge of performing sports acrobatics balances in pairs, trios and groups. The PE Dept would like to thank Anna Kovacs for her assistance throughout the year at lunch time clubs. Her expertise as a keen gymnast has been much appreciated, and she is one of several senior pupils to incorporate helping at a sports club as part of the service section of the Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award.

ARTiculation

Juliet Learmouth



Alina Khakoo (third from right) pictured in front of the Whitechapel Art Gallery with Alastair Sooke and other candidates taking part in the ARTiculation Prize

Many congratulations to Alina Khakoo who recently took part in the ARTiculation Prize regional heat held at the Whitechapel Gallery and was awarded one of the two runner-up prizes for her highly accomplished performance.

The ARTiculation prize is a public speaking competition run by the Roche Court Educational Trust in association with Cambridge University where a number of candidates are required to give a ten minute talk on a work of art of their choice in front of an audience of teachers and fellow students. Alina gave an extremely engaging and insightful talk on the work of the French artist, Louise Bourgeois, entitled: "Unravelling Louise

Bourgeois" which revealed how the artist's own traumatic childhood and identification with Balzac's heroine, Eugene Grandet, drove her creative impulse and led to the self-confessional work, "My Inner Life No. 5".

The adjudicator for the competition was the much-acclaimed arts journalist and broadcaster, Alastair Sooke, who is a familiar figure to the Year 13 History of Art class on account of the many documentaries he has written and presented for BBC television. Alastair Sooke praised Alina's infectious enthusiasm, depth of research and crisp delivery.



Easter Egg Competition

Just before the end of term the Chemistry Department staged the annual extravaganza of the Easter egg dyeing competition. The competition was open to all Year 7 students and asked girls to use naturally prepared dyes to colour their Easter eggs.

This year we had entries using a very wide variety of dyes including blueberries, red wine, onion skins, red cabbage and a whole range of spices. We had hens egg, duck eggs and even quail eggs used this year all of which went to put together the most stunning displays. The girls had really worked hard to prepare and present their beautiful eggs.

A huge congratulation to all the girls. Mrs Swift, Dr Sheldon and I had a very hard time picking the winners. And also a very hearty thank you to all of you who allowed your kitchens to be turned upside down in the name of Chemistry!

The eventual winners were:

Division 1:

Winner : Adriana Tombolis, Iva Grujic (joint)

Runner up: Emilia Rayner

Division 2:

Winner: Lily Douglas-Pennant

Runner up: Alice Pygram

Division 3:

Winner: Phyllis Keen

Runner up: Christina Dimitrova

Division 4:

Winner: Zana Mody

Runner up: Lara Defries

Anna Duns



Swimming for an Education

GDST schools are making a combined effort to raise money for Plan UK's 'Because I Am a Girl' campaign, which works to support girls in getting the education and skills they need to transform their lives and the world around them. We thought this was a very fitting charity for a group of girls' schools to get involved with and as the Head Girl team we decided to host a 'continuous swim' in the school pool, in order to do our part for the cause.

Every form in the school nominated swimmers so that for the nine and a half hours between 08.00 and 17.30 there would always be four girls in the pool swimming lengths, with each form responsible for a thirty minute slot. We had a huge number of volunteers, so many that some form groups held elections to choose their swimmers! Those who weren't swimming sponsored the girls who were and the lifeguards donated their day's pay.

The swim was a huge success, with our total at the end of the day being 3646 lengths, a distance equal to three times across the English Channel! We would like to thank everyone who took part in the swim or sponsored the teams. A special mention goes to Pooja in 10RC for her record 92 lengths in half an hour and to Rinda in 7N who set the record in the very first slot with 74 lengths and was unbeaten until lunchtime!

We haven't yet totalled up all the sponsorship money but no matter how much we raise, we really enjoyed the day and hope we've raised awareness around school for this great cause.

Grace Richardson Banks

Year 7 Drama – Anti-Bullying

Alisha Godhania



This term in drama we have been investigating the topic of bullying. In our first lesson we discussed bullying and how we felt about it – all of us felt strongly against it but some, including myself, were not fully aware how much damage it could cause. During the lessons that followed we experimented with a variety of techniques – we used realism in scenes where the victim was talking to someone and we used surrealism when we acted out the victim's dream. One of the other most memorable things that we did was the monologue we had to do by ourselves where we could be either the bully, the victim or the bystander – it was both nerve-wracking and interesting.

Then we embarked on a longer project – to make an advert about bullying. We were in groups of 6 or 7 and my group decided to design an advert to target the bully (tell them to stop) and the bystander (to tell them not to watch but to report the bully).

We began with a video clip about bullying and then, as the clip ended, some children got up and left as if they were in a classroom watching the clip. We see that one of the students is getting bullied and the negative effect it is having on her. She stands on a stage and falls off, as if taking her own life. Her friends call out and she is caught by people who used to be bullies. Then the bullies, each wearing a cap, take off their caps and say, "I took my cap off to bullying" meaning that they saw that bullying was wrong and stopped.

I found that one of the most effective things that we did was switching from normal speech to the victim reciting a poem that showed all of the emotions that she was feeling but was keeping locked inside.

I learnt a lot about bullying and a great deal about different dramatic techniques and how to use them.

Linear B: Cracking the Code

Annabel Edwards



Dr James Clackson from Jesus College, Cambridge visited NHEHS to deliver an enlightening talk about the cracking of Linear B, a syllabic script used for writing the earliest known form of Greek: Mycenaean Greek. The script dates from 1900BC-1500BC and was discovered in the early 20th Century in the palace archive in Knossos.

Dr Clackson told us about the man who cracked the code - Michael Ventris – and detailed the man’s obsession with Linear B.

Linear B was primarily used by

accountants and for official documents for recording what people owned. It was written on clay tablets which were preserved even when buildings were destroyed by fire. Hand-sized rectangles of clay were used as notebooks as whatever was written could be scrubbed off again – as long as the clay was kept wet. The syllabic writing style is comparable to Japanese in the sheer amount of symbols it uses, (an alphabet typically has only 20-40 letters while Linear B had over 80 symbols), and it was only through comparing similar recurring symbols that Ventris

cracked Linear B.

Aside from the tedious work of comparing recurring symbols and deciding which symbol was a “pure vowel”, “consonant” or a “semi-consonant” and constructing extensive, hand drawn tables, Ventris discovered that Linear B was indeed in Greek – which had not actually been confirmed until then, despite the tablets having been found in Crete. In 1952 Ventris broadcast this groundbreaking finding over BBC Radio 4, having figured this fact out while running a little late for his wife’s dinner party!

The lecture on Linear B fell on eager-ears, and we grew ever the more enthusiastic – trying our hands at deciphering it ourselves, and Dr Clackson was an inspiring speaker. Linear A (a similar writing system also discovered on clay tablets found on Crete) has not been deciphered as there is simply not enough of it. But beware, do not dedicate your life to cracking this code. The comparative philologist warned us that once Ventris’ goal of cracking Linear B was accomplished, he grew depressed due to lack of purpose and died in his 30s.

An excellent talk and one we hope will be repeated!

Science Fair

Jennifer Bushell



Science Week was celebrated with activities that included a joint event with the English Department of a science fiction themed World Book Day, a workshop for Year 10 by ethical cosmetics company Lush on the science of bath bombs, soaps, perfumes and other goodies and a hugely successful Science Fair for Years 7-9.

The Science Fair judges were presented with over 20 projects in a competition which gave free range to imagination and scientific curiosity. Girls were able to carry out any piece of research or any experiment they wished. The only provisos were that the subject be cleared in advance by a member of the Science Department, no advice or assistance was to be given by teachers and no equipment borrowed from school.

There were experiments and research from almost every branch of science. The Big Eggs project changed the living conditions and food of hens (kept at home) to see what conditions resulted in the biggest eggs. A group of girls built a shadow box and constructed shadowgraphs to show movement of hot air above candles and irons and the downward movement of acetone fumes from nail polish remover. Other groups looked at what happened to the shape of crisp packets when heated for different lengths of time, the chemistry of a model volcano, robots of the future and the chemical processes involved in making candy floss.

The judging team of Mrs Raraty, Mr Nelkin and the Science

Subject Secretaries from Year 13 were hugely impressed by the variety and quality of scientific research and experimentation on display. Girls not only had to produce a coherent display or experiment but also talk the judges and other staff and girls visiting the Fair about their research and answer questions. Mr Nelkin said "I really, really enjoyed the judging and seeing the amazing displays and enthusiasm that the girls demonstrated! While Mrs Raraty added "The standard was incredibly high and the judging was pure joy for everyone involved. The winning experiments were incredibly advanced and quite exceptional. All the Year 13 Subject Secretaries were seriously impressed by the standard of the entries, as was this not-particularly -scientific Deputy Head!"

Year 7 and 8 Drama Club

Anushka Reddy

We have written before about the Year 7 and 8 Drama Club's project New Beginnings and their forthcoming performance of The Tempest in the Shakespeare School Festival . Anushka Reddy provides an update :

At our first proper rehearsal for *The Tempest* we started work on our opening scene with some brilliant ideas. One was to form the ship using fabric so that when the ship started rising and falling with the waves, the cast would start swaying with the materials. We organised some brilliant sound effects – of a thunderstorm building up and the water crashing against the boat. We have added people at the rear of the boat playing musical instruments to make it sound perfect.

The Tempest is well underway and we hope that you will

come and see it when we perform either here in school where we will be one of the first to use the new facilities or join us at the Riverside Theatre for the festival.



We have also been learning about stage make-up. See page 21 for more details

Year 8 Geography Fieldwork

Sally Cohen



Year 8 enjoyed a fieldwork visit to the Chilterns region

organised by the Geography department.

The visit included both rural and urban fieldwork with a visit to Henley as well as the villages of Stoke Row and Nettlebed.



Kavita and Sabrina with their Cloud Chamber

Winners of the Science Fair

Experiment and Research Category:

Kavita Mudan (8E) and Sabrina Ossman (8E) for their Cloud Chamber (joint winners, pictured above)

Lucy Psaila (7E) and Aarti Sharma (7E) for their Shadowgraph (joint winners pictured below)

Experiment Category:

Amelia Griffiths (7H), Georgie Howes (7H) and Amy Turner (7H) for their Magic Milk (winners)
Emilia Rayner (7H) for DNA (runner up)

Research Category:

Ambre Bexter (8E) for Coffee (winner)
Octavia Hughes (7N) for Big Eggs (runner up)



Lucy and Aarti with their Shadowgraph

What if Romeo was a Robot?

"There are no boundaries!" the drama teachers excitedly told us when they were introducing the project based on Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. Well, we've been studying it for a term now, and know it inside out so the challenge of performing *The Prologue* word for word was not even considered a problem.

We were given the task of creating our own theatre companies and had to come up with names, details of what the company stood for, publicity campaigns and ideas on how we benefitted the community. Then there was finding a unique theme for our productions. One company set the play around *Pride and Prejudice*. Two groups had the idea to set it in Nazi Germany. A Sikh and Atheist divide; Mexican and American gangsters; a 1950's diner: all came into the mix somewhere.

We designed everything; all the paraphernalia that could possibly go with a play. Set, props, even the stage itself- the group called *Le Vane* had the idea of doing the whole production in a van, or your living room, just to prove that great plays did not need great theatres. Costume drawings that would have made the designers from 'Strictly' jealous feature in some of the portfolios. There's no doubt about it-we did our research.

Each group will be performing their version of *The Prologue* at the end of the year, with all the facilities the new building has to offer. Despite the prospect of listening several times to the same words of the same *prologue* that I have grown to dislike just a little (purely from over-exposure), I could not be more enthused to see the results of all these exciting ideas.

Maya Biswas-Whitaker

Discovering the Mysteries

Alex Smith



On Tuesday 26th March 180 Senior School pupils, 120 Junior School pupils and 20 pupils from North Ealing Primary School all crammed into the Big Space to hear Caroline Lawrence, the famous author and writer of the Roman Mysteries series, talk about the ancient world.

She began with a discussion about what got her into writing and how the stories of heroes from ancient mythology had fascinated her from an early age. She described how a scholarship to go to Cambridge gave her a passion for Classics and, after spending some time teaching, found herself wanting to write a detective novel set in ancient Rome. With myriad images and entertaining discussion, she covered all aspects of the ancient sites of Pompeii, Herculaneum and Oplontis which had so captivated her and provided inspiration for her books, such as the detailed

mosaics depicting guard dogs which led to her first book *The Thieves of Ostia*. In fact, almost all artifacts presented ideas for stories - even the latrine sponge stick! She finished her lively talk with questions from the audience eager to know everything about her work .

Later Caroline was inundated with visitors in the Senior School library all keen to take the opportunity to meet the author whose books they had read so avidly). She was extremely dedicated to her fans and spent time ensuring she had signed all the books that everyone had requested (both for pupils and their teachers).

After a successful World Book Day the week before, it was great to go on to welcome such an engaging speaker to show how the written world, as well as the ancient one, is still very much alive.

Make-up Workshop

Rosie Lewis and Lisa Vashenko



As part of our preparations for *The Tempest*, New Beginnings (Year 7 and 8 Drama Club) had a workshop on stage make-up including applying scars and beards. Emily from Greasepaint Make-up School came along to teach us different techniques and she was helped by Tilly from Year 10. Greasepaint Make-up School is based in London and its graduates have done make-up for many films and television shows including *The Hobbit*, *Les Miserables* and *Downton Abbey* while some such as Julie Darnell (*Les Mis*) have won Oscars and BAFTAs.

The whole group learned about different types of tips and tricks on stage make-up such as “add to it, don’t just slap it all on their faces,” and “always talk to the person you’re working on so that you don’t stick anything in their eyes.”

Other tips included:

- Use your arm as a palate
- Use the brushes lightly
- Always make sure that you clean

the brush before you start with the next person.

- Start brushing ‘with’ the contour lines then do the rest of the face.
- Always tidy up after you’ve finished with the make-up.
- Use powder as a base.
- When using the grease paint put a little bit on the brush then massage it onto the skin so that it will spread easily.

We worked on some specific ideas for our production of *The Tempest*. Firstly Emily asked us questions about how we thought Ariel would look. Using those ideas Emily made-up a volunteer, Lisa, as Ariel. She used neutral colours as the base, dark blues for the contour lines, light blues were shaded on the face and eyelids. Greens were put on the upper eyelids, and to finish off Ariel was given silver lips. (You can see the result on page 17)

After the Ariel makeover, Emily showed us how to apply beards.



She used a rough sponge with a mix of brown and black grease paint. She then lightly dabbed the sponge on Ava’s chin to give a bristle effect.

Then Emily showed us how to make a scar.



Using face wax she massaged a small amount onto the side of Maddy’s face. She proceeded until the wax had blended into the face. Emily then used an eyebrow brush to make a cut in the wax. In the centre of the wax Emily mixed blue, yellow, brown, red and black together. When applied to the wax it gave a bruised effect. Emily then put fake blood in the wax cut to make the scar appear fresh.

Drama club would like to say a huge thank you to Tilly and Emily for this amazing workshop.

Acrobatic Gymnastics



Many congratulations to Grace Tucker (Year 10) who has been enjoying some terrific successes in acrobatic gymnastics.

She and her gymnastic partner, Lucy Gamble, excelled in the International Acrobatic Tournament held in Vinnitsa in the Ukraine at the end of February finishing second in the competition (11-16 Women's Group Age Group). This was a fantastic achievement, especially as this was their first competition in a new partnership and they were competing against current World and European Champions.

During the weekend of 22nd to 23rd March the pair then went on to compete in the Yate International Acro Competition

in Bristol which attracted representation from Canada, Switzerland, Germany, Puerto Rico, Russia and Ireland as well as the home teams. Grace and Lucy won and are pictured above on the podium with their winners' trophies.

Congratulations also go to another gymnast, Hannah McKnight (Year 13), who following a hatful of successes, including gold medal wins at the British Open Competition in early March, is one of the tumblers confirmed as a member of the National GB squad for 2013.

Both Grace and Hannah are members of Richmond Gymnastics Association teams.



Hockey

The U12 and U13 teams have both been action in the Plate competition of the London Hockey Championships .

Congratulations to the U12 (Year 7) team (pictured above) who won second place .



The U13 team