



GDST Netball Weekend

Nicola Evans

There have been lots of competitive matches for our A, B, C and D netball teams this term but an undoubted highlight for the Year 7 As and Year 8 Bs was the weekend of 6-8 March at the beautiful and historic Condover Hall in Shropshire. This was the setting for the first GDST netball weekend tournament, bringing together 18 schools, 45 teams, 420 girls and over 80 staff for a weekend of Under 12 and Under 13 netball.

Saturday morning saw the start of the serious netball, with the first rounds of the two competitions. Our Year 7s won every single match and though the Year 8 girls also played well they were less successful losing 2 matches and drawing 4.

Throughout the weekend, when the girls weren't playing or practising netball, they were given the opportunity to try lots of different team building activities such as low ropes, camp fire, high ropes, pot holing, laser quest and grid of stones.

Sunday saw the final rounds of the netball competitions with our U12As continuing to win all their games and emerging as eventual champions and Cup winners against stiff competition from London rivals Putney High.



"I absolutely loved it and was so chuffed when I was asked to go! Although the Year 8 team didn't win anything I am still so, so, so proud of our team as many of us (including myself) had never played any netball before last year and over the past few months we have all worked really well as a team and become such good friends."

Maia Davies Year 8

GDST Quiz

Tracey Hobbs



After the inaugural GDST-wide quiz last year this event is fast becoming one of the Trust's most popular competitions with teams from all over the country battling for the coveted trophy.

The rules stipulate a team of one girl from each Key Stage and our team of Trishnaah Selvajothy Year 13, Erin Holder Year 11, Eve Harrington Year 10 and Hannah Happawana Year 8

made it through the tricky selection process which involved answering questions from last year's final.

On the day of the competition we left school at 8am with Mr Walker driving the mini bus and arrived at the venue, Streatham and Clapham High School, in time for croissants, tea and coffee. We were soon facing our first opponents

Blackheath High School who we beat 36 points to 29. After lunch we took on Howell's in the second round with the NHEHS team doing well and successfully answering a really wide range of questions from evolution to jazz! We won again 44 points to 31.

Then we faced last year's winners Oxford High School. With questions ranging from Buddhism to Chemistry it was a close match but Oxford were the winners - 43 points to 37. They went on to face Sheffield High School in the final and proved victorious for the second year in a row.

Mr Barrett was there to drive us back to school at the end of the day and we returned in high spirits. The girls all had a great time and did us proud. They are all desperately hoping to be on the team again next year.

Linguistics Olympiad Success

Antonia Sevilla

In February our Year 12 linguists took part in the UK Linguistics Olympiad. The two and a half hour test presents candidates with five linguistic data problems of varying complexity. The challenge is to break the code, infer linguistic rules and to work out the meaning of sentences in various languages. This year students faced challenges involving Murrinhpatha (spoken by 3,000 people in Australia), Finnish and Georgian.

Georgia Lyon achieved a Gold Certificate, a remarkable achievement which puts her in the top 5% of participants nationwide, and eight of our students achieved Bronze Certificates, putting them in the top 20%. Our congratulations to them all.

Chemistry Olympiad Winners

Philip Sheldon

The Chemistry Olympiad is a fiercely difficult competition for Year 13 students with questions much harder than A Level standard. Five girls from Year 13 entered the competition and were awarded certificates, but also, as practice for next year and with the odds stacked against them, three Year 12 girls also had a go. One of them, Catherine Farrow, won a Bronze Award, a fantastic achievement.

Congratulations to her and to the other Bronze Award winners: Julia Carleton, Shion Reynell, and Connie Elworthy. Congratulations also to the two Silver Award winners Trishnaah Selvajothy and Joanna Vale.

Fourth Plinth Prizes

Sophie Plowden



Congratulations to Shivani Dave (Year 8) and Thushika Ravichandran (Year 7), who have won prizes in the Fourth Plinth School Awards 2015, an annual competition set up by the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson.

The brief was to design a sculpture for the fourth plinth in Trafalgar Square; the title for 2015 was 'Live your Life to the Fullest'. This year's judge was



Mark Wallinger, one of the UK's leading contemporary artists, whose work 'Ecce Homo' was on the Fourth Plinth in 1999.

Shivani designed a wonderful, huge blue pepper to adorn the plinth, whilst Thushika planned to suspend huge letters over it; both have been invited to an awards ceremony at City Hall on 30th April.



History of Art

History of Art students spent February half term in Rome looking at art, architecture and sculpture ...



... and took some photos



Year 9 Netball Win

The Year 9 squad enjoyed a successful run and won the St Augustine's Open Netball Tournament. They are pictured here with England International Netballer Pamela Cookey who they met at a tournament earlier this year.



Nitrogen Ice Cream

By popular demand liquid nitrogen ice cream made a return to Science Week.

The zesty fragrance of lemon meringue pie lured everyone in, and before you knew it, crowds of students were circling; all resolutions regarding eating healthily forgotten as they were tempted to enjoy this delicious delicacy. Everyone was, of course, also interested in the chemistry behind the manufacture.

The liquid nitrogen was stored in a vacuum tank, as it only exists below sub-zero temperatures, and once released into the air it boiled away instantaneously and clouds of water vapour diffused through the room. Once the creamy lemon meringue turned to ice, students raced for the first taste but it turned out to be a little too rock-solid to eat.

Nevertheless, after a few minutes spent crushing, spooning and melting, a delightful ice cream was whipped to perfection by Dr Sheldon and served!

Science Week

Aisha Hussain, Hoda Abid and Eliza Argyropoulos

This year's packed programme included plenty of excitement, diversion and hands-on opportunities to intrigue and inspire as the Physics, Chemistry and Biology Departments were joined by contributions from the Psychology Department and girls from the Junior School.

Space

We began Science Week with a visit from a mobile planetarium which appeared in the sports hall to teach us more about the constellations. Everyone was welcome to visit the giant black dome and to gaze in amazement at what surrounds our planet.



Continuing the theme of space, Ryan Macdonald one of the final 100 candidates for the Mars One mission, came to talk to us in assembly about his excitement for the project and what it might mean for the future of mankind. The mission involves periodically transporting small groups of highly trained astronauts to the Red Planet, with the aim of

colonising it, and eliminating the possibility, or necessity, of returning home. Ryan was happy to chat to us and answered our many questions with enthusiasm, clearly articulating what the mission means to him as a scientist. Although the project may be controversial, it was exciting and inspiring to meet someone so devoted to scientific discovery.

Science Assembly

The Year 13 Science Secretaries treated the school to another fascinating assembly later in the week about inspiring women in the world of science. We were fascinated to hear about their journeys to becoming great scientists and it gave us the opportunity to look back and reflect on how far the scientific society has come.

Science Week

Emma Claxton, Sarah Ashraf and Pooja Gupta

Bath Bombs

On the Tuesday of Science Week, two ladies from Lush Cosmetics visited school and treated us to an explanation of the chemistry behind the preparation of one of the Lush products.

A large number of students crowded into the Chemistry lab, eager to make some sweet smelling bath products to take home. Protective gloves were handed out

and we were given instructions on how to make the bath bombs. It was emphasised that they were meant to be rustic and look home-made. Everyone set to work with many girls nevertheless keen to achieve perfect looking results as they swirled red and white together.

At the end of the session they hurried off to registration leaving a subtle and pleasant aroma in their wake.



The Nose Knows



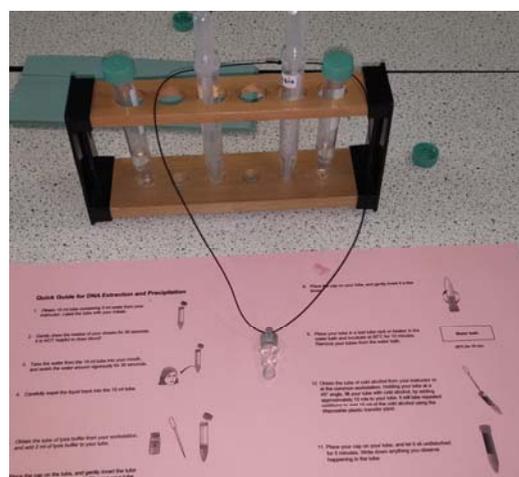
In another session which looked at the relationship between the world of chemistry and the world of cosmetics Mrs Cranmer set out an array of familiar perfumes on tables in the atrium.

She then challenged girls to test their sense of smell by matching the compound with the perfume containing that ingredient (ideal training for budding *perfumiers*.)

DNA and Macro to Micro

In the Biology department DNA necklace making involved participants swabbing their cheek cells to extract DNA. Various procedures were carried out to isolate the DNA sequence to enable them to create, quite literally, a personalised necklace.

The department's 'Macro to Micro' quiz attracted a large number of eager young biologists with a keen eye for detail to deduce the various organisms behind the images. The answer to each clue was the password to the next file, with the winner being the first to complete it. After a close competition Shayna Lewis (Year 13) and Anastasia Mueller (Year 8) came out on top.



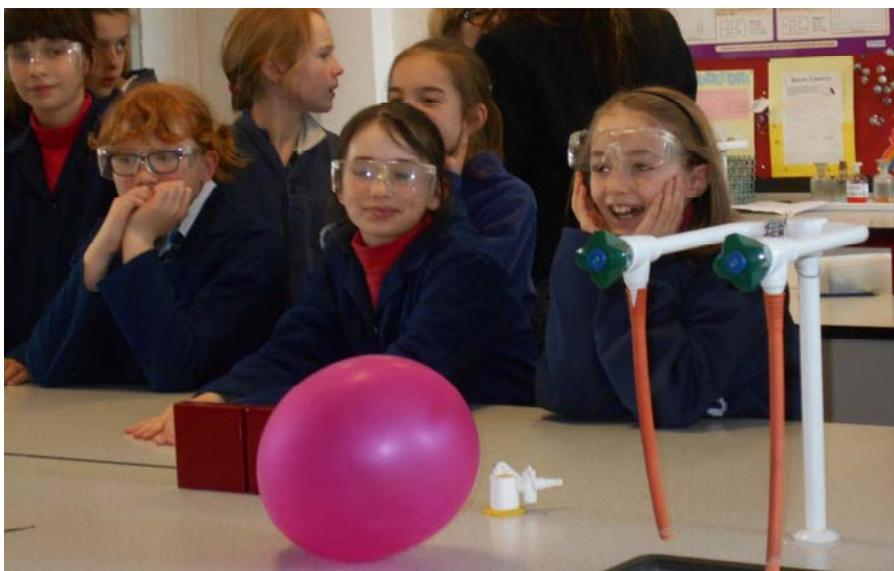
Science Week

Andy Crame and Emma Claxton

Junior Science

Year 6 girls visited the Chemistry department to see some demonstrations using liquid nitrogen. Using this extremely cold (-196°C) liquid, the girls were able to see the disappearing balloon demonstration where a balloon shrinks when cooled and its subsequent "re-inflation" upon warming. Other demonstrations of extreme cold included the transformation of everyday items such as flowers or rubber into hard materials which could be broken with a hammer, causing much amusement.

We were also delighted to welcome Year 6 girls to the Senior School during Science Week when



they held their Science Fair in the main hall. Girls and staff from the Senior School came to meet the enthusiastic young scientists who were ready to tell us all that they had learnt and discovered. We loved hearing them describe their experiments and projects

which covered everything from a description of the earth's core to making butter, which tasted divine. We are looking forward to meeting these keen young scientists again when they join us in Year 7 in September

Photo Competition

The Science Week Photo competition, open to staff and students, attracted a large number of entries. There were prizes for lower and upper school entries and the results were as follows:

Year 7

1st Nina Goodland - *Dusk*,
2nd (joint) Nina Goodland - *Owl* and Georgia Wells - *Symmetry*

Year 8

1st Flossie Morris - *Fairy Liquid Fun!*,
2nd (joint) Katya Fedorovskaya - *Foundation of Life* and Grace Reid - *Invisible Energy*
Highly Commended: Mithushiga Sukeekaran - *Leaf*

Year 11

1st Priya Seth
2nd Risako Sakatsume

Year 13

1st Annabel Roderick

The staff category was won by Mr Newell for his entry *Bat in the Night*

Science Week

Louise Boyall

Aspiration

For our contribution to Science Week we conducted an experiment to investigate whether being told a higher average would increase performance in a simple task. Our experiment was based on research by Fernald and Fernald in 1994 who investigated the factors which influence levels of aspiration. In their series of experiments participants were asked to move marbles from one cup to another.

In our experiment, we asked participants to move as many Skittles as possible from one cup to the other cup three feet away in 30 seconds, however, some were told that 15 Skittles was the average whilst others were told it was 30. We wanted to see if one group would perform better than the other.

Our results showed that the students who were told the average was 30 did move slightly more Skittles in 30 seconds, scoring an average of 15.6 whereas students told that the average was 15 scored an average of 14.8. This suggests that performance was perhaps affected by a known average, indicating that if we are told the



average of something is higher, we will probably perform better.

However, after carrying out a significance test, the results did not show a significant difference which indicates that it is not what we are told before we do something that makes us work harder, it is our own incentive. People were probably more affected by competition between their friends and therefore they wanted to achieve a high score.

We would like to thank those who took part. Over 90 of you came along and we were quite overwhelmed by the attendance.

It was a great opportunity for the Psychology Department to carry out some research in the school. We are looking forward to planning our next experiment!



Easter Eggs in Chemistry

The annual Chemistry Department Year 7 Easter egg competition was held on 30 March and as usual the competition was fierce.

The selection of dyes used was amazing, deploying a whole range of interesting sources of dye from fruit, vegetables and spices. The presentation skills displayed were fabulous too! Judging was difficult and there were some lovely eggs among the runners up.

Well done to all our talented young scientists who worked so hard on their beautiful eggs and our apologies and many thanks to their families for their patience with the kitchen chaos which the competition probably causes at home!

Winners: Grace Murphy and Florence Yost

Runners up: Zareen Hyatt, Isabella Lawson-Smith, Ella Pilkington, Ursula Cornelius, Hannah Schroeder and Thushika Ravichandran

Anna Duns



The Road to Edinburgh

Preparations are well and truly underway for the Minerva Company's travelling production of 'Blood Wedding'. From dance lessons to logo design, it's quickly become clear that taking a show all the way to Edinburgh's Fringe Festival is no mean feat. Behind the scenes, all our official paperwork has been submitted; meaning that our ticket sales and advertising will soon begin (we'll even be using Twitter – how current.) Of course, costume design and prop planning have also started, this time facing the new challenge of transportation, as our stage is 400 miles away!

We have been rehearsing weekly too, staging a fast-paced and vibrant rendition of Lorca's original work. The performance has to fit into a 50 minutes, as this is the prescribed limit of the hectic Festival, meaning there's only a short amount of time to fit in a wedding, flamenco dancing, wool-winding, lullaby singing, Spanish speeches and a couple of deaths. With the added bonus of the whole cast being present on stage for the whole show, it's fair to say that rehearsals have yet to become dull.

Luckily, as is the NHEHS way, the rest of the school has been very supportive. Practically everybody came to the fundraising pantomime just before Christmas, which I'm sure had nothing to do with the promise of particular teachers in wigs, and a school wide competition was held to find the company's logo. The winning entry (above) - now happily displayed on our obligatory hoodies - was by Eleanor Brown from Year 11, and is sure to be seen a lot more around the school and out and about in Ealing as preparations continue.

Phoebe Cramer

Year 8 Geographers in the Chilterns

Christine Maynard



On Tuesday 3rd March, Year 8 set off to the Chilterns to study Settlement Geography.

The weather was bright and crisp, and the day went as planned. In the morning the students studied two villages, Stoke Row and Nettlebed, examining their layout, functions and how they have changed over time. Stoke Row, a linear village offered 'Maharajah's Well', a sweet stop at the village store and a surprisingly lively Business Park. Nettlebed is a busier, nucleated village with a Village Club and newly refurbished village shop, Post Office, café and gift store.

After lunch in Henley on Thames, the students embarked on their Town Study. They completed land use maps and undertook Pedestrian and Traffic Counts at various points across the main shopping streets. They also

completed a questionnaire survey to find out about the main functions of the town, the people who were in the town that day, where they were from, what they were doing and their attitudes to the town itself. All the girls completed their tasks and many managed to spend some time in the sunshine reflecting over their research with a 'Starbucks' coffee.

All the research will be used back in school as they incorporate their findings into their work on settlement hierarchies.

The Geography Department would like to thank all the staff who accompanied us on the trip and all the students for a working together to achieve a such a productive and fun day.

A Young Orchestra for London



Julia Flint (Year 10) whose talent and commitment to her music already sees her perform with the National Youth Wind Orchestra, and the National Schools Symphony Orchestra has recently been involved in another exciting project this time involving young musicians from all over London and a world famous conductor.

In February 2015 the Berliner Philharmoniker and their conductor, Sir Simon Rattle, began a week-long residency in London and an orchestra of

young musicians was created to play with him during the residency.

The chance to take part was a once in a lifetime opportunity and there was fierce competition for places. Julia is not only to be congratulated on being selected but also for being appointed section leader of the bassoons - a great accolade for such a young musician. The commitment was demanding with rehearsals once or twice a week for two months during which they had the

fantastic experience of working with members of the LSO, the London Philharmonic Orchestra and the Berlin Philharmonic.

The project culminated in two performances at the Barbican and Southbank Centre in which the orchestra played with Sir Simon Rattle. One of the concerts was televised and you can watch it at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02kh0j6>. It's a delight to see Sir Simon with these young musicians as he takes them through a rapid rehearsal before launching them into a performance of Sibelius *Finlandia* with the instruction to "concentrate like crazy and have a blast"

Congratulations Julia – an amazing achievement to have been involved and to perform in such a prestigious and high profile orchestra.

5.15am from The Atrium



Year 11 girls returned to school one Friday night for a sleepover in aid of the charity Mind. Miss Bushell, Ms Davies, Mrs Maynard and Mr Walker joined them and Mr Walker took this early morning shot of the sunrise and skyline seen from the Atrium.

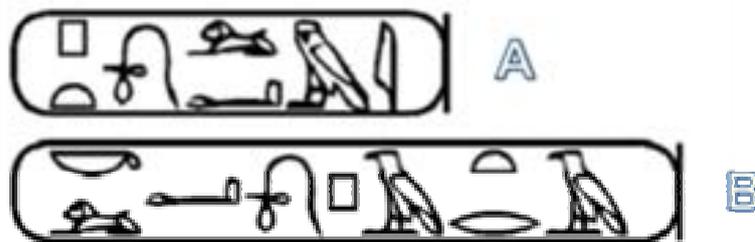
Critical Thinking Club

Sapna Joshi

Throughout the year we're offered the choice of many lunchtime or after-school clubs, ranging from sports to the arts, but one that never fails to capture your attention is Critical Thinking Club. This is the club that allows you to think "outside the box" when dealing with academic or everyday life. It is exclusively for Year 8's and is run twice every term, by Miss Genge who is usually assisted by Mrs Scales and Miss Ells, Miss Webb or Mr Smith.

During the past year, the subjects have ranged widely:

- Debating while making use of the other's emotions (e.g. How to explain to your parents the logic behind not cleaning your room and how to appeal to their emotions at the same time);
- Relating historical actions to present day events (e.g. how



Here's a task from one of the sessions:

Which one of these says Cleopatra and what does the other one say?

lessons learnt from historical events would, and should, shape our actions today);

- Benefits of learning foreign languages (e.g. how it allows us to better understand English grammar and the meaning of English words)
- During Science Week the Club explored evidence and how to differentiate it from assumption.

Aside from its academic benefits, the Club gives the students who attend an exciting end to their day, where they can learn thought-provoking things not offered to them during the standard

curriculum. I, myself, have learned some useful techniques for debating with my mother regarding the need for me to unload the dishwasher and explaining to friends that, just because the chocolate wrapper is next to my bag, it doesn't mean I ate it and they should stop making such assumptions without solid evidence.

Overall, I think it is safe to say that Critical Thinking Club has been a highlight of Year 8 for many girls and that they would agree with me when I say that I will definitely miss it next year.

OGA News: England's Second Female Bishop

Lucia Hull



We were delighted and very proud to learn that NHEHS Old Girl the Rev Canon Alison White has been appointed the Church of England's second female bishop. She will be Bishop of Hull.

Alison attended NHEHS from 1964 to 1975 before heading off to Durham where she took a degree in English before studying theology at Cranmer Hall, Durham, and then gaining an MA in theology at Leeds University. She is married to the Right Rev Frank White, who is assistant bishop of Newcastle – making the couple the UK's first husband-and-wife team of bishops.

Antigone

Lucia Tremonti and Médéa Nikolov



After a long Thursday at school, some of the Year 10 and 11 Greek students were rewarded with an entrancing performance of one of the most famous and inspirational Ancient Greek tragedies: the tragedy of Antigone. *Antigone* is the timeless tale depicting the bravery and strength that can arise out of love, and the importance of honour in ancient Greek society. It is the story of a young girl named Antigone, daughter of Oedipus, whose brother, condemned as a traitor by King Creon, is denied his burial rights. Out of respect and affection, Antigone defies her uncle's laws and must therefore pay the ultimate price for such a crime - her very own life. Laced with a bittersweet humour, yet also filled with anger and loss, it encompasses all a classical tragedy is expected to.

At 6:30pm we set off on our

lengthy train journey to the Barbican, yet before we knew it we were in our seats and waiting patiently for the theatre lights to dim and the performance to commence. For one hour and a half, the capacity audience sat in silent awe as we absorbed the anguish of Creon, despair of Ismene and determination of Antigone, played by none other than Juliette Binoche!

As the play concluded and the emotional journey came to a halt, we were surprised to see that the copious amount of sweets that we had bought to sustain our concentration throughout the show, had been left untouched!

Conversation on the train back to Ealing was brimming with our heated debates and critical views on the performance, though we could all agree that it was certainly a spectacle to remember.



Chinese New Year

The Chinese New Year festival begins on the second new moon after the winter solstice and it ends on the full moon fifteen days later. It is normally marked by visits to family and friends, special meals, fireworks, and gift giving. But in our Chinese classes, we decided to celebrate in a very different way.

To mark the Year of the Sheep, we used cotton buds, card and glue to create tiny, fluffy sheep. At the start, it was a little tricky; however we soon got the hang of it and had a lot of fun. Another enjoyable activity was making Chinese lanterns out of coloured card. Our class created elaborate designs with many different coloured pens and pencils, while listening to our favourite Chinese pop songs. I think I now know the lyrics to *Dui Bu Qi* by Transition off by heart.

As well as all of these great projects, we also enjoyed a delicious Chinese lunch. I definitely think we should have the option of Chinese food more than once a year!

Natasha Ketel



Year 11 Certificate Winners

Intermediate Challenge

In February, a large group of students from Years 10 and 11 took part in the Intermediate Maths Challenge.

The maths department are delighted to announce that 69 students have been awarded certificates. There were 9 gold, 27 silver and 33 bronze certificates.

The gold certificate winners were:

Anouschka Rajah - Best in School / Best in Year 11
 Deepa Kumaran - Best in Year 10
 Hannah Lefroy, Bella Wong, Rebecca Eckles,
 Anais Najera, Jemima Bradley, Natasha Sharma
 and Kimran Virdi



Year 10 Certificate Winners

As a result of doing so well, 7 of the gold certificate winners were invited to take part in a further international competition that originated in Australia and is called the 'Kangaroo'. This is BY FAR the most students we have ever had qualifying for this competition. WELL DONE!

Helen Critcher

Minimus is Epic!

Anusheh Khan, Georgia Lyons and Sophie Greenstreet



First a short version of this article in Latin: *euge! Latinus optimus est! duodecima die Ianuarii, parvas puellas in ludo docere coeperamus. facilem Latinum eas docebamus exempli gratia "Minumus sum, mus sum"*

The Minimus project is back and this term, a group of sixth form Classics students have been teaching Latin to children via the Minimus course.

We taught at the NHEHS Junior School every Monday morning from 8:00 to 8:30 for 10 weeks. We began by introducing the girls to Minimus, finding out about the characters featured in the book whilst teaching them the basics – specifically, the verb 'esse' (to be) and assorted vocabulary. Although we were a bit hesitant and unsure at first, the girls showed great accuracy and enthusiasm, grasping the concepts quickly and were eager to take part in the various activities we had designed.

After half term, we introduced them to the myth of Echo and Narcissus, which they were going to perform as a play in Latin. This task, involving Latin more difficult than that which they had learnt in the first few

chapters of the Minimus textbook, did not discourage them – in fact, they swiftly learned how to pronounce their lines, soon sounding just like Romans!

Some of us also went to North Ealing Primary School to work on the play with a different group of children. This was a new challenge, since they hadn't had the opportunity to learn any Latin beforehand, but once again, they were keen and excited students, so making our job simple.

In both schools, we practised acting, sorted out props and costumes, and finally, we filmed each group's scene ready to edit everything together into a short film.

All in all, Minimus has been an incredibly fulfilling, wonderful experience, and all of us in Year 12 are looking forward to having a second opportunity next year.

Year 9 at the British Museum

Loula Omaar, Elizabeth Down and Lola Barak



On a dreary Wednesday, the whole of Year 9 (some of us are pictured above) and some lucky teachers went to the British Museum to visit the Greek, Roman and Egyptian Galleries.

We began in the Egyptian Galleries. Surprisingly for a weekday, the rooms were packed with chattering tourists and school kids. The Egyptian galleries hold the famous Rosetta stone scripts and a huge statue of King Rameses looking over the gallery. The large gold and black mummies evoke thoughts of life after death.

While trying to balance our clipboards in order to write and trying to talk to our group members over the loud buzz of conversation,

we were tasked with finding two specific objects. Using our multitasking skill we had to draw the objects, describe them and say what they told us about the Egyptians.

The Greek galleries were full of statues of gods and heroes, many household objects and even a whole temple! There we found artefacts that told us how the ancient Greeks lived - their fascination with animals, the beautiful jewellery the women were allowed to wear (even if they were not supposed to be seen outside the house) and even their practical response to the hot Mediterranean climate, with double-layered storage jars designed to keep liquids cool.

The final galleries, and the main ones we went to see, were the Roman galleries. They stretched ahead of us and were made up of four large rooms. Each room was filled with ancient jewellery, armour, pottery and many other artefacts. There was also a large model of what a Roman palace would have looked like with figures of farm animals and people. We looked particularly at the exhibits concerning the Roman occupation of Britain and learnt how this created a more diverse society as settlers arrived from Europe and further afield and how imported goods and artwork from all over the world made the country richer.

Spring Concert

Lauren Smith



On a beautiful, light evening with a definite feel of spring in the air and the end of term only a day away, the Spring Concert was held at a St Barnabas Church.

Conducted by the expert baton of Mr Jeanes, the orchestra opened the concert by whisking us off to Spain with the high-spirited overture to *The Marriage of Figaro*, perfectly suited to the springtime mood.

A slight step back in time then brought us Telemann's *Suite in A Minor*; a string-only orchestra and the Baroque tones of the harpsichord were the perfect backdrop to the four solo flautists: Jess Schindler-Glass, Issy Warren, Sarah Ashraf and Hanna Pietrzycki. We then returned to Mozart, with Emma Fawcett as the soloist for his *Clarinet Concerto*. The

soothing Adagio movement will have been recognised by many as it was part of the score for the film *Out of Africa*.

A small jump forward in time and a change of country brought us to Dragonetti's *Double Bass Concerto*. Being used to seeing a double bass as part of a jazz ensemble, it was a revelation to see one played with a bow, and at top speed, by soloist Alice Blows.

We then had the immense treat of not one, but two grand pianos, facing each other across the floor, for Mozart's *Sonata for Two Pianos*. Scarlett Regan and Shion Reynell were the soloists for the uplifting and flowing second movement.

The first half concluded with what is probably one of the

most famous works by a Baroque composer, the *Concerto for Two Violins* by Bach. Amelia Wang and Erin Holder were the outstanding soloists, playing the atmospheric and haunting first movement.

The massed ranks of the NHEHS Senior choir took to the stage for the second half to perform Mozart's *Requiem*. The Requiem was written at the end of Mozart's life and he died before completing it; the work was finished by one of his pupils, Franz Sussmayr. It is almost impossible to convey the force and power of this work, as it carries the listener from the swirling choral descent and pounding timpani of the Dies Irae (day of wrath), through prayers for the departed soul in the Lacrymosa, finally coming to rest with the Lux Aeterna (eternal light).

It was very clear from the cheers from the audience at the end of the night that NHEHS had once again given a concert that showcased the wonderfully high standards of music and impressive performance that the school produces – the only thing missing was an encore!

World Book Day

Lucy Wheeler



Our theme for this year's World Book Day was "utopia vs dystopia."

We welcomed as our special guest for the day author Anna McKerrow. As well as having published four volumes of poetry, Anna works on creative writing projects for the reading charity Booktrust and teaches creative writing in adult education.

During the day she ran a series of creative writing workshops for Year 10 in which they examined extracts from classic dystopian novels and came up with their own utopian manifestos. They also looked at the concept of reflective writing and keeping a journal as a way

into writing creatively, exploring themes such as magic, culture and identity.

The World Book Day poetry competition attracted a large number of excellent entries and we can look forward to seeing them published in the School Magazine later in the year.

And so, to "the dressing up." As usual there was a riot of imagination and creativity on display. However this year's special mention has to go to the staff of the English Department who entered wholeheartedly into the spirit of the day and appeared as handmaids from Margaret Atwood's dystopian novel *The Handmaid's Tale*.



World Book Day Book Launch

We were excited that Anna's visit also coincided with the launch of her debut novel *Crow Moon* (a teenage fiction dystopian piece). Anna gave a lunchtime reading and talk about the origins of her novel and the trials and tribulations of being a writer. She also signed copies of her book.



The English department staff as Handmaids from Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale* with their copies of *Crow Moon* by Anna McKerrow.



Chamber Concert

This term's Chamber Concert, which took place just before the February half term, was a delight! The standard seems to go up each term, and this saw a number of debut performances – Grace Reid who has just joined Year 8, sang delightfully, and the Lower School Chamber Choir made a great debut with Louis Armstrong's *What a Wonderful World* dividing the solo lines among a number of promising voices. The Harmony Choir was also in fine voice giving a great rendering of *You've Got a Friend in Me*.

There were some outstanding instrumental performances including Maya Caskie playing Liszt, at his most difficult, Erin Holder proving sustained as well as dexterous in her playing of Kreisler's *Preludium and Allegro*, and Leah King-Cline giving a bright performance of Handel's *Allegro* from his *Suite in G*.

The concert began with some lovely playing by the Chamber Orchestra, particularly their performance of the Intermezzo from *Cavalleria Rusticana* and ending with the accompaniment of Vivaldi's *Bassoon Concerto*, played beautifully by Julia Flint.

Caroline Watts

The House Shout

Energy, fun, amazing dance moves and a fierce competitive spirit ... Yes, the annual NHEHS Shout was once again the event that brought the Spring Term to a rousing close. As befits a school that values the power of true grit, picking yourself up and having another go, this year's theme was Comebacks! Each House chooses and performs a pop song and a hymn and our Year 12 House Captains and their Deputies run the competition.

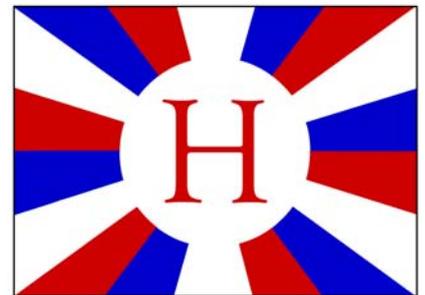
Hepburn:

*Bella Hull and Cath Farrow:
House and Vice Captain*

The theme of "Comebacks!" was chosen by Ms Davies this year to capitalise on the year's whole school theme of grit and resilience.

Hepburn decided to give a modern rendition of *Is This the Way to Amarillo*. Originally a 1973 tune by Tony Christie but brought back in the form of Peter Kay in a purple suit in 2005, our version was complete with obligatory marching and cheesy (but enthusiastic!) dance moves.

Rehearsals began, and, with a little help from edible bribes, we managed to coax out the hidden diva that lurks in everyone. Our hymn was *When a Knight Won his Spurs*, and after handing over the reins to one of our Year 12 colleagues with genuine



musical talent and begging Mr Jeanes for a little assistance, Hepburn began to sound good!

The House Shout is always a highlight of the year, and as is traditional Hepburn's questionable musicality but obvious energy certainly proved to be as hilarious as normal. The Shout always demonstrates the friendly, but fierce, air of competition that accompanies our House system, and is a great way to end what can sometimes be a frenetic and busy term. We've loved leading our fellow Hepburnians this year, but for now, the hippo costume solemnly returns to its place in the cupboard!



Nightingale

Caroline Carney, Vice Captain

The House Shout is such an integral part of the House system at Notting Hill, as it's the only competition where every student participates at the same time. It has become a unique tradition and never fails to unite everyone in the school, combining competitive spirit and House community to create a really entertaining event.

After five years of watching the Year 12s organise the competition, it was brilliant to finally be directly involved ourselves and even choose the songs for our House to sing. In line with the theme of 'Comebacks', Emma and I chose *Year 3000* by Busted as our pop song. We felt that it was a classic song of our generation and, combined with some suitably cheesy dance moves, it got everybody laughing. Our hymn was equally fun, as we chose the slightly unconventional *Siyahamba* or in English, *We are Marching*. This South African tribal song really contrasted with the other two Houses' more traditional hymns and we felt this brought

something new to the event.

I think that the reason why all of Year 12 enjoyed the House Shout so much is because it gave us an opportunity to contribute to the school and get to know other year groups better, as well as just being really good fun. Although initially it was a bit daunting to lead whole House rehearsals, I hope that as a House, we pulled it off on the day. While both Emma and I are sad that our time organising the House Shout is over, we had a fantastic time and hope that we have succeeded in inspiring students lower down the school to help organise it in their turn in years to come



Eliot

Diviya Davabalan-Thevarajah, Captain

The whole school piled into the hall covered in face paint galore and chanting loudly. Eliot was singing the Comeback classic S Club 7's *Don't Stop Movin'* with some carefully choreographed dance moves and our hymn was the beautiful *Dear Lord and Father of Mankind*. We even had Year 12 displaying their musical prowess with a harmony.

I was really pleased with everyone's effort and enthusiasm in rehearsals and on the day and I think as a House we went out with a bang. In this case, quite literally with the help of a battery of party-poppers!

And the winners are:

Winner of Best Hymn

Winner of Best "Song"

Winner for Best House Involvement and Inclusion

Overall House Shout Winner

Nightingale

Hepburn

Eliot

Hepburn

Ballet Nacional de España

Naomi Lefroy



We dived into total darkness and as the curtain rose, an eerie wailing, which sounded like a call to prayer, pierced the air. Men in smart suits and women in flamboyant frills stalked onto the stage and the spectacle began.

Our senses were delighted with varying styles of dance, music and elegant dresses in every possible hue (especially relevant to a group of teenage girls!) Yet somehow because of the fluidity of the choreography and the juxtaposition between the simple set and the intricate music, the piece was no longer just a performance in Sadler's Wells, but it was an intoxicatingly powerful portal to Spanish culture itself.

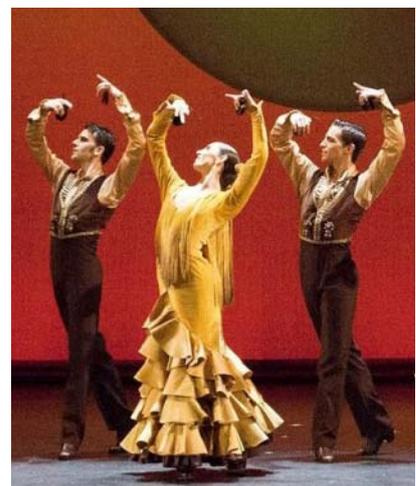
From bull fighting to ballet, the dancers and musicians used techniques to create sounds

and movements that I had never witnessed before. Full realisation of the Arab influence on Spain and its culture occurred to me - for example the unique vocal sounds and colourful materials as well as the ornate hand movements more often associated with eastern dance styles. The Arabs invaded parts of Spain for the first time in 711, and took a particular interest in the countryside where some of the dances were set but their influence was what helped to form this unique style of dancing, also known as Flamenco. The use of castanets and capes added to the authentic feel but what amazed me most was how fast they could move their feet and click the castanets at the same time!

My favourite scene was one where six women in yellow,

satin dresses made intricate shifting shadows against a hot lemon sun. The women stayed in formation and despite every tiny flick of the wrist being exposed, they stayed perfectly in time - something I appreciate to be fiendishly hard to achieve after being in school musicals! The music in this scene was also extremely evocative; the deep thump of the djembe drum, the rumbling of the cello and the tangy tune played by the flute infused me with adrenaline and anticipation. There was no chance to relax. As soon as the dancers settled into one rhythm, it would suddenly whip to a new tempo and with each progression the drama grew, broken only by the occasional outcry from one enthusiastic audience member - "OLE!"

Overall, a truly mesmerising, enchanting and hair-bristling spectacle.



U16 Water Polo National Finalists

Rosie Bettis



Waterpolo has really taken off at NHEHS this year. Initially we were a group of girls who particularly enjoyed the sport and we began by playing friendly matches against Francis Holland.

When Mr Bent entered us into the English Schools' Swimming Association National Waterpolo League, we were slightly apprehensive, but in true Notting Hill spirit we took part in our fixtures with confidence and determination. After winning in the preliminary rounds we were extremely excited to be told we had qualified for a place in the finals, in this our first season.

The finals were held in March at Oundle School in Peterborough. With an early start of 7.30am 13 lively girls jumped on the mini bus (with a pit-stop at Starbucks en route of course). Six schools from across the country competed in the finals; Crompton House and Fred Longworth School from the

North of England, Kesteven & Grantham Girls' School and Bedford Modern School representing the Midlands and Alleyn's and ourselves from the South. There was a great atmosphere and we felt very lucky to be part of such a prestigious event.

Playing 3 schools, we lost to the 1st and 2nd place finalists of the competition but were extremely proud to come away with a win against Fred Longworth 4-2. Coming 5th overall was a great achievement for us and we learnt a lot and worked well as a team developing our individual and team skills throughout.

We would now like to wish the NHEHS U14's the best of luck as they too qualified for the finals due to take place in May and we hope Notting Hill will be represented in many more waterpolo competitions and matches in the future.



Hockey

This half term, the Year 7 team took part in the Middlesex U12 Hockey Competition. They came 2nd in their pool and qualified to play in the semi-final. They lost in the semi to Godolphin & Latymer but did very well to finish in the top four.

There are a great many enthusiastic hockey players in Year 8 this year so we entered two Year 8 teams into the Middlesex Hockey Competition for their age group.

Unfortunately, neither team qualified to go through to the next round, but it was excellent experience for all the girls involved.

Thomas's School organised a friendly U13 invitational tournament for 10 west London schools. The tournament was played in Battersea Park and our team of Year 7 and 8 girls enjoyed a really good run in this competition. We came top of our section and made it through to the semi-finals. We lost the semi-final to Broomwood House and then suffered the agony of an American penalty shoot-to decide 3rd and 4th places. This saw us finish in 4th position. Thank you to our hosts for a very enjoyable competition.

The U14 7-a-side team also took part in an invitational tournament this time organised by Ibstock Place School. The team came top of their group and made it through to the final where we lost to Ibstock Place in the last minute of the game, conceding a goal just before the whistle was blown for final time – So close!!



Inter House Gym

The sports hall was filled with energetic and enthusiastic participants all keen to perform the set floor routines and vaults they had been learning during lessons and gym club sessions.

The competition was fiercely contested in front of judges Mrs Scott and Miss Greenslade, with a choice of floor routines and a variety of vaults to suit all abilities

Year 7 results – 1st Eliot, 2nd Hepburn, 3rd Nightingale.

Year 8 results – 1st Nightingale, 2nd Hepburn, 3rd Eliot

Everyone earned valuable points for their House, and the following girls are to be commended for their achievement in being the top scorers for their Houses:-

Silver Floor Routine :

7N Maya Johnson & India Bonnor-Morris (Joint), 7H Aya Jarah, Essma Zitoun & Grace Sergeant (Joint), 7E Nihita Claerhout

Gold Floor Routine

7N Hannah Bolden, 7H Jess Wetherall, 7E Sita Sethurajan

Vault

7N Izzy Haynes, 7H Anna Whittock & Jess Wetherall (Joint), 7E Sita Sethurajan.

Special thanks to Issi Stronge in Year 9 for her assistance with the smooth running of the Year 8 competition, and to Milli Datta for being the scorer for the Year 7 event.

We were very impressed by the standard of the competition, and Mrs Scott is looking forward to more girls taking the opportunity to pursue their interest in this sport when gym clubs start again in September.

Gym Club

Jennie Scott

Gym club has been going strong since September and throughout the year girls have taken part in lunchtime and after school Gym Club sessions, during which they have experienced vaulting, trampette work, sports acrobatics pair balances and learning and improving individual floor skills. Mrs Scott would like to thank Elisa Defries, Mimi Green and Jessica Harbert who have assisted at the lunch time Club. The younger girls have enjoyed their involvement, and these Year 11 girls have been able to develop their coaching skills to complete a section of their Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Our Gym Club sessions finished with a final competition in which gymnasts selected their own partner and, with each performing a vault of their choice ,scores were combined to give a score for vault. Gymnasts then had to execute a synchronised floor routine, in which the first nine skills were set and with the last move being chosen by each pair. Particular congratulations to Jessica for competing twice, due to a last minute withdrawal.



The top 4 pairs were:-

- 1st Izzy Haynes & Sita Sethurajan
- 2nd Hannah Bolden & Hannah Leathem
- 3rd Jessica Wetherall & Cleopatra Deitsch
- 4th Clara Dolan & Jessica Wetherall

Trust Gym Rally

Jennie Scott



A team of six girls took part in the GDST Gym Rally on 10th March. All Trust schools are invited to take part in these rallies, and Bromley High School on a lovely sunny day was the venue.

The NHEHS team were impressed by the sheer size of the competition, and made the

most of the opportunity to see some top class gymnasts perform throughout the day. Performing a floor routine to music on a 12sqm mat in front of judges and an attentive audience can be quite daunting, but the NHEHS girls kept their cool and everyone completed their routines with style and confidence.

Congratulations to the U14 team, who finished in a creditable 15th place – Bethan Davies-Asmar, Hannah Leathem, Hannah Bolden, Izzy Haynes, Sita Sethurajan, and Jessica Wetherall.

Their success was matched by the U11 team, who finished in 15th place in the junior section.

Inter-House Trampolining

Jennie Scott

This year, for the first time, trampolining was included as an inter-House competition. The event was open to Year 9 girls for whom trampolining is part of the PE Curriculum, and to girls in Years 11 and 12 who can select this sport as an option. Participants could choose to perform one of three set routines each comprising 10 moves to be completed with good technique, fluency, and without losing height as the routine progressed. All competitors were awarded House points, and the results were as follows:-

Year 9 1st Eliot, 2nd Hepburn, 3rd Nightingale

Years 11 and 12 1st Eliot, 2nd Nightingale, 3rd Hepburn

The top two scorers for each house were, in order

9N: Tamara Al-Saraf & Georgia Baker, 9H: Esme Clarke & Georgie Howes, 9E: Phyllis Keen & Cleo Cooper

11N & 12 N: Anna Kovacs & Elisa Defries, 11H & 12 H: Hannah Lefroy & Sophie Ellis,

11E & 12 E: Jess Schindler-Glass & Ella Buckroyd



Saturday 27th June

SUMMER BBQ

BARN DANCE

LIVE & MUSIC

DANCING

7 PM TILL 11PM

Senior School Hall and Garden

REALIZ

PAY BAR Craft Beers
and Pimms

included with your ticket

FOOD AND WINE

Tickets £30 per person

Tables 8-10 guests

RSVP BY FRIDAY MAY 22ND

michelleLevman@gmail.com
