



ST EDWARD'S
OXFORD

News

SPRING 2012



**Navy cadets take the helm
during Field Weekend**



school news

Warden's introduction



Welcome to the spring edition of the Newsletter overflowing, as ever, with reports on the extraordinarily varied and energetic pursuits of our pupils and staff. I am delighted to announce that we have been granted planning permission for a new girls' Boarding House – see the full report opposite. The new House will be the flagship development of our 150th anniversary next year. Elsewhere, there are moving accounts of the biennial trip to Auschwitz and related talks in School, an impressive number of really quite spectacular achievements in sport and lively reports on the term's trips and charitable activities.

In the last edition of the Newsletter, I took the opportunity to ponder the

question of why we are here at School and what are we trying to do. I would like to continue that theme once more against the backdrop of these great news stories.

It has always been difficult to discern from the debate of educationists exactly what we ought to be doing at School in order to suitably equip our pupils for their future – and the debate is not a new one. Aristotle (*Politics book VIII*) wrote:

"At present there are differences of opinion as to the proper tasks to be set; for all peoples do not agree as to the things that the young ought to learn, either with a view to virtue or with a view to the best life, nor is it clear whether their studies should be regulated more with regard to intellect or with regard to character."

More recently Howard Gardner, Professor of Cognition and Education at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, has speculated (in *Five Minds for the Future*) about what the future needs may be for pupils and students being educated now:

While making no claims to have a crystal ball, I concern myself here with the kinds of minds that people will need if they – if we – are to thrive in the world during the eras to come.



Pictures by Nick Coom-Wright

... the world of the future, with its ubiquitous search engines, robots, and other computational devices, will demand capacities that until now have been mere options. To meet this new world on its own terms, we should begin to cultivate these capacities now.

"... With them, a person will be well equipped to deal with what is expected as well as what cannot be anticipated; without these minds, a person will be at the mercy of forces that she or he can't understand, let alone control."

In his book, Gardner goes on to describe the five areas – his "minds" – and the programme he describes covers some very important ground. Gardner's programme describes the need for us to develop in our pupils not only the beginnings of academic (or professional) discipline, as in following a discipline, but also the abilities to synthesise and create. These more academic and intellectual concerns are set alongside the need for consideration of a more profound respect for others (and an understanding of how to work with others) and the requirement to take an ethical view in all that one does. The programme he sets out is one which should "span both the cognitive spectrum and the human spectrum" in terms of development and seems to me to be precisely what our aims here at St Edward's are and should be.



Shell girls crowned County Champions

Thus the programme suggested by Gardner is perhaps one that gives us the skeleton – the dry bones – upon which we can build the sinews, muscles and skin of the whole body, and into which we can inspire the life (see Ezekiel 37) as we push forward with the necessary academic and cultural changes that will make our pupils ever better equipped for the challenges that they will surely face in the future.

Cover photograph shows whatever we decide to feature on the cover plus a little bit of text to go with it to explain what it's about.



Raising funds for the Cricket Tour

Someone, Rose Barry and Katie Withers Green - and others above - skydiving for charity.



In March, 13 intrepid members of the Sixth Form spent the afternoon at Hinton airfield jumping out of aeroplanes at 13,000 ft freefalling, along with an instructor, down to 4,000 ft before opening a parachute and floating gently back to earth. So far, the jumpers have raised £5,600 of their £6,000 target; this will pay the fees of over 90 orphans at Nyakomba High School in Zimbabwe.



school news



St Edward's to celebrate 150th anniversary with new girls' Boarding House

We are delighted to announce that planning permission has been granted for the development of a new girls' Boarding House. The House, which will welcome its first pupils in September 2013, will be situated on Field side, beside Kendall, on the plot currently occupied by a largely disused tennis court (pupils now have access to the courts at The Oxfordshire). With more pupils on roll than at any time in the School's history, the new House will provide much-needed space; at Sixth Form level, in particular, the School receives five applicants for every available place.

Stephen Jones is passionate about the role boarding plays in preparing pupils for life after school. "We have a duty to prepare our pupils for life beyond Teddies. They need to get the best possible grades – that goes without saying – and they also need to earn their place on the right course at the right university, but more importantly, they need to learn how to interact with people. Even with the extraordinary

communications technology available in the world today, it is the ability to take proper account of the people around them and that essential skill of face-to-face communication that will enable them to succeed. It is often life outside the classroom, the rich life of the Boarding House, that best prepares pupils for making their way in the wider world. Boarding is at the heart of the St Edward's experience, so I am delighted that my first capital development as Warden has been to commission this major investment in the facilities that will enable it to expand and strengthen."

In keeping with St Edward's policy of investing in striking architecture, the new House is being designed by local architects TSH. TSH has a long association with the School, having designed, among other projects, the state-of-the-art Life Sciences Building.

Nick Hardy of TSH said: "The new Boarding House will offer a refreshingly modern environment for the girls who live there. We've moved away

from the traditional corridor-style House by introducing a stunning three-storey atrium. This instantly creates a very open, social environment and we know from discussions with Boarding House staff and current boarders that this is what young people want. The new building will feel more like an upmarket hotel than a traditional school House and is likely to be very popular with pupils. As well as offering benefits to the occupiers of the building, the building also addresses environmental concerns – a high standard of insulation will mean heating requirements will be at a minimum, whilst solar-thermal panels on the roof will further reduce energy consumption."

Eight temporary new Lower Sixth girls' boarding rooms will be created in September 2012 in a refurbished Cooper Lodge which currently provides accommodation for Graduate Assistants. These girls will be annexed to Macnamara's House for sport and social activities, and will be looked after by Assistant HM, Liz Boast. They will transfer to the new House in September 2013 as the first Upper Sixth residents.

To ensure that all School accommodation remains of the highest standard, a rolling programme of refurbishment and renovation is in place. Most recently upgraded have been Field, Sing's and Oakthorpe.



The current view



How the new Boarding House will look: image by Blink





school news

Bearing witness

By Michael Gray, History and Politics teacher

It was Auschwitz survivor Elie Wiesel who stated that 'for the dead and the living, we must bear witness'. It is this rationale which lies behind the biennial trip to the camp complex of Auschwitz-Birkenau, just over an hour outside of the medieval city of Krakow.

During the first leave weekend of the Lent term, 24 Sixth Formers met at the Teddies' Lodge at 4:30am before travelling from Gatwick to Krakow and bracing temperatures which were around 15 degrees below freezing. The pupils enjoyed spending the afternoon exploring the city, paying visits to Wawel Cathedral and St. Mary's Basilica. The evening was spent in Kazimierz, the old Jewish Quarter, experiencing a Jewish meal in Ariel restaurant.

Saturday was spent with a 6 hour tour of Auschwitz-Birkenau, led by a wonderfully

knowledgeable and engaging guide. The pupils visited Auschwitz I concentration camp witnessing the death wall, the starvation cell and the gas chamber and crematorium. This was followed by the three minute drive to Birkenau (Auschwitz II). The vastness of this camp always strikes pupils and as they walked around it, seeing the point of selection, the small huts which housed 700 people each and the location of the Sonderkommando uprising in 1944, there was a growing understanding of the horror and depravity which existed. With solemn faces, never-fading memories and a mind full of deep thoughts, the pupils returned to Krakow and flew home on Sunday morning. In an age of rising political extremism and increasing antisemitism, this trip continues to be of great value and importance.



Sabina Miller

'When I woke up, my parents had gone and I never saw them again...' These were the words spoken by Holocaust survivor Sabina Miller who came to give an exclusive talk in March to the 24 pupils who had visited the Auschwitz-Birkenau camp complex in January. Sabina to this day has



never been able to trace her parents, and has just one cardigan, which she wore throughout the war, which her parents had given to her. She was able to bring this artefact in to show the pupils as well as photographs of her family and the work she has done with the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust.

Unlike many others survivors, Sabina never experienced a concentration camp and told the captivated audience of how she worked inside the Warsaw Ghetto, spent time in prison under the control of the Gestapo and eventually managed to work in Germany until the liberation. In the midst of such suffering and difficulty, Sabina shared a message of life and hope, which was an inspiration to everyone who had the privilege of listening. Sabina talked with all of the pupils individually afterwards and was a woman of tremendous grace, love and courage. No one will forget her visit. The school is very grateful to Jackie and Andrew Bowden for facilitating this talk and driving Sabina to and from her home in London.

Freddie Knoeller

'I decided to devote my life to telling the story' said Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel, 'because I felt that having survived I owe something to the dead and anyone who does not remember betrays them again'. On Thursday 1st March, the St. Edward's Fourth Form had the privilege of hearing Freddie Knoeller, an Auschwitz survivor, who is also dedicated to telling the world his experiences at the hands of the Nazis and their collaborators. Despite approaching his 91st birthday, Freddie demonstrated a youthful spirit and an unquenchable love of life. The pupils were spellbound as he recounted his experiences of torture at the hands of the Gestapo and described the food and routines at Auschwitz. Freddie spoke of his childhood as an Austrian Jew living in Vienna, his flight to France and his eventual betrayal to the Nazis by his ex-girlfriend. He then explained how he survived in Auschwitz, the brutality of the death marches and the anarchy of the last few weeks in Bergen-Belsen before the British liberation. Freddie reminded the pupils that even though the message of the Holocaust is 'never again', there have sadly been a number of post-War genocides, such as Rwanda in 1994. All those who heard the talk were inspired and deeply affected by the testimony of this great man.



school news



Pictures by Dom Baker

Dressing up for charity

A careers day with a difference took place at the end of last term when pupils and staff were invited to dress up as "what I always wanted to be". The Warden looked even more colourful than usual dressed in the deep saffron robes of a Buddhist monk – a gap year ambition, he told pupils at assembly that morning, before considering first a military position and later a career as a research scientist. Pupils entered into the spirit of the day with gusto. There were mountain climbers, lawyers, pop stars, builders, doctors, surfers, rodeo riders, chefs, supermen – and a worrying number of wild animals. The day raised over £750 for the charity JR4JR.



Mr Larter learns Latin

"Start-up Latin for a greybeard" is how Mark Taylor, Head of Classics, alerted his department that another teacher, Simon Larter-Evans, wanted to learn Latin, and would anyone mind teaching him? The endeavour serves two purposes. The first is a personal desire on Simon's part to know a little bit more about the etymology of his own subject, English. The second is to find a way of spending time with Shells in a formal learning environment, and to see what life is like for them in some way. As the Head of Year, he said; "I'd promised myself that I would spend time with the year group in a variety of settings, and in particular in the classroom. The most interesting way for me to do that is to join in regularly and be a learner with them." The students were at first bemused by Mr Larter-Evans' appearance outside the classroom, 'Are you taking us for Latin, sir?'

but soon got used to him being in the class. "It is early days, and it is genuinely scary to be put on the spot," he says. "I've done my first prep, and make mistakes, and was late for my second class." Being late caused immediate cries for 'sir' to attend late reporting!

Because of his own teaching commitments, he is unable to do all the lessons in the two-week cycle, and so the three out of six lessons demand real concentration. "Finding the time to revise outside of class is difficult, and remembering what seems to be an endless list of very similar verb endings is tough going. I'm not that courageous when it comes to answering questions in class, and I find that the other pupils race along at such a pace and are much more willing to have a go. It's hard work, but genuinely rewarding. I am also learning a lot about my own teaching just by being reminded

what it is like to be the pupil."

Mark Taylor said, "This is a real opportunity for the department, too. While it's always good to find teachers from other disciplines who show interest in the subject, there are benefits too for the pupils in seeing an adult trying to cope with the same material that they are handling. It is important

to share good practice, and for colleagues to help each other become better teachers." Olympia Hetherington, Simon's teacher said, "There's a lot to remember, but as long as he slaves away (labore, laborare...) at the grammar he'll be translating Ovid in no time – move over Ted Hughes!" He'd better get cracking, then.





school news



Academic promotions

The Scholarship Review Board is delighted to announce the following Fifth Form promotions in the light of teachers' recommendations, academic performance and a scholarly attitude towards study:

Promotion from Exhibitioner to Honorary Academic Scholar: James Coker (*Abingdon Prep*), Claira Miesegaes (in addition to Sports Exhibition, *Dragon*), Bryony Spensley (*College Paul Claudel*) and Katherine Troeller (*St Andrew's, Pangbourne*).

Promotion to Honorary Academic Scholar: Jimmy Lam (*SKH Tsang Shiu Secondary*) and Ben Tavenor (*St Andrew's, Pangbourne*).

Promotion to Honorary Academic Exhibitioner: Ibrahim Ait-Tahar (*Dragon*), Will Arrowsmith (*Elstree*), Mia Charlton (*Brambletye*), Thomas Isola (in addition to Sports Exhibition, *Sotogrande International*) and Harriet Mains (*Winchester House*).

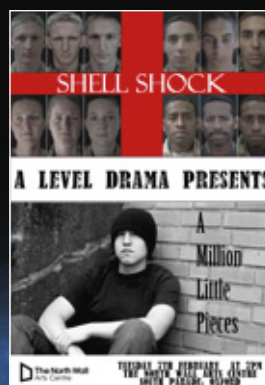
Curricular drama entertains

By Simon Roche,
Acting Head of Drama
and Head of Fifth Form

This term's GCSE and A Level curricular drama performances were enacted to great acclaim last term. As part of their relative courses the pupils devise a piece of theatre, script it, rehearse it and then are examined on their results. For the A Level practical exam pupils had to produce two extensive devised

plays. Both were adaptations of published novels. *Shell Shock* was a very powerful play which told the story of an ex-servicemen coming to terms with his newly found civilian life, whilst *A Million Little Pieces* was an intense exploration into addiction and institutional care. Both plays were performed to full houses, were very impressive and were rewarded with top marks by the external moderator.

At GCSE level pupils devised and scripted two plays from scratch. *Faust*, a modern day version of the legend, and *Ikea*, which told the bizarre story of a disastrous Ikea store opening in Edmonton in 2005. Both pieces were hugely accomplished, gained excellent marks and enthralled their audiences. Well done to the pupils involved, and to the Drama department for their support and guidance.



From left to right: Ru McGrath (*Elstree*), Oscar Albert (*Bruern Abbey*), David Kelly (*Northcote Lodge*), Alexander Ramos (*Christ Church Cathedral*), Sarah Fletcher (*The Harrodian*), Tallulah Kyle (*Cherwell*) and Saskia Wheeler (*Brambletye*).

school news



Pictures by Henry Narula

Dance Show

By Neville Creed,
Director of Cultural Activities

Following a hugely successful Ballet Recital at the end of the Autumn Term a more general Dance Show was presented last term. The Dance Department has become a large and vibrant part of St Edward's life and an impressive range of styles was presented during this highly enjoyable evening. An elegant example of Pointe Ballet was given by four dedicated dancers and Lottie Burr (*St Neot's*) contributed a fine Modern Lyrical solo. Street Jazz featured strongly in the programme and the large group of Shells choreographed by Tova Holmes was particularly impressive. Other highlights included a particularly bendy

example of Acro – definitely not to be tried at home! Three young dancers gave a wonderfully vibrant performance of an item from *Hairspray* in a Musical Theatre item. The Breakdance item was led by its choreographer Dennis Victory and it hoped that this style will increase in popularity with the boys. Other highlights included several items of Contemporary and the duet performed by Grace Allen (*Dragon*) and Lydia Jones-Parry (*Yately Manor Prep*) was particularly strong. Lydia Jones-Parry also gave a charming performance of Tap. Emma Campion (*Rye St Antony*) and Katrina Isola (*Sotogrande International*) featured on a number of occasions and having contributed so much to dance at St Edward's it was fitting that they should conclude the evening with



a fine example of Hip Hop. Congratulations to all the dancers and choreographers who produced a fast-moving and comprehensive display of dancing at St Edward's. Particular thanks to Dom Baker (*Leckford Place*) who led an excellent team on the lights and sound. Over £150 was raised for the Mwana Child Trust.



Battle of the Bands

By Alex Tester, Director of Music

There was a lot at stake in early March, when our regular Battle of the Bands took place. Six of the School's best bands, groups and duos fought for the prestigious Battle of the Bands title and cup. There was also added incentive, with two professional judges: Steve Hartley (the head of SAE, the rock, sound engineering and film production college in Littlemore) and Ian Wallman (his assistant at SAE, who also

produces and masters tracks in London studios - having worked with names such as Lady GaGa, Beyoncé and Shakira). Both judges had also offered the winners a free recording afternoon at SAE, where a track or two could be recorded and mixed down.

There was every style possible represented. Whether you preferred the guitar-supported vocals of Winter Circus, the Arrowsmith family working together on their duo (and a fantastic composed song by Will Arrowsmith, Fifth Form, *Elstree*) in The Brothers; whether you preferred the cover band that was I.T.R. (who sang songs by The Kooks and Foster the People) or the bluesy style of Today at 4.30 (who preferred Bob Dylan and The Las); or whether you preferred the heavy metal tones of Smut...

The winners, however, were Flossie Pugh (*Wychwood*) and Jack Vincent (*Dragon*), pictured, who put forward a vocal/guitar duo, offering music by Damien Rice and DJ Fresh. Superbly concentrating on the music and making space in the accompaniment for Flossie's voice, this was a performance of some quality. A great standard to try to match in coming years.



Henry Narula



The Rubenstein Kiss

By Rebecca Clark, Drama teacher

A cast of AS Theatre Studies students, Celia Higson and five lower school pupils performed *The Rubenstein Kiss* by James Phillips in April.

The play is a cleverly crafted, moving and engaging piece inspired by a true story. It explores the mysterious corridors of history to reveal the anguish of a family and a quest for atonement.

'McCarthy's America, 1953: Jacob and Esther Rubenstein are betrayed and punished for an act of industrial espionage. Could this

be the greatest miscarriage of justice of the twentieth century?

'New York 1975: Matthew Maddison meets Anna Levi in front of an art gallery photograph of Jacob and Esther sharing one final kiss before they part. Young, radical and falling in love, together they seek justice for the past.'

Everybody in the company threw themselves into rehearsals which were hard work and very intense. As the play is naturalistic the pupils had a great challenge

in creating believable characters, adopting Jewish American accents and embodying the customs and traditions of the 1940's and 1970's.

It was an absolute pleasure to work alongside such a committed team of individuals who all showed true professionalism throughout, even when difficulties arose due to illness. Everyone overcame these with dignity and finally the whole cast were able to enjoy the last two evenings of performance.



Cast:

Jonny Weston (*St Philip's*),
Mads Edwards (*Dragon*),
Hamish Brewster (*Tower House*),
Celia Higson (*Godstowe Prep*),
Luke Stevenson (*Northcote Lodge*),

Joshua Battaliou (*Thorpe House*),
Livey McHugh (*Queen Anne's*).

Understudies:

Lawrence Ellis (*Thomas's Battersea*)
and Evan Wells (*Ibstock Place*).

Company:

Costume Designer:
Bella Glanville (*Trevor-Roberts'*)
Director: Rebecca Clark,
Drama teacher

Musical Director: Tom Billington
Sound Technician: Dom Baker
(*Leckford Place*)

Technician: Clive Stevenson
Stage Manager: Stephen Dix
ASMs: Louis Wright (*Caldicott*),
Jean-Luc Bonnefoy (*Thomas's*

Battersea), Scarlett Netherton
(*Dragon*), Dominic Rosso
(*Dragon*) and Sophie Bucknall
(*Sydenham High*).

With thanks to:

Simon Roche, Rosemary Hill,
Marcus D'Amico, Alex Tester,
Lucy Maycock, Amy Walters,
Natalie Grant, Katrina Eden
and the I.T. Department.



The North Wall Arts Centre

The North Wall plays host to a fantastic season of theatre, dance, music and comedy this summer. See the web site for the full programme, but here are some highlights: on Thursday 10th and Friday 11th May Translunar Paradise will take you on a journey of life, death, and enduring love in an exquisite, multi-award winning piece of mask and movement theatre. From Thursday 31st May - Friday 2nd June Belarus Free Theatre present Minsk, 2011, a rare opportunity to experience a provocative and heart-breaking show from a revolutionary company. Box office 01865 319450, www.thenorthwall.com.



 The North Wall Arts Centre

A Corfe Occasion

By Eve Singfield, Corfe HM

The girls in Corfe House held the second Corfe Occasion in February. In front of an audience of family and friends, the girls from the Shells to the Upper Sixth performed a number of different acts. The evening started with Freddie Atkinson (*Dragon*) presenting our chosen House charity this year, Action for A-T.

Displaying a great deal of confidence, the Shells showed what a talented group of girls they are. Flora King (*Swanbourne House*) played the James Bond Theme tune on the flute, Lucy Prower (*Port Regis*) gave us a glimpse of her incredible gymnastics, Saskia Chancellor (*Queen's Gate*) and Ally Ellis (*Thomas's Battersea*) sang unaccompanied and there were also poetry readings and a comedy number from Romey Oulton (*Thomas's Battersea*) and Georgie Blanchard (*Headington Prep*).

All year groups were represented in some way. The Fourth and Fifth Form performed two dance routines they choreographed themselves and there were also excellent individual performances: Jemima Lyon (*Broomwood Hall*) and Helene Burghoff (*International School, Hamburg*) sang and played the piano, and Octavia Akoulitchev (*Dragon*) performed the monologue she entered for her LAMDA exams later in the term.

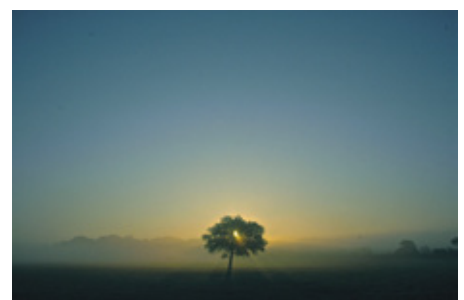
The Sixth Form were not to be outdone by the lower school and there were some terrific

individual singing performances from Livey McHugh (*Queen Anne's*), Hannah Reed (British School, Poland) and Ella Phillips (*Swanbourne House*) - who was in popular demand that evening, as she was also singing in the orchestral concert beforehand.

A total of £354 was raised for Action for A-T. Thank you to all who supported the House so generously.



Following the training camp run by Martin Johnson for the England squad at St Edward's last year, the England U16's took on Wasps U17's on Upper 1 in March. It was a rare opportunity for pupils, staff and children from other local schools and rugby clubs to see these elite players in action at close quarters.





Rugby 7's

By Mark Hanslip, Master i/c Rugby

The 7's season runs alongside the other major sports and it is a credit to the pupils that they all found time to train and play rugby 7's in addition to sporting commitments elsewhere.

The season saw an extension to the Yearlings programme. The squad competed in three tournaments and performed well, winning the bowl final of the Marlborough 7's Festival and beating Cheltenham College and Sherborne in our St Edward's 7's competition. At Teddies, we also ran a Colts tournament and our U16's team beat Cheltenham College and

MCS before losing to a very strong Bedford team, who went on to win the competition.

At Brecon, the Senior VII had a difficult group that proved too challenging to allow them to progress to the latter stages of the tournament. However, they played some very good attacking rugby on a glorious day in Brecon Beacons. At the Windsor 7's, they earned a draw against Stowe and a narrow loss to Wellington before the tournament was abandoned because of the atrocious weather. 7's is meant to be a warm weather game played on hard ground to facilitate fast and fluent rugby; as you can see from the picture below this was almost impossible at Windsor! Although very cold and wet, the team's spirits remained high.



Boys' Hockey

By Zak Jones, Head of Hockey

Well done to the Junior Colts whose strong results were the highlight of last term's hockey season. The JC A's beat Cheltenham 1-0, Radley 3-0, Eton 2-0, Dean Close 5-1 and earned draws against MCS, Wellington, Bloxham and Stowe. The JC B's secured victories against Abingdon 5-0, MCS 3-1, Bloxham 3-2, Dean Close 4-1 and drew with Wellington and Stowe. The JC C's beat MCS 3-0, Wellington 4-0 and drew with Radley and Abingdon. Very well done to the year group and their coaches. Elsewhere, the 1st XI produced a superb performance to secure an away win at Wellington 3-2, the 3rd XI beat Abingdon 2-1, the Colts A's beat Abingdon 5-0 and Bloxham 5-2, and the Colts B's beat Abingdon 2-0.



International hockey

Towards the end of last term, Wales hosted Malaysia (ranked 13 in the world) for a training camp in Cardiff prior to their Olympic qualifier in Ireland. The test series involved two members of staff and an OSE. Zak Jones, Head of Hockey, is currently Head Coach of the senior men whilst brother Huw Jones, Head of Geography, was playing, earning his 95th and 96th caps. OSE Peter Swainson was also with the squad in Cardiff but was unfortunately unable to play due to injury. The two-test series was drawn, Malaysia winning 3-1 on the Friday night and Wales winning 1-0 in the second test on Sunday.

Harriers

By Lewis Faulkner, Master i/c Harriers

The Harriers enjoyed a hugely successful season last term: our Junior Girls were crowned County Champions at the County Schools' Cross Country race at Radley, our Senior Girls took first place in the Wellington and Tortoise Relays, and three pupils ran for Oxfordshire at the English Schools' race in March (see National and county sport, p12). Our Junior Boys' team came second at Radley, as did our Intermediate Girls' and Senior Boys'. Lucy Poffley (*Windlesham House*), Tommaso Pappagallo (*Dragon*), Callum Jones (*Belvoir High*), Sam Gillingham (*Stowe*) and Rupert Singfield (*Cherwell*) were all selected as Oxfordshire reserves for the English Schools' meet. At the Wellington Relays, girls' captain Freya Berkin (*The Grove*) led by example, running two legs, both of them the fastest for St Edward's over the 1.5 mile course. Fergus McAloon (*Robert Gordon's*) ably captained the boys and led the Senior team home at Winchester, Harrow and Marlborough. Similarly, Toby Cornish (*Abberley Hall*) enjoyed an impressive season and is a talent to watch for the future. He ran the first and last legs in the Wellington Relays and posted the fastest time of the afternoon for St Edward's. Harriers numbers continue to grow with nearly 50 pupils training on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons; many thanks to all the pupils and coaches for their hard work and commitment throughout the season.



sport



The 1st VII, from left to right: someone, someone, someone, Emily Fletcher (*The Harroldian*), someone, Katie Withers Green (*Dragon*), someone, Rose Barry (*Dragon*), Sophie Rice-Payton (*Polwhele House*) and coach Kerry Walsh.

Rowing

By John Wiggins, Master i/c Rowing

Last term's rowing got off to a flying start with four senior rowers earning an invitation to the Easter GB assessment camp – they were due to attend as we went to press (see Individual successes, opposite). On the water, Reading Head gave further confirmation of the continuing SESBC revival with the VIII being 3rd ranked of the school crews but significantly within reach of those ahead. The follow-up event, Hammersmith Head, was reduced in potency by the military call-up (*CCF field weekend*) but a great opportunity for J16s Ru McGrath (*Elstree*) and Jamie Kaye (*Rokeby*) as much as invaluable experience for new coxswain Fin Kettlewell (*Dragon*) who discovered, first-hand, the difficulties of steering on the Tideway. This proved to be crucial as he steered an excellent course in the Schools Head, assisting the VIII to 6th place – despite an under-fit Callum Jones (*Belvoir High*) but our highest place since 2003 (*the last time we reached the final at Henley*).

The other noteworthy result at Reading Head was for the J15 VIII that finished a very encouraging 5th, within contact

of the top crews in the country, most of whom were competing. Meanwhile, at various informal matches, the younger and less experienced members of the boat club found competition much to their liking. The 15B VIII had some success at Bedford while most of the girls travelled to Worcester to race a mix of boats and ages. While comparison across this medley was difficult, all were able rightly to claim some success.

Both J15 eights performed well at the Schools Head: 10th for the A's was the best for many years as was 11th for the B's. The J14 boys found out the challenge ahead of them at Bedford but for a first set of races did very well, setting them up for a winning visit to Abingdon for their first taste of side by side racing. At the National Junior Sculling Head, the boys' A boat speed was impressive and promises much for the regatta season but unscheduled stops to recover lost blade handles cost too much time for a top ten place. The B's sculled well as did the girls after such a short time at the sport. Great improvement will I am sure be seen in the coming months.



Netball

By Sarah Gee, Head of Girls' Games

The netball club has enjoyed a healthy season with some fantastic performances across the board.

The U14 B's enjoyed an exceptional season, playing to such a high standard that they remained unbeaten throughout; the team is one of the strongest B sides St Edward's has seen in recent years. Superb performances against the strong opposition of Wellington and Marlborough were the season highlights but the sheer cohesiveness of the team has made them appealing to watch whoever the opposition. Effective from shooter through to defence, this team promises great things in years to come.

The 1st VII have had a tough season but have been dedicated to training and matches. One of the highlights was the match against Bloxham. It was a tricky start: at the end of the first quarter, Bloxham were winning 3-0. However, just before quarter time, Bubble Baddeley (*Dragon*) and Sophie Rice-Payton (*Polwhele House*) dug in during the last few minutes in attack and we left the court one goal up at 6-5. For the rest of the game, Teddies were always up, leading well in the 2nd quarter and pushing further ahead in the 3rd. Changes were made in the 4th quarter, and units took a while to settle. Polly Mains (*Winchester House*) was awarded Player of the Match for her turnover rate and leadership from the back at GK. In all, it was a well-deserved win.

Elsewhere, the U16 A's have lost just one of their matches, and have often played other schools' 2nd VII's, demonstrating their maturity and talent as a team. The Shells have had a very successful season with the U14 A's losing just 2 matches.

Well done to all girls and very many thanks to all staff who devotedly give up their time to coach the teams.



sport and trips

National and county sport

Congratulations to the following on their impressive individual achievements in sport last term:

Rowing: Freddie Myatt (*Wheatley Park*), Callum Jones (*Belvoir High*), Titus Morley (*Cheam*) and Molly Thorp (*Luckley-Oakfield*) were set to attend the GB Rowing Easter assessment camp as we went to press – we look forward to reporting on their progress. **Cricket:** Emma Measey (*Beachborough*) has been selected for the English Cricket Board's Emerging Players' Programme and the Buckinghamshire U15's



county squad. She will also play matches for the Buckinghamshire U19's squad this summer. Ruairi Willis (*Dragon*) has been selected for the Irish U17 cricket squad. Miles Hammond (*Christ Church Cathedral*) spent half term in Pune, India, training with Gloucestershire County Cricket Club. **Rounders:** Laura Hope (*Queenswood*) has been selected to play in the England U14's Rounders squad and will take on Wales, Isle of Man, Greece and Dubai during the summer holidays. **Hockey:** Laura Hope and Emma Measey have been selected for Buckinghamshire's U14's county squad and Storm Sunderland (*Winchester House*), Rosie Hart (*Dragon*) and Georgie Blanchard (*Headington*), for Oxfordshire's U14's; **Rugby:** the following have been selected for Oxfordshire's county squads: Anthony Kent (*Ashfold*), for the U20's; Scott Critchley (*Wade Deacon High*), Chris Asembo (*Dragon*), Nick de Klee (*Windlesham House*) and James Connolly (*Abingdon Prep*), for the U17's; Tom Letch (*The Warriner*), for the U16's; Thomas Strathdee (*Lord William's*) and James Chainey (*Swanbourne House*), for the U15's; and Jake

Anderson (*The Warriner*) and Pascal Hardy (*Cherwell*), the U14's. Jake also captained the Northampton Saints U14's Rugby Academy in their game against the Independent Schools Barbarians. **Eventing:** Francesca Sargent (*Headington*) is in contention for the GB U16 3-day pony eventing team. Already in the A squad, she is due to represent Britain in France in August. **Harriers:** Storm Sunderland, Clemmie Montgomerie (*Beauesert Park*) and Ben Grainger (*The Beacon*) were selected to run for Oxfordshire at the English Schools' race in March. Storm enjoyed an outstanding running season, coming 1st in the U15's and U17's county-wide Oxford Mail Cross Country League. **Biathlon:** Tommaso Pappagallo (*Dragon*) came 7th overall in the South West Regional semi-finals of the British Schools' Biathlon at Bath University qualifying for the National Finals at the very end of term – results to follow in E News. **Gymnastics:** Lucy Prower (*Port Regis*), who trains with Abingdon GC, won 2 gold medals in a recent county-wide individual apparatus competition.

Very well done to all concerned.

South Africa cricket tour

As we went to press, we were about to say goodbye to our cricket squad as they set off on tour to South Africa. We look forward to featuring a report on their trip in E News later this term but know that after such an intensive

training and match programme, they will be well-prepared for the coming season. With many thanks to the following for supporting the tour: St Edward's Martyrs, Shepherd and Woodward, Winchester Mansions Hotel,

Monkhouse Intersport, Skoda, The Ant Collection, Oxbridge Balls, The Perch, Cibo, Summertown Wine Café, Samurai, Portabello and Humphrey Bacchus.





RAF weekend

By Nick Coram-Wright,
Head of RAF Section

Our second Field Weekend of the year is the opportunity for the RAF Section to gain an insight into recent military history combined with a visit to our parent station, RAF Brize Norton.

The Imperial War Museum is one of the country's finest and on the Sunday cadets were able to browse both permanent and temporary exhibitions. Those who saw the Holocaust Exhibition were surprised to find a filmed interview with Freddie Knoeller, a survivor of Auschwitz who had given a moving lecture to GCSE Historians at St Edward's a matter of days before (see page WHAT??). For Will and Toby Cornish (*Abberley Hall*) the IWM is of particular significance as the London bus driven by their grandfather during the First and Second World Wars to carry troops is on display in the main atrium.

The Section spent Day 2 at Brize, our busiest RAF Station, and increasingly so now that the C-130 fleet has transferred from nearby RAF Lyneham. Here cadets were able to clamber over the Hercules, whilst other aircraft from 33 Squadron were busy manoeuvring somewhat noisily around them. Second on our list was the Tristar, now starting to look a little tired but its role as one of the workhorse air-to-air refuellers is nevertheless vital. It was hard to imagine that the particular plane we visited at 216 Sqn used to belong to British Airways. Everyone was keen

to look at the C-17 Globemaster of 99 Sqn, the largest aircraft owned by the RAF. The fact that a Chinook comfortably sits inside (minus the blades) gives an indication of the plane's capacity. We were also reminded that the C-17 plays a key role in the extraction of those injured in Afghanistan who need to return with maximum urgency for medical care in the UK. Sadly, the C-17 is also used for the repatriation to Brize of those killed in theatre.

As ever we are very grateful to the personnel at RAF Brize Norton who make our visit possible.



Army weekend

By Keith Shindler, Director of
Sports and Activities

Pupils enjoyed a highly successful Army Camp at Swynnerton Training Area near Stone on the Field Weekend. They tackled shooting (live, blank, electronic & shotgun), survival training, casualty evacuation exercises, an obstacle course, combat trails, and night navigation through training areas and derelict buildings. The Fourth Form stayed in a converted underground ammunition bunker and CADRE (the Fifth Form) stayed for two nights and carried out a full field-craft exercise. Many thanks to everyone who helped make it such a great success.





From left to right: Ivan Touloumbadjian (*Dragon*), Alex Hargreaves (*Dulwich Prep*), James Gaunt, Ryan Savage (*Winchester House*), James Connolly (*Abingdon Prep*), Alex Knott (*The Beacon*), Phoebe Bates (*St George's, Windsor*), George Burt (*Windlesham House*), Hester King (*Swanbourne House*), Becky Drury.

Morzine Ski Trip

By James Connolly, Lower Sixth

Most pupils were relaxing with family during the February half-term, but eight AS Level Physical Education students embarked upon a trip to Morzine in the French/Swiss Alps in order to undertake their practical ski assessment with Miss Drury and Mr Gaunt.

The trip began on Monday evening in Sing's House where we were to stay the night before the journey south. At 3 am we boarded a minibus and headed to Dover to catch the ferry. After a brisk but rough ferry journey to Calais we made our way to Morzine. With the excitement of the snow and the first night, there was no other option but to go tobogganing outside the chalet. Thirty minutes later we all came in soaking and freezing but still very excited.

We woke at 8am the next morning to a hearty breakfast and lots of snow so we soon headed out to the slopes. A few of us had not skied for a while and you could tell that some were nervous about embarrassing themselves! Not to disappoint, many of us did throughout the trip; wipe-outs, face plants and embarrassing

falls from even the elite few (including Miss Drury and Mr Gaunt!). Someone even managed to fall off the chair lift and in one case a button lift (to spare his shame I won't name names.....). After the first day and night of heavy snowfall the conditions for skiing were amazing - bright sunshine and lots of powder. Apart from the odd slip-up there was fantastic skiing all round; everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves and skied the slopes with perfect technique (most of the time!).

We finished the trip with a visit into the centre of the Morzine to a local restaurant, where everyone enjoyed the famous hot stove. We devoured every last bit of food they offered us in preparation for the fourteen hour return journey.

At 2am the next morning we awoke (grumpy and sleepy), loaded the bus, fell back to sleep as we headed down the mountain and returned to Teddies. Luckily for us we arrived back from the epic trip just in time for Parents' Evening.

Many thanks go to Miss Drury and Mr Gaunt for taking us, and the Bates family for accommodating seven teenagers. We all had an



trips



Enar Olive

Navy Weekend



Hugh Harris, OSE, teaching Hebe Howorth (*Windlesham House*) how to steer HMS Ranger out in the Solent. Molly Healy (*Wellesley House*) looking on.

Enar Olive



Starboard Watch about to board HMS Warrior in Portsmouth.

Keith Shindler



Ronnie Bulford (*Dragon*) and John Bethell (*Magdalen College*) cooking breakfast during their Gold final practice.

DofE

Our main DofE Gold final practice took place at the weekend in Mid-Wales with some wet and misty conditions to start and some amazingly good weather to finish. All 23 members of the Lower Sixth made it through 3 long days demonstrating their ability to be self-sufficient, work as a team and navigate through some very tricky, wild and remote terrain. Most will be going on to complete their Qualifying Expedition in the Lake District at Easter whilst some will undertake their final expedition in Snowdonia during half term.

Meanwhile, the Gold DofE canoeing teams completed two days training on the Wye towards the end of last term. They enjoyed brilliant spring weather and equally splendid instruction from Edmund Edwards, a highly qualified canoe coach who joined Learning Support in September.





Earthwatch and Oxfam visit

Crispin Zeeman, a photographer from Earthwatch, and Annemarie Papatheofilou, a writer from Oxfam, visited the School in February to speak to Shell pupils about their travels and encounters with people and animals from around the world.

A key message was that if we are not careful, different cultures and diversity can be quickly eroded. What we lose, they suggest, is not just our humanity, but the diversity of relationships with the land and with animals.

Their talk was also the first time Crispin and Annemarie announced their new project, Last Guardians. Starting in Burma in the late autumn of this year, the project seeks to document the exceptional relationships people have with their environment. Their mission is that, "The resulting photographs, stories, and articles will be used to encourage a greater understanding of a diverse group of peoples who may be some of nature's Last Guardians."

St Edward's School has made a donation of £100 towards the project, and will continue to watch their progress. The School hopes to host an exhibition of the pictures and stories next year. More information about Last Guardians can be found here.

<http://www.buddha34.com/lastguardians/>

Youth Speaks

By Margaret Lloyd, Head of Maths

Matt Carmedy (*Homefield School*), Magnus Speirs (*The Beacon*) and late replacement Ned Donovan (*Ashfold*) took part in the Oxford heat of Youth Speaks at Rye St Antony School in Headington early last term. This is a national public speaking competition for pupils aged 14 to 18, organised by the Rotary Club of Great Britain. They gave a very well-researched talk on the economic value of the Olympics,

eschewing the more flamboyant rhetorical flourishes of some of the other teams. They acquitted themselves well against much more experienced and generally older competitors, and Ned was particularly commended by the judges for his excellent vote of thanks. A team from The Cherwell School were judged the winners, and they go on to the regional final.



Staff news

Congratulations to Chris Pollitt who has been appointed Head of Economics at Harrow School and to Barry Doherty, appointed Head of Spanish at St Edward's, both from September 2012. Warm congratulations too to Alice (*née Wishart*) and Gordon Barrett who were married on 29th December at the Merchant Adventurers' Hall, York; to Katrina and Jonny Eden on the birth of Delilah on 3rd January; and to Phoebe and Will Brookes on the birth of Violet on 15th March.

