



ST. EDWARD'S
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CHRONICLE



In Pursuit of Happiness

Who's who in the
pastoral care network

Goodbye to all That

TAJ on Teddies: 'This has
always been a School that
just gets better and better.'

Teddies Weekends

Emily Potter reports
on the weekend vibe

Word from the Warden

The end of the academic year always brings with it a degree of change. We are about to say goodbye to another excellent Upper Sixth year group and we wish both them and our Fifth Form a relaxing summer as they await the all-important results; I have no doubt that their hard work will pay off.

There is change, too, in the Senior Management Team as the Sub-Warden retires after 31 years. He has been a huge figure here at Teddies, greatly respected by staff and pupils alike. For me, personally, he has always been a source of good and sage advice, and I have valued his magnificent ability to remain calm in the most challenging of

circumstances. The pupils have understood and appreciated his tireless efforts to imbue the correct values in the school community, often illustrated by personal and amusing reflections in Assembly. Tom is without doubt a fair disciplinarian, and a number of pupils have commented that, even when they were being told off for quite serious misdemeanours, he always showed them kindness and respect.

Change is the lifeblood of a community such as ours. As we renew each September, there are subtle shifts in focus, enthusiasms and opportunities. We will be sad to say goodbye not only to Tom James, but also to Kendall Williams, Mark Sellen, Lewis Faulkner, Richard Howitt and Julie Oliver (amongst a number of others) who are retiring or moving on after long, impressive and influential Teddies careers. We will, of course, be looking forward to welcoming Tony Darby (from Rugby) as the new Sub-Warden, Andrew Grounds (outgoing Head of Middle School) as Housemaster of Tilly's, and many new teachers. You can read more about Tony and Andrew in this issue.

Community is a focus of this edition in a number of different ways. In a major feature, we interview a wide cross-section

of the many individuals involved in our comprehensive pastoral care network, exploring how they approach their role and, most importantly, how they connect with each other. Links with our city and wider community are also highlighted as we review three impressive and compassionate IB projects.

As ever at this time of year, we eagerly anticipate the great flurry of activity and joy that is Gaudy Week. You will have received an invitation to book for the various events – and this year you may also book online via the website. I look forward to seeing many of you before the end of term and especially at Gaudy.

Stephen Jones

The front cover shows Tom James in habitual pose in his final Assembly where he was greeted by exuberant, heartfelt and prolonged applause from pupils.



Ric Nalls



Caitlin Scott (Anglo American School of Moscow), Nathalie Roschmann (Prior's Field), Holly Wheatman (Cheam) and Head Girl Immy Higgins (Dragon) looking saucy at the alternative leavers' photo.

Find out more

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Tune in for the latest films: House Life at Teddies, the CCF Inspection and England Rugby on Upper 1.

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Launching Girls Write the Future

Kian Akhavan discusses the organisation he founded earlier this year.

What is Girls Write the Future?

Girls Write the Future aims to achieve gender equality in education, for the betterment of humanity as a whole, by funding the education of girls in developing countries, helping them to write their own futures.

Why have you chosen to pursue this now?

We live in an extraordinary time. Never has there been so much opportunity. A digital, boundary-less world allows us to become increasingly influential players in our common future. The empowerment of young girls and boys as agents of change in their own communities is vital, and key to it is having access to education, especially in under-served societies.

The full and equal participation of women in all spheres of life is essential to social and economic development and the ultimate establishment of a peaceful world. The denial of education to half the world's population is an impediment to progress, nor can that inequality be justified on a moral, biological or traditional basis.

What inspired you?

When I was 14, I spent a summer in rural Kenya helping to build a local school. I noticed that far more boys than girls were at the school, and when I told my mother about this, she asked "what are you going to do about it?" I started to fundraise to send girls to school in rural Kenya; that was the birth of Girls Write the Future.

What has been achieved so far?

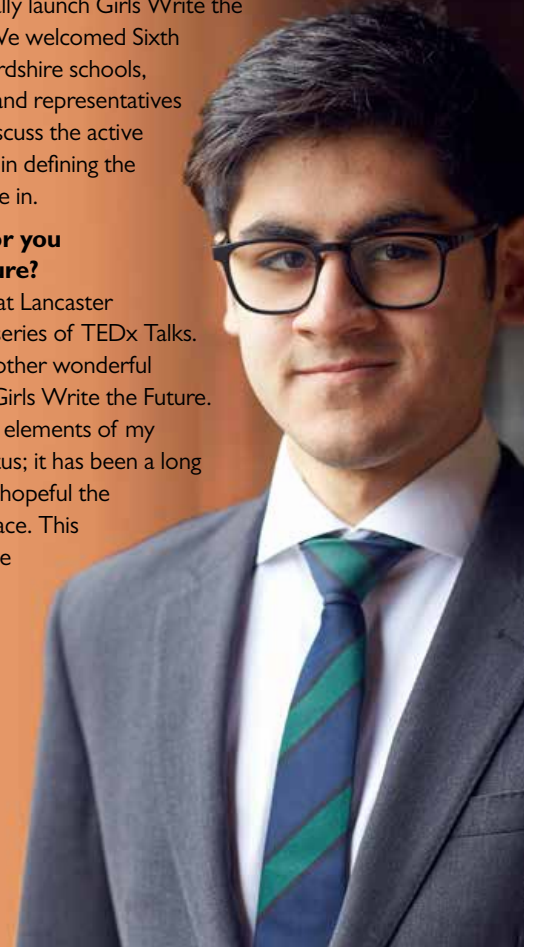
I have raised nearly \$12,000 on behalf of Girls Write the Future, enabling more than 200 girls to go through school in Kenya. In February, I had the privilege of

welcoming Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Dr Shirin Ebadi and award-winning author, activist, and journalist Sally Armstrong to help me officially launch Girls Write the Future at The North Wall. We welcomed Sixth Form pupils from local Oxfordshire schools, members of the University, and representatives from the charity sector to discuss the active role young people must play in defining the future world they want to live in.

What is the next step for you and Girls Write the Future?

I recently spoke to students at Lancaster University as a part of their series of TEDx Talks. It was a real privilege and another wonderful opportunity for me and for Girls Write the Future. I am still working on the final elements of my application for charitable status; it has been a long and difficult process, but I'm hopeful the pieces are now falling into place. This summer, I'd like to spend time in Zambia, learning from the work of others in the field. It is really exciting to see the transformative power of change, and to know that it only takes a small step to make a great deal of difference in someone's life.

Kian was formerly at the International School of Florence.



Careers Education

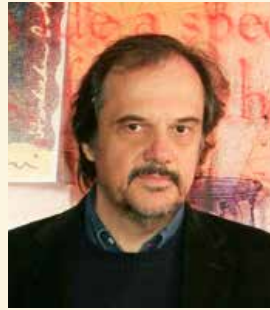


Air Marshal Sir Christopher Harper, former Director of the NATO International Military Staff, launched this term's careers talks with a truly fascinating overview of global politics and public service. Sixth Former Fergus Cameron Watt (*Dragon*) said, 'Sir Christopher was inspiring, sharing with us, among other things, his first-hand account of the NATO-led intervention in Libya.'

The Kenneth Grahame Society

The Kenneth Grahame Society was founded in the 1930s as a forum for intellectual curiosity. Named after Kenneth Grahame OSE, author of *The Wind in the Willows*, the Society's first meetings considered Kenneth Grahame himself, the nature of poetry, the BBC, local government and detective fiction. In its modern form, the Society is open to any Upper Sixth pupils interested in the topic under discussion. Coordinator Jonathan Muir says, 'The Society is an opportunity not just to hear from a visiting intellectual, but also to engage in conversation with peers and teachers on matters affecting our world today.' Below, Sixth Former Aaron Gruen (*Munich International School*) reviews the most recent meeting held over dinner in March when Apostolos Doxiadis was our guest speaker. Mr Doxiadis is an international bestselling author, with a wide range of interests and expertise in language, psychology and literature.

'Until I met Mr Doxiadis, I was not aware that the world state of affairs in such



Apostolos Doxiadis

a complicated time could be so concisely summarised in twenty minutes! His insight into the world was refreshing, yet worrying at the same time, and I was especially intrigued by his comment about Trump probably not making it past two years in office. I am very curious to find out whether this speculation proves to be true!

But not only did I talk about world affairs; I had a conversation with a teacher about vegetarianism and vegans, and what could actually be done to reduce the environmental impact on food production. Upon reflection vegetarianism may be a luxury for people living in developed countries. In reality, food resources are being depleted at an alarming rate and starvation is already too prevalent.

On the other side of me sat Mr Albrighton, who I have always seen as wise, but with whom I've never had the chance to have a long conversation. Our discussion about "even trying to understand politics" only reiterated how complicated the world is ...!'

From Upper I to the Upper West Side

Teddy Maithai (*Papplewick*), stalwart of the 1st XV, has been offered a place at the hugely prestigious Parsons School of Design in New York where he will study interior design. Teddy says, 'I wanted a change of scenery after studying in England for the past nine years. After Parsons, I hope to work at a high level in the design industry.'



Teddies on Camera

Our hardworking and incredibly talented media crew; from left to right: Damola Otegbola (*St John's Beaumont*), Oliver Fernyhough (*Caldicott*), Natasha Tisminieszky (*Banda Nairobi*), James Colson Lake (*New College*), Max Hinton (*Dragon*), William Webb (*Dragon*), Cicely Vane (*Mowden Hall*), Ned Stewart (*Eastbourne College*) and Alessandro Corrias (*Pinewood*) – with a drone he built himself. Many thanks to other members of the team who were not available for the photo: Alexandre Jennison (*Thomas's, Battersea*), Alexander Koenig (*Wetherby Prep*), Georgia Heath (*Repton, Dubai*), Fergus Flory (*Pilgrims*) and Bash Croft (*Dragon*).



Low Island

OSE Carlos Posada, Jamie Jay and Felix Higginbottom, along with Jacob Lively, make up the alt-rock band Low Island who are currently making a name for themselves. The four-piece is receiving airplay on Radios 1 and 6, and will take the main stage at a number of the summer's big festivals – Brighton, Oxford and London, to

name just a few. Given their schedule, we were honoured that they agreed to return to Teddies to be our headline act of the summer weekends' schedule. Carlos Posada said afterwards, 'We felt privileged to have been asked back, and were very grateful for the opportunity to play in front of the pupils and staff, and particularly to play

in The North Wall, a beautiful space that is full of happy memories for us. My own personal experience at Teddies was pretty much entirely defined by time spent between The North Wall and the Music School, so it was incredibly special to be part of an occasion that fused the two.' Low Island: definitely ones to watch.



Community Sport



Sponsorship of Oxford Rugby Football Club is the latest in a string of partnerships with local sports teams. Bursar Stephen Withers Green says, 'We are a School at the heart of a community and it's incredibly important to us that we have meaningful links with the clubs, organisations and people at the heart of that community.' In addition to sponsoring ORFC (Teddies were the first opponents in the Club's first ever fixture back in 1910 – we're pleased to report that we won ...), Teddies also supports, in a variety of ways, Wolvercote CC, Cherwell School, Hinksey Sculling School (a community rowing club), Orchard Meadow, Pegasus and Windale Primary Schools in the Blackbird and Greater Leys estates, county age-group sport in cricket, netball, tennis and rugby, the Summertown Stars football team and the Wasps Academy.

Weekends at Teddies

By Emily Potter

The new Weekends Brochure has prompted considerable interest in weekend activities so we asked Sixth Former and aspiring journalist, Emily Potter, to delve deep into the weekend vibe around School.

After a long, strenuous and full-on week at Teddies, consisting of lessons, sport and countless extra-curricular activities, a pair of grey circles begins to appear under pupils' eyes and everyone is just itching for the weekend to arrive so they can rest, relax and refuel. The Teddies mantra is 'keep busy and engage' but the weekends are there to unwind. The calls of Costa Coffee 'cappos' with triple choc muffins draw us into

Summertown, the home of the 'laptop-latte' culture. Poses of Shells hang out on street corners stocking up on tuck and pot noodles.

On Saturdays, most people, if they participate in team sports, have fixtures, either at home or away. For those who don't, their afternoon still consists of plenty of physical activity. No idle moments here. Later in the evenings, Teddies makes a conscious effort to ensure our Saturday night festivities are social, fun and amusing. They give pupils an opportunity to enjoy each other's company, and interact and mix with their entire year group, rather than just those in their House or academic classes.

The Saturday night activities differ every week for the Lower School (Shells, Fourth and Fifth Forms) from trampolining and ice-skating to the cinema and Rocksoc. These evenings encourage the lower years to interact with each other, break the awkwardness of strangers and try new things. They are extremely effective as they require pupils to mingle and chat with people of different age groups, which is lovely as they learn from them and begin to feel more confident in themselves and around School. As a result, the feeling of any school 'hierarchy' at Teddies is diluted and there is a very amicable sense



Emily Potter





of community around School. After their assigned activity, and usually ravenous, the pupils return to their boarding houses where they devour the banquet laid out before them by their HM and make short work of the many pizzas available.

As you reach the dizzy heights of the Sixth Form, the rules and timings for the Lower Sixth and Upper Sixth are slightly more lenient and there is a greater sense of freedom, but also inevitably you need to be more self-sufficient. Saturday nights for the Lower Sixth consist of the Junior Common Room, where you gather as a year group and the mood softens as you indulge in two

small bottles of beer each (very carefully controlled!). Every week the Houses take it in turns to choose the dress theme. It is an amusing way to chill, chat and have a dance with your friends. For those in the Upper Sixth, the freedom is even greater; with no call over until 11pm, most venture into Oxford city centre with all its attractions. At 11pm the flock are all safely back in House to meet for cheese and biscuits with their HM, and to chat and reflect on the night's excitements.

Come the Day of Rest, there isn't much! Lie-in luxury is limited to 8:30am. We are woken by the sound of the Chapel

bells, rousing us to shower and shake-a-leg. Somewhat zombie-like, the Lower School file into the Service, ready to listen but also longing for brunch. Sixth Formers can choose to go to Theme (a secular alternative) later, so a slightly longer lie-in is possible - the perks of seniority. On Sundays after Chapel, some of us filter off to parents and guardians for family fun, whilst others take part in the busy weekend programme or venture into Summertown or Oxford for a breath of fresh air.

Emily was previously at Queen Anne's School.



Who's Who in Pastoral Care

James Cope, Deputy Head Pastoral, introduces our major feature on the pastoral care network at Teddies.

'The key to pastoral care at St Edward's is a focus on the individual. All our systems and practices have at their heart a genuine interest in our pupils – and indeed in all individuals in our community. The most important elements in our comprehensive network are people, conversations and relationships. Sometimes we rely on professional help and we are privileged to have so many experts to work with but we are increasingly aware of how well placed we are to help each other. Of course there are a wide range of adults in School who look out for the wellbeing of our pupils on a number of levels; but we place great value on the role of pupils as part of our pastoral system, especially when it comes to emotional wellbeing, and this will be a major focus for the near future. On a personal level, working with the range of people who have contributed to this article makes my job as Head of Pastoral Care incredibly rewarding. We asked everyone what role they play in pastoral care, how they connect with the wider care network, how and when they spend time with pupils and what they enjoy about their role; I hope you enjoy reading their responses.'



Sophie Sydenham

House Matron

I am the House Matron in Oakthorpe which means I am based in the boarding house during the day to help with the running of the House and oversee the pastoral welfare of the girls whilst the other House staff are out teaching. It's such a varied role that I could be dispensing medication or hugs, providing food, making sure the House is up together, giving love and support, chatting to the girls, or just being here for whatever the pupils need.

My office is often full with pupils sitting on any available surface as the girls tend to pop in throughout the school day. Lunch and sports afternoons are usually accompanied by lots of laughter and giggling, occasionally dancing and singing but definitely lots of chatting. The Oakthorpe girls are a wonderfully social bunch and are a joy to be around (obviously I am slightly biased!). Break times in House are always a good opportunity to spend time with the girls; they all gather round for some food and it's really lovely to see the year groups all talking to each other. We have lots of House social events which allow me to spend time with the pupils such as dinners, charity events, the Christmas trip, end of term parties and the school singing competition. We also do a whole House

"family night" and I organise a lunch for each year group a couple of times a year where I cook for them and we get to enjoy sitting down to eat together.

Our House team meets officially every week to catch up on house matters but in reality we work very closely together and see each other numerous times a day to keep up to date.

The Matron team spend a lot of time together so although we have a scheduled meeting once a fortnight with the Deputy Head Pastoral we often catch up daily at lunch time. With such a wide range of backgrounds the Matrons are an excellent source of knowledge and experience if anyone needs help or support. I also meet with my HM and our House Nurse once a week to discuss any medical matters.

I'm currently doing a Boarding Schools' Association course in Pastoral Care and Boarding Management. I find it really useful in keeping up to date with issues specifically affecting boarding schools and it's a brilliant opportunity to share good practice with similar schools.

The best part of my job is the girls that

I work with. Spending time with them is what I enjoy most and I love that every day can be different. Throughout my time in House I have developed good relationships with the girls in my care and whilst not every day is easy, it is always rewarding.



Dr Lynsey Bennett

School Doctor

I am one of a team of GPs based at Summertown Health Centre in North Oxford. We provide NHS GP care to the pupils. We work closely with the school pastoral team to ensure that care is holistic and appropriate.

There is a GP at the Health Centre for an hour every day Tuesday to Friday, and 90 minutes on a Monday. We see pupils whom the Nurses think need GP care.

In addition to a daily debrief with nursing staff about the pupils we have seen, we attend the Pastoral Care Group once a fortnight where wider social and psychological factors are considered for those pupils needing it. I regularly stay in touch with nursing staff and school Counsellors as needed via email.

I like the variety of problems we see – tonsillitis one minute, a more complex issue the next – and I enjoy talking to the pupils about their daily lives.



Rev Charlie Kerr

Chaplain

As Chaplain, I have a duty of care for the spiritual welfare and general pastoral care of all pupils and staff in the School.

I will often visit pupils in House if they are having a hard time for any reason. This might be because they are having trouble settling in, because they have been recently bereaved or because they are experiencing trouble at home. Quite often I will meet with House year groups to help them think and talk about group dynamics, and I also see a number of individuals, both pupils and staff, who feel they need a listening ear or specific spiritual support for some reason. It is always a great privilege to be entrusted with someone's confidence in this situation. I also love passing the time of day with pupils around School, on the games pitch, in House or best of all sharing a table with them over a meal – they are great company!

I am part of the Pastoral Care Group along with James Cope, the Counsellors Lucy-Jean, Matthew and Sharon and the Senior Nurse, Lynne Dunn. Led by James we offer support, insight and oversight for the pastoral care in the

School. It is a lovely group and it feels a privilege to meet to hold pupil and staff welfare, health and happiness in mind and to seek strategies to help others when they are struggling. I also work closely with Beth Steer who is part of the Chaplaincy Team, Head of Pupil Wellbeing and Head of PSHE, and with Rev Katie Jones who is Assistant Chaplain. I often spend time catching up with House staff to ask how things are in the House and thus try to support House staff in their duty of care.

Often the pupils are very happy to share their issues and concerns with you, when the environment is conducive. I also like reading literature on contemporary thought – Generation Z is my current area of interest. I also find teaching the PSHE course enlightening – Beth has put together some fabulous and stimulating resources.

I love trying to help people through tricky or difficult times. The results are not always obvious or immediate, but it is such a privilege to share the journey with someone who is struggling for whatever reason and to try to accompany them to a brighter future.



Catherine Phillips

Tutor

I am a Sixth Form Tutor in Segar's and as such I oversee the academic performance and personal well-being of a small group of Lower Sixth boys.

I meet my tutees twice a week but also correspond with them via email. Whilst on duty in House once a week I interact with pupils from other year groups in an informal way and these times allow me to have a positive input when an individual pupil needs a listening ear, advice or a motivational talk. I also coach Swimming and these sessions give me a lot of opportunities to talk about fitness, healthy life style, mental health and how to relieve the pressure of academic work through physical exercise. A substantial part of the pastoral care I do in this school happens around Games time.

There are plenty of opportunities to do team work in this School. I personally prefer to talk to colleagues in person in



Alexandra Holloway

Governor

I sit on the Governing Body as the School's designated Safeguarding Governor. I report to the Safeguarding and Compliance Committee and the wider Governing Body on all matters affecting the wellbeing of pupils at St Edward's.

My five children attended Teddies so I have a good grounding in the School's policies and practices both as a parent and as a Governor. Being a GP, I have a great deal of experience in health matters and good insight into people's needs at times of stress or ill-health. The GP role also requires extensive understanding of safeguarding, in which I receive regular training.

I see the Deputy Head Pastoral regularly to keep up-to-date with any specific safeguarding concerns and to attend a Pastoral Care Group meeting. I also make visits to the School to see staff and pupils on my own so that I can judge if the School's policies are being correctly followed 'on the ground' – or if

there are any areas where improvements could be made.

It is important that I spend time in Houses talking to staff and pupils, of course, but I also look at the wider setting, overseeing the pupils' environment from all angles. I talk to the Catering Department about nutrition planning, for instance, or the Grounds Team about keeping the site as safe as possible. The Chairman, Mike Stanfield, and I make a point of having supper in the Dining Hall every now and then alongside the pupils so we know exactly what they are eating. The Catering Team are very aware of who's not eating enough, or not eating the right food, and they are able to pass on the information to the relevant staff.

Confidentiality is key to my role but I'm well-versed in this given my profession. What I most enjoy about being the Safeguarding Governor is perhaps what I most enjoy about being a GP – understanding the wider context but being able to drill down into specific issues in a very human way.

the Common Room over coffee or share a lunch with them and discuss issues then. Regular meetings in House are always useful too. It is easy to connect with colleagues here because they all highly committed and involved in all aspects of the school life.

Being in contact with the teenagers and young adults at Teddies is extremely enriching. They bring energy, freshness, innocence and hope; they can highlight the contradictions of the adult world with surprising maturity. Coming from different countries, they bring different perspectives. Their personal stories are fascinating. At the same time, they can be fragile, vulnerable or confused in this rapidly-changing world where technology is a blessing and a curse, where time is scarce for reflection and nurturing relations. Being there to answer their questions, suggest alternatives, point them in the right direction, and generally support them is the most rewarding aspect of my job.



Gemma Ferrier

School Nurse

I am one of the Nurses working in the Health Centre at St Edward's. We see pupils with a very wide range of physical and mental health problems and issues.

I am also the House Nurse for Tilly's and Corfe. I work with the House Teams to provide extra health and pastoral support to the pupils and staff. Spending time in the Houses is a great way to get to know some of the pupils better and get more involved in school life.

I see pupils when they come to Health Centre. I go into each of the boarding houses at break time once a week on the same day, so that pupils get to know my face and when I am around.

We have a great team of Nurses in the Health Centre. We usually have a team meeting every fortnight to share experiences and any concerns. I also attend meetings with James Cope and Matthew Cheetham (school GP) on a fortnightly basis.

I meet with the House Staff weekly to keep up to date with what is going on the House and how I can best support them.

I attend regular study days during the year on issues pertinent to my role as a nurse and also issues affecting teenagers. Listening to the pupils is also so important as they are able to tell me in much more detail things that are affecting them and that are important to them.

I love the variety – working in the Health Centre you can never be sure who is going to walk through the door or why they might be coming to see us.

Learning how to support pupils from a health and pastoral perspective as they journey through School and develop their independence is a huge and ongoing learning curve which makes my role fascinating.



Jeremy Mather

Housemaster

I'm lucky enough to see pupils pretty much all day every day! The Cowell's team and I try to be in House as much as possible. Working with the pupils is what I love about being a Housemaster. The most enjoyable time of every day is sitting on the landing and chatting to the boys and colleagues. House events such as House Chapel, a charity event, annual dinner, curry nights, and various trips are always good for spending time with the boys.

Often there is some distance from the stresses and strains of school life and they provide an opportunity to connect and develop our relationship.

Face to face is my preferred way of connecting with colleagues. We have various cyclical meetings that are

always useful in developing the best possible pastoral care for the pupils. There is a very supportive team of professionals at the School who have a huge amount of experience, and drawing upon their advice and guidance is crucial to our pastoral success. I have many inspiring colleagues and if you work in a boarding school it is likely because you enjoy working with people.

Many colleagues are easily contactable by phone – and it is always good to talk! Otherwise, there are emails ... probably too many.

Working in a boarding house provides an opportunity to discuss with pupils what is on their mind in a relaxed setting. I am constantly impressed by how refreshingly open the boys are about issues that are affecting them and their friends. They are



Beth Steer

Head of Pupil Wellbeing

My role is Head of Pupil Wellbeing which includes being Head of PSHE, running the Peer Listening scheme and being part of the Chaplaincy Team. I am also a Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead along with Rachel Bellamy.

I have meetings with the Peer Listeners to find out how they're getting on and I do small group work in Houses as and when it's requested by the HM. I see the whole Sixth Form a couple of times a term for their PSHE lecture series (which has visiting speakers on various issues) and often afterwards pupils will want to come on their own or in small groups to talk about the issues raised. More often than not though pupils just pop in for a conversation!

I meet with James Cope and Rachel Bellamy every few weeks to think about the School's safeguarding policies. Given that I work in the same department as Rev Kerr and Mr Bunch (who is the newest addition to the Peer Listening team) we are able to catch up on pastoral issues fairly often. Mr Bunch and I have

also been meeting with the Counsellors this term to plan the new Peer Listening training scheme.

I recently attended a training day in London on adolescent wellbeing and mental health at which the keynote speaker was Dr Martin Seligman, a pioneer in positive psychology. It's an area of research and understanding that is constantly evolving and so there are always interesting books or lectures to look into. I also find other members of staff are hugely committed and helpful in this area; rarely a day goes by when I don't get sent a link to a video or article that's relevant for PSHE.

Pupils and teachers have a passion for areas surrounding Pupil Wellbeing. This is particularly evident whenever we have a Sixth Form PSHE lecture; the speakers that we've had have inspired devised drama pieces, EPQ topics, heated debates in tutor groups and positive action in our school community. It's a privilege to see the adults and young people here so engaged with the issues that surround healthy adolescent development.



very supportive of each other and will share concerns they have about others in the boarding house. Also, the boys are supported by an outstanding Assistant Housemaster, Mr Cottrell; Matron, Mrs Carter; and Resident Tutor, Dr Roche – they always keep their finger on the pulse of the House. The senior boys in the House are a fantastic barometer for current issues and working closely with them helps me to stay connected with their concerns. In addition, Mr Cope circulates bulletins highlighting issues of which we need to be aware.

The most enjoyable aspect of my role is working with the pupils and colleagues – they are inspiring and excellent company.

I learn something new every day. Making a difference – small or big – is incredibly rewarding.

Lisa Walls

House Cleaner

I first come into contact with the pupils at breakfast time in the Dining Hall when I have my breakfast and then again when I go into Kendall to start work.

I make sure the pupils have a clean home at Teddies and a pleasant environment in which to live and work. Also I keep my eyes and ears open and can discuss any concerns with someone in the House team.

The thing I most enjoy is knowing that I am making a difference to the pupils.

Over the many years I've been at Teddies I've made many friends throughout the School.



Anna Fielding

Assistant Housemistress

I am on duty in the boarding house on a Wednesday and also on a Thursday evening. However, I usually aim to pop into the House at least once a day to catch up with whoever is around. I am in charge of the boarding house for one weekend a term and I am often around on Saturdays or Sundays.

We do have formal meetings but it's mostly regular chats (often over tea) to keep up to date with what's happening.

I read the news and articles on social media to keep up-to-date with issues affecting teenagers. However, it's mostly through talking with the girls in House - there are lots of things said in the media but the best way to find out what's bothering young people is to talk to them.

The big events are always fun when the whole House comes together - Corfe/Field dinner, summer BBQs, *Corfe Occasion*, House sporting wins. However, the best bit is probably getting to know the girls as "real people". They are not just pupils sitting in my classroom; they are interesting individuals with their own interests, cares and concerns. In the end it's probably the little things that really make it enjoyable - table tennis and pool competitions, jigsaws, mending broken mobile phones, Chinese takeaway and, of course, cake night. Living in a boarding house helps pupils to appreciate that you are a real person too - certainly after early morning fire alarms in the rain in your pyjamas!



Julius Nyonyo

Peer Listener

I am a Peer Listener, and a Head Sacristan.

Particularly when I am on duty in House I make sure to check up on all individuals of the year before putting them to bed. Being from Tilly's, I tend to speak to pupils in our common room which is quite big and open so presents an inviting environment for conversation.

I make sure that pupils in House know and understand my role as a Peer Listener, and a Head Sacristan. I am here for them to speak to about any issues that they may have, not necessarily school related, and that whatever I am told remains confidential between us. Pupils are welcome to find me (or any Peer Listener) in their Houses; in my case pupils usually come and find me in my room if they wish to speak to me about something.

As Peer Listeners, we have weekly meetings with Miss Steer and Mr Tester to discuss how we are finding our role, whether there are any serious issues around the School at the present time and, if so, what we can do to help. We also talk about areas in our role that we think we are struggling and how we can make improvements. We communicate with each other regularly via email. Head Sacristans also have weekly meetings with both Reverend Kerr and Reverend Jones to talk about how we could engage more pupils in their faith and their spiritual side.

I often ask pupils in the lower years what is going in their year group and enquire how they feel about the atmosphere in their year, in order to gain an understanding of how the pupil may feel and how they are being affected by this.

It provides me with the opportunity to interact with the lower years, on a regular basis. It also gives me the chance to lend an ear to those pupils who, around this age, sometimes think they are on their own and aren't being heard by others. It is rewarding to be able to encourage them to believe in themselves and stay positive.

Julius was previously at Caldicott



Lucy-Jean Lloyd School Counsellor

The Counsellors at St Edward's are fully integrated into the pastoral care network at School. We are part of School, but not quite in the same way as other staff like HMs, Matrons and Tutors, who are part of a pupil's everyday life. We have been working as a part of the pastoral team and as a sounding board for staff for many years and so have a clear sense of what living in a boarding school is like. This enables us to communicate with the staff around a child when that is helpful. We are careful this does not compromise confidentiality, but it does enable us to work alongside staff and think together with them about our pupils and some of the situations they face. The Counsellors take part in regular meetings with the Deputy Head Pastoral, and go into the Common room to chat to staff.

Our starting point is that pupils can talk to a Counsellor in confidence without asking permission from anyone. Usually however, they are referred by a member of staff or a family member. Our service is open every day Monday-Friday. We are there in the daytime and usually into the early evening. The Counsellors are lucky to have a small, private room in Cooper Lodge which is our own space and where we know we won't be interrupted.

We also meet each pupil, in groups of six, in their first half term at the School. This way they know where we are and how we can help when, and if, they ever need us.

We meet with the other important people in pupils' lives: House staff, Chaplains, Health Centre staff, in a weekly Pastoral Care Group, but only ever discuss our work with pupils within that group with their permission. We are also happy to work with family and friends if the pupil believes that would help. Connecting up with others is never something we oblige someone to do, but in our long experience a moment comes when it really does become the pupil's choice; or they agree for us to help them communicate the things they need to say to a member of staff or their family.

Those moments of connection we share with a pupil when something finally makes sense for them, or when we laugh together, or feel sad together, or see something together that wasn't possible before. Sometimes the pupil and the Counsellor have to wait some time for a connection like this to be made or sometimes it can happen in just one session.



Ceci Sutcliffe Head of House

As Head of House I ensure that everyone knows my door is always open if they want to chat. Due to it being on the ground floor near Mrs Newson's office it is easily accessible.

When I became Head of House in Mac's, I wanted to make sure all the years were really well integrated and comfortable around each other, so I created 'House Families', made up of one girl from each year with a member of the Upper Sixth as the head of the family. So I spend time with my family by going to breakfast with them and talking about everything from exam stress, to holidays coming up and any friendship problems they may be having. I also hold House council sessions in which a representative from each year raises any problems in the House and in the School at large. I hope that they feel comfortable enough to talk to me as a peer of similar age and then I can feedback to Mrs Newson, our HM. We occasionally have breakfast in House on a Saturday morning when we are spoilt with muffins, granola, smoothies of all flavours and pancakes – I use this time to spend time with pupils of all years in the House.

The Head of House team have meetings with Mr Cope every Wednesday break time in which we discuss pastoral care and how we can improve it.

I love my role due to the girls of every age group that I get to know really well, and the changes I am able to bring about within the House alongside my HM.

Ceci was previously at Hockerill Anglo-European College



Will Gompertz

BBC Arts Editor Will Gompertz spoke to pupils about the merits of the arts in education. Sixth Former Maria Saenko (*British International School Barcelona*) reports: 'Mr Gompertz argued that art is one of the most effective forces for social and personal development. We discovered that artistic ways of thinking have been studied by physiological and social scientists, and how successful people in the modern world apply creative thought processes in one way or another.' Read Maria's full report on Mr Gompertz's talk, *Why all schools should be art schools*, on the website.



Alexandra Jemison (Thomas's, Battersea)



From left to right: Alicia Bouaziz (*Jumeirah College, Dubai*), Izzy Wates (*Cottesmore*), Alana Wilson (*Cheam*) and Amber Walkinshaw (*Dragon*) on the CCF Field Weekend in March.



Will Webb (Dragon)



Ric Mellis

The Ogston Music School

Renowned composer, OSE and school Governor George Fenton officially opened The Ogston Music School in March. Enjoy the evening on Teddies TV via the website.



Andrew Grounds

What do you do at Teddies and how long have you been here?

I am currently Head of Middle School (Fourth and Fifth Forms), Master in Charge of Rugby and a Maths teacher but in September I will become Housemaster of Tilly's. This is my seventh year at the school.

Where were you before?

I was previously at Bedford Modern School as Head of House and Deputy in the Maths Department.

Where did you study?

I took my A Levels at Coopers' Company and Coborn School in Essex, my degree in Mathematics and Management Studies at Brunel University, a PGCE at the University of Bedfordshire and a MSc in Learning and Teaching at Kellogg College, Oxford.

What school activities are you involved in?

I am mainly involved in the rugby programme here at St Edwards as Master in Charge. I have also been Master in Charge of Squash and helped coach the 3rd XI at cricket.

What do you like about working at Teddies?

I enjoy the normality of the place. Pupils and staff have positive relationships with each other and the Common Room is a real strength of the School.

What do you like about living in Oxford?

I enjoy the balance of the historic buildings, the beautiful scenery when going for a walk across Port Meadow and the facilities a city can provide.

Tell us about your family.

My wife, Emma, works in the Development Office. We have two young boys Elliott, 7, and William, 6, and a dog, Tinky.

What do you do in your spare time?

I enjoy spending time with my family, playing and watching sports, including rugby, squash and football, watching films and listening to podcasts.

What made you want to be a Housemaster?

I enjoy building positive relationships with pupils, creating a strong team culture and seeing their growth from Shells into young adults ready for the outside world.

Did you enjoy your schooldays?

On the whole, yes; I used to get in trouble with my French teacher on a regular basis due to my love for watching *Sharpe*.

What was the naughtiest thing you did at school?

We used to hide inside the CDT work-tops and then tell the teacher that the invisible pupils had just walked out of the lesson. It was like a Benny Hill sketch.

Best advice you've ever been given?

Always look at yourself in the mirror first before you blame others.

The TAJ Years

Head of Communications Tracy van der Heiden catches up with Tom James as he enters his final few weeks at Teddies after 31 years at the School



Tell us about your career before Teddies?

My first position was as a neuroscientist at the School of Pharmacy in London. I held a teaching and research fellowship for six years. My research involved recording the activity of single brain cells in the basal ganglia, which are involved in the control of movement. It was an exciting and productive time – my co-worker and I published 30 original papers.

Why did you leave the School of Pharmacy?

My fellowship was coming to an end and I managed to secure a sole research-only position at the Institute of Psychiatry. Looking at oscilloscopes for 12 to 16 hours a day can be pretty grim and I was concerned about the lack of teaching. One night I was in a pub in Russell Square writing up my notes when I bumped into my old Biology teacher – and a different idea was born. I started teaching at University College School in my final term at the School of Pharmacy, so I had a wonderfully wide brief: I would teach neuropharmacology to third-year undergraduates and then jump into my little sports car, a glorious, flame-spitting, Frogeye Sprite, and charge over to UCS in Hampstead to teach Biology to Shells. I turned down the research role and moved to UCS full time.

What made you apply to Teddies?

London day schools are a breed of their own. The schools are highly selective with extremely bright children supported and encouraged by highly motivated, ambitious parents, and in many ways are relatively easy places for an ex-university scientist to teach. After five years at UCS, which was an all boys' school, I wanted to broaden my experience by finding a very different setting – and I wanted a rowing school. So co-educational Teddies, with its broad intake, strong boarding ethos, outside London, with a beautiful Boat House at Godstow could not have been more different. I applied, got the job – and have been here for 31 years.

You must have fitted in a great deal in that time.

I started as a Biology Teacher and as Master i/c Shell Rowing. I really enjoyed the rowing. As is still the case, many Shells hadn't rowed before, and I loved starting from scratch and taking them on to great things. In five years in the role, we won 2 golds, 2 silvers and a bronze at National Schools – not a bad

record! After a few years, I was promoted to Head of Biology and was subsequently appointed Housemaster of Sing's.

What was it like moving into the HM role?

I had been a Tutor in the House since I arrived at Teddies, so I knew the House well and I knew the children well. I was blessed with a wonderful group of Upper Sixth prefects. I like to think we shared a common vision for the House and how we wanted it to evolve. My first years in Sing's coincided with the introduction of the Children Act and the launch of national inspection of boarding schools. A few years later came the Care Standards Act and at this point, in around 2001, I applied to be a Boarding Inspector – I wanted to really understand what was required of us.

Was life in Sing's and other Houses different then to the way it is today?

Houses were much bigger. In my day, Sing's had 62 boys and around 14 Sixth Form girls.

Oakthorpe at that time was a girls' residence, not a boarding house proper, and girls would arrive at my House at 8am, share studies with the boys during the day, and would be escorted back to Oakthorpe at around 10pm.

Pastoral care was in its infancy. I shared a Matron with Field House, so the poor lady looked after around 150 pupils, with one night off a week. A great deal has changed in the way in which we look after pupils, and in the way in which we self-regulate, but Houses were always pupil-centric places and I'm happy to say they remain so. It is the pupils who bring the Houses and this School to life.

What did you do after your seven years as HM?

Towards the end of my time in Sing's, Warden, David Christie, asked me to plan for the transition to a fully co-educational school. During this period, I was appointed Senior Master. I had a year of overlap with Malcolm Oxley, the first Sub-Warden – who was very generous and very helpful. I will always

be grateful for his pearls of wisdom and moments of dry wit; I envied his ability to talk in Assembly.

What aspects of being a Sub-Warden do you enjoy the most?

What I have loved about being Sub-Warden is the constant contact with pupils. There hasn't been a single day when I haven't laughed and smiled with them. Beyond that, as an HM, you develop a vision and a set of values for your House, and I began to be interested in how we could extend those values throughout the school community. At the time, Houses were run a bit like private fiefdoms, with HMs guarding their own territory. In those days, if you put a note on the Common Room board to announce that a pupil had been gated or similar, you might well receive a tart little note from a fellow HM saying how sorry he was to hear that you weren't able to control your boys ... there was certainly an edge to inter-house relations!



Tom maintains his sense of humour as he tries to control an exuberant Upper Sixth at this year's 'alternative' leavers' photo

Looking back, how successful were you in this regard?

What is my legacy? It's difficult to look back and isolate the achievements of one person – these things are always a team effort. I hope I leave the School a kinder, more empathetic, more tolerant place than it was then. At the same time, I hope that I have managed to nurture and protect the fundamental ethos and heart of the School; its sense of community and the importance of the individual. The children are much better behaved than they were 20 years ago – they are more respectful. The world is more competitive and, as a result, pupils take their studies more seriously; they are more focused. As a whole, staff are more open to change and innovation, and are far more ambitious for our pupils. There are many more women in the School, in all areas, which is a very good thing. And we operate, in the main, as a supportive community, which wasn't always the case.

What do you mean?

In those early days, many houses would run their own routines, often out of line with school policy. I clearly remember one HM proudly displaying a notice, in his House, announcing 'There is no Second Prep in XXXX House!'. Taking the School into full co-education required all the Houses to run the same routines. The final HMs' meeting when these were thrashed out was probably one of the least pleasant meetings I have ever attended.

Of course it's very different now. HMs work together and are the focal point of our wider pastoral care network (see pages 8 to 15). We all work very hard to create a common set of values across all Houses – and indeed across the whole community. Having said that, the Houses still reflect the personalities and values of the HM at the helm and rightly so.

Which role have you enjoyed most?

Being a Housemaster – it was weepingly funny on so many occasions. I think mine was the first House to adopt what is now known as 'bread and cheese' for the Sixth Form. I remember that the Bursar of the day refused to pay so I funded it myself. The Upper Sixth would go into Oxford on Saturday night where there were the inevitable temptations. We had a dog at the time, so I had a dog gate between my private house and the boarding house. On returning from Oxford, the boys had to step over it to get into my kitchen for

our convivial bread and cheese. The House developed a simple rule; if anyone clipped the top of the gate, they were required to spend several Saturday nights on duty in the House! The system worked extremely well and the boys always returned home safe and sound.

What do you think being in Oxford brings to Teddies?

It brings massive benefits to the School, as does being on the doorstep of Summertown. These links with the real world are the greatest assets the School has. There's none of the 'pressure cooker' feeling I see so often when I'm inspecting in other schools. Being exposed to normality on a regular basis is a very good thing for our pupils. Oxford is such a wonderful city – we can invite world experts in to speak to pupils at the drop of a hat, and the city is just what many of our boarders want on a Sunday afternoon. There are endless options: concerts, bookshops, cafes, talks, restaurants, beautiful walks, stunning architecture, life, buzz – wonderful for our young teenagers.

What are you planning to do now?

I'll continue to inspect for the Independent Schools' Inspectorate. I'm involved in the Blackbird Leys Academy Trust and I'd like to give more time and energy to these wonderful but challenging primary schools. I'm also a Trustee of a young people's club in Fulham founded by my father. Around 90 boys and girls attend every night. It's a youth club with an all-weather 5-a-side pitch, a boxing ring and visits from Chelsea footballers; it's a fantastic community service – I'll enjoy being able to be more involved. Knowing me, something else will emerge, when I least expect it, and a new journey will begin.

If you had an unlimited budget, what would be your parting gift to the School?

Complete the Quad development, create a substantial endowment fund and set this School on a fantastic journey. It has always been a School that just gets better and better.



Dr Andrew Davis and Tom James welcoming 40,000 bees to St Edward's earlier this term.

Creativity, Action, Service

The IB in the Community

As part of their International Baccalaureate Diploma, pupils are required to demonstrate regular commitment to a portfolio of creative, physical and service activities. The service element always prompts an impressive and imaginative range of ideas; below, we focus on three groups who felt compelled to develop projects in support of our local community.

A Night Under the Stars to Support the Homeless

By Oliver Tao

In my group, we elected to help the homeless. In the UK, there are an estimated 250,000 homeless people and the CAS project gave us one month in which to come up with a plan to help and to execute it. Having put up posters, sent emails and spread the word it was finally time for our 12-hour sleep-out. We were all apprehensive but excited by the prospect of our night out. In order to try to recreate realistic conditions we wore few layers, had one sleeping bag and slept

on thin mats; however, we were fortunate to be sleeping in a safe area and under a relatively nice shelter (the Lodge). By the early hours of the morning, the cold had really hit home and a noisy helicopter had disturbed what little rest some of our troop had managed. It was a stark reminder of how truly fortunate we are. Having completed the sleep-out our work was not finished! We created our 'care packages' and delivered them to homeless people in Oxford. The most touching part

was not the care packages themselves but the conversations we had with the men and women we helped. To date we have raised over £2,200 - far more than we had anticipated. We are now in the process of choosing a shelter to receive the vast proportion of the money we raised as these shelters provide things we cannot: counselling, life skills and regular hot meals. The Project has been a fantastic way to bond as a group of pupils as well as a stark reminder of how privileged we are.



Freddie Sunderland (Winchester House), John de Pauw (College Notre Dame des Trois, Belgium), Louis Leger (Ecole Active Bilingue, Paris), Oliver Tao (City of London School for Boys), and Jenny Hu (Cawthra Park, Canada).

Fully Booked at Northern House

By Georgia Paymaster-Billington

Our IB group was inspired by the *Readers make Leaders* event from last year, when all of the Fifth Form went to Blackbird Leys to read to lots of young children in groups. Therefore, we decided to do something book related, settling on the idea of asking pupils and staff to gather up forgotten, old books at home, and donating them to Northern House.

Northern House is a Primary Academy (recently rated 'Outstanding' by Ofsted) opposite The North Wall on South Parade for children who have social, emotional or behavioural difficulties. We thought it would be a nice idea to volunteer there for two hours a week so everybody in our group would have the experience of the 'teacher's role' with much younger children.

Looking back, we all found the experience really rewarding. The school really appreciated our donations and the kids loved having some new, younger people come in to work with them for a couple of hours. We are all so happy we chose to work with Northern House for our CAS Project, it was an amazing experience!



Left to right: Sasha Yakubov (*Danube International, Vienna*), Pasha Tinkov (*Anglo American, Moscow*), Millie Moss (*Westbourne House*), Finn Leighton (*The Hall*), Georgia Paymaster-Billington (*Swanbourne House*) and Sam Shuker (*St Hugh's*); Chase Flynn (*Dragon*) was unavailable for the photo.

A Brief Encounter for an Important Cause

By Eloise Newell

For our CAS project we decided that it would be beneficial to both the community

and ourselves to assist the homeless in Oxford. We came across a poster asking for underwear donations on the website of the homeless centre OxHop. This inspiring charity accommodates up to 55 people aged 22 and above each night providing them with washing facilities as well as a hot meal. After seeing the poster, we felt compelled to act. Underwear, although a necessity, is not often thought of in relation to charity but it is often these basic items of which those who are disadvantaged,

and the homeless in particular, are most in need. Our group in its entirety found this experience highly rewarding and we all learnt the value of aiding our community. With our £50 budget we chose to go to Primark so that we could make the most of our limited funds and positively impact as many people as possible. Using the expertise within the group by splitting into boys and girls, we were able to find the most practical and long lasting underwear possible. When delivering these donations to the centre we were in awe of the dedication and genuine concern of the volunteers. Their work hugely benefits the lives of those whom they help on a daily basis and the wellbeing of the community as a whole. Our group was greatly inspired by their efforts and we hope that our donations will have a positive impact on the centre.



Left to right: Danielle Lim (*Windlesham House*), Bradley McCarthy (*Wetherby Prep*), Huw Neville (*St John's College*), Evie Jones (*Cheam*), Eloise Newell (*American International School of Johannesburg*), Ewan Brown (*Leicester Grammar*) and Laurenz Claas (*Shiplake*)

Tony Darby

What will your role be at Teddies?

I take over as Sub-Warden in September.

Where are you currently working and what do you do there?

I am currently at Rugby School where I am the Senior Housemaster. As well as running a House I teach Economics and Business Studies and get involved in coaching various sports such as football, cricket, hockey and fives.

Where else have you worked?

After university, I never really planned to become a teacher, but did a Gap year teaching English in a school in the Czech Republic. The Velvet Revolution had just happened and it was a wonderful time to be in Eastern Europe. I had a period of time with the accounting firm PWC afterwards, but decided to move into teaching, so I studied for a PGCE and then became Head of Economics and Politics at Queen's College in the West Country.

What has been the best moment of your career so far?

There have been lots of memorable moments, but taking a Politics trip to Belfast soon after the Good Friday Agreement was right up there as a highlight.

Where did you go to university and what did you study?

I studied Politics and Economics at Durham University.

Why did you apply to Teddies?

I have brought visiting sports teams to Teddies for a number of years, and always enjoyed the hospitality and how the School felt. It always seemed to me that the pupils I encountered were happy, competitive and also played in the right spirit, so it was an easy decision to apply.

What are you looking forward to about living in Oxford?

I am really looking forward to moving back to living in a city, particularly one that is so vibrant. If I wasn't a teacher I think I would have liked to have been a food critic, so sampling all the delights of Oxford restaurants is definitely on the to do list.

Tell us about your family.

I'm married to Leah and we have two children: Bella, 11, and Lewis, 9. We are big fans of being outdoors and holidays are filled with lots of walking, cycling, and, if possible, bodyboarding and beach cricket, particularly around the North Devon coast.

What do you do in your spare time?

I play fives whenever I can and a real treat for me is to go and watch West Brom play football with Lewis, although he is still insisting on supporting another premiership team at the moment!

Did you enjoy school?

I did although it was a very different school to Teddies. There were some fantastic teachers who inspired me and gave me the confidence to apply to university.

What was the naughtiest thing you did at school?

I am embarrassed to say that through sheer jealousy, I stole Joseph's clothes just before he was due to go on stage in the school nativity play when I was in primary school.



In the Footsteps of Revolutionaries

By Alexander Koenig



Alexander Koenig

Over the spring Half Term I was lucky enough to take part in this year's Fourth Form History trip. Thirty five pupils who have been studying Russia as part of their GCSE History course went and the trip was timed to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the overthrow of the Imperial Romanov Monarchy in February, and the 'coming of the Bolsheviks' in October.

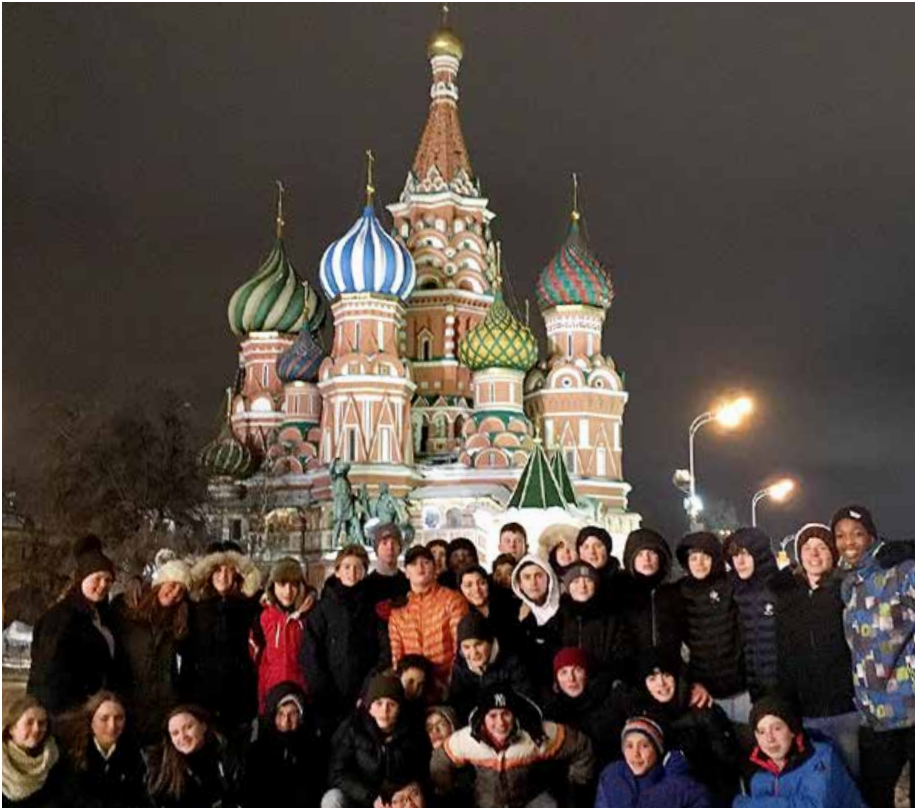
We started our trip in Moscow which was absolutely fascinating; we saw the Kremlin and St Basil's Cathedral which were fantastic. In the Kremlin, we saw the Armoury which holds some of the captured weapons from Napoleon's failed invasion. We also saw the Battleship *Aurora* which was breathtakingly impressive - the *Aurora*, famously, fired the shot which was the signal for the start of the Communist Revolution. St Petersburg, comparatively, was much more European in its feel and reminded me of Germany, France and even Venice with its amazing canal system. The Winter Palace was a sight to behold (not least its magnificent Jordan staircase) with the world famous Hermitage Museum within.



Moscow State Historical Museum, Red Square



Visiting the newly-opened Moscow FC Spartak Stadium



St Basil's Cathedral and Red Square by night



The Battleship Aurora in St Petersburg

Russia was brilliant because we were able to experience the country on so many levels, all the way through from Peter the Great to Putin. Russia is very proud of its heritage and its historical experiences of hardship, suffering and conquering adversity - I could even see this in the people: the elderly still hold the memories of the communist period (living under Stalin) and behave differently to Russian youths. Another thing that struck me was that the country is massive in comparison to England. St Petersburg to Moscow is a four-hour journey on the bullet-train. I can only begin to imagine what travel must have been like in Russia without speeding trains. Furthermore, Russia's landmass seems to completely represent its country, I feel. This struck me especially because of the Cold War and the space race against America. Everything was very large from the communist era such as Moscow University, where it would apparently take 10 years to visit every room for one minute.

Russia feels like a different world compared to the UK. Everyone seems to get along with their own business and I felt like I was viewing Russia through a window. The cathedrals are spectacular and Russians always seem like a collective force working together. Russia is a place that is certainly worth visiting and this was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for us.

Alexander was previously at Wetherby Prep.



Communist memorabilia in a local park in St Petersburg

Rugby

By Andrew Grounds, Master i/c Rugby

It was a season of so near, yet so far for the Rugby 7s squad. It started with our own 7s festival being cancelled due to the January freeze, and our teams were therefore slightly underprepared as they entered the first tournament of the year, the Merchant Taylor's 7s.

The U16s performed exceptionally well given their depleted squad. Wins against Norwich and local rivals MCS resulted in a semi-final of the Bowl competition against a strong Bedford outfit. A titanic battle ensued with Josh Moore (*Matthew Arnold*) and Tom Wyles (*Dulwich Prep*) to the fore with the final result being a 12-12 draw. Due to the competition rules, St Edward's were knocked out of the competition on the 'first try wins' rule. The U14s had a particularly tough group moving on to the Bowl competition in which they beat Haileybury in the semi-final. The final was a tense affair against Brighton College with Daniel Hoggar (*Wellesley House*) scoring a try and then James Marsh (*Caldicott*) converting in the final minute for a dramatic win and earning the squad their first piece of silverware at St Edward's.

After half term, the U16s and U18s played at Oakham after a particularly tough round of hockey fixtures. The U16s again performed heroically with wins against Trent College and Ipswich, before losing narrowly to the hosts, Oakham. The U18s struggled on their first outing of the season with only a win against Ipswich to show for their efforts as they lost to Oratory in the Plate quarter-final.

After the underwhelming performance of the week before, the U18s got revenge against Oratory in their first pool match, putting 30 points past their local rivals and then safely navigating the pool stage. In the quarter-final of the Cup, the boys put in a stellar effort against St Benedict's School, Ealing, before beating tournament favourites and winners of the Oakham tournament the week before, Bedford. The Cup final was against a strong RGS High Wycombe team, with St Edward's in the ascendency for the majority of the match until the final few minutes, losing narrowly 10-12. Cameron King (*Davenies*) and Greg Kratt (*Swanbourne House*) were exceptional on the day, with Archie Nicholson

(*Cokethorpe*) making his senior debut; this was one of the School's greatest ever performances at a major 7s tournament.

The U14s travelled to Bromsgrove and had only just emerged from the bus when they had to face the tournament favourites and hosts. An early try by Daniel Hoggar raised false hopes and the boys moved into the Plate competition. Wins against Crypt School and Bishop Vesey's meant the U14s had their second piece of silverware of the season, with Sam Gorton (*Caldicott*) particularly impressive.

At Rosslyn Park, all our teams played exceptionally well. The U16s were joint top in their pool, losing narrowly in the last minute against Robert Clack, which prevented their progressing to the knockout stages. Fourth Formers Isaac Brennan (*Dragon*) and William James (*Our Lady's, Abingdon*) were outstanding on the day. The U14s had a tough pool with Bernard Castle and Wellington College in their group. The boys dug deep and performed heroically against Wellington College, losing closely in a tight affair. Greg Fisilau (*Caldicott*) and Winston Frieze (*Caldicott*) had impressive 7s campaigns.

It was a frustrating day at Rosslyn for the seniors who, after losing their first game against Ysgol Y Preseli, fought back well to

put in impressive wins against Rutlish School and Stonyhurst. The team was well placed to make the knockout stages, but due to Rutlish forfeiting their last match, St Edward's were unable to progress. A good season all round, boding very well for the XV season ahead.

Further achievements:

Dan Brady (*Warriner*) – Selected for South West U18 against Gloucester Academy and London & South East.

Lizzie Dorey (*Cherwell*) – Selected for England U18s Touch Rugby, and for South West England Women's Rugby.

Dekoye Coker (*Summer Fields*) – Selected for U18 Independent Schools Barbarians - Scoring a wonder try against Boys Club of Wales

Greg Fisilau – Selected for Wasps U15 (a year early) for the National Academy Festival at Harrow.

William James – Selected for Gloucester U15 for the National Academy Festival at Harrow. Subsequently, William has been selected to train with the National U15 Academy set up in Bristol.



The U18 VII, Runners Up to the Cup at the Windsor RFC Schools' Sevens Tournament in March.

Tennis

By Duncan Buckmaster, Master i/c Tennis

The boys' 1st VI enjoyed an undefeated season last year – for the first time since 1979 – including wins against major schools who are Lawn Tennis Association registered. Captain Greg Kratt (*Swanbourne House*) is pictured right with Jack Power (*St Hugh's*) receiving the inaugural Tennis Plate in recognition of their exceptional performance. Georgios Doxiadis (*St Catherine's British Embassy School*), Theo Barker (*Thomas's, Battersea*), Edward Becle (*Cothill House*), Henry Bray (*Dragon*), Edward Tanner (*Moulsford*) and Peter Yakovlev (*St Andrew's College*) played alongside Greg and Jack to complete the winning team. As we went to press, this term's 1st VI, also captained by Greg, are looking equally strong and we look forward to reporting on their performance in the autumn issue.



Squash

Jessica McPhail (*Cheam*), Athena Bonnefoy (*Thomas's, Battersea*), Maddy Powell (*Highfield*) and Alsu Ishmuratova (*Bilton Grange*) after squash training.



Netball

By Andrew Dalglish, Master i/c Netball

The St Edward's netball club started the Spring Term in encouraging form and with much optimism. There had been frequent training for all year groups throughout the Autumn Term and, over the Christmas holiday, a fortunate group of pupils toured Barbados playing local club teams, regional select sides and the national development squad. The indication from the winter period was that the club was fortunate to have a large pool of players across all year groups and the competition for 1st VII places would be fierce. The combination of a strong top team and large playing numbers is a healthy position and affirms that, in recent years, the netball club has gone from strength to strength. For girls, in the Spring Term, rowing is also a major games option and our resources are split between two major sports. Given this breadth of opportunity at St Edward's, not something all our rivals offer, we are immensely proud of our strength in depth as demonstrated by our ability to regularly field 15 netball teams on match days.

The wins and losses statistics must not be the only measure of success, although it is true to say that, as a club, we won plenty of games. The true measure of success lies not only in the playing record, but the engagement amongst the pupils, the development and progress they experience and their enjoyment of the sport. Taking all these measures into account, the 2017 season must be recorded as a successful one for the club.

The 1st VII were a young side with, at times, two Shell pupils on court and a number of Fourth and Fifth Form pupils. Indeed, versus Oxford University, the 1st VII fielded a team without any Upper Sixth representation. The squad was captained admirably by Nellie Bates (*Brigidine*), who was supported by senior players Ashlyn Dickinson (*Ryde with Upper Chine*) and Tia O'Kelly (*Akeley Wood*). The 1st VII won 8 matches out of 14, including winning the season finale: a tournament with Stowe, Bloxham, and Cheltenham College. The 29-26 victory over Bradfield College is another

memorable highlight, whilst the 16-19 loss away from home against Marlborough College was a remarkable game of end-to-end netball. The U16A team also enjoyed an impressive win versus the ever strong Bradfield College and local rivals Tudor Hall. It was, however, by the youngest of our cohort that the headlines were so often stolen. Despite having players called up by the 1st VII, the U14A girls had a wonderful season. They won 7 matches out of 12 and were county semi-finalists. They were a lively group who played with great energy and commitment, setting the tone for the rest of their peer group. Strength in depth is an asset, especially for future development, and with the U14C team recording a season with 6 wins from 8 matches it is most encouraging. The U14D team's 20-19 victory over Cheltenham College in the final game of the term is also worthy of celebration.

Win, lose or draw, the focus for all teams was to provide pupils with a meaningful sporting experience, with the primary aims of enjoyment and development. A large and extremely committed group of coaches ensured throughout the term that our girls remained enthusiastic about their sport and met short-term challenges and targets with expert guidance and support, and always with a huge amount of energy and enthusiasm. I am grateful to all the pupils, staff, parents, support staff and, of course, our opponents for their contribution to ensuring that the 2017 season was so successful and that St Edward's netball remains healthy and strong.

Left: Ashlyn Dickinson
(*Ryde with Upper Chine*);
right: Nellie Bates (*Brigidine*)



Boys' Hockey

By Zak Jones, Head of Hockey

It has been a tough year for boys' hockey, especially at the top end, where reduced playing numbers had a significant impact.

Despite this, the 1st XI enjoyed a successful pre-season trip to Portugal. However, with a number of the squad not available to tour, the season started slowly with losses to strong Abingdon, Cheltenham and Bradfield sides. With the whole squad showing a really positive attitude, and through their hard work, things slowly started to come together. With illness and injury ravaging the side, and with Tanaka Chitsenga (*Dragon*) outstanding again in goal, the 1st XI showed incredible spirit in a battling draw away at Radley, and a narrow 0-1 loss to a very strong MCS side. The team played their

best hockey of the term in the last few weeks, including an exciting 0-0 draw with Stowe, a good 3-1 win over Bloxham and an agonising 3-2 loss to Marlborough in the last game of the season. The squad were well led by captain Angus Atkinson (*Dragon*) and vice captains William Pickford (*Larkmead*) and Ollie Kynge (*St Hugh's*), and made huge improvements throughout the season.

It was a challenging season for the 2nd XI, with highlights being the victory over MCS, with a hat-trick from Noah Smith (*Dragon*), and the draws against Bloxham and Bradfield. Player of the Season was James George (*New College School*) for his consistently impressive and incisive attacking.

Despite losing a number of key players to the 1st XI, the U16As played some very good hockey and produced some impressive results, including a 3-1 win against Stowe, a 1-1 draw with Cheltenham, and a narrow 0-1 loss to a strong Bradfield outfit.

With a large number of the U16Bs having had very little hockey-playing experience, they too produced some good results, including a 1-0 win away at Cheltenham, and a hard fought 2-1 victory against Stowe.

The U15As made big strides forward this season, with many of their matches far closer affairs than last year, including a fine win against Cheltenham, and a draw with Bloxham. At U15B team level, the boys battled hard and had a number of narrow losses; their highlight was a hard earned 2-1 win against Cheltenham. The U15Cs got off to a flying start with an impressive 2-0 victory over Abingdon. They continued to play some good hockey throughout the term and also enjoyed a fine 3-0 win against Bloxham.

The U14As had a tough start to the term with challenging games against Abingdon and Cheltenham. Though losing both, they showed a real determination to improve and keep fighting, no matter what the score. The county tournament showed a huge improvement with a narrow loss to Bloxham, whilst keeping a clean sheet against MCS, even when they decided to go to 11 outfield players in pursuit of the win. The remaining games brought tougher fixtures and a hard fought 0-0 draw with Radley, but the side worked really hard in every game and improved greatly during the season.

Unfortunately, the U14Bs did not manage any wins, but continued to develop throughout the season. The same could be said of the U14Cs. Most were total novices when they began, but worked hard and improved hugely throughout the term, with Kit Jackson (*Bruern Abbey*) particularly outstanding in goal.

In the Inter-House Hockey, both competitions were hotly contested affairs with Sing's running out junior winners and Apsley taking the senior's title.



Toby MacLachlan (*Moulsford*), playing Bloxham.

Football

By Nicholas Bond, Master i/c Football

The football 1st XI started the season well, attending Rugby School's pre-season tournament, and recording some positive results versus Abingdon and Oakham. This was a great chance for the new Head Coach, Chris Hackett, to see the boys in action. Chris joined the coaching team having recently retired from professional football, playing at clubs such as Millwall and Oxford City.

The start of the season brought some tough fixtures for the senior teams. Despite playing some fantastic football, goals were few and far between. It quickly became apparent that the senior teams were struggling to hit the target during the early part of the season. It wasn't until the latter half of the season versus Stowe

when both the 1st and 2nd XIs found their scoring boots, with the 1st XI putting six past a strong Stowe team. The goal-scoring continued with a strong win versus the SES Martyrs XI during the penultimate week of term.

1st XI captain Rawdie Marks (*Leighton Park*) had this to say about the season:

"The season was a tough one, made harder by a few injuries. However, the boys continued to put the effort in throughout the season and played some good football, even though the results did not always go our way. The boys were able to tap into some great coaching during the season, though we struggled with our finishing at the top end. The season ended with a great home win, which the team thoroughly deserved."

As we look forward to next season, the U16s showed some great footballing prowess, with a great result versus MCS on Corfe, and a narrow loss to a physical Stowe team away from home. This sets the football club up for a positive 2017/18 season.

2016/17 1st XI awards winners:

Players' player: Rory Saldanha (*Dragon*)

Coach's player: Rawdie Marks (Captain)

Golden boot: Maximilian Heil (*St Alban's College*) and Dekoye Coker (*Summer Fields*)

Alex Holding (*Swanbourne House*)





Rowing

By Peter Rudge, Master i/c Rowing

The early part of the Spring Term saw a great deal of success for the boat club with plenty of crews demonstrating their competitiveness. At Reading University Head, the boys' 1st VIII raced extremely well in their first event this term to come second in IM3 Eights against a range of senior and university crews. The Fifth Form girls had a really good race to finish 4th in the J16 girls' Vllls, while the girls' J15s also had a strong row to finish 6th in the J15 Vllls. They were close behind the winners in a tight field, and ahead of Radley, Eton, Bedford and Dulwich, among others. These crews then went on to do even better at Kingston Head, where the 1st VIII had a really good row and won the Junior 18 event. The girls' J15 VIII raced extremely well and came 2nd, just behind Radley, while the Fifth Form crews also raced very competitively, with the J16 girls' VIII coming 3rd in their event and the J16 boys' crew also coming 3rd in the J16 coxed fours.

With these early season results suggesting we had several really competitive crews, it was disappointing that the major event of the Spring Term, the Schools Head, was this year so badly disrupted by

strong winds. While the event went ahead over a significantly shortened course, the conditions made gaining meaningful results difficult. In conditions best described as a lottery, the School's results were rather hit and miss. The boys' 1st VIII had a very difficult time and were left frustrated by their performance, while the boys' J16 IV, J15 VIII and the girls' J16 VIII all had varying degrees of success on what was a rather frustrating day. The boys' J15 VIII came 9th, somewhat lower than their early season's results had indicated they were capable of. The J16 girls did well to come 7th overall while the J16 boys dealt with the conditions superbly to come 3rd, the School's best placing in an event at the Schools Head since 2014.

With the Schools Head being so inconclusive, several crews head into the summer racing season with something to prove and the boys' 1st VIII have already responded to their disappointment at the Schools Head with an extremely competitive 5th place at Wallingford Regatta in a very high class field.

The following day, the School took several sculling crews to race at the Junior Sculling Head, which is held at Eton Dorney. The

senior girls' crew have focussed on sculling this year and raced extremely well to come 17th in the 1st Quads. They have already built upon that after a very successful Easter training camp and did very well to come 6th at Wallingford Regatta. The goal this year is to become the first Teddies girls' crew to qualify for Henley Royal Regatta and they are making really positive strides towards that goal.

Among the junior end of the club there has been some fantastic racing. The Shell boys had their first taste of racing at Abingdon, with all crews sampling victory, while at the Sculling Head the Shell boys came 13th in the J14A octuple event, and the B crew came 15th in the J14B octuple. The Shell girls had their first experience of racing against Hinksey and learnt a great deal from a series of extremely close races, before then racing at the Sculling Head to come 29th in the quad event and 31st in the octuple. Both the boys' and the girls' crews have also raced at Birmingham Regatta in April, where the boys excelled to win both the quad and the octo events against King's Chester and Shrewsbury. Both squads have a lot of promise and I am sure will have plenty of success this Summer Term.

PEOPLE

At the end of term, we say goodbye and good luck to: Richard Howitt who leaves to become a Housemaster at Malvern College; Dominic Barker to become Head of Maths at Eton; Trevor Hunt to teach in Saudi Arabia; George Macpherson to join an education consultancy in China; David Roche to move to Sevenoaks; and Tom Phillips to move to Kingham Hill. Retiring at the end of term are Tom James, after 31 years' service (see page 18); Dr Kendall Williams, after 19 years' service; Mark Sellen, after 31 years' service; and Accountant Julie Oliver, after 22 years' service. Rosie Glendon-Doyle is stepping down to spend more time with her young family.

At the start of this term, we welcomed Nicola Jones as the new Registrar; Nicola joined us from Wychwood School where she was Marketing and Admissions Manager.

From September, we welcome: Tony Darby from Rugby School as the new Sub-Warden (see page 23); Ashley Currie from Giggleswick as Head of Maths (Ashley taught at Teddies a few years ago); Lawrence Tao from Gresham's as Head of Academic Music; Dr Matthew Rigby from MCS as Head of Physics; Jonathan Ingram from Rugby and David del Strother from Oakham to teach Maths; Alexander Waring from St George's, Weybridge and Alistair Marjot from the Darwen Aldridge Academy in Lancashire to teach Biology; Suzanne Arbuthnot from the Belfast Royal Academy to teach French and Spanish; and OSE Peter Swainson as Head of Cricket.

In internal appointments, Andrew Grounds takes over as Tilly's HM in September (see page 17). In the Drama Department, internal re-organisation means that Katrina Eden is now Head of Co-Curricular Drama and David Aldred, Head of Academic Drama.

In personal news, congratulations to Heather and Liam Murphy on the birth of Arthur Ian Kenelm on 12th April.



Bomb shelters in the Quad in 1940 - dug out by pupils during the summer holiday.

Looking Back

School Archivist Chris Nathan has just begun the research phase of his new project: a book on the School's experience during the Second World War. He intends to publish in September 2019, the 80th anniversary of the start of the conflict.

As with Chris's book on the Great War, *Members of a Very Noble Friendship*, the emphasis will be on those present at the time, either on the war fronts or in Oxford.

Chris explains, 'Fortunately, I have not only the school Archives, *Chronicles* and other records to fall back on, but also voluminous

correspondence received in recent years from OSE, staff and families. In preparation for my new book, I'm looking for any additional material available – quite literally anything that might be pertinent.'

If you think you can help Chris, please contact him on nathanc@stedwardsoxford.org. *Members of a Very Noble Friendship* is available to purchase (£15 + P&P) from the school bookshop under the What's On tab on the website (www.stedwardsoxford.org), or by contacting the OSE Department on 01865 319362.



The Oxford-Cambridge Note Race

St Edward's Music staff are embarking on a challenging new enterprise this summer fundraising for local charity HomeStart: learning a completely new instrument, to grade one standard, in just nine weeks. Joining other musicians of Grade Eight standard (on instruments more familiar to them) from across the city, their first-and-only lesson will take place in July in The Ogston Music School, and their exam on Sunday 9th September, which will be followed by a concert at Oxford Town Hall. The background to the Concert prompted Mr Tester to ask: will this be the worst concert ever?! Pictured above, some of St Edward's top musicians with their new instruments: Beth Preece, Gabriele Damiani, Richard Powell, Alex Tester, and Neville Creed.