



ST. EDWARD'S
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CHRONICLE



Howzat!

Girls' cricket
arrives on Upper 1

The Power of Grit

Embracing challenge

Art on the Wild Side

Bringing a Hebridean
hue to North Oxford

Word from the Warden

The past few months have been exceptionally busy at Teddies. I hope this truly packed issue of *The Chronicle* gives you a flavour of the energy, dynamism and breadth of day-to-day life in School.

Our major feature is an interview with Head of Shells, Milly Pumfrey, on an increasingly valued aspect of modern education: grit. Find out why determination and perseverance play such a vital role in the Teddies Curriculum and, most importantly, what they mean to our pupils. Shell Alexander Sharman tells us, 'You can do or be what you want to be as long as you put the effort in and you're determined enough to do it'. And Alessandra Soresina adds, 'Our talent doesn't determine how well we will do. That is determined by how gritty we are, how hard we try.' Grit, then, is powerful stuff; it is impossible not to be buoyed up by the sense of endless possibilities emanating from our young pupils' comments on pages 6 – 9.

We continue to celebrate the 20th anniversary of co-education in School. I am pleased to say that, to mark this important milestone, we have just announced new

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) Scholarships for girls for Year 9 entry in 2020. Elsewhere, Upper 1 becomes fully co-educational in playing host to our first ever girls' cricket programme, launched a few weeks ago by Master i/c, Peter Swainson, and former England cricketer, Lydia Greenway. Profiled on page 19 is Rachel Bellamy, who takes over as Assistant Head Pastoral in September; Rachel played cricket for the British Universities' team and for the MCC, representing the latter at Lord's and on tour to Scotland, Holland, China and Hong Kong; she will now coach both girls and boys at Teddies.

On page 5, another profile introduces our new Chairman of Governors, Chris Jones, who took over from Mike Stanfield in January. Chris, a former pupil of St Edward's, read History and English at Cambridge, and went on to a hugely successful career, first in advertising and then in other industries. Previously Chairman of Governors at the Dragon, Chris has been a Governor at St Edward's since 1995.

In other news, read reviews of recent performances such as *The Caucasian Chalk*

Circle, the London Concert at St John's Smith Square, *Footloose* and the *Fusion Dance Show*. Discover how far the Teddies philanthropic impulse reaches as we look at the impressive work by Sixth Former Kian Akhavan and Maths Teacher Henry Chitsenga to improve access to education for young people in Africa. Find out more about the ambitious plans of a group of young investors; and celebrate with us the success of Sixth Former Evie Faber who beat some 4,000 other pupils from across the UK and Ireland to win the national ARTiculation contest.

There is a great deal to read and enjoy. Meanwhile, I wish all our pupils taking public exams this summer the very best of luck as we head into the final straight. We will do all that we can to encourage and support them.

Stephen Jones

The front cover shows Shell Ruby Freeland enjoying the cricket training day with Lydia Greenway.



Quad talk: Maria Gorovater and Oliver Tao catch up with the Warden

Find out more

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Teddies TV

Tune in for the latest films:

The Ballet Recital, The 1st XV Act of Remembrance and Helicopters on Upper 1 (for the Poppy Appeal launch).

www.stedwardsoxford.org

ARTiculation 2018

Sixth Former Evie Faber was recently announced as the overall winner of the national ARTiculation competition. Designed to give young people a forum in which to express their ideas about art, ARTiculation was set up 11 years ago as a tribute to art historian Kenneth Clark. Around 4,000 young people take part in around 20 regions across the UK – so Evie's achievement is quite outstanding. Of her performance at the Final at Clare College, Cambridge, Lord Smith of Finsbury, Chair of the Art Fund and Chair of the ARTiculation judging panel (and the UK's first Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport) said 'Evie was brilliant. She is a very engaging speaker. We liked her personal story of how she explored the work and what it meant to her. Evie took us through her own experience and explanation, making the photograph (*Young Man in Curlers, at Home on West 20th Street, NYC, 1966* by Diane Arbus) come alive. She challenged us to look behind the image and she set the work in context very well. We enjoyed Evie's way of digging beneath the surface and we felt that her argument

was beautifully set out.' Evie says of her experience, 'Being part of the competition was uplifting from start to finish. To see so many young people display such passion and interest in all forms of creativity was

inspiring and I'd like to think that I became more confident in myself over the duration of the competition. I'm still very shocked and grateful that I was able to take part in such a memorable experience'.



Evie Faber addresses the audience at the ARTiculation Final



Lord Smith of Finsbury with Evie and her fellow finalists at Clare College, Cambridge

Battle of the Bands

The annual contest for pupil rock bands was as impressive as ever and was judged this year by the stellar line-up pictured below: Josh Wilkinson, songwriter for Sony Universal, Roy Stride from Scouting for Girls and Charlie Simpson from Busted. Pictured are Sassy Hammersley and Felix Ross who, with Will Prew and Harry Power, were the winning First Reserves; and Anna Mostyn and Wilf Cartwright OSE who, with Henry Parsons, performed as Name.





Chris Jones

What do you do at Teddies?

I took over as Chairman of the School's Governing Body in January.

For how long have you been involved with St Edward's?

Since September 1968 when I arrived as a new boy in Field House. I left to go to Cambridge in 1972. I joined the Governing Body in 1995.

Tell us a bit about your career outside Teddies.

After Cambridge I worked in advertising and became the Chairman and CEO of J Walter Thompson Worldwide. For the last 15 years I have led a plural working life with many commercial and not-for-profit involvements.

What is your wider experience of education?

I'm a strong proponent of HG Wells' belief that human history is increasingly becoming a race between education and catastrophe. I'm a Trustee of the Ashmolean Museum at Oxford University and a member of the Advisory Boards at the Cambridge University Library and the School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. I chaired the Governors at the Dragon School for seven years and am the founder Chairman of the Blackbird Academy Trust which has three primary schools on the Leys Estate in East Oxford. I'm also a Trustee of the International Institute for Strategic Studies.

What do you see as the defining characteristics of St Edward's?

A respect for the whole person, in and out of the classroom. A determination to help each pupil to unearth and nurture talent, again in and out of the classroom. A belief in the School as a community.

Were these the same when you were a pupil?

I think these things were emerging when I was here, thanks to some truly remarkable schoolmasters. (They were all men then; the School was all boys.)

What do you hope will be the main feature of your Chairmanship?

You used often to see a sign in the bathrooms of genteel hotels: "Kindly leave this place in the state in which you'd wish to find it".

How do you keep up to date with the day-to-day life of the School?

My home in Oxford is close to the School so I drop in all the time.

What do you see as the benefits of co-education?

I think the balance of this debate has shifted. There are some great single sex schools, but it is for them to argue why theirs is a better way. The case for co-education is self-evident.

Did you enjoy your schooldays?

I was very happy at Teddies. In fact I think I learned how to be happy while I was here.

Best advice you've ever been given?

I'd rather pass on an observation. I've been lucky to encounter a number of exceptional people in my life and they all have one thing in common. They are all consistently dissatisfied with their own performance and looking for ways to do even better. They find this approach more productive than constantly being dissatisfied with the performance of others.

The Teddies Curriculum:

Using grit and determination to make the most of academic challenge

'Grit' is a word with which all Shells should now be familiar. Its role in the lively academic life of the School is the focus of one of two key academic sessions in the Shell Enrichment programme. We spoke to Head of Shells, Milly Pumfrey, to get to grips with grit and to find out what it can do for us.

Tell us more about Shell Enrichment Activities.

The twice-weekly sessions are designed to introduce Shells to the wide range of opportunities available at Teddies – everything from archery to chess and current affairs to filmmaking. Importantly, Shells are deliberately not grouped into Houses or Forms, allowing them to make even more new friends and connections across the year group. Two sessions are dedicated to explaining the School's academic ethos, introduced to Shells as the Teddies Curriculum.

What happens in the first session?

The first session is based around a classroom teaching tactic called 'the pit' – educational theorists' description of a stage in pupils'

learning when they go beyond the point of their own understanding and may suddenly feel adrift. The point of the session is to explain this process to pupils and to help them to navigate these uncharted waters. All learning means stepping into the unknown, and it is a fundamental part of the Teddies Curriculum that our pupils are equipped to embrace this journey.

Emphasis is placed on helping the children to identify their own personal response to the challenge of the unknown. How does it make them feel? Frustrated, angry, worried, exhilarated? Pupils react differently to such emotions. Some will give up, some will distract their peers, some will become agitated – others will fly, enjoying being stretched.

IQ and talent are not the most important things in learning. As long as you are hard-working and you are motivated, then you can do just as well or even better.

Philippa Koh

Grit is working hard at your worst lessons.

William Newson

One failure is a step to understanding.

Andrew Rush



Lila Howard, Thomas Sheppard, Milly Pumfrey, Edward Crofts

What does this mean in practice?

In small groups, pupils explore their views of challenge and unpick their emotional response to it. Being able to tell the difference between, for instance, anger and frustration, will go a long way towards helping a pupil to manage their behaviour and make the right choice about how to move forward. In a boarding environment, where pupils spend a great deal of time together, we want pupils not only to

recognise their own emotional response to challenge, but also that of their friends. Shells work on their Prep together: if they know how to spot each other's emotional responses, they will be well-placed to help. Collaborative working is the future for our young people, and the sooner they learn how to do it effectively, the better. Academic work is a team effort at Teddies, and we aim to instil this idea from the very beginning.

So, by 'the pit' you mean 'getting stuck'?

Absolutely. Imagine how many times pupils get stuck with their work. It's an unavoidable part of learning, so our pupils must know how to cope. In fact, evidence now suggests that 'getting stuck' is not only unavoidable, but highly valuable. It is now widely accepted that it is at the point of being challenged that we learn most. If we keep skating over, say, maths questions we find easy, we



and Saskia van der Heiden

learn nothing. Our abilities grow each time we're stretched and we want our pupils to understand this so clearly that they are able to think to themselves: 'OK – this is hard. I don't like it. I don't understand it. But if I use some of the strategies suggested by my teacher and manage to get through it – then something really good has happened.' It may be idealistic to imagine that all pupils will think, 'Yippee, this is really hard, I can't wait to get stuck in ...' – but even getting them part-way there will help enormously.

Think about young people who never face challenge – students who win places at top universities. They may have found academic work easy all their lives. Put them into a rigorous university setting, where challenge goes with the territory, and many suddenly feel out of their depth. Learning how to face and manage challenge will really help our pupils in their later lives. Very few of us don't face difficulties of one kind or another at some stage.

Can you give us an example of some of the strategies for dealing with challenge suggested to pupils?

Perhaps they need to do some research to aid their understanding. Perhaps they need to look at the question another way – or look back through their notes. We encourage pupils to talk to each other too – they can learn a great deal from their friends.

Life's not about talent and skills, but the perseverance to use or develop them.

Alexander Curtis

If you push yourself then you can succeed further in life than if you think you are naturally gifted at something and do not try as hard.

Will Hearn

You mentioned two sessions – what happens in the second?

This is slightly different in format. We all watch a TED Talk together – Angela Lee Duckworth talks about the power of passion and perseverance. We ask the pupils to remember the five most important words from the video. It's a way of getting them to reflect on what they've learned and its relevance to them. Finally, we ask the pupils to tell us what grit means for them; read some of their comments on these pages.

Mental Butlers

Conscious thought only really comes into its own in novel situations, since once a situation is repeated and previous expectations and patterns are activated, conscious thought becomes unnecessary. A blow to self-esteem through a failure or an insult, for example, mobilises previously rehearsed patterns of thought and behaviour to automatically restore the sense of self-worth. Bargh and Chartrand (*The unbearable automaticity of being*, 1999) comically refer to these automatic processes as 'mental butlers' who know our tendencies and preferences so well that they anticipate and take care of them for us, without having to be asked.

Dr Jonathan Rowson, RSA

By having grit and determination you'll get out of the pit quicker than anyone else.

Albert Hobson

In order to achieve success you have to have the motivation and grit to work hard; hard work beats talent when talent doesn't work hard.

Isabel Llabres Diaz

If you want to succeed at something then you have to be able to fail before you can become good at it. To do this you need GRIT so you can persevere.

Saskia van der Heiden



Albert Hobson, Philippa Koh and Will Hearn



Chandos Neville, William Parry and Andrew Rush

Even though we might fail, try again and we might get a better result.

Jagger Cooper

Grow a growth mind-set and you will be gritty ... be gritty and you will be successful and a great human being.

Lila Howard

Everything can be learnt and giving up is never the easy way out of a problem. Giving it your best attempt and showing passion and perseverance is a far better way to go about your life.

Ruby Freeland

Grit is better than talent.

Bertie Gosling

You can be who you want even if you are not the brightest child as long as you have grit.

Chandos Neville

It is better to be grittier than naturally talented.

William Parry

The Felix Project

As you may have read in E News and on the website, the Teddies community adopted The Felix Project as its chosen charity this year. To date, we have raised around £20k from a whole host of projects and activities: charity dinners, a sponsored 'spinathon', cake sales and more. Below, we catch up with one of the founders of the charity, Jane Byam-Shaw, to find out more.

What is The Felix Project?

In 2014, our 14-year-old son, Felix, a former Dragon pupil, died suddenly of meningitis. As we searched for a way to commemorate him, we remembered a football tournament he'd played in. Afterwards, he told us that he'd been upset to learn that many of the 10-year-old boys on the opposing team hadn't had anything to eat that day. From this memory, The Felix Project was born.

More than 10 million tonnes of food are wasted in the UK each year. At the

same time food poverty is a huge and growing problem, with 1 in 10 children in the UK living with parents who struggle to put food on the table. This means an estimated 870,000 children in England go to bed hungry because their parents are unable to provide the meals they need.

How does The Felix Project address this problem?

The Felix Project provides a free door-to-door service to collect surplus food from suppliers, and deliver it to charities.



We provide food for over 1 million meals a year, and our operation is growing rapidly. From a standing start in 2016, we currently work with over 120 charities and 90 suppliers helping disadvantaged adults and children get access to high quality food.

We have been so impressed to see the enthusiasm and ingenuity of Teddies pupils as they raise funds for our cause and I am enormously grateful to Max Brennan, a friend of Felix's from the Dragon, for suggesting us as the school charity.





Fusion

The Fusion Dance Show in February was a dazzling and breathtaking mix of styles, flips, tricks, energy, shimmer and sparkle, with a dash of Bollywood thrown in for added elegance. Pictured are, among others, Bash Croft, Alexander Koenig, Tiggy Jones, Alicia Bouaziz, Fergus Flory and Josie Piech demonstrating the enormous range and versatility of the outstanding Teddies Dance Department.



Art on the Wild Side

By Anna Millar

Julie Brook, a land artist who has worked in the Hebrides and the Libyan desert, came to School in February and ran a day's workshop with Lower Sixth Art pupils to develop and improve our drawing techniques. She wanted us to appreciate the outdoors and engage with our environment so we spent the morning drawing down by the canal sitting on the ground and drawing from life. Then, after lunch, we used our sketches and worked in the studio with large A1 paper on the floor. In her second visit, we all went out to Wytham Woods where we worked on paper with a variety of media such as ink, charcoal, salt,



Anna Millar

crayon and pencil to try to create the views through the trees. She then encouraged us to start working with the environment itself and move branches, leaves and dirt into forms that contrasted with the natural landscape, and the extreme weather conditions enhanced the ephemerality of these pieces. In all sessions,

Julie encouraged us to focus on the forms as areas of light and dark as opposed to outlines. She was inspiring and helped us all learn a huge range of new techniques and approaches that will definitely help us in many different ways along our course. I hope she enjoyed her visits as much as we all did!



Head of Art Adam Hahn with Kevin Yang



Julie Brook with Lila Pollen and Mia Nicholas



Lettie Neame



Antonia Lewis



Julie Brook and Anna Millar



The London Concert

Alex Tester, Director of Music, writes: St John's Smith Square is always such an evocative place to perform in. I was so proud of our 120 musicians at the Concert in February. The large audience was captivated by the majesty of the Brass Band overture, the stately *Pictures at an Exhibition* by Mussorgsky from the Concert Band and the amazing trumpet

solo from Tom Powell in the Boehme Concerto, ably accompanied by the Symphony Orchestra. The Concert concluded with the vibrant Karl Jenkins' *Gloria* – with our massed Choirs and Orchestra, and with solos from Ella Davis and Sassy Hammersley. Our pupils really do impress when given the challenge to perform difficult music in high-profile

places. Nothing stands still, of course, and we are already preparing for a Bernstein and Britten Choral and Orchestral Concert just after the start of term, a Britten workshop with Royal Holloway University and the two major Concerts at the end of Gaudy Week – so there is a great deal more musical magnificence to look forward to.



Footloose

By Neville Creed, Director of Cultural Activities



Audiences battled through snow and ice in March to enter the heart-warming world of last term's major production: the dance musical *Footloose*. The vibrant rhythms and catchy melodies of this popular musical were delivered with dynamism and expertise by a cast of 40 and the icy blasts were soon forgotten. Whilst there were exceptional solo performances, the lasting impression is one of a superb ensemble performance. The stage was filled with large song and dance ensembles delivered with great precision and unanimity by the various combinations of performers. Lisa Elkins (Director and Dance Director) together with Dennis Victory (Choreographer) conjured epic dance sequences which captivated the capacity audiences whilst Alex Tester (Musical Director) and his band made sure that feet were tapping throughout.

To be able to sing, dance and act as well as working as a team is a rare skill but one which seems to be common at St Edward's. Will Monks (Ren) convinced the entire audience of the benefits of dancing and Lola Willcock (Ester) displayed wide-ranging skills. Selena Thompson (Ariel) beguiled her way into the hearts of all while Harry

Whattoff (Rev Shaw) sustained the element of serious drama until he too couldn't resist the rhythmic drive. Katinka Hughes (Vi) sang with superb precision while Matthew Wilkins (Willard) provided well-timed comic elements. Sassy Hammersley (Rusty), Ayo Sule (Urleen) and Ruby Smith (Wendy) blended into a harmonious trio as well as delivering strong solos. Fergus Flory (Chuck) was a convincing bad boyfriend while Sebastian Williams cut a dash as Cowboy Bob. However, all these performances, although excellent, were only significant in the context of a unified cast working together to produce a performance of brilliance.

Musicals are complicated and extensive support is needed. Lucy Baddeley and her team of wardrobe assistants provided a dazzling array of costumes; Rebecca Welburn with her team of stage managers delivered the technical aspects with great skill and John Paul with his group of lighting and sound designers gave the performers a professional edge. This will undoubtedly be remembered as a triumph and one of the best productions from a long line of excellent musicals performed at St Edward's.

Pictured are, among others, Eloise Newell, Fergus Hill, Selena Thompson, Katinka Hughes, Harry Whattoff, Fergus Flory, Matthew Wilkins and Josie Piech

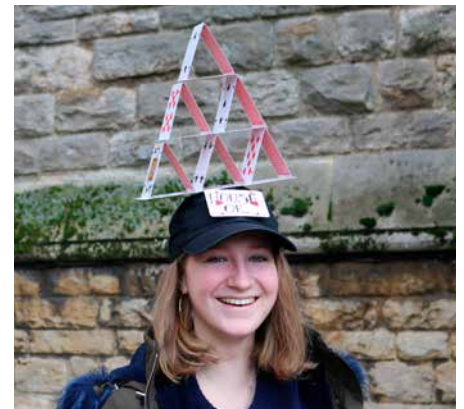
Pictures by Cella Hodgson



Dress Up Day



The theme of this year's Dress Up Day in aid of The Felix Project was 'your favourite TV box set'. Pictured are Simon Roche, Segar's HM (*Band of Brothers*); The Warden (Churchill from *The Crown*); the Sub-Warden (*Breaking Bad*); Andrew Grounds, Tilly's HM (*Peaky Blinders*); Sixth Former Livi Tomacelli (*Orange is the New Black*); Shell William Barlow (*Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*); and Sixth Former Emily Smart (*House of Cards*).



Izzy Hall, Sasha Withers Green and Lucy Farrer-Brown were confirmed at Christ Church Cathedral in February by the Rt Revd Humphrey Southern, Principal, Ripon College, Cuddesdon, with the Very Revd Professor Martin Percy, Dean of Christ Church and Governor of St Edward's, and Revd Katie Jones, Assistant Chaplain at St Edward's, in attendance.

Words from a Cycle-Weary HM

In February, Field House gamely undertook a 24-hour 'spinathon' in aid of this year's charity, The Felix Project. HM, Mark Hanslip, reflects: 'The highlight for me was around 2.30am on Sunday morning, when the team of cyclists was made up of one Shell, one Fourth Former, one Fifth Former, one Lower Sixth Former, two Upper Sixth Formers and me; the culture of Field House encapsulated a group of people from all year groups working together in their free time to support an important cause. Together, we covered 3,666 kilometres and raised a total of £4,035; thank you to everyone who supported us, and particularly to our sponsors H2 Bike Run.'



Each year, the Warden and Revd Jones mark the steady stream of 18th birthdays with informal gatherings held at their home on the Woodstock Road; on this occasion, Georgia Heath, Brit Li, Huw Neville, Henry Haslett-Hawkins and Matt Thornton enjoy the big moment.

Rachel Bellamy

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

I have been at Teddies as Avenue HM for nearly 10 years – after joining the School in January 2009 when I remember it snowing on my first day here! I am looking forward to taking on a new role as Assistant Head Pastoral in September.

Where were you before?

I was Head of PE at Worksop College, another HMC co-ed boarding school, where I taught the current England men's cricket captain – although maybe I should keep this quiet as the team are doing so badly at the moment ...

What have you most enjoyed about being a Housemistress?

Watching the girls grow up into fantastic young women. Being an HM is a very privileged position; I suspect that it will be the best job I've ever had.

What other areas of school life are you involved in?

I teach PE and Psychology and I coach hockey, netball and cricket.

Name a few highlights from your Teddies career so far.

Every year, I really enjoy Avenue Showcase (our House concert) – performances range from the sublime to the slightly less than polished... including a lovely dance remix rendition of *Shine Jesus Shine* one year as the girls know it is such a favourite hymn of mine! Another highlight was watching five of the female School Prefects lead School Assembly with distinction this year. Joint hockey and rugby tours (to Canada in 2011 and Australia in 2015) have also been great fun including a briefing from the Deputy Head at our host school in Canada on what to do if we met a bear or a cougar when leaving the boarding house...

What will your new role entail?

I will be focusing on the continuing development of the pastoral side of the School by working closely with James Cope, the HMs and all the pastoral teams.

What do you see as the benefits of co-education?

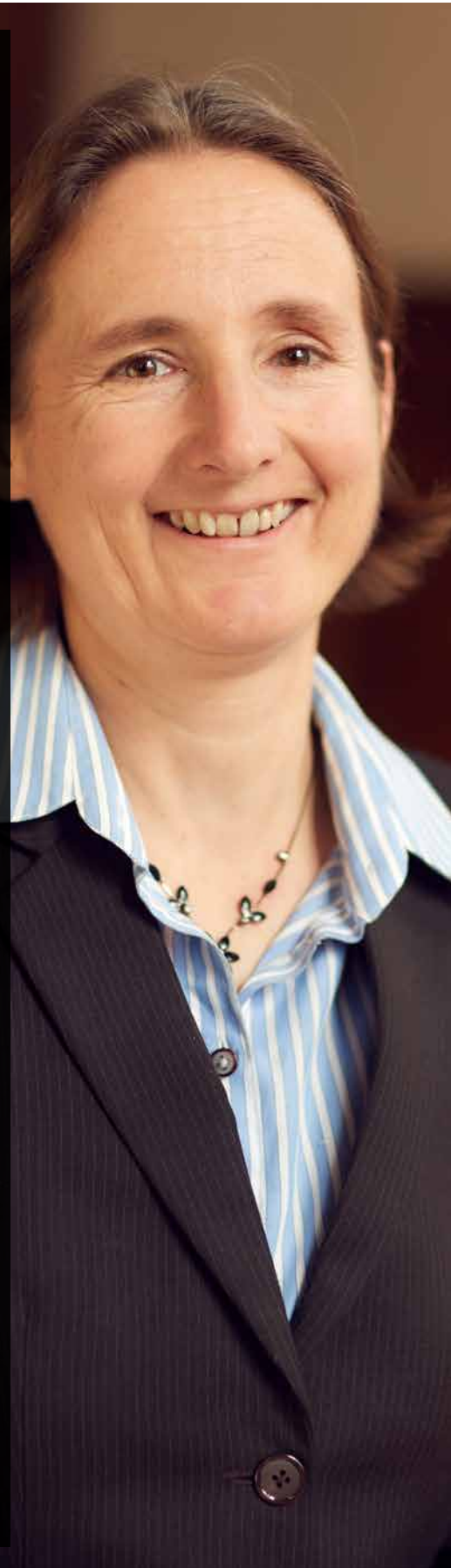
It's real life! It can be difficult at times but that's what makes it so beneficial. Watching the House debating competition this term, with boys and girls speaking assertively and insightfully, illustrated the strengths of co-education. A recent external speaker (Daphne Hampson, Professor Emerita of the University of St Andrews) spoke about the "neighbouring sex" and I think that the pupils benefit hugely from sharing a classroom with both boys and girls. I am very much looking forward to the opening of our co-ed boarding house – particularly if the impassioned but friendly political discussion during dinner on the recent Sixth Form trip to Poland is anything to go by. It was great to see girls and boys articulating their viewpoints so confidently.

What do you most enjoy about working at a school in Oxford?

Oxford is a great location. There are so many cultural and academic opportunities open to the pupils – it has been great as an HM to have been able to say 'yes' when a pupil has asked 'Can I go to the Ashmolean to help with my art coursework?', 'Can I go to the Sheldonian to listen to Robert Peston's lecture (as part of the Oxford Literary Festival)?' or even 'Can I go to the Harry Potter talk at Blackwell's?!' There is also always so much to do and see when I am off duty on a Wednesday evening ... such as going to watch *The Kite Runner* at the Oxford Playhouse, or re-living my (slightly dubious) youthful musical tastes by watching David Essex at the New Theatre, or getting a train from Oxford Parkway to Wembley to watch Spurs score after 11 seconds against Manchester United.

Best advice you've ever been given?

A very wise HM at my previous school reminded me to have fun... It is very easy in the busy-ness of the HM role to forget that teenagers are great fun to be with.



The Caucasian Chalk Circle

By Ria Parry and John Hoggarth, Co-Directors of The North Wall

In November we had the pleasure of watching our first school play at The North Wall, *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*, directed by David Aldred, with musical direction by Alex Tester. This ambitious production of Brecht's epic play was skillfully handled, with a cast of 26, puppetry, movement, and live music throughout.

A morality masterpiece, *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* powerfully demonstrates Brecht's pioneering theatrical techniques. A servant girl sacrifices everything to protect a child abandoned in the heat of civil war. Order restored, she is made to confront the boy's biological mother in a legal contest over who deserves to keep him. The play is as relevant a political commentary today as it has ever been, forcing us to interrogate difficult but valuable questions around ownership, social justice and the conduct of war.

In this production the traditional prologue is cleverly replaced with something far more immediate – a contentious (and wonderfully performed) 'speech' from the Warden telling us of the School's intention to close The North Wall due to lack of space, with a plan to return the building to its former glory as a swimming pool. Heckling ensues from the Heads of Music and Drama and the audience finds itself in the midst of an energised debate about who and what The North Wall is for and who is best placed to make use of its resources.

This bold choice remains true to the original text whilst bringing the central themes of the play bang up to date and incredibly close to home. The Singer, a compelling and convincing Sassy Hammersley, interrupts the debate and smoothly introduces us to the story within the story - the tale that will help us reflect more fully on the ethics of ownership.

As the music kicks in and the story unfolds, with Grusha weaving her perilous way through a vicious conflict, one is struck by how powerfully the play speaks to the current plights of civilian populations caught up in conflicts around the world. That is thanks, in no small measure, to the talents of Selena Thompson, whose affecting portrayal of Grusha goes directly to the essential courage and selflessness of her character. The heroine becomes, as Brecht no doubt intended, a kind of Everywoman, a universal evocation of the innocent 'little person' whose life is turned upside down by war.

After the interval we are introduced to Azdak, brilliantly realised by Bash Croft with a witty and inventive characterisation of the unconventional judge. His Azdak bestrides the stage with a confidence and mischief that is great to watch – it is a commanding performance.

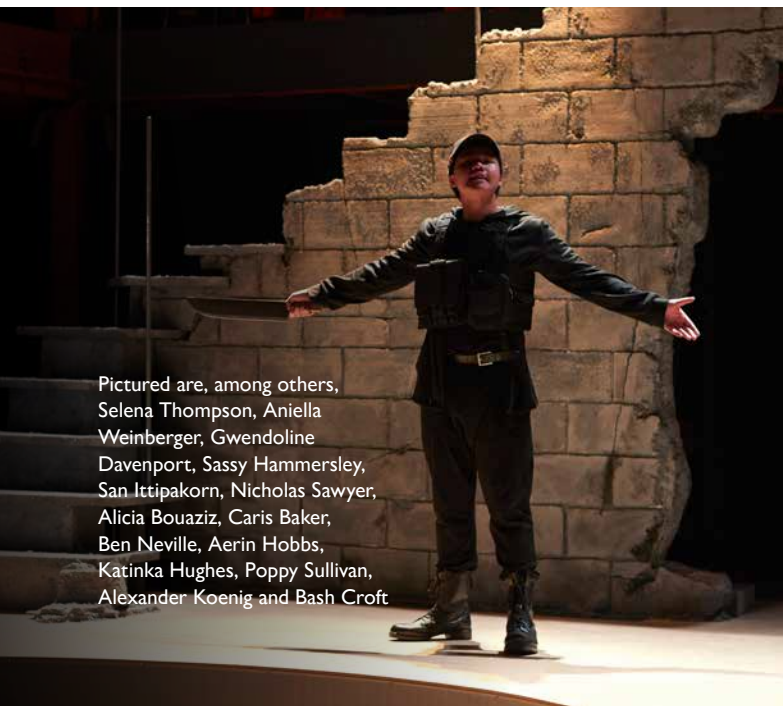
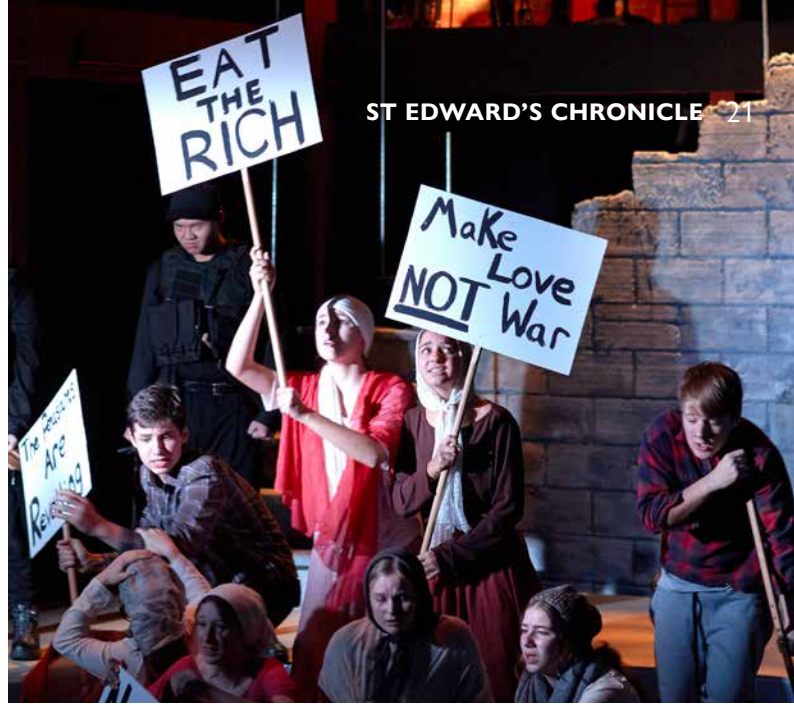
However, this is not a production of individuals and the entire ensemble should be commended as they work tirelessly and skillfully to create the world of the piece, demonstrating fantastic levels of versatility and commitment throughout. Special mention needs to be made of *The First Reserves* (Will Prew, Harry Power and Felix Ross) who provide a stunning soundtrack and masterfully integrate live music with the text. The familiar phrases of music and lyrics that echo and return over the course of the play are a tremendous additional layer that keep the action in tune, on track and on point.

Congratulations to all who were involved in making and supporting this ambitious production. It is a production that is relevant to our times globally and locally. It is a production that speaks volumes for the creative talent and potential within the School.

The stories are brought to their conclusion and are beautifully bookended as we witness the ensemble coming together in full voice to sing 'The North Wall to the artists, the playhouse to the players!' It is a joyful reminder of what an important building The North Wall is and how, as Co-Directors, we have the good fortune to influence its future.



Selena Thompson and Emily Smart



Pictured are, among others, Selena Thompson, Aniella Weinberger, Gwendoline Davenport, Sassy Hammersley, San Ittipakorn, Nicholas Sawyer, Alicia Bouaziz, Caris Baker, Ben Neville, Aerin Hobbs, Katinka Hughes, Poppy Sullivan, Alexander Koenig and Bash Croft

Oxbridge and EPQ

Last term started with a flourish on the academic front: three pupils received offers for Oxford University; and outstanding results were announced in the Extended Project Qualification.

Armela Lasku received an offer to study Law at Corpus Christi College; James Curtis, to study Geography at Keble College; and Jamie Chen, to study Law and German Law at Somerville College. Congratulations to them and best of luck to all Sixth Form pupils in the all-important next few weeks as they work towards meeting the offers required by the universities of their choice.

In the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), over 80% of candidates achieved grades A*-B, and an impressive 24%, A*. The EPQ is highly regarded by universities who see it as evidence of a pupil's genuine engagement with their academic work

and a clear indication that they are self-motivated and capable of tackling a subject with real intellectual rigour. St Edward's is unusual in that most A Level candidates take the EPQ, making these stellar results across the board particularly impressive.

As ever, the topics covered in the EPQ were many and varied. Nickolos Hunt considered: *To what extent can the Russian annexation of the Crimea in 2014 be justified?*; Max Thompson, *To what extent does success in elite rowing depend upon a genetic predisposition?*; Georgia Heath, *Changes in how women are portrayed*; Benjamin Wan, *How should we tackle the problem of the increasing incidence of antibiotic-resistant bacteria?*; and Emily Smart created a set design for a surrealist theatre production. All those listed, plus Joe Courtier, James Curtis, Huda Khalaf and Jamie Chen, achieved A*.



Merritt Moore

By Lola Willcock

Merritt Moore, a quantum physicist at Oxford and a professional ballerina, came to talk to pupils in January.

Being given the opportunity to hear Merritt speak was truly inspirational. I found it particularly resonant in the lead up to exams as she was proof that it is possible to do so much more than we think we are capable of and that it is in fact better to have more than one passion. I learnt that putting everything in terms of extra-curricular on hold for exams is not always beneficial, and it can in fact help to maintain stimulation. Fundamentally, Merritt not only taught us how to achieve what we want, but also what to do to keep going in times when we don't feel like we are achieving anything, which is the most important time to persevere.



Sam Potter, Emily Smart, Bash Croft and Matthew Wilkins at a read-through.

Somewhere up North

Sixth Form Director, Emily Smart, writes: This year's Edinburgh Fringe production, *Someone, Somewhere*, is an original piece written by acclaimed playwright Sam Potter in collaboration with the Teddies Drama Department, the Theatre Society and The

North Wall Arts Centre. It's a very exciting project and the cast and crew are all looking forward to being back in Edinburgh. Look out for us this summer at the Space@Niddry Street in August where we will be performing as North of the Wall.

Chess Club



Shell Andrew Watson enjoys the Monday afternoon Chess Club, open to all pupils.

Farming Today

FarmAbility, a charity supporting young people with autism and learning disabilities, runs outdoor sessions at the Wolvercote Community Farm on school grounds near the Boat House. In February, a number of St Edward's pupils paired-up with a co-farmer (a young person with learning disabilities) to build a shed and to get to grips with basic farming skills. Sixth Former Harry Woodall told us, 'I worked with a young man called Alex and a volunteer called Sue. We had great fun chopping up wood and being farmers for the day. It was really good to see an organisation taking practical steps to help these young people into work. It was also really good to meet Alex who had an excellent sense of humour and was keen to learn as much as he could'. Further visits to the Farm will take place in the relative warmth of the Summer Term.



Howard Sanbury for FarmAbility

Harry and Alex get stuck in

Education for All

It is an important feature of life at Teddies that the community is aware of life beyond the school perimeter. Our location in Oxford, at the heart of a real community, makes it possible for our pupils to engage with organisations and charities outside school. This year, for instance, pupils have helped out at local primary schools, worked with the charity FarmAbility to offer opportunities for young people with learning disabilities (see page 23) and supported the Oxford-based refugee charity, Sanctuary Housing.

Two members of our community have now taken their philanthropic activities to a global level. Sixth Former Kian Akhavan, founder of the organisation Girls Write the Future, and Maths Teacher Henry Chitsenga, founder of the charity SuChHope, tell us about their parallel efforts to improve access to education for young people in Africa.



Kian Akhavan

I first started thinking about gender equality in education after spending a summer volunteering at a school in rural Kenya. I remember talking to my mother when I got back, bemoaning the fact that far fewer girls than boys attended the school I worked at because they were kept at home to help with domestic duties. My mother's response was simple, yet demanding: 'What are you going to do about it?' I decided to take up this challenge to stop just talking about it and to come up with a plan. I launched my organisation, Girls Write the Future, at Teddies in 2014.

Girls Write the Future is committed to giving girls and boys equal access to education to promote gender equality in all spheres of life. In this way, both women and men can progress equally for the betterment of humanity. In many countries across the world, including Kenya, girls are often taken out of school at a young age to marry or to dedicate themselves to household chores.

This is mostly due to lack of funds or deep-rooted cultural and religious beliefs. This inequality has ramifications beyond life in small villages and hinders the progress of society as a whole.

Since the launch four years ago, Girls Write the Future has sponsored the primary education of 58 girls in rural Kenya. My current focus is on St Cecilia's Orphanage on the outskirts of Lusaka, Zambia. A small orphanage dedicated to helping children who have been abandoned because of their physical or mental disabilities, St Cecilia's is largely supported by our partners, UK-based charity *Zambian Gems*. Thanks to their work, the Orphanage now has access to a sustainable food source, clean water, sanitation, and appropriate medical treatment. The next challenge is to send these children to school. Access to education will enable them to become independent and one day stand on their own feet.

Girls Write the Future is aiming to raise £10,000 by Gaudy to build a school for the orphans – we have already raised nearly half that amount. During the Christmas holiday, I travelled to Zambia to scope out the project with representatives from *Zambian Gems*. I met the District Commissioner and we have now allocated land to the school which will have space for up to 150 children, enough to support the entire

orphanage and the surrounding community. The school will follow the country's prescribed academic curriculum but will aim to offer a more rounded experience by providing additional sport, creative activities, vocational training and outdoor pursuits.

For more information, visit girlswritethefuture.org/st-cecilia-orphanage or contact Kian at akhavank@stedwardsoxford.org.

Henry Chitsenga

I founded SuChHope (Sub-Saharan Children's Hope Trust) in November 2011 to give underprivileged children in Sub-Saharan Africa the education and opportunities they deserved. Since the charity's founding it has been a challenging road – but a rewarding one – and in the last few months, some incredibly exciting developments have occurred.

Like Kian, I have a strong belief in the transformative power of education: knowledge is a gift which grants people the tools to improve their own position, and that of their communities. It goes beyond that too: future leadership in Zimbabwe – and Africa as a whole – is benefitted greatly by nurturing young minds.

SuChHope's work centres on two pillars: Education and Health. To date, the charity has supported more than 400 young people through primary and secondary school, and

a further 40 through university in Zimbabwe – almost all of whom are orphans.

Last year, SuChHope received a significant boost by being chosen as the St Edward's School Charity. The dedication and hard work of pupils and the generosity of their families and friends, saw a life-changing £31,582 raised over the year. My sincere and heartfelt thanks to you all.

2017 proved a transformative year for me and for SuChHope, with progress made on my long term ambition of founding a new school in Nyanga, Zimbabwe – where I was born – based on the excellent standards and practices of St Edward's. The educational landscape in Zimbabwe can be hard to navigate but, after meetings with the Minister for Education, Professor Mavima, and his representatives, I am delighted to say that I now have permission to build Nyanga North High School. This will bring the dream of a quality education to some of the most disadvantaged children in Zimbabwe and, by following the St Edward's educational model will, as one member of the British Embassy put it, 'export the best of British education.'

Henry Chitsenga has a long and distinguished record of charitable work and philanthropy. He formed the MWANA Trust – Zimbabwe in 2006 to assist rural orphans and raised funds to allow the African Children's Fund to make improvements to Mt Dangare Primary School in 2008. In 2011, he received an international award for his outstanding contribution to philanthropy and education in Zimbabwe.

You can follow Henry's progress on Facebook [@suchhope](https://www.facebook.com/suchhope) or email him at: info@suchhope.org



The Brain: A Close Encounter

By Sixth Former Benjy Bailey

It is all well and good learning about the physiology of organisms by reading a text book or watching a documentary, but the experience of seeing, feeling and investigating first-hand the organs of your body is something that truly brings another level of understanding to your studies. Such practical experience brings alive the labelled diagram from the page of your text book. It puts the real overall structure into perspective and helps you to truly assimilate it in your mind. For me, this practical learning is essential, particularly in Biology and Psychology; sometimes the

understanding and depth of knowledge that can be obtained from a textbook does little to convey the true emotional excitement that comes with these subjects.

The study of Psychology would not be complete without a detailed understanding of the brain's anatomy. The brain is the most intriguing structure in the known world: from its depths came an understanding of the processes that control our universe. It created our society and allows us to feel every emotion we experience from first to last breath. When my Psychology teacher told us that we

would actually get the chance to see a real sheep's brain first-hand, I was very excited. Having seen so many plastic brains, I didn't really know what to expect when the real thing was put in front of me. The sheep's brain I was presented with was about the size of my fist, with three distinctly visible regions in contrast to the two regions that the human brain has. To my surprise the brain didn't hold its shape at all - it just fell into three blobs on my dissection board, the two largest being the cerebrums and then the cerebellum at the posterior (back) end. Between these three was the normally obscured midbrain consisting of the thalamus, hypothalamus, hippocampus and other key structures.

I started off by separating the cerebellum and the remainder of the brain stem. I began to cut deeper into what was left of the midbrain and, amongst a pool of white matter, I found a small pink dot of tissue, just bigger than the tip of my scalpel. I could not believe that this tiny structure, the hippocampus, controlled the conversion of short-term into long-term memory. Without this we would be incapable of remembering anything longer than, at the most, 15 minutes. I moved on and cut into one of the cerebrums. What I found quite interesting here was how well-defined the regions were that held grey matter (nerve cells) as opposed to those which held white matter (axons and nerve fibres).

Looking at the small and now disfigured object that had once controlled every function of another organism that until very recently had been alive, I could not help but reflect on what a truly thought provoking, educational and yet grounding experience I had just been through. Although the lesson had finished, my thirst for an even greater level of understanding had only just begun. The experience re-ignited my interest in the brain and I look forward to continuing my studies and increasing my depth of knowledge in this area. I can only thank Ms Rose and all the science technicians who went out of their way to deliver the first ever brain dissection lesson at Teddies. It was brilliant.



Izzy Degroot and Peter Ades



Bianca Pigorini and Alice Isola



Rebecca de Filippo

What do you do at Teddies?

I am a Graduate Assistant in the Sports Science Department, and I coach rugby and netball. I'm part of Corfe and I'm also a Tutor. I play rugby for Wales and, last term, played in the Six Nations.

Where and when did you start playing rugby?

When I was 10 I played for a local team in Llanelli. I then went on to play for Llanelli School Boys U11, Dyfed U11 and Carmarthenshire U12, which were all progressions from club rugby. I have always been passionate about rugby, mainly due to my brother and father playing age-grade rugby for Wales.

Tell us about your playing career to date.

I received my first international cap and yellow card on the subs' bench against Scotland, when I received a yellow card for a team offence. A week later, I started on my 18th birthday, in Twickenham Stadium, playing against England, who were the best team in the world at the time. That was my moment to make a big impact on the Six Nations in 2012. The endless mornings of running up and down the cycle path with my dad on his bike and doing 100 passes off my right hand and 100 passes off my left hand daily all led to this one moment. Later that year I played 7s for Wales and qualified for the World Series, where we narrowly lost to Ireland in Russia. From there, I went to the Paris World Cup in 2014, where Wales finished 8th, their highest placing ever. After the Paris World Cup, I took a two-year break from rugby to concentrate on my undergraduate degree at Exeter and returned to play for Wales in the 2017 Six Nations followed by the Rugby World Cup in Dublin. This year I received my

25th XV international cap, and I am named in the long squad for the 7s Commonwealth Games and World Series (being played as we went to press).

What's it like playing in the Six Nations?

Words can't really describe the emotion behind the games. My training to be selected and represent my country in the Six Nations started back in October. So, when you finally put on that jersey and sing the anthem, I just think about where I have come from and where I am going; I think about the hours of work I have put into my skills and fitness; and I think this is the moment where I show what I have got to offer. Before the game I am both nervous and excited, but as soon as that whistle goes I am ready to go to war with the other 14 players on the pitch.

What are your sporting and career ambitions?

I would love to be a professional athlete in the World 7s Series, but if rugby does not turn professional, then I am considering joining the RAF and using my degree in Sports and Exercise Science, and my Masters in Strength and Conditioning.

What do you most enjoy about working at St Edward's?

I love all aspects of working at the School, from helping and assisting in the classroom with Miss Drury, who is a fantastic role model for me, to coaching with Mr Thomas on the rugby field. This year has been an amazing opportunity to engage with the pupils not just in the classroom, but also on the sports field and in the boarding houses. It has truly been a privilege and inspiration for me to see the pupils develop as individuals.

Inspiring People

Andrew Graham-Dixon

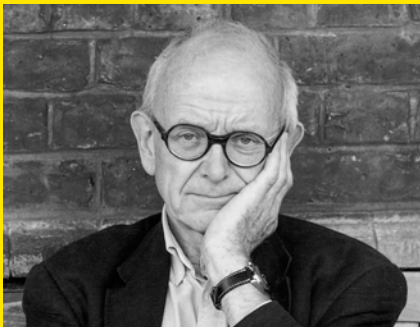
Sixth Former Aerin Hobbs writes: For the third in our *Inspiring People* talk series, Andrew Graham-Dixon came to The



North Wall and gave a superb lecture on the untold stories behind paintings and the different ways of looking at art. Prior to Andrew's talk, he spent an hour with Art History pupils talking to us about his career and his new love for photography. We found out more about his BBC documentary, *Stealing Van Gogh*, which uncovered the true story behind the greatest art heist of the 21st century: the audacious theft from the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam of two priceless paintings. He mused in a theoretical way on how easy it would be to make an attempt on the Ashmolean! A natural raconteur, he told us a wonderful anecdote about Patrick Caulfield's *Fish and Sandwich* (left). The possibility that the contents of the featured sandwich might be ham almost caused a diplomatic incident when the painting was dispatched to hang in the British Embassy in Saudi Arabia. A request to have the filling



re-painted as tomato was denied; and the painting rejected. Andrew told us that he spoke with Caulfield after the incident who said that had he known that this was how his work would be judged, he would have sent a menu...



Henry Marsh

Sixth Former Izzy Degroot writes: The Teddies community enjoyed welcoming Dr Henry Marsh in January. Luckily, MedSoc and Psychology pupils had reserved tickets for the talk as there was huge demand from members of the public. Henry, a leading neuroscientist and author, spoke on the topic of 'What our thoughts are made of'. He began by focusing on a study that compared the experiences of adoptive children in harsh conditions alongside those raised in a relatively normal environment. He showed the audience the difference in brain size and shape between these two different groups. He explained how vital it is that children receive love, support and care from a young age to avoid catastrophic effects on their brains.

INSPIRING PEOPLE AT THE NORTH WALL

He went on to recall his time working in St George's Hospital in London, describing his most challenging and most rewarding operations. He talked in detail about the difficulty of removing tumours from the brain given how hard it is to see where brain and tumour divide. Damaging brain cells can have significant implications for the patient so such surgery is fraught with danger.

Dr Marsh left the audience with a very important message that he believes has helped to shape his distinguished career: 'you have to make mistakes and fail in order to do better and learn'.



Marty Jopson

Shell Adelaide del Mar writes: Our whole year group went to The North Wall to listen to a science lecture by Marty Jopson, presenter and science researcher on the BBC's *The One Show*, as part of the *Inspiring People* series. Marty spoke about the science behind everyday life; it was very engaging and so much fun to watch. He talked to us about bubbles and how they are actually a massive part of life – so much so that you can find bubbles in Jaffa Cakes! He tried to make the biggest bubble in the world and he showed us a machine that made very high pitched noises and had really cool laser lights. The talk was enlivened by explosions, high frequency sounds synchronised to a musical beat and, above all, Marty's enthusiasm and twirly moustache. We all loved it and it made us feel even more inspired to enjoy science and Jaffa Cakes!

A Golden Future

Unlike most Sixth Formers, whose thoughts post-exams turn to Greek beaches and the obligatory trip to Ikea to pick up university essentials, one group of young financiers have far more ambitious plans. Having launched the Soros & Loeb Society in School two years ago to further their interest in financial markets, six Sixth Formers have amassed a quite staggering hedge fund of several million pounds from investors who are eagerly awaiting the completion of the boys' education. As soon as the fireworks at the Leavers' Ball have melted away, the team will formally launch their fund and will apply their keenly-researched and highly-regarded financial expertise to making money for their backers. Head of Communications Tracy van der Heiden caught up with Gregory Laurent Josi and Pasha Tinkov to find out more.

How did it all begin?

Our Founder and Managing Partner, Greg, began reading books about financial markets when he was 12 and soon began taking care of virtual portfolios. Impressed by the results, his Mum was brave enough to let him manage her portfolio for four years and he outperformed the market consistently. His interest grew from there and he quickly became the youngest person ever to join the most prestigious investment club in the world for young financiers (Leaders Investment Club), and today sits on their management committee to restructure it. His duties from L.I.C were to promote financial education wherever he went. So when he joined Teddies in 2016 as a Lower Sixth Former, he set up the Soros & Loeb Society, which John de Pauw (COO & Head of Equities), Pasha Tinkov (CTO), Max McNicol (Head of Commodities), James Schofield (Head of FX), and Finn Leighton (Head Analyst) all joined.

So initially it was just a hobby?

Yes. But by last summer, when we were all carrying out internships at firms such as Oil Brokerage, AXA IM, Tinkoff Bank and a London based hedge fund, we realised that we had amassed between us a broad range of knowledge and expertise, including credit-backed securities, commodities, equities, FX (foreign exchange),

Finn Leighton, Pasha Tinkov, Greg Laurent Josi, John de Pauw, Max McNicol

cryptocurrencies and ETFs (exchange traded funds). Suddenly, the idea of pooling our knowledge and working together became a real possibility and we started to make ourselves more professional.

How did you do that?

We took the first step towards establishing ourselves as an investment research firm. At this point, we knew we needed a name. We chose Heijin Capital because we wanted to stand out. Often, hedge funds opt for classic heritage names; we're looking to the future and the Asian markets – Heijin means black gold in Mandarin. After that we began producing a monthly report looking across the markets for opportunities – by reading companies' financial reports and using valuation models, for instance, or by examining potential arbitrage trades through currency moves. Our first report was around 70 pages long and we sent it out to around 100 firms and contacts we'd researched, explaining that we were still at school but asking for advice and mentoring.





and James Schofield

What was the response?

It was absolutely extraordinary. Within days of sending out our report by email, a partner at Goldman Sachs had been in touch to ask us to a breakfast meeting; someone from Morgan Stanley's US office asked for more information; the CEO of Axa Investment Managers got in touch; and the CEO of an \$8 billion hedge fund invited us for a meeting with his CIO. An associate with a Master's degree in finance from Columbia University and a job at PIMCO, the biggest fixed income firm in the world (\$1.6 trillion in Assets Under Management), sent us his CV and asked if he could work for us! We were absolutely blown away.

What happened next?

Shortly afterwards, we were at dinner one night with John's father, updating him on our progress, and he suddenly said, 'OK – how much do you want?'. We were surprised but delighted – Mr De Pauw's significant investment launched our fund, and it has grown exponentially since then. From there a family office has decided to give us capital, as

have some other high net worth individuals. We have all now invested our own funds and are actively pre-raising capital for after our exams.

Come June, what are your plans?

We intend to rent an office in London and fill it with Bloomberg Terminals. We now have a website, www.heijincapital.com, and we're taking enquiries. Meanwhile, alongside exam preparation, we're all working on our Series 65 Investment Advisory Licence so that we are ready to start trading and managing funds later this year. Our core audience will be individual investors and our website is helping us to build our investment research client base already. We are also working on the launch of a Heijin Venture called Fuse Asset Solutions to provide any investor with a database of all hedge funds in one place. Finn Leighton is the Founder & CEO of this venture and will start allocating the \$150k we have pre-raised as well as meeting with private equity firms to look for more significant investments.

Flying

Over the Christmas holiday, Sixth Formers Yves Rowe and Sanders Lau braved the long train journey to Dundee to undertake an RAF Flying Scholarship with Tayside Aviation. Yves tells us, 'After two weeks of theory and learning to fly, I was extremely grateful to be awarded my ACPS (Air Cadet Pilot Scheme) Gold Wings. During the course, I was able to clock up 12 of the 45 hours' flying required for a Private Pilot's Licence. On the course, we learned a lot of basic – yet essential! – skills such as recovering

from a stall, take-off, landing, climbing and descending'. Sanders adds, 'I learned a great deal on the course and met lots of new people. The most exciting bit was when I flew my solo: I took off following instructions from Air Traffic Control, completed a circuit around the airfield, ticked off everything on the checklist and landed all by myself. Like Yves, I was really pleased to be awarded my Gold Wings at the end of the course and I look forward to developing my skills further in the future.'



The Big Questions

By Fifth Former, Georgia Thomas



Georgia Thomas, Alessandro Corrias and Aerin Hobbs

During Half Term, Aerin, Alessandro and I had the opportunity to do some work experience with Mentorn – the production company who make *The Big Questions* for the BBC. We helped on the first Saturday and Sunday of Half Term as 'runners', our role being to assist with the often forgotten jobs that keep the process of creating a TV programme running smoothly.

On Saturday, we spent our time doing small jobs, preparing for the arrival of our audience. In the evening, we were given a tour of the set and were taught how all the cameras operated – we even had the chance to practise moving and filming with them! We were then shown how everything worked behind the scenes in the production trailer and all our questions about how the programme was produced and broadcast were answered.

On Sunday, it was an early start at 6:45 am. We started by scanning through a pile of newspapers for any relevant content for the debates (Is Britain still racist? and 'Is the Higher Education system fit for purpose?'). We spent the rest of the morning taking care of our audience members before we were allowed to watch the show being filmed from the wings. It was an amazing experience that opened my eyes to the work involved in order to create and broadcast a live TV programme. I will never be able to watch the programme in the same way again!



Gwendoline Davenport

In the national *Poetry by Heart* competition, Gwendoline was ranked in the top 10 in her age group to be awarded the accolade Star Reciter.



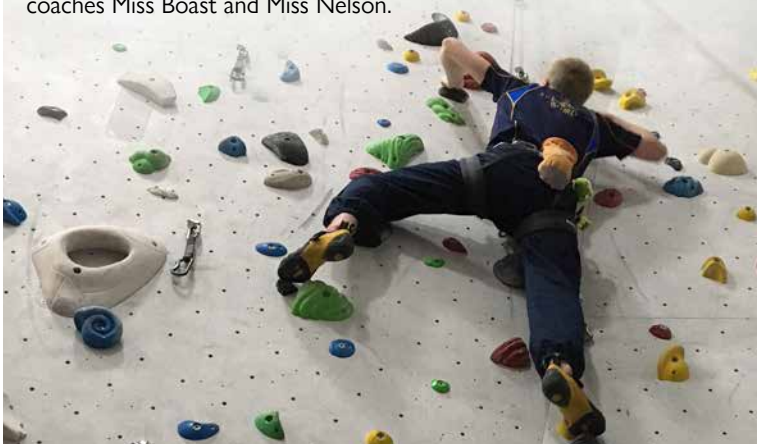
CCF Field Weekend



The Field Weekend in March was as lively as ever. Pictured are Michel Mayatskiy mountain biking in the New Forest; Gini Hope and Isabella Sheppard-Capurro about to try the water cannon at RAF Benson; and Cosmo del Mar and Alexander Byas at the Battle of Britain Memorial on London's Embankment.

Climbing

In November, Fourth Form climbers took up their national flags for an end of term competition in the Tokyo 2020 Olympic format, run by Climbing Captain Oliver Ferneyhough. All enjoyed the frantic pace of the speed climbing discipline and then tackled increasingly difficult top-rope routes. Countries represented were: Alexandre Jennison (USA), James Harding (Great Britain), Philipp Yuzhilin (Russia) and Håkon Reinboth (Norway). In March, the Climbing Team took part in the Independent Schools' Climbing Competition at Big Rock in Milton Keynes, holding their own against the climbing giants of Harrow, Eton and Tonbridge. Oliver Ferneyhough performed particularly well to win the Senior Top-Roping category ahead of some GB junior athletes. Well done to all for some excellent performances and hard work, and huge thanks to coaches Miss Boast and Miss Nelson.



Rugby for England

Stop press: Cameron King concluded an excellent season on the rugby field with two wins over Ireland playing for England Counties U18 during the Easter break. Below, Cameron wears his first international cap with pride.



Rugby

By Rob Cottrell, Master i/c Rugby

Teddies takes great pride in its rugby, and the 2017 season was certainly no exception. The Autumn Term is a hugely challenging one, not least because it is the longest with up to a dozen fixtures for some teams and inevitably the club has to get going from a standing start following too many weeks of summer inactivity – for pupils and staff alike! The pre-season programme, however, soon made that a thing of the past with all year groups working tirelessly and cohesively in challenging summer temperatures to set the tone for what was to become a lengthy but outstanding season for many teams.

The 1st XV signed off an outstanding season that will be remembered for several years with an emphatic victory over Malvern away from home. Having won eight out of ten fixtures, the 1st XV finished 11th in the national Daily Mail Cup standings, an unbelievable achievement for a school of our size, and were only six collective points from an unbeaten season (two point loss

to an undefeated Cheltenham College and by 4 points to a formidable Haileybury College during pre-season). Indeed it was the 1st XV's most successful season in recent memory and there were a number of close matches which teams of less character may not have won. The XV went on to some of their most memorable wins to date, not least the 20-0 whitewash of Rugby and the 22-19 victory over Clifton College. The highlight of the season for the boys, however, was the convincing 25-12 win at home against Radley. Under Henry Emmott's leadership, Dekoye Coker was once again outstanding all season, bagging ten tries in the process. Cameron King won the award of players' player, supported by best newcomers Harry Woodall and Ollie Kynge who were constant physical threats in the forwards and backs respectively. Luke Valentine was a fine orchestrator, receiving the coaches' player of the year for his superb performances.

In their final season playing as a single year group, the Colts signed off from Lower School rugby on a high. They have applied themselves consistently well to training making great progress in terms of their skills and game understanding. As a squad they aspire to play a fast and loose brand of rugby, underpinned by a desire to keep the ball alive, and it has been hugely rewarding to observe the improvement of their skill sets allowing them to open up defences and score some stunning tries. In terms of fixtures it was a challenging start to the season sustaining losses against Haileybury, Rugby and Clifton, before defeating Radley away from home: one of the highlights of the season and an 80-point turnaround from their fixture two years ago in the Shells. The second half of the season saw the boys play some expansive and confrontational rugby winning 6 out of 7 games to finish the season with a record of 7 wins and 4 losses. The boys were a credit to Mr Parker and Mr Turner who wish them well as they graduate to the demands



Jack Verschoyle and Cameron King in action v MCS

of the Upper School rugby circuit where they can compete for a 1st XV jersey next season as Lower Sixth.

Another huge success story of the season was shared between the Junior Colts A and B teams. The B team were in fact the most successful team last season, having only lost one game and carrying a points difference of 267, scoring an average of 37 per game. Whilst they pipped the A team to the differential by just 7 points, the A team have certainly made the most significant improvement of all sides for many years; having only won a single fixture last year, they were victorious in all but one fixture this year, turning the tables entirely and scoring 65 tries in the process, led by Daniel Hoggar.

It was a season in which results did not go the way they might have liked for the Yearlings, but the spirit, attitude and endeavour was strong throughout. As a consequence, the progression the team showed in terms of structure, rugby 'nous' and general game awareness was most heartening. It wasn't until the Abingdon match that the benefits of playing to a set defensive pattern were realised, allied to tremendous physicality and commitment to the tackle: the size of some of the impacts that day were truly impressive and a turning point in the season for them. As ever, injuries caused some selection issues and prevented continuity and momentum, but it is interesting to note that only seven boys who started the first game of the season against Rugby were in the starting XV against Malvern in the last game of the season. The development of players from the B and C teams (Luca Tartaglia-Baker, Guy Wheeler, Finn Scott-Kerr, Lucas Watkins, Sebastian Southan) and from never having played rugby before (Ollie Bilgutay) was a real theme through the season and testament to the hard work of the whole squad. To finish with wins against Oratory and Malvern was well deserved. There is real confidence that next season the boys will be competitive in every fixture, and have much to look forward to in the years to come.

The real heroes of the club, however, are those boys who don't always play in the limelight. I was unbelievably impressed by the weekly turnout of players who play for sheer enjoyment and who give the sport their very best, despite the challenges. Indeed, many have never laced a pair of boots before but have been instrumental in providing the force behind every team success this season.

My particular thanks go to each and every member of the coaching staff who showed patience, commitment and professionalism at every session, as well as to Bob Bowerman and his incredible team of groundsmen who work non-stop to allow us to play in such perfect surroundings.

In a season of many team highlights, one player is deserving of special mention. Cameron King attended a Divisional selection weekend in February and, on the back of his performance, was selected for England Counties U18. As we went to press Cameron and his teammates had just concluded a nail-biting, last-kick-of-the-game win and clean-sweep over Ireland, with Cameron again impressing from the start at Number 8 in the second test: a tremendous achievement.

Swimming

By Catherine Phillips, Head of Swimming

The Autumn Term was another busy one for swimmers at St Edwards. The sport was oversubscribed owing to its popularity, with a particular increase in girls' participation. There were beginners, intermediate and more advanced swimmers in the pool at any one time. We also welcomed injured pupils who had to take a little time off their major sport but were given the opportunity to keep active in a safe and supervised way in the pool. Although there were no fixtures against other schools, swimmers of all levels enjoyed two internal galas in the Autumn Term, one where they competed in mixed-gender and mixed-ability teams, and one where they tried to beat their individual performances or to race for longer distances. Both events were met with interest and enthusiasm. Throughout the term, the swimmers followed tailored programmes using various swimming aids to improve technique, fitness and endurance. They also enjoyed two water polo games where they displayed fierce competitiveness but all in good spirits!

Basketball

Teddies first ever Basketball Team: Mark Tanachaisukij, Laju Atake, Basil Zirinis, Gary Rooney, James Curtis, Toby Anand, Marcus Costof, Jasper Lai and Jonathan Alpha



Hockey

By Zak Jones, Head of Hockey

2017 was not a vintage season for the girls' 1st XI. They endured a tough start and had to wait until after the first Leave Weekend for their first win, which came in the form of a hard fought victory over Kimbolton. A frustrating loss to Bloxham in the county semi-final highlighted the inconsistencies of their performances and the 'what might have beens'. However, they always showed fantastic Teddies spirit and improved throughout. By the end of term, they had begun to put some really good performances together, including a fine draw with county champions MCS, a comfortable win against Oxford High and a really good performance in a 3-1 win away at Bloxham to complete the season, before sneaking home 5-4 v the Staff. Most valuable player, Clara Wilson, was outstanding throughout and the team was well marshalled by co-captains Kitty Lloyd and Ashlyn Dickinson, and vice captains Georgia Boardman and Flora Lloyd. It was also great to see some of the Lower Sixth really stepping up to the mark, with most improved player, Lola Timms, the pick of the bunch.

The 2nd XI made huge strides this season and their progression was evident in the final few fixtures with comprehensive wins against MCS, Oxford High and Bloxham. The Upper Sixth formed the spine of the team and

were superb throughout - in particular, most valuable player, Willa Robertson, who led the team and was a model of consistency in both training and matches. Antonia Lewis, Lower Sixth, was the most improved player, leading the forward line selflessly and players' player went to Rebeca Barden for her consistency and energy throughout the season.

The 3rd XI were a team of skillful, intelligent, determined girls who played entertaining hockey and were the most successful team in the hockey club. They were a team of goal scorers supported by a hardworking, energetic midfield and a tough, hard-to-beat defence. Joanna Fraser (captain) and Annabel McSwiggan stood out as coach's players of the year; Louisa Wates was the most improved player and top goal scorer; and Millie Tozer (vice captain) was voted players' player.

On paper the U16As might appear to have had a really difficult term, but the positive attitude, energy and enthusiasm they brought to each training session ensured that it was a really enjoyable season; the girls made tremendous progress, both individually and collectively. They started the season with three tough games and showed great resilience in the face of some very talented opposition. Against Kimbolton, the girls put



Sasha Withers Green

in an excellent performance, playing with real pace to win 2-0. After Half Term, the girls put in a series of excellent performances against Marlborough, Cranford House, Cheltenham and Wellington. The whole squad was fantastic throughout the season and made huge strides. Amy Theakstone was the team's most improved player and Caris Baker players' player. Special mentions must go to Phoebe Cain, who led the team brilliantly, and most valuable player, goalkeeper Maddie Catchpole, who made some remarkable saves. The U16Bs also improved throughout the course of the season and produced some fine performances with their highlights being hard fought wins over Pangbourne, Tudor Hall and Cheltenham College in the return fixture.

The U15As played some excellent hockey throughout the season but there were three significant highlights. The first was the 1-0 win against a strong and skillful Rugby side where most valuable player Sasha Withers Green scored the decisive goal with a stunning backhand strike. The second was against Wellington College where the girls were outstanding, playing with real intensity in defence in a 0-0 draw. The third was the last game of the season against Bloxham, where the side played total hockey in an impressive 6-1 win. Most improved player went to Maddy Powell, with Tiggy Jones and Sophie Tompkins picking up joint players' player awards.



Back row: Rachel Bellamy (who shared the coaching of the U14A squad with Ed Ellis), Ruby Faulkner, Lily Ainsleigh-Jones, Connie Jones, Taggie Paganuzzi, Amy Burnett, Jess Hearn, Izzy Hall and Isabel Llabres Diaz. Front row: Flora Welchman, Rosie Perkins, Anna West, Matilda Pumfrey, Charlotte Hanslip, Lila Howard and Ruby Freeland

Equestrian Activities

The U15Bs also made good progress throughout the season with their highlights being wins against Rugby, Tudor Hall and Cheltenham. They rounded their season off in style with a superb 8-0 win against Bloxham.

The U15Cs impressed with their dedicated efforts all season against some very strong opposition. They were totally committed, worked hard as a team and were positive and motivated at all times. Special mention must go to captain Sylvie Abdoo and players' player and vice-captain Tara Kassler for their great leadership at all times. Defender Yok Pumapanich was the most improved player and the skillful Isabella Sheppard-Capurro was the side's most valuable player.

The U14A team had a great season. They always worked hard for each other and produced some very good hockey, winning the county tournament and going on to progress from the regional tournament to the regional semi-finals. Other highlights included wins against Bradfield, Tudor Hall and Bloxham, and scoring 40 goals in total during the season. Most valuable player was awarded to Lila Howard for her dominance in midfield and her very impressive vision and passing. It was pleasing to see just how far the U14Bs progressed throughout the season. By the end they enjoyed fine wins against Tudor Hall and Cranford House but the highlight of the season was the 0-0 draw against a very strong Wellington team – a match that showed all those watching just how far the girls had come.

With many having never picked up a hockey stick before, the U14Cs also had a really positive season. They were full of enthusiasm and energy, improved hugely, and despite some tough matches against some strong teams, always showed great spirit and determination. The highlight of the season was the performance in a 2-2 draw against Rugby. The most valuable player was goalkeeper Emily Bulmer, most improved player was Charlotte Webster and players' player Inaya Ghalib.

At the end of term, Corfe reigned supreme in the inter-house contest taking both the senior and junior titles.



Izzy Hall and Magic winning the 100cm class at the County Championships

Our growing Equestrian Team enjoyed sensational success in January when they took the team and individual NSEA County Championship titles in the 100cm class at the Cherwell Competition Centre in Oxford. As a result, the team of India Courage, Izzy Hall, Gini Hope and Izzy Rees will take part in the National Show Jumping Championships at Bury Farm in Buckinghamshire later this

month. At the County Championships, the same team came 6th in the 90cm class while the team of Clara Petrillo, Hope Spurrier and Gini Hope came 2nd in the 80cm class. Individually, Izzy Hall came 1st in the 100cm (making her County Champion) and 4th in the 90cm; India Courage came 2nd in the 100cm and 6th in the 90cm class; and Izzy Rees came 4th in the 110cm class.



Gini Hope and India Courage at the County Championships

Rowing

By John Wiggins, Master i/c Rowing

As we celebrate a record number of pupils at the Boat Club in the School's co-educational history, we can look back on a successful Autumn Term for those committing to a full three terms at the river.

Wallingford Head at the end of November saw an unprecedented two Teddies Vllls racing in the morning division. The A boat (Valentin Peiker, George Hayter, Alexander Gowans, Thibby Mulot, Campbell Nelson, Max Thompson, Barnaby Singfield, Nicola dei Rossi and cox, Sam Shuker) were beaten only by St Paul's while the B crew, ranging from Upper Sixth to Fourth Form were less successful but significant by their very existence as the first 2nd VIII for a number of years.

In October, the boys raced at Reading Small Boats Head in pairs, singles and a quad. While the planned entry was hit somewhat by illness and academic clashes, Campbell Nelson and Max Thompson celebrated success in the open pairs and a strong second place in the junior event. Valentin Peiker proved the fastest of the scullers with an impressive runner-up place in the intermediate 2 category.

A month later, the action moved a little upstream to Pangbourne College's Junior Head where both boys and girls raced. In addition to the regulars, there was racing for some others who had made the extra commitment

to rowing over and above their main sport. One of these, Saskia Ward, is a name to look out for in the future. Before heading back to School to play in goal for her hockey team, Fourth Former Saskia raced with Upper Sixth Former Maddie Luke, finishing second in the double scull. Maddie raced again in the afternoon winning the single scull event just ahead of runner-up, Matilda Mann. Another Fourth Former, Felix Abel, finished in second place in the J15 singles – a major step on for this youngster. Our two Fifth Form boys, Thibby Mulot and Alexander Gowans, were in a tightly contested pairs event, finishing fifth but within 15 seconds of victory while in the J18 quads we had a winning combination of Barnaby Singfield, Campbell Nelson, George Hayter and Valentin Peiker. The B quad took third place – ahead of all other B crews.

The term's racing concluded with a visit to Burway Head where Saskia Ward again featured, winning the J15 singles as well as achieving third place with Jessica McPhail in the J15 double. The senior girls' quad produced the fastest time of the day but, entered in the elite category (significantly due to the presence of coach, Katie Greves, in the bow seat) had no direct opposition. Racing for the very first time and sitting directly in front of Miss Greves was Izzy Degroot, new



Pasha Tinkov, Campbell Nelson, Nicola dei Rossi, Ben Sthamer, James Schofield and cox Sam Shuker in action at Wallingford.

to the School and the sport in September with the ever-reliable Maddie Luke and Matilda Mann setting a strong lead in the stern. In singles, the girls finished with Maddie fourth, Matilda sixth and Izzy seventh. In the boys' camp, Cosmo del Mar came third in the J16 category and Felix Abel again impressed with fourth in the J15 event.



Matilda Mann, Izzy Degroot and Maddie Luke training in the snow!

Squash

By Simon Palferman, Master i/c Squash



Sanders Lau, Marc Chan, Alexia Drouliscos and Danielle Lim

The Autumn Term's busy schedule of boys' fixtures looked like a fairly daunting challenge for our relatively inexperienced Squash V, shorn of many of the now departed stalwarts behind the successes of recent years.

It was to their enormous credit, therefore, that regulars James Curtis, Giles Wordsworth, Hamish Smart, Harvey Elvide and Joe Courtier, as well as reliable stand-in, Charlie Watson, battled hard throughout the term. Impressive victories were secured against both Rugby and The Oratory. Near misses against much more experienced Winchester College and Bromsgrove teams showed what might have been with a more ruthless and savvy killer instinct, especially in those games where the School initially took the lead, only to relinquish it in epic tussles.

Having mentioned those departed stalwarts, it should also be noted that it was wonderful to welcome back three recent leavers – Edward Beccle, James Moore-Stanley and James George – for the School vs. Martyrs match on 10th September. It was

perhaps somewhat galling, however, to see these erstwhile top three seeds for the School's 1st V (in the 2016-17 season) contribute so much as the School's opponents!

By way of providing opportunities for high level competition this term, the School entered the National Schools Championship, organised by England Squash. Being drawn in the same pool as relative regional powerhouses such as Eton, Wellington, Abingdon and Bradfield meant that Teddies inevitably struggled to win more than the odd game, but these fixtures really added to the development and experience of our players. Since a couple of the current 1st V, who are still in their Fifth Form year, gained enormously from the challenge and insights gleaned this term, the prospects for future years look promising.

This is particularly true in the light of the gaining popularity of squash as a sporting option for our Sixth Formers this year. Over 60 seniors, as well as 20 juniors, now elect

to play the sport regularly, and this will no doubt lead to greater competitiveness in the long term.

Pleasingly, much of the growth in school squash has been seen in the number of girls participating in the sport at Teddies. Securing willing and suitable opposition for inter-school girls' matches has not always been easy. However, last season our leading six girls – Danielle Lim, Alexia Drouliscos, Maria Gorovator, Sophia Majzub, Vania Lay and Pippa Smith – played friendly fixtures against both Marlborough College and Cheltenham College.

Much of the credit for the continuing development of the sport at Teddies must go to our wonderful coach, Ross Gore. He works tirelessly and enthusiastically with the full range of our pupils, many of whom had never played the sport prior to arriving at St Edward's. Watching some of these boys and girls blossom into technically correct and tactically astute squash players is a joy, and a real testament to his skill and commitment.

PEOPLE

At the start of last term, we welcomed Fergus Livingstone OSE to the English Department and Tom Haysom to the Mathematics Department.

At the end of the academic year, we say goodbye to Jeremy Mather who leaves to become Director of Pastoral Care at the APEX2100 International Ski Academy in Tignes, France (below); to Gavin Turner, to become Director of Teaching and Learning at Bradfield; to Beth Steer, to become Director of Boarding and Wellbeing at Bootham School in York; to Rev. Charlie Kerr, to explore pastures new; to Catherine Phillips, to teach French and Sport at New College School, Oxford; to Sue Webb, to study for a Masters in Development and Emergency Practice at Oxford Brookes University; to Katherine Richard, to teach Physics at Headington; to Jonathan Muir, to become Head of English at St Helen and St Katharine, Abingdon; to Finola Picknett, to teach English at Yarm School, Yorkshire; and to Oliver Bevan, Speech and Drama teacher, to focus on his writing and acting career.

In internal appointments, Paula Diaz Rogado became Head of Theory of Knowledge for the IB Diploma in December. In September, Rachel Bellamy becomes Assistant Head Pastoral (see page 19) and Phaedra Gowen, Director of School Growth.

Also in September, we welcome Hugh Stephens from Reading Blue Coat School as Head of Geography; Matt Strachan from Churcher's College, Petersfield, and Michael Ruta from Bedford Modern School to teach Geography; Jonathan Taylor from Giggleswick School and Sophie Barnes from Durham University to teach Maths; Lauren Bray from Parkwood Academy to teach English; Beth Watts from Oxford University to teach Chemistry; and Adam Moffatt from Shiplake College as Head of Rowing.

In personal news, congratulations to Tom and Buffy Holdsworth on the birth of Harry on 20th November; to Katrina and Jonathan Eden on the birth of Roxanna Hero Merryn on 4th December; to Lisa and Mark Smyth on the birth of Scarlett Isa Ellen on 3rd January; to Louise and Andrew Bowen on the birth of Elizabeth Ivy McGregor on 16th February; and to Rob and Ashley Cottrell on the birth of Rosanna Cecilia Florence on 12th March.

In Memoriam

We report with sadness two deaths in the Teddies community: Lady Joan Reid, wife of former Chairman of Governors, Sir Bob Reid, in November; and Sarah Keylock, much loved member of the Health Centre nursing team, who died in October after a long battle with cancer.

The Health Centre team writes: Sarah was known and loved by many pupils and staff – and not only within the St Edward's community. Sarah was a midwife for 25 years in Oxford and recalled with great pleasure delivering many St Edward's pupils! Having been present at so many pupils' births, she was always delighted to see them whenever they presented at the Health Centre. Sarah was a hugely valued Nurse and friend to many of us in the Health Centre, having worked here for many years as a Night Duty Nurse, alongside her ongoing duties as a Midwife and, latterly, as a Practice Nurse too.

Sarah was incredibly knowledgeable, skilled, kind, fun and interesting as she recounted so many of her adventures and

travels. Sarah lived so inspirationally and with great bravery during her cancer treatment, and we cannot begin to express how missed she is by us, and by her husband and two children. We will continue to carry so many special memories of her, and learn from her example both personally and professionally.



Sarah Keylock

