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GORDON'S NEWS

Summer Term 2018



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Celebrating 100 years of the RAF

In a fitting tribute to the RAF's centenary year, the Sword of Honour and Gardiner Memorial Award was presented to RAF Cadet Daniel Farrow at this year's Patron's Parade.

The sword and award recognise Daniel, aged 18 - who earned a Flying Scholarship with the RAF - as being the most successful Gordon's CCF Senior Cadet this year.

The presentations were made during the Parade when student members of the Pipes and Drums Band join their peers to march in honour of the School's Patron HM The Queen.

This year as the Parade was also commemorating the RAF's 100 years, it was inspected by Group Captain Peter Cracroft, who also presented Daniel with his awards. Many of the service families who came to watch their children take part, also dressed in their RAF uniform.

Every student at Gordon's joins the CCF for at least a year and Daniel, who has served as the Surrey Heath Borough Council's 'Mayor's Cadet', has spent some four years as an RAF Cadet. His long-held ambition is to be a pilot. In receiving the Gardiner Memorial Award he will be invited to participate in a tandem parachute jump with the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

Daniel's RAF Scholarship gave him 12 hours of flying instruction in Dundee over two weeks. Reflecting on the experience, Daniel said: *"...it was fantastic to get to grips with the aircraft, the speed of learning was fast and within the first three trips I was taking off and landing by myself. As someone who has always been interested in aviation it was extremely rewarding."*

"Every trip built on the knowledge you had gained in the last so it was a very methodical way of learning and by the final trip I was flying the aircraft and communicating with the air traffic controllers without the instructor's help!"



Annual Parade 2018



Rising June temperatures meant a break from tradition and Gordon's 133rd Annual Parade was held on the cooler lawns of the Front Field under the gaze of General Charles Gordon's statue.

The Guest of Honour was the High Sheriff of Surrey Mr Jim Glover and Gordon's also welcomed friends from Sudan and the Khartoum International Community School (KICS) Mr Osama Latif; Mrs Samia Omar; Dr Ronnie Shaul and Mr Fadil Banayoti.





Augusta Trip to Thorpe Park

The Thorpe Park trip began on a high, with an enthusiastic atmosphere and constant whispers of 'stealth this' and 'stealth that'. As we approached the park, excitement rose to a maximum just thinking about the adrenaline rush we were about to have!

The cloudy day meant no long queues. We were also helped to get to the top of the queues quickly by Mr Mathews' knack of being able to charm the attendants into letting ten students at a time onto his fast pass!

Nemesis Inferno was exhilarating, Colossus was vomit-inducing with its constant loop-the-loops, and Saw and Stealth were a challenge for only the bravest. It wasn't just students who were having fun though; Miss Dawson and Miss Docherty were running around from ride to ride, huge grins stuck on their faces. The girls also tried their hand at the fairground games, with some lucky ones emerging triumphant, cuddly toy in hand.

The fun seemed everlasting, and a group of students helped to delay our departure by getting stuck on Derren Brown's Ghost Train, but unfortunately the day had to end. The yawns were contagious and you could sense the drowsiness in the air as the girls got back onto the bus, worn out but happy after an action-packed day.

By Hilary Onanuga



Sandringham House

After hearing that Gordonian Sam Doble had been paralysed in a motorbike accident last year, boys from Sandringham House set about raising money to help him buy specialist equipment and fund adaptations to his home. Sam, who continued to supervise Gordon's multi-gym in the evenings after he had left the school, nearly lost his life in the accident last February. Doctors gave him just a two per cent chance of walking again. However, Sam is determined he will walk. Boys from the House held numerous fundraising events for him, raising over £500! They were delighted to be able to present him with the money from their efforts when he visited them recently. They also gave up their time to garden for him. Sam's mother Tina Doble commented that the Sandringham team: '...were a shining example of the Gordon's ethos and were quite obviously proud to be helping 'one of their own'.



Balmoral House Trip to Watch Surrey Scorchers Basketball

Top of the table clash, Surrey Scorchers versus Bristol Flyers at the Surrey Sports Park was our first trip of the Summer Term. What a match – from start to finish! The basketball players were amazing, the entertainment frenetic and the facilities superb. The boys went on court to shoot some hoops at half-time. The match was a very close affair with Surrey taking an early lead but finding themselves ten points down with minutes to go. They squeezed every ounce of energy and skill to close the gap and draw level on the final buzzer. The five minutes of overtime were very exciting and some great rebound work and three-point shooting saw Surrey victorious 102 - 97. We stayed at the end for photographs, autographs and had a chat with several of the players who took time out to see the fans. A great day out at a brilliant sporting venue. We will be going back!

Buckingham House

Another stellar year has flown by in Buckingham House. The new Y7s have quickly settled in, helped in no small part by their Y8 buddies. The new Y9 boys have also added value to the House and School by being involved in many teams, including sporting and arts. They also have the top effort grades in the House.

The Y11 and Sixth Form have dominated many of the sporting Inter-House events and should be a formidable unit when they combine next year. In fact the Sixth Form/Y11 axis (externals Chris Pearce, Matt Hill as well as House stalwart Cameron Colloff)

were responsible for the great Inter-House music piece – ‘Stand by Me’ that ran Gravesend very close in the music final. Krishna Kler (Y7) gave a sterling performance as the lead singer.

The House sadly said good-bye to Mrs Cantelo, but I am pleased to announce that her replacements – Mrs Crawley and Miss Jackson have hit the ground running and are keeping the boys on their toes! Their warmth has added to the homely feel in the House.



Chocolate Eggs for China House

A mad dash – scrambling, shouting, searching as the chocolate egg hunt to defeat all others was held on the Back Field by China. The prizes, simple yet desirable in the form of chocolate eggs, were only for the ones who prevailed. Organised by the Y12s (soon to be Y13s), it had two main events – the hunt and the egg and spoon. The lucky (and tall) Year 11s found the rare golden egg in a tree and won some chocolate eggs to share. The main prize, in the form of a huge basket filled to the brim with treats, was won in the raffle by lucky student Martina Rider. The hunt was really fun and I can't wait until next year. Look out Y11s!



Gravesend House

It has been another interesting year in Gravesend House. We have had some fantastic successes and crashing defeats!

Big wins this year have been the Inter-House Rugby; Inter-House Music and the Longmoor Drill competition and it has been great to be able to celebrate these. Changes to the House over the Easter holidays included a new kitchen and some bean bags for the junior and senior common rooms.

We said goodbye to a really great group of Year 13 boys with a movie night in the House and trip out for pizza. They have been strong, reliable, fun members of Gravesend and we will miss them tremendously.

The staff, as usual, play a huge role in the House by modelling our core values and as always, the wellbeing of the boys remains our highest priority.



Victoria House

Now completing our second year, the House has grown in numbers and exudes a positive atmosphere. The students continue to support one another exceptionally and we are fortunate to have a fantastic team of staff who always have the students' best interests at heart. Our Inter-House results have been mixed this year but still we have numerous trophies in our possession.





Winners of the Surrey Superstars Youth Fundraising Award, members of Gordon's School Khartoum House with the Lord-Lieutenant of Surrey Michael More-Molyneux. Left to right Alex Duke; Daniel Farrow and David Hutchings.

Khartoum House

When one of their peers died from a cardiac arrest aged just 15 years old boys from Khartoum House, threw themselves into raising money for the charity CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young). Their fundraising took the form of bake sales, Christmas raffles and quiz nights. One student, David Hutchings, ran his first marathon (in under four hours!) so he could contribute to CRY. In all the students raised over £1,800.

In recognition of their efforts on behalf of CRY, they were presented with the Surrey Superstars Youth Fundraising Award by HM The Queen's representative in the County and a Gordon Foundation Trustee, the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey Michael More-Molyneux at a reception in Guildford.

The award represented two years of hard work, but more importantly for the boys their fundraising has brought them together for a worthy cause and been a legacy to their friend Luke Towers.

Accepting the award, Alex Duke said that he and his peers had found it very tough when Luke died but he was glad that they had been able to fundraise and do something positive in his memory.

"We have come out of this with unity for a good cause" he commented.



What better way to combat the stresses and strains of exams than to battle it out on the race track? Khartoum House Students enjoyed an evening of whizzing around on four wheels at Team Sport, an indoor go-karting venue.



Windsor House

Ice skating, Harlequins rugby and Liquid Leisure Water Park were just a few of the activities and trips enjoyed by Windsor House. However, the biggest success was the taking part in the Race for Life in Basingstoke. Thirty two girls and staff took part in the 5K event and raised in excess of £2,500 for Cancer Research UK. This was a hugely impressive achievement and testament to the attitude and commitment of the girls and staff in Windsor House.

A brilliant way to conclude our four years in Windsor and a great memory to take away with us.



GCSE Business trip to Hobbledown

Hobbledown, a children's farm and themed attraction park in Epsom, was where all Year 10 Business GCSE students visited as part of their extended project theme work for this Summer Term. The farm links to marketing, market research and other topics within the OCR course specification.

During the trip, students conducted primary market research with customers and the manager of Hobbledown, via questionnaires and interviews to investigate how effectively the business currently uses the marketing mix and what improvements could be made to this.



Holy Trinity Business Day

Primary school children at Holy Trinity School in West End, were given an introduction to enterprise by Year 12 Business students, who mentored them and helped them to understand key business concepts as well as how to complete their tasks safely and on time.

The Year 12 students set their protégés a challenge involving researching, designing, making, marketing and selling a new milkshake flavour for "Shakeaway".



Fun Day 2018



A Pioneers Award for LGBT+ and Inclusion, was presented to Gordon's representatives at the Educate and Celebrate Pride Youth Network Conference at Goldsmith's University in April. Kayley Aitken-Smith; Natasha Gerrard and LGBT+ Inclusion and Welfare Officer Sarah Maslen are pictured with the award.



French Exchange

The return leg of the French exchange saw 11 students and three members of staff descend on the Collège André Malraux in Cagnes sur Mer in the South of France.

The visit gave Gordon's students the opportunity to reconnect with their French friends; play sport and enjoy the sights. As well as experiencing the Renoir museum, the group took a boat trip around the bay of Nice; saw the fish and mammals at MarineLand and went to see France play football against Italy at a stadium in Monaco.

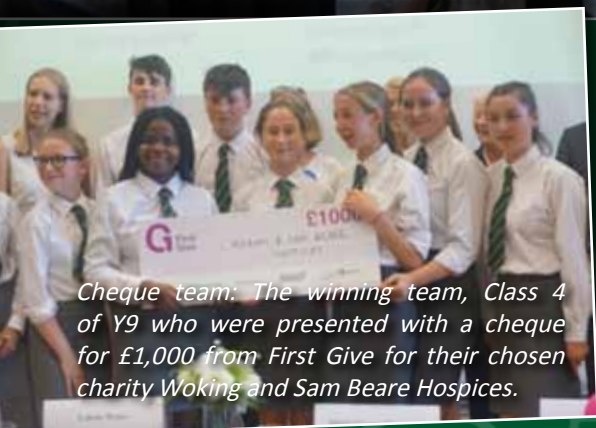
A very busy week with amazing weather and very friendly French families meant that the trip was a success and students came home with further knowledge about French life together with new vocabulary and language skills.



Sssshhhh! Students from 7B held a sponsored silence to raise money for Mary's Meals, a charity that feeds students in schools in Africa with a meal a day. They stayed silent in form/chapel and in their Houses - in fact at all times apart from lessons - for two days. Their silence raised over £200 and means they will be able to pay for 14 African children to eat a meal a day for a year.



Silence is golden



Cheque team: The winning team, Class 4 of Y9 who were presented with a cheque for £1,000 from First Give for their chosen charity Woking and Sam Beare Hospices.

They were silent, they collected secondhand clothes and they raised awareness of their charity. In all, the students of 9B PSHE raised over £3,000 for local charities. The challenge was set by First Give, a charity that encourages young people to give their time and talent to improve their community. Students from Year 9 identified social issues and engaged with local charities set up to tackle them. Then they set about fundraising and increasing awareness. All were competing for a cheque for £1,000 from First Give for their chosen charity. The students picked the local branch of the Alzheimer's Society; Stepping Stones for people with Down's Syndrome; Samson Centre for Multiple Sclerosis and Woking and Sam Beare Hospice. One of the teams undertook a sponsored 200k run, walk, swim to raise awareness of the fact that around 200 people are diagnosed with MS each month. Another appealed to staff and students to bring in their good quality secondhand clothes for stock in charity shops. There were also sponsored silences; selling sweets and shaking collection buckets. The four teams then went before a panel of seven judges who listened to their presentations. Sadly many of those in the teams had first hand experience of their chosen charity, so the presentations were impassioned and informed. Class 4 of Y9 PSHE raised £857 for their charity Woking and Sam Beare Hospices. They were voted winners of the challenge and were presented with a cheque for £1,000 from First Give which will be added to the money already raised by them for the hospice charity they care so deeply about.

A Taste of the Blues

A taster day at Oxford University gave ten Y10 students a real insight as to what they might expect as undergraduates.

As well as hearing a talk on the courses available and the type of teaching provided, a classics student spoke about her day to day life; how she copes with exam pressure; the application process and what she does when she isn't studying!

The day at St Hilda's College also included glimpses into Law and Engineering degrees and afforded time to see the beautiful architecture in the City. Lunch in Halls, a visit to the Ashmolean Museum and the sight of "trashing" where students who have just finished exams have paint, silly string and foam thrown at them, gave the Gordon's students a picture of how interesting and how fun Oxford can be.

Daisy Kenworthy said: "Overall the day gave us an insight into what we should consider when applying to university, how Oxbridge differs from other universities and it also became clear that you need a real passion for what you want to study."





Founder's Day Parade

Founder's Day Parade at the Royal Hospital Chelsea and ten Y7 Students were invited to watch HRH Prince Michael of Kent take the Annual Review. Dressed in their 'Blues' marching uniform, the group has been chosen for their marching skills. The Parade remembers King Charles II who issued a Royal Warrant for the foundation of the hospital and commissioned Sir Christopher Wren to design it on the 66 acre site. Each year representatives from Gordon's School are invited to attend this special event.

Blooming Lovely!

A blaze of yellow daffodils greeted drivers along roads of West End – the result of the back-breaking bulb planting by members of the West End Village Society. Members of the organisation raised the money to buy bulbs and planted some 50,000 of them over six consecutive weekends. Added to the 17,000 from last year and the area was just blooming! The Gordon Foundation was one of the many local businesses who contributed to the fund to buy all the bulbs that brightened up the whole village. Pictured here enjoying the blooms in the Spring sunshine are Gordon's School students: Lilly Bloomfield; Tegan Forrest; Charlotte Robson-Sankey; Emily Nixon; Nathan Everett; Ollie Barrow; Sam Sleeper; Olly Cooper and Henry Watts.



Retracing General Gordon's Steps

A trip to Sudan proved irresistible for Gordon's staff and students, who made history by being the first European school to visit the African country.

Gordon's shares a unique history and connection with Sudan's capital city. For the School is the national memorial to the British war hero, philanthropist and martyr General Charles Gordon and was founded following his death in Khartoum in 1885. Gordon's is also home to the huge bronze statue of General Gordon astride a camel, which originally graced a crossroads in Khartoum. And one of the Gordon Foundation trustees is Tom Gordon, great-great-great nephew of General Gordon!

The invitation for the historic visit came from Samia Omar and her husband Osama Daoud Abdellatif who co-founded the Khartoum International Community School (KICS). They were keen to establish links having discovered Gordon's School when helping their son with a school project on General Gordon!

Then last summer Gordon's School welcomed the British Ambassador to Sudan, His Excellency Michael Aron.

The DAL Group of companies in Sudan which supports KICS part funded the trip, which included a boat trip along the Nile and to the Meroe Pyramids; tour of the National Republic Museum; camping in the desert; tea at the British Embassy. Along with their 'buddies' students also watched a screening of the film Khartoum, starring Charlton Heston, in the School's amphitheatre.

Links were made with representatives of the Woman's Education Partnership in Khartoum, a charity which funds women's literacy classes, university scholarships, medical care, HIV/AIDS awareness and support and teacher training programmes. Each week students from KICS provide English language conversation classes to the women from WEPS.

Gordon's students joined them as well and gave the women gifts of English grammar books and stationery.

A seminal moment came when Tom Gordon shook hands with a direct descendant of the Mahdi, currently Vice President and Minister for Trade (whose son was a Gordon's School student in the late 1990's!).

Now Gordon's and KICS are determined to develop and maintain links, and an exchange visit is already planned!

In preparation for their trip, The David Buckland Trust paid for students and staff to learn basic Arabic language skills.

Students from both schools were buddied with each other and were communicating regularly before even meeting.

Victoria Wright, an A-Level student at Gordon's, asked to go as she is keen to work with NGO's in the future. While admitting: "It wasn't my idea of a typical holiday destination", she said she is already exploring the logistics of returning there.

"Everyone we met was so hospitable and friendly and approachable".

"The hardest thing was driving through the desert and seeing these people living there. I don't know how they survive. There was no water. It was quite shocking."

Letters from HM the Queen (Gordon's School Patron) and the Lord Mayor of London (Vice President of the Gordon Foundation) were presented to KICS as well as a model of General Gordon on his camel. Tom Gordon planted a tree in the grounds of the Khartoum school to commemorate the visit.

In her welcome, Samia Omar enthused: "I believe it has been a truly enlightening and educational experience for all concerned. We hope very much that we will build lasting links between the schools and are already in conversations about different possibilities..."

David Lelliott, Charge d'Affaires at the British Embassy in Sudan has offered his support in the educational links between the two schools and it is hoped that the new partnership will extend to further visits as well as placements for Gap students from Gordon's; teacher experience and joint MUN (Model United Nations) activity.

For the Gordon's School Bursar, Susan Meikle, the highlight of the visit was the way the students interacted with the women from the Women's Education Partnership Charity and helped them with their English conversation classes.

The whole experience had been "fantastic", she said, adding that they had been welcomed wherever they went.

On his return, Tom Gordon commented: "It was a pioneering trip...I thought the students were brilliant. They entered into a world totally alien to them and threw themselves in head first and with enthusiasm. The way they mingled with KICS students and made friends was inspirational. They [the Gordon's students] took everything thrown at them..."

Describing his meeting with the Mahdi as "amazing" and "surreal", Mr Gordon said: "It was the most incredible trip. Life changing for me finally to be in Khartoum and Sudan. Life changing."

Richard Whittington, Chairman of Governors at Gordon's School commented: "...we sincerely hope that this will be the start of a unique and valued partnership between our two schools, a partnership through which students in both schools may develop an understanding of issues beyond their immediate boundaries. Our heritage plays an important part in this school's life and to know that we are providing this current generation of Gordon's students with this opportunity is widely celebrated."







Twenty five Japanese students spent the day exploring the School in April, visiting various lessons and watching the Pipes and Drums. Each one was buddied up with a Gordon's student. The visitors gave a fascinating cultural presentation and created a carousel of practical activities for our students, which enabled them to experience Japanese art, sports, cuisine and music. The day was a great success and our visitors left having had the full Gordon's experience!

Ten Tors Challenge 2018

Fielding one of the largest contingents in the Ten Tors Challenge in May, Gordon's School CCF entered two teams (one boys and one girls) on different 35 mile (bronze) challenges.

Led by Alice Cresswell and Elliot de Vere Green, the teenagers joined nearly 2,000 others across Dartmoor for the event, which was organised by the Army's South Western HQ in Okehampton.

The girls' team were Sadie Hibbins, Daisy Kenworthy, Ella Litjens, Emma Cohen, Emily Jones. The boys' team were Theo Lee-Clarke, Jacob Duffin, Max Wynne, Luke Esperanca and Jesse Holmes.

Relying solely on team work, navigational skills, grit and determination, with no mobile phones; GPS or adult intervention, the teams were delighted that their months of training and preparation had paid off.

The girls completed the course in 19 hours 31 minutes and the boys in 21 hours.

Achievement medals were presented by Devon's five-time Olympian Jo Pavey and Olympic rower Heather Stanning.



Woking and Sam Beare Hospice Clothing

Staff and students dug deep in their wardrobes to donate 30 bags of clothes for a charity clothes collection for Woking and Sam Beare Hospices. The clothes appeal by 9B PSHE was for their 'Social Action' Philanthropy Project.

Library Lectures

Our fortnightly Library Lectures are organised through the Development Office to provide students on the academic enrichment programme with opportunities to extend their knowledge in their subject areas as well as be exposed to topical issues. Speakers this term have included Adam Rattray (Wellington College) on the life of Michelangelo, Executive Prison Governor, Nick Pascoe speaking about 'Changing Lives' and we will regard graffiti with different eyes after listening to Doug Gillen's 'Hidden Canvases, Street Art and the City'. If you or anyone you know would be able to provide a Library Lecture on an appropriate subject area, do please contact development@gordons.school.



MUN

Delegates from Gordon's MUN (Model United Nations) recorded their best ever results at a conference held at Haileybury College recently. The MUN conference - one of the largest in the country - involved over 600 secondary school pupils from across the world assuming the roles of national ambassadors to debate and solve global issues. Darcy Watson, Dina Khan and Tim Fisho were Highly Commended; Tia Jasani, Luca Stamford and Oliver Henderson were Distinguished Delegates and the Gordon's delegation representing Cyprus was awarded Highly Commended: Tim Fisho, Artur Nunes, Harvey Tulloch, Luca Conti and Oliver Henderson.

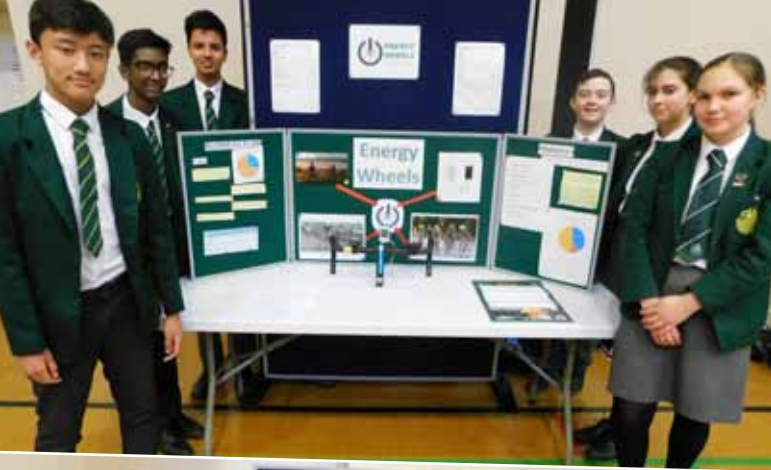


Belgravia, Whitehall and West End

Alongside all of the Parades that the Pipes and Drums so proudly lead, the Pipes and Drums have played for local events such as Holy Trinity School May Fayre and had the pleasure of opening Gracewell of Woking, a new care home in West End.

To round off the academic year, the Pipes and Drums were delighted to be invited back to the Caledonian Club in Belgravia once more to start the festivities at their Summer Ball. The feedback was nothing but complimentary - for most it was the highlight of the evening.





Young Enterprise

Gordon's School was honoured to host the North Surrey Area Final of this year's Company Programme run by Young Enterprise in March.

The Company Programme provides an opportunity for a group of students from Year 10 or Year 12 to come together to form a student company, fund its development by issuing shares, organise themselves into a Board of Directors, and develop a product or service which they sell at school, in local shops, at trade fairs and online.

At the area final, companies are interviewed and judged on their learning experiences and performance, on their report and accounts, on the trade stands that they design, and on the corporate presentations they give.

Unfortunately neither of our YE companies (ScamSafe and Energy Wheels) got through to the County Finals, however an honourable mention was given to ScamSafe for their product innovation and our students gained much from the process, particularly the development of effective teamwork and communication skills.

Sarah Maslen fundraising

Still recovering from a very serious infection, Head of Victoria House, Sarah Maslen turned her attention to raising money and awareness of the often fatal condition sepsis. As a result of the infection, Ms Maslen has been left with damage to her leg as well as a deterioration to her eye sight and memory.

The Gordon's Head of Equestrianism and LGBT+ Lead set herself the challenge of walking 100 miles (depending on crutches at times) throughout April to raise money for the Sepsis Trust. The Sepsis Trust provides support and information on Sepsis which is also known as blood poisoning. The condition affects 25,000 children every year in the UK. A quarter of all sepsis survivors suffer permanent life-changing after effects and five people are killed by sepsis every hour in the UK.

Such was her determination that she carried on walking, covering some 150 miles in one month and raising an incredible £752.74 for the charity.

"Every opportunity I had, I walked" said Ms Maslen, adding: "I am aware that actually I am incredibly lucky to be able to even attempt this. I want to raise awareness and help support a charity who support so many people."

"I was on the right concoction of antibiotics that stopped the infection taking hold and wasn't really aware of how serious it could have been until afterwards."

As well as her certificate from the Sepsis Trust, Ms Maslen was also awarded a unicorn medal for completing 100 miles from the Scottish Chest, Heart and Stroke Association.

If you would like to donate to Sepsis UK please use Ms Maslen's JustGive page which can be found at <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/sarah-maslen>



Salters' Festival of Chemistry

Year 8 Students came second in the Salters' Festival of Chemistry competition held at The University of Surrey. Jason Cave, Alex Early, Isla Bethune and Scarlett Jones completed two challenges; the first involved them using a series of clues and techniques such as chromatography, flame tests and test tube reactions to solve a crime, and in the afternoon they had to make their own clothes dyes to dye different fabrics using only natural chemicals found in fruits and vegetables. The day ended with a spectacular magic show of colour changing chemistry.

David Dein

For our Insight Talk this term we were delighted to welcome David Dein, former Vice-Chairman of Arsenal Football Club and the Football Association. David joined the Arsenal board in 1983 and was made Vice-Chairman in the same year. He also rose to Vice-Chairman of the Football Association, and has served on numerous UEFA and FIFA Committees. The talk was enjoyed by a mix of students, parents and staff and covered the creation and history of the Premier League as well as some motivational messages to keep in mind for the future.





Ciara Meaney

Irish dancer Ciara Meaney can now add 'Joint World Champion' to her list of dancing achievements, following the World Irish Dance Association World Championships.

Ciara became joint world champion for the soft shoe dances. However, there were notable performances in other categories by the young dancer. She and her eight hand ceili team came second and for her solo dancing she was placed 9th overall in the 12 and under championship.

As well as being joint world champion for her soft shoe dances, she has a world ranking of 6th for her heavy shoe dances.



Machinal

This expressionist piece of writing was loosely based on the true story of Ruth Snyder, a woman in 1920s America, who was so oppressed by society and her husband, that she murders him and then receives the death penalty by electric chair. Years 12 and 13, who have studied the play, saw the production at the Almeida Theatre in London. The production uses inventive set and lighting, especially during the transitions where shutters came down to cover the stage and blinding lights were shone at the audience and the students came out of the performance with a useful piece of live theatre to analyse. We hope to see another performance of this play text soon, to further deepen and enhance their knowledge.

School winners of the inaugural SBF Festival of Public Speaking 2018.

SBF Festival of Public Speaking

Individual winners of the SBF Festival of Public Speaking:

Best Vote of Thanks: Grace Keyes (Gordon's School)

Best Speaker: Tia Jasani (Gordon's School)

Winning Team: Gordon's School (Oliver Henderson, Grace Keyes, Tia Jasani)

Intermediate Winner: Grace Keyes (Gordon's School)

Senior Winner: Laila Pell (Gordon's School)





Thomas Heywood Masterclass

World-famous organist Thomas Heywood gave a masterclass in the Gordon's Chapel. Students from Gordon's were joined by a number of other schools to learn from the Australian who is one of the most sought-after concert organists. Mr Heywood gives around 80 solo recitals each year as part of the 'Victorian State Organ Concerts' - an annual concert series which he founded with his wife Simone. He has a repertoire of over 5,000 works, and has recorded more than 20 albums of organ music receiving both popular and critical acclaim. Heywood has also transcribed many famous classical and romantic pieces for solo organ, and his arrangements are widely performed by other organists.



Inter-House Baking



Year 11 Prom

Wacky, creative and above all great fun – Gordon’s Year 11 Dinner. Arriving on the Parade Square’s red carpet were a lorry; caravan; London cab; two fire engines; an ice cream van and Gravesend’s tractor complete with Mr Short/Mrs Bryan bunting! The well dressed Year 11’s enjoyed drinks on the terrace outside the Rec with their parents and school staff before sitting down to a sumptuous meal in the marquee.







Year 13 Leavers' Dinner





Summer Arts Evening





A-Level Art

This year the A-Level Art Exhibition was once again a great success with outstanding artwork on show with greater numbers of parents, staff, families and friends attending.

Eight AS students and seven A2 students were exhibiting in the Gym with an outside sculpted installation by Loulou Mattinson. Art work this year was more diverse than ever. We saw a wide variety of work again in a range of media by our Year 12s, Sophie Dove, Mia Griffin, Elin Griffiths, Lily Larsimont, Sophie Marney, Cherry McMahon, Monica Prashasuk, and Alfie Kitchen.

Final pieces on display were huge steel sculptures, short films, animated cartoons, installations, life sized sculpted mutants, robotic art, caricatures, abstract painting and surreal sculptures along with the usual painted landscapes, life drawings and photography by Yael Astle, Ifiok Essien, Nicole Fantela, Cameron Heslop, Loulou Mattinson, Paige-kelly Mistelli and Josh Richardson.

Students were delighted to have a larger area and twice as many boards on which to display their work. Amongst the abundance of artwork students expressed and invited us to share their imaginative worlds and personal opinions to the exams 'Secrets, Codes and Conventions' for Year 12 and 'Limitations and /Or Freedoms for Year 13'.

My appreciation and congratulations to all our A-Level Artists for their hard work, commitment and exceptional amount of time spent working towards this very successful and wonderful exhibition.

Staff, parents and students before their 100 kilometre ride in the Evans Woking Cyclo sportive.



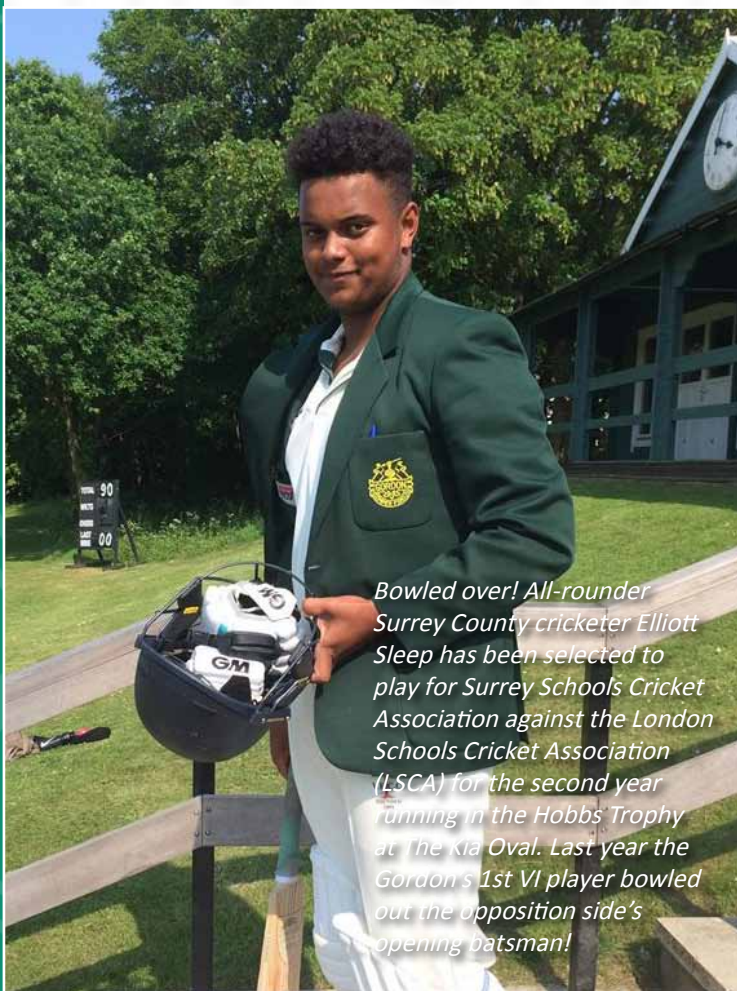
KS4 Cycling at Gordon's School

The Summer Term has seen a considerable increase in the number of students participating in cycling at Gordon's School with it now being offered as an option for PE students in Years 7, 8 and 9.

This term has seen a further development of our link with Charlotteville Cycling Club, which has enabled some of our cyclists to participate in coaching sessions at the Gravesend Cycle Park. We are also investigating the possibilities of coaching sessions at Hillingdon Cycle Park and the Olympic Velodrome.

A team of six students, together with three parents and three staff took part in the Evans Woking Sportive - a road ride of 57 miles.

We are looking forward to July when six students and three staff travel to Lanzarote for a week of intensive road cycling.



Bowled over! All-rounder Surrey County cricketer Elliott Sleep has been selected to play for Surrey Schools Cricket Association against the London Schools Cricket Association (LSCA) for the second year running in the Hobbs Trophy at The Kia Oval. Last year the Gordon's 1st VI player bowled out the opposition side's opening batsman!



Henry Sturm bronze medallist at the National Schools Judo Competition. Representing Gordon's at the competition in Sheffield in March, he won four fights and lost one.

Arete Cup Athletics

Over 70 athletes from Gordon's took part in the annual Arete Cup Athletics Track Meet for Years 7-10 in April.

Hosted by Gordon's, this highly competitive event saw some outstanding performances by both Gordon's and Woking High.

Gordon's were victorious with a very convincing win of 196 points overall to Woking High's 157.

Special congratulations go to the Victor Ludorum winners: Cara Falconer Y7; Ashton Gordon Y8; Daniel Manning Y9 and Amy Dove Y10. Gordon's also had numerous individual wins and put on a wonderful display winning seven out of eight relays. The most notable performance came from Ludlow Hewson Year 7 who broke the school record in the 800m.

KS4 District Champs

Despite the fierce competition at the Woking District Championships in May, Gordon's triumphed with the girls coming home with the trophy and the boys being runners up.

Eleven schools competed in the rain at the Woking athletics track for the KS4 District Champs and there were some outstanding individual and team performances. Special congratulations go to the following gold medal winners in their individual events: Kathryn Beckett (300m); Amy Dove (High Jump), Corum Nott (Long Jump and 400m); Christian Rowe (Triple Jump) and Ethan Pawadyira (Shot). The most notable performance was from Corum Nott who smashed the school record set in 2009 in the 400m with an incredible time of 51.66s.



Sports Awards Dinner

Olympic Gold medallist rower George Nash MBE was Guest Speaker at the annual sports awards evening when awards and colours were presented to students for their performance, commitment and character on and off the field. The Team of the Year was the First XI Football team, who narrowly lost to Millfield School in the semi-finals of the English Schools' U18 Football Association Trophy match. Sportsman of the year is Ifiok Essien and Sportswoman Maisy Ellis.



On her 16th Birthday Millie rowed to 7th place at the Fours Head in Putney in the WJ18 4+ (U18s) at the very end of 2017 for Marlow Rowing Club. After a challenging winter Millie decided to leave Marlow early in February 2018 after a bad injury in her hip was detected and was out injured for two months. Millie went on to join Henley Rowing Club in March. In her first race she won Gold with Henley at the Junior Inter-Regional Regatta in the WJ16 8+ under the banner Thames Upriver and they were the largest single Club/School contributor to winning the Victor Ludorum. Millie then went on to win a Gold at The National Schools Regatta in the WJ16 8+ which is as good as it gets. Millie got to the quarter finals of Henley Women's Regatta last weekend in the WJ16 4+. She has also been selected by Henley RC to trial again this year for the GB vs France match in Nottingham in the WJ16 4+ and will go on to British Junior Championships 20th-22nd July to conclude her first season at Henley Rowing Club. All in all a challenging year that ended up so much better than she could have hoped for and lays the way for a good campaign in September 2018.



Equestrian Team at Royal Windsor Horse Show 2018

The School's Equestrian Team were again fortunate to take part in the Royal Windsor Horse Show in May - one of the highlights in the International Equestrian Calendar.

With HM Queen watching, Gigi Gough (pictured on the front page) came second to HM Queen's horse in the Part Bred Arab Class achieving the highest riding mark. Going through to the Championship, she took on four other winners and was crowned Reserve Champion, again coming second to HM Queen's Horse. HM Queen's trainer spoke to Gigi afterwards and congratulated her on her riding, something Gigi will always cherish.

Three of the Gordon's Equestrian Team - Rebecca Hales, Holly Norris and Molly Barnard, who was the youngest in the competition - had the honour

of riding in the main arena in HRH Services Class. This class is compiled of professional, international riders from teams such as the RAF, Army, Royal Logistics Corps, Thames Valley Police, King's Troop and Bahrain Defence Force. The girls jumped very early in the morning with both Rebecca and Holly performing exceptionally well, despite both their horses rearing up! Molly followed on the smallest pony and did amazingly well on the course which is built for the large military horses. All three showed true determination.

That afternoon in a packed arena, Rebecca, Holly and Molly paraded on horseback in formation with the rest of the teams in the competition and saluted HM Queen. As ever, they represented Gordon's impeccably.



Inter-House Sport

Inter-House Sport saw terrific performances in every discipline this term with a nail biting finish to the School's sporting calendar.

At the start of the Summer Term, a closely fought contest saw Balmoral just leading over Sandringham by three and a half points. In the girls' contest, China led Kensington by nine points. However there were still 20 points to be won over the term in events for both boys and girls.

With a large enthusiastic crowd, our athletes from Years 7 to 10 put on a superb display of strength, speed and stamina in the Athletics competition. As ever it proved to be a very competitive afternoon with Balmoral emerging stronger than the rest of the field and beating Sandringham into 2nd place overall.

The girls' event was a much closer affair producing a new overall team champion House in Augusta who were pushed all the way by a very strong China House team.

The Tug of War competition took place immediately after the final athletics race. As ever it produced gutsy performances from all the competitors. In the girls event we had a reversal of the athletics results with China taking the trophy from Augusta. Augusta have held that title for a good number of years previous to this - quite a feat for the China girls.

The boys' event proved to be a much closer affair with the spoils being shared by both Sandringham and Buckingham. Without doubt it was a hard fought contest.

However the biggest congratulations must go to all competitors who took part in any of the competitions throughout the year. They have all contributed to their House with dignity, pride, enthusiasm and sportsmanship.



Gordonian and Commonwealth Gold medallist Eboni Beckford-Chambers of Team England Netball with some of the Gordon's School netball team during a recent visit to the School.



Eboni Beckford-Chambers

Hailed as the most exciting finish to the Commonwealth Games, Gordonian Eboni Beckford-Chambers and the England netball team scored in the very last second of their game against Australia in the Commonwealth Games in April to bring home a Gold Medal.

From the moment Eboni arrived as a Residential Boarder at Gordon's she showed her determination that one day she would be representing England at Netball.

A member of the School netball team right the way through her time at Gordon's, Eboni who played goal keeper and goal defence positions, began playing the game when she was just seven years old and received her England call up when she was 15.

Her netball coach Sue Forster remembered "She was brilliant! I

always knew that she had the potential to go all the way."

Former House Parent Fiona Boorman added: "The one thing that stood out to me was her drive and motivation, even from early on Eboni knew that she wanted to represent England at netball one day."

"I have a clear memory of saying to her that when that happened – and I had no doubt it would, I would recall us standing in Windsor House reception with me telling her that I would be so proud to say that she had been in our boarding house – we all laughed at that!"

She added: "Her mum was a stickler for good manners and she and Eboni made such a good team. Eboni was a delight and it was a privilege to look after her in Windsor. She deserves every success."



Jacob Griffin was selected to play in the U13 GB National Ice Hockey tournament in Sheffield

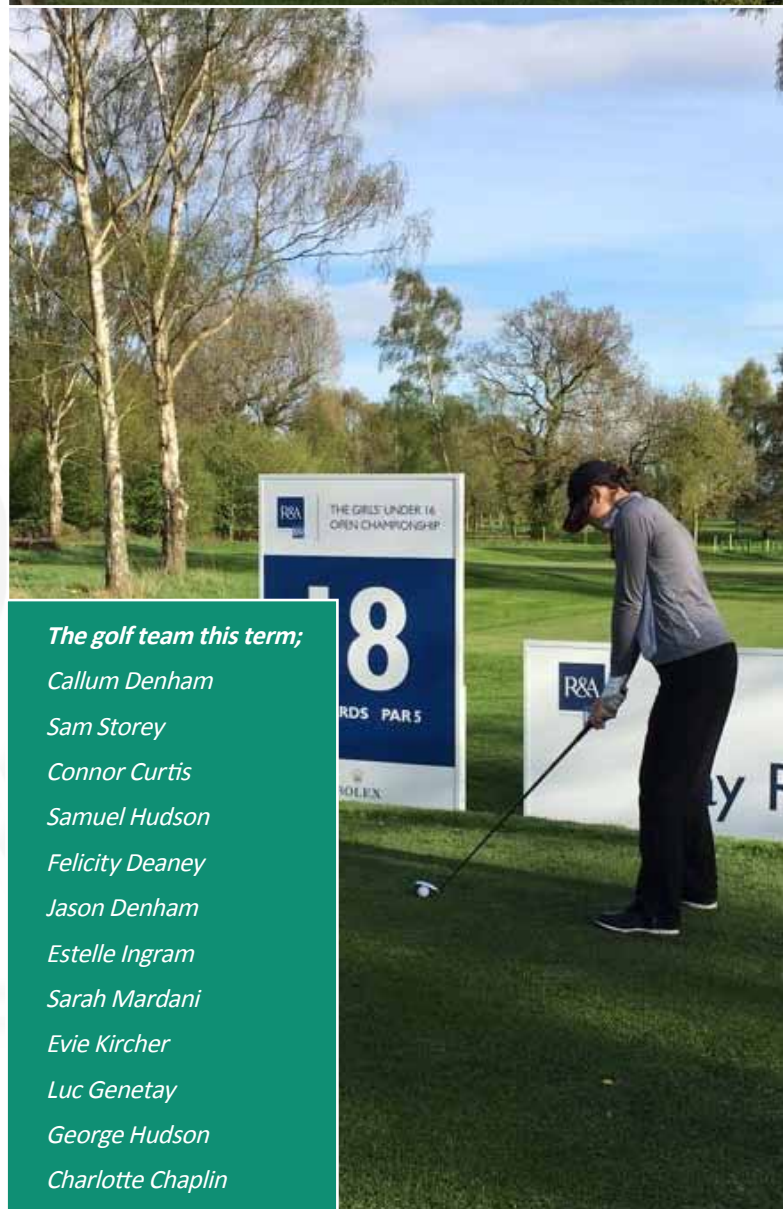


Golf at Gordon's

The Gordon's Girls team was crowned Champions of Surrey in the team competition at the Surrey Schools Championships at Bletchingley GC in July. Sarah Mardani finishing 2nd with an 83, Evie Kircher 5th carding an 86 and Estelle Ingram 6th shooting an 88. Congratulations to the girls who will go on to compete in the National Finals at Woodhall Spa in July 2019. Callum Denham shot an 80 and was placed a very respectable 5th in the boys' competition. The boys' team were just beaten to a top three finish by Oxted, Whitgift and Lingfield College in the team Championships. A great achievement finishing 4th in Surrey with Callum Denham, Jason Denham and Samuel Hudson all scoring well on a windy day in very tricky conditions.

- Beat Marlborough College, Trinity College and Winchester College 3-0, Sutton Valence and Reigate Grammar 2-1 and drew with Cranleigh 1 ½ 1 ½ . The only game the team has lost came against Tonbridge School, losing 2 ½ 1 ½ .
- Gordon's golf team went to play at the Surrey Schools' Championship (higher handicap +10) event in April against a very strong field of 66 golfers from all over Surrey.
- In the individual girls' event, Evie Kircher finished top of the leader board with 35 points. Felicity Deaney also hit an impressive 33 points and finished in third place.
- A fantastic achievement to have two golfers in the top three girls in Surrey County in the over ten handicap competition.
- Jason Denham, Callum Denham and Connor Curtis have all played for the Surrey County teams this term. Estelle Ingram, Felicity Deaney and Samuel Hudson have all played exceptional golf for the School and really performed well in crucial matches this term.
- Sam Storey has been awarded a golf scholarship to Morningside College in Iowa. Sam, who plays off a one handicap, starts there in the Autumn.
- Estelle Ingram won the Surrey Girls' Championships handicap trophy and has competed in the national U16 Girls' Championships. She is also trying out for the U18 England side.
- The newly-formed Golf team also managed to win May's Team of the Month for beating all opponents in that calendar month.
- Sarah Mardani has been selected for England training and represented England at the inaugural R&A Under 16's British Open. Sarah scored rounds of 78, 77 and final round of 82 on the par 74 course. She finished in a respectful 31st position overall and 12th position amongst the English girls. She also shot an incredible one under par round in her match against Marlborough College and remains unbeaten so far in the golf season.

Congratulations to all of the Gordon's golf team on a wonderful first term of golf. We look forward to the National Competitions in the ISGA and HMC knockouts next term and the National Schools' Finals next year.



The golf team this term;

- Callum Denham*
- Sam Storey*
- Connor Curtis*
- Samuel Hudson*
- Felicity Deaney*
- Jason Denham*
- Estelle Ingram*
- Sarah Mardani*
- Evie Kircher*
- Luc Genetay*
- George Hudson*
- Charlotte Chaplin*



Visit by General Sir Mark Mans

Gordon's School continues to enjoy a special relationship with the Corps of Royal Engineers, to which General Gordon belonged, and we appreciate their support for CCF activities, particularly from Gibraltar Barracks, Minley. In May we were delighted to welcome Chief Royal Engineer, General Sir Mark Mans for a visit to the School. After lunch with CCF Officers, adult volunteers and Royal Engineer personnel, Sir Mark toured CCF activities on the Back Field, talking with Gordon's students and at the end of the afternoon (re)-presented medals to the two groups of students who had completed the Ten Tors Challenge the previous weekend. After his visit Sir Mark wrote, 'the visit gave me the perfect opportunity to learn more about the School and in particular the CCF. I much enjoyed talking to the Year 10 cadets throughout the afternoon, all of whom were clearly enthused by what they were doing. The strong affiliation the Royal Engineers has with the School is an important one and I will ensure it is fostered at every opportunity'.



On top of the World!

Ten Cadets from Gordon's School CCF RAF Section became the first cadets to fly in the Army's new Wildcat reconnaissance helicopter. They took to the skies as guests of 659 Squadron Army Air Corps. The cadets received STEM (Science Technology Engineering Maths) training in helicopter engineering, operations and safety. They also received instruction on the new flight simulator and in the reconnaissance and strike simulator. The main event of the day was all the cadets went flying in the Wildcat helicopter.



CCF Field Training day Longmoor

The Army section of the CCF carried out field training at Longmoor Army camp with the aim of live firing a L98A2 cadet rifle. Before firing all cadets had to pass their weapon test to demonstrate they could competently handle the weapon. After completing an introductory shoot in the morning, the afternoon shoot was a competition to establish who could fire the smallest group with 20 rounds of ammunition. After a very competitive shoot the winner was Theo Lee-Clarke.



Corporals Martin Harwood and Vicky Davis, who judged the drill element of the competition are here with Head Boy Max Beken and Head Girl Nicola Gilbert.

Going for Gold:



Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards were presented to Gordon's past and present students at Buckingham Palace in the presence of HRH The Earl of Wessex. The delighted recipients are pictured here in the gardens of the iconic landmark just moments after the ceremony. They are: Oliver Francis; Harry Francis; Thomas Torrington; Ryan Laing; David Hutchings; Simon Carr; Henry Mooney; George Hurt; Freya Smith; Amy Beet; Poppy de Vere Green; Lulu Mattinson; Poppy Colloff and Lexi Genetay.



iFly Indoor Skydiving

A-Level Physics Students experienced terminal velocity first hand at the iFly Indoor Skydiving in Basingstoke.





Year 12 Mini Olympics

The annual Y12 Mini Olympics was held in June on another glorious summer afternoon. Y12 students came out in force with exceptional energy and enthusiasm ready to take on the challenges set down by the PE department. Many laughs were had as students took part in the Egg and Spoon race, Wiggly Wobbly, Three Legged races, apple bobbing and many more. A big thank you must go to the PE department for putting on another fantastic afternoon which was enjoyed by all.



Year 12 Summer BBQ

A summer BBQ was held in the garden of Louvain to welcome Y12 students who were returning to lessons following their AS Level public examinations. The weather was stunning as students arrived to relax and enjoy some time together over a burger and hotdog. Turnout was excellent with many Y13 students taking a break from revision to enjoy the sunshine with some well-deserved ice cream. Many thanks to the Catering team for providing all of the food.



Achievements This Term

NATIONAL LEVEL

Equestrian: Elite Team competed in front of HM Queen in the Main Arena at Royal Windsor Horse Show

Karting: Karting team finished 7th place in the National Finals.

COUNTY LEVEL

Cricket: U13s County Plate Cricket Champions

Athletics: Intermediate junior boys' and girls' qualified for regional finals

DISTRICT

Rounders: U12A District Champions

Rounders: U13A District Champions

Rounders: U14A District Champions

INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Athletics:

Kathryn Beckett: Selected for North West Surrey Schools at the County Athletics Championships 300m

Amy Dove: Selected for North West Surrey Schools at the County Athletics Championships 800m

Sophie Dove: Selected for North West Surrey Schools at the County Athletics Championships 800m

Tamara Hibbins: Selected for North West Surrey Schools at the County Athletics Championships 800

Amelia Francis: Selected for North West Surrey Schools at the County Athletics Championships 100m

Eugenie Cockle: Selected for North West Surrey Schools at the County Athletics Championships 3000m

William Lewis: Selected for North West Surrey Schools at the County Athletics Championships Shot Putt

Corum Nott: Selected for North West Surrey Schools at the County Athletics Championships Long Jump

Ethan Pawadyira: Selected for North West Surrey Schools at the County Athletics Championships Shot Putt

Elliott Sleep: Selected for North West Surrey Schools at the County Athletics Championships Shot Putt

Abigail White: Selected for North West Surrey Schools at the County Athletics Championships 800m

Basketball: *Ludlow Hewson,* selected for Surrey Under 13 Basketball Squad

Cricket: *Elliott Sleep,* selected to represent the U15 Surrey State School team

Football: *Cerys Griffiths-Jones,* selected to play for Wimbledon Football Club

Equestrian:

Gigi Gough, awarded the "La Liga" award at Horse of the Year Show. Qualified for several National and International Championships this year alone. Crowned Champion or Reserve Champion at several events. Gigi came third in her first Preliminary Dressage test on her current pony and may qualify for the NSEA National Dressage Championships

Molly Barnard, qualified for the NSEA National Championships in both the 80-85cm Show Jumping class as well as the 80-85cm Arena Eventing Competition. Molly has also qualified for the NSEA National Plate Championships in the 90-95cm Arena Eventing Competition

Rebecca Hales, qualified for the NSEA National Plate Championships in the 1m Arena Eventing Competition and the NSEA National Championships in the 1.10m Arena Eventing Competition

Gymnastics: *Charlie Rose,* selected to compete in the British Gymnastics championships in Leicester

Netball: *Claudia Platts,* plays in the Berkshire County Academy, which is part of the England Netball Pathway

Rugby: *Scott Ross,* selected for the Ultimate Rugby 7s National Academy

Swimming: *Rosie Jenkinson,* selected to swim in the ASA Summer Nationals swimming championships in the 1500 meters freestyle

Bagpipes: *Zara Cracroft,* achieved SCQF Level 2 in Bagpipe Performance and Theory and made Gordon's history in doing so by being the first ever Gordon's piper to sit a bagpipe exam

Staff News

This summer we say goodbye to Rea Mitchell who is moving on to become a Deputy Head at another state boarding school; Colin and Sue Broughton leave to take up a similar role overseas whilst Dan and Gemma Aukett join us as the new Houseparents of Windsor House. Tracey MacLean leaves us after seven years as Head of Food Technology to take up a role overseas. Billy Keates is also leaving to teach overseas after five years teaching Geography as is Matt Atkinson after three years as Head of Chemistry. William Barron de Burgh, Lydia Birch, Simon Darcy, Michael Cachia, Joanna Thompson, Rosie Duffin and James Ingle are also moving on to various new roles. Ilona Jones, Deputy Learning Support, leaves us after six years within Learning Support and English. David Good also leaves after a term as a temporary Economics teacher to take up his new permanent role in a local school. Our trainee teachers, Sophie Findlay and Jonathan Hacker, will be leaving to take up their first teaching roles whilst Charley Dawson and Luke Villers start their teacher training. Robbie Olden, having completed his teacher training, will remain as a Drama Teacher for one year.

Scott Hynds is stepping down as Head of Technology but will remain as a part time teacher whilst Katie Klavenes will step up to take on this role.

On the support side we say goodbye to Julie Poulain-Holland,

French Language Assistant, who is returning back to France after five years and we look forward to welcoming Bénédicte Scott into the role in September. Heather Kennedy is moving to a new role after nearly 11 years as a Learning Support Assistant and House Tutor. Our Pastoral Tutors Hugo Reed, Joanne Bowen, Emma Allison and Emma Docherty will also be leaving us for new opportunities.

In September we look forward to welcoming the following teachers: Victoria Phillips, Head of Learning Support; Karen Rentell, Head of Food Technology; Charlie Lewis, Head of Economics; Eleanor King, Biology; Samantha Bruin, Computer Science; Hannah Bedding and Rebecca Suarez, Geography; Anna Smith, History; Nosheen Yousaf, Business Studies; Claire Copeman, Chemistry; Charlotte Winckley, Maths; Jemima Roche-Kelly, English. Pinkesh Patel joins us as a Cover Teacher.

We also welcome Chris Davies who will be taking over as Head of Khartoum from Paul King who is stepping down from the role after seven years to take on Head of PE, Chris will also be Head of Rugby. Malgorzata Niemczyk will be joining the Learning Support department as a Learning Support Assistant. Gabriel Standen, Ashleigh Mialkowski and Jamie Measure-Hughes will join in September as Pastoral Tutors in the Residential Houses and Dee Kotecha will be joining as a House Assistant.