NEW APPOINTMENTS
CAPTAINS ALL

This year saw the creation of two new pupil appointments, Head Girl and Head Boy, to supplement the traditional position of Captain of the Queen’s Scholars.

PRINCIPENDORUM
To this day I can offer no coherent argument as to why I was made Head Boy and it was as much of a surprise to me as it was to everyone else, writes a humble Felix Mitchell (MM).

T his surprise that I and most people felt was for two main reasons; I am not in College (as has been the custom for Captain of the Queen’s Scholar) and academically I am not a particularly high achiever. I had merely written a letter to the Head Master on the outside chance that I would be made a monitor. Being Head Boy however, has been a very pleasant experience. It consists mainly of a chat with Dr. Spurr each morning for a week every third week and being invited to a number of slightly boshy dinners. People often ask me what degree of authority I enjoy as Head Boy and I remain grateful to Dr. Spurr for his possibly controversial appointment.

A fter a fairly complicated initial meeting, at which Dr Spurr, Felix Mitchell, Michael Theodosiou and I worked out what our roles were going to consist of, our positions in the school began to take shape. As has always been the case for the Captain of the Queen’s Scholars, we were, primarily, to act as a bridge between the students and the Common Room – to voice concerns, explain decisions and be aware, as much as possible, of the general atmosphere and events taking place in the school. Whilst this role was one which could easily be spread across the three of us in our joint responsibility, other, more technical aspects took a little more working out. We have, for example, alternated the speeches at John Locke and any prayers or readings in Abbey which may have cropped up, fulfilling the public speaking component of the position. I feel genuinely privileged to have been given this opportunity. Whilst balancing responsibilities in school with work and extracurricular activities is always going to have its trickier moments, I have enjoyed being able to gain a new perspective on things. I am particularly proud to have been part of what has been a symbolic change, guaranteeing girls a representative in the student body, and leading to the creation of yet another Latin no-less to Westminster! My two years at Westminster have certainly gone quickly, and, looking back on my time here, I will always be grateful to the school for opening up to me the myriad opportunities, both curricular and extracurricular, it provides.

PRINCIPRESSA
OPIDORUM
To be given a completely new position at Westminster was always going to be a great surprise. But to find out barely a week before the beginning of the new school year that I was to be made Head Girl was a little more than simply surprising, confesses Anna Croall (DD).

C onfess that I would have a few qualms before accepting the position. I had merely written a letter to the Head Master on the outside chance that I would be made a monitor. Being Head Girl however, has been a very pleasant experience. It consists mainly of a chat with Dr Spurr, Felix Mitchell, Michael Theodosiou and I worked out what our roles were going to consist of, our positions in the school began to take shape. As has always been the case for the Captain of the Queen’s Scholars, we were, primarily, to act as a bridge between the students and the Common Room – to voice concerns, explain decisions and be aware, as much as possible, of the general atmosphere and events taking place in the school. Whilst this role was one which could easily be spread across the three of us in our joint responsibility, other, more technical aspects took a little more working out. We have, for example, alternated the speeches at John Locke and any prayers or readings in Abbey which may have cropped up, fulfilling the public speaking component of the position. I feel genuinely privileged to have been given this opportunity. Whilst balancing responsibilities in school with work and extracurricular activities is always going to have its trickier moments, I have enjoyed being able to gain a new perspective on things. I am particularly proud to have been part of what has been a symbolic change, guaranteeing girls a representative in the student body, and leading to the creation of yet another Latin no-less to Westminster! My two years at Westminster have certainly gone quickly, and, looking back on my time here, I will always be grateful to the school for opening up to me the myriad opportunities, both curricular and extracurricular, it provides.

JOHN LOCKE SOCIETY
The John Locke lectures have continued to attract large crowds, generate excellent questions, and give way to most enjoyable lunches, reports Emeric Monfront (WW).

G uests, both this year and last, have included a number of high profile individuals, not least Sir Martin Sorrell, the chairman of WPP, who gave a brilliant analysis of current global trends, and Rebekah Vardy, who came along with the senior editorial team of the Sun newspaper, and Kenneth Clarke.

P olitical figures have featured heavily in John Locke lectures, providing us with fiercely contrasting views on current affairs. Margaret Hodge, MP delivered an impassioned defence of the present government’s achievements, whilst Craig Murray, ex-British Ambassador of Uzbekistan, pointed out the hypocrisies he saw in the UK’s foreign policy. Sir David Ramsbotham exposed the shortcomings of the prison system, but also proposed innovative methods to solve them. Emma Jones, of the organisation Developing Down also addressed the subject of incarceration and rehabilitation. Other political speakers included Nick Boyes Smith (OW) on the recent history of the Conservative Party and Sally Capley on the difficulties of single parenthood.

J ournalists were similarly frequent speakers in the John Locke Society. Philip Stephens, a prominent columnist from the Financial Times, made a very memorable address on the influence China will have in the geopolitical landscape of the next twenty-five years. Isobel Hilton, also from the Financial Times, and Henry Winter, of the Daily Telegraph, delivered inspiring speeches and encouraged many of us to consider careers in journalism. Robert Fisk of The Independent also generated much debate with his ideas on the state of the Middle-East. The BBC was well represented by James Robbins and James Reynolds (OW), the former speaking on the topic of Tony Blair’s legacy, and the latter on the perils and excitement of being a foreign correspondent.

Some speakers were particularly controversial. Fiona Millar courageously attempted to demonstrate the evils of public education in the ‘boot camp’, so to speak; one can safely say that her ideas led to a more than energetic response from the audience. Gay activist Peter Tatchell and ultra-conservative moralist Lynette Burrows expressed views different in content but similar in extremism.

Nevertheless, the most memorable and moving speeches were made by the more discreet speakers. Photojournalist Nick Danzig, accompanied by a colleague from Afghanistan, Mahal, gave us a particularly compelling account of poverty across the world. Andrew McCoy, solicitor to the late Myra Hindley, also impressed us by his impassioned defence of human rights. We are also looking forwards to the remaining lectures scheduled for the Election term, whose speakers include the Rt. Hon. Tony Benn (OW) and Kate Hoey, MP.

F inally, an immense word of thanks must be offered to Mr Hargreaves, for whom, after more than 350 speakers and thirteen years, this has been the last year as head of the John Locke Society. Drawing on his seemingly endless list of contacts to constantly provide us with inspiring, provocative, and competent speakers, Mr Hargreaves has made the John Locke society a central pillar of Westminster’s liberal education. The exacting standards he has set will be a considerable challenge for his successor to match. John Locke himself would have, without any doubt, saluted his unswerving dedication to the cause of understanding, moderation, and careful thought.
DR GARY SAVAGE

Gary Savage took a double First in History at Cambridge, staying on to research a PhD on foreign policy and political culture in later eighteenth-century France. This afforded him eight months living and working in Paris, which was good news for him, but less good for his wife, Natalie, who had to stay behind to complete her MAs at Birkbeck. He was appointed an Assistant Master at Eton in 1996. The next ten years were spent wearing stiff collars and white bow ties, teaching boys, coaching and umpiring, running the History Department and, eventually, becoming Master-in-College; that is to say, Housemaster to the seventy King’s Scholars. Tiring of country life and needing a new challenge, Gary made the switch to Westminster, as Under Master, in 2006. He still enjoys History, writing, travel and supporting Ipswich Town. He is also trying to learn German. These last two challenges are only marginally more taxing than being in charge of whole-school discipline and pastoral care at a top independent school.

ULF HENNING

After graduating from Frankfurt University, Ulf Henning arrived in the UK in 2001 to teach at St. Paul’s Boys School. During this period he was also employed by Westminster School to teach for one day a week. In 2004 he was invited back to Westminster as part-time German teacher. Haileybury College also offered him employment in that year. However, it was Westminster School which attracted him the most and he was offered Head of Department in 2006. He particularly enjoys the cultural side of teaching, especially the exchanges to Berlin and Munich, but his love is also for literature. He speaks much of his free time in the many museums, galleries and theatres that London has to offer.

JULIA KOCH

Julia Koch’s first contact with England and the English was when she worked as an au pair in Oxford nearly ten years ago. She then went back to Germany to study Art History, Art Education and English in Göttingen and Frankfurt. Before joining Westminster as German language assistant she worked at Frankfurt University and as an art educator and in the press office at Frankfurt’s Schumann public art gallery. Her mission is to show that there is more to German culture than sausages, lederhosen and “Vorsprung durch Technik”. She is also very happy to be currently working as a Student Teacher in Westminster’s History of Art Department. In her freetime she enjoys jogging, art galleries, travelling and sitting in cafés.

ALISON LEONARD

Alison Leonard rejoined the Common Room in August 2006 to teach Geography part-time, having taught previously at Tonbridge, City of London, St Paul’s and Croydon High School. After two terms teaching Geography at Westminster in 2008 she worked at a grammar school in Kent, and took part in a School Link with Ghana, visiting the link school near Lake Volta; she has worked as Professional Mentor to newly qualified teachers and supports trainee teachers on the “Teach First” scheme in London schools as well as pursuing research in School Linking and Development Education at the Institute of Education. She has been coaching at Putney, where she says she provides further entertainment and amusement to Westminsterers and colleagues alike.

LUKE O’DONOGHUE

Hailing originally from Bristol, Luke first left home to study Countryside Management at The University of Wales, Aberystwyth. After obtaining his degree, a flight of fancy and the need for a change of scenery took him to Canada. He lived for a year first in Toronto then in Montreal before moving to London in 2004. He began his experience of Westminster at the playing fields of Vinceinte Square. He then joined the security staff at the Great School and from there acquired a knowledge of Westminster behind the scenes. 18 months later, on the retirement of Peter Goodall, he took up the post of Domestic Bursar. He now looks forward to a more settled period, revolving the majority of his free time around football, either coaching or playing, and enjoying life in the capital.

DR HELEN PRENTICE

Helen Prentice read Natural Sciences and completed a PhD in physics at Cambridge University. Following several years tutoring and supervising undergraduates, she joined Westminster to teach Physics, via a stint as a greengrocer to hone her mental arithmetic, naturally.

KATHARINE RADICE

Katharine Radice is now in her fourth year of teaching and has swapped the country calm of Winchester College for a more urban lifestyle here at Westminster. She became a teacher somewhat by accident, but not yet has she been drained of commitment to the cause and ardent belief in the Educational Value of Latin and Greek. Once upon a time she studied at Magdalen College, Oxford where she was heavily involved in student politics and she had a passing acquaintance with the College Boat Club. In the holidays she is to be found sitting reading novels.

BRIAN SMITH

Brian Smith read Modern Languages at Magdalen College, Oxford and taught at King’s College School, Wimbledon before being appointed at Westminster in 1996. In 1999, feeling the need for a change, he left for the United World College (UWC) of Southern Africa which is based in Swaziland. Here he coordinated the International Baccalaureate programme. He enjoyed seven happy years in Africa but is pleased to be back in London and indeed at Westminster.

THOMAS WOODROOFFE

Thomas Woodrooffe studied theology at Peterhouse and the University of South Africa before coming to London to do an MA. He has been teaching in London for almost five years. He taught Philosophy and Religious Education in Highams Park for three years prior to arriving at Westminster. At the moment he is doing a PhD at King’s College on embodiment in the Gospel of John. When he is not preparing lessons and writing a thesis, he is a keen lover of arthouse cinema and avant-garde music.

EMMANUELA VENINATA

Emanuela Veninata is now in her fifth year of teaching and joined Westminster in January 2007, having previously worked in the Design and Visual Arts department at City of London School, Camden School for Girls and Queen’s Park Community School. Graduated from Chelsea College of Art and Design, Emanuela has spent most of her 27 years in London practicing successfully as a freelance designer, photojournalist, film and television producer in the UK and abroad, but failing miserably as a Cockney impersonator. She can nowadays often be found in the far right corner of her workshop brandishing a hearing torch, forging metals, with a beaming smile.

FELIX HILL

Felix Hill came from Oxford University with a MMus in Mathematics to teach for the Play term before travelling to Latin America tolearn Spanish for 6 months. He coached the badminton team, helped with football station and participated in some school running events.
John Rae succeeded John Carleton as the Head of Westminster School in 1970. He became the pre-eminent Public School head of his day – the first educational ‘celebrity’ and a household name among the intelligentsia.

John Malcolm Rae was born in 1931, educated at Bishop’s Stortford College and read History at Sidney Sussex College Cambridge leaving with a mediocre degree, half Blues for swimming and water polo and rugby skills sufficiently honed to play for London Scottish.

His first appointment was at Harrow. Over the next ten years he combined teaching history and games coaching, being a first-class cricketer and footballer, but his forays into thorough professional attention to all aspects of school life and a growing pride in the School’s achievements for which he could claim much credit. His energy and work-rate were quite prodigious. He insisted on teaching seven or eight periods a week, was a regular spectator at matches, plays and concerts and an every-day presence in Yard and in the Common Room. He chaired all the internal committees and rarely missed an assembly or an Abbey service. His detailed knowledge of individual pupils was quite extraordinary. Not only did he know each boy or girl by name, but he could recall details of their background – their prep school and their parents. Ever sensitive to adverse publicity he brought him closer to his friends and particularly to his family. I will always remember his heroic fortitude and his unfailing courtesy and good humour to those who visited him. Daphne named him at home with the support of his children. They all gave him their devoted attention – a testament to their respect and love.

John’s time at Westminster was a laboured one marked by thorough professional attention to all aspects of school life and a growing pride in the School’s achievements for which he could claim much credit. His energy and work-rate were quite prodigious. He insisted on teaching seven or eight periods a week, was a regular spectator at matches, plays and concerts and an every-day presence in Yard and in the Common Room. He chaired all the internal committees and rarely missed an assembly or an Abbey service. His detailed knowledge of individual pupils was quite extraordinary. Not only did he know each boy or girl by name, but he could recall details of their background – their prep school and their parents. Ever sensitive to adverse publicity he kept a tight moral grip on the school – during his time no boy or girl crept in by the back door, serious wrong-doing was rigorously dealt with and standards of behaviour were valued above length of hair or polished turn-out. In true Westminster form, he tolerated and enjoyed eccentricities among staff and pupils.

Carrying this formidable burden – as Head and media spokesman – put a heavy strain on his wife and family who could reasonably have complained that they saw little of him. John’s career after Westminster was undeniably anti-heroic. But he was far from inac- tive: he governed schools, was director of The Observer and never refused the opportunity to speak. Following the four children’s books he wrote while at Westminster, he published books drawing on his experiences – Too Little Too Late, Delusions of Grandeur, advice to parents on how to get the best education for their children and a biography of a courageous headmaster – Sister Genevieve. In 2004 he wrote The Agnostic’s Tale, a tough-minded study of intellectual and religious doubt.

The Westminster job. But it was not long before the setting up of the Public Schools Commission, he had made his name as someone not afraid to speak his mind. With this short headmastering experience behind him, John Rae arrived on the scene by thorough professional attention to all aspects of school life and a growing pride in the School’s achievements for which he could claim much credit. His energy and work-rate were quite prodigious. He insisted on teaching seven or eight periods a week, was a regular spectator at matches, plays and concerts and an every-day presence in Yard and in the Common Room. He chaired all the internal committees and rarely missed an assembly or an Abbey service. His detailed knowledge of individual pupils was quite extraordinary. Not only did he know each boy or girl by name, but he could recall details of their background – their prep school and their parents. Ever sensitive to adverse publicity he kept a tight moral grip on the school – during his time no boy or girl crept in by the back door, serious wrong-doing was rigorously dealt with and standards of behaviour were valued above length of hair or polished turn-out. In true Westminster form, he tolerated and enjoyed eccentricities among staff and pupils.

Carrying this formidable burden – as Head and media spokesman – put a heavy strain on his wife and family who could reasonably have complained that they saw little of him. John’s career after Westminster was undeniably anti-heroic. But he was far from inac- tive: he governed schools, was director of The Observer and never refused the opportunity to speak. Following the four children’s books he wrote while at Westminster, he published books drawing on his experiences – Too Little Too Late, Delusions of Grandeur, advice to parents on how to get the best education for their children and a biography of a courageous headmaster – Sister Genevieve. In 2004 he wrote The Agnostic’s Tale, a tough-minded study of intellectual and religious doubt.

John once told me that he saw stoicism as the primary virtue. He drew deeply on his formidable reserves during the last illness. Fearlessly independent throughout his life, guarded from intimacy by his imposing manner and by his public role, illness made him dependent and brought him closer to his friends and particularly to his family. I will always remember his heroic fortitude and his unfailing courtesy and good humour to those who visited him. Daphne named him at home with the support of his children. They all gave him their devoted attention – a testament to their respect and love.

Jim Cogan
(Reprinted by kind permission of the editor of The Westminster Newsletter)

OBITUARY: 1931–2006
DR JOHN RAE

John Rae succeeded John Carleton as the Head of Westminster School in 1970. He became the pre-eminent Public School head of his day – the first educational ‘celebrity’ and a household name among the intelligentsia.

John Malcolm Rae was born in 1931, educated at Bishop’s Stortford College and read History at Sidney Sussex College Cambridge leaving with a mediocre degree, half Blues for swimming and water polo and rugby skills sufficiently honed to play for London Scottish.

His first appointment was at Harrow. Over the next ten years he combined teaching history and games coaching, being a first-class cricketer and footballer, but his forays into thorough professional attention to all aspects of school life and a growing pride in the School’s achievements for which he could claim much credit. His energy and work-rate were quite prodigious. He insisted on teaching seven or eight periods a week, was a regular spectator at matches, plays and concerts and an every-day presence in Yard and in the Common Room. He chaired all the internal committees and rarely missed an assembly or an Abbey service. His detailed knowledge of individual pupils was quite extraordinary. Not only did he know each boy or girl by name, but he could recall details of their background – their prep school and their parents. Ever sensitive to adverse publicity he kept a tight moral grip on the school – during his time no boy or girl crept in by the back door, serious wrong-doing was rigorously dealt with and standards of behaviour were valued above length of hair or polished turn-out. In true Westminster form, he tolerated and enjoyed eccentricities among staff and pupils.

Carrying this formidable burden – as Head and media spokesman – put a heavy strain on his wife and family who could reasonably have complained that they saw little of him. John’s career after Westminster was undeniably anti-heroic. But he was far from inac- tive: he governed schools, was director of The Observer and never refused the opportunity to speak. Following the four children’s books he wrote while at Westminster, he published books drawing on his experiences – Too Little Too Late, Delusions of Grandeur, advice to parents on how to get the best education for their children and a biography of a courageous headmaster – Sister Genevieve. In 2004 he wrote The Agnostic’s Tale, a tough-minded study of intellectual and religious doubt.

John once told me that he saw stoicism as the primary virtue. He drew deeply on his formidable reserves during the last illness. Fearlessly independent throughout his life, guarded from intimacy by his imposing manner and by his public role, illness made him dependent and brought him closer to his friends and particularly to his family. I will always remember his heroic fortitude and his unfailing courtesy and good humour to those who visited him. Daphne named him at home with the support of his children. They all gave him their devoted attention – a testament to their respect and love.

Jim Cogan
(Reprinted by kind permission of the editor of The Westminster Newsletter)
Instead, his idea of a splendid evening – as he would put it – is good, old-fashioned, no-nonsense, straight-down-the-line, character assassination. If the object of derision happens to be at his elbow, so much the better, but he is untroubled by any old-fashioned scruples which prevent him from ruining a man's reputation in his absence. Alcohol is a welcome stimulant (there is a pub known to a few of us as "The Henny IV" upon which he is known to howse cutoms) but he's happy to transfer to the Common Room or the Steps of Grant's – just so long as the company isn’t prissy.

While you might need to extract his fingertips before he'd admit it, Gavin is of course a deeply reflective man. True, he's inclined to see the people who make up his life as a gallery of grotesques expressly laid on for his amusement; true, he has quite a long list of dislikes (to name but a few – upmarket restaurants, well-cut clothes, sking, abroad and, above all, the culture of blame). But he has a coherent and very strong value system. It’s no accident that he speaks of Samuel Johnson (to name but a few – upmarket restaurants, well-cut clothes, sking, abroad and, above all, the culture of blame). But he has a coherent and very strong value system. It’s no accident that he speaks of Samuel Johnson as the great engine of can) with something approaching reverence. In Gavin’s cannon, just like that of Johnson, the dignity of a man rests in his fallibility, rather than the struggle for perfection. Anyone is fair game, but no one is beyond redemption.

I believe that generations of boys and girls in Grant's and Ashburnham have come to know that as well as anyone. I can’t give you any particular example of his kindnesses to them because he hides them away as a matter of reflex, and insofar as people ever hear about them, they’re carefully couched in irony and understatement. For many people, staff and pupils, Westminster without him would have been a radically diminished experience.

His rasping honesty, his fearlessly assault on ephemera, and his determination to put a good mind to work ensure that, while he’s going to be sorely missed in Grant’s, there are winners in this too. Great swathes of experience.

For many people, staff and pupils, Westminster without him would have been a radically diminished experience.

As he has been an outstanding resident tutor in College, according to FMRM. As someone who loves the outdoors and has extraordinary physical fitness, he has energetically accompanied several First Election groups to Aktion. He joined the house from Milner's in 2003 and has given unstintingly of his time and talents in the years that have followed. He has been a consistent and widely influential tutor to boys and girls of all ages; she writes: I have benefited enormously from the wisdom of his advice on how to approach a particular situation or pupil. Perhaps most of all, Tom has played a key role in bringing together those in the house who like to sing, and his "College Consort" has performed memorably at the house concert each year with numbers such as Ernst Toch's "Geographische Pagane" and Benjamin Britten's Old Joe has Gone Fishing. He took the opportunity on arrival of joining the Henny VII Singers under the auspices of Gilly French, and immediately became an indispensable stalwart of this choral. He has a mellifluous voice of some beauty which chordally both blends and adds weight; he is solidly reliable, a sympathetic interpretation to other young voices and a great sight-reader. He has given memorable recitals, including a programme of Russian lieder from memory, and made a superb contribution to Cantabrigian concerts through his many solos. Bad's Cantata 158 and Anenc Dido and Aeneas bring two recent successes. GMF writes: "What is most impressive about Tom, to me, is his gentle personality and willingness to do absolutely anything, for which I shall always be musically grateful.

We warmly wish Tom well for his studies at the Guildhall, and for his future together with Jo.

He has been an outstanding resident tutor in College, according to FMRM. As someone who loves the outdoors and has extraordinary physical fitness, he has energetically accompanied several First Election groups to Aktion. He joined the house from Milner's in 2003 and has given unstintingly of his time and talents in the years that have followed. He has been a consistent and widely influential tutor to boys and girls of all ages; she writes: I have benefited enormously from the wisdom of his advice on how to approach a particular situation or pupil. Perhaps most of all, Tom has played a key role in bringing together those in the house who like to sing, and his "College Consort" has performed memorably at the house concert each year with numbers such as Ernst Toch's "Geographische Pagane" and Benjamin Britten's Old Joe has Gone Fishing.

He took the opportunity on arrival of joining the Henny VII Singers under the auspices of Gilly French, and immediately became an indispensable stalwart of this choral. He has a mellifluous voice of some beauty which chordally both blends and adds weight; he is solidly reliable, a sympathetic interpretation to other young voices and a great sight-reader. He has given memorable recitals, including a programme of Russian lieder from memory, and made a superb contribution to Cantabrigian concerts through his many solos. Bad's Cantata 158 and Anenc Dido and Aeneas bring two recent successes. GMF writes: "What is most impressive about Tom, to me, is his gentle personality and willingness to do absolutely anything, for which I shall always be musically grateful.

We warmly wish Tom well for his studies at the Guildhall, and for his future together with Jo.
O n 5th February 2003 Nick Hinze missed an invigilation....

His commitment to Expeditions and to Alton has been firm – vividous when needed – and he has experienced the Lyke Wake Walk many times, supporting and encour-
aging the students to undertake this remarkable activity. He is probably the only one in his team who can read the compass. Even in his final term he has started something new in track cycling. Cycling is a relatively recent activity for him, and true to form when Nick starts something he does it as thoroughly as he can. So with his bike, lovingly treated, and all the ancillary gear from top to toe, and with every necessary gadget, Hinze in full flight on two wheels is a sight to behold. I shall certainly miss that!

And then there’s his music. Pupils think teachers of whatever age are very old, and forget that all of us are simply young people who’ve lived longer.

VALETE NICK HINZE

Claudia joined Westminster in 1993, pioneering the trail from Eton to the centre of London. She swiftly proved herself in the classroom, tutoring pupils with a calm, authoritative presence. In the Geography department she introduced the immensely popular fieldcourse to Morocco and on the sixth Form Swansea course she laid to rest the myth that it always rains in Wales with her speciality sand dune day on the Gower coast. Somehow Claudia always chose a day when the sun shone and a March suntan was a distinct possibility! Her Upper Sixth GCSE field-
trip to Brighton has also become legendary – out at 7am, back by the end of school, with a fabulous day of geography, an ice cream or two and a ‘Kiss me Quick’ hat! Within the wider school community Claudia has been a stalwart of netball and hockey stations. However, it has been in her role as Higher Education adviser that so many pupils, and indeed parents will have encount-
ered Claudia, guiding the destiny of countless Westminsters. No one has been more in demand around the school through the ever-lengthening UCAS season, helping out with the minutiae of the forms, and in producing much needed spare forms out of thin air when all has seemed lost! And all done in her immense-
ly reassuring manner.

Claudia was in at the very beginning of Milne’s, bring-
ing to the role typical common sense, wisdom, humour and empathy. She has been very supportive to pupils and colleagues alike and particularly effective as a tutor to the girls in the house. Her prodigious knowledge of the university admissions system has proven invaluable and her skillful captaincy of her teams in the house quizzes over the years enviable.

From home in Dulwich, Claudia will have no excuses for not keeping in touch. Our very best wishes to Claudia, Pat, Ellis and Danny for the future.

VALETE CLAUDIA HARRISON

VALETE NICK MALONEY

Nick joined Westminster immediately after current graduating in Economics from Cambridge. He worked here for two years before moving to King’s School Worcester. Whilst there he was a high-
ly successful Master of Rowing as well as teaching a full economics timetable. Three years ago he came back to Westminster to teach economics – and proved himself once again an indispensable member of the department. He rapidly took over the teaching of the Oxbridge class with considerable success. His work of adding to department resources and IT development made a lasting contribution. In the classroom he has been an inspiring and dedicated teacher, energetically insisting on the transmission of traditional rather than bureau-
cratic knowledge. In Liddell’s Nick was a popular and effective tutor and he immersed himself in coach-
aging successful J14 crews and organizing his own train-
ing camps. As if this weren’t enough, Nick was also a truly dedicated staff helper on and advocate for Westminster Phab.

Nick modestly downplayed his own sporting achieve-
ments; few in the school knew for instance that he fin-
ish in the top 20% of his class in a two day interna-
tional mountain marathon last October at his first attempt. Nick’s enthusiasm for the outdoors has also been a great boost to Westminster’s cross-country team and is it entirely in keeping with his selfless attitude that he has given up his time to help train and encourage the current crop of athletes. No doubt Nick will make sure he continues to train hard in preparation for the ‘Grim Challenge’ in December in order to gain revenge on those Westminsters who beat him in 2006!

His humour, energy, enthusiasm and unswerving support for guests, hosts and colleagues alike have been greatly appreciated and will be sorely missed. Nick’s promotion to Head of Economics and Business Studies at Wellington College is well deserved and our considerable loss. RDS

VALETE DR MARTIN GUY

Martin Guy joined us from Alcatel on a part-time basis half way through Play Term 2005, while studying for a PGCE. This was his first teaching post and he played a full part in the department’s record exam suc-
cesses, contributing within the classroom and beyond.

He left us at the end of Election Term 2006 to take up the post of Head of Physics at Putney High School for Girls.

VALETE

Claudia joined Westminster in 1993, pioneering the trail from Eton to the centre of London. She swiftly proved herself in the classroom, tutoring pupils with a calm, authoritative presence. In the Geography department she introduced the immensely popular fieldcourse to Morocco and on the sixth Form Swansea course she laid to rest the myth that it always rains in Wales with her speciality sand dune day on the Gower coast. Somehow Claudia always chose a day when the sun shone and a March suntan was a distinct possibility! Her Upper Shell GCSE field-trip to Brighton has also become legendary – out at 7am, back by the end of school, with a fabulous day of geography, an ice cream or two and a ‘Kiss me Quick’ hat! Within the wider school community Claudia has been a stalwart of netball and hockey stations. However, it has been in her role as Higher Education adviser that so many pupils, and indeed parents will have encount-
ered Claudia, guiding the destiny of countless Westminsters. No one has been more in demand around the school through the ever-lengthening UCAS season, helping out with the minutiae of the forms, and in producing much needed spare forms out of thin air when all has seemed lost! And all done in her immense-
ly reassuring manner.

Claudia was in at the very beginning of Milne’s, bring-
ing to the role typical common sense, wisdom, humour and empathy. She has been very supportive to pupils and colleagues alike and particularly effective as a tutor to the girls in the house. Her prodigious knowledge of the university admissions system has proven invaluable and her skillful captaincy of her teams in the house quizzes over the years enviable.

From home in Dulwich, Claudia will have no excuses for not keeping in touch. Our very best wishes to Claudia, Pat, Ellis and Danny for the future.

VALETE

NICK MALONEY

Nick joined Westminster immediately after current graduating in Economics from Cambridge. He worked here for two years before moving to King’s School Worcester. Whilst there he was a high-
ly successful Master of Rowing as well as teaching a full economics timetable. Three years ago he came back to Westminster to teach economics – and proved himself once again an indispensable member of the department. He rapidly took over the teaching of the Oxbridge class with considerable success. His work of adding to department resources and IT development made a lasting contribution. In the classroom he has been an inspiring and dedicated teacher, energetically insisting on the transmission of traditional rather than bureau-
cratic knowledge. In Liddell’s Nick was a popular and effective tutor and he immersed himself in coach-
aging successful J14 crews and organizing his own train-
ing camps. As if this weren’t enough, Nick was also a truly dedicated staff helper on and advocate for Westminster Phab.

Nick modestly downplayed his own sporting achieve-
ments; few in the school knew for instance that he fin-
ish in the top 20% of his class in a two day interna-
tional mountain marathon last October at his first attempt. Nick’s enthusiasm for the outdoors has also been a great boost to Westminster’s cross-country team and is it entirely in keeping with his selfless attitude that he has given up his time to help train and encourage the current crop of athletes. No doubt Nick will make sure he continues to train hard in preparation for the ‘Grim Challenge’ in December in order to gain revenge on those Westminsters who beat him in 2006!

His humour, energy, enthusiasm and unswerving support for guests, hosts and colleagues alike have been greatly appreciated and will be sorely missed. Nick’s promotion to Head of Economics and Business Studies at Wellington College is well deserved and our considerable loss. RDS

VALETE

Dr Martin Guy

Martin Guy joined us from Alcatel on a part-time basis half way through Play Term 2005, while studying for a PGCE. This was his first teaching post and he played a full part in the department’s record exam successes, contributing within the classroom and beyond.

He left us at the end of Election Term 2006 to take up the post of Head of Physics at Putney High School for Girls.
I

In his "Salve" note, Daniel described Mathematics teaching as his second vacation, after the disappoint-
ing discovery that his first, as a Michelin multi-

Daniel's stay at Westminster has been relatively brief, but
there are already many students who will remember the
possible, and will be grateful for the time he has given to
should not risk following his example.

Daniel's stay at Westminster has been relatively brief, but
there are already many students who will remember the
possible, and will be grateful for the time he has given to
should not risk following his example.

Daniel's stay at Westminster has been relatively brief, but
there are already many students who will remember the
possible, and will be grateful for the time he has given to
should not risk following his example.

Daniel's stay at Westminster has been relatively brief, but
there are already many students who will remember the
possible, and will be grateful for the time he has given to
should not risk following his example.

Daniel's stay at Westminster has been relatively brief, but
there are already many students who will remember the
possible, and will be grateful for the time he has given to
should not risk following his example.

Daniel's stay at Westminster has been relatively brief, but
there are already many students who will remember the
possible, and will be grateful for the time he has given to
should not risk following his example.

Daniel's stay at Westminster has been relatively brief, but
there are already many students who will remember the
possible, and will be grateful for the time he has given to
should not risk following his example.

Daniel's stay at Westminster has been relatively brief, but
there are already many students who will remember the
possible, and will be grateful for the time he has given to
should not risk following his example.

Daniel's stay at Westminster has been relatively brief, but
there are already many students who will remember the
possible, and will be grateful for the time he has given to
should not risk following his example.
P hab is a nationwide organisation in which able-bodied students act as hosts to guests with physical or mental disabilities during one activity-packed week – although magically the courses have become spars-er in recent years due to overly strict health and safety reg-ulations. This year was particularly special for Westminster as it was the 30th Phab hosted by the school, and we knew it was up to us to make it the best yet.

We had been warned that the week would be emotionally exhausting, and by the time we were sitting in Yard waiting for the first guests to arrive, those warnings were beginning to hit home as we wondered how we would behave... would we know what to talk about? What would we do if something went wrong? How on earth were we going to remember the specific information about every guest sup-plied to us in a preliminary meeting by Phab’s organiser, the legendary Mr. Johnson (aka Andy or AJ) – just don’t call him that in history lessons.) And how were our muscles and backs going to hold up to a week of pushing wheelchairs (including let Jamie push him all the way from Victoria Station) and heaving them up and down the College stairs? The tension eased just a little when the first guest to arrive appeared and heaving a big breath and embarrassed at first. By the end of the second or third day everyone has to break through their own ‘wall’ (that great Phab expression referring to the moment when you suddenly go beyond the point of exhaustion into a state of sleep-deprived delirium). After this everything becomes easy once more and by the time each of you was to leave, we knew it was up to us to make it the best yet.

The week, which involved things you hardly think twice about in your own lives – getting dressed, manoeuvring food into your mouth, going to the toilet, wiping your bottom.

The guests suffered from a range of disabilities, including Down’s Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy and Multiple Sclerosis. However, in no way did this hinder relationships and before long everyone was getting on as if they were old friends. Any anxiety was soon replaced by a general desire to make every guest have a good time on what for many of them was their only holiday away from their carers in the whole year. The guests’ disabilities became irrelevant and only remained an issue in terms of their caring and day-to-day requirements. The best way to break any form of ice was to get involved in as many aspects of Phab as possible. For example, taking a guest to the toilet is potentially awkward but for the guests it is something that someone has to do for them every day and they are used to the hosts being a bit nervous and embarrassed at first. By the end of the second or third day everyone has to break through their own ‘wall’ (that great Phab expression referring to the moment when you suddenly go beyond the point of exhaustion into a state of sleep-deprived delirium). After this everything becomes easy once more and by the time each of you was to leave, we knew it was up to us to make it the best yet.

Over the week we would spend the mornings taking part in workshops run by outside instructors in preparation for the great show on the Sunday, which this year was to cele-brate thirty years of Phab. There was a music workshop, a drama and dance workshop, an art workshop (responsible for decorating the entire entrance to School, as well as for an amazing mural) and a film made to reflect day-to-day life on the course. We spent afternoons as tourists on out-ings – to the London Eye, museums, a river cruise – and a walking tour of Dean’s Yard. On a hot July day before Phab, Westminster was covered in wheelchair ramps and the kitchens were filled with everything sticky and calorie-crammed in preparation for Westminster School Phab, write participants Ellie Buchdahl (OWW) and Joe Smith (HM).

The Westminster Exchange gave me a new perspective on my country and myself. I was able to continue some of the courses that I had started at home, such as studies in Mandarin language, French language, and English lit-erature. However, I was also able to take classes that are not offered at home, such as Critical Thinking and Art History, which were what I savoured most. In Critical Thinking, I was introduced to theories of logic and methods for parsing a theory into its essential compo-nents for analysis. In Art History, I began to learn how to assess critically a painting and write about a period of art, such as Surrealism, while positioning a work of art in its historical context. I even developed some opinions about art that went beyond “I like that.” With extra classrooms like the Tate Gallery and the V&A, we had a chance to leave our table behind and get to the source. At the weekly John Locke Society lectures, I especially enjoyed the visiting speakers who ranged from national military experts to filmmakers from the BBC.

In the performing arts, I tried acting class with Mr. Barton and Mr. Chequer and had the chance to sing and dance in the Tom Wait’s cabaret. On the weekends, I took in as much theatre as possible, including The Minotaur, Antony and Cleopatra, Hay Fever, Fuel for Love, and Fuerzabruta. To gain this additional dimen-sion to my education while having a home on Barton Street with the Puckle’s girls and the Harris family exceeded my wishes for a full experience. It made me a better person, with better wishes for myself and others. As Voltaire wrote, “We cannot wish for that we know not.” To all of you at Westminster, thanks for this chance to learn in so many novel and indelible ways. I hope to see you all again soon.
ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION

It can’t be denied that certain things have changed around Westminster in the past few years, notices Christopher Sykes (MM), considering the new electronic registration system.

STARTING AFRESH: A NEW SIXTH FORMER’S PERSPECTIVE

Change – the first word that comes to mind when a 16 year-old leaves the surroundings that he has been in all his life, writes Mrinal Mohanka (BB).

My time as a Busbite officially began in the summer of 2006, boarding for the first time in my life. It was something which I was rather worried about, to say the least. I consider myself lucky as everyone at Busby’s has been very helpful in helping this newcomer settle down, nobody more than the housemaster, Mr Mylne. This may sound rather a cliché, but the other boarders at Busby’s have genuinely gone out of their way to make me feel at home.

A lesson I learnt early on was that to get used to a new environment as soon as possible, you have to get yourself involved in as many things as you possibly can. Once that is under way you do tend to feel more at ease as you don’t have the time to think about the worries that may have been plaguing you under other circumstances.

Luckily for me (yes, I do tend to ride on luck), I was involved in three out of the four short House plays, all of which, I am very proud to say, were a tremendous success. I was also given an opportunity to represent the house in three out of the four inter-house debates though these weren’t as successful as the plays, as luck deserted me and pitted us against the very best!

Westminster witnesses a large influx of new students in the sixth form, primarily gifts. The environment here is one that suits the students as they are given more than enough freedom and flexibility in whatever they choose to do. I’m sure most other boarders would agree with: it is a mystery why the school diners are not on the same level as the lunches. Besides that, this is a place where people get on well with each other and people tend to strive for excellence in any field that they are pursuing.

This is certainly a challenge, but a challenge that everyone looks forward to.

I would just like to thank everyone, especially my fellow Busbies, who have made me feel at ease already and have me looking forward to the rest of my time here.
SCHOOL NEWS

SEPTEMBER SATURDAY

This was a fête to remember, say both Anna Croall (DD) and Jee-Young (Grace) Kim (PP).

O n 23rd September 2006, ‘September Saturday’ took place in and around Little Dean’s Yard, raising money for several charities. Music by the staff jazz band, the smell from the barbecue and the murmurs of students’ banter filled every corner of Yard and spread to Green. Yard, a social centre usually confined to the upper school, and Green, generally occupied only by the eager footballers, turned into a fairground for the entire Westminster community. The stalls were truly inventive: College tested our domestic skills in its washing line competition; Ashburnham, one’s jaw, in its eat-a-cracker-in-one-go game and Hakluyt’s, one’s reaction time in its Bush-the-Malteser challenge. An explosion of talent was to be seen everywhere. As the doughnut eating competition, the ravenous teenage boys (and a girl) flaunted their various techniques at eating Krispy Kremes as quickly as possible; Grant’s face-painting had a certain artistic flair that could only be matched by Milne’s hair-spraying. To finish the look, Dryden’s offered individually decorated T-shirts, to make a true fashion statement. The almost overwhelming psychic power in the fortune teller’s tent added to the surreal excitement. While some hones footballed at The Pitch, plenty of others polished their cricket skills at Laddie’s by throwing at human coconuts. Members of staff organized a picture competition, a beer auction, Christmas card and jewelry sales and of course second-hand book sales to live up to Westminster’s intellectual tradition.

Highlights of the day were the Tug of War and Guing the Teacher. Everyone went onto Green to watch the Tug of War which took place amidst seven hundred people cheering. Attention then turned to the mouth-watering Westminster pink mascara’s/beats, prepared to complement our dessert for the day, and the gigantic gunging machinery, which would have put any medieval siege engine to shame. Mr Gelderd was our lucky dessert: his run across Yard to take revenge on those who voted for his gunging will forever be remembered by those lucky enough to have voted for someone else.

The day ended with the announcement of Rigaud’s raffle and other prizes, having raised over four thousand pounds.

We could all see that the day was a lot of fun, but it was our ultimate aim of raising money and awareness for a wide range of charities which serves as the best testament to the success of ‘September Saturday’. The two main charities we were fundraising for were Water Aid and InDeep Community Task Force. These two charities, one global and one local, were also invited to bring their own stall to the event, to help publicise their cause. Though both ‘shag’ day money, and the general proceeds from the day went to these two causes, there were several other charities represented. We saw the launch of Belu water, packaged in biodegradable bottles and donating all profits to clean water projects. Recycle was also on Green, publicising their cause in taking unwanted bikes to Africa and asking people to sign up to donate. Overall, we raised over £5000 and left very pleased with our little bit of summer in September. Such a success would not have been possible were it not for Mrs Brown’s tremendous help and everyone’s enthusiasm and generosity. Thank you everyone – we hope to see it continue next year.

WESTMINSTER PASSES INSPECTION

Towards the end of term 2006, a very important event took place in Westminster: the school was inspected, writes Francis Gene Rowe (DD) who was intimately involved.

Indeed, the school was inspected twice – once by the Commission for Social Care Inspectors, and once by the Independent Schools Inspectors examining the school as a whole with respect to teaching and extracurricular activities. Both sets of inspectors were highly enthusiastic about the quality of our glorious school (that goes without saying), what should be of specific interest for parents is the academic inspectors reporting that not only did Westminster offer outstanding teaching, but that the range of extra- or non-curricular activities and facilities was impressive.

My work folders were taken by the second group of inspectors for several days (along with a lot of others), and I received them back fully intact. I was glad to see, towards the end of the week. This seems to have been somewhat related to actually being interviewed by the inspectors, concerning how well the school catered for the intellectual interests of pupils outside the classroom. I was part of a group of ‘gifted’ pupils (I am not sure what the selection criteria were to include me), interviewed by the head inspector himself. The experience was not particularly traumatising or intimidating – he seemed like a decent chap, and was very interested in our answers. Obviously, the very positive picture painted by the answers of the group was entirely truthful – we would never lie to make our teachers look good. The school provides numerous resources for pupils with wide ranging intellectual interests, in the form of lower school activities, sixth form general options and cultural periphery, and the plethora of books given to pupils which take knowledge beyond the limits of the syllabus. He seemed awkwardly impressed, just as he should have been, for in this school we are all self-possessed intellectuals, a fact of which our headmaster is rightly proud.

One of my classes was inspected also: a double philosophy and ethics lesson where for one period we had an inspector sitting at the back and ominously scribbling notes – he left without realising, and after the initial shock it was quite simple to ‘act natural’. All in all, the inspection week ended fairly normally – there had been some tension in the air at the beginning, but this soon subsided, and after all there was nothing to worry about. Was there!
THE GREAZE

Mrinal Mohanka (BB) travelled a long way for this ritual struggle before he realised how he had been misinformed.

The Greaze is a Westminster tradition that began in the 18th century and the end is nowhere near. However strange this may seem to the uninitiated, it involves just over 30 pupils fighting for a hair-covered pancake; do not be fooled by the extrinsic value of what they fight for; even a newcomer diving into the scrum, such as yours truly, knows exactly how prestigious and valued this event really is.

Having never witnessed The Greaze before, I was counting on the ‘accurate’ descriptions that people gave me. Understandably, I heard various versions of what it was, but the most unlikely one was given to me by Busby’s matron. She questioned my actions in signing up for The Greaze as she feared for me, and told me about the numerous injuries people had suffered which ranged from the expected cuts and bruises to the not-so-sweet dislocated shoulders and knee-joint damages. This conversation left me with a strange feeling of apprehension as I honestly didn’t know what I was in for. Some said it was more fun to watch while others said that I shouldn’t be worried and that I would enjoy myself. If only there were more voices like the latter.

However, all the sense of apprehension disappeared at around 10-30 on the morning in February when we reported to the Dungeons to get our instructions: these were something along the lines of us not acting ‘unnecessarily’ viciously. There were a few nervous faces around but these vanished when we went Up School to the audience waiting in the gathering dark, and it is experiences like these that stand out.

I indeed, even those opting for a weekly stint of community service would probably be unaware of the possibility. However, at the beginning of the Sixth Form when presented with the opportunity to spend my Tuesday afternoons at Westminster House Youth Club, I am glad I took the chance.

Westminster House, based in Nunhead, South London is a youth centre providing a range of services or young people in the local community, from remedial classes for girls excluded from school, to Duke of Edinburgh training, to daily homework help clubs for primary aged students. Established in 1889, the club has a longstanding relationship with the school. Westminster already sponsors the club, and provides materials and equipment, such as boots and walking gear. Nevertheless, despite this support and the contributions of council, charitable and private donors to the club, the facility is still under-funded, especially considering the invaluable service they provide in one of the most run-down communities in London.

It becomes especially apparent when working there that the centre provides not only educational and extracurricular stimulus for the children and teenagers who attend, but also a safe place to go, people to talk to and a reason to stay away from trouble. The trust granted by the community does not come easily: it is the result of years of respected work and commitment. Westminster pupils Josie Parker and myself, Natasha Bell and Joe Passmore volunteer at the after-schools club, also known as LEAP, where we help with homework, play games and even referee the odd football or table tennis match.

To say the experience was wholly enjoyable would only be partially true – it is hard work! Nevertheless, the rewards are immense, especially from the relatively short time spent working there, not to mention the fact that a regular game of Guess Who?, or even grappling with primary school maths, can often be a lot of fun. Natasha remembers the time when the electricity in the building was out, leading to a whole afternoon playing football outside in the gathering dusk, and it is experiences like this which stand out.

If there is one thing I will remember most about my experience at Westminster House, and I’m sure the others would agree, it is the dedication and understanding of the tireless staff, coupled with the enthusiasm of the pupils who attend LEAP. This combination is what means that, as hard as the day may have been for us or them, the club keeps going, with a smile and commitment rarest seen even here at Westminster, let alone amongst those in communities who have so much less than us.
TUESDAY CAKE BREAK has become something to look forward to and again Krispy Kreme doughnuts and weekly cake sales, and more creative efforts in playing chosen songs for a small fee on the jukebox in yard during a fundraising week in December for the National AIDS trust.

In addition, there were special events on a larger scale, such as the charity fashion show ‘Masquerade’ in May last year, and ‘September Saturday’. The latter also helped to raise awareness of the charitable causes by inviting the charity organisations themselves such as WaterAid, In Deep and Re-Cycle to run their own stalls and events. Both of these events would not have been possible without the motivation from the numerous pupils involved, and of course, the help and guidance of various members of staff. Then there was the fun run on the 4th of March, in which pupils, dressed in brilliantly creative outfits, braided a sponsored 7-mile route through central London.

O VER the course of the year, Westminster has been enthusiastically working for charity with a wide ranging variety of fund raising events and collections for several charitable organisations. The events included the official shag days once a term, delivering Christmas hampers to local old people and collecting bicycles to be shipped to Africa. The pupils also had the opportunity to be directly involved in the initiatives by means of Envision and Amnesty International with meetings once a week. Envision is an organisation which provides leadership and coordination for pupils in various schools involved in charity work. Amnesty International was a newly founded society this year, initiated by a number of pupils. These two groups were responsible for the ever-popular Krispy Kreme doughnut and weekly cake sales, and more creative efforts in playing chosen songs for a small fee on the jukebox in yard during fundraising week in December for the National AIDS trust.

The start of the year witnessed September Saturday held on the 16th of September. The Krispy Kreme stall was the major attraction (a sell-out in under three hours) but the individual house stalls also did extremely well. Those present were also treated to live performances by various members of the Envision or Amnesty teams; the two charities whose organisations set up stalls and events for various charitable causes by inviting the charity organisations themselves such as WaterAid, In Deep and Re-Cycle to run their own stalls and events. Both of these events would not have been possible without the motivation from the numerous pupils involved, and of course, the help and guidance of various members of staff. Then there was the fun run on the 4th of March, in which pupils, dressed in brilliantly creative outfits, braided a sponsored 7-mile route through central London.

In addition, there were special events on a larger scale, such as the charity fashion show ‘Masquerade’ in May last year, and ‘September Saturday’. The latter also helped to raise awareness of the charitable causes by inviting the charity organisations themselves such as WaterAid, In Deep and Re-Cycle to run their own stalls and events. Both of these events would not have been possible without the motivation from the numerous pupils involved, and of course, the help and guidance of various members of staff. Then there was the fun run on the 4th of March, in which pupils, dressed in brilliantly creative outfits, braided a sponsored 7-mile route through central London.
BUSBY’S

Despite being chased early (and now regularly) of victory in House Singing, this time with an elaborate performance of Eye of the Tiger, Busby’s has plopped on with characteristic resolution to achieve success in other fields. In sport, not only did we gain second place in the Towpath and Bringsty cross country races, this year has also seen the addition of the House Football Cup as the perfect complement to its cricketing counterpart already in Mr. Mylne’s office since last year’s competition.

In pursuit of similar excellence in the fields of music and drama, we enlisted the aid of resident tutor Mr. Sproat, who kept the more animistic 5th Formers under control. Mr. Walsh, Busby’s has done extremely well in the house competitions so far this year, bringing home the winners’ trophy for the junior football competition and performing strongly in the Toowpath, Bringsty Relay (coming second), upper school football competition and even the house eego competition. A special mention should be made of sports day where we came a close second – again. A third place in house singing was well deserved from the strongest choir that Milne’s has had in several years. Aside from our sporting excellence there were some solid performances in house debating and Busby’s paintball team annihilated Abbington in a 2–1 victory. At Christmas, our carol choir led a readings-and-carols event at the Pullen Day Centre and the seasonal house quiz organised by Mr. Crole was as challenging as ever and showed that the Milnites of 2006/7 are not just pretty faces. House outings included trips to the theatre (A Moon for the Misbegotten and The Caretaker), the Tate Britain (Hogarth) and, the most memorable of them all, a special preview of Bratz. Our house concert was of a very high standard and featured talent old and new. The annual Leavers’ Dinner in June at the Garrick was the usual sumptuous affair and a wonderful evening was had by the Milne’s parsley, the evening dinner and charity auction in College Hall in April. We say goodbye to Miss Harrison who will be sadly missed and we wish her well for the future. Next year it is our tenth birthday, so watch this space for news of our celebrations. Meanwhile, this ninth one has been great and I hope we can have as much success and fun for many years to come.

MILNE’S

The Milne’s year began, as is customary, with the house walk – a scenic stretch of the Thames from Hampton to Richmond. The first of many house activities, the walk introduces the concept that is Milne’s to new pupils: a sense of togetherness. Led by Dr Walsh, Milne’s has done extremely well in the house competitions so far this year, bringing home the winners’ trophy for the junior football competition and performing strongly in the Toowpath, Bringsty Relay (coming second), upper school football competition and even the house eego competition. A special mention should be made of sports day where we came a close second – again. A third place in house singing was well deserved from the strongest choir that Milne’s has had in several years. Aside from our sporting excellence there were some solid performances in house debating and Busby’s paintball team annihilated Abbington in a 2–1 victory. At Christmas, our carol choir led a readings-and-carols event at the Pullen Day Centre and the seasonal house quiz organised by Mr. Crole was as challenging as ever and showed that the Milnites of 2006/7 are not just pretty faces. House outings included trips to the theatre (A Moon for the Misbegotten and The Caretaker), the Tate Britain (Hogarth) and, the most memorable of them all, a special preview of Bratz. Our house concert was of a very high standard and featured talent old and new. The annual Leavers’ Dinner in June at the Garrick was the usual sumptuous affair and a wonderful evening was had by the Milne’s parsley, the evening dinner and charity auction in College Hall in April. We say goodbye to Miss Harrison who will be sadly missed and we wish her well for the future. Next year it is our tenth birthday, so watch this space for news of our celebrations. Meanwhile, this ninth one has been great and I hope we can have as much success and fun for many years to come.

RIGAUD’S

R igaud’s elegant supremacy continues unabated, this year bringing another string of successes to those ruling the golden tides.

Victory for the second year running in the House football six-a-sides competition cements the house’s position as masters of the field. Victory was again secured with a penalty shootout, illustrating the enduring ability of Rigaudites to entertain as well as to conquer. We have also excelled off-pitch. From the catalogue of creative excellence within the walls of No.1 Little Dean’s Yard, Rigaud’s musical talent has been to the fore this year, shining through in the house concert, where excerpts from Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoate were sung to particularly dazzling effect by the house girls’ choir (featuring the guest voices of Leilla and Beatrice Tompkins as Joseph, and Dana Bakhundar, an honorary girl, as Pharaoh), thanks in no small part to Gilly French’s inspirational direction; and before that in the House Singing competition, which – technically like the actual result aside – we won.

Such greatness is bound to attract the interest of the rest of the school community, which explains Lower Hall’s status as a centre of wider Westminster social life. At the same time, we are happy to share the new state-of-the-art gaming facilities and commanding views of Yard with the less fortunate.

The loss of David Hargreaves at the end of the year, as he moves on to be in charge of Grant’s will be sorely felt by all who have come to relish his charming company in the evening. This loss has been partially offset by the introduction of Charles Ullahome’s imposing presence and the arrival of a dynamic fifth form, whom we are happy to report are now eating solids and playing well together.

Continue to look out for Rigaud’s, for madness in great ones must not be overlooked.

GRANT’S

For many at Westminster Grant’s is merely the location of the less prestigious dining hall; for a privileged few it is much, much more.

We’ve had a delightful year, with successes too numerous to do justice to here. Contrary to popular belief, sport has been at the forefront, with a resounding victory over College’s 1st XI football team, who had been thought by some to be favourites to win. Last season also saw triumph at house tennis and Grant’s also came close to replicating the glory of 50 years ago (when we last won junior football) but we were not fated to pass through the first round. Tom Samuel, with his Towpath win, had a marvellously rapid year.

One of the highlights must surely have been the House Concert (shared with AHH) — a musical feast in which all who played did so with considerable flair, though Cyrus Lyons’ viola solo edges in a special mention. There were also two fantastic vocal performances from Soumaya Keynes and Adam Cigan Mark, both of whom also had leading roles in the recent school production of The Magic Flute; other house members have also been active in many fine productions.

All in all, it has been another vintage year for the boys (and of course girls) in blue.
SCHOOL NEWS

LIDDELL’S

Last September saw the dawn of a new era for Liddell’s, the year saw unparalleled success for the house in its long history. Second place in the ergo competition, third in house football, first in the Towpath seniors team prize, are but a few of our recent triumphs.

Ed Winters, captain of the house, took the helm in what has been a glorious year for Liddell’s. What can be said about Ed Winters? Talented? Funny? Athletic? Intelligent? Of course all of these, but so much more as well.

Any appraisal of Liddell’s would not be complete without a mention of the secretaries who made Ed Winters’s dreams of success possible. Toby Thomas, secretary of sport, spearheaded our assault in the Towpath seniors team prize, are but a few of our recent triumphs.

Any appraisal of Liddell’s would not be complete without a mention of the secretaries who made Ed Winters’s dreams of success possible. Toby Thomas, secretary of sport, spearheaded our assault in the Towpath seniors team prize, are but a few of our recent triumphs.

A brief mention must also go to the scholarship held firm. Liddell’s as a veritable Lyceum of learning, the Hakluyt’s-Liddell’s House Concert in May. This has been lovingly organised by Mrs Barry, to whom we offer special congratulations for the birth of her daughter Julia, born since the last update.

On a historical note, this year marks the 400th anniversary of Jamestown’s foundation, and hence the first step in Britain’s colonisation of North America. The ideas of Richard Hakluyt were instrumental in this process. Trained as a priest, he acted as Secretary of State, a keen geographer, translated several high-profile travel accounts and even worked as a spy. A strong proponent of westward expansion of English territory, he was in the rare position of being able to promote his passions to the powerful people of the day. This spirit of exploration and discovery lives on in the ethos of Hakluyt’s today.

HAKLUYT’S

Hakluyt’s has clung to its title as the crossword capital of the school this year, as well as welcoming Ulf Hennig, the new Head of German, as a tutor, and we’re finally going to implement a long-overdue recycling system.

Though everything looked set for a repeat of last year’s victory in House Football, we had to settle for second place after a 2–0 defeat by Busby’s. It is a similar story in House Netball, where College just managed to get the upper hand in a close final. However, a sterling effort at Sports Day found us back on form. Satya “Silvertongue” Gunput and the compelling Peter Brescia brought us to the brink of victory in the house debating final. Though the exam season is nearly underway, the stream of extra-curricular activities is inexhaustible – we’re eagerly awaiting at time of writing, the Hakluyt’s-Liddell’s House Concert in May. This has been lovingly organised by Mrs Barry, to whom we offer special congratulations for the birth of her daughter Julia, born since the last update.

On a historical note, this year marks the 400th anniversary of Jamestown’s foundation, and hence the first step in Britain’s colonisation of North America. The ideas of Richard Hakluyt were instrumental in this process. Trained as a priest, he acted as Secretary of State, a keen geographer, translated several high-profile travel accounts and even worked as a spy. A strong proponent of westward expansion of English territory, he was in the rare position of being able to promote his passions to the powerful people of the day. This spirit of exploration and discovery lives on in the ethos of Hakluyt’s today.

PURCELL’S

This year in Purcell’s there has been a constantly busy and friendly atmosphere, with everyone’s time completely filled with school and house events. From the moment the new girls set foot in the door, rehearsals for Upper School Plays and House Singing began, with line-learning and dance practices a constant presence in the kitchen. The effort resulted in great performances and a thoroughly deserved second place in House Singing.

Play term enveloped Purcell’s girl in netball matches, five tournaments, remembering to sign in before station, chats in the kitchen, and more plays and musical endeavours. University applications preyed on the minds of the Remove, while the Sixth Form enjoyed believing that time would never come round for them.

Lent term bought pancakes, House Netball and the Brongny Relay, in which we acquitted ourselves well. Most exciting, and exhausting, was the annual selling of carnations for the annual selling of carnations for. Members of the house took part in the amazing production of ‘The Magic Flute’.

Finally, with the early summer weather arised sunglasses, tennis rackets and a certain penchant for exercise early in the mornings, which shocked Mr. Harris given our previous problems with wakin up.

Homes, and some carnations for ourselves! The most musically talented members of the house took part in the amazing production of ‘The Magic Flute.’

WREN’S

This year saw a continuation of Wren’s traditional sporting brilliance, with a powerful victory in the house ergo being particularly noteworthy. Wren’s juniors also played their part, demonstrating their athletic prowess with a cruising victory in the Junior Towpath. Strong sporting performances were also to be had in all the following categories: Junior house 6-a-side football.

Wren’s, however, is not just a house dedicated to sporting achievement. The sensational victory in the house debating was one of the high points of the year, with the valiant performance of the house chess team coming close behind. Credit, however, must be given to Grandmaster Wis and the Funtious Five for overcoming one of the most promising chess teams Wren’s has ever produced. Various other arenas also witnessed participation of the highest quality, especially evident in another fine display of fresh new talents showcased to celebrate Sir Christopher Wren’s birthday.

With the best part of a term still to come, events such as House Cricket and Tennis, as well as Wren’s & Dryden’s house concert, promise to offer even more success. Thudbally described by some as Westminster’s best kept secret, Wrenites must be congratulated on another highly successful year.
ASHBURNHAM'S COLLEGE

It has been another good year for the older of the two Houses in Dean's Yard. It has been led with aplomb by the dynamism of Hugo Brent and the intellectual acuity of Adam Tanaka. House spirit accounted for the very strong performance in some hard-fought football matches, and the gritty determination of the Towpath and the Bringsty Relay.

Fate may have dealt us a tough hand this year: there is no silverware in the trophy cupboard, and heroes remained unsung. This was most starkly felt in the house singing competition where the jury failed to recognise the true quality and talent of the performance. The House does, however, continue to produce national debaters and fine swordsmen. The 5th form too, have been impressive and between them have produced enough dignitaries to wallpaper a room. One of the high points of the year must be the house concert where the quality of music was astonishingly high, and a particular accolade goes to Fred Young. The seeds of excellence continue to grow, and next year is set to be even better than this one.

College is an interesting place, and a tight-knit community can be found in the rooms above Wren's Corridor. The other new scholars and I were initially very much on the outside of this new world; however, with two terms behind us, I think I can say that we are part of the group now. The general flow of boarding activities, wearing gowns to Latin prayers and going to Compline in the abbey on Monday night; these things have become part of my life and my identity as a scholar. Our victories in the House Singing and cross-country events made sure my first experiences as a house were optimistic. I am looking forward to four more years in College and a great experience throughout my time at school.
For most Sixth Form Germanists, the news that we would be spending the opening four weeks of our long-awaited summer holiday in a small suburb of Munich was not the most appealing prospect. However, after meeting our exchange partners during the London-based half of the exchange in February 2006, most of us were beginning to come around to the idea. Arriving in Munich in the midst of World Cup fever, few of us were aware of just what the month would have in store. Indeed, we spent our second night camping out in front of massive screens watching Germany lose their semi-final against Italy, to the great disappointment of those around us. The exchange, however, was not damaged by this result. Unlike many Germans, our exchanges remained positive, as did we, however, was not damaged by this result. Unlike many Germans, we made friends with our exchange partners quickly and had a fantastic stay with our host families.

Unfortunately the German school term had not yet finished by the time of our arrival, meaning some aggressive early starts for what was supposed to be a holiday. However, the long afternoons and surprisingly busy evenings made up for the monotony of spending July mornings listening to a German physics lesson. Each morning we were required to spend 2 or 3 lessons with our teachers from Germany. At Westminster School is heaven on earth for pupils, with some really fabulous rooms, using the most gold I have ever seen in one building, but managing to remain within the bounds of good taste. Unfortunately, as the lighting was dim it was hard to get a good photograph of the interior. The whole area of the Palace is interesting in terms of imperial design, as the straight block of the palace is balanced by a pillar, carved from a single block of marble, in the centre of the courtyard, and the sweeping crescent shape of the buildings opposite. One of the main boasts of the Hermitage museum is that if a visitor were to look at each of the items in the collection for only a minute, it would still take about five years to get round. Thankfully for we were only going to see some Impressionists, or our schoolwork might have suffered a little.

Teaching and learning in Westminster School is very different from teaching in our school in Germany. At Westminster classes are much smaller and much better equipped. Teachers are highly motivated and were keen on including us in their lessons. We enjoyed the classes we visited very much and we were happy that many teachers invited us back to their classes.

The whole area of the Palace is interesting in terms of imperial design, as the straight block of the palace is balanced by a pillar, carved from a single block of marble, in the centre of the courtyard, and the sweeping crescent shape of the buildings opposite. One of the main boasts of the Hermitage museum is that if a visitor were to look at each of the items in the collection for only a minute, it would still take about five years to get round. Thankfully for we were only going to see some Impressionists, or our schoolwork might have suffered a little.

Teaching and learning in Westminster School is very different from teaching in our school in Germany. At Westminster classes are much smaller and much better equipped. Teachers are highly motivated and were keen on including us in their lessons. We enjoyed the classes we visited very much and we were happy that many teachers invited us back to their classes.

Unfortunately, the Moscow underground is very interesting; the trains are frequent, cheap and swiftly, while some of the stations are really very impressive, each one designed differently. It is rare to see chandeliers in a European Metro station, and, mainly because they are warm, the Muscovites use them as meeting places. There is also of course the Kremlin, the old red fortress of the city with its huge ornamental cannon and broken bell. It was hard to be totally at ease in the Kremlin, however, warned us that if we happened to see Pori’s staff car arriving, we were not to shout or make any sudden movements for fear of being taken for assassins. At St. Basil’s church, we were interested to discover the iconic cupola represents the point of the compass, blue and white for the North, red and white for the South, and green and yellow for the East, representing the traditional headgear of the Mongols who once ruled the East of Russia, in response to which, the western cupola represents the pointed medieval Russian helmets typical of its age. Apparently, the steps leading to the top of the cathedral on the inside get progressively steeper as the price for those who wish to address God directly.

Our time in Russia was filled with interest, and we even spoke a little bit of Russian, which no one had expected, strangely. We learnt about life, and travelling. We learnt fear, cold, and how to make a really bad purchase. Most of all, we had a really good time, and I could almost recommend taking Russian just for the trip.

Following a culturally novel Folk festival on our last night in Petersberg, we took the somewhat basic overnight sleeper to Moscow: a genuine steam engine, of the kind normally only seen in British anoraks’ transport museums. We arrived in Moscow in the early morning, to a very different and less beautiful city, largely Stalinist in aspect. However, the Moscow underground is very interesting; the trains are frequent, cheap and swiftly, while some of the stations are really very impressive, each one designed differently. It is rare to see chandeliers in a European Metro station, and, mainly because they are warm, the Muscovites use them as meeting places. There is also of course the Kremlin, the old red fortress of the city with its huge ornamental cannon and broken bell. It was hard to be totally at ease in the Kremlin, however, warned us that if we happened to see Pori’s staff car arriving, we were not to shout or make any sudden movements for fear of being taken for assassins. At St. Basil’s church, we were interested to discover the iconic cupola represents the point of the compass, blue and white for the North, red and white for the South, and green and yellow for the East, representing the traditional headgear of the Mongols who once ruled the East of Russia, in response to which, the western cupola represents the pointed medieval Russian helmets typical of its age. Apparently, the steps leading to the top of the cathedral on the inside get progressively steeper as the price for those who wish to address God directly.
VALLADOLID

Missing the Sunday lie-in was a sacrifice a bunch of Upper Shells and Removes were reluctantly willing to make for the cultural, linguistic experience promised by Mr. Witney waiting for us in Valladolid in Spain, claims Kunal Choraria (HH).

Our first stop in the hot sun was an old Roman aqueduct situated next to the old town of Segovia. In a group five, we found a small “authentic” Spanish restaurant which seemed to be based around the theme of Athens. We adapted quickly as it took us about two minutes to order food, after the ten it had taken to ask for a menu. Having tasted our first zest of Spanish life, we roamed around, converted with some Spanish kids on swings and took advantage of the good weather to get in a small game of football before we left for Valladolid.

Our host family seemed eager to indulge us in some real Spanish dishes such as paella and a tapas bar binge. Unlike what it sounds, it involved an array of starters, including olives, sweet potato, calamari and other seafood combined to form a mouth-watering platter. Unlike what it sounds, it involved an array of starters, including olives, sweet potato, calamari and other seafood combined to form a mouth-watering platter.

Apart from the food and the football, believe it or not, the main focus of the trip was to improve our Spanish oral and listening technique and then to incorporate that with the culture to really get a grasp of the language.

Our linguistic skills were improved through a series of 3 hour classes in La Casa del Español, a small academy based around the theme of Athens. We adapted quickly and did not collapse because of the pressure created by the corners, still regarded as a work of genius.

“Obviously during the two and a half hours I spent there I had the opportunity to set my priorities in order and practice my Spanish for “I’m sorry, I’m so sorry, I’m really sorry”.”

This is the bit where I should be telling you about our trip to the home of Christopher Columbus but during this time, I had my own mini adventure getting stuck inside a garage. My immediate thought was that I was going to miss the Atletico match. Obviously during the two and a half hours I spent there I had the opportunity to set my priorities in order and practice my Spanish for “I’m sorry, I’m so sorry, I’m really sorry.” When the doors finally opened I apologized and tried to avoid the awkwardness of the situation.

The trip, as expected, turned out to be good fun, providing an experience which not only left us hungry for the Spanish language but built a strong foundation for the rest of the term’s work and the upcoming GCSEs.

THE UPPER SHELL Trip GRANADA

Met by our new family in Granada in October; they were more than welcoming. They opened up their homes to us, cooked our food which was always delicious and generally made us feel as much at home as they possibly could, writes Josh Benson (WW).

Most of our time was spent improving Spanish at school. It was very similar to being at home: early mornings, long days and very little rest. However it certainly improved our Spanish, even if there were punishments for speaking English. Despite having to be back home early we made the most of our free time after school, whether it be playing football or looking around Granada itself. We did have one day off where we went to the beach. This was the day with the best weather. No signs of rain, just sun, a welcome difference to October in London. Here we were able to test our Spanish further at the “Chiringuitos” and when talking to the Spanish boys, who ended up joining in our game of football. Before going away it seemed like it would be a long week in which all we did was work. The trip was work-based and although we did work hard, we also had fun during our free time. The week flew by.

WALKING IN THE LAKE DISTRICT

It’s 3 o’clock, 900m up, and I can’t feel my feet beneath the snow, Mr. Tocknell has just said something about “total” and “whiteout”, but my ears are too cold to hear much else. Welcome to Scafell Pike, winter-style, shivers Sebastian Bray.

Next that we didn’t get our fair share of good weather on the Expedition Society’s annual four-day excursion to the Lake District. The day before had seen bright glorious sunshine, which proved essential for drying our clothes after our small group’s blissful stroll through some of the most scenic landscapes in England was rudely interrupted when we walked into the middle of a bog. Luckily, Mr. Ullathorne and his culinary skills were on hand to save us from certain freezing. Whatever thought that liquid jelly could taste so good! The sumptuous cooked breakfasts and the good old-fashioned English pub-food we enjoyed on the trip were more than enough to keep us fuelled for even the hardest hikes.

Our last day’s climb up the well-known Catbell’s Ridge proved a fitting end to one of the most successful school walking expeditions yet. A gentle wander up a sweeping slope was rewarded with some spectacular sunset views over the windswept landscape of glistening lakes and snow-capped peaks over which we had struggled the day previously. We continued this spiritual experience with a final visit to a Pagan stone circle, which whilst nearly beating everyone’s favourite bog in the mud-stakes, was a fascinating insight into the area’s 5000 year-old history. A huge thank-you must go to our guides, Mr. Tocknell, Mr. Maloney and to Mr. Ullathorne for organising the trip.
The trip began with an exploration of Marrakech, and once due attention had been paid to its post-colonial urban structure we launched into the overpowering tanneries with a tour of the traditional industries of Morocco, being welcomed into minute everything that the vastly diverse country of Morocco has to offer; reports Sam Littlejohns (RR).

The next two days were then spent on an awe-inspiring trek through the High Atlas, traversing slopes covered in both deep, crisp snow and hard-baked dusty red rock in a matter of minutes. Never again shall I have a lunch with a more astonishing backdrop than when we had mattresses spread across the path for us at the highest point of the pass between two valleys, with what appeared to be nothing less than the entire world laid out below us, backed by the vast majesty of the next mountain ridge. That night we were once more welcomed without question by the local Berbers who took us into their village, and provide as much sweet tea as we demanded, tired and eventually freezing as we were. By the time we returned to the Kasbah, perched just above the snow line it all is as if relaxation could not be more complete, but just as we began to fear that we could be having too much of a good time Mr Wurr boldly stepped into the breach and ensured that we were taught the methods and techniques that we needed to employ in translation and then we set about implementing them ourselves on our own. In preparation for the afternoon’s entertainment, we made ourselves packed lunches and then could choose from a multiplicity of activities. We made excursions on foot, to Hadrian’s Wall for example or around the local area, but there were other entertainments too such as rowing on Derwentwater, scrambling down a lead mine, and appreciating what Alston itself had to offer. In the evening, recovered from the afternoon’s exercise, we went out for supper, often in the local pub, the George and Dragon where we sampled the delights of their steak and game pies, but on occasion in other nearby pubs. Each night, two of us gave speeches on our particular areas of interest, with some members of the audience finding the subject matter more soporific than others. There were also hotly contested philosophical debates and gripping stories to finish off. The quirkiest highlight of the trip was the final speech on our particular area of interest, with some members of the audience finding the subject matter more soporific than others. There were also hotly contested philosophical debates and gripping stories to finish off. The quirkiest highlight of the trip was the final speech on our particular area of interest, with some members of the audience finding the subject matter more soporific than others. There were also hotly contested philosophical debates and gripping stories to finish off. The quirkiest highlight of the trip was the final speech on our particular area of interest, with some members of the audience finding the subject matter more soporific than others. There were also hotly contested philosophical debates and gripping stories to finish off. The quirkiest highlight of the trip was the final speech on our particular area of interest, with some members of the audience finding the subject matter more soporific than others. There were also hotly contested philosophical debates and gripping stories to finish off. The quirkiest highlight of the trip was the final
HISTORY OF ART IN FLORENCE

The annual Remove expedition to Florence was again a success for all involved and was immeasurably enjoyed by everyone. By the end of our five day tour every little detail of the city had been covered with and without the aid of our guides, writes Jamie Thetford (BB).

Arguably one of the best aspects of this trip was the presence of Art History Abroad tutors, who not only were distressingly knowledgeable about the Renaissance, but also knew Florence better than many of us know London. Nick Ross, the head of AHA itself, was the man in charge, and as well as turning out to be a bottomless well of knowledge about absolutely everything, his humour was infectious. Aleid Ford somehow managed to hold the attention of every single young man (and woman) present as well as imparting her own amazing expertise. Tom Nickson then inspired all with his own stories of how he fell in love with the history of art when visiting the Brancacci Chapel, where as a student he watched a man paralyze from the waist down throw himself out of his wheelchair and crawl into the chapel to gaze at the shared frescos of the waist down throw himself out of his wheelchair and crawl into the chapel to gaze at the shared frescos of Masolino and Masaccio within.

Nestled to say the art itself was incredible. Learning about the Renaissance from slides just doesn’t compare to the reality, and the combination of learning history alongside paintings, sculptures and buildings themselves. The course was actually, in the end, surprisingly fun as well as fascinating. When you’re told in a classroom that Brunelleschi’s architecture ‘makes you feel all spiritual’, it really did. Many of us were looking forward to spending a week of our Easter holidays in not-so-sunny Wales, confesses Hannah Fitzwilliam (RR).
HEAT AND ART IN PARIS

Arriving at the Louvre, I was immediately struck by the vastness of it all, as well as the heat of the hot spring day in Paris, gags Nicole Taylor (WW).

Despite the thought of the looming Mock A/S exams, the stifling humidity of Paris and the sulphurous smells in the Louvre, I was captivated by the immediacy of the art I saw on our first day. Sculptures truly come to life when seen at first hand: one can see what made these works exceptional.

That afternoon I encountered many paintings we had studied before and seeing them was to me, something akin to meeting old friends. We saw many iconic works by the likes of David, Géricault, Canova and Veronese. We even managed a quick glimpse at the Mona Lisa, which for me was not the most beautiful work; however, we also had the chance to visit several local sites of interest, including the museum dedicated to Christopher Columbus who died in Valladolid in 1506. The city has equally risen to the challenges of the 21st century, at least as far as technology is concerned – the software for London’s Congestion Charging was developed here.

In the course of the next two days we were whisked through over two thousand years of art with the help of Dr. Cockburn, Dr. Jacobi and Mr. Johnson. In the second morning we strolled along the banks of the Seine to the Louvre where, refreshed, we marvelled at the coup de foudre. We even had time to squeeze in one last day. Sculptures truly come to life when seen at first hand: one can see what made these works exceptional.

On our last evening we were joined by our teachers instead of their official guides. We were staying with host families, in pairs, and luckily all of the families were fairly normal, apart from the resident slug at George and Zantis’ house! Our trip coincided with the annual holy week celebrations, during which the various cofradías penitenciales process through the streets in an eerie silence punctuated only by the occasional blast from a bugle, their long flowing robes and tall pointed hats not dissimilar to Ku Klux Klan apparel!

As well as the intensive Spanish classes at a small language school situated close to the historic centre, we visited the cities of Bilbao – the stunning titanium-plated Guggenheim Museum shimmered in the late afternoon light, towering over an otherwise rather drab provincial capital – and Madrid, where we were given a fascinating insight into some of the major works by Velázquez, Goya and El Greco in the capital’s famous Prado. Our final trip to the ancient university town of Salamanca – the Oxford of Spain – allowed us to search the façade of the 13th century university building for the famous lucky skull with a frog carved on it, so now we will all apparently pass our exams... and marry within a year!

Our final trip to the ancient university town of Salamanca – the Oxford of Spain – allowed us to search the façade of the 13th century university building for the famous lucky skull with a frog carved on it, so now we will all apparently pass our exams... and marry within a year!

On our last evening we were joined by our teachers from La Casa del Español for a delicious meal of typical Spanish tapas; a lovely way to end a most enjoyable few days, with many great memories.

SIXTH FORM LANGUAGE TRIP VALLADOLID

The ten day visit to the cultural ‘hub’ of Valladolid in North West Spain this Easter provided us with the opportunity not only to experience typical Spanish life but also to improve our spoken Spanish in preparation for the looming oral examination, claims Zoë Lang (BB).

Indeed, of particular interest to foreign students of Spanish is the region’s famous purity of Castilian; the Spanish equivalent of “Queen’s English” is said to be spoken in Castilla y León. The city of Valladolid itself has impressive historical connections (scene of the marriage of the Catholic Monarchs, twiz capital of Spain and birthplace of Philip II, for example) and we also had the chance to visit several local sites of interest, including the museum dedicated to Christopher Columbus who died in Valladolid in 1506. The city has equally risen to the challenges of the 21st century, at least as far as technology is concerned – the software for London’s Congestion Charging was developed here.

We had over two thousand years of art with the help of Dr. Cockburn, Dr. Jacobi and Mr. Johnson. In the second morning we strolled along the banks of the Seine to the Louvre where, refreshed, we marvelled at the coup de foudre. We even had time to squeeze in one last day. Sculptures truly come to life when seen at first hand: one can see what made these works exceptional.

On our last evening we were joined by our teachers instead of their official guides. We were staying with host families, in pairs, and luckily all of the families were fairly normal, apart from the resident slug at George and Zantis’ house! Our trip coincided with the annual holy week celebrations, during which the various cofradías penitenciales process through the streets in an eerie silence punctuated only by the occasional blast from a bugle, their long flowing robes and tall pointed hats not dissimilar to Ku Klux Klan apparel!

As well as the intensive Spanish classes at a small language school situated close to the historic centre, we visited the cities of Bilbao – the stunning titanium-plated Guggenheim Museum shimmered in the late afternoon light, towering over an otherwise rather drab provincial capital – and Madrid, where we were given a fascinating insight into some of the major works by Velázquez, Goya and El Greco in the capital’s famous Prado. Our final trip to the ancient university town of Salamanca – the Oxford of Spain – allowed us to search the façade of the 13th century university building for the famous lucky skull with a frog carved on it, so now we will all apparently pass our exams... and marry within a year!

On our last evening we were joined by our teachers from La Casa del Español for a delicious meal of typical Spanish tapas; a lovely way to end a most enjoyable few days, with many great memories.

Delights of a night under canvas. Highlights for the Ridge party included technical scrambling at An Dorus and on The Inaccessible Pinnacle and climbing pitches on the imposing walls above Coire Lagan. The walkers no doubt enjoyed their gentle walking as well.

Special thanks as always go to the staff for putting up with us and for organising the trip, which will continue to go from strength to strength.

“At Rodin’s house on the third morning we encountered the Gates of Hell and strode serenely through his garden, not yet beaten by the heat and humidity.”

Clipping Expedition

THE CLIMBING EXPEDITION

SKYE

The Expedition Society’s exploits continued unabated this year with the annual Skye trip during Easter, proclaims Andrew Marshall, (DD), from the mountaintops.

The glorious weather defied expectations and all probability yet again to give us some memorable days out. The party split into two groups, one climbing and scrambling on the exposed and dramatic ridges of the Cuillin, while the others went for walks and experienced the delights of a night under canvas. Highlights for the Ridge party included technical scrambling at An Dorus and on The Inaccessible Pinnacle and climbing pitches on the imposing walls above Coire Lagan. The walkers no doubt enjoyed their gentle walking as well.

Special thanks as always go to the staff for putting up with us and for organising the trip, which will continue to go from strength to strength.
The penitence, as it were, came first. Hardship, however, between a pilgrimage and a 21st century Grand Tour. Walk to Rome is no boot camp. Instead I’d call it a cross survival. However, I must not give the wrong impression that I evidently possessed no small enthusiasm for The first few days seemed to confirm my fears, and city that I first truly comprehended the prospect of walk— looking out across the stunningly well-preserved medieval antipathies caused when a Sienese contrada celebrates a victory unveils open their hotels and restaurants (which you could never find in a guide book) for our exclusive use. He knows the brutal gradients of Tuscany, and the the locals, and has shared his love for this region with unsuspecting walkers for twenty-five years. A large part of this trip’s pleasure lies in its many unique delights, which crop up in the impossibly beau— cityscape where Charlemagne’s heart, and the basilica at tiful countryside of central Italy long before reaching Rome. The monastery church of Sant’Antimo, alleged resting-place of Charlemagne’s heart, and the basilica at Fontainebleau which James II sprinkled his chances for the succession by marrying the Catholic Mary of Montefiascone were name but two. But of course Rome was the ultimate prize, and a pow— and the Third Reich, including the remains of the Berlin wall, the Palace of the Republic, an exhibition about life in communist Berlin and even a nuclear air raid shelter from the days of the Cold War. We had moving experiences when we visited the remains of the Gestapo Headquarters, the Jewish Museum and the new Holocaust Memorial. Other activities included various exhibitions, the Eastside Gallery, trips to the cinema and to the Zoo, as well as picnics and parties.

On our first day we toured the New Centre of Berlin, an area that has been completely redeveloped since 1990 with the famous Potsdamer Platz in the centre. We also took in many symbols of commu— the famous Potsdamer Platz in the centre. We also took in many symbols of commu—

EXCHANGE BERLIN

THE BERLIN EXCHANGE 2006/07 was a great success and everyone involved has benefited from this fantastic opportunity writes Mr Hennig.

The Berlin Exchange 2006/07 was a great success and everyone involved has benefited from this fantastic opportunity writes Mr. Hennig.

On our first day we toured the New Centre of Berlin, an area that has been completely redeveloped since 1990 with the famous Potsdamer Platz in the centre. We also took in many symbols of communism and the Third Reich, including the remains of the Berlin wall, the Palace of the Republic, an exhibition about life in communist Berlin and even a nuclear air raid shelter from the days of the Cold War. We had moving experiences when we visited the remains of the Gestapo Headquarters, the Jewish Museum and the new Holocaust Memorial. Other activities included various exhibitions, the Eastside Gallery, trips to the cinema and to the Zoo, as well as a flight on a hot-air-balloon.

Westminster pupils spent the weekends and evenings with their exchange partners where activities included out trips to the suburbs of Berlin, trips to the opera and the theatre as well as picnics and parties. The pupils were praised by their hosts and were true ambassadors for Westminster School.
TRAVEL

CLASSICS TRIP 2007
CHIOS
Compiled by Alasdair Maher (CC) from the combined contributions of all the class.

A fter a long and tiring term everyone in the Combined Classics set was avidly looking forward to a week’s break on the remote island of Chios. From beautiful beaches to copious amounts of food, everyone’s needs seemed to be met. The trip provided a well-needed break for our gruelling study, with a relaxing combination of football, sightseeing and limitless food.

Unfortunately, this came at a price as we had to learn Latin and Greek relentlessly through the mornings and evenings. Every morning at an ungodly hour we would be assaulted by gerunds and vocabulary from Ms. Radice and Dr. Katz until lunchtime when, our heads fit to burst, we would be allowed a short respite, taking trips to the local restaurants and beaches.

One of the defining features of Chios is, apparently, its fine array of rocky beaches. Of course, we rarely ventured out into the freezing waters except to retrieve errant footballs, although Konrad and Jeremy frequently ignored all common sense and dived straight in. Khushaal certainly paid the price of going in barefoot, but he bore the pain of the sea urchins’ spikes with good grace, even in the face of Dr. Katz’s penknife ‘surgery’.

We went to see, amongst other things, the hauntingly deserted town where three hundred women and children committed suicide rather than face the approaching enemy. We also visited a fascinating, women-only monastery where there was only one old nun left. There were frequent visits to vineyards and orange groves, where we sampled the culinary delights presented to us, the best of all by a local resident and Westminster parent, Mrs Koula Mangos and her delightful daughter, Alexandra. From vine leaves and goat, artichokes to fish eyes – a delicacy only Hugh was willing to brave for ‘man-points’ – we ate plenty during our stay on Chios. Khushaal, taking a shine to this way of life, ate more than everyone else, a feat we previously thought impossible.

By the end of the trip, we had only just learnt to pace ourselves during the course of a meal – it sometimes felt as if we’d already eaten the equivalent of our body-weight by the time the main course arrived. While we were all reluctant to leave this behind, no doubt our sporting careers at Westminster were salvaged by the brevity of our stay.

One of the defining moments of the entire trip was our gruelling football match against the Chios 6-a-side ‘A team’, a match we had been fervently training for whenever possible. Our Homeric football reporter describes the battle that ensued.

‘Five minutes in, 2–0 down and the opposition striker rampant, was it going to be like all those other Westminster matches we played? For a moment even the supporters fell silent, shocked. Up against the cream of the Chios junior team, there was suddenly a game to save. And if the floodlights broke? Well then, we’d fight them in the shade.

As the clock ticked on, we did what we were trained to do, what we were bred to do, what we were born to do! From the sidelines our supporters cheered, ‘Give them nothing! But take from them everything!’ Like Persian arrows, goals rained down upon the Greeks. Even the gods envied us. Though there were moments of individual brilliance, a shot like an Olympic thunderbolt, it was the effort of the team that led us to victory. Just as in the phalanx where every man depends on the man to the right of them, so we supported one another right to the final whistle. Euro 2004 winners? We put their reputation to the test. Final score: 9–6 to Westminster.’
JOHN HOUSE ART HISTORY PRIZE ESSAY
AN IN-DEPTH STUDY OF THE DESIGNS OF ISABEL RAWSTHORNE FOR THE 1951 ROYAL BALLET PRODUCTION OF TIRESIAS

Jointly awarded to Rebecca Winter (Greycoats School) and Max Barton (BB). Below is an extract of Rebecca Winter’s essay.

During the latter years of the 19th century there had been an explosion in the interest of dance and all its forms; folk, vernacular and theatrical, and it became an essential theme for artists, whether symbolist and decorative or abstract and primitive. British artists Ben Nicholson and Percy Wyndham Lewis sculpted and painted dance in a new and abstract way, following the themes of poets and artists such as W. B. Yeats and Marianne. Isabel Rawsthorne’s design for Tiresias, the ballet based on Ovid’s Greek myth taken from his book, Metamorphoses, was a new and controversial angle on the theme.

Her designs expressed not just the setting of the ballet but the mythology behind it. The most apparent characteristic of the polytheistic Minoan religion was that it was a matriarchal society. This, it could be argued, was influential as it alludes to the conclusion of the myth in favour of the female. The art of the Minoans portrays a society connected to their environment, and in admiration of the order of the natural world. Snakes were of great cultural significance in the religion of the Minoans as they symbolised eternal life and immortality, whilst also being key to the synopsis. In essence the use of animals to expose primitive human activities allowed Rawsthorne to explore more than simply the myth behind the ballet but also the contemporary iconographical connotations of sex, gender and creativity.

Minosan sacred symbols which included the bull and its horns of consecration. Not only does this imagery place the ballet within the primitive context of the Minoan people, who saw the bull as a sacred and divine creature, it also enhances the sexual nature of the production. The hermaphroditic content of the ballet, which saw Tiresias being transformed from male to female, caused outrage when it was first performed on 9th July 1951. The primitive was a strong preoccupation in 20th century art with the symbol of the bull or Minotaur used by many artists, such as Picasso and Eric Gill, as the archetypal notion equating to sex as a metaphor for the creative act.

Epstein’s Dores and Henri Gaudier-Brezka’s Bird Snawling Fish also portray this. ‘A primitive’ tendency was already become a distinguishing feature of the modern. 1 This is also seen with the power of dance, also associated with a creative force. In essence the use of animals to explore primitive human activities allowed Rawsthorne to explore more than simply the myth behind the ballet but also the contemporary iconographical connotations of sex, gender and creativity.

1. Higgins, Beyond: Minos and Minoan Art
2. Percy Gill, Prepositions, Culture, Abstraction: The Early Twentieth Century

PHILLIMORE PRIZE ESSAY
HOW POPE SATIRISES HIS SOCIETY, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO PUBLISHING/LITERARY PRACTICES IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY, IN THE EPISTLE TO DR ARBUTHNOT

The Phillimore Prize Essay for English Literature was won this year by James Read (LL) for his essay on Alexander Pope. An extract is published below.

The Epistle to Dr Arbuthnot is considered one of Pope’s satirical masterpieces. It is of particular significance in bringing together so many of Pope’s critical concerns: the attack on Grub Street, the nature and function of satire and Pope’s defence of nearly almost every aspect of his career. The poem successfully satirises prominent individuals present during his life, illustrating their numerous follies. The poem also criticises three main sectors of 18th Century publishing: contemporary writers, publishers and certain literary critics and by doing so Pope illustrates that the literature of his day was often more about profit than quality. However, more importantly, he also manages to bring to public attention greater vices, such as greed and jealousy, through the farcical and satirical characters of: Sporus, Bufo and Atticus. These vices threatened not only the standards of 18th Century literature, but also the stability of the society as whole. Thus, while Pope’s poem is in many ways concerned with the degradation of literature that he was witnessing, it is also concerned with the potential ruin of the moral fabric of society. Somewhat ironically, it is through the example of himself that Pope illustrates how writers and, in general, society should act. By using this example, many have come to recognise Arbuthnot as Pope’s apologia for his life and work, further adding importance to the poem.

It was in this climate of aggressive verbal abuse that Pope decided to write ‘a sort of Bill of Complaint’ against those that sought to ‘attack in a very extraordi- nary manner... my Person, Morals and family’. 2 It is with some irony that this ‘Bill of Complaint’, what with its ‘taunting and shamming’ of key public figures was dedicated as an Epistle to Arbuthnot, for it was his letter to Pope, which, despite congratulating him as a dear friend and commending him for his “Disdain & Abhorrence of Vice”, pleaded with Pope to have some regard for his own personal safety; a direct warning of the dangers of satirising individuals by name. However, for Pope that direct satire had a legitimate shamming and ridiculing function, which a more general satire lacked. Pope wrote to Arbuthnot stating, “General Satire in Times of General Vice has no force, & is no Punishment... And in my low Station, with no other Power than this [direct satire], I hope to deter, if not reform”. 3 Similarly, Swift, another member of the Scriblerians Club believed the same, stating in his Battle of the Books “that in General Satire beholders are generally discover everyday’s face but their own”. Pope’s use of specific targets in the poem, such as Carll, are supposed to instruct and correct the general populace. Hence, the abusive satirist present in Arbuthnot is not really aimed at correcting those men, who are viewed as irredeemable. Instead, they are attacked in order to dissuade the public from associating with them.

1. Pope’s Advertisement, before the start of the poem
2. Pope to Arbuthnot, August 2, 1734

NIGHT BUS
PATRICK BEARDMORE (BB)

This is the Night Bus bringing the boarder back from the party, he’s quite out of order. Home via Sloane Square, a steady climb. His housemaster’s after him – he’s well past time. Yesterday’s newspaper gently flutters. As her diesel engine coughs and splutters, snorting noisily while she passes Emptying pubs and broken beer glasses.

Glasses of vodka, glasses of wine
He’s spent a fortune at five quid a time.
Glasses of Smirnoff, bottles of Becks
Lucky for him the barman took cheques.

In the flat she passes no-one wakes
But a jug in the bedroom gently shakes.

Dawn freshens, Big Ben berates him,
The whole of Westminster awaits him.
His mate Up School stares and stares
Now he’s late for Latin Prayers.
On the edge we walk forward, fearing our fate
Leaving behind our loves to this date
Together as one yet each separate
Crossing the border at midnight.

Try to be cheerful, to fight back the dread
Think of the freedom, the pleasures instead
That knowing we won’t meet again some fine day
Saying goodbyes no one wishes to say

A child’s cry of pain, a mother tears stream
In the darkness of night everyone wants to scream
All wishing that we could wake from this dream
Crossing the border at midnight.

Society is not a sad state
But a new life ahead
Think of the friends we will keep
Making new friends in the new life ahead

In February there was a first-rate conference on the Virgil A level book set (Anaul 10) at the Friends’ House, Eton Court, and all of our large Latin Remove (thirty pupils) attended and head lectures by Professors Richard Jenkyns, Stephen Harrison, Matthew Leigh and Stephen Oakley. It has also been an excellent year for Classical Society lectures in the school itself; the Society hosted several leading academics from British Universities. None came more eminent than the Regius Professor of Greek at Cambridge, Richard Hunter, whose advanced critical introduction to Epic drew a large audience. Warning his listeners that they were not reading Homer’s Iliad as an ancient Greek would have, he encouraged us to consider Homer’s presentation of anger, his words wings their way to us in an organic style.

The stage was then set for Dr. Richard Rutherford of Christ Church, Oxford, whose close textual analysis of Virgil proved the perfect foil to Prof. Hunter’s interpretative approach. Entitled ‘Empires: paters and Sons in Aeneid X’, Dr. Rutherford argued forcefully that the love between father and son can also be used as a weapon. On the field of battle, even ‘pious’ Aeneas feels no compunction in killing young men before their time.

Dr. Stephen Inston from UCL navigated the Society through three approaches to the gods in Homer’s Iliad. Whether decorative, influential or alien, such gods are intrinsic to the poem, he argued, and his reading of the much-debated scene where Athena prevents Achilles from killing Agamemnon in Book One was especially well-received.

Dr. Caroline Vous from Christ’s College, Cambridge, integrated literature and art in an lecture titled ‘The Image of the Roman Emperor’. Drawing on her reserves of amusing anecdotes and pictures of antiquity, it became clear to all that the Emperor was omnipresent in a Rome decorated everywhere by statues and paintings. Another highlight was Dr. Vous’s enthusiastic appraisal of Suetonius’ biography of the reclusive, mysteri- ous and dissembling Tiberius.

Reports on a lecture by Dr. Nick Denyer of Trinity College, Cambridge entitled ‘Why Be Just’ and an introduction to Eurasian language by Dr. John Penney of Wolfson College, Oxford will appear in the 2008 edi- tion of the maga- zine. This term our thoughts are moving also towards another Latin Play, which we hope to stage in the mid- dle of next year.

2006—2007
CLASSICAL SOCIETY REVIEW

This year we enjoyed particular good for- tune at the London Classical Association’s competition in Latin and Greek recitation, write JAI and JBK

On the whole, the competition in Latin and Greek recitation has been left to the hands of Classics students in special events of the Joint Classics and Classics and Languages Society. In year’s competition was held on a much more informal basis, and we felt we had done rather well overall.

The stage was then set for Dr. Richard Rutherford of Christ Church, Oxford, whose close textual analysis of Virgil proved the perfect foil to Prof. Hunter’s interpretative approach. Entitled ‘Empires: paters and Sons in Aeneid X’, Dr. Rutherford argued forcefully that the love between father and son can also be used as a weapon. On the field of battle, even ‘pious’ Aeneas feels no compunction in killing young men before their time.

Dr. Stephen Inston from UCL navigated the Society through three approaches to the gods in Homer’s Iliad. Whether decorative, influential or alien, such gods are intrinsic to the poem, he argued, and his reading of the much-debated scene where Athena prevents Achilles from killing Agamemnon in Book One was especially well-received.

Dr. Caroline Vous from Christ’s College, Cambridge, integrated literature and art in an lecture titled ‘The Image of the Roman Emperor’. Drawing on her reserves of amusing anecdotes and pictures of antiquity, it became clear to all that the Emperor was omnipresent in a Rome decorated everywhere by statues and paintings. Another highlight was Dr. Vous’s enthusiastic appraisal of Suetonius’ biography of the reclusive, mysteri- ous and dissembling Tiberius.

Reports on a lecture by Dr. Nick Denyer of Trinity College, Cambridge entitled ‘Why Be Just’ and an introduction to Eurasian language by Dr. John Penney of Wolfson College, Oxford will appear in the 2008 edi- tion of the maga- zine. This term our thoughts are moving also towards another Latin Play, which we hope to stage in the mid- dle of next year.

2006—2007

MIDNIGHT
NICHOLAS MORGAN (GG)

The year was opened with a lecture by Dr. Stephen Jenkinson on the significance of the Trojan War in modern interpreting Homer’s Iliad. Dr. Jenkinson argued forcefully that the love between father and son can also be used as a weapon. On the field of battle, even ‘pious’ Aeneas feels no compunction in killing young men before their time.

Dr. Stephen Inston from UCL navigated the Society through three approaches to the gods in Homer’s Iliad. Whether decorative, influential or alien, such gods are intrinsic to the poem, he argued, and his reading of the much-debated scene where Athena prevents Achilles from killing Agamemnon in Book One was especially well-received.

Dr. Caroline Vous from Christ’s College, Cambridge, integrated literature and art in an lecture titled ‘The Image of the Roman Emperor’. Drawing on her reserves of amusing anecdotes and pictures of antiquity, it became clear to all that the Emperor was omnipresent in a Rome decorated everywhere by statues and paintings. Another highlight was Dr. Vous’s enthusiastic appraisal of Suetonius’ biography of the reclusive, mysteri- ous and dissembling Tiberius.

Reports on a lecture by Dr. Nick Denyer of Trinity College, Cambridge entitled ‘Why Be Just’ and an introduction to Eurasian language by Dr. John Penney of Wolfson College, Oxford will appear in the 2008 edi- tion of the maga- zine. This term our thoughts are moving also towards another Latin Play, which we hope to stage in the mid- dle of next year.

2006—2007

MIDNIGHT
NICHOLAS MORGAN (GG)

The year was opened with a lecture by Dr. Stephen Jenkinson on the significance of the Trojan War in modern interpreting Homer’s Iliad. Dr. Jenkinson argued forcefully that the love between father and son can also be used as a weapon. On the field of battle, even ‘pious’ Aeneas feels no compunction in killing young men before their time.

Dr. Stephen Inston from UCL navigated the Society through three approaches to the gods in Homer’s Iliad. Whether decorative, influential or alien, such gods are intrinsic to the poem, he argued, and his reading of the much-debated scene where Athena prevents Achilles from killing Agamemnon in Book One was especially well-received.

Dr. Caroline Vous from Christ’s College, Cambridge, integrated literature and art in an lecture titled ‘The Image of the Roman Emperor’. Drawing on her reserves of amusing anecdotes and pictures of antiquity, it became clear to all that the Emperor was omnipresent in a Rome decorated everywhere by statues and paintings. Another highlight was Dr. Vous’s enthusiastic appraisal of Suetonius’ biography of the reclusive, mysteri- ous and dissembling Tiberius.

Reports on a lecture by Dr. Nick Denyer of Trinity College, Cambridge entitled ‘Why Be Just’ and an introduction to Eurasian language by Dr. John Penney of Wolfson College, Oxford will appear in the 2008 edi- edition of the maga- zine. This term our thoughts are moving also towards another Latin Play, which we hope to stage in the middle of next year.
This lecture was given by the world-famous discoverer Professor Jocelyn Bell-Burnell, an architect's engineer. This discovery bodes well for the discovery of life outside our solar system. Those who attended were treated to a detailed timeline of the intriguing life-cycle of a star, and how it is that these pulsars are formed. Finally, listeners heard a recording of what a pulsar sounds like. The general opinion was one of great satisfaction that we had heard a truly world-renowned scientist speak at the Hooke Lecture Series this year.

Students were also given the opportunity to attend a talk on the construction of churches and cathedrals. This talk was delivered by the University of Cambridge's Emeritus Professor Jacques Heyman, who is the foremost authority on the engineering of Gothic architecture. He went on from simple semicircular arches to vaults, fan vaults and domes, and by repeated application of the same idea showed why the cracks and the pendants of that roof are constructed from single stones in a rather simple arch. I particularly liked the very simple idea which has wide application to many problems that seemed to occur and have no solution.

The main application for this data at the moment is mapping flat buildings to ensure they can be repaired if damaged, and also the mapping of ruins, such as the statue of Rameses II in Cairo, prior to its transportation out of the city. In addition, these images can also offer aid in the film/television industry, for helping create wire frame models which can be animated. The BBC's programme Rome was one of the contracts for this company.

The lecture was a fine example of a simple idea elaborated to explain apparently very complex structures, and it was highly appreciated by a large and enthusiastic audience. An audience which, moreover, will now be able to walk with confidence under all the visible roof cracks in English Cathedrals.
A DECADE OF ART HISTORY

It is 10 years since the History of Art Department was founded as an autonomous department, recalls Steve Conyers (BB).

Now firmly established in a lavish suite of rooms on the ground floor of the Weston Building with excellent facilities, the permanence of this subject at Westminster cannot be doubted as its yearly awards from the Good Schools Guide reveal.

Until 1997, when Dr Cockburn was asked to become Head of Department, History of Art was organised by the Art Department, and was frequently a student’s fourth A-level, the extra subject. Perhaps that was why it was so hard to force my parents to take me seriously for a reading of a work of art. Even my highly practical mother did not realise that Art History is the only subject that girls who live round Sloane Square study arts for. It is analytical, detailed, and structured, requiring the study of the social, political and philosophical causes of art works. It is fascinating, and the department pushes you hard, and research essays really do mean research. The main essay of the two years is a tricky one, an extended piece of work on pretty much anything you want to do with art history, and you are free to choose anything and are carefully guided. Those people who do sciences as well chose to do it on Leonardo’s drawings of the heart, or Brunelleschi’s use of mathematical perspective, and those who hope to be lawyers do theirs on copyright in painting. We were sent out to libraries, galleries and artists themselves, and I know that mine was the best piece of work I have ever done, and when the time came to give it in, no one wanted to bid it goodbye.

What the department has also managed to do over the past ten years is build up many contacts in the art world. Professor John House (OWW) of the Courtauld annually awards prizes, and the department has regular visits from art world greats and hosts an annual exhibition in the form of the History of Art Society. The Tapälaka Memoir has provided outreach experience as have the ICA and Christie’s. The Department has come a long way since its days of teaching in the dingy base- ment of the Hooke Science Building, and the autonomy granted in 1997 has been a huge asset for the school. It is hard to see how this department could get much better, but I have no doubt that it will.

Two years later, I am working hard to make my offer to study Art History at Oxford, and have just got a job at Christie’s for twelve weeks in the summer, again this was made possible by the department’s outreach scheme which helps you to find work experience. Something happened over those two years, and I can only say that it was the History of Art Department. I have a lot to thank them for. It’s quite a family down here – Dr Cockburn and Dr Jacobs are the permanent teachers, but there is also the amazing range of people they invite in from every region of the art world to get involved: from class MA and PhD students like Alistair Ford for whom the department runs an unprecedented scheme of teacher training, to inspirational eccentric teachers in three piece green corduroy suits like Nick Ross from Art History Abroad. They fostered in me such a passion for the subject, such a desire to learn, that I gobbled up the pages of the set reading. Classes at school felt more like university lectures; not surprisingly as the department’s teachers also lecture at London University and we cover the material to the depth of many undergraduates; more importantly it’s fun and the results show it. Even since the department was founded, the A-level results have been rising year after year. In 1997 it was rare to get an A grade and now almost everyone does. Every year too, some Westminster students come in the top five in the country. I put a lot of the success to the amazing trips to Paris, New York and Florence: week-long culture-fests in the greatest cities in the world. The galleries are amazing; the hotels are sometimes luxurious like the Palazzo in Florence, sometimes simple like the seventeenth century youth hostel in Paris right by the Seine and the food is to die for! But it’s not all fun – the department pushes you hard, and research essays really do mean research. The main essay of the two years is a tricky one, an extended piece of work on pretty much anything you want to do with art history, and you are free to choose anything and are carefully guided. Those people who do sciences as well chose to do it on Leonardo’s drawings of the heart, or Brunelleschi’s use of mathematical perspective, and those who hope to be lawyers do theirs on copyright in painting. We were sent out to libraries, galleries and artists themselves, and I know that mine was the best piece of work I have ever done, and when the time came to give it in, no one wanted to bid it goodbye.

The History of Art Department was founded as an autonomous department, recalls Steve Conyers (BB).
DEBATING

It’s a good life in the Westminster debating society: see the world, meet exotic people, and defend the School’s honour; asserts Dara Barkhordar (RR), Captain of Debating.

The year has had its ups and downs, but unusual Westminster teams have, as ever, been representing the School at competitions up and down the nation, with the impressive results speaking for the aptitude and determination of those involved and confirming Westminster’s place as one of the country’s leading debating schools.

The year kicked off in style with the House Competition, which was as hotly contested as ever and saw strong performances from every house, as well as from the Swing Team and its regular members Chris Sykes and Peter Brescia to whom a debt of gratitude is owed for their dedication, making the competition possible under occasionally difficult circumstances. After three preliminary rounds, College, Wren’s, Rigaud’s and Milehe progressed to the grand final, in which the teams debated the motion “This House Would Ban Internet Gambling”. Delivering a particularly impressive performance, the Wren’s team of Usman Ahmedani and Emeric Montfront took the trophy.

The competitive debating season began with a battalion of four Westminster teams (Anna Croall & Sam Littlejohns, Usman Ahmedani & Dara Barkhordar, Peter Brescia & Chris Sykes and Khashal Ved & Vyeynam Almond) travelling to Bristol in January to attend the annual schools’ competition. Though every team performed solidly, a combination of bad luck and unfortunate coincidence, the half term holidays of our main rival). Opposing the motion “This House Would Make Voting Compulsory” in the final, the team only narrowly missed being declared regional champions.

Nevertheless, with both debates having been invited to try for the England team earlier in the year and with this year’s Mace competition providing a valuable source of experience, things can only get better next year.

At around the same time, Sam and Dara broke to finals day in the Oxford Union competition, placing highly on the tab both as a team and on individual speaker points, despite the impediment of a debate in which the team was asked to perform the difficult task of justifying the use of murder as a defence for sufferers of domestic violence. Elsewhere, Sam and Dara reached the London final of the Schools Mace competition after progressing through two local elimination rounds, the second of which the School had the pleasure of hosting (during, by unfortunate coincidence, the half term holidays of our main rival). Opposing the motion “This House Would Make Voting Compulsory” in the final, the team only narrowly missed being declared regional champions.

Debaters, who knows what we’ll turn up? As ever, all enjoyed themselves immensely and performed well, with Sam Littlejohns in particular outing himself (placed 10th individually), and Chris Sykes and Alexander Gutterman also deserving high praise for their achievement in reaching the competition’s novice final. Now the debating year ends the same way it began, with a House Competition. The Juniors’ Competition, though still in its infancy, is providing younger members of the School with the opportunity to experience the exciting world of Westminster debating first-hand, as well as an environment in which young talent is able to flourish. With the ability present in the Lower School already made evident by the junior teams’ performance in the International Competition for Young Debaters, who knows what we’ll turn up?

All that remains is to thank the huge number of people throughout the School who have been involved with debating this year, not all of whom it has been possible to mention in this necessarily synoptic account – you’ve made this year the blast it’s been. Special thanks, however, do go out to our coaches Mr. Allbutt, Mr. Crole, Mrs. Cave-Bigley and Miss Radice, without whom we’d have nothing to write home about.

BIOLGY SOCIETY

ALMOST NO PSYCHOPATHS HERE

The Westminster Biology Society is a fortnightly gathering of upper school biologists, reveals Cato Sandford (HF).

It was formed to give students the opportunity to share their personal interests in biology, and so introduce and be introduced to new concepts, gain a deeper understanding and sometimes even discover entirely new fields. A great advantage of this arrangement is that the level of complexity is well suited to an audience with a similar basic knowledge of the subject. I think we’d all agree that this has been another gratifyingly successful term.

Every other Friday, a meeting is held in the Lecture Room (opposite the Library). Two short lectures are given by students on any biology-related subject they can think of. These are invariably excellently researched and delivered with impact; they make for insightful and thought-provoking listening. Zoe Rutter-Locher has done a marvellous job of organising these talks, of which some notable examples include “But I’m Not Sick – A Curious Syndrome Called Anosognosia” by Cato Sandford, “Progress in Developing an HIV Vaccine” by Eleanor Turner-Moss, “Why Passive Smoking’s Not So Bad”, Dominic Allen, and “Metamorphosis in Caterpillars” by Josie Parker.

A mention must also go to Add Jackson, who tested the Society’s members for clinical psychopathy. The number of positives was comfortably low. But not zero.

We’ve also had the pleasure of hosting two guest speakers: in October, Professor Gudrun Moore of UCL came to talk about a career in genetics. She gave a harrowingly frank appraisal of how science works in the real world, and how to weather the competition for funding. It certainly gave the fresh-faced idealists in the room something to ponder. Thankfully, she ended on her current projects on imprinting in the placenta: a comfortably scientific topic. Then early in November Jenny Fost, one of Professor Moore’s PhD students, gave a presentation on stem cell research and the quagmire of associated bioethics issues. Many thanks to Josie Parker for arranging these two visits.

The meetings are regularly attended by both students and teachers, who enrich the talks with thoughtful and incisive questions. Often, the structure of the school timetable comes close to violation, as the discussion seems set to continue indefinitely…

Though it is still a new institution, the Society has become a keenly anticipated fixture in a biologist’s timetable. Encouraging people to speak is easy – everyone wants a go, as well as people who’ve already spoken. There have also been rumours of a Society-organised outing, details are vague, but it’ll doubtless be an exciting occasion. In any case, we’re looking forward to another term of quality lectures from students and hopefully some outside speakers as well.
POLITICAL SOCIETY
The Lent Term of 2007 saw the birth of the Political Society, announces Emeric Monfront (WW).

Westminster School did in fact have a very active Political and Literary Society during the 1930s, whose members included Tony Benn and Peter Ustinov. It has since, unfortunately, died away. Aiming to fill this vacuum, the new Political Society’s main objective is to provide an informal arena for politically- or socially-engaged students who wish to develop their ideas on how the world is, or should, be run. It takes place over lunch on Mondays in the Camden Room. Discussions have so far ranged from the merits and drawbacks of democracy to the nature of a police state and the legitimacy of a nuclear deterrent.

By choosing to debate the fate of the House of Lords, the Society also pre-empted Parliamentary business. However, the result of a vote cast at the end of the session carried a different outcome than that which later took place in the Commons, with a majority of students favouring an appointed, rather than elected, upper house. The society’s lunches have been lively affairs, seldom leading to general consensus, but always allowing very different opinions to be both passionately argued and vigorously challenged.

It is to be hoped that this new-founded political society will go on to become a thriving component of Westminster’s intellectual life.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE
Social Suicide — a blow-by-blow account of the Westminster School General Knowledge team’s season 05/06, confessed by Harry McNeill Adams (CC).

It’s probably inevitable that a Westminster School pupil will, over his/her career pick up a fair amount of completely useless knowledge. Luckily, for those on the dizzy heights of the intellectual Everest, there is a way to put these to some sort of use. It’s called the Schools Challenge, and is a way for lots of nerdy types like myself to see who knows the largest amount of mostly pointless facts.

There are four people per team, two seniors and two juniors, and the simple aim is to see who can get the most questions right. Luckily, this year that team, made up of Giles Robertson, Alex Cardona, Jeremy Holt and Harry McNeill Adams, was us. It started on a cold winter evening against St. Paul’s and ended on a warm summer afternoon against Solihull Grammar School, Westminster’s most successful sporting institution carrying off the Schools Challenge Trophy for the second year in a row.

It hadn’t been easy all the way through the competition. We had yet again almost been stopped in the semi-finals by RGS Chelmsford, but had won through thanks to an inspired team performance to sneak a sixty point win. So, on to the final. It was an anxious beginning, but our nerves soon evaporated as we raced into an early lead, which we never gave up, and thanks to a stunning last five minutes from Alex Cardona especially, we won by 150 points and were crowned national champions.

But what was the price of the win? Well, I became very well acquainted with Guildford station, a place I’d prefer to forget in a hurry. I had to give up my fifth form outing. Most of all, joining the general knowledge team doesn’t exactly send you zooming up the social ladder, thanks to people’s completely unjustified prejudices.

But was it worth it? Of course it was. I can say with pride that I’m a national champion, not something that many Westminsters can boast. I know I’m not like one of those mathletes in “Mean Girls”, but I do feel the same kind of camaraderie with my team. And although you don’t tend to meet any Lindsay Lohans, who needs to? You have general knowledge instead. So until next year, when the next lower shell is “delegated” responsibility for the writing of this article, it’s goodnight from me, and goodnight from the Westminster School General Knowledge Team. Goodnight.
The stress of changing those unalterable study plans that you have so carefully constructed and changing out of uniform to go to the theatre is just too much effort. But for some reason the night of Danton’s Death was different – I either did not have my excuses prepared well enough or maybe it was just fate. One way or the other, I went, sat in my seat.

When the dramatic world hears the words “Danton’s Death” the immediate reaction appears to be “gadzooks, it’s unstageable!” and they have a point. The play is, after all, methodical lawyer, Robespierre, played perfectly by Michael Theodosiou.

This is a play about oratory, about the age of reason gone wrong and about the fickle nature of the mob. What was amazing about this production however, was that the audience themselves became the mob, swayed by the last great speech. Coming back after the interval, we were able to see the audience themselves become the mob, screaming characters, who played the mob, that made up the baseline of the production. Too many to mention, they played an array of archetypes, whores, jurors and executioners, slipping with perfect ease between the roles.

Much praise must go to Oliver Hamilton, whose speech on the night of his execution moved some of the audience to tears – a rare sight in a Westminster production.

However the last word must go to Max Hoehn, the director. Not only was he responsible for a complete redrafting of Büchner’s play but he also turned the Lecture Room, with bare staging, into every backdrop he needed, and for turning what could appear to be a historical source into a rollicking piece of theatre. The play’s epic construction was not practically devised for a single architectural setting, as were Shakespeare’s plays. Büchner was writing for a theatre of the mind, in which scenes could shift instantly. That is not to put down the merits of the array of dancing counterparts.

DANTON’S DEATH

“This is a play about oratory, about the age of reason gone wrong and about the fickle nature of the mob. What was amazing about this production however, was that the audience themselves became the mob, swayed by the last great speech.”

SIXTH FORM CABARET

HARRY’S HARBOUR BAZAAR

As someone whose musical tastes are firmly rooted in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries but nevertheless with a taste for an occasional bit of Cole Porter and the like, I wasn’t quite sure what to expect when I went, bravely all by myself, to the sixth form cabaret in June, writes a toe-tapping GMF.

B ut with a rare free evening and five wine and entertainment over the road, it seemed at least worth trying the water. I enjoyed it so much I came back the next night with two family members in tow.

Devised by Chris Barton, with the words and music of Tom Waits, and texts by Sam Shepard and John Dos Passos, this was ninety minutes of sheer quality entertainment from the moment I was shown to my seat and served by the delightful MG. Edmund Digby-Jones (whom I barely recognised as the slightly self-effacing fifth former of a few years ago) through to the uplifting and extended whole-act finale. Everything was just right, from late waitresses complaining about late babysitters (Natasha Lloyd-Owen) to the superb band (Hugh Logan Ellis, Michael Theodosiou and a plurality of Barton’s). There was earthy singing from Soumya Keynes, Miranda Foster, Krystyna Kosciusko and Max Barton; a wonderful piece about Mr Snip Snip Snip the barber convincingly sung by Ted Marcus and danced by members of the company which reminded me of Happy Days and The Font and couldn’t help but raise a big smile from all around; the highlight for me was Matilda Hay tapping into Michael Theodosiou’s Talkbox Jive. I also loved Peter Chequer’s carefully energetic choreography and the evident fun that the cast had in executing it, especially in Fly Away Home, the irresistible Alicia Koeng’s telephone monologue to her new lover; Sophie Cluck’s world-war-y bar-room customer and everybody’s completely convincing (well, they were to me) American accents. Oliver Hamilton could make a new career as a cocktail harman and he was ably assisted by Cecily Taube and Lottie Kirk making their roles every bit as essential as their musical and dancing counterparts.

My 14 year old companion of the second night was a girl whose headmistress has banned even the mildest of expressions from any school production; she found it a refreshing revelation that perhaps all schools weren’t quite like hers. I found it a glorious end to term, deeply refreshing in the way that all good music should be – indeed I find myself still humming bits of it eight months later.
THE SIX PLAYS: A CRITIC’S OPINIONS

The Man from the South

The Man from the South was opened by Alan Ayckbourn. Not only did it brew the crowds into fits of giggles, but the directors did justice to the playwright’s satire and sensitive portrayal of the complex inter-character relationships. Despite fluctuations in the dynamic between actors, the cast’s immaculate comic timing still made it a stunning show. Ben Stevenson’s endearingly jittery John and Connie Mackworth-Young’s sparklingly agitating Marge shone as the outstanding performances of the night.

Next in the drama festival came two short plays by Roald Dahl. The first, The Man from the South, portrayed the tragicomedy madness of Sam Buchdahl against the abject terror of the two main protagonists, in a bizarre competition over a cigarette lighter, with a brutal consequence involving a meat cleaver and a thumb. The actors displayed strong command of accent, and created effective dramatic tension. A hard act to follow indeed. “Mr. Botibol” did this admirably, showing comprehensive biography of a lonely, failure of a man, played by Max Owens, who escapes from the world through a strange fantasy of conducting an orchestra. The actors deserve every credit for their superb interpretation of a man who falls apart, helped by some superbly overdone silent piano playing, an enthusiastic record shop owner (Elizabeth Donger) and a deadpan butler (Ian Clancy). Two fine examples of Roald Dahl’s more unusual works.

The fifth play in the upper school drama festival was The Kitchen. The play is based in the kitchen of a popular restaurant, the owner of which is the most popular of people, at least among the workers. For the owner, the kitchen comes first. Everything else can wait! The numerous chefs are trying to welcome a new cook into the kitchen and they show him what it’s like to be a part of their kitchen. The play begins with a discussion of an earlier incident which resulted in one of the cooks being given a black eye. Chefs and waitresses lightened the mood in the kitchen with humorous dances and songs.

A piece directed and co-written by Ted Marcus, Old Girls is a reunion of a bunch of shallow, snobbish and self-interested friends who went to the same school. As the play unfolds, the girls begin to murder one another, and it becomes apparent that they have been assigned to kill each other by their old teacher, who tries to put a stop to them as the play concludes. The acting was excellent, and specifically Alex Gittleson chilled my blood as the malevolent duke, who falls from unsettling instability to outright insanity during the play as his mad schemes consume more and more lives. Sophie O’Maloney gave a very effective performance as the Duchess, hounded to maintain her widowhood by her two brothers – the Duke and the Cardinal (a scary Seth Pimlot). Joe Passmore is Daniel Bosola, forced to be a party to the schemes of the evil brothers, who tries to put a stop to them as the play concludes. The ending was masterfully act and organised to maximise emotional impact, and the climactic ending was a great moment on which to end the Festival.

The sixth play in the upper school drama festival was The Duchess of Malfi directed by Edmund Digby-Jones made up the seventh and final play in the drama festival, and was the longest single piece. The production of The Duchess of Malfi gave a wonderfully hysterical performance all round. Jo Starte gave a wonderfully hysterical speech, while James Gover played an excellent bumbling husband, seemingly unaware of the unfolding mayhem, until at the end he turns out to have been working for the (unnamed) school all along. An excellent piece, I especially enjoyed the moment when one of the ‘girls’ enchases over all the different public schools begging her son to join them – when asked about Westminster, she angrily shouts: “He didn’t get a place!” – Doctor Spurr seemed to enjoy that joke – I wonder why?

The production of The Duchess of Malfi directed by Edmund Digby-Jones made up the seventh and final play in the drama festival, and was the longest single piece.

The production of The Duchess of Malfi was masterfully acted and organised to maximise emotional impact, and the climactic ending was a great moment on which to end the Festival.
For their winter production, the Upper School’s dramatists performed a new work by Chris Barton, Cargo Blues, which dealt with celebrity, madness, and the passing of an era, writes Robert Ellard (HH).

A rockstar (Max Barton, brilliantly ambiguous) who faked his own death in order to escape the ruthlessly commercial world of the 1960s music industry is sought out by a record company representative (Pany Heliotis), the most serious of the bunch, and a camerawoman, Jo Starte, he attempts to tempt the musician back to save him from bankruptcy. With the assistance of a ridiculous, and industry is one of the most hilarious I probably will ever witness. The scripts themselves were from Grimm’s Fairy Tales, although the stick dance was a strong contender – the handkerchief dance was probably the funniest, seemed lifted out of the best of Monty Python tradition-and a scattering of sixth form. Sophie O’Mahoney made a hilarious witch in the drunk (Max Gill) throwing up on a member of staff being caked in ashes when crossing themselves, a crazy favourite (Clever Hans, my favourite of the sketches. The production was extremely well-oiled and moved from scene to scene with great grace and efficiency – the starting scene of a boarding school dormitory was wonderfully contemporary (appropriate music, juicy posters, etc.), and there was an abrupt transition into Shakespearean speech, pulled off with great professionalism). Costume had been selected in good taste – particularly effective was the gorilla suit worn by Petruchio (an excellent farce, but unfortunately possessing an Elizabethan sense of humour). A good starting point to describe the quality (in that oh-so-Lower School way) would be to point out that it actually had a proper programme – highly unusual for any Westminster production. Furthermore, whoever had put it together had actually made it funny – there was a section describing the cast members’ private lives in highly amusing ways; this, coming in addition to an unusually informative section describing the play’s plot and production history. The story itself was faithful to the glorious Shakespearean version – namely a rich merchant (Baptista, played by Aria Gupta) with two daughters – good looking Bianca (Louis Lunts) and sharp tongued Katharina (Theo Gordon) – the story revolving around their eventual marriages, and the ‘taming’ of Katharina to be an obedient wife by Petruchio (Vyyvan Almond), an adventur-er from Verona. The production was extremely well-oiled and moved from scene to scene with great grace and efficiency – the starting scene of a boarding school dormitory was wonderfully contemporary (appropriate music, juicy posters, etc.), and there was an abrupt transition into Shakespearean speech, pulled off with great professionalism. Costume had been selected in good taste – particularly effective was the gorilla suit worn by Petruchio to represent the canon’s ‘absurd outfit’. Direction clearly knew what it was doing here, and Vyyvan’s expression (half proud, half resigned) was priceless to see, and there were some other nice embellishments – characters particular-ly effective was the gorilla suit worn by Petruchio to represent the canon’s ‘absurd outfit’. Direction clearly knew what it was doing here, and Vyyvan’s expression (half proud, half resigned) was priceless to see, and there were some other nice embellishments – characters including an exploding computer) made this an exceptional performance to see – one which will be an inspiration for future generations of Westminster. I hope.

BUSBY’S HOUSE PLAY
THE BUSBERG FESTIVAL

One of the main problems facing the director(s) of a house play is that there is a semi-official obligation, coming from the housemaster, to include as many people as is possible, so as to make the performance a full house affair; writes an unstoppable Francis Gene-Rowe (DD). Although there tends to be a higher level of motivation from the actors, at the same time the cast has to be quite big. There are two ways of dealing with this: the Dryden’s approach is to have a small cast and sing everyone else along in some marginal helping role. The other approach is to involve everyone by putting on a series of sketches. I had always preferred the former (the fact that I’m in Dryden’s has nothing to do with it) until I saw the Busby’s house play. Described enthusiastically by a member of the audience as ‘the funniest thing since Studs on a Plane’, it certainly was one of the most amusing plays that I have seen in a very long time. Set as a festival in a middle German village, The Busberg Festival had prudently inserted sections of dancing between the sketches. The dances seemed lifted out of the best of Monty Python tradition-the handkerchief dance was probably the funniest, although the trick dance was a strong contender – the sight of fifth form dancing to continental country music is one of the most hilarious I probably will ever witness. The sketches themselves were from Grimm’s Fairy Tales, with lower school protagonists and a scattering of sixth form. Sophie O’Mahoney made a hilarious witch in Hansel and Gretel, but was better as a psychic and house mother in Clever Hans, my favourite of the sketch-es. Overall, The Busberg Festival was immensely enjoyable – to watch and very well put together by various directors – the band who played the music live also deserve a tribute. All in all, perhaps the best house play since I’ve come to Westminster.
The play was concerned the tale of the rich but miserly Harpagon who impedes the happiness of his children by preventing each of their marriages in different ways. His daughter Elise, wants to marry Valère, but Valère is a servant and Harpagon wants Elise to marry Seigneur Anselme. Meanwhile Cléante wants to marry Marianne, but Harpagon (who does not know his son’s intentions) has his eye on her. Harpagon’s children and their lovers are forced to conceal their desire and take part in schemes to fulfill their love which lead to an eventual showdown and reconciliation at the end with the help of the rich and kindly Seigneur Anselme.

Harpagon was portrayed by Sam Buchdahl, startlingly transformed into a decrepit old man, complete with blacked out teeth and greasy hair. His long-suffering children were Elise (Susie Taffler) and Cléante, portrayed with hilariously camp flourishes by Charles Walker Arnott. Other main characters were the gentleman posing as Harpagon’s servant, Valère (Alex Cardona) and the object of Harpagon’s servant, Valère (Alex Cardona) and the object of Harpagon’s desire, Marianne (Charlotte Seymour). The supporting roles were Maitre Jacques (excellently performed by Daniel Grant Smith), who claims to receive visitations from King Solomon. Ultimately, Maitre Jacques persuades the others to maintain their façade of madness in order to conceal his discoveries (which are of enormous import) from humanity. However, they are discovered by the genuinely insane owner of the institution Doktor Mathilde von Zahnd (Josephine Starte), who turns out to have stolen the discoveries over the years the three have been committed to the institution – the play ends with the three physicists contemplating their loss, and the imprudence of their situation.

Director Ted Marcus clearly sustained an extremely high standard throughout the performance, and also credit must be given to the technical operators, crammed in the corner as they were. The venue for this performance (the Lecture Room) continued the trend of creative use of space in production this term – a terrace outside the window was used as an effective back-stage area during the performance. All the drama was very professional and high quality. The play, which was put on in the gym, was indeed ambitious. An example of French Absurdist theatre, it also had the peculiarity of having not scene changes, but audience movements. The lighting (overseen by Charles Howell) was sympathetic and atmospheric, and achieved solely through the use of bar heaters and the gym’s ordinary lights. The whole was supported by an enthusiastic company stage area during the performance. All the drama was indeed ambitious. An example of French Absurdist theatre, it also had the peculiarity of having not scene changes, but audience movements. The lighting (overseen by Charles Howell) was sympathetic and atmospheric, and achieved solely through the use of bar heaters and the gym’s ordinary lights. The whole was supported by an enthusiastic company...
Providing the opening concert of the Arts Festival in the Catalonian town of Castelldefels was not what we had expected during the Chamber Orchestra’s summer tour to Spain, reveals GSJH, who led the school musicians on tour.

Nonetheless, that was precisely what we found out we had done at the end of our second concert in the 11th century church of Santa Maria when the Mayor stood up and addressed the orchestra with a vote of thanks on behalf of the Festival!

Based at the comfortable Hotel Casa Marti in Comaruga, complete with pool and stunning views of the Mediterranean, the orchestra took to the road and performed a programme of music in three different venues: as well as Castelldefels, concerts were held in the picturesque town square in Cunit and in the sumptuous gardens of the fascinating Museu Deu in El Vendrell, the home town of the 20th century cello virtuoso and legend Pablo Casals. Audiences were excellent, large and appreciative for all three concerts and made up of local music lovers as well as supportive family and friends of the performers.

The programme consisted of Haydn’s Trauer Symphony no 44., Mozart’s Flute Concerto in G with soloist Alex Leese, Finzi’s Bagatelles with clarinet soloist Anthony Friend and a new composition by William Blake (MM), The Death of Dromornis. The concerts were conducted by Mr Hopkins with Dr Savaskan conducting the Blake. Alex Leese and Anthony Friend performed with great expressiveness and panache in their works while William Blake’s challenging yet compelling work held the audiences in breathless suspense.

Time off was spent relaxing at the hotel and on various excursions including a trip to Barcelona to see Parc Guell, and the incomparable Sagrada Familia amongst other things in this beautiful and fascinating city. A trip to the Aquapolis waterpark provided many laughs on one afternoon, and we even managed a trip to the beach at Sitges.

The Director of Music was grateful to those colleagues who accompanied the tour and provided much help and support, Dr Savaskan, Miss Hughes-Rees, Miss Rees, Mr Winney and Dr Boulton.

For the twenty first Sir Adrian Boult Memorial Concert, the school was immensely fortunate to welcome the Belcea String Quartet to perform a programme of Mozart and Bartok Up School. They have been resident at the Wigmore Hall and have an exclusive recording contract with EMI. In 2007 they are due to record the complete cycle of Bartok Quartets for them. For this reason it was particularly interesting to hear the First and Third Bartok Quartets as well as Mozart’s Quartet in D K 499.

K 499, nicknamed the “Hoffmeister” after the name of a friend and benefactor of Mozart, is an extremely beautiful work in terms of the composer experimenting with a new richness of texture and sonority. The Belcea played it with burnished tone, and the sheer beauty of sound was as expressive and compelling as the musical argument.

The Third Quartet was played next and formed a contrast in every way imaginable. Written in 1927 it is in many ways the most radically “modern” of all his quartets, also the shortest and most intense. The Belcea explored and articulated with fascinating clarity the double arch pattern of the work’s construction and held the audience spell-bound with strongly contrasted moods. It was clear how Bartok’s new manner of developing musical material quickly led the way for Schoenberg and Stravinsky to make similar experiments.

After the interval we heard the First Quartet of 1908/9, more expansive and enigmatic than the Third. Part of its mystery is tied up in the use of the so-called “Geyer motif” in the principal theme of the first movement. Stefi Geyer was the performer of Bartok’s first Violin Concerto and his first real love. The motif is first used in this concerto and was re-used throughout his career in other works, clearly with personal significance for the composer.

The Belcea performed with great animation, again articulating the structure but here in this earlier work knitting together older styles and sounds with folk elements and more modern developmental techniques.

Many in the audience spoke of how intense and gripping the playing was – surely this is the wonder of such abstract music in the hands of experts; truly the listener is transported for an hour or so to another place – another way of perceiving the world.
NEW MUSIC 2007

CONTEMPORARY MUSIC CONCERT

Contemporary music. Perhaps a difficult one. People have a tendency to be afraid of the complications that are inherent in string quartets played from helicopters, muses Robert Ellard (HH) who attended along with Timothee de Faramond (LL) and many others.

W
ill let them be thoroughly ashamed of themselves. The school’s contemporary music concert was, frankly, wonderful. As they do each year, the crowds braved the January chill and eagerly flocked en masse to School to get their annual fill of the latest sound and talent emerging on the London scene. This year the tone was less intellectually exuberant, with the performers focusing their energies on giving some of the heavyweight of the canon a serious and perhaps long overdue performance. They succeeded admirably. The evening, inevitably, belonged to Blake. His displays of virtuosity on a solo basis (Lutoslawski’s “Sacher Variation” and as part of the Senior Quartet (Bartók’s String Quartet No. 1, with Cyrus Lyons, Ben Van der Spat and Neil Amin Smith) formed two of the highlights of the first half. The intensity of the last movement of Bartók’s first quartet, the composer’s artistic arrival, was powerfully transmitted by the players who, for all the exactitude of their playing, also managed to create some of the roughness necessary to do justice to the Hungarian origins of the themes.

The highlights of the evening however were the UK premiere of William Blake’s Death of a Dromornis and the world premiere of Freddie James’ Atmospheres pour orgue. James’s sophisticated use of chord streaming techniques and his mastery of the instrument showed him to be one of the most promising young talents to emerge from Sinan Sarakan’s workshops in several years. Death of a Dromornis reflected Blake’s developing maturity as a composer and was a demonstration of his impressive understanding of orchestral composition: there was a clear sense that this promising young com-

poser was finding his own voice and developing his influences, amongst them Bartók, in innovative ways.

It is a wonderfully evocative work which the programme explained was autobiographical, and was titled in tribute to a Byelorussian film about dinosaurs. The first half not only started with a bang: it ended with one as well. Cyrus Lyons’ extraordinary rendition of Gavin Bryars’ “The Nether Shore” was probably the single best of the individual performances of the evening. Other first half highlights of the more conventional sort included Alexander Lesez and Valérie Tah’s rendition of the Elizabeth Luyten’s “Footfalls”, an atmospheric piece for flute and piano, which showed extreme technical poise, and Freddie James, whose two organ pieces (Jehan Alain’s Le Jardin Suspends, and his own composition Atmospheres pour Orgue) showed great skill. The most progressive pieces of the evening were performed by George Barton, whose “King of Denmark” by Morton Feldman for solo percussionist was a brilliant display of the technical control which Barton is so good at.

Alex Leece showcased some instrumental brilliance in his perfect performance of Reich’s Vermont Counterpoint in which he played the flute and piccolo, a true Minimalist masterpiece; his rich tone being well adapted to the thick harmonic textures created by the super-imposition of eleven flutes (ten of which were pre-recorded and relayed in through a quadrophonic sound system). and Alexander Lesez’s “Vermont Counterpoint” by Steve Reich. The School Orchestra’s contribution to the evening came in the last three pieces on the programme. Joshua Bonin also succeeded in injecting the folk essence much needed to bring to life Lutoslawski’s Dance Preludes.

The programme was strongly weighted towards earlier 20th century music which has been neglected in past years. Tom Kennedy’s ever-intimate style of expression gave a new delicacy to the early Barber songs he selected and Gunter Midelfort’s luminous trumpet tone accurately captured the frantic dying moments of Romanticism in his powerful rendering of Bloch’s Proclamation. Lastly, what might be termed a piece of fun, a tribute to the recently deceased Sir Malcolm Arnold (1921–2006), an arrangement of E.J. Ricketts’ “Colonel Bogey”, which we were told was a preview of a longer work to come. A wonderful evening of wonderful music. I eagerly await next year.

GERMAN LIEDERABEND

Wednesday 6th December saw the welcome return to Westminster School of the German Lieder concert, a tradition begun, encouraged and maintained by Richard Stokes, the former Head of the German department, writes Sam Buchdahl (AHH).

P
reviously, Westminster has been treated to a selection of Schubert Lieder, and then to the Cabaret songs of Bertish Brecht and Kurt Weill from the 1930s. This time, it was back to the 19th century, in the company of Beethoven (An die ferne Geliebte), and Schumann (Kerner-Lieder). Sung by Wolfgang Holzmair and with the piano accompaniment of Imogen Cooper, the evening was an enormous success – perhaps even better than last year. The final applause was certainly long enough to persuade the artists to favour their audience with an encore, and even Herr Hennig’s 6th Form German class enjoyed themselves – taking it upon themselves to give a (somewhat lonely) standing ovation as singer and pianist finally took their leave.
8 MARCH 2007
CHARITY ROCK CONCERT

It’s just after five; it’s still 2007. If it wasn’t for Chris French nervously tweaking a mixing desk and the sight of a few amplifiers and a drum kit scattered around the stage, you’d think that this was a Lieder recital, smoothly stage managed by John Blackwell (who ends our stuff under the Greaze Bar (of course nobody noticed)).

Some metronomic drumming gives ‘Your Demons’, followed by a brand new version of Head Automatica’s ‘At the Speed of A Yellow Bullet’ is ultimately the track which comes smoothing over the faces of the audience and is of course stolen by Charlie’s high octane vocal delivery. The show is quite as tight as the item of clothing referred to in the verse.

Despite a certain lack of support from students (Chris Sykes and I were the only ones there), notes an articulate Robert Ellard (HH), the School Jazz concert provided a marvellous evening’s entertainment. Hosted in the Manouedian Centre’s main hall, which had been “converted” into a facsimile of a jazz club for the evening, complete with tables and a bar, serving copious quantities of orange juice, it kicked off with the Big Band, who began the evening with three pieces including an excellent version of “Caravan” by Juan Tizol. They were followed by the Lower School jazz band, who displayed much promise, despite the sad diminishment of the trumpet section due to seasonal ailments.

After a short interlude for solo artists, including all the innumerable conveyed by the words “jazz Standard”, for which Rocky Barnford’s excellent version of “Smoke gets in your Eyes” deserves a special mention. This was followed by the Upper School’s Band, who despite the loss of their regular drummer and flautist to University interviews, provided an excellent set, including a new work, “Put It Where You Want It” by George Barton (in absolute contradiction to the notice by the excellent Alex Digby). All in all, a very excellent evening.

MADRIGALISTS

I have to confess to a natty habit I am a jazz nut, admits Robert Ellard (HH) who just can’t stop the music, or indeed writing about it.

There, it’s off my chest. To say that my last for the music I love was satiated by the Westminster Madrigalists would be to lie. A break with the repertoire hitherto performed, their Jazz concert was a rampant success, featuring everything from elegant multi-part harmonies to stunning solos, not to mention strong accompanying performances. The programme began with an unaccompanied choral version of Porter’s ‘Let’s do it’, which was handled superbly with a mix of humour and vivacity. This was the first of 7 such pieces, performed all with sensitivity, accuracy and unity, with sterling solos from Susan Hayes and Henry Keynes-Carpenter, conjuring up strong echoes of the Comedians Harmonium. Amongst these was a version of a personal favourite, “Smoke Gets in your Eyes”, which at one point had me genuinely worried that I was going to ruin the performer’s balance by beginning to weep. Disaster was averted, albeit narrowly, there were also several solo pieces, including two Tom Lehrer songs, performed by Felix Tusa and Henry Keynes-Carpenter with spirited baton, a number of pieces for voice and guitar, including a sublimine version of “A Nightingale Can Sing the Blues” (Soumaya Keynes, acc. James Wan), Miranda Townsend and Mikey Theodosiou’s version of Rilo Kile’s “Hands” (conjuring up echoes of the great Chet Atkins) and Gilly French’s strong version of Porter’s “So In Love” (acc. Jonathan Kite).

An early highlight was also a band-accompanied version of “Something Stupid”, sung by Felix Tusa and Miranda Townsend, which showcased the instrumental talents of the performers as well as some excellent singing. The programme ended with “Autumn Leaves”, an excellent end to an entertaining evening.

The Elizabethan 2007
WESTMINSTER MADRIGALISTS

The Westminster Madrigalists were initially set up as a small, primarily a cappella singing group to take full advantage of a particularly strong year of Remove singers, says Soumaya Keynes (GG).

On approaching several potential singers, some were confused as to what a madrigal was, but were told vaguely it was something to do with ‘ya-la-la-ing’. Research would have revealed that madrigals are 16th century secular songs interweaving close harmony with thinly-veiled innuendoes. At the first rehearsal in the Music Room, the choir sight-read through the ‘Oxford Book of Madrigal’. Max French conducted and held the choir together with expert musical direction while everything was learned, as the choir sang standing around the grand piano. The sound was wonderfully balanced and in tune, and concert planning began immediately.

The high standard of sight-reading, and the rate at which the choir worked through music, contributed to a decision to branch out from pure madrigals to Palestrina, Tudor anthems, and even Vaughan Williams’s Fantasia on Christmas Carols. A concert was finally arranged on the 1st of December around ancient practice, Oxbridge interviews and far too many other extra-curricular activities. After a lengthy and successful poster campaign, latecomers ended up standing at the back of the packed Manoukian. Simon Nathan’s counter-tenor solo in Gibbons’ ‘This is the Record of John’ soared through the hall, as did Felix Tusa’s baritone solo in the Fantasia, ably accompanied by Dr Katz. Mr. Arthur also kindly stepped in at the last minute to help with the high tenor line. In total £237 was raised in a collection for Katy Tansey, the wonderful singing teacher removal singers.

The Westminster Madrigalists has certainly been draining for everyone has put in to it, and it has resulted in a fantastic ensemble.

SCHOOL CONCERT

A welcome innovation to this year’s school concert in November at St John’s, Smith Square was offered by the School Sinfonietta, under the baton of Aidan Sproat, writes David Hargreaves.

Kashchurkina’s Sabre Dance was a happy choice to open events, rhythmical and optimistic, followed by the more testing Pizzicato Polka of Strauss father and son. But it was during Les Patineurs by Waldteufel that I felt this youthful orchestra start to excel, demonstrating a real sense of dance as it might be played at a Ball. The arrangements were intelligent, the players confident and purposeful. By any yardstick, the Sinfonietta marks a happy step forward for Westminster’s musicians.

The climax of the first half of the concert, however, was Brahms’s Violin Concerto in D with Neil Amin-Smith as the soloist. He had been advised originally against attempting it – it’s both challengingly long and fearfully temperamental – but his determination had melted the hearts of the Music Department. Listening, one sensed something of the enormous journey he had made: his playing was characterised by its lyricism, delicacy and finesse. Perhaps there were moments when it lacked a fraction of the power one knows he will bring to it within short years, but the final result was both personal and outstanding.

The orchestra clearly relished their part, demonstrably interested by the music, maintaining coherence during the long First Movement and the Adagio, achieving the flavour of Romany in the Third. Brahms, just like Beethoven, demands clarity and articulation, and they achieved both while eschewing any instinct to rush. Jonathan Tham was superb on the night – his tone both poignant and poised. Adrien Roux on the horn, Joshua Borin on the clarinet and Alex Leese on flute all gave memorable moments, as did George Barton masterminding the timpani with unbelievable accuracy.

Despite whispers beforehand from some of the orchestra that they were only moderately enjoying playing Vaughan Williams’ London Symphony, come the night they rose magnificently to the challenge of performance, with some memorable playing from Adrien Roux and Cyrus Lyons. Under Imogen Teilburg’s deft leadership, the Third Movement in particular was a soaring, triumphant, experience.

One curiosity of the evening came in the shape of a recollection from the wife of the late Dr John Rac, Head Master of Westminster from 1970 to 1986. When her husband first came to Westminster, the annual school concert at St John’s had comprised, she thought, about six Westminster pupils. Nearly everyone else was a paid professional. Plus ça change, plus ça mème chante. Happily, sometimes not.
SCHOOL OPERA
THE MAGIC FLUTE

To say that The Flute is a challenging piece is a gross understatement, agree GMF and Robert Ellard (HH).

There are the complicated three-part vocal passages sung by the Queen of the Night’s servants and the Geniuses. There is the orchestration – Mozart was a master at writing music that sounds enticingly effortless but is far, far from being so. There is the problem of staging the piece in an original way. And, perhaps greater than any of these huge individual challenges, there is the problem of the Queen of the Night’s arias. Where to begin? The beginning. From the opening trombone fanfare that starts the overture, the piece is by its nature gripping. We were led through the overture under the direction of Guy Hopkins (leader: Neil Amiss-Smith). This was a perfect foreshadowing for their later flawless deeds.

From his first entry, the pursued Tamino (William Blake) sang with perfect emotional poise and great beauty of tone. It is a danger in translated operas that one sadly and all-too often sees unsatisfactory efforts to rest.

The role is well-known for demanding a strong lyric beauty as well as a blindingly accurate and very high coloratura, and one sadly and all-too often sees unsatisfactory attempts on the professional operatic stage. Soumaya Keynes rose to the challenge, delivering both of the famously difficult arias with vigour, power, accuracy and (again) the impeccable diction common to all members of the cast. Many will be the opera buffs who would have been a little worried at the idea of a school production of the Flute; she more than put any possible worries to rest.

Chris Barton’s staging was a delight. No tormented prince chased by a powerful serpent: the demons were in Tamino’s head. The three ladies were T-shirts and combat pants and the Queen of the Night was a Sharon Osbourne-like character who had her nails manicured during her second aria. Sarastro was a headmagisterial figure of a school for drug addicts and drop-outs, and it was left to Tamino to save them and bring them to enlightenment. A superb concept, which held the audience’s enthralled attention from start to finish. But what absolutely made the evening was the music, and the overiding memory is that of Guy Hopkins’s meticulous pacing, the smoothly supportive orchestral playing and the sheer musicality of everybody involved. It was a wonderful evening.
ART INSTALLATION
FIVE HARMONIC LOOP
SYSTEM STUDIES
HORIZONTAL (THE SECOND, MAJOR, FOURTH, FIFTH AND MAJOR SIXTH LOOPS)

A permanent art installation by Conrad Shawcross

This installation consists of five LCD screens, data players and HD film loops. It is one of an edition of five and explores the relationship between visual patterns of linear light with the study of harmonics. Appropriate to its position in the Manoukian Music Centre, Westminster is now able to exhibit piece by a leading contemporary artist who was educated at the school.

CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERT

One of the best things about doing the music reviews is that you are never required to say or imply anything bad, declares Robert Ellard (HH).

The Chamber Music Concert of the 20th April was no exception to this rather pleasing amateur journalist’s rule. The proceedings were opened by an ensemble of 13 clarinets (Jeremy Kemball, Joshua Borin, Anthony Friend, Molly Scott, Zoe Sheuringer, William Benet, Matthew Hutton, Sarah Clark, Ralph Barton, Mark Tochtermann, Jared Isaacs, Tanis Rathowar, Joseph Requena [bass clarinet]) performing an Andy Scott piece, with a strong Cuban feel. This was followed by a Haydn string quartet (Eleanor Brooke, Joe Capaldis, Zoe Lang, George Bowell), and then an absolutely faultless duet for clarinet and flute (the excellent Anthony Friend and Alex Lane) from Villa Lobos.

This was followed by what appeared to be the youngest string quartet, who performed with confidence and illustrated great promise for the future through the snaking melodies of Mozart (Gabriel Truthblood, Elliot Thompson, Oscar Dub, Ivo Tellbury, Henry Alberry). The opening salvo of brass came from Gabrieli, a fanfare titled, “La Speranza”, which evoked a wonderful atmosphere of St Mark’s (Ginny Horton-Middleton, Robert Milliar, Josie Parker, Ivo Tellbury, Aidan Sprout).

Upholding the rightful and excellent reputation of Westminster’s string players came a Beethoven quartet (Konrad Wagstyl, Felix Hale, Cyrus Lyons, Piran Teedbury) and an energetic and perfect Halvorsen string duo (Fred Young, William Amberson).

The brass then returned for a beautifully dynamic Dvořák Sonatina (Ginny Horton-Middleton, Josie Parker, Robert Milliar). There followed a Dvořák string quintet that wonderfully evoked the Czech countryside (Daniel Wong, Miranda Tomend, Cyrus Lyons, Simon Nathan, Valérie Teh), and a series of William Beethoven clarinet quartets (Joshua Borin, Anthony Friend, Molly Scott, José Roquena [bass clarinet]), which was a nice early 20th-century addition to the program, before a true highlight of recent years, the string quartet of Neil Amin-Smith, Benedict Vandervat, Cyrus Lyons and William Blake, who played with their usual superlative poise, emotion and any other aspect of musical excellence one cares to mention, the first movement of a Beethoven quartet. The unfortunate ones who will follow them have a truly hard act to follow. After this superb note, it remained only for the Brass Sinfonia to wrap things up on a suitably light note, playing a version of the Beatles’ “When I’m Sixty-Four” (Josie Parker, Henry Alberry, Adam Smith, Cosmo Godfry, Hans Larsen, Thomas Sutton, Niels Larsen, Aidan Sprout). A superb programme. Special mentions must go to Cyrus Lyons, who was parachuted in at two days’ notice into the string groups, and José Roquena, who appeared despite the fact that his wife was expecting a baby at the time.
EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS BY JINCHENG LIU

Having chosen to study the art of Jincheng Liu for my A Level coursework, I was eager to see what the exhibition, curated by Dr. Cockburn, held in store given his nervous excitement about it, reports Eloise Stevens (PP).

His worries proved unfounded; within the exhibition room, the energetic chatter of a total of more than 300 people suggested more than just an enthusiasm for the Chinese nibbles on offer. In the centre of the room was a series of intricate mosaics, studies for The Battle of Alexander and Darius at Issus.

Despite six years between this event and the publication of Jincheng’s graduation piece, his classmates and supporters proud.

These exquisite mosaics are the apex of an artistic journey that began in China, deep in the Cultural Revolution. The lights dim, and his assistant, Leo Malim, takes centre stage. Images flicker behind him as he embarks on the story of Jincheng’s life and the paintings that weave throughout it. Born in 1956, Jincheng Liu is representative of the new revolution in Chinese art. His journey began in China, deep in the Cultural Revolution.

He felt purified by the tranquillity of the natural world and found a sense of the human place and ideal within the eternal values of time and space. It is this sense of detachment amongst such primal beauty that burns from his Tibetan work and allows us to understand the freedom Jincheng felt after escaping the claustrophobia of Mao’s regime. The Last day of Winter, for example, depicts an old woman, face bronzed and withered by the elements, looking into the vast expanse behind her, transmitting an air of tranquillity.

In spite of the previous stagnation of Chinese art, due to the requirement that painting represent an inner vision and the Cultural Revolution condemning art as a bourgeois indulgence, it seems that Jincheng Liu is representative of the new revolution in Chinese art. However, it is the charcoal sketches which most attract my attention. Given that the nude is taboo in Chinese art, Jincheng’s arrival in England in 1989 allowed him to fully explore the female form in his work. The broad strokes of charcoal fully express the sensuality and serenity of these women even as preliminary drawings.

In spite of the previous stagnation of Chinese art, due to the requirement that painting represent an inner vision and the Cultural Revolution condemning art as a bourgeois indulgence, it seems that Jincheng Liu is representative of the new revolution in Chinese art. His intense emotional experiences have only served to deepen the expression behind his work, clearly conveyed to all who saw the paintings.

However, it is the charcoal sketches which most attract my attention. Given that the nude is taboo in Chinese art, Jincheng’s arrival in England in 1989 allowed him to fully explore the female form in his work. The broad strokes of charcoal fully express the sensuality and serenity of these women even as preliminary drawings.

In spite of the previous stagnation of Chinese art, due to the requirement that painting represent an inner vision and the Cultural Revolution condemning art as a bourgeois indulgence, it seems that Jincheng Liu is representative of the new revolution in Chinese art. His intense emotional experiences have only served to deepen the expression behind his work, clearly conveyed to all who saw the paintings.
goals for: 46  goals against: 30

the inaugural Southern League and the Final of the London ISFA Cup. Although these both ended in disappointment, we were fit and healthy and determined to deny the XI any attacking space behind. This proved a number of occasions defences would deliberately sit deep and refuse to engage with us. With a well-organized side, the team should feel very proud of their performances even though we did concede again.

The Play-off of the Southern League Final was a grand and exciting affair and there was much anticipation from the large crowd on a knock–knock–cold evening at the Corinthian Casuals ground in Twickenham. A scrappy start meant that the final was lost in the first 20 minutes as the team found it difficult to establish any shape or forward momentum in this period and were pinned back for long periods by some excellent attacking play from St Bede’s. The St Bede’s side were a very effective outfit and considered by many, myself included, to be far and away the best side on the circuit. 0–3 down at half time, the side showed character and rallied. The match finished 1–1 after a goal from Ian Clancy and we salvaged some pride.

The Play-off of the Southern League Final was a grand and exciting affair and there was much anticipation from the large crowd on a knock–knock–cold evening at the Corinthian Casuals ground in Twickenham. A scrappy start meant that the final was lost in the first 20 minutes as the team found it difficult to establish any shape or forward momentum in this period and were pinned back for long periods by some excellent attacking play from St Bede’s. The St Bede’s side were a very effective outfit and considered by many, myself included, to be far and away the best side on the circuit. 0–3 down at half time, the side showed character and rallied. The match finished 1–1 after a goal from Ian Clancy and we salvaged some pride.

some excellent performances followed, with wins against the Corinthian Casuals, Latymer and Dulwich. Our victory against KCS Wimbledon – 8–7 on penalties resulted in our reaching the play-off final of the season against Hampton in the ISFA London Cup. This was played on the Saturday after the end of term at Hampton and was a very even game for 60 minutes. The sides had drawn earlier in the season and Hampton had gone on to reach the Corinthian Casuals, Latymer and Dulwich. Our victory against KCS Wimbledon – 8–7 on penalties resulted in our reaching the play-off final of the season against Hampton in the ISFA London Cup. This was played on the Saturday after the end of term at Hampton and was a very even game for 60 minutes. The sides had drawn earlier in the season and Hampton had gone on to reach the National Boodles Final. An excellently-worked first goal precipitated a dramatic defensive collapse and in the following 10 minutes of madness we found ourselves 4–0 down. The game was lost 1–5 and we left the ground a little shell-shocked. Hampton were a very good outfit but it felt like one of those hard to explain phenomena which schoolboy managers often allude to.

It was a pleasure working with this group of players and with many returning next year we hope to build further on our form. With a team composed of five of our key players from last year, there was much excitement about the season to come. With a squad of five of our key players from last year, there was much excitement about the season to come. With a squad of five of our key players from last year, there was much excitement about the season to come.

Thanks must also go to the Masters i/c of our 10 representative teams (yes we have a 4th XI now) whose hard work, expertise and enthusiasm make it all possible. As always, special thanks to IRM and David Wicks at the ground for all their valuable support and advice.

Ian Clancy, Sam Saake, Nasser, Josh Benson, Fred Johnson, Seth Pinisetty, Victorio Bocanegra, Jeremy Holt.

THE PLAYERS (goals scored in brackets)

Adrian Young (2), Josh Benson (2), Rob Taylor (1), Ian Clancy (1), Toby Thomas (1), George Burnett (1), Ollie Flynn, Sam Saake, Nasser, Josh Benson, Fred Johnson, Seth Pinisetty, Victorio Bocanegra, Jeremy Holt.

HOUSE COMPETITIONS

Winners of the Senior six-a-sides MM

Winners of the Junior six-a-sides BB
This proved to be a difficult season for the 2nd XI. At times we played some attractive football but we lacked the consistency of performance and physical presence required to win regularly. We began the season with high expectations and were five and five after the first ten matches. This included a notable performance against Eton (lost 0–1) and an impressive one-nil victory against Alleyn’s with a wonder goal from thirty yards from the right wing by Michael Theodosiou. However, this was followed, mysteriously, by a rather bleak period in the season. We lost the next four fixtures with what I will simply describe, after self-censorship, as poor performance. A cohesive unit was failing to materialise. Frustration was growing within the squad and confidence was waning. However, our season was rescued from the abyss in the second-half against Chippenham. They were three down at half-time and after a frank discussion, the team finally put on a performance to be proud of. Johnny Langton scored twice and we looked good for an equaliser right up to the final whistle. Finally, the team pulled together and over the remaining seven fixtures we only suffered one more defeat. This period also included four well earned draws, against Bradfield (0–0), Hampion (2–2), St Paul’s (2–2) and Canerbury (1–1) and victories against Highgate (4–1) and the Common Room (5–1).

“Finally the team pulled together and over the remaining seven fixtures we only suffered one more defeat.”

2ND XI SQUAD
W. Pursue, T. Jolly, T. Herbert, J. Smith, T. Harrison, B. Astaire (Captain after GB), M. Benger, S. Pimlott (last four fixtures), T. Harrison, B. Astaire (Captain after GB), T. Langton, J. Stanbury

The 3rd XI season demonstrated a good performance for a group of boys who showed great dedication and enthusiasm throughout the two terms. The season was cut into two by a long mid-winter fixture hiatus, but the continued improvement in the quality of football played was most encouraging.

The composition of the teams put out evolved over the season from mainly Remove to almost entirely 6th Form. The established players quickly found themselves fighting for their places and this competition was a key factor in the success of the team. Early season results were encouraging. Ailing John Lyon and Lansing were convincing wins (the latter a 5–0 away victory). An early loss to Eton was made up for by a very pleasing performance by a school 4th XI who earned a hard-fought 2–2 draw. The fact that we could even put out a 4th XI was a sign of our strength in depth. Our confidence was knocked by a bitterly disappointing loss to the Common Room in controversial circumstances: having a 2–0 half time lead overturned with three very scrappy goals. Joe Smith’s early performances at centre back were excellent and he scored two of the best goals of the season. It was a shame to lose him to the 2nd XI.

In the second half of the Play term, results didn’t go our way and we lost some close games with poor second half performances. However, we finished the term with a stunning 3–2 away win at Bradfield. Tom Dunning’s last minute headed winner is one of the moments of the season for me. Our few matches in the Lent term were variable but a strong second half with a deserved win against King’s Canerbury.

The team changed considerably but I would like to pick out a few individuals. Firstly, Eddie Knox who was a solid and reliable captain and left back. He was a good leader on the pitch and his solid defence and useful goals will be missed next season. Hugo Hudzock (goalkeeper), Hugo Brent, Stephen Howell and Tyrone Cammings were the mainstay of the defence. In mid-field, Tom Dunning, Tom Godfrey-Faussett and Joe Start were the three who kept things together with useful contributions from Joe Capildeo and Arthur Campbell. Jack Dong’s availability late season was vital and he finished with an impressive goal-scoring record. Finally Max Ziemer, Ed Imrie and Tom Bruton were our injury-plagued centre forwards. Max in particular was a thorn in the side of the opposition and a great character to have in the team, but all three contributed with goals and commitment.

I am pleased with the attitude and results of the team and it is encouraging for Westminster football to see that many of the end-of-season XI will be around next year. Finally, I would like to thank Paul Whittle for his valuable coaching over the season.

MJM

SEASON: 2006
FOOTBALL U16A
Played: 8
Won: 2
Drew: 2
Lost: 4

FOOTBALL U16B

The Polish writer Ryszard Kapuscinski said that ‘Life is truly known only to those who suffer, lose, endure adversity and stumble from defeat to defeat.’ George Woodberry said ‘Defeat is not the worst of failures. Not to have tried is the true failure.’ Both of these quotations are pertinent to the season, as the 2006–2007 U16B’s went through without a win, striving to do worse and often older opposition. The progression through the season though was evident for all to see – the lessons learnt from defeat are always more acute than those learnt in victory. This season saw a group of players develop, enjoy their football, and bond together as a team. The highlights of the season remain indelibly

and better as the season unfolded. At Lancening we played neat football in the first half and twice hit them on the break for Benson to finish. They came back in the second half to make for a 2–2 draw. There were goals galore in the Alley’s match with a 5–3 draw, on the 1st XI pitch, keeping the crowd entertained and the referee out of breath. Talay came away with a well-taken hat-trick.

We were not going to win many matches whilst conceding free goals and this was underlined against Charterhouse where we lost 4–6. Aldenham and Bradfield also beat us 4–2 and 4–0 respectively. At Bradford we had been 4–0 down at half-time after struggling to find any sort of form playing against a strong wind. We were much brighter, second half, and deserved a couple of goals back. Aldenham passed the ball much better than we did. At Highgate we put matters right in an excellent team performance; we won a convincing 2–0 victory against a very good side. The second term’s matches were all cancelled due to waterlogged pitches but we did manage a game against the local boys club, St Andrew’s, Under Sixteen team, for whom Collis and Surr play regularly. In an excellent game Westminster won 5–2, a fitting end to an entertaining season. Many thanks as ever to Mr Ullathorne and Valence Similien for their knowledgeable assistance.

MHF

Part of the role of the U16 coaching team is to be imaginative. It is always going to help the senior school coaches if players are used to trying different positions and understand how the game works in different areas of the pitch. This team had found it difficult last season but contained some talented players. Our first thoughts were to move Sullston and Surr into midfield and to build a new defence. With the benefit of a good goalkeeper in Collis we used Holt in defense. The rest of the back four were drawn from Northover, the ever present Fulwick, Thomas, Faquih-Thomas and for the second half of the season Dikkers and Hickman. In midfield Sullston and Fellows played in the centre with Surr and Nakamura providing width. Up front the capable Benson led the attack with Chichester, Start, or Talay as a partner. The attacking format led to exciting matches. Our first opponents, Eton, were a tough test; we struggled for much of the game but put together a fine goal in the second half, eventually losing 4–1. Thomas came into centre back for the next match and made an immediate difference. A natural player, he is like his brother in his good ability to anticipate play; he started well in the new position and then just got better
This has been an outstanding year. One in which the players were committed to working hard in every training session, keen to listen to ideas, and improve. They worked hard for each other in competitive games, and best of all, approached the whole season with tremendous spirit, and humour.

Thank you to all who have contributed to such an enjoyable year, including Mr Johnson, and Mr Hinze. Good luck to all of Westminster’s sporting stars, and thank you for giving wholehearted support as a coach, a friend and a Head of department, and will be leaving to embark on year of travel, cycling, music making, and many other great experiences.

PAWB

SEASON: 2006 FOOTBALL U14A

Played: 15 Won: 2 Drew: 2 Lost: 11
Goals For: 21 Goals Against: 48

Undoubtedly, this was a season in which the U14A record did not do their performances justice. There were enough good players in the age group to suggest that in years to come they will experience far more success than the two victories and two draws they enjoyed this year.

They kept on working hard throughout the season despite results not going their way and they improved during the season, battling games at all times. Most unfortunate was that serious injuries consistently prevented the team from fielding their best eleven.

The first match came with a rip-matching visit to Ardingly on a bright afternoon early in September. After a Richard Downey strike had given Westminster the lead, Andingly battled back to take a 2–1 lead, only for Oscar Hard to level the scores. Both teams had chances to win the match but could not take them and the game finished in a breathless and deserved 2–2 draw. Superior opposition finishing meant that a 3–1 defeat was tasted at the hands of Eton despite Nicky Viner’s effort; underdressed, the team travelled to John Lyon with hopes high and duly recorded their most convincing victory of the season. An excellent hat-trick from Lawrence McNeill as well as an own goal and strikes from Downey and Hugo Schlesinger meant that Westminster recorded a pleasing 6–2 win.

Unfortunately they were brought down to earth by convincingly defeating away to a skilled Forest side and at home to a powerful Kes Witley team, but spirits were raised with an excellent 4–1 win after making the long trip to Lancing, thanks mainly to a brilliant hat-trick from Downey and another effort from Viner.

After half-term the matches got tougher and a narrow 1–0 defeat away to Alleyn’s was followed by Outstanding effort to a club match and another club match against Charterhouse. This became known as ‘the miracle of Charterhouse’ as a combination of dogged, heroic defending and brilliant goalkeeping from Oliver Richards saw Westminster withstand non-stop opposition pressure to record a 0–0 draw, which felt more like a victory for us and a defeat for them. However, this momentum could not be maintained and we suffered defeat at the hands of Aldenham despite a strike from Alex Stewart.

Another Downey goal saw Westminster leading 1–0 at half-time away to Chippenham, but the second half saw a turnaround in fortune and the opposition ran riot in the final 30 minutes. This didn’t bode well for the trip to an unbeaten KES Bradfield side but it proved to be a closer contest than anticipated and another club match won. Westminster brought the game in at 2–1 for much of the match before a late third goal sealed the win for the opposition. The play time finished with perhaps the most disappointing performance of the year. Despite taking an early lead courtesy of Viner, the Westminster performance was downright from there as cohesion gradually dissolved in a demoralizing defeat.

Due to a number of unforeseen factors the shorter Lent term saw only three matches played, three rather sad ending in defeat. A brave performance away to a talented Hampton side saw a credible narrow defeat but Westminster were then outstanding in a strong Dubloch team, although this game was notable for the ‘goal of
the season’s contender in the shape of a thunderous half-volley from Gus Lewis. The last match of the year saw a trip to London rivals St. Paul’s and again Westminster fell out of the blocks to take an early lead through a Stewart goal. Alas, the opposition gradually gained a foothold in the game, equalised and went on to dominate before running out deserved 2–1 victors.

Looking at the season overall, the performance of three players stood head and shoulders above the rest. Goalkeeper Ellie Richards was outstanding throughout, producing breathtaking saves and keeping the scorers respectable. Captain and centre-back Alex Stewart led by example and was committed, game and defiant in every match. Central midfielder Richard Downey was the leading scorer and held the side together with his tireless work in midfield. Two players, skilful midfielders Hugo Schlesinger and the dangerous forwardman Noah Vinet, also showed promise only to have their appearances reduced by injury. Injury ruined Raffik Poole only took a bit-part during the season. Elsewhere, there were wholehearted performances in defence from Alex Theodosiou, Philip Goem, George Kambouroglou and Alex Dias as well as tireless efforts in midfield and attack from Lawrence McNeill, Gus Lewis and Sam Green.

Other squad players to make notable contributions included Dominic Williams, Chris Evans, Nicholas Wilson, Oscar Hard, Ben Bayley, Sam Brodsky, Edward Aldred and Jack Breuer, who deserves special mention for his excellent efforts in goal for the B team. Thanks to the partnership of Aldred and Ben Wessely were outstanding in defence, and Scott (14*) with a nerveless batting partnership meant that the final game of the season was vital for 'The Club'.

An extraordinary 26 players represented the B team throughout the season, and, while results did not always go their way, showed great character and team spirit. Injury ruined Raffik Poole only took a bit-part during the season. Elsewhere, there were wholehearted performances in defence from Alex Theodosiou, Philip Goem, George Kambouroglou and Alex Dias as well as tireless efforts in midfield and attack from Lawrence McNeill, Gus Lewis and Sam Green. Other squad players to make notable contributions included Dominic Williams, Chris Evans, Nicholas Wilson, Oscar Hard, Ben Bayley, Sam Brodsky, Edward Aldred and Jack Breuer, who deserves special mention for his excellent efforts in goal for the B team. Thanks to the partnership of Aldred and Ben Wessely were outstanding in defence, and Scott (14*) with a nerveless batting partnership meant that the final game of the season was vital for ‘The Club’.

An extraordinary 26 players represented the B team throughout the season, and, while results did not always go their way, showed great character and team spirit. Injury ruined Raffik Poole only took a bit-part during the season. Elsewhere, there were wholehearted performances in defence from Alex Theodosiou, Philip Goem, George Kambouroglou and Alex Dias as well as tireless efforts in midfield and attack from Lawrence McNeill, Gus Lewis and Sam Green. Other squad players to make notable contributions included Dominic Williams, Chris Evans, Nicholas Wilson, Oscar Hard, Ben Bayley, Sam Brodsky, Edward Aldred and Jack Breuer, who deserves special mention for his excellent efforts in goal for the B team. Thanks to the partnership of Aldred and Ben Wessely were outstanding in defence, and Scott (14*) with a nerveless batting partnership meant that the final game of the season was vital for ‘The Club’.
STATION

Demeanour and good humour were enjoyed by all as umpire throughout the game and his cheerful attitude to the School. Ray was a much-loved and well-respected and talented cricketer. Long may they enjoy their cricket as they progress up the school.

Mr. Ullahborne, Dr. Walsh, the coach Simon Mason and I agree that it was a pleasure to coach such keen and talented cricketers. Long may they enjoy their cricket as they progress up the school.

The B team enjoyed three games under the capable captaincy of David Lloyd-Webber. Krishin Aosomall started with 3–26 in a 94-run defeat at Aldenham. Rain then caused an abandonment in the game at St. Paul’s. The highlight of the season was unquestionably Kit Gallagher’s spell of 4–9 at John Lyon, which Dr. Walsh described as ‘unplayable’. Unfortunately for Kit, Westminster were defending the paltry total of 48 and so a five-wicket defeat was all but inevitable. The boys deserve high praise for fighting for every run in the field and never giving up the cause.

Our Captain, James Male, and our Upper, our non-cup captaincy and vice-captaincy, respectively, and managed the team well.

In summary, this was a respectable performance which began and ended the season well; the team should reach its peak over the next two years. Ten players made it into the Wisden Schools Averages with the batting led by Hines-Green’s consistency and backed up by good performances from Rankine, Cairns, Robson and Brodie. In the bowling, the leg-spin twins of Scott and Foken were the leading wicket-takers with good team support from Smith, Johnson and Benson.

Robson snared 20 victims and must be credited for his wicket-keeping, and, special mention must go to Brodie. On top of this, he captained calmly and professionally. Josh Benson (the youngest) was his vice-captain.

Alex Foken took four wickets twice and Hugh Saltonstall and Tom Fitzsimmons did so once. Ben Collin, Khushaal Ved, David Nordlinger and Harsoon Hickman each took three wickets in a match, but it was never quite enough to overwhelm the opposition.

After Easyat, Hugh Saltonstall and Khushaal Ved took over the non-cup captaincy and vice-captaincy, respectively, and managed the team well.

We were knocked out of the London School’s Cup in the quarter finals but Keval Patel, Tom Fitzsimons, Harry McNell Adams and Oliver Wood, who showed maturity, good humour and tactical insight. Weir judges say the test of a side is how it responds to a defeat. Aldenham duly suffered as Westminster proved their class to bowl the visitors out for 134. Nevertheless, the boys had to work hard for victory and lost 7 wickets. Wood was outstanding and his 77 led his side home.

Unfortunately this success proved to be fleeting as the team soon suffered two thrilling defeats. Against Chapel the heroes of Kirk (4–17 and 35 runs) and Wood (47 runs) couldn’t prevent Westminster sliding to a 10-run defeat. Harry McNell Adams (47*) ensured a competitive total (139) at St. Paul’s which the home side only reached off the last ball of their allocation of overs. Kirk took 3–27 in a four-wicket defeat.

A comfortable 63-run victory over John Lyon (Patel 92 and Kirk 43 in a total of 215). Kirk 38 and Tim Bengtson (3–17) was followed by the disappointment of defeat to St. Dunstan’s. Patel, who led the side for the last four games, produced a captain’s innings of 70 to take Westminster to the brink of their target. Chasing 130, a late-order collapse ushered on a 21-run defeat.

We have started playing matches against other schools. In the first three, against King’s College School, Highgate and Latymer Upper, our Captains, James Male, and our young team acquitted themselves very well, given that they were generally playing against boys two years older than themselves and given that some of our team had not played golf at all before September 2006. These results are a great credit to their promising ability and to the expert coaching they received from Gary Clements, our pro, at the Central London Golf Academy.

The squad comprised Finbar Fallon, Kit Gallagher, Max Glanz, James Male, Freddy Nathan, James Prankerd-Smith, Alexander Robertson and Sasha Stubbs. All won colours.

Defending 254, Tom Fitzsimons soon destroyed the backbone of the Kingston batting with an incredible five wickets in six balls, including a hat-trick. Captain Max Arevuo’s bowling spell of 3–28 included plenty of variety which confused the batsmen. A brilliant stump-out from Harry McNell Adams, standing up to Fitzsimons’ pace, capped an excellent all-round display from Westminister.

A very talented year group began the season by crushing Kingston GS with a performance worthy of the glorious April sunshine. An excellent opening partnership between Kevat Patel (88), who timed the ball superbly, and Oliver Wood gave Westminster a virtually impregnable platform, before George Kirk whacked the ball to great effect in a quick-fire 54.
Vogalonga in Venice.

Above:

The First Eight has had a promising start to the season. Starting with a very enjoyable training camp in Boston, the 1st 8+ raced in the under 20 category and came 13th/64 in the High School division, losing to Hampton by 5 lengths of a second and being Larymer comfortably. Cambridge Winter Head, although a good performance, was disappointing, with the 1st 8+ missing out on 1st place by 1 second to Imperial College. The Four Head saw more strong results, with the 1st 4+ coming 3rd in Senior 3 vs 4 and the 2nd 4+ also performing very well. The first victors came in the Quintin and Hammersmith heads, followed by a hard-fought second place to Bedford Modern School in Brugge Head.

The Shiplake 1st 8+ was no match for ours, with a 3-0 victory in some short pieces. The Shiplake Head resulted in a very disappointing 12th. Further disappoint- ment came when the Eight's Head of the River was cancelled due to shocking conditions and the cold sinking. However, after an extremely tough training camp in Belgium, and the purchase of a sleek new boat, the 1st 8+ won both days of the British International regatta, with the 1st quad also performing very well, coming 5th out of 10 on the first day. Both crews are ready to attack the next 6 weeks in the build-up to National Schools where they will race in 1st eights and 1st quads.

The momentum gained in the early part of the term continued after exeat with a amazing set of performances in the BCS Guildford Relay. Outstanding open- ing performances from Tyrone Campion, Tom Jelly and Tom Samuel left Tom Godfrey-Faussett (CC) to respond by recording Westminster's best ever performance from Tyrone Cummins, Tom Jelly (12th) and Jeremy Holt (17th) were right at the sharp end of the field and with Laurie Brock (BB) and Alex Scott in the mid-30s the school finished 3rd out of 19 teams, narrowly behind St Alban's and the Judd.

The King's Trophy was the team's first big test and they responded by recording Westminster's best ever performance in this long-standing race. Tom Samuel (5th), Tyrone Cummins (10th), Tom Jelly (12th) and Jeremy Holt (17th) were right at the sharp end of the field and with Laurie Brock (BB) and Alex Scott in the mid-30s the school finished 3rd out of 19 teams, narrowly behind St Alban's and the Judd.

The International Circuit. Marcus McConnon came 6th at the European Cadet Championships which was a fantastic result. Marcus and Rashid both also got into the Last 32 in the Leon Paul A Grade, a Senior Men's Foil International Competition. Jonathan Tham and Rastana McConnon were both selected for the British Boys Cadet Epee team and fenced at Bonn. Jonathan also did very well at a competition in Pisa. We look forward to the graduation of a number of talented lower shells to the international ranks next season.

The British Schools' Team Championships provided a good warm-up for the Public Schools Championships. The U15A Epee team (Robinson, Cornell, Trooney) came first and the U18 Epee team (Dibb, Jordan, Morris) and the U18 Epee team (MacDonald, McConnell, Wareham) both came second. Westminster also beat Eton by 199 points to 173 over five events and managed a very tense 153-all draw with Winchester. Six Westminster fencers also qualified for the British Youth Championships, all finishing third or higher in the London regional competition.

None of these successful results could have been achieved without the hard work and dedication of our coaches: Tomoki Waki and Lee Sturte in Foil, Maciek Worotnik and David Buist in Epee and Jo Maynard in Sabre. They all provide coaching at an extremely high level. Thanks must also be paid to the members of staff who guide generously of their time in assisting the station: Russell Dudley-Smith, John Winnie, Jon Hind and Andrew Law. Especial thanks must go to Tom Kennedy, Master-in-Charge, who leaves the school at the end of the year. It is no easy job managing a station with well over fifty members and he has done so with unfailing enthusiasm and tireless support. The whole station wishes him well.
The term was firmly rounded off at ‘The Grim’; 8 miles (DD) and Felix Hale (BB). For the first time in several years the school competed in 800 / 1500 metre races was particularly noteworthy whilst away from the Inter-Club Athletic Sports, Tom Farr represented the borough at the London Schools Championships in the Intermediate 200 m, a first match by Felix Hale who finished 6th in the Intermediate 800 m in a personal best of 2:12.21.

**TENNIS**

The 2006 season kicked off with our traditional warm-up fixture against Putney Common Tennis Club. The weather was kind and, although missing the flair of Chris Angeleri and the bludgeoning power of Karen Monoskian, we were able to field a solid team. Our three pairs comprised Marc Baghdadi and Ben Vanderpuye, Ellie Stevens and Alex Labrom and Harry Rose and Ed Milde. 1st set Baghdadi and Vanderpuye played very well together and only conceded one game in the four sets played. The other two pairs fought well and are only just on a draw by a half point from the final match. We lost eventually 5-4.

On Tuesday, 2nd May the School played the Common Room, the latter only able to provide 2 pairs due to the ever-increasing nervous nature of the staff. The previous comment does not, of course, apply to the 2 pairs who did represent the CR, namely Mr Johnson and Mr Heyer and Mrs Cockburn and Mr Page. Suffice it to say that Means Johnson and Heyer did manage to get the better of Ed Milde and Ed Jeffery, but Ellie Stevens and Jamie Macfarlane overcame Mrs Cockburn and Mr Page in 2 sets and the match was diplomatically halved.

On the Thursday the U14 1st V1 played UCS. The team was represented by Robert Miller, Felix Reader, Jack Lasadowski, Chris Arnold and Andrew Sawbridge and Dom Richards. It was a beautiful day and temperatures were the highest they had been in 8 months. The School lost the singles matches 4-2, but outdueled UCS in the doubles 2-1. Miller and Reader put up a valiant fight against a very strong UCS U1st pair before eventually giving way down 6-4. Sawbridge and Richards crushed their opposition 6-0 and Arnold and Lasadowski eventually managed dual victory with a nerve-wrangling 7-6 win.

On 11th May we embarked on our annual pilgrimage to Highgate on Saturday, 20th May. However, the rain was so heavy that day that it actually caused a flood in the lower Common Room and we had no choice but to cancel the matches both home and away. However, May 26th was also the date of the Youl/Doherty lunch. 2006 was the 50th anniversary of Westminster winning the Youl Cup and, unbelievably, the 100th anniversary of the Youl/Doherty match. The legendary Pete Sampras, although a winner seven times, never equaled the accolade of five championship titles on the tour.

The lunch was an excellent occasion which was very well attended. It goes without saying that the Youl/Doherty lunch was not one of the guests, but the event was attended by two members of the winning team of 1956. David Gourdon and Christopher Claxton. There are 3 ways of looking at this match. In terms of games won, then the school would be deemed the winners (6 sets all). Indeed, if one were to judge the match in terms of sets won, it could be looked on as a draw (6 sets all). However, the rain was so heavy that day that it actually caused a flood in the lower Common Room and we had no choice but to cancel the matches both home and away. However, May 26th was also the date of the Youl/Doherty lunch. 2006 was the 50th anniversary of Westminster winning the Youl Cup and, unbelievably, the 100th anniversary of the Youl/Doherty match. The legendary Pete Sampras, although a winner seven times, never equaled the accolade of five championship titles on the tour.

The lunch was an excellent occasion which was very well attended. It goes without saying that the Youl/Doherty lunch was not one of the guests, but the event was attended by two members of the winning team of 1956. David Gourdon and Christopher Claxton. There are 3 ways of looking at this match. In terms of games won, then the school would be deemed the winners (6 sets all). Indeed, if one were to judge the match in terms of sets won, it could be looked on as a draw (6 sets all). However, the rain was so heavy that day that it actually caused a flood in the lower Common Room and we had no choice but to cancel the matches both home and away. However, May 26th was also the date of the Youl/Doherty lunch. 2006 was the 50th anniversary of Westminster winning the Youl Cup and, unbelievably, the 100th anniversary of the Youl/Doherty match. The legendary Pete Sampras, although a winner seven times, never equaled the accolade of five championship titles on the tour.

The lunch was an excellent occasion which was very well attended. It goes without saying that the Youl/Doherty lunch was not one of the guests, but the event was attended by two members of the winning team of 1956. David Gourdon and Christopher Claxton. There are 3 ways of looking at this match. In terms of games won, then the school would be deemed the winners (6 sets all). Indeed, if one were to judge the match in terms of sets won, it could be looked on as a draw (6 sets all). However, the rain was so heavy that day that it actually caused a flood in the lower Common Room and we had no choice but to cancel the matches both home and away. However, May 26th was also the date of the Youl/Doherty lunch. 2006 was the 50th anniversary of Westminster winning the Youl Cup and, unbelievably, the 100th anniversary of the Youl/Doherty match. The legendary Pete Sampras, although a winner seven times, never equaled the accolade of five championship titles on the tour.

The lunch was an excellent occasion which was very well attended. It goes without saying that the Youl/Doherty lunch was not one of the guests, but the event was attended by two members of the winning team of 1956. David Gourdon and Christopher Claxton. There are 3 ways of looking at this match. In terms of games won, then the school would be deemed the winners (6 sets all). Indeed, if one were to judge the match in terms of sets won, it could be looked on as a draw (6 sets all). However, the rain was so heavy that day that it actually caused a flood in the lower Common Room and we had no choice but to cancel the matches both home and away. However, May 26th was also the date of the Youl/Doherty lunch. 2006 was the 50th anniversary of Westminster winning the Youl Cup and, unbelievably, the 100th anniversary of the Youl/Doherty match. The legendary Pete Sampras, although a winner seven times, never equaled the accolade of five championship titles on the tour.

The lunch was an excellent occasion which was very well attended. It goes without saying that the Youl/Doherty lunch was not one of the guests, but the event was attended by two members of the winning team of 1956. David Gourdon and Christopher Claxton. There are 3 ways of looking at this match. In terms of games won, then the school would be deemed the winners (6 sets all). Indeed, if one were to judge the match in terms of sets won, it could be looked on as a draw (6 sets all). However, the rain was so heavy that day that it actually caused a flood in the lower Common Room and we had no choice but to cancel the matches both home and away. However, May 26th was also the date of the Youl/Doherty lunch. 2006 was the 50th anniversary of Westminster winning the Youl Cup and, unbelievably, the 100th anniversary of the Youl/Doherty match. The legendary Pete Sampras, although a winner seven times, never equaled the accolade of five championship titles on the tour.

The lunch was an excellent occasion which was very well attended. It goes without saying that the Youl/Doherty lunch was not one of the guests, but the event was attended by two members of the winning team of 1956. David Gourdon and Christopher Claxton. There are 3 ways of looking at this match. In terms of games won, then the school would be deemed the winners (6 sets all). Indeed, if one were to judge the match in terms of sets won, it could be looked on as a draw (6 sets all). However, the rain was so heavy that day that it actually caused a flood in the lower Common Room and we had no choice but to cancel the matches both home and away. However, May 26th was also the date of the Youl/Doherty lunch. 2006 was the 50th anniversary of Westminster winning the Youl Cup and, unbelievably, the 100th anniversary of the Youl/Doherty match. The legendary Pete Sampras, although a winner seven times, never equaled the accolade of five championship titles on the tour.
When we came back after half-term the weather had improved and we seemed to have no record of the actual scores. I was afraid I seem to have no record of the actual scores. Found ourselves on the wrong end of a real hiding. I am wear down Mr Johnson and Mrs Cockburn in their last year at the school. The U15s, represented by Dipesh Mahtani and Henry Carseley also played very well. The final result was 3–1 in favour of the Common Room.

The house matches started on Thursday, 15th June. In the preliminary round, Parcells beat Wrens 7–6. College were promoted at Ashburnham, courtesy of a tiebreak, and Liddells prevailed over Babes 6–3. In the semi-finals Hallowed were surprisingly beaten by Liddells while Grains struggled against Milten. The final was won by Grains.

The highlights of the year was the School's performance in the YouCup, the prestigious event in which all the country's top independent schools compete against each other. As usual, the event was hosted by Eton and took place from July 2nd to 5th. The School was represented by Baghatdi and Angerou (1st pair) and Masukian and Vanderpap (2nd pair). Their performances were outstanding and we had our best year since 1996. We beat Warwick in the 1st round, Plymouth in the 2nd and Haberdashers in the 3rd. We then faced Reeds (Tim Hoare) in the quarter-finals and after winning this match, we then had to face the might of Repton. After winning this match 2–1 we faced a very strong Millfield side in the final. Unfortunately, having had to play 5 rounds before this match, it was a case of ‘a bridge too far’ and we were beaten. Nevertheless, it was a truly outstanding effort by our team.

HOCKEY

Played: 5  Won: 3  Drew: 1  Lost: 1

The precarious nature of hockey at Westminster was epitomised by a fortnight into the summer holidays when the team moved from London to the University of Westminster in Chiswick offered us a pitch, sometimes two, and Latymer Upper by a substantial margin in our first ever mixed match. The Common Room, average age rising faster than UK inflation, held out against the 1st X1 in the return: a commendable draw. We beat UCS 5–1 playing some expansive, incisive hockey and then beat Laverne Upper by a substantial margin in our first ever mixed match. The Common Room, average age rising faster than UK inflation, held out against the 1st X1 until the last ten minutes when Alex Scott scored a memorable goal: 2–0 eventually.

Alex Scott proved to be both an inspirational captain and player, scoring twelve of our nineteen goals, some of them spectacular: he is very difficult to dispose of and has a fearsome shot. The sixth form provided the backbone of the senior team, the ever-loyal Ben Green again playing with pace and intelligence. Tennis supreme Benedict Vanderpap reads the game well and plays a good shot. Andrew Lloyd-Harris, fleet of foot and versatile, covers well in defence and plays with grace. Nick Finerty provides the air of a relaxed golfer at left back and is a most effective tackler and Distributor. "Lord" William Denmon provided around up front and scored a cracker against Trinity. Ben Stevens stood around the pitch and showed much ability and enthusiasm. Cosmo Arends played powerfully on the right wing, quick and incisive, and could become a most accomplished player in future. Ben Davies improved considerably and should feature prominently next year. Kevin Luke and Eloise Stevens provided our Remove duo, both contributing positively.

Particular praise should be heaped upon Alex Robertson from the Lower Shell who is not only a talented outfield player but also volunteered to play between the sticks in some matches for the seniors and did so with aplomb! Felix Johnston, Thomas Calf, Jack Lausado, Andrew Hyer and Oscar Dabbb were other Lower Shell boys who really enjoyed and improved their hockey, often under the careful tutelage of Mr Gelderd, to whom we now bid a fond farewell.

ETON FIVES

Despite the departure of James Harrison for St Paul’s, First Station continues on the up. It is temporarily in the care of the Chaplain. There are far more pupils wanting to play than the 70 who can be squeezed in on Station afternoons. This means that lunchtime and evening sessions have grown in popularity, particularly with Sixth Form girls. This was reflected in the Schools Fives Championships at Harrow where Natasha Bell and Hannah Cummine-Scott made rapid progress to the Ladies’ semi-finals where they came up against a formidable Lansin pair. The first Senior pair, Laura Brock and Alex Rankine, reached the quarter-finals but Sheesham 3 were too strong for them.

The hope is that many of this year’s leavers, who have already played in Abbey matches and taken themselves to tournaments away from school, will be inspired by the example of OPs like Ollie Butler and Fred Krepps and continue to play.

Universities: Semi-finals


Final


"Ollie Butler retired hurt after the semi, with Oxford 1 effectively conceding the title to Peter Dunbar and Fred Krepps sporting agreed to play the final anyway. Even if the result was academic, the final was hard-fought and very close, with some excellent shot-making on display on both sides."

MARTIAL ARTS

This year the station has been bolstered by many new Lower School members, many of whom show considerable talent, promising a flourishing future for the station, while maintaining our hard-core and highly effective Upper School team, writes Nick Reynolds (RR).

In friendly matches, the team has enjoyed continued success against our traditional opponents at Harrow, with two solid overall victories, though Eton and Winchester managed to scrape a dubious victory each. However, the scores didn't reflect the closeness of the competition, with Eton's leading position being far from secure. Watch our next year!

Thanks to Coach Larry, who has continued to offer excellent instruction on the finer points of Judo, as well as offering his unique support to matches, and to Mr Allman, who has run the station and organised matches for us with great results. Regularly competing were Dara Barkhordar, Francis Gane-Rome, Shannon Patel, Dominic Allen, and James Braddock, among others, and deserving of special mention is Tom Trevor-Roberts, who won a Bronze medal in the seniors category at the Independent Schools Championships, despite being at the bottom of his weight category and so facing opponents much larger and stronger than himself. The last year has seen some first-rate Judo, and our record will only get better.

THE ELIZABETHAN 2007
NETBALL

Under the amazingly enthusiastic and motivating leadership of Lucy Kirk and Krystyna Kosciuszko, the girls have had the most successful Netball season for many years. After five matches in the Play term, both A and B teams remained undefeated. Comfortable wins against Emanuel School and Lady Margaret School opened the season, and then a tougher battle for the A’s against North London Collegiate took place on their excellent home courts, ending in an 11–11 draw. The girls went on to win against Godolphin and Latymer and City of London before a closely fought match against St Paul’s broke the record. Even with a second match in the Lent term, we were unable to break their coherence and incredible shooting skills. Later in the term, we knew that Latymer Upper would probably also get the better of us but again, with Lottie leading from the front we gave them a good run for their money and thanks to the good will and support of their coach Lucy Asher, the experience was enjoyed by all.

The excellent play this year has been encouraged and refined by our coach Holly Collison. As a shooter for the Brunel Hurricanes, she knows the game inside out, refined by our coach Holly Collison. As a shooter for the Brunel Hurricanes, she knows the game inside out, and is experienced in playing at a high level. She has worked on skills and fitness with the teams and has supported them during the matches with her excellent ‘team talks’ between the quarters.

All the girls on the A team have shown their skills in different ways. Vicky Andrews has put in an incredible performance over two years, and together with Krystyna, has proven herself to be a formidable force. Eloise Stevens is a fantastic player with great skill and enthusiasm from all in members this term and we have enjoyed our time at Vincent Square enormously.

All the girls on the A team have shown their skills in different ways. Vicky Andrews has put in an incredible performance over two years, and together with Krystyna, has proven herself to be a formidable force. Eloise Stevens is a fantastic player with great skill and enthusiasm from all in members this term and we have enjoyed our time at Vincent Square enormously.

The B team has benefited from the strong leadership of Imogen Lloyd Thomas who has also worked very hard to be the best. All the girls on the A team have shown their skills in different ways. Vicky Andrews has put in an incredible performance over two years, and together with Krystyna, has proven herself to be a formidable force. Eloise Stevens is a fantastic player with great skill and enthusiasm from all in members this term and we have enjoyed our time at Vincent Square enormously.

SHOOTING

This has been another year of progress for shooting station, which has seen the results of the promised extra funding in the acquisition of a smart and secure new gun cabinet and the much-needed refurbishment of the well-used lightweight rifles, record Tom Elworthy (AAH) and Rachel Tocknell (VW).

We are now awaiting the arrival of new jackets to supplement our present green and purple fashion crimes which, though they have given the club many years of good service, are now starting to show signs of age.

We have been out and about this year with two trips to Bisho, including one to shoot our own .22s on the 50 yard range, and a second, in more element weather, to shoot a range of full-bore rifles over 200 yards; both trips have given station members a taste of shooting outside the confines of the College loft. An enjoyable Christmas shoot brought out the festive, light-hearted side of the station as we shot special cards comprising baubles and cherubs. Following a sub-standard showing against Wellington, a home match against Harrow gave the opportunity for a quick recovery of pride. Westminster finished with a considerable victory of 835 to 729 for the First VIII, comprised of Rachel Tocknell, Tom Elworthy, Felix Mason, Chris Baker-Munton, Graza Kim, Kostya Gotez, Ben Lakier and Nicholas McKinley, who proved their varied talents shooting both 10-spot deliberate and skirmish cards. With considerable talent being developed by both new and established members of the station, the potential for future success is high indeed.

Now a qualified range officer, Mr Sproat has continued to give the station his invaluable support, help with trips, coaching and recording performance data. Thanks also go to Ms French for her assistance on the range and to Dr Prentice, who, since joining the station last September has developed her shooting skills, assisted on trips to Bisho, and studied for her range officer qualification. She is thus well set to take over as Mistress i/c from Mark Peace who is moving on to other ventures. Since becoming Master i/c two years ago and throughout his time as coaching at Westminster, Mark has worked tirelessly to improve the station, arranging matches, providing superb training, initiating the Bisho trips, and keeping some of our more elderly rifles in service. His improved training method has proved successful in boosting motivation and interest in those new to the station, enabling them to start shooting much faster than was previously the case. We will miss his knowledgeable and encouraging presence on the range, as well as his thoughtful and all-important supply of Crème eggs and extra-large tins of Quality Street for our novelty shoots at the ends of term.

BODYSTEP

Bodystep, organized by Dr Cockburn and ably helped by Mrs Lambert, began as a new station halfway through last year, pulls Rebecca King (PP).

Based on step aerobics but with a tendency towards higher energy workouts to the latest music, it was popular right from the start. Nervous girls, who couldn’t trot through half a routine then, now leap and bound through the tough hour-long workouts. Bodystep challenges fitness and co-ordination in a supportive and often hilarious all-girl atmosphere. Our instructor Rae is knowledgeable and encouraging presence on the range, as well as his thoughtful and all-important supply of Crème eggs and extra-large tins of Quality Street for our novelty shoots at the ends of term.

KAYAKING

The intellectual version of rowing, kayaking involves both brains and brawn whilst being an exciting and exhilarating sport, not to mention unbelievably cold, declares Ed Mosely (MM).

As any water-sports addict will no doubt feel, the prospect of getting closer to the water is an extremely attractive one and kayaking Station offers pupils the ability not only to get into the Thames, but then to hold one’s breath for an inconceivable amount of time underwater whilst encased in a high impact-proof polystyrene boat.

In order to truly enjoy the Station one needs to be able to enjoy the sport in itself, which is easy given its nature and suitability to all other sports (even sailing, to which the Station swaps for the summer term). Kayaking Station at Westminster is not just an invigorating experience in which one constantly battles for survival against the elements, but it is also fun and moderately social.

Our ‘formidable’ kayaking team have as yet not had the pleasure of being entered for any competitions, although there has been talk of the emergence of a Westminster kayak polo team and the possibility of future sprint and slalom races; this is likely to be due to the fact that not too many London schools are up to the challenge.

Our ‘formidable’ kayaking team have as yet not had the pleasure of being entered for any competitions, although there has been talk of the emergence of a Westminster kayak polo team and the possibility of future sprint and slalom races; this is likely to be due to the fact that not too many London schools are up to the challenge.
COMMUNITY SERVICE

HEATH HANDS

Every Thursday five intrepid Removes head off to Hampstead Heath for a spot of ecological community service, advocates Fredi Tickell (MM).

The organization is called Heath Hands and it is made up of north Londoners of all personalities and age groups, though the latter does tend to the retirement age. Oliver David, Phillip Crandall, Thomas Dub, Simon Cahill and I all grew up frequenting the heath and enjoying its beauty and open space. Most of us chose this option because it is outdoors though the fact it ends at around 4pm very near to all of our houses may play a small part. Each of us has found something we love about it, such as the fresh air, the change from a classroom environment, the friendly chats to people we would not meet normally or the tea break. The one thing we all agree on is there is nothing quite like a spot of proper hard work in this day and age, be it digging, cutting down trees or swinging a mattock wildly.

Although our time at Westminster is coming to an end we all plan to continue in some form while we stay in London. The people we work with have thoroughly enjoyed our company and hope that a new generation will fill our steel-capped boots after we have gone. To anyone planning on doing community service in the upper school and who wants to do something slightly different, keep Heath Hands in mind; I promise you will love it.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

CHARITY SHOPS

Helping in charity shops of an afternoon has always made for a very different experience outside the school boundaries, writes Meng-Yun Wang (PP).

It’s a chance to talk to all kinds of new people in a social atmosphere far removed from Yard, to learn to sort, price and arrange items, to master the art of using tills and credit card machines and in the process, to be able to spot a few bargains yourself. Jobs are typically varied from week to week but where possible managers tend to assign you the ones they see you enjoy the most. Donations arrive continuously throughout the day so there is constant organising and pricing being done, and goods which are sold or have been on the shelves too long, need to be replaced all the time by volunteers. The process is remarkably simple but it requires a lot of work, which means several volunteers usually help out at the same time. Far more complex is getting to grips with the till, which although helpfully labelled, is deceptively difficult to use. Like anything however, it is really a matter of getting used to it and one thing it certainly will teach you is the virtue of exercising patience with flustered shop assistants.

The Pink Elephants (the Common Room cricket team) continue to prosper, with a healthy fixture list with matches against some clubs and other CRs, reports leader JAI.

After losing to the Charlatans, despite 30 runs from Michael Milner and tidy bowling from Joe Ireland (4–1–8–2), the Pink Elephants crushed the Mandarins by 170 runs, James Kershen scoring a century and Simon Massey scoring 60. Five wickets from coach Simon Massey underpinned a terrific effort from the Elephants who only had seven players available.

An opening partnership of 80 runs between T eehan Page and James Kershen gave the Elephants an excellent start against the King’s Allstars but Andrew Johnson’s hostile bowling (4–1–25–2) was not enough to prevent King’s from winning by 4 wickets even though JDK scored 75 not out. The season finished with a victory against the Leavers in an 8-a-side match.

JAI

“It each of us has found something we love about it, such as the fresh air, the change from a classroom environment, the friendly chats to people we would not meet normally or the tea break.”