

SUMMER 2018
7TH EDITION

SIXTH FORM NEWSLETTER

Word from Head of KS5

Wow, what a fantastic year it has been so far! Both Autumn and Spring term have been packed full of exciting activities. The pizza and film night was very well received and both the Christmas Dance off competition and the Sixth Form quiz night involved some friendly competition between the houses! This year, I continue to be very proud of the strong ethos of volunteering and giving back to the community which characterises our Sixth Form - we really do have amazing role models in our Sixth Form students!

It is a testament to the character of our students that they are able to balance a busy academic workload with co-curricular activities and performances to such high standards. I am, as usual, very impressed by the performances of our students in the school play, our Pipes and Drums and Concert band. Having also had the privilege to watch some of the Year 13 Drama exam performances, I am humbled by the talent these young men and women possess.

Finally, I would like to offer my warmest congratulations to Saffy Ahmed, Charlotte Edmonds and Graeme Stevens who each secured places at Oxbridge this year and who all report a successful start to their first year of university.

Mrs Radford Assistant Head (Head of KS5)

Quiz Night

On Friday 2nd February the much anticipated Sixth Form quiz took place. It was a popular event with 14 teams from both Y12 and Y13; the competition was tough. The quiz consisted of ten rounds across a wide range of categories including music, badly drawn celebrities, flags and even a Gordon's staff round. The rounds were challenging, the scores were close and the final outcome all depended on the bonus round... who could peel the longest orange peel. Congratulations to the eventual winners Tom Lara, Peter Millard, Matt Hill, Marcus del Vecchio, Miles Spiller and Connor Curtis. *(Mr Keates)*



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Oxbridge Update

Congratulations to our four students who have been offered places to read at Oxbridge. It is a fantastic achievement to secure an offer and we wish them the best of luck in the summer:

- **Harrison Jones** to read History and French at Oxford.
- **Tasmin Martin-Young** to read Music at Oxford.
- **Edrick Ho** to read Chemical Engineering at Cambridge.
- **Callum Sumpter** to read Biochemistry at Oxford.

Head Girl Profile: Nicola Gilbert



What is your dream job?

When I am older, the one thing that I do know is that I definitely do not want to have a desk job where I do the same thing day in day out. This means that my dream job is one that is always changing and makes me think. At the moment, I think that I would like to work in the field of forensic sciences as the job would never be the same as new technologies and developments in science come about. It would also give me the opportunity to really help people.

Why did you apply for the position of Head Girl?

The main reason why I applied for the position of head girl was because I felt that I could bring a fresh pair of eyes as I came from another secondary school, one without a sixth form. I was confident that I could bring a commitment to the role of Head Girl, an ability to take initiative and help others to achieve their potential. I also saw the position as a unique opportunity to get more involved in Gordons school life as well as giving something back after being made so welcome to the school at the start of this academic year.

What do you think is the biggest challenge facing your generation?

The biggest challenge I think our generation is currently facing is a lack of direction. We spend our childhoods mostly doing exactly what we are told to do by our parents or teachers, but then at the age of 15/16 we are expected to make decisions that will affect the rest of our lives, without really knowing the world that we are going to be going out into. A young girl may be an amazing engineer but since that is not the job that her parents want or anybody she knows has, she has no idea how she could go about achieving that dream. This means that she chooses GCSE options that her friends have chosen, which automatically restricts the A levels, university courses and the options that are available in later life, all because at the age of 15 she was expected to have her entire life mapped out.

What is the one thing that really annoys you?

One of the things that really annoys me is when I buy something online, and the shop charges an arm and a leg for the shipping of it, sometimes more than the cost of the thing you are getting. Why is it that some things qualify for free shipping but for other things you need to pay for £40 pounds of 'eligible items' to get something that costs less than £5?

If you could say one thing to the Prime Minister what would it be?

Why are university tuition fees so expensive? By this I mean that if it is our generation who will be the politicians, scientist and teachers of the future, why are we being charged so much to get the qualifications and then spend years in debt?

Do you have a role model and if so who is it and why?

As cliché as it may sound, someone that inspires me and is one of my role models is Emma Watson. Apart from her role as Hermione Granger, she is a UN Goodwill Ambassador and an advocate for women's education rights. She is also a proud outspoken feminist who uses her high profile to spread topical messages that are incredibly relevant to our times.

What are you most passionate about?

One of the things that I am most passionate about is music. Playing both the piano and the harp not only relaxes and calms me but also motivates me in other parts of my life. I am currently trying to teach myself how to play the ukulele in my free time.

What do you most enjoy about being part of Gordon's Sixth Form?

The thing that I enjoy most about being a part of Gordons' Sixth Form is the welcoming atmosphere and friendly environment, both in and outside of lessons. Before starting in September, I felt apprehensive about moving to a completely new school, since my two previous schools were interconnected and therefore I had been with the same group of people for most of those 9 years. However, within days I felt at home with new friends and subjects which I really enjoy.

What do you plan to do after Sixth Form?

I am currently looking into many different courses at different universities but as there are so many different options available to me, choosing just one subject is proving to be a challenge. Therefore, I am looking into joint courses such as Chemistry and Maths but also Forensic Sciences and Biology. At some point in the future I also would love to travel the world, with the hope to backpack around Australia and see the Great Barrier Reef before it loses all of its vibrant colours due to bleaching and global warming.



Inter House Debating

This year's Inter House debating competition was hotly contested between all houses and challenged the students across a range of topics to showcase a variety of skills.

The semi-final was based around the motion that "Monuments to controversial historical figures should remain" and saw well-considered arguments made around an incredibly controversial topic. China House performed well but eventually the finalists were Windsor and Khartoum, both of whose teams had produced really well researched information and were organised ready to counter any argument against their case.

The final's motion was that "No platform policies damage free speech" with Windsor arguing that they do and Khartoum against. Alex Duke gave a fantastic speech to open his side's account and was countered immediately by an impassioned Gwyneth Sotuminu. Bene Robinson excelled when it came to open dialogue and Alice Hickin gave a well-considered response to questions raised. Strong arguments were presented on both sides, yet in the end Khartoum beat Windsor house by a whisker with a more holistic argument. All entrants should be applauded for their efforts. (Mr Schofield)



Safe Drive, Stay Alive

With so many of our students driving or taking lessons, their safety on the roads both as a driver and a passenger has never been such a high priority. Each year a road safety partnership including Thames Valley and Hampshire Police, local councils and emergency services put on an event called 'Safe Drive, Stay Alive' at Dorking Halls for Year 12 students. The loud music and darkness that greets you on entry to the hall is reminiscent of the inside of the car on a night out. However the atmosphere soon changes as one by one members of the emergency services, as well as local hospital staff come out to talk about their experience of road traffic collisions

and the horrific nature of some of the injuries they have witnessed when attending them. Most movingly were the parents who spoke so movingly about the loss of a son or daughter who had so much to look forward to, as well as a daughter whose father had been killed by a young driver whose car was out of control. Although a dark and sombre way to spend an afternoon, the positive message from this is that since the introduction of Safe Drive Stay Alive, road deaths in the 16-25 age group in Surrey has fallen by two thirds.

For more information on the event, please visit <http://www.safedrive.org.uk/>



Christmas Cake Decorating Competition

At the end of the Autumn Term Sixth Form students from all Houses took part in the annual Inter-House Sixth Form Christmas cake decorating competition. We wanted our cake to be different and so decided to make the cake two tiered, in order to stand out. We used the fondant icing to make snowmen, holly leaves, Christmas trees and presents to decorate the cake. The first thing we did was cut out a quarter of the cake and placed it on top of the rest of the cake to add a second tier. Then, we covered it all in white fondant icing and then to top it off we added the decorations. As the clock was running down we continued the Christmas theme by spraying the whole cake with gold and silver glitter. Students held their breath as the judges looked over the finished cakes to see if their hard work had been rewarded. Kensington were announced winners: congratulations went to Jenny Lee, Ella Cowlshaw and Elin Griffiths (taught by Mary Berry).

Head Boy Profile: Max Beken

What is your dream job?

At this time, I do not have a final answer of what I would want to do when I'm older. However, I would love to see the world and experience life to the fullest, a job where I can do this would be a dream.

Why did you apply for the position of Head Boy?

I applied for this position as I wanted to challenge and push myself more than I would usually. As well as this I wanted to give back to the school for the support and memories I have acquired here.



What do you think is the biggest challenge facing your generation?

I think the biggest challenge facing my generation is that of social media and its complex addition to our everyday lives. I believe that my generation is changing and adapting to life different to that of our parents. I believe we should manage it carefully and shouldn't have it take over us.

What is the one thing that really annoys you?

Something that really annoys me is when I have IT issues where my emails either don't send or I don't receive them. Within my position email is the easiest way to communicate so when I have problems with it I can get annoyed.

If you could say one thing to the Prime Minister what would it be?

I would ask her what inspired her to become Prime Minister and take on the role of leading the country.

Do you have a role model and if so who is it and why?

I have many role models for different things. One of them would be Jermain Defoe for what he did for Bradley Lowery. Most professional footballers do not usually take the time to help people outside of the game, however Jermain Defoe put a lot of things to the side to help support both Bradley and the charities connected with him, donating a lot of his earnings to supporting suffering children.

What are you most passionate about?

I have a huge passion for my sport and drama. I love football and skiing as they calm me and take my mind off any stress I have.

What do you most enjoy about being part of Gordon's Sixth Form?

I love the trust and freedom that we are given, as well as the strong relationships I as a student gain with each one of my teachers. The Sixth Form here feels like a strong community where anyone can talk to anyone.

What do you plan to do after Sixth Form?

I am still wondering if I want to take a year to travel after sixth form or to go straight to university. As much as I do want to explore the world I do also want to gain a strong qualification at a top university as quickly as possible.

Volunteering

For the 20 hours of volunteering I completed, I helped to lead Kensington House in Ceremonial Drill. I have marched with the house for seven years and have led Kensington for two years. I enjoy marching as it allows me to build on my leadership skills which are excellent skills to have, and also assist you with writing your personal statement for university - as well as your CV. I also helped to teach the younger and new students how to march. Teaching new students how to march was hugely rewarding as I got to witness the improvement they made from not being able to do anything to getting to the standard where they can join older students in a Parade. As well as marching, I helped to lead the Inter-House Music competitions and I also helped with collecting the results for Inter-House cross-country. I enjoyed helping with the singers for Inter-House Music because it allowed me to pass on the skills I have acquired throughout my seven years at Gordon's School. Helping out with Inter-House Cross-Country allowed me to cheer on my house whilst helping staff who were leading the event. Volunteering allows you to give back some of your time to the school and staff as they give up so much time for you across the years. *(Poppy Colloff)*



Throughout Sixth Form I have completed over 60 hours of volunteering during Geography lessons and Period 7 activities. Assisting students with writing and reading tasks during lessons and helping within the house during prep, I am able to offer extra support to teachers and students. During Period 7, I have coached Girls football, led various groups in skill development drills whilst playing a sport I enjoy. In addition to volunteering during the school day, I have assisted in the smooth running of various school events, such as open evenings for prospective students and the unforgettable Geography quiz night. Overall, volunteering my spare time during the past two years has been a tremendous, fulfilling experience that has enabled me to build relationships with fellow peers and people I may never have had the opportunity to work with. By volunteering, you will be able to develop an array of skills, proven useful for employability and when applying for work experience. Team work, leadership and communication are some of the major skills that you can gain, strengthen and transfer from this. It's an enjoyable use of your free time that is best spent getting out of your study room and giving back to the school for all of their efforts. *(Sophie Slimm)*



Student Leadership

There are a variety of ways in which students can develop their leadership skills within the Sixth Form and we seek to encourage our students to become self-motivated, accountable and reliable. In turn, the leadership opportunities aim to develop our students' character and skills base, preparing them for life outside of Gordon's School. The focus is very much student led. We wish to empower our students, develop transferable skills and independence and ultimately encourage them to take ownership.

The new Head Boy and Head Girl, along with their deputies, have embraced their role in leading the new Sixth Form Senior Prefect team. Self-leadership is evident within the new cohort and our Senior Prefect team are already embracing their roles and raising their profile within the school. The Senior Prefects recently completed Dementia Friends training in order to be pro-active when interacting with members of the public. There will be an opportunity for the Head Boy and Girl and their deputies to attend a student leadership conference at Wellington College in the Autumn term. This event will enable them to liaise with students in similar positions and think about how they can improve their performance as a student led team.

The National Citizen Service (NCS) have delivered a Year 12 assembly and also attended Parents Information Evenings in order to raise awareness of their summer volunteering scheme. This is a fantastic opportunity to develop leadership skills by serving others, attending skills workshops and developing confidence.

There are a variety of leadership opportunities for our Sixth Form students within Gordon's School and beyond, which are linked to sports, the arts, academics and the wider community. Should you wish to find out more information about leadership at Gordon's, you can speak to Miss Hutchings or alternatively, look for opportunities that are posted on the Student Leadership board. *(Miss Hutchings)*

Pizza & Film Night

On Friday 22nd September Gordon's Sixth Form held the first Sixth Form social of the year; Pizza & Film Night. The first social is always well attended and this year saw the Gym filled to capacity as students from across Y12 and Y13 piled in for the best seats in the house. After a long debate on which movie to watch, the Sixth Form Social Committee decided on 'Guardians of the Galaxy Vol.2', starring Chris Pratt. The student body congregated in the Gym,

accompanied with beanbags, blankets and pillows and settled in for what would turn out to be an amusing movie. Pizza & Film Night would not be complete without the pizza and Papa John's did not fail to deliver with a wide variety of delicious food to keep everyone quiet for the opening scenes. Thanks to the Sixth Form team and student volunteers who made the night a success. *(Mr Keates)*

Menuhin School Composition Workshop Y12 musicians

The Music Department is fortunate to be able to participate in an outreach programme run by the Menuhin School in Cobham. The Menuhin School, founded by master violinist Yehudi Menuhin, offers education to 70 exceptionally talented string players from all over the world. The outreach programme is designed to support Y12 students with compositional skills. In the first session students attend a masterclass in creating their own music. The second session sees our students take along musical ideas they have composed and have them played by the students, which allows them to listen objectively and refine their work. In the third session students have their finished pieces of music recorded by the Menuhin School students.

(Mrs Brazendale)

Debussy Concert Y13

As part of the A level course, Y13 students explore musical styles from the turn of the 20th century. This includes Impressionism, a style adopted by the composer Debussy, the centenary of this death being remembered this year. In order to fully immerse themselves in the music of this style, Y13 musicians went to a concert and pre-concert talk by the renowned Debussy expert, Paul Roberts. Paul is well-known for his inspiring lectures as well as his wonderful performances, and we were delighted to hear performances from all three of the Debussy Images books.

(Mrs Brazendale)

School of Rock

Who knew that the School Gym could be turned into a Rock Gig venue? As a team the Music and Drama Department were so excited to present Andrew Lloyd Webber's 'School of Rock!' to parents, family and friends. The show was about a dead-beat rock and roller 'Dewey Finn' (played by the exceptional Killian Lines) who's life goal is to win Battle of the Bands and be a Rock Star! He has however, been kicked out of his current band 'No Vacancy' and therefore, with rent payments being demanded, he is a lost cause. A ray of hope happens to find him, in the form of a phone call for his house mate 'Ned'. 'Ned's' profession is a substitute teacher and the phone call invites him to 'Horace Green' a very prestigious school in the local area, for an interview. 'Dewey' seizes this opportunity and poses as his roommate and accepts the job. 'Dewey' has no intention of being a 'good'

teacher, he just wants to do his time and get paid, until he realises the student's musical talent. 'Dewey' is elated that the students can play instruments and introduces them to the genre of rock! He then enters them for the Battle of the Bands to realise his dream! However, on the night of the battle, the parents find out that the students have not been completing their academic studies and are furious. In outrage they go to stop their children participating in the Battle of the Bands, only to find an amazing side of their children they have never seen. I am incredibly proud of how hard the students worked and the extensive hours they dedicated to rehearsals, whether after school, late nights or weekends. The commitment shown by the Sixth Form students whilst juggling their academic work as well has been admirable. *(Miss Moore)*





Study Abroad

On Wednesday 3rd October, The Student World Roadshow visited Gordon's with a host of international universities in tow. The aim was for Y12 and Y13 students to have the opportunity to see what options there are outside of universities in the UK. Students had the chance to speak with representatives of universities from all over the world including; Canada, USA, Spain, Netherlands, Italy, France and many more. Not only was there a wide variety of free stationery, but students got a taste of a wide variety of exciting opportunities that lie outside of the university lifestyle offered at home. The Student World Roadshow was a very successful event and will be visiting again next year for those who didn't make it this time around.
(Mr Keates)

Berlin Trip

On 9th to 11th February, fourteen Year 13s set off for Berlin, accompanied by Miss Fairweather and Mr Campbell to further their understanding of Germany in the 20th century. We visited numerous museums and received a very engaging tour of the city by our guide, Asaf. It was a real highlight of the trip as his personal stories engaged us all and made us forget how cold Berlin really was for the duration! We were lucky with the weather with only a small amount of snow on the final day but students found themselves a German market and settled down for some hot chocolate and Bratwursts. In the evenings, we had an exciting tour of the Bundestag at night and an evening of bowling which was very enjoyable. Mr Campbell provided excellent photography for which we are very appreciative. It was an excellent trip, enjoyed by all!
(Miss Fairweather)



Model United Nations

@gordonsdebating | #coolkids #coolkidsontour

Once again, this year we have had an exciting year of MUN-ing. Now seasoned regulars on the circuit, Sixth Formers have competed at Reigate Grammar, Croydon High and Haileybury School. Consistently, our teams have demonstrated a precise attention to detail when constructing and analysing resolutions, a secure grasp of rhetoric to ensure their country's views are heard and an ability to work collaboratively. Particular congratulations to: Adam Grainger, Alex Duke, Artur Nunes, Tim Fisho and Luca Conti who each have achieved at least one 'distinguished delegate' award this year.

In addition to individual awards, teams also compete for the accolade of 'distinguished delegation'. This highly prestigious prize is awarded to teams as a result of the aggregation of individual successes; consequently, a team can only receive this award if each delegate performs at an exceptional standard. After three years on the MUN circuit, Gordon's have now achieved this honour. Congratulations to Luca Conti, Tim Fisho and Artur Nunes who were part of a team that achieved this.

(Mrs Mitchell)

Sixth Form Life in a Day House

From being a boarder throughout my GCSE'S, I presumed that being a Sixth Form student in a day house was going to be similar from what I had already experienced. However, Victoria House has exceeded expectations in all departments. Ms Maslen, Victoria's House parent, has supported us throughout the last two years, being both a teacher and a mentor guiding us in the right direction. Considering the fact Victoria started as a House much smaller than others, Inter-House events were interesting. Nonetheless we smashed the hockey, football and marching – much to everyone's surprise! Being a Sixth Form student, the opportunity to take on certain roles within the House have been a key learning experience for me. These range from House Captain on parade to tuck duty (surprisingly a vital

role) and others taking on titles such as sports leader, drama and arts leader and house prefects. I think the greatest aspect of being in Victoria, has most definitely been the social element. Sixth Form students have their own common room upstairs, which has seen vigorous Mario Kart matches, sweaty Sixth Form dance-off rehearsals and spontaneous tea sessions. Victoria has plenty of study rooms which enable you to have the desk space to work without having to go home, or you can always use the library. It's your space. Although, the A-level years are the most stressful of all school years, Victoria tutors, the girls and the kettle have enabled me to enjoy the last two years immensely and I will miss everything the experience has taught me. It is by far the greatest House to be in!
(Hannah Gordon)

KEY DATES

- 9th May:**
Longmoor Cup
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- 14th May:**
AS Exams Commence
-
- 4th June:**
A Level Exams Commence
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- 11th June:**
Y12 return to lessons BBQ
-
- 14th June:**
Y12 Higher Education Evening
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- 15th June:**
Higher Education Day
-
- 23rd June & 24th June:**
Y12 TEFL Course
-
- 30th June:**
Annual Parade and Prize Giving
-
- 2nd July:**
EXEAT
-
- 3rd July:**
Y12 Induction Day
-
- 3rd July:**
Y12 SMSC Day
-
- 5th July:**
Summer Arts Evening
-
- 6th July:**
Y13 Leaving Dinner
-
- 9th July:**
Y12 Work Experience Week
-
- 13th July:**
Last Day of Term
-
- 16th August:**
AS & A2 Results Day
-