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# Gordon's News

## Spring Term 2018

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## Memorial Weekend

Around 250 students took part in the annual parade along Whitehall in January – marking the highlight of Gordon's calendar. Dressed in their ceremonial Blues uniform, students marched along Whitehall and past the Cenotaph before arriving at the statue of General Gordon on the banks of the Thames at the Victoria Embankment Gardens. There they attended a Memorial Service to commemorate the death of Christian soldier hero, philanthropist General Charles George Gordon, led by the School Chaplain the Reverend Sarah Norbron.

The Whitehall Parade was followed by the annual General Gordon Memorial Service in Guildford Cathedral the next day attended by the whole school, staff and parents. It was led by The Dean of Guildford, the Very Revd Dianna Gwilliams and the preacher was The Right Reverend Peter Hullah, Voluntary director Women's Education Partnership - Sudan and South Sudan.



## Whitehall Parade 2018







## Hot Chocolate, Bratwursts and a German Market

A trip to Berlin, to further their understanding of Germany in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, was how 14 Year 13s spent their half term holiday, along with Miss Fairweather and Mr Campbell.

The group visited numerous museums and received a very engaging tour of the city by their guide, Asaf, who regaled them with his personal stories.

With snow falling on the final day, students found themselves a German market and settled down for some hot chocolate and Bratwursts.

In the evenings, there was an exciting tour of the Bundestag and bowling. Mr Campbell provided excellent photography and entertained with his 'dad-jokes'. It was an excellent trip, enjoyed by all!

## Y10 GCSE Science Live trip

Interesting, engaging and great were some of the comments made by the Year 10 GCSE students on their Science Live Trip in Oxford.

The group heard from Professor Dave Cliff, Professor of Computer Science at the University of Bristol; Professor Alice Roberts, Professor of Public Engagement with Science at the University of Birmingham; Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock of BBC Four's The Sky at Night; Professor Lord Robert Winston, Professor of Science and Society at Imperial College, London and Professor Andrea Sella, a synthetic chemist at UCL.

Professor Cliff explained how far computer science has come in the last 50 years and the immense possibilities in the next 50 years. Professor Roberts, an anatomist, biological anthropologist, author and broadcaster took us on a journey through thousands of years looking at the extraordinary history of familiar species including humans, dogs, apples, rice.

Dr Aderin-Pocock showed us the instruments she is working

on with the European Space Agency to monitor wind speeds in the Earth's atmosphere. Her plan is to emigrate to Mars for her retirement!

In the afternoon we were treated to a lecture by Professor Lord Winston, who regaled us with stories from his research and medicine days and the impact of his contributions to medicine. We were lucky enough to watch videos of a phagocyte chasing and engulfing a white blood cell and of the inside of the fallopian tube.

Our final lecturer, Professor Andrea Sella, started with an experiment about the strange properties of ice. Why does ice float? No other solid floats in its liquid form. Adding ice to a drink doesn't make it any colder, it just keeps the temperature steady! The final part of the lecture created a sense of awe and dread in the students as they silently saw how the ice was dramatically decreasing in the Arctic and all around the world, and then his final question: "What happens when all of the ice in the Arctic has melted?"



# Victoria House

After celebrating our first birthday in October, attention turned to the Victoria House Christmas party, the highlight of which was using wrapping paper and other items to wrap some, or many, people up in a Christmas theme. There was Santa and his sleigh (complete with reindeer!) a cracker, alternative Christmas dinner outfits and more!

This term we have enjoyed success in the Inter-House Drama, coming 3rd and we were 2nd in the Charity Inter-House Dance Competition. Our senior students enjoyed pizza as a reward for not being on invention.

During Charity week we hosted a Mario Kart competition 'Can you beat rainbow road?' The answer was 'no' as no one was able to complete the race without falling off! However, Abbie Broughton won overall and we raised £50 for our House charity. We are looking forward to our next party and planning a trip in the summer term as well.



## Skating at the Palace

by Nicole Fantela

What an incredible way to start the Christmas season with ice skating at Hampton Court Palace! The towering picturesque palace contrasted with the fun-loving crowds to create a lively atmosphere and Augusta girls enjoyed every second of it! The true highlight of the day was when the first snowflake had fallen. We had a great time skating in the snow - as if we were in a snow globe. As the snow continued more and more people started falling down, grabbing onto anyone who was close even complete strangers! But it only added to the laughter and joy felt by everyone. With hot chocolate and delicious brownies to share it's fair to say that we all had a great time with laughter and tears. And as always, we have to thank Mr Mathews as our appointed photographer for the day... and obviously all the other stuff he does!



## Sandringham Fundraising

When the boys from Sandringham House heard about Old Gordonian Sam Doble, who was left paralysed by a motorbike accident last year, they set about raising money to help pay for his mobility and rehabilitation equipment. Sam continued to supervise the multi-gym in the evening after leaving Gordon's and since his accident, is determined he will walk again. The boys arranged several events to raise money for him and through a variety of sales have raised over £500 so far.



# Khartoum in the Snow



## China Capers

A spooky House of Horror greeted the China girls for the annual Halloween Party. Looking terrifyingly ghoulish, they greeted all the old favourite games such as 'eating the doughnut in the fastest time without using your hands' and the 'toilet roll mummy'. There were also some hair-raising new games as the 6th Form Study Rooms became the 'trick or treat corridor of doom' and the Maths room was converted into the 'maze of horror' – not for the faint hearted! After a boo-tiful spread of burgers, curly fries and fang-tastic cakes kindly donated by parents everyone was left wondering just what had happened in China on that mysterious night. Would China ever be the same again?

## Buckingham House Bonding at Gravity Force

A bonding trip for the new Year 7s saw them bouncing away at Gravity Force. Loads of fun and games were had – the dodge ball being a firm favourite! The evening was rounded off with some colourful (and cold) slushies and a hotdog.

The trip was followed by an opportunity to rip it up on the asphalt at Daytona Karting for Years 7-10. The boys were split into ages, with some of the Y7s smashing round the course - Brayden Kerr in particular. The drive of the day went to Stuart Mackenzie in Y9, who put in a good case to be included in the school karting team for the 2019 season!







## Gordonian Award

Awards of up to £1,000 each have been made to two students displaying excellence in Sport and the Creative Arts by the Gordonians. Maisy Ellis (Sport) and Eleanor-Rose Prince (Music), both Y11 and in China House will receive up to £1,000 each over three years towards the costs of pursuing their discipline. This was the first time that the Music award was expanded to include Art and Design, Photography and Drama. Gordonian Chair Jay Tamsitt said, "It is clear that the School is developing and nurturing some fantastic sporting and artistic talent. We wish all the applicants much success in their ongoing efforts."



## Snowboarding, Skiing and Fantastic Snow

The best snow in 11 years greeted us for our tenth annual Gordon's School Ski Trip to Obertauern in Austria in December.

This year we introduced snowboarding so over 80 students in two coaches made their way to the Hotel Felseralm for a great week on the slopes.

All the students made excellent progress and had a huge amount

of fun. Off the piste, the highlight was the trip to the Christmas markets in Salzburg where pupils sampled some traditional Austrian Christmas food and spent some of their pocket money on souvenirs and presents. Next year's trip is already booked and, as always, we are all looking forward to returning to visit our friends in Austria. I would like to thank all the staff who attended the trip for making it such a great week for all the students.

## Insight into Business

Our speaker for this term's Insight Talk was Sir Mike Rake, former Chairman of BT and now Chairman of Great Ormond Street Hospital, with extensive international and UK business experience and interests. Before the talk itself, Sir Mike met a small group of our Sixth Form Economists who had prepared several insightful questions. For the talk itself, we were provided with a fascinating review of issues and political context that challenge a 'captain of industry' such as Sir Mike. The audience of students, parents and staff posed a range of questions to which we received some candid responses. Sir Mike highlighted the qualities that he considered essential for a successful leader, emphasising the need for resilience, courage, integrity and communications skills, all of which we seek to develop in Gordon's students.





# German Exchange

A week of School, Culture, Weihnachtsmärkte, and Glühwein (for the teachers!) beckoned 12 Gordon's students from Year 11 and 12 and five Woking High students doing the return German leg of their exchange.

We were given a lovely reception from the German Head Teacher, teaching colleagues and pupils. After that, our students went back home with their partners enjoying the cultural difference of school finishing at 1pm!

Our students then had the not so pleasant experience of being in lessons at 07:45am! But after a meeting with them to check all was well, they were then immersed in German life all weekend without any teacher input bar some texting. When we met again on Monday morning to travel to Heidelberg, the students had many impressive stories to tell me about where they had been over the weekend. To top it all, it finally snowed whilst we were there!

After the day trip to Heidelberg, there was one more day in school before a farewell dinner in a local restaurant, which was enjoyed by all. I would like to thank Mrs Weston and the five Woking High pupils for being such a credit to your school as well as Miss Tarsey who was an amazing support to me again as always. Finally I would like to thank all of the pupils and teachers from Lise-Meitner Gymnasium for welcoming us into your community but particular thanks must go to Frau Wieland and Frau Seitz for being the glue that held it all together. Wir freuen uns auf den nächsten Besuch in Juni!







# Windsor House

It has been a great year of activities and Inter-House competitions. We have been to Chessington World of Adventures; ice skating; go-karting; shopping at Bluewater; the cinema; climbing and Harry Potter World to name but a few. Our activities have included the Christmas Party and Dinners and the Charity Talent show along with all of the Saturday evening fun throughout the year. Windsor continues to be a 'home away from home' and our new pupils have settled brilliantly, including our new Senior House Officers team who lead the student body.

## Short Story Competition

For her highly engaging, well-crafted horror story, Darcy Watson was declared winner of the 500 words creative writing competition.

Darcy joined runners up on a short story writing workshop hosted by author William Hussey in the School Library on World Book Day. Her story 'A Greek Tragedy' has now been entered into a national BBC competition for the chance to be read out on the radio.

## Dragons' Den

A Dragons' Den style event put Year 10 GCSE Business students through their paces in February.

The students worked in teams to create a business plan for their innovative ideas to present to the 'dragons', who were members of the local community and real life entrepreneurs, who asked questions and grilled the students.

Business ideas ranged from spreading aids for butter to solar cases for mobile phones, but the idea deemed 'most likely to succeed' was from 'Team TCL', who successfully pitched the concept of wireless ear buds.

The full list of winning teams and students is as follows:

	Jembs	Jamie Bond, Maddy Ross, Sadie Hibbins, Ben Hancock, Emily Preece
<b>Best Teamwork</b>	TCL	Joshua Deakin, Avaya Thapa, Tom Foakes, Theo Lee-Clarke
	West End Kebabs	Ben Roffey, Mehreen Osman, Bel Lowe, Brogan Hyde, Toby Bass
<b>Best Display</b>	Lémon	Nate Watson, Emily Jones, Keyur Govender, Amy Maddock, George Arnold
<b>Best Presentation</b>	Wipeaway	Aydan Omar, Luke Esperanca, Alice Cresswell, Sophie Moody
<b>Idea Most Likely to Succeed</b>	TCL	Joshua Deakin, Avaya Thapa, Tom Foakes, Theo Lee-Clarke





# Careers Fair

The second annual Gordon's Careers Fair was held on 13th March. This year's was even bigger and better, and involved a wide range of exhibitors including representatives from the Armed Forces, local universities, volunteering groups and apprenticeship providers.

Many occupations and interests were represented, alongside more traditional companies, including art curation, glass design and videography. Students were also lucky enough to be able to participate in hands on activities provided by well-known companies such as Kier, MacLaren and Fujitsu.

This event really showcased the most modern, up to date careers available to students and represented careers that many students didn't know were a possibility.

We were very fortunate to have so many excellent exhibitors join us for the fair; alongside huge international companies. Inspiringly, we had Gordonians past and present (including current Year 11s!) presenting about their respective careers. Student feedback was extremely positive and many have mentioned how beneficial they found it to be able to speak to real employees of companies and organisations that they may want to work with in the future. Thank you to everyone who came for making the fair such a success – we are already looking forward to next year!



## Charity Week

Charity Week went ahead for the first time in the Gordon's calendar in February with each House making a contribution. Some of the exciting events that took place included a 100 Club; Inter-House dance competition; cake sales; Inter-House Mario Kart; Bras for Africa (girls' Houses only); pizza and film night; dress to impress prep; hot chocolate and cookies. We would like to thank all Heads of Houses for their help in these events and we look forward to next year and expanding this exciting moment in the school calendar.







## 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!' about a dead-beat rock and roller 'Dewey Finn' whose life goal is to win Battle of the Bands and be a rock star!

Rehearsals for the show started in September 2017, with 28 Key Stage 4 students acting, two student stage managers and a student costume designer. This was a show-stopping event with both students and staff working tirelessly! The end result was fabulous! 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. Thank you to Mr Moss for his support of the Arts; Thomas Holmes, our Drama Technician, and the amazing music team. Thank you also to all the staff and backstage crew and the Maintenance and Facilities teams.

## The Lion King

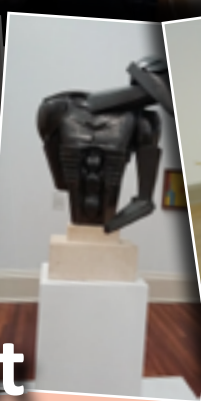
Students from all year groups attended a performance of the Lion King in January. What a fabulous show! Julie Taymor has transformed the beloved film into a spectacular stage production that explodes with glorious colours, stunning effects and enchanting music. At its heart is the powerful and moving story of Simba – the epic adventure of his journey from wide-eyed cub to his destined role as King of the Pridelands. The puppetry was amazing and the students thoroughly enjoyed the performance.

## Dancing Queens

Dancers Poppy Colloff, Rebecca Dovener; Phoebe Rigby and Rose Roberts reached the semi-finals of the That's Showbiz national competition at the Blackpool Winter Gardens. They went on to win the Starstruck 2018 dance section with Poppy dancing her way to a silver medal in the solos in all genres including ballet, contemporary, song and dance, tap and modern in the Under 21 age group.

Lily-Ann Prince has reached the That's Showbiz National Finals in Liverpool and Rose Roberts achieved the highest scoring exam result in Modern Jazz. All five girls will be dancing at Disneyland Paris in July 2018.





## Yr 11 Galleries Visit

All Year 11 Art and Photography students visited the Tate Britain and Tate Modern Galleries in London. The visits provided a wonderful opportunity for the students to gain inspiration for their GCSE exam on 'Fragments' and for students to view the work of artists that they had been studying in their work journals. The Photography students also had the opportunity to capture the architecture and busy environment of London.

## Good to Great

The Good to Great Drama Workshops with Simon Schatzberger, a trained Drama Practitioner, consisted of learning and refining rehearsal techniques such as hot-seating and improvisation. The students chose from monologues from DreamWorks movie 'How to Train Your Dragon' to more hard-hitting ones dealing with the topic of racism. Using the refined skills learned earlier within the workshop they have been rehearsing these monologues, ready for a performance later in the Summer Term. It has been a great experience having Simon work with our students and something that they are finding very valuable.



## Teechers

John Godber's 'Teechers!' our first Key Stage 3 show and what a success it was! The show was about three school leavers, Salty, Hobby and Gail Saunders who perform to an audience an account of their time in secondary school, specifically their time with Mr Jeff Nixon, the new drama teacher who ignites their passion for the stage with his idealism and belief that all children should be treated equally. At the end of the play he leaves Whitewall High School to teach at St George's, another school with much 'better' teachers. We got a glimpse into the lives of the students, the school bully who smokes behind the bike shed and the mysterious unknown world which was the staffroom!

Within this production the Drama Department really stretched our students' skills by making the show not only have an audience on three sides of the stage but also making it immersive - the audience was bombarded with 'naughty' school children sitting in their seats and speaking to them as they were taking their seats and all the way through the play itself. This is a technique used within professional fringe theatres and for our Key Stage 3 students to achieve this so brilliantly is such a credit to their intelligence and skill.





# Inter-House Art

Given the theme 'Identity' students were encouraged to work in a variety of media on large scale in groups of no more than five students. Their work had to include their research, analysis and evaluation and they were judged on ideas (originality, and an obvious development of an idea); research (evidence of link to the arts for inspiration); and practical.

Once again it was good to see such enthusiasm, creativity and so many personal responses this year with a collective link to the title, 'Identity'.

The judging was difficult as the competition was very close. However, the judges were unanimous with the winners: Augusta (64 points) with Kensington in 2nd place (63 points) and Balmoral 3rd (56 points).

## East

'East' was a piece of Berkovian Theatre performed at The Kings Head Theatre in London. This was an AS and A-Level trip where they were able to see a performance in the style of Berkoff a very famous and innovative theatre practitioner. 'East' savagely evokes a world of bloody, booze-fuelled fights round the back of the Lyceum, of horrible day trips to Southend, racism, and ugly, uninspiring futures. And Berkoff being Berkoff, it's all realised in a riotous, rollicking whirlwind of hybridised Shakespeare and slang. Cusses and classical references gleefully rub shoulders throughout. Jessica Lazar's inventive production is no less remarkable. Her five-strong cast creatively move across the intimate, sparse space of the small theatre, all accompanied by a lovely piano. It was a great experience for the Sixth Form students and has given them inspiration for when they need to interpret their play text of 'Machinal' and 'Saved' in their Summer exams.





# Inter-House Drama

Inter-House Drama enjoyed a new twist this year. There was no stimulus, only group work and creativity. Each House could produce any performance from a monologue to huge ensemble piece.

Pieces ranged in genre from physical theatre, naturalism, comedy, topical political theatre, devised and scripted. The highlight of the event was seeing such an age range of students producing such excellent work. A special mention goes to Victoria House - mainly made up of KS3 students, who were placed 3rd in the results. Another mention also goes to Emily Smith and Ed Lee, two of our AS and A-Level Drama students, who acted as directors of their Houses' pieces. This definitely paid off as their associated Houses ranked first and second place. Most of the night the judges were holding their stomachs and wiping their eyes from laughing so much. It truly was an incredible evening.





# From Rock to Dvorak

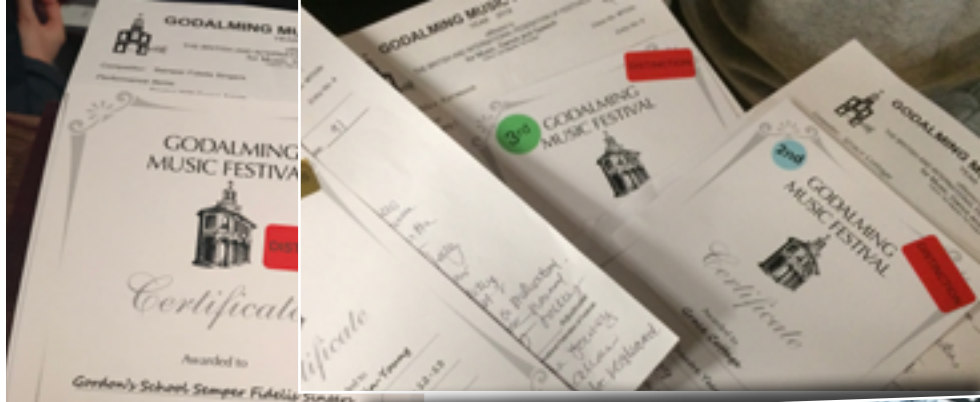
One of the highlights of the term was our collaboration with the Drama Department on 'School of Rock', which showcased some terrific singing talent on stage, and some great student musicianship in the Band as well, including some face-melting solos from Y13 Jimmy Latham. Immediately after half-term, we were into our exam season, with AS and A-Level practical exams, ABRSM practical exams, LCM Music Theatre exams and LAMDA verse and prose, acting and public speaking exams.

Some enjoyable evenings were spent out this term at a Chinese New Year Extravaganza at GLive (Y7) and an evening of Debussy piano music at the Menuhin School in Cobham (Y12 and 13). Our own students entertained us ably at the informal concert in February and the Spring String evening in March. Our string players have also been kept busy with a masterclass from professional violinist Jessica O'Leary.

Godalming Music Festival plays a key feature in this term's musical programme. We competed in the Choral Class at Charterhouse Chapel and Semper Fidelis Singers won the Choir class (mixed voices) with their rendition of 'Spring Will Come Again' (L'Estrange) and 'Song of Purple Summer' (Sheik), bringing home the Hydon Cup.

The Concert Band were also in action, gaining 91/100 and an Honours ranking for their programme selected from our Spring Concert repertoire. Individuals also excelled and mention should be made of our triptych of winners in the Musical Theatre class (1st - Tasmin Martin-Young (Y13), 2nd - Killian Lines (Y13), 3rd - Katie Beet (Y12)).

Sixth Form musicians have also been busy completing compositions and having them recorded by talented string students at the Menuhin School under the baton of composition tutor John Cooney. Our final event prior to the Spring Concert was a trip to Old Swinford Hospital School near Birmingham to take part in a State Boarding Schools massed orchestra event. The programme included 'Grand March' from Aida, 'Dambusters March' by Coates, 'Suite from Lord of the Rings' by Shore and 'Slavonic Dance' No 8 by Dvorak



## Godalming Music Festival

Music and Drama Students swept the board at the Godalming Music Festival, coming first in a number of categories.

Semper Fidelis, Gordon's elite choir came first in the school choir mixed voices category and were presented with the Hydon Cup. Phoebe Norman and Roseanna Fernandes came third place in the festival with their acting duologue.

Other successes were: Raphael Baker, first for News Presenting; Ann Robinson, first for Public Speaking; Darcy Watson, first, and Ann Robinson, second, for Humorous Verse; Darcy Watson, first for Verse Speaking; Darcy Watson, second, Isla Bethune, third, and Ann Robinson, fourth for Sight-Reading. Isla Bethune also came second in her acting.

In the Musical Theatre Class: (Years 7-11), second place Grace Cottage Y11; third place Alice Kermeen Y7; (Years 12/13) first place Tasmin Martin-Young Y12; second place Killian Lines Y13 and third place Katie Beet Y12.



# U16 Invitational Rugby 7s

The inaugural Gordon's School U16 Invitational Rugby 7s was held in February, attracting schools such as Wimbledon College and City of London Freeman's. Gordon's gave a spirited performance, reaching the Semi-Final and eventually losing to The Oratory who were the overall winners. The competition gave the newly qualified rugby referees – all Gordon's students – to put their skills to the test.





# Equestrian Team

Given the opportunity to ride a horse that competed in the Pentathlon in the London 2012 Olympic Games, Rebecca Hales won the 1.10m National Schools Equestrian Association (NSEA) Show Jumping at Duckhurst Farm on the 14th February and also went double clear in the 1m class at the same event.

In January, at Bury Farm, they were 6th in the 1m class and 7th in the 1.10m class. These are the biggest heights within the NSEA but the classes are still competitive. At the beginning of February Rebecca was placed 26th out of over 150 riders in the 1m class at Felbridge.

Our junior riders are also bringing rosettes home. At the start of February at the NSEA Sands Farm competition, Amy Taplin, Halee Lloyd, Gigi Gough and Abigail Arnold were 4th as a team in the 70cm Show Jumping competition. Gigi came 4th in the 70cm Derby Class.

Also in February, Holly Norris came 11th in the 1.10m class at Felbridge. She showed true resilience here as the 1m class didn't go to plan but she was determined to improve and it certainly paid off.

It is fantastic to see Gordon's being represented now at every height possible within the NSEA and testament to the dedication our riders have to their sport, especially over winter, which means that they keep improving and competing at higher heights.



## Pedal Power

Cyclists came away with a clutch of medals at the Charlotteville Reindeer Dash off road competition in Woking's Goldsworth Park. Andrew Milne, James Deakin, Joshua Deakin and Oliver Pinder, all members of the Gordon's Cycling Club took part in three events – skills; individual time trials and a handicapped sprint. All four reached the podium in the time trials. Pleasing results from their first competition. More cycling in PE Lessons and P7 as well as Saturday mornings and the trip to Lanzarote in July are eagerly awaited. Now all eyes are on the Easter Rabbit Run!

### In the Under 14 Category:

- Lewis Broderick came third in the handicap race
- James Deakin came first in the individual time trial
- Joshua Deakin came second in the individual time trial
- Oliver Pinder came third in the individual time trial and first in timed technical event

### In the Under 16 Category:

- Andrew Milne came first in the handicap race, second in the timed technical event and third in the individual time trial.



# Semi-Final decided on Penalties

Gordon's suffered a heartbreaking loss on penalties to holders Millfield School at the beginning of March in the semi-final of the English Schools' Football Association U18 Trophy.

With the sides locked 0-0 at both full time and the end of extra time, Gordon's lost a heart-stopping penalty shoot-out 3-2 despite a heroic effort from Year 11 goalkeeper Devon Gordon who saved two penalties.

It was the end of a remarkable cup run which saw the team win through seven rounds of the competition against many of the top schools in the country.

The Front Field played host to an epic game of football, with both sides showing why they deserved their place in the last four of the competition. Millfield played a possession game, moving the ball from left to right waiting for a gap in the Gordon's backline to appear, whilst Gordon's played patiently, waiting for their opportunity to win the ball back before launching a speedy counter attack.

The first half saw limited chances for both teams as Millfield dominated possession but couldn't find a way through Gordon's resilient defence. The best chance of the first half fell to Gordon's forward Will McKechnie whose effort flew over the bar after being played through by fellow striker Ben Jones.

The second half saw the game open up as Millfield were reduced to ten men, however chances remained limited. Millfield continued to keep the ball and play a short passing game from the back despite the one man disadvantage whilst Gordon's continued to trust their defensive shape and play a fast attacking game whenever the ball was won. The hard work from Gordon's began to show as numerous players began to suffer with cramp, a signal of just how hard they were having to work to keep Millfield at bay.

Extra time followed and the first half saw the best chance of the game, as Ben Jones worked himself a chance on the edge of the Millfield penalty box, only to see his effort spin off the inside of the post and somehow bounce back out. Devon Gordon pulled off a fantastic save from a Millfield free kick and despite countless counter attacks from Gordon's, the sides couldn't be separated and it took penalties to decide who would progress to next week's final.

Final score: AET Gordon's 0-0 Millfield (Millfield win 3-2 on penalties).

## GORDON'S SCHOOL CUP RUN:

1st Round: v John Madejski Academy (H) 3-0;  
2nd Round: v Cardinal Wiseman RC School (A) 3-3 (won 5-4 on penalties)  
3rd Round: v Ashcombe (H) 1-0  
4th Round: v St John the Baptist (A) 5-2  
5th Round: v Sutton Grammar (H) 2-1  
6th Round: v Northampton School (A) 1-0  
Q-F: v Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Canterbury (A) 2-1  
S-F v Millfield (H) 0-0 (lost 3-2 on penalties)



## Tormead Hockey

U12A and U12B Hockey teams win Tormead Invitational

It was a successful day for the U12A and B team at the Tormead Invitational Hockey Tournament.

Both teams went undefeated after the group matches. This left them top of their leagues. The U12A team were winners of the A league and the U12B team were champions of the B league.

### Results:

#### U12A

2 - 0 win v Tormead  
1 - 1 draw v St Teresa's  
2 - 0 win v St Peters  
2 - 1 win v Pipers Corner

#### U12B

0 - 0 draw v Tormead  
1 - 1 draw v St Teresa's  
2 - 0 win v Pipers Corner  
3 - 0 win v St Peters





# The Mozart Cup

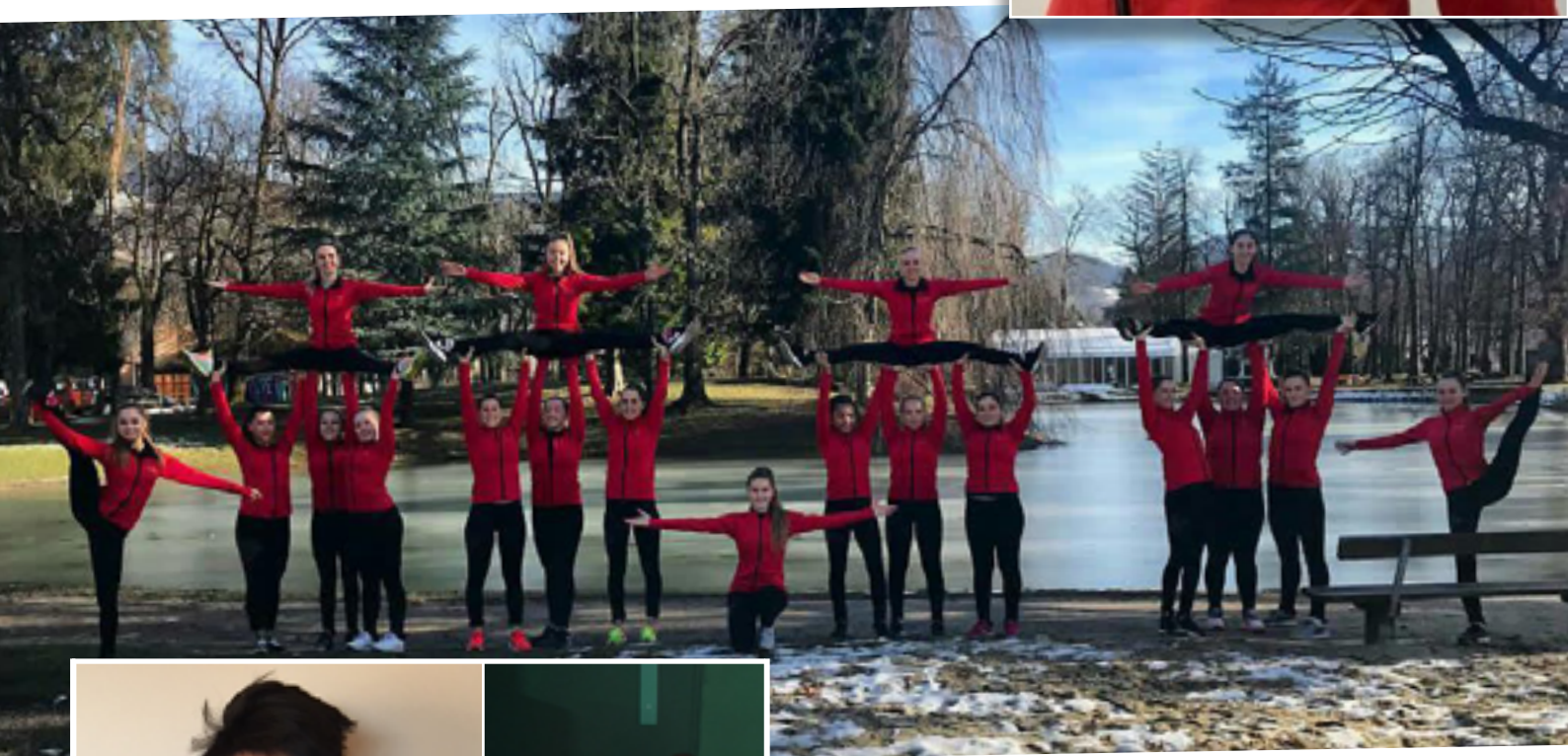
The competition in Austria - The Mozart Cup 2018 - is the biggest international figure skating event, authorised by the International Skating Union. For Salzburg it was a big event, with posters all over the city.

Elin Griffin's team is a 'Senior' team which in terms of ability is the highest level a team can be. They do some very clever lifts across the ice! The 'Senior' category aim for the World Championships in April.

The team were up against very strong competition from countries such as USA, Russia, Canada and Finland (some of these teams have their own private ice rink and train three times per day). They did not medal at the competition but a very proud moment for the team to represent GBR at such a high level of competing.

They did win silver at the British Open earlier this year.

Elin skated Solo at the British Open in 2016 and was ranked 5th. Unfortunately last year the solo competition clashed with her exam schedule so she didn't compete solo in 2017.



## Badminton

Badminton-playing Gravesend student Dominic Nabasa came away with a clutch of medals in national tournaments during his half term holiday. The Year 9 student won the boys' singles and doubles in the National U15 England tournament in Middlesex; the boys' singles in the National U15 England tournament in Winchester and the boys' doubles and runners' up boys' singles in the National U15 England tournament in Sussex. His haul amounted to four gold medals and a silver!





## Army Training

A weapon handling day was held by the Army Section of the Combined Cadet Force in March. The aim of the day was to train all the cadets how to safely handle the L98A2 cadet rifle and pass their weapon handling test in preparation for live firing on the ranges and CCF Army camp next term. The training was carried out by members of the regular Army from the Cadet Training Team at Longmoor. All students had a fantastic day and look forward to the next field day in May when they will get to fire the weapon for the first time using blank and live ammunition.



# Flying Scholarship

After three and a half years in the Combined Cadet Force with the RAF, Daniel Farrow was awarded a Flying Scholarship which gave him 12 hours of flying instruction over two weeks in Dundee.

"Naturally I was quite apprehensive so it was a relief to meet like-minded people who had a real interest in aviation and a desire to fly aircraft for the military.

"We would travel to the airport at around 8.30am then rush into the reception to see when and if we would be flying that day. Unfortunately on the first day the weather wasn't good enough for us to fly, but it was still excellent to look around and learn about the aircraft we would be flying. Fortunately over the rest of the trip the weather improved so we could get a lot of flying in.

"The best part of the experience was definitely the flying, having never been to Scotland before it was fantastic to see the landscape from five thousand feet. The views of northern Scotland never seemed to get tiresome and always amazed me especially on an early morning flight when the sun was reflecting off the North Sea. In addition it was thrilling to get to grips with the aircraft, the speed of learning was fast and within the first three trips I was taking off and landing by myself!

"As someone who has always been interested in aviation it was extremely rewarding. Every trip built on from the knowledge you had gained in the last so it was a very methodical way of learning. By the final trip I was flying the aircraft and communicating with the air traffic controllers without the instructor's help, therefore the course really allowed me to develop my skills in a relatively short space of time.

"On the final day of the course I sat down with my instructor and he went through my report. It was extremely satisfying to see that my hard work throughout the two weeks had paid off. My report was extremely positive and allowed me to realise my potential as a pilot.



## Water, water everywhere The Navy CCF Field Day

By Alana Hewitt and Anna Schoeman

Aboard HMS Bristol the wake up call was at 6am. Dressed in our Number 4s we went to the firefighting school where we learnt what to do in the event of a fire on a ship, what fire extinguishers to use with different fires and what equipment they use to fight fires. We even got the chance to put out some fires ourselves.

Next was the Damage Repair Unit (DRU), where we changed into overalls and immersion suits and went inside. We were split into two groups and shown where we would need to block up the holes and what to do for each type of hole. One at a time the two groups went into the DRU and blocked up the holes as it tilted five degrees to each side and water flooded in through the holes.

We returned to HMS Bristol, packed our things and headed back in the minibuses to school with a short break for McDonald's!





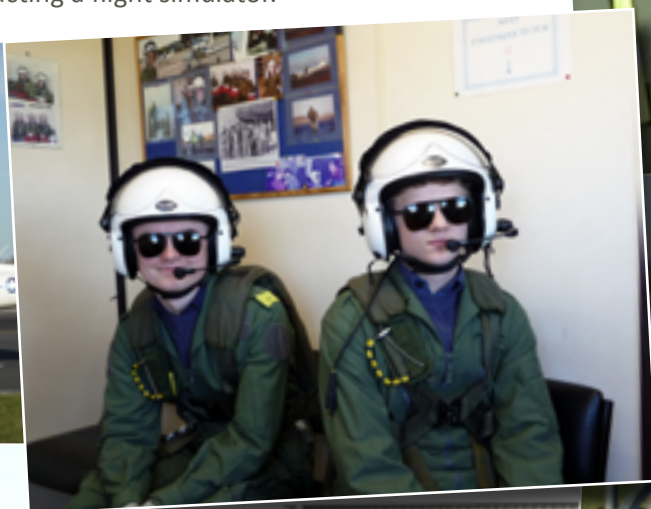
# Aviation Training with Gordons School CCF RAF Section

Training in the use of parachutes and safety in and around aircraft are two of the disciplines that Gordon's School cadets have been experiencing over recent months. They have also been shown, at close quarters, the Royal Air Force Puma helicopter – including getting into the pilot's seat and being shown the controls.

The cadets received flying instruction in the Tutor RAF 2 seat training aircraft with them all taking control and not only flying the aircraft, but carrying out aerobatics including loops, stalls and barrel rolls.

In the last six months eight cadets received their Aviation Training Wings with one Cadet travelling to Scotland to complete an RAF Flying Scholarship. This is a fantastic start with all the hours going towards a Private Pilot's Licence.

This year the Summer camp will be at RAF Henlow where the section will realise an ambition of constructing a flight simulator.





## AS Business Mini Plant Tour



In a bid to understand more about Operations and Resource Management, Gordon's AS Business students visited the Mini Car Plant in Oxford where all the body shell production, paint and final assembly is carried out. Their tour included visiting the assembly shop and experiencing the whole production process from the welding of steel parts into car bodies to the individual interior equipment in the assembly. Among the interesting facts learnt were that a new Mini drives off the production line every 68 seconds and more than 1,000 robots apply between 4,000 and 6,000 spot welds to create the new Mini body shell.

## 6th Form Quiz Night

Fourteen teams from Years 12 and 13 pitted their wits against each other for the much anticipated Sixth Form Quiz. This popular event 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 make the longest orange peel! Congratulations to the eventual winners Tom Lara, Peter Millard, Matt Hill, Marcus del Vecchio, Miles Spiller and Connor Curtis.





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School', and click  
'Latest Photos'.



WHAT'S HAPPENING



# Achievements

## NATIONAL LEVEL

### Football

- The 1st XI built on last year's record cup with a run of seven victories to reach the semi-final of the English Schools' FA Cup losing to Millfield 3-2 on penalties.
- 1st XI winners of the national State Boarding Schools' cup.

### Netball

- 1st VII runners up in the national State Boarding Schools' cup.

### Figure Skating

- Elin Griffin silver medallist in the British Championships and represented Great Britain in the Mozart Cup, the world's biggest international synchronized figure skating competition.

### Judo

- Henry Sturm selected to train with the England Development Squad for England Judo.

### Badminton

- Dom Nabasa four gold medals and one silver medal at the National U15 Badminton England tournament.

### Peotry by Heart

- Head of German, Simon Depoix came first place for his recital of 'There Will Come Soft Rains' by Sara Teasdale. Student, Darcy Watson received a Highly Commended for her recital.

### Chemistry Olympiad

- *Gold*, Edrick Ho; *Silver*, Jimmy Latham and Nathaniel Vann; *Bronze*, Callum Sumpter, Rebecca Dovener, Ben Lindsey, Venus So, and Poppy Colloff

## COUNTY LEVEL

### Cross-Country

- Tamara Hibbins, Eugnie Cockle and Cara Falconer selected to run for Surrey in South East Schools Inter-Counties Cross Country Championships.

### Rugby

- The U16s runners-up in the Surrey Cup, losing to Salesian School.
- Girls U18s Christ's Hospital 7s Plate Winners.
- Will Lewis, Harvey Hewson, Scott Ross in Harlequins U14 DPP Academy (county level).
- Dolu Aderinola and Jack Bodell selected for Surrey Rugby.

- 1st XV Super League Champions.
- 1st XV Rugby Super 8 Winners.

### Hockey

- Marcus Smith (U17) Ella Litjens (U15) and Alice Cresswell (U15) selected for Surrey hockey.
- 2nd XI finished 2nd in the Super League.

## DISTRICT LEVEL

### Rugby 7s

- Congratulations to the U13s who are winners of the District 7s.

### Netball

- The U14s unbeaten run of seven games to clinch 1st place in the St Mary's Ascot Invitational tournament for the first time.
- The U14s Gordon's Invitational Plate winners beating St John's Leatherhead and St George's Weybridge in the group stage, before losing 12-11 to St John's in the Cup semi-final.

### Golf

- Sam Storey has won a golf scholarship award at Windlesham Golf Club by Sky Sports Golf. Sam has won the men's club championship three years running and the men's scratch knock out competition two years running making him Windlesham's most successful junior.

### Music & Drama

- Congratulations to our LAMDA students who all won their classes and picked up a cup at last weekend's Woking Music Festival: Darcy Watson, Y9 for Humorous Verse; Isla Bethune, Y8 for Prose Reading; Ann Robinson, Y9 for Public Speaking.

- Wowing judges at the Godalming Music Festival in the Musical Theatre Class (Y12-13 Category) were Tasmin Martin-Young, first place; Killian Lines, second place; Katie Beet, third place. In the Y7-11 Category Grace Cottage, second place and Alice Kermeen third place.

- Also at the Godalming Music Festival 'Semper Fidelis' came first in the school choir mixed voices category. Phobe Norman and Roseanna Fernandes came third place for their acting duologue.

### Public Speaking

- Gordon's team of Tia Jasani, Grace Keyes and Darcy Watson qualified for English Speaking Unions District Finals.



[www.gordons.surrey.sch.uk](http://www.gordons.surrey.sch.uk)

## Staff News

At Easter we say goodbye to Alan Short as he retires after nearly 25 years at Gordon's School, over 20 of which he has spent as Head of Gravesend House; Helen Bryan will be taking on the Head of House role after Easter. We also say goodbye to Harriet Phillips who is moving to a local school after nearly six years here. Katriene Young is moving on after 17 years of which the last five years have been spent as a House Assistant in Khartoum House. Snehal Sakharkar, Science Technician, and Bekah Deacon, Senior Office Administrator, are both moving to new opportunities.

We also wish Laura McConville, Head of Drama, all the best as she goes on maternity leave; Kathryn Moore will take on the Acting Head of Drama role in Laura's absence.

We welcome Emma Docherty, who joined us in February, as the new Pastoral Tutor in Augusta House.

## All the Best, Sir!

Mr Short, as many of you may be aware, is leaving Gordon's and retiring his position of Gravesend Head of House after nearly 25 years of service. He has seen through hundreds of Gravesend boys over the years. He has had a huge, positive impact on each and every one of us, supporting us lads through the highs and the lows and strengthening our characters. He has made us who we are today.

Mr Short, who was always there for us - unless he was at the West End Inn, of course - has seen us grow from boys to 'supposedly' mature, young men.

It has been a pleasure to have had him see us through our school years as Housemaster, so from all of us here at Gravesend and Gordon's, we wish you all the best Sir.

Harry Porter and Jake Hurley

