

# GORDON'S NEWS

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Proud Piper Edward Lee marked the dawning of the centenary of the end of the First World War by playing the lone piper lament 'Battle's O'er' at the top of the tower of Guildford Cathedral. He was one of a thousand pipers from across the country to play the traditional Scottish aire.

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- and much more....



## FEELING THE FORCE IN AUGUSTA

Gravity Force has been one of many trips that the boarding houses have run so far this year. At Gravity Force we had plenty of fun and certainly exerted our energy!

Gravity Force is full of wall to wall trampolines. Does this seem boring? Certainly not, there are various things that kept us entertained, such as somersaulting into a foam pit, jumping off walls, playing dodge ball or even trampoline basketball. We enjoyed trying out all these activities. Playing dodge ball with all our friends was a big highlight and we had great fun trying our best to get one another out. Jumping into the foam pit was another favourite, seeing who could do the best jump and before we knew it the hour was up, we were all exhausted having spent all our energy but had had an amazing time.

We loved the fact that we could learn new and interesting tricks with our friends and share experiences. For us this was a fantastic trip and one we shall cherish for a long time. By Amy Jewitt, Lavinia Daubney and Olivia Watson.



## KHARTOUM HOUSE

Khartoum House has had a very busy start to the year, welcoming four new members of staff and a record number of 22 new students. Some fantastic successes in Inter-House Swimming and Year 7 Rugby and sterling efforts by the Y8, Y9 and Y10 teams, resulting in lots of pizza

being eaten! Thank you to all those who represented the House in sports, music and debating as well as the Sixth Form cake decorating competition. We look forward to the New Year working hard together to make Khartoum a happy and successful House that we can all be proud of.

# BUCKINGHAM'S BEETLE TRIUMPH

Taking full advantage of the fantastic summer weather, Buckingham House boys took a cool dip at Liquid Leisure Aqua Park. The Windsor-based waterpark is the largest in Europe and provided the boys with a perfect escape from the stuffy classroom as the School melted under one of the hottest summers in recent years. The park has numerous activities to clamber on, jump over, climb up and swing through and a fun and refreshing time was had by all, finished off with a fish and chip supper by the lakeside.

New Year 7 boys were treated to a team-building trip to Gravity Force to fully integrate them in to the House and cement good relationships with their Year 8 buddies. The boys were shipped via minibus to the Camberley-based trampoline park where they had a thoroughly enjoyable hour on the various activities there. The evening was followed by a hotdog and slushy in the party room.



One of the highlights of the year was the amazing performance resulting in a win for the boys in Inter-House Music. The group, ably-led by musician and Y13 student Chris Pearce, performed 'Let It Be' by the Beatles. The judges were particularly impressed by how the boys utilised a range of musical and vocal talents across the whole piece and most of the year groups across the House were represented. A great performance and a well-deserved win.



## SANDRINGHAM'S STEALTH

A mid-September Sunday, leaves starting to turn, the ground dampening and the wind rising. Time for Paintball with 40 boys at the Blind Fire camp just down the road! What a great afternoon with four long games in three hours. The teams were evenly matched despite the older boys assuming that they would have an advantage. The new Year 7s proved to be agile and stealthy despite a lack of CCF training. The walk home was filled with tales of courage, bravery and selfless sacrifice. What a fantastic way for the House to get together.

The Summer saw a refurbishment of the senior common room which is now more comfortable.

We welcomed 12 new Year 7 boys, two Year 9 and one Year 10 into the Gravesend family upon our return in September. The boys have settled in well and are beginning to find their feet both in the House and in the School.

Over half term we re-jigged our common room space to create a Year 7/8s common room and a separate Year 9/10 common room. This has been a great success with boys and staff and the 7/8's are thrilled with their new TV.

Our Inter-House competitions have started and Oscar Watts is the champion of the Year 7/8 table tennis tournament winning a £15 cinema voucher following a tense final between Oscar and Harry Wynne.

There have certainly been plenty of Inter-House competitions so far this year and a group of our students worked hard on our entry for Inter-House Music which was led by Jack Matravers and Luc Genetay. They performed 'Shine' by Take That.

Finally, a big well done to Sixth Formers, Oliver Henderson and Mark Fothergill who lost out on winning Inter-House Debating by one point!

We enjoyed our Christmas party and seeing parents at our mince pie and mulled wine evening before the Christmas holiday.

# GRAVESEND HOUSE



## ASATURDAYNIGHTINTHEBOARDINGHOUSE

The Full Boarders really enjoy the weekends at school. We asked a Full Boarder to describe a Saturday at school after Period 7. He said:

After period 7 and lunch we went to Camberley to play Laserquest at the bowling alley. Red team won both games. After that, we had some time to go shopping.

Back at school we had free time to meet up with our friends.

At 7pm we went to the gym to play Multiball. This is a great game that uses lots of different balls to play games. We have two teams and Mr Duffield calls out a number and throws out a ball. It could be basketball, football,

indoor hockey, touch rugby or dodgeball. My favourite is football.

At 8.30pm we went to the Balmoral garden for milkshakes and marshmallows. Mrs Duffield got the speakers out so we could play our music. We had biscuits and made a marshmallow sandwich.

At 9.30 we had rollcall and then went to bed.

We take a trip out every weekend and are currently doing more trips with all the Houses together. This term we have had joint trips to Chessington, Bracknell 4D Cinema, Gravity Force, Ice Skating and Bluewater Christmas shopping.



Jasmine McMullen (Year 9) who was runner up in the School Winter Art Competition.



Congratulations to Jemima Robinson (Year 7) Kensington House who was the winner in the School Winter Art Competition

## KENSINGTONHOUSE



Rebecca Hales came second in the 1m-1.05m JwS National Plate Championships.



Congratulations to Darcy Watson and Ann Robinson Kensington House winners of KS4 Inter-House Debating.

Another exciting year began in September 2018 with ten new Year 7 girls and a House record of 26 Sixth Form girls! Two afternoon tea dates helped them meet each other and establish good friendships. The girls settled in well and embarked on fulfilling their academic ambitions with gusto! Inter-House competitions were tackled with enthusiasm and success.



## WINDSORDOESSPOOKY



Belated Halloween celebrations saw students in Windsor House dressed up in their best scary costumes with prizes for the most gruesome! Spooky games including scariest entrance, dress the mummy and a pumpkin pinata. As well as this, some of our amazing parents brought in some Halloween treats ranging from cakes to sweet eyeballs and popcorn. The girls also played a game of Zombie Halloween sardines and finished the night off with sweet filled pumpkin pinata. The Halloween spirit was shared by a range of our boarders and we all had a great night.



## HALLOWEEN IN CHINA

China House wanted the Halloween party to be epic. The House filled with great excitement as the time came closer. We were getting ready when we heard Mrs Pavis's voice saying "It is time for the excitement to begin."

So, everyone rushed upstairs and saw the rooms which had different items hanging down from the ceiling like spiders, ghosts and pumpkins. We had different games like eating doughnuts off a string, for which you had a minute to win it. Also, we had to find loads of different sorts of pumpkins, some green, some orange and once you had found a golden glittery one, you had won the game.

We had to walk in to the Haunted House Room and find our way back out again by following a rope while people were making haunted noises and trying to scare us.

Then we had some dinner which was lovely. We had burgers, Doritos and some curly fries. Then for pudding we had an ice cream and a cupcake. Afterwards the teachers had to announce the winners of the games. Sadly, soon after that we had to go home. By Kelsie Broderick



## VICTORIA ON ICE

With new students joining us, Inter-House Competitions, a House Trip ice skating, we have had a very busy term full of adventures and challenges but also lots of laughter and success. We have now entered our third year of existence and it's certainly feeling fuller in the House now with students in every year group.

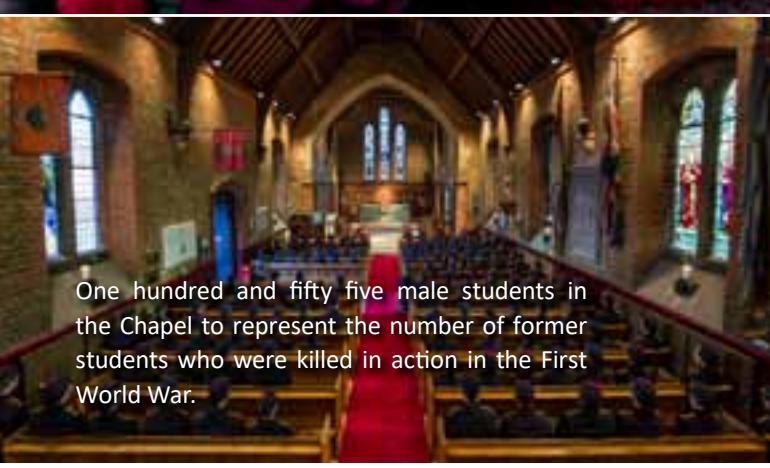
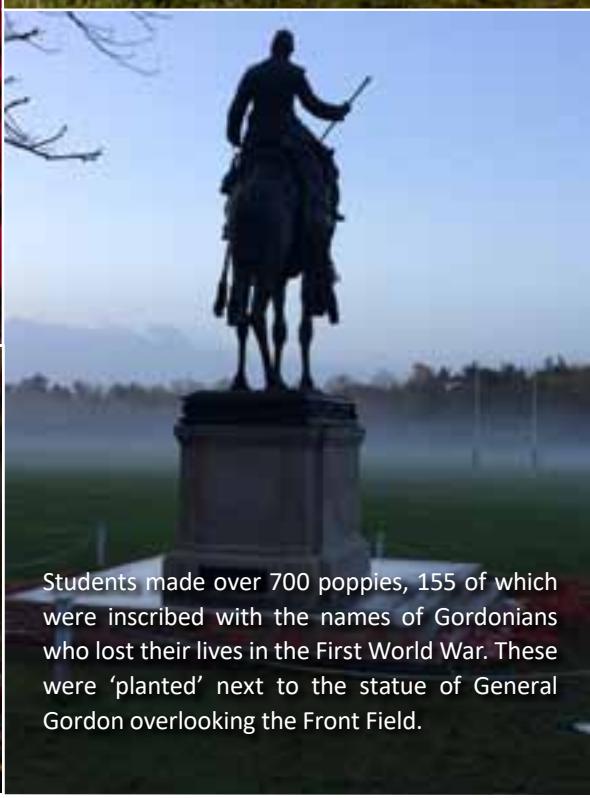
We are currently second in the Inter-House Sport leader board and doing all we can to put the pressure on China whilst also congratulating them on another remarkable term. We were joint third in Inter-House Music as well.

We ran our first House trip this term and the majority of students joined us ice skating at Guildford Spectrum. I say skating.... There was certainly an element of developing resilience and utilising the School's "bounce don't break" methodology! Fortunately, there were no broken bones and I was so proud of all the students who were determined to try and get back up (laughing) if they fell.

Whatever you are doing over the Christmas Holidays and whatever you are celebrating, Victoria House would like to wish you an enjoyable time with those you care about and lots of happy memories made.



## REMEMBRANCE PARADE





## HARVEST PARADE



# COLOGNE REVISITED



Flushed with the success of the previous trip two years ago, 39 students from Years 8 and 9 embarked on another to Cologne.

There they visited the awe-inspiring Cologne Cathedral – for centuries the tallest building in Europe and a wonder of the medieval world, and cruised along the Rhein enjoying the wonderful views of Altstadt.

The group also toured the Lindt Chocolate Museum, which provided a fascinating insight into the process involved from cocoa bean to finished product. The liquid chocolate fountain was as popular as always! After that, it was back to the hostel for dinner then off to bowling (won by Mr Depoix jointly with Kevin Thapa!)

Sunday was the highlight for many – the eagerly anticipated trip to Phantasialand. The weather continued to cooperate – cold but lovely and clear and sunny and a great day was had by all including Miss Tarsey who really enjoyed the roller coasters! After dinner at the hostel, ‘Dorm Awards’ included the ‘Most Vomits in one Evening’; ‘Most hopeless Bedmakers’ and ‘Most Collective Sin-Bin Time’!

Massive thank yous to Frau Gibson, Miss Tarsey and Mr Standen who accompanied Herr Depoix on the trip. Uniformly excellent in helping maintain the high standards expected from our students, they were great company throughout.

## MUGGLES AND MARKETING

A trip to the Warner Bros Film Studios in Hertfordshire for 20 BTEC Business Students not only included a spectacular tour of the Harry Potter sets but also an inspirational lecture on marketing.

The students heard first hand the various techniques for reaching very specific target markets - something that could only be done outside the classroom. The level of expertise and subtlety was a revelation to them and something that they will all be able to use in their coursework over the next two terms.

A further bonus to the day was the real understanding that the students gained of the scale and complexity of the film business. They were also able to see a variety of costumes and props that had been used in the films. This was a truly wonderful day out and thanks must go to Miss Redick and Mrs Johnston who helped to make this such a successful trip.





A Level Geography students visited Alum Bay the westernmost point of the Isle of Wight to carry out fieldwork.

## EVERYBODY'S TALKING ABOUT JAMIE

"Today's trip was an exciting event and I thoroughly enjoyed it. The thrilling behind-the-scenes tour of the oldest West End theatre included live action from current actors, and it was as intriguing as it was enlightening. But I have to say my favourite part of the event was viewing the West End show 'Everybody's Talking About Jamie', starring the incredibly talented and sensational actor John McCrea, who plays the main lead, Jamie New. We even got to meet him, his actor mother, and his teacher in the play after the show, and also the mother of the real Jamie, who this play is based on. A 'Q and A' session took place, where both students and teachers alike eagerly raised their hands, and I learnt a lot about the theatre, the actors' lives and their successes through hard work. I would definitely recommend all parts of the trip to everyone, and I thank all the teachers involved for providing such an amazing opportunity."

'Everybody's Talking About Jamie' - The Apollo Theatre, London Review by Darcy Watson



*'Stunning, the relatability was incredible, just fabulous!' Ryan Knight*

*'It was executed very well and was so emotional!' Lucy Nowell*

*'So spontaneous'*  
*Rose Roberts*

*'Moving, emotional and I'm lost for words!'*  
*Rehan Bhanga*

# ONCE IN A LIFETIME EXPERIENCE

The trip to the European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN) was a fantastic learning opportunity that I would recommend to anyone, I went along with a number of other Year 12 and Y13 students in October, joined by Mrs Travers, Mr Hynds and Mrs Mackenzie.

The trip to Switzerland began when we got to Geneva and saw how interesting the city was. We were able to explore by ourselves for two hours, allowing us to sightsee. We saw the fountain Jet d'Eau, reaching the dizzying heights of 145m and the beautiful Lake Geneva.

Then we went to the Large Hadron Collider which was just outside the city. We listened to a fascinating experimental physicist who knew about CERN and explained how the immense research facility works. Following this, we had the amazing experience of going 100m underground into the tunnels to see facilities that they use to run the Particle Collider. They have huge cranes to carry particle detectors 15 metres wide. It was really a once in a life time experience that everyone should do! By Al Mosdell



## AROUND THE GLOBE IN HISTORY

Year 11 historians visited the Globe in September as part of their historic environment for their GCSE. The trip involved a detailed lecture regarding the formation of theatre in Elizabethan England and an excellent tour of the theatre itself.

Actors were rehearsing for the upcoming play that was starting two days later, so it was a fantastic opportunity to see a live dress rehearsal. In the afternoon, they took part in a Macbeth workshop

with one of the actors as part of a cross-curricular link with English. In this session, they analysed the words and the themes of the play, using a particular part of the play involving Lady Macbeth.

The students found this incredibly enjoyable and a really valuable experience in understanding the language and the context of the play. It was a fantastic day out and one that will no doubt help our students for their GCSE exams this summer.



## SPANISH EXCHANGE

*In October half term, 40 students in Year 10 and 11 took part in Gordon's first ever trip to Granada, Spain. On behalf of all staff who came on the trip, I would like to say a huge well done and thank you to all students who attended for being so polite, respectful, well-behaved and equally important, great fun on the trip (Miss Amos).*

Granada was an amazing experience with equally incredible opportunities. From walking the beautiful, traditional streets to learning more about the language and practising our language skills in the Spanish school lessons, it was the perfect balance of education and free time.

The first day was all about getting to know Granada and understanding the history behind it. We had two tour guides who took us around the city showing us the beautiful views and explaining (in Spanish) all about how Granada was first developed and why certain parts of the city are how they are – for example the streets

were made long and thin so there were more shadows so it wasn't as hot. The guides also took us around The Alhambra Palace, which consisted of incredible Arabic designs and gorgeous gardens. On top of all this, we had the opportunity to make paella and watch breath taking, traditional flamenco dancing in a classic Spanish cave bar.

The School was a wonderful way to spend our mornings on the last two days. It showed us that we could understand more than just set up sentences and have a genuine conversation with real Spanish speaking people. Overall, it was a really amazing trip and I would definitely recommend to others who are thinking about going on it. Although the sound of the School and lots of walking could put some people off going away, when you are wrapped up in the Spanish vibes and surrounded by your friends you get carried away and forget about your worries."

Maddy Ross, Year 11.



# GERMAN EXCHANGE

I always look forward to the Summer Term at Gordon's – lighter evenings, gained time, Annual Parade and of course, the visit of our German Exchange partners from the Lise-Meitner-Gymnasium in Baden-Württemberg. This being the fifth time they have come now, it may even be possible to speak of it as a regular fixture on the Gordon's Summer schedule.

In a break with tradition, the wonderful Christa Seitz did not accompany the equally amazing Senta Wieland this year. She says this is because she is close to retirement but I suspect it has more to do with having spent two weeks a year with me for the past five years. That's enough to drive anyone to quit.

The 25 students and two staff arrived as usual on Friday 29th June in the afternoon on another baking hot day. Sadly, I couldn't be there in person to collect them as I was in London (almost) winning the German Teacher of the Year award. Many thanks go to Georgia Travers and Steve Boxhall from Facilities for going to collect them with Brenda Weston from Woking High School and to Michelle Wright for helping to deliver the welcome ceremony in the Rec. I finally caught up with Senta and her new partner-in-crime Sarina Balzer that evening in Bagshot

where they were staying for the week.

Saturday was of course Annual and the German students were treated to the usual pomp and ceremony but this time on the Front Field and in 30 degree heat. After that, partners went home with their Gordon's counterparts to sample the delights of home living. Whilst everyone else was enjoying their Exeat Monday, some of us were hard at work visiting the German students staying with our friends at Woking High School. Tuesday saw everybody's return and a chance for LMG students to shadow their partners around lessons. Wednesday was our traditional day out in London including visiting the London Eye, South Bank, Borough Market, Saint Paul's Cathedral and Oxford Street. After a final day of shadowing their partners in lessons on Thursday, it was time for Summer Arts Evening where Senta bought her annual work of art from the exhibition. I'm surprised she's got any room left on her walls to be honest. Friday was time to say goodbye and by fortuitous timetabling the last lesson before departure was German so we were able to have a farewell party on the Front Field before driving the Germans back to Heathrow in the minibuses – thanks here again to Charlotte Medlar and Steve for helping me drive them back!



# BOOKSBOUNDFORAFRICA

Redundant school text books from Gordon's are on their way to Africa where they will help educate students there. The project, organised by the Whitmore Trust, also sends items such as furniture, bicycles and medication to The Gambia; Zimbabwe and South Africa.



# MARATHON MAN

With the first brick still to be laid of Gordon's proposed sports complex, Buckingham's Head of House Jamie Sinclair has already committed £3,000 towards equipment. On 28th April 2019 he will run the London Marathon. However, Mr Sinclair has set himself the added challenge of running it in less than three hours to set a new personal best. The energetic Science teacher has completed a few ultra and trail events for charity including the Farnham Pilgrim Marathon in September in which he

raised over £1,300 for Woking Hospice commented: "I really wanted to do something closer to home, that my friends and family have easy access to, and so can come and cheer me on. When the opportunity to raise money for the proposed Gordon's School sports complex and more precisely equipment that all the School and local community can benefit from, I jumped at it". Mr Sinclair can be sponsored through Virgin Money Giving: <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/jamiesinclair3>

## FIRST GIVE AWARDS

Their novel fundraising efforts and presentation won them £1,000 for their charity, Woking and Sam Beare Hospices. Then Class 4 of Y9 PSHE learned that they had been nominated for the First Give awards event in Cardiff. The evening was a huge celebration of the hard work of teachers, students and charities on the programme, and especially of the shortlisted nominees in each category.





## 'OUTSTANDING' MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Model United Nations (MUN) has got off to a brilliant start this academic year with lots of new members attending the Wednesday Period 7s as well as 'outstanding delegate awards' being won at both conferences attended so far.

On the 22nd September we took part in the annual Reigate conference. Oliver Henderson, Grace Keyes, Phoebe Norman, Andrew Milne and Teah Jasani did a fantastic job representing Peru with Teah being awarded 'outstanding delegate' award.

The next conference was the prestigious Royal Russell four day international conference, which was a fantastically put together event in which the students got the time and opportunity to pass some very well put together resolutions. After the long days of debating, the students kicked back and enjoyed themed discos and film nights with the students from other schools. Following the success of Teah at Reigate, Grace Keyes was claimed the 'outstanding delegate' award for representing Sri Lanka.

It has been a fantastic start to the year with more conferences to still be attended. I look forward to some of the newer members attending their first conference and the older members raising the bar to continue winning those awards. By Claire Copeman.

## ARMISTICE 100 POETRY COMPETITION

Poets David Gomina and Darcy Watson have been shortlisted for the Armistice 100 Prize for Schools Poetry Competition. The students competed against entrants from all over the country aged between 11 and 18 years old in the competition which is supported by the Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy and the Winner of Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry, Imtiaz Dharker. They will be invited to a performance poetry event at Lincoln University where the winners will be announced. Their poems will also be published in a collection called Armistice 100.

### 'A True Soldier' by David Gomina

*The sound of a gunshot,  
The squawk of a crow,  
The worn, grubby battlegrounds,  
Where the roses now grow.  
The sacrificed lives,  
The horror bestowed,  
Upon innocent eyes,  
That now may rest closed.*

*I solemnly remember,  
The cold memories left within,  
The tip of my rifle,  
Gunpowder on the rim.  
The bodies of dead or dying,  
The trench simply grim,  
The thought of my family,  
My kind hearted kin.*

*But one thing stood still,  
In the fog of my fears,  
Stood and stared into my soul,  
And today is still here,  
The soul of a true soldier,  
Kind hearted and calm,  
Destiny at his fingertips,  
Bravery in his palm.*

### 'Lead' by Darcy Watson

*It wasn't a white feather for me  
It was for the love of you and the king  
I was bound by honour to him  
And to you, one day, a ring.*

*Dreams of glory seem as distant  
As the sandy shores of Blighty.  
So far away from the safety of home  
Yet all we do is pray to the Almighty.*

*In the depths of the trenches, I long of idles past  
From tilling our fields, now to killing the young.  
Our country needs all of us, does it?  
Yet our leaders aren't the ones facing the gun.*

*I dread you opening this letter, written with  
A pencil once sharp and full of lead.  
Now it's blunt with use, drawing to an end  
And being held by a man with a gun to his head.*

*So lay a poppy for me, dear, and  
'Lest we forget'. Yet we do,  
For here our son lays beside me, twenty years on,  
A victim of World War Two.*



## MAKING HISTORY

Members of the Gordon's Pipes and Drums became the first non-military band to take part in a Parade at the Army Training Regiment, Pirbright during the Summer when they joined the Royal Logistic Corps in playing at the Passing Out Parade of Troops from Morley and Dalton. Drum Major George Whitmore received a framed photograph to commemorate the event from Major Goate of OC 96 Squadron at the Harvest Festival Parade.



## BRONZE DOFE EXPEDITION

Five teams took part in the Bronze practice and final Expeditions in the Surrey Hills over the Half Term. The practice started at Newlands Corner and saw the teams camp at Bentley Copse Scout Camp. The weather was glorious and the groups were on great form, with everyone pulling together, sharing the tasks out and generally being really supportive of each other. The final venture kicked off from Reigate with the camping phase at Henfold Lakes. The Expedition took place in the final weekend of the DofE season with the students waking up to a layer of ice on their tents! All participants expressed what a super time they had and I am positive it will spur them on to further adventures on the Silver Award.

## DEBATING MATTERS

The hotly-contested Inter-House Debating started with KS5 tackling the issue of 'Human Genetic Engineering is a step too far', followed by the topic for the final 'Premiership footballers deserve all the rewards they get.'

It was China versus Sandringham for the final, and both teams put forward a strong case but Sandringham snatched victory with strong points of evidence and a well thought out rebuttal.

The Period 7 KS5 debating teams recently tackled the ESU Mace Debating Competition at LVS School, Ascot with Artur Nunes and Adam Grainger taking to the stage on the topic 'This house would weight votes such that the younger the voter, the more powerful their vote'. The team were also preparing to take part in 'Youth Speaks' Rotary Club Debating Competition in Woking.





## MATHS IN THE NILE

A new six-classroom dedicated Maths block opened for business this term, replacing the out-dated three-classroom Geography teaching block. The Nile building, complete with contemporary air-conditioned classrooms is accessible to all thanks to a generous donations from the Children with Special Needs Foundation (based in Chobham) and the Wheelwright Livery Company towards the cost of an external lift for wheelchairs.

## CAREERS UPDATE

This term started off with a workshop for all students interested in following a career path in any healthcare field. Students spent the afternoon with postgraduate medical students and newly qualified Doctors finding out about life working in the medical sector and what it entails. The trainee Doctors provided students with a first-hand experience of some of the basic skills and fundamental concepts taught to healthcare students in the early years of university.

Year 12 attended a CV workshop where they were taken through how to write a successful CV and Covering letter, as well as how to make sure theirs will stand out from all the others. We were lucky enough to be joined by a Year 10 parent with a huge amount of recruitment experience who talked the students through what she would expect from any potential employee looking for a job.

Looking forward, we have the Gordon's Careers Fair on 12th March 2019. Now entering its third successful year, it looks like it will be the best so far with many interested institutions and companies already signing up.

Work Experience preparation is in full swing and this year the Work Experience team are joined by Ms Caroline Sims who is a registered Health and Safety assessor and who will be carrying out work placement visits on the School's behalf.

Finally, we will be putting on some specialist Careers Days next term – the first one being Law at the end of January. If you work in this field or know someone who does and may be willing to talk to some of our keen students please get in touch – [atarsey@gordons.school](mailto:atarsey@gordons.school)





# PIPES AND DRUMS

The Autumn Term has been a busy one for the Pipes and Drums. On 3rd November, they played as part of the National Youth Pipe Band of England in the National Children's Remembrance Concert at the Genting Arena in Birmingham: a concert commemorating the centenary ending of WW1. After several extra rehearsals throughout the year, an early start on the day of the concert and a long day of rehearsals, the end result was magnificent and one that everyone will cherish.

Pipe Major Oliver Henderson opened the performance with a solo of Amazing Grace, to be joined by the rest of the band. The sound of 53 pipers and drummers, 34 of which were Gordon's students, following the lone piper, was, quite simply, breath-taking. To quote Dr Ron Dawson, the initiator of the concert: "The moment your lone piper struck up, the stage and audience were electrified. I personally found it incredibly moving and disbelieving that this was their debut performance. Their performance was among the most inspiring of the whole concert. I genuinely felt humbled by it."

Following a successful weekend in Birmingham, the Pipes and Drums were involved in many other commemorative events: Saturday 10th November, students opened 'Guildford Remembers' by marching up the High Street in Guildford, braving atrocious weather and performing in the foyer of GLive. This was followed by the School's Remembrance Parade on Sunday 11th November then Chobham Remembrance Parade later that day.

At 6am on 11th November 2018 a lone Piper played the traditional end of battle lament "Battle's O'er" at the grave of the Unknown Warrior in Westminster Abbey.

Over 1,000 Pipers played the same tune at cathedrals, churches, war memorials and other locations across the UK and worldwide, participating in this special and unique Act of Remembrance for all those who fell in the First World War. Pipe Sergeant Edward Lee was lucky enough to be one of those pipers and played beautifully at Guildford Cathedral in torrential rain. The day was especially poignant for Ed as his great-great-grandfather served in the Durham Light Infantry and was killed at the Battle of the Somme along with his three great-great-uncles.

Selected students had the opportunity to play with the world famous bagrock band, 'The Red Hot Chilli Pipers' at the Harlington in Fleet. They played 'Highland Cathedral' and Avicii's 'Wake Me Up', plus they got to watch the whole gig. Students have said it was the most motivating and inspiring opportunity and thought it was great how the band have made bagpipes more appealing to the younger generation by reinventing tunes from the charts so that they can be played on the bagpipes. Everyone came home incentivised, with high morale, and some great memories.

Looking ahead to the remainder of this academic year: we have Robert Gordon's College Pipe Band visiting in February where we are looking to hold a joint Masterclass; we will be venturing to Livingstone to take part in the Scottish Schools Pipe Band Championships; there will be a residential trip in May visiting Robert Gordon College, The Army School of Bagpipe Music and Highland Drumming amongst various other things; plus all the usual community engagements we do each year.

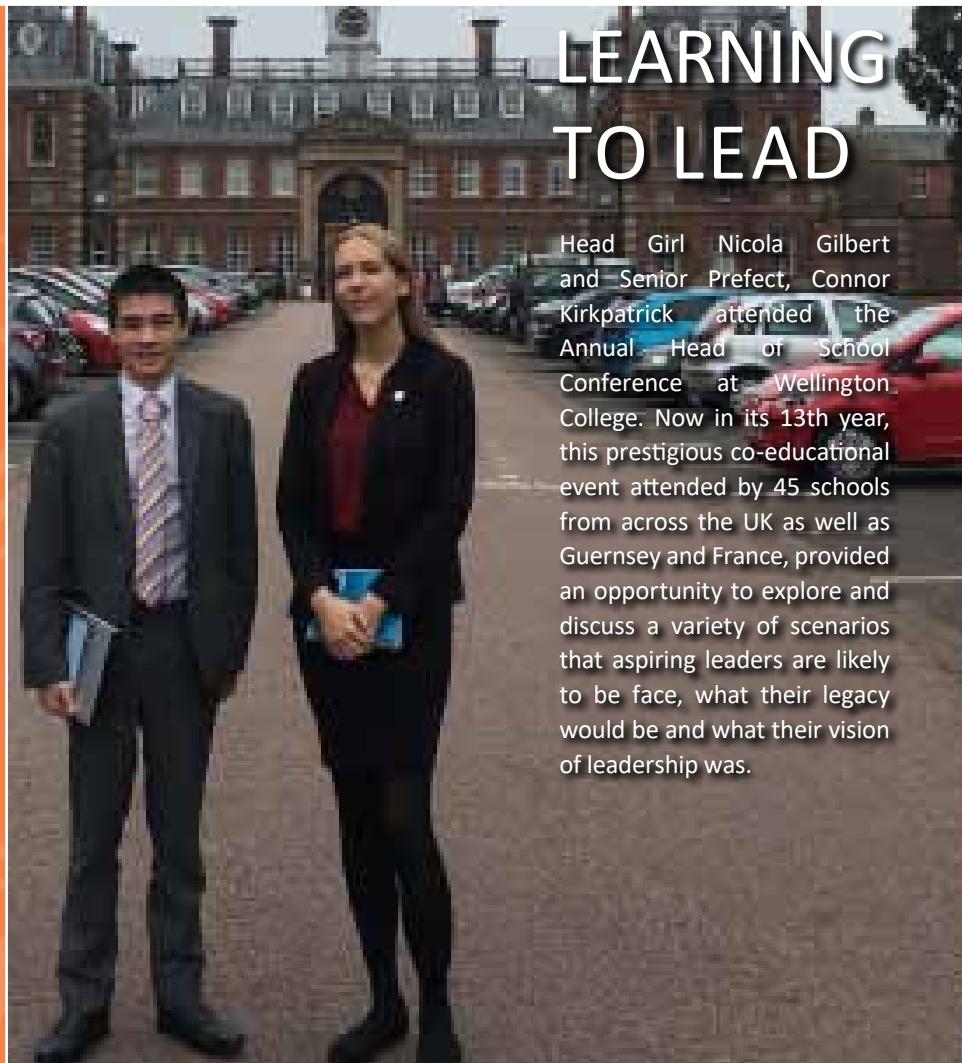


## LEST WE FORGET CONCERT



### THE HUMP ONLINE

The latest addition to the Gordon's social media output is The Hump run by Year 7 and Year 8 Digital Media Club. The Hump offers a window on Saturday's activities at the school through Twitter and Instagram and exploded onto the social media scene with bold graphics and behind the scenes glimpses.



### LEARNING TO LEAD

Head Girl Nicola Gilbert and Senior Prefect, Connor Kirkpatrick attended the Annual Head of School Conference at Wellington College. Now in its 13th year, this prestigious co-educational event attended by 45 schools from across the UK as well as Guernsey and France, provided an opportunity to explore and discuss a variety of scenarios that aspiring leaders are likely to face, what their legacy would be and what their vision of leadership was.

## BRITISH COUNCIL INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL AWARD SUCCESS

The British Council's prestigious International School Award was presented to Gordon's at a ceremony at the Houses of Parliament.

The International School Award celebrates the achievements of schools that do exceptional work in international education. Fostering an international dimension in the curriculum is at the heart of the British Council's work with schools so that young people gain the cultural understanding and skills they need for life and work.

Sir Ciarán Devane, Chief Executive of the British Council, said: "Gordon's has brought the world into its classrooms, earning them the British Council International School Award. Their pupils' education is enriched with international activities that help children develop the skills they need to thrive in a globalised world."

## CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Beginning the festive season in true Gordon's style were the candlelit performances of Christmas Carols and readings in the Chapel. First to enjoy the yuletide musical offerings were Gordonians who were given tea and mince pies afterwards in the Rec.



## CHRISTMAS CAKE DECORATING

The Grinch stole the Christmas Cake Decorating Competition as Gordon's Sixth Formers set the bar to a new level, producing a fantastic array of designs and decorations. In the end it was Augusta with their Grinch that was crowned icing queens. In second place a jaunty Father Christmas by China and third place was Windsor with their penguin.





## 'MAYFLY'

'Mayfly' takes place in the aftermath of disaster. We follow a family struggling to hold themselves together in a secluded village where nothing ever changes. Until today, the first year anniversary of Adam's death, a beloved son and brother to this broken family, when a very special person appears from out of the blue. 'Mayfly', written by Joe White, was another student led production directed by Edward Lee with a devoted cast of only four other students: Ellen Stone, Max Beken, Bex Moffat and Artur Bierande. These KS5 students met every Tuesday and Thursday evening as well as numerous lunchtimes, after school and Saturday mornings. The light and sound technician was Callie O'Brien and our Costume Designer and Stage Manager was Chris Pearce. This piece was a true showcase of Gordon's older talent and displayed the amazing standard for aspiring actors and technicians to learn from.



# EDUCATION EDUCATION EDUCATION



It's 1997 and Tony Blair has just been elected Prime Minister, Katrina and the Waves have won the Eurovision Song Contest and Cool Britannia is starting to swing. It's not a moment too soon for Wordsworth Comprehensive, a school close to special measures where some pupils have been taught in temporary cabins for the last 20 years.

Blair's mantra "education, education, education", and the promise of an injection of funding, have buoyed the spirits in the staff room as muck-up day approaches and Year 11 go off to revise for their GCSEs. 'Education, Education, Education', created by The Wardrobe Ensemble, is a student led project, directed by Charmaine Cheung and Dina Khan. Students worked hard all term, meeting every week on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday for rehearsals.

This was a real showcase of some of our younger students' brilliant talent and dedication to the arts; it gave them a fantastic opportunity to take on some larger and more challenging roles. The evening was a huge success, and our younger students truly wowed their audience with their comedic performance.





# ROARING SUCCESSES

The Creative Arts Department began with an exciting start to the new academic year. Students were treated to a career industry talk and a visit by The Lion King's World Wide Associate Hair and Make Up designer Rowena Hulme and Singer/Actor/Musician Ben Heathcote.

Students were shown, with make up, the intricate work that goes into creating the incredible animal faces and Ben Heathcote talked about the variety of work a triple threat performer can achieve. The following day students worked with theatre professionals re-creating some of the choreography, acting scenes and songs from the show.

Our newly launched Jazz Ensemble began rehearsals with West End Musical Director Steve Hill. Students have absolutely risen to the challenge and are loving this new found love of jazz and the professional execution of this style during rehearsals.

Semper Fidelis Singers continue to work with Voices Foundation and Mrs Medlar, preparing material for future performances and competitions and our boys' choir made their first public appearance with Mr Ellison, singing at the 'Forgotten Voices, We will remember them concert'. This memorial concert to mark the centenary of the First World War saw appearances by 120 Gordon's students! Members of the P7 dance club; Y8 and Y9 Good to Great Drama group; Saturday morning Performing Arts; Semper Fidelis Singers; Choir; Concert Band and our wonderful piper Ed Lee all performed with such integrity and passion.



## STEINWAY MASTERCLASS

After wowing their audience in an informal piano recital at school, musical students at Gordon's then took part in a Masterclass at the revered Steinway Hall, London hosted by Steinway Artists in London. The visit included a guided tour of their showrooms, restoration and service departments followed by an opportunity for all the students to try Concert Grands hired by venues such as BBC Proms.



## FORGOTTEN VOICES

The breadth of talent at Gordon's was showcased during an evening's concert which held as part of Festival of Remembrance. "Forgotten Voices: We Will Remember Them" included many of the school musical ensembles together with solos, dance, readings, poetry and drama.

With excellent contributions from the Good to Great drama students and the School Choir performing two beautiful pieces and finishing the concert with their Latin rendition of 'Et in Terra Pax'.

Semper Fidelis Singers sang a number of pieces, all contrasting. Their rendition of Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy was light-hearted and entertaining, and this was followed by the beautiful and prayerful "A Flower Remembered". They also sang a newly composed setting of "They Shall not Grow Old" which had fragments of the Last Post

played by a distant trumpeter interwoven throughout the choir singing - certainly one of the highlights.

Making their debut was the newly formed Boys' Choir. Twenty students, mainly in Year 7 and 8, nearly all whom had never performed anything musical before, gave two emotional performances.

The School Concert Band opened the Concert with a setting of 'Hallelujah', also performing Elgar's 'Nimrod'. There was also time for reflections and the lone Piper's Lament.

It was an emotional concert, excellently performed throughout, and a wonderful tribute to the fallen. A retiring collection raised over £200 for the Royal British Legion.

## 'STANDING ROOM ONLY!'

Inter-House Music 2018 rocked the Gym. From the Beatles to The Killers, tutus to army fatigues, Gordon's Inter-House music combined the classics with contemporary and all delivered with enthusiasm; professionalism and style. The difficult task of judging the winners went to Gordonian Josh Parmenter who plays keyboard in the band the Bare Jams; Charlotte Grimsey a music teacher from Hoe Valley School and Steve Goodwin Director of Music Performance at Woking High School. In the end the trophy winners were Buckingham House with Sandringham second and joint third Windsor and Victoria.





## GOODTOGREATART

Good to Great Art students have been working towards creating an entry for the Global Canvas Art competition with the Natural History Museum during the Autumn Term. They have been exploring the theme of Habitats and have chosen to focus on the damage to the ocean caused by pollution. The students have thought carefully about their work trying to incorporate their theme within their chosen media, creating pieces using pen, ink and water along with using household plastics which pollute our oceans to create sea life sculptures.

## ARTAMBASSADORSANDCOMPETITIONS

This term has seen the appointment of Gordon's first Art Ambassadors. Six students have been chosen who will take on the role and work closely with the Art Department. Their first event this year was the Christmas Fayre at which they sold Christmas cards created by Gordon's Creative Photography Club and one of the Art Scholarship students. The Art Ambassadors are: Caiomhe Denning, Jessica Franklin, Rewa Gurung, Amelie Harris, Gemma Lees, Eliza Waite.

A number of students entered the Young Wildlife Photographer of the Year competition with the Natural History Museum this year. The students have worked hard to take an exciting photograph of wildlife around them. This term's Art Competition, open to all students from Year 7 to Year 13 was launched. The competition, titled 'Winter', closed on Monday the 26th November and the winning piece of work by Jemima Robinson was displayed at the Christmas Fayre.

# LET THE GAMES BEGIN...

Gordon's sports teams hit the ground running with masterclasses at their pre-season training. Professionals in all four main sports came in to deliver top tips for having a successful season. Over 200 students trained over the three days before school began in September.

Hockey players welcomed Team GB's bronze medal winner Kathryn Lane, while netballers were put through their paces by Surrey Storm's Jo Trip.

The First Team rugby players had coach Chris Davies, who left the Fijian national sevens team to come to Gordon's. He was joined by Harlequins' trio Theo Rhodes, Edward Bowden and Adrian Silvester. Footballers, who last season reached the semi-final of the national competition, the Schools' FA Cup, benefited from the skills of former Chelsea professional Gareth Hall.



## BEND IT LIKE BECKHAM!

For the first time in Gordon's history, a girls' football team is representing the School. Coach Paul King is hoping his female proteges will be as successful as their male counterparts, who earlier this year, reached the semi-finals of the ESFA cup. "The enthusiasm is certainly there", he said, adding "I have also been impressed with their style and deftness. Many of the girls play football outside school so it was only a matter of time before it was added to their PE curriculum."

# STATEBOARDINGFORUMSPORTSFESTIVAL

The fourth State Boarding Forum Sports Festival (SBF) saw 600 competitors; more than 100 matches and eight schools from across the country compete in five sports at Gordon's. Under cloudless skies, Steyning Grammar School; Royal Alexandra and Albert; Holypore College; Wymondham College; Sir Roger Manwood's School; Old Swinford Hospital and the Duke of York's Royal Military School competed in hockey; rugby; football; netball; cross country and indoor rowing. Gordon's students triumphed in the U13 Girls' Hockey; U15 Girls' Netball; U15 Boys' and Girls' Cross Country; U14 Girls' Rowing and U14 Boys' Rugby.





## SUCCESS AT NATIONALS FOR THE EQUESTRIAN TEAM

The equestrian team have competed almost every weekend this term, including exeat and half term. They have had their most successful term as well as bringing home rosettes from all but one event where we were still in the top 25%.

Among some of the successes were team and individual placings from Alyssa Tutt, Rebecca Hales, Gigi Gough, Molly Barnard, Amy Taplin and Sophie Moody who have competed across three main disciplines; Dressage, Arena Eventing and Show Jumping.

The team have also had numerous successes at National and Regional Championships this term – just to qualify is itself an achievement!

To qualify for the National School's Equestrian Association (NSEA) National Championships a rider has to come 1st or 2nd and usually compete against around 150 riders each time but Rebecca Hales and Molly Barnard went one step further. They placed 6th and 5th respectively in October at Nationals. Molly competed in the 85cm-90cm Jumping with Style Class and the course was technically difficult. Molly got 0 time faults which is amazing and rare in these classes. She didn't knock a single pole either. Rebecca competed in the 1.15m Jumping with Style Class, again an incredibly challenging class and several riders were eliminated. This height is the biggest you can go within the NSEA too. We were the only state school in the classes

which the students competed as well.

In November, Rebecca and Molly were joined by Gigi Gough in the NSEA National Plate Championships. To qualify for this riders have to place 3rd to 8th in qualifying classes, again against around 150 riders on each occasion. Gigi placed 6th in the Prelim Dressage Championship, Rebecca placed 6th in the 1.10m Show Jumping Championship and 2nd in the 1-1.05m Jumping with Style Championship. After a foot perfect round over a technically challenging course Molly Barnard was crowned the NSEA 90-95cm Jumping with Style National Plate Champion! To win this championship class she not only accumulated 0 faults but also got judged on the style of her round and the way she rode. She accumulated only 7 style faults which meant she won by a decent lead in what was a highly competitive class.

At the end of November, Rebecca Hales also came second (by only 0.19 seconds) in the 70cm Grass Roots Regional Championships on a different pony to the one that attended Nationals.

It is complete dedication and commitment that leads to such success as well as an awful lot of support from parents for which I am extremely grateful. We have another busy term ahead of us and we are looking forward to hosting another event at Parwood Equestrian Centre in March.



## HUMANRACETRIATHLON

They swam, they cycled, they ran and they did Gordon's proud! Lachlan Bethune was pipped to second place in the Triathlon in Bognor Regis while Deakin brothers Joshua and James came 4th and 7th out of 42 respectively in the Human Race Triathlon, Dorney Lake. Lachlan has now been selected to represent South East England in a duathlon against London.

## ALLTOPLAYFORINTHEINTER-HOUSESPORTS

It has been an action packed term of Inter-House Sports with four of the ten competitions being played. The students have shown great commitment and dedication competing for their Houses, and the competitions are always played with such energy and passion. Many of the competitions have been narrowly won, and the students have shown great versatility to compete across a range of disciplines; swimming, indoor rowing, cross country, rugby (boys) and hockey (girls). The current overall standings are shown above with many points still to play for throughout the rest of the academic year.

GIRLS INTER – HOUSE SPORT COMPETITION 2018–19										
House	Autumn				Spring			Summer		
	Swim	Cross Country	Indoor Rowing	Rugby	Swim	Cross Country	Indoor Rowing	Rugby	Total Points	Overall Position
MALMORI	3	4.5	1	6					14.5	3 <sup>rd</sup>
CHINA	5	2	5	10					22	1 <sup>st</sup>
KERSEY	2	1	2.5	4					9.5	5 <sup>th</sup>
VICTORIA	4	3	4	8					19	2 <sup>nd</sup>
WIMBLEDON	1	4.5	2.5	2					10	4 <sup>th</sup>

BOYS INTER-HOUSE SPORT COMPETITION 2018–19										
House	Autumn				Spring			Summer		
	Swim	Cross Country	Indoor Rowing	Rugby	Swim	Cross Country	Indoor Rowing	Rugby	Total Points	Overall Position
MALMORI	5	1	4	10					20	1 <sup>st</sup>
BUCKINGHAM	3	4	3	4					14	=3 <sup>rd</sup>
GRAVESEND	2	3	1	2					8	5 <sup>th</sup>
KHARTOUM	1	2	5	8					14	=3 <sup>rd</sup>
BUCKINGHAM	4	5	2	8					19	2 <sup>nd</sup>



## NATIONALSCHOOLSKAYAKINGCHAMPIONSHIPS2018

Competing for the first time, against over 126 competitors in the National Schools Kayaking Championships at Dreadnought Reach were Theo Lee-Clarke and Ashton Heslop, Charlie Finn and George Arnold and for the girls Isla Bethune and Lucy Mocetuba.

The format for the day was a 500m race to seed the finals, then a knockout 200m series where the bottom five of each race were removed until the final was left with just four boats and after lunch a half marathon. Gordon's entered the 'novice' class for people who have raced for less than a year.

The seeding race was drawn at random and Isla and Lucy came third in their race. George and Charlie were mid pack but Theo and Ashton played a tactical game and paddled as slowly as possible to be put in the D final with a plan to smash that race!

The girls were seeded as the top boat in the final two and the highest girls' crew nationally, even more impressive when you realise they were racing in the under 18 category as Year 9.

They duly finished as the top girls' crew, George and Charlie put in a good effort to be mid pack in a very close race and Theo and Ashton did indeed "smash" their race.

The 200 metre races being run as a knockout meant you only had to be above the bottom five to stay in, however Ashton and Theo decided they were going to win as many as possible! All the boats made it to the semi-final after three rounds of race, turn around, paddle straight to the start, race and repeat but in a photo finish none made the final.

Following on from the successes in the National Schools championships where Gordon's secured numerous medals, Isla Bethune took part in her first National Divisional Kayaking marathon race held at Elmbridge Canoe club in Weybridge, Surrey. With well over 260 competitors including the current women's 5k World Champion and several GB team members, Isla was in for a steep learning curve.

She eventually finished in 11th place in her race, losing out on the sprint for the line for 9th place, but to put this into context she was racing men, women and older boys and girls and had the 21st fastest time of the day overall from over 60 competitors on the same course at the same time. She had to contend with mass starts, catching slower boats, river traffic and the expectant crowds cheering everyone on.

In the afternoon Gordon's contested the marathon, seven miles including a compulsory get out and run with the boat after one lap. It was a cold day with a very strong head wind which meant you were either dressed appropriately for going into the wind but over heating with the wind or too cold and correctly dressed as a tail wind.

The decision was taken to be safe rather than sorry and be warm enough into the wind and too hot with a tail wind.

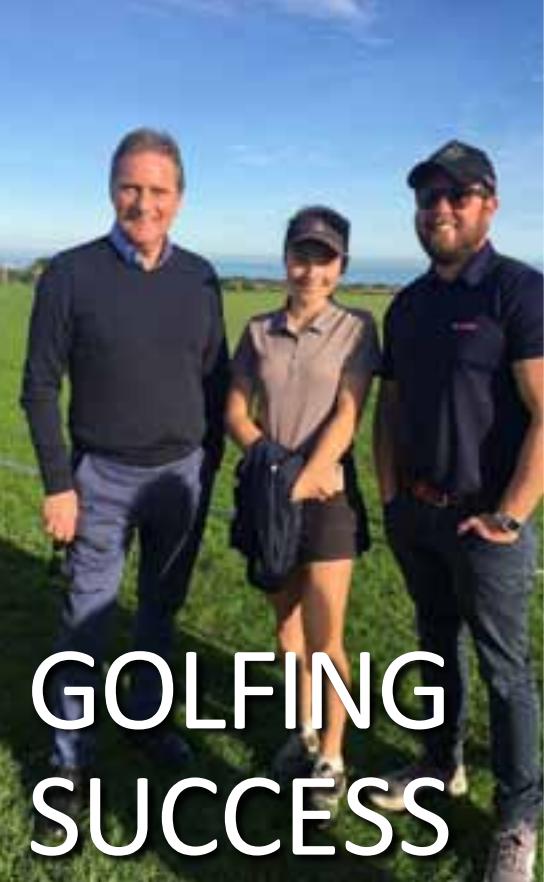
Isla and Lucy and George and Charlie were removed at the halfway point yet Theo and Ashton paddled on.

Amazingly after a broken shoulder in the beginning of the year and only three sessions before this race the boys finished in one hour 15 minutes.

I can't explain how proud I am of their achievements - Isla and Lucy racing students four or five years older than them and being the top girls' team in the 200m and 500m was a huge success. The boys competing head to head with crews who paddle three or four times a week was impressive and finally Ashton drove like a true racer being at the front of each race start and always being in the right place to the point where the organisers came and told me what a good job they did.

A huge thank you to Miss Philips for spending her day with us and driving the minibus and to all the students' parents for their support and cups of sugary tea throughout the day. It was an amazing experience and we still have two more years with the boys and five with the girls. Watch this space.





## GOLFING SUCCESS



## TRIUMPH IN THE WATER

Brother and sister Brogan and Faye Hyde both triumphed in the water. Brogan competed in the Nationals competition in Sheffield, winning a bronze medal for his 100m and has also been selected to swim for the National County Team Championships. Faye won silver with her team at the National Synchro Combo for her synchronised swimming at the London Aquatic Centre.

Sarah Mardani finished 2nd in the National HMC Singles Competition at The Berkshire. Sarah shot at 3 over par round of 75 around the Blue Course and finished second to Morgan Thomas from Millfield School who shot a five under round of 67. Huge congratulations to Sarah for finishing second in the country for girls. Alex Phelps and Sarah Mardani together also managed to finish second in the Girls Team event with a score of 157, beaten by Millfield again to first place with a 148.

## CYCLING AT GORDON'S

Cycling at Gordon's has seen continued development and achievement. Saturday morning cycling is well attended with usually 20 or more cyclists exploring the roads and bridleways in the area.

In July nine students and three teachers went to Lanzarote for a week of intensive riding. The terrain and strong winds made this a challenging experience that I am sure all who participated learned much from. The maximum distance cycled was 285 miles, which is quite a feat!

Our partnership with Charlotteville Cycle Club has developed and some of our cyclists have participated in four road riding training sessions at Gravesend Cyclepark, which has really helped to sharpen their road riding skills. Some of our riders have also raced in a Charlotteville off-road competition and Lachlan Bethune and Joshua Deakin came first and Oliver Pinder second in their age groups.

Three of our cyclists have achieved success in multiple discipline competitions. Lachlan Bethune finished second in the Kidstri Triathlon. He represented the South East in a competition against London in a duathlon at the Olympic Cyclepath, achieving second place within his team and placing fifth overall. Joshua Deakin came second and James Deakin third in their categories at the Dorney Lake Triathlon.

My thanks to all the staff and parents who have helped our cyclists.





## STEVE BORTHWICK RUGBY TRAINING

England Assistant Coach Steve Borthwick put rugby players at Gordon's through their paces when he turned up for a practice session.

The England forwards coach took the U14 year olds through a range of exercises to improve their decision making at the breakdown as well as identifying space; problem solving and awareness.

Players were encouraged to think about their actions and how to communicate them more effectively.

The top tips from Steve, who represented England for nine years, two of which he captained the side, proved just what the team needed. The following day, they took on Royal Alexandra and Albert School winning 17-5.

Chris Davies, head of rugby said: "It was an honour for the students to experience a coach of his quality, who is also an absolute legend of the game. We are grateful to him for giving up his time, particularly as this is the period when England are preparing for the Six Nations."

## MAKING A SPLASH

Indoor rowers were crowned champions in the State Boarding Forum's U14 competition recently. Now they have the chance to try their luck on the water with their first boat. The new Kanghua boat, funded by the GSPA and the Rowing Foundation will mean that rowers in Years 9-12 will be able to compete as Gordon's School Boat Club. Olympian Alan Inns will be training them.



Dom and his partner Elliott won a bronze medal in U17 Badminton England tournament at Kent.



## CCF ARMY SECTION FIELD TRAINING DAY HAWLEY LAKE

Raft building; bridge demolition and construction and command and leadership tasks – just some of the activities undertaken by the Army Section of the CCF when they spent the day training with The Royal Engineers at Hawley Lake.

Firstly the cadets had to remove toxic waste from a container using the items provided. The second task was mathematical with cadets having to solve a puzzle using tyres. Both disciplines were designed to test their communication, leadership qualities and teamwork.



During another task the cadets were instructed how to construct a basic explosive charge, they then attached them together and to a bridge to simulate a bridge demolition.

The final task was to construct a bridge to cross a river. The students were taught how to build the bridge from its component parts. They then had to put it together and cross a river.

The afternoon training took place on Hawley Lake where the Cadets were given instructions on tying knots, lashings and construction of a raft. Each section was given the equipment to construct a raft capable of carrying the section around the island on the lake.

Once the rafts had been built the teams' challenge was to race around the island, with the first team to complete the circuit and dismantle the raft declared winners.

The race proved to be exciting as one of the rafts sank shortly after entering the water with team members having to test their swimming ability in the freezing cold water, and another turned upside down during the race. Two of the rafts completed the journey around the island.

All the cadets had a very enjoyable day out with our sponsor unit, The Royal Engineers.

Many thanks to 57 Sqn The Royal Engineers for hosting our cadets and providing an excellent day's training.

## RAF CCF

The RAF Section has had a busy start to the new school year, initially getting the new cadets prepared to represent the unit outside school.

Cadets have been issued with camouflage uniform with the traditional RAF blue uniform to be issued by Christmas.

They had a great day at RAF Odiham where they were briefed on the role of the station and in particular how Chinook helicopters are used. Aircrew showed them around the helicopters. They also were able to take part in fire drills, see first-hand how Air Traffic Control works and

had the opportunity of handling not only British weapons but also a number of various weapons recovered by the RAF from all over the world.

Cadets of the unit also visited RAF Benson where they all flew in the Royal Air Force's basic training aircraft 'The Tutor'. All were shown how to fly the aircraft and given the chance to take control and fly it themselves, the majority also carried out aerobatics.

A fantastic opportunity for 14 year old students. The cadets will be flying again in February.

# NAVYCCF

They scaled an eight foot wall; scrambled over 20 feet of an A-frame covered in ropes; crawled through a concrete tube and then tackled the water obstacles. Gordon's students were taking part in a team building exercise Royal Navy style at HMS Collingwood near Fareham. Some overcame their fear of heights, others claustrophobia but all completed the challenges with help and encouragement from the Collingwood instructors and their fellow team-mates.

Photos courtesy of Keith Woodland, Crown Copyright



## RAFHENLOW

Cadets travelled to Bedfordshire in July for a week of competitions RAF style at Henlow. As well as challenges in shooting; drill room kit inspections and making rocket cars, the cadets visited the RAF Museum at Hendon; the Battle of Britain Bunker at Uxbridge and the Shuttleworth Collection. They learned about aerodynamics and crash testing and were presented with shooting awards, marksmen badges and swimming certificates. The highlight of the trip was a flight in a Chinook Helicopter.

# MY GORDON'S EXPERIENCE BY DIVYA BALASHANKER



punctuality? Certainly, because it's a very important aspect of both school and work life. Is discipline important? Without a doubt, since nothing would ever get done if it wasn't. But is this school the terrifyingly perfect place I thought it was? Surprisingly, it's not. Unlike my imaginings, if you're lost here, you can ask for directions without being snapped at. If you're a few minutes late in the first week because you got lost, you won't get an email home straight away. If you're hot you are actually allowed to take your blazer off (though you have to carry it with you...!).

In short, the people here are friendly, polite, understanding, and as helpful as they can possibly be. We're all human and there are mistakes made all round (such as an English class running over time because we were reading a beautiful speech, or myself forgetting my next class and walking back and forth across the school to finally get there) but what matters is we learn from them – and we don't get steeped in trouble while learning! By Divya Balashanker.

## PIZZA AND MOVIE NIGHT

The annual Pizza and Movie Night involved some 100 Sixth Form students, who gathered in the Rec with their bean bags and blankets to watch Sacha Baron Cohen in Dictator.

Plenty of laughter and the obligatory popcorn to feast on along with 30 large pizzas!

The tidy Sixth Formers also ensured that the Rec was pristine for the parent tours the following day.



As an eight-year old, driving past Gordon's School every day to get to my primary school, the only thing I knew about Gordon's was that its Patron is Her Majesty, The Queen. Imagine the awe and admiration I've had for Gordon's ever since finding that out! Surely it must be a spectacular school, with children the epitome of etiquette and staff the most flawless of beings. Organisation, discipline, inflexibility, rules. I was sure Gordon's had them all. It was quite a daunting prospect, to go to such a very proper institution of learning in the future!

I started studying for my A Levels at Gordon's School this year, and the reality is very different to my imagination. Is there an emphasis on

## SAFE DRIVE STAY ALIVE EVENT

Every student in Year 12 attended the Surrey Fire and Rescue's Safe Drive Stay Alive Event in Dorking.

On entering the theatre, students were greeted by thumping music and lights akin to going to a club on a Saturday night. Once seated and the music had died down the compere for the event together with a firefighter introduced each school/college to rapturous applause and cheering.

However, soon after the cheering and music had subsided the students were greeted with a more sobering sound. The testimonies and memories from firefighters, police officers, paramedics, nurses, parents and siblings who had all witnessed tragedy from road traffic accidents.

The event is one that makes people think and hopefully makes them reconsider the way they will drive on the roads as and when they pass their driving test. Definitely a worthwhile event to attend for the Year 12 students, sadly the stories that make it possible are real and all too tragic.

## TOPTEAM

The new Head Boy Oliver Henderson and Head Girl Abigail White. The two of them were appointed after formal interviews with 20 Year 12 Students. They will take up their duties at the Guildford Cathedral Service in the Spring Term. Their Deputies are Tobias Johnson and Dina Khan. This year's Gordonian Award Winners are Freya Keppel-Compton (Creative Arts, Music) and Ella Litjens (Sport). Congratulations all!



## SIXTHFORMDANCEOFF

Strictly Sixth Form: Boys' and Girls' houses paired up for one of the most hotly contested competitions in the school calendar – the Sixth Form Dance Off. Judges were looking for creativity; difficulty; formations and transitions; teamwork and timing and eye contact and showmanship. China and Buckingham strutted their stuff to emerge as winners with Victoria and Khartoum second and Sandringham and Augusta third.



## GORDON'S DASH

This term saw the re-launch of the Gordon's Dash, which took a slightly different format to previous years, in that it was a fun run rather than a timed race. The route provided for a scenic run, covering paths, tracks and woodland trails across Brentmoor Heath and we were delighted to have over 50 runners taking part on what turned out to be a glorious October morning. Thank you to everyone involved, we hope to run the event again next year and more details will follow in due course.



## GSPA CHRISTMAS FAYRE

One of the most popular events in the School calendar, the GSPA Christmas Fayre was a huge success with a multitude of stalls. Making their first public appearance was the Gordon's Jazz Ensemble, who proved a tuneful accompaniment to the mayhem on the dodgems.



## OPEN AIR CINEMA

This September, to mark the centenary of the First World War, SSAFA (The Armed Forces Charity) chose Gordon's as the backdrop for their Open Air Cinema event which was a great success. The film, 'War Horse', was shown and all proceeds went towards SSAFA's current work helping today's generation of servicemen and women, veterans and their families across Surrey.



## INSIGHT TALK

We were delighted to welcome Major General Mungo Melvin CB OBE as the speaker for this term's Insight Talk. Major General Mungo Melvin is a retired British Army Officer, and a noted military historian. His talk, entitled 'Gordon and The Russians: Follow the Sapper!', covered the Crimean War and was enjoyed by a mix of parents, students and staff.

## BUSINESS NETWORKING

The Business Networking Breakfast Events, introduced this year, are steadily increasing in popularity. The events are open to all and currently attract a mixture of current parents, former parents, Gordonians, and local community members, all of whom enjoy the relaxed and friendly atmosphere offered by this event. The Business Networking Breakfasts take place on the second Friday of every month, excluding July and August. To find out more, and to book, please visit [www.gordons.school/boxoffice](http://www.gordons.school/boxoffice)



# STAFFNEWS

At the end of the Autumn term, we said farewell to Suzanne Gibbs, Head of Art, after 20 years at Gordon's. Andrew Holt will take over her role in January for one term and Elizabeth Pankhurst after Easter. We also said goodbye to Manon Jones in Maths who is moving on to a new role, Tanja Lambe will be joining the Maths Department in January. Alana Reddick, who has been the House Assistant in Sandringham leaves us this term.

Earlier this term we said farewell to Steve and Jackie Monk who retired and moved to a new area; Emma Light has now joined us as the new nurse in the Medical Centre. Jonathan Griffiths has also joined as the new Art and Photography Technician replacing Michael Pain who moved on to a new opportunity.

Kim Pritchard joined after half term as a part-time Economics teacher.

## WELCOME BACK MISS!

If there was any doubt that your school days are the best of your life, then Gordon's new Maths teacher Charlotte Winckley is proof. For Miss Winckley a student at the School eight years ago, enjoyed it so much that she has come back as a teacher! "I loved school" she enthused. "Gordon's is somewhere I always felt happy and confident." A weekly boarder at Gordon's between 2003 and 2010, Miss Winckley went on to study Maths at the University of Kent before heading off to Kingston for her PGCE. Among her many skills are climbing, horse riding, she reached the Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award and of course she can march!



## MR DAVIES: HEAD OF RUGBY AND KHARTOUM

Fresh from Fiji where he worked with the National Men's 7s team as their analyst and skills coach, Chris Davies, Gordon School's new Head of Rugby and Khartoum Head of House, is full of enthusiasm for his new role in a school. As well as bringing with him new training and monitoring techniques, Chris is determined to put girls' rugby on the map. The Welsh-born coach played his junior representative rugby in West Wales before joining the military. While studying for his sports science degree at Exeter University, he played premiership university rugby and after teaching at Hartpury College, worked for London Wasps, the Abu Dhabi Harlequins and the Hong Kong Rugby Union before being appointed as the analyst and skills coach for the Fiji national team.

# ACHIEVEMENTS

## Football

**Cerys Griffiths-Jones** has been selected for South Wales Football Regional Elite Squad.

After two successful trials **Harvey Hewson (Year 10)** has been selected for the U15 County Football Squad for this season.

Congratulations to **Devon Gordon, Joel Evans and Reef Peries** who have all been selected for the U18 Surrey County Football Team.

**Devon Gordon** has made it to the last round of the English Schools Football team trials.

## Golf

**Sarah Mardani** has been selected for the England U18 South Region Golf Training squad.

**Alex Phelps** trialled for the South of England Girls Golf Training Squad and she has been selected to train as part of the squad.

**Estelle Ingram** played in the Junior European Golf Open in association with Sky Sports in Alcaidesa in Spain.

**Sarah Mardani** and **Alex Phelps** won the Girls Team Scratch Golf Competition.

**Sarah Mardani** was runner up in the Girls Individual Scratch Golf Competition.

**Sophie Mardani** and **Evie Kircher** won the Girls Team Handicap Golf Competition.

**Sophie Mardani** won the Girls Handicap Golf Competition.

## Swimming

**Brogan Hyde** competed at the Swimming Nationals in August in Sheffield and won a Bronze medal for his 100m backstroke.

**Lily Osman** competed at the Maidenhead Marlins Level 3 Swimming Meet, she also won a Silver Medal in 100m Freestyle in the 11yrs category.

## Kayaking

Gordon's Kayakers represented the South of England in the National Schools Games held in Nottingham. They achieved some amazing results in this their first national competition.

**Lucy Mocetuba** (Year 8) racing up in the under 16 division gained a silver medal in the A final.

**Theo Lee-Clarke** also gained silver in the Boys A final. On the back of his performance he has been invited to trial at Wey Kayak club in Guildford which was home of our latest Olympic Gold medallist.

**George Arnold** used technique and finesse over strength to gain silver in the B Final only 2/10 off a Gold in a 56 second race!

**Lottie Henden** and **Millie Johnson** gained a Gold and Bronze respectively in the B final Under 16 Girls.

Finally we have **Lauren Mallindine** racing up in the under 18 B final gaining a Silver Medal.

Not only was this their first taste of a national competition, it was held in a championship style with lots of other competing sports going on around them with plenty of spectators.

## Hockey

Congratulations to **Alice Cresswell, Ella Litjens** and **Joanne Hay** who have all been selected for the Surrey U16 Hockey Squad.

**1st XI Hockey** finish runners-up at the SBF National Finals 2018.

The Gordon's School **2nd XI Hockey** won their group to qualify for the Semi-Final of the KCS Invitational 2nd Team Cup.

## Netball

**Pippa Dixon** (Year 10) represented Maverick Netball Squad (U17s) at Herts University Sports Village for the first time against Gibraltar U21s. Pippa helped Mavericks secure a 36-22 win.

## Judo

**Henry Sturm** won his three group Judo fights to progress to the final of the U38 competition in Nijmegen, Holland. In a close fought final Henry narrowly lost, claiming the Silver Medal for his country.

## Cycling

Three students took part in the Charlottesville Cycle Club Rainbow Splash off-road races. **Oliver Pinder** came second in the skills race. **Lachlan Bethune** came first in the handicap race and **Joshua Deakin** came first in the time trial race.

## Cross Country

**U14 and U13 Girls Cross Country Team** who won their District Cup

## Equestrian

**Molly Barnard** and **Rebecca Hales** took part in the National NSEA Championships. Molly competed in the 85cm-90cm Arena Eventing Class and the course was very technically difficult. Molly got 0 time faults which is amazing and rare in these classes. She didn't knock a single pole either. Molly finished 5th Nationally. Rebecca competed in the 1.15m Arena Eventing Class, again an incredibly challenging class and several riders were eliminated. This height is the biggest you can go within the NSEA too. Rebecca finished 6th nationally.

**Molly Barnard** competed in the NSEA 90-95cm Jumping With Style. After a fantastic ride, she won the class, to be crowned National Plate Champion 2018.

**Rebecca Hales** finished 2nd in the NSEA 1 to 1.05m Jumping With Style National Plate Championship.

## Duathlon

**Lachlan Bethune** took part in the Duathlon competition and he finished as the 2nd place boy in the South East of England, against an incredibly strong field. This was a team event and Lachlan's effort helped the South East of England Team secure the overall championship, beating London, to lift the trophy for Inter Regional Duathlon 5.

## SBF Sports Winners

The Following teams were crowned State Boarding Forum Champions at the SBF Sports Festival held at Gordon's School:

**U13 Girls Hockey**  
**U14 Girls Rowing**  
**U15 Netball**  
**U15 Girls Cross Country**  
**U14 Boys Cross Country**

## Creative Arts

SCQF Level 4 in Bagpipe Performance and Theory **Rory Cracroft** (taking exam in December - Result in Jan).

**Adam Grainger** and **Artur Nunes** - Represented Gordon's School - ESU Mac Debating Competition.

**Chris Pearce** – double Grade 8 (distinction) in singing and tuba.

## Also:

Gordonian Awards have been made to the following: Ella Litjens, China (Sport) and Freya Keppel-Compton, Augusta (Creative Arts – Music).

