



# Rendcombian

The Magazine for Rendcomb College, Juniors and Nursery

2014

## Rendcombian Magazine

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School Community

# Founder’s Day Speeches

## Mr M. Watson, Headmaster of Junior School



When you arrived today I hope that you saw Eostra, our hare. This initiative was great to get involved in, as it not only provided our children with a fun, artistic challenge; but also it is supporting a very worthy local environmental project. The hare has a long historical link with Cirencester, and it also has a special relevance to Rendcomb, but more about that later.

When I watch the news on TV, I often find it depressing: a catalogue of disasters, problems and issues. Although we are all affected by national and international events, I often ask myself – Do I live in the real world? Is life portrayed in *EastEnders* the norm? The answer for me is simple – No, I do not live and work in the real world, for mine is a very special and unique place; it’s called Rendcomb. How could anyone not feel privileged and blessed to work in such an environment

and to be greeted each day by children such as these? I am not naïve enough to think our pupils do not enjoy being at home playing on their games, but generally they bounce into school, enthusiastic to be with their friends, ready to enjoy the opportunities and challenges provided both in and outside the classroom.

Einstein said, “If people are good only because they fear punishment and hope for reward, we are a sorry lot indeed.” When I visit a local prep school, I am always struck by the fear that their pupils display when they see their Head or a member of staff walking down a corridor. That’s fortunately not Rendcomb. Of course, we aim to develop respect and we offer rewards, but these are to acknowledge not just achievement, but importantly effort and doing one’s best.

I agree with John Hayes, ex-CEO (American Express), who said, “We tend to overvalue the things we can measure and undervalue the things we can’t.” Since Rendcomb’s foundation, the school has striven to treat pupils as individuals, to value the diversity of their talents even if they do not fit the accepted norm. The qualities of citizenship, friendship, loyalty and perseverance are difficult to measure, but undeniably important; and these are qualities that I see every day across our Rendcomb community.

On Wednesday night Mrs Watson and I were privileged to see the Lower School’s production of *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*. The entire performance oozed class; and it was truly wonderful to see such confidence, especially as one of the lead parts was so shy at age four when her favourite pastime was crying. This was Rendcomb at its best, and you fully deserved on Wednesday a standing ovation. I would have willingly led it, but after two and half hours on a Dulverton chair with knees that don’t work and a stomach that doesn’t shrink, I just couldn’t get up!

Schools are about people. Of course facilities and resources matter, but ethos and atmosphere outweigh these. As an Independent Schools Inspector, I frequently get the opportunity to visit schools which claim to be close-knit and caring. While this may be the case, and naturally I am biased, Rendcomb has a spirit, a family/community feel and bond which is truly unique. If we needed confirmation, both the parent and pupil bodies gave it massively in the very positive pre-inspection questionnaires returned to ISI last term. The Reporting Inspector (lead Inspector) was amazed by the responses, as she had never come across a set so high. Having spent four days here, she understood; for she, too, was impressed by our pupils, our teachers, our school.

The report highlighted the many great strengths that our school has, and I was particularly pleased that our Early Years (Nursery/Reception) department was recognised as being excellent (outstanding in a maintained school) in every aspect. Last week our Early Years was further recognised by the re-award of the Bristol Standard, the top kite mark in this area of education. My colleagues who work with these age groups should be rightfully proud of their achievements, but particularly as this means our pupils get the very best start and introduction to their educational journey.

As usual, the children in the Junior School deservedly grab the limelight, for once again they have performed so brilliantly across so many fields and disciplines. I shall soon pass to this term's Heads of School, so that Carmen and Rory can provide an overview of the Junior School year and some of their special memories.

Our pupils are lucky to be part of this school, which they generally realise, so they are always keen to undertake charitable work to support those less fortunate. As a result, a considerable amount of charitable work is regularly undertaken; during the past year alone, £2,800 has been raised supporting international, national and local causes. But it's not just about raising money and having fun in the process. Last week's visit by Harry, a severely disabled National Star College student, proved to be inspirational to the Junior School and all who met him. Such experiences are quite humbling, and enrich our overall development as people.

As I previously said, schools are about people.

During holiday periods, I often meet new families, and while they can see rooms and facilities, they cannot experience our unique atmosphere. I thank everyone who contributes to making Rendcomb so special – pupils, parents and, of course, all of my colleagues, teaching and non-teaching.

Traditionally, staff leaving the Junior School, which is rare, are acknowledged in our Final Assembly, rather than here. Today I am going to break with tradition, for an exceptional teacher and friend leaves us this term after 13 years' truly outstanding service. Having been appointed in March 2003, one of my first tasks was to make an internal appointment of the school's first Deputy Head. Although not the most experienced, a young and impressive Anne Haas stood out. This brings me back to the hare. I was intrigued by Anne's surname, so naturally looked it up to find that it said 'green bumpy skin'! I soon realised this was the definition of an avocado haas. Researching further, it came to light that in Afrikaans, Dutch and German, 'Haas' means 'hare'. So Mrs Hare, apart from marrying my wonderful wife, Lynne, appointing you has proved to be the best decision of my life. Anne has been instrumental during her 13 years at Rendcomb, 11 as Deputy Head, in developing and shaping the Junior School into the high-quality school that exists today.

Many Senior School students and their families, as well as those currently in the Junior School, owe Anne a huge debt of gratitude, for she has enabled so many to enjoy learning and to flourish as individuals. Such commitment has had consequences, for Anne has gone from a young and sane woman to a somewhat mad, fully fledged Junior School teacher. Since the news of Anne's appointment as Junior Head at The King's School, Gloucester, many have asked how I will cope, and Mark Naylor even suggested I might now have to work! Well, it's time to come clean – For the last 11 years Anne has been undergoing training and she is now ready to be dropped behind enemy lines in Gloucester! Anne, good luck and thank you; please come up to accept this small token of our thanks.

Good luck to those in mid-stream of exams and to those soon to start. To any leavers, I am confident that you will look back with wonderful memories of Rendcomb, and soon come to realise that you are equipped with a skill set that will stand you in good stead at university, in the workplace, and life in general. ■

## Rory Hughes and Carmen Lee, Heads of Junior School

**Carmen:** Four years ago, I never imagined that I would have the great honour to be standing here today. I have now reached the crossroads where a chapter closes and a new one begins. My own journey began in Year 3, and I cannot believe how quickly the time has gone by. I have had four years of happiness at Rendcomb, each year bringing its own unique tests and triumphs. There has been so much to learn; each day is filled with delightful activities, whether it be in the classroom, on the sports field, in the drama room or on field trips.

**Rory:** Hello, I’m Rory and I am delighted to be here today standing before you, not only as Head Boy of the Junior School, but also as a product of the fantastic education that Rendcomb has to offer. Before we launch into our recollections of years gone by, I would just like to point out that this day is made even more special by the fact that I get to share it with my best friend, Carmen Lee.

**Carmen:** I love being at Rendcomb as it is such a lovely environment to be in. The teachers are so dedicated and teach in such a unique and fun way that we, as children, can enjoy learning and have a giggle as well! They encourage us always to do our best and to try hard in everything that we do. If the teachers think we have done exceptionally well, we are awarded distinctions. We celebrate achievements and efforts in the Junior School with Distinction Assemblies. At these, we also get to hear what musical talents we have throughout the school.

**Rory:** My first memories of Distinction Assembly are of wearing my Spiderman suit in the Dulverton Hall, applauding my brothers for their many distinctions for outstanding EFFORT in lessons. I can’t believe that was eight and a half years ago – when I was just two and a half! Time definitely flies when you are having fun, and we do have a lot of fun here! We also like to support one another when showcasing our many talents. My highlight from J1 was the nativity play. I had one line: “Myrrh for the baby!” Remember that, Mr Watson?

**Carmen:** Here at Rendcomb, we participate in a wide range of sports. Girls play hockey, netball and rounders, and can also experience tennis and lacrosse. I have been lucky enough to represent the school in most of the sports that we do. We often have amazing results from our matches. This year, the U11A netball team defeated Berkhamsted, something which has not happened before and was such an achievement!

**Rory:** Well done, girls! The boys enjoy their sports, too. I have been lucky enough to represent Rendcomb at all the main boys’ sports which include rugby, football and cricket. I was honoured to be Rugby Captain this year, and I look forward to playing all the main sports in the Senior School. Of particular note were the successes of the unbeaten U9 rugby team and the unbeaten U10 football team this year.

**Carmen:** We are privileged to be offered a vast variety of activities ranging from the performing arts to the challenges of both outdoor and indoor pursuits. I will reminisce for years to come, recalling the steep slopes at school during the Winter Warmer Challenge. Chess club is always popular, where points are earned to qualify for the mega finals; this year saw the success of Lucas Booth as school champion and Raife Hackett as most successful in the mega finals. ICT club, cookery and orienteering are but a few more of the exciting activities we can do.

**Rory:** My favourite after-school activity has to be massive rounders. Mr Watson’s bowling is second to none. There are many others, too: golf, tennis, forest school, arts and crafts, Lego, ballet, fun dance, martial arts, orchestra, speech and drama, multi sports... I could go on, but they gave us a time limit for this speech.

**Carmen:** The school continues to promote and provide every opportunity for everybody to develop their individual talents; we do this by showcasing these at tea time concerts, school productions and plays. Abilities range from beginners to the advanced, as well as gifted

performers, too. However, what is ultimately special is that we repeatedly support each other throughout. Earlier on in the year, we were thrilled to welcome a special guest: Mrs Dodd had kindly organised the visit of Danielle Hope. We were lucky enough to be invited to share an afternoon and evening with her. Both Junior and Senior School students came together during a workshop experience with Danielle. I was most fortunate to be given the chance to take part in this truly memorable evening. It will stay with me for a very long time.

**Rory:** Of course, we very much look forward to all these incredible opportunities taking place in the new performing arts building, which we hope to see some time in the near future. Hopefully you all get the *Standard* (other local papers are available) and have seen the artist’s impression of this exciting project.

**Carmen:** I have often wondered why I have had such a good time whilst at the school. Having looked closer, I have noticed that Rendcomb consists of eight letters. For Chinese people, such as myself, the number eight is considered lucky. This is because the Chinese word for ‘eight’ sounds similar to the word meaning ‘wealth and prosperity’. This acrostic poem will show you what I think the Rendcomb lucky eight letters stand for:

- R is for respect;** what we show our classmates and teachers;
- E is for effort;** we put a lot of this into our work and activities;
- N is for never-ending opportunities;** everyone will have their chance to shine;
- D is for determination;** nothing can bring us down if we keep on trying;
- C is for confidence,** something Rendcomb develops in every student;
- O is for optimism,** which every student will achieve and leave with;
- M is for motivation;** we often get rewards if we try extremely hard and...
- B is for brilliant;** the standard of the school and its staff!

**Rory:** This school is the best for its students, but also the best for supporting worthwhile causes. We do a lot for charity here. Some of the charities we have helped include: Red, White and Blue Day; Comic Relief;

National Deaf Children’s Society; and the National Star College. My memorable contribution to charity was when I decided to cut off all my hair for Comic Relief. My big brothers and their good friend, Tom Hansel, got involved and enjoyed it way too much for my liking! But in the end we raised more than £200, so it was all worth it.

**Carmen:** Two of my most unforgettable memories of the Junior School that I will treasure include the French trip to Stella Marie organised by Madame Barker; out of all the trips, this was my favourite, because it was my first residential trip, and I surprised myself and won the French diary competition. The ultimate highlight came when I had the chance to sing in front of Danielle Hope; this opportunity would not have happened without the school’s support.

**Rory:** I also enjoyed the French trip very much. The sweets we bought in the market lasted for a very long time... However, Kilve Court was the best school trip I have ever been on, and winning the prize for the best diary showed me that self-belief and a lot of effort is well-rewarded here at Rendcomb. Having the opportunity to be mascot at Kingsholm was also a memorable moment, especially as I got to walk on with Charlie Sharples (who is very cool, in my opinion).

**Carmen:** Today, it is my great pleasure to thank all the teachers and supporting staff whose footprints have shaped our lives, inspiring us, igniting our imaginations and embedding the love of learning. A heartfelt thank you goes to everyone who contributed to the creation of this vibrant environment of eagerness for learning; a place where friendships can build and grow, and there is even room for making mistakes along the way. I am excited to begin my next incredible journey through Rendcomb, and I know another thrilling future awaits.

**Rory:** If I had all day up here, and, if you were listening earlier, you will remember that they gave us a time limit, I wouldn’t be able to express my immense thanks to all the people who have made these years incredibly special to me. I feel that I just have to thank one teacher who I really feel has made it possible for me to be standing here today (not only because she helped us with the speech). Mrs Haas, you are amazing and will be sorely missed. ■

## Mr R. Martin, Headmaster of Senior School

A cordial welcome to you all, and a particularly warm welcome to The Bishop of Oxford on, I believe, his first visit to Rendcomb. Bishop John has been ministering to the Oxfordshire diocese since 2007 and will be retiring from that position later this year. We very much look forward to hearing your message to us later. It is good, too, to have Major Wills with us again today after a rare miss last year. I don't know if you realise, Major Wills, that this is your forty-eighth year as a Governor of this school and, having only missed two Founder's Days, you have clearly had to sit through forty-six Head's speeches; I assure you, you would have had a more lenient sentence for murder.

You will all see today that there is very much a dress code on the podium. Perhaps the power of the 'old school tie' has some influence, although the results of this week's elections will put that one to the test; these ties have nothing to do with schools, though. Today, your Chair, Head and Head Boy all share a long-suffering allegiance to Villa Park and we thought – given that it is unlikely that those three stars will ever align in the future – that we ought to dress for the occasion. Those of you who know anything about soccer will know that Aston Villa Football Club is the sleeping giant of the Premiership – sleeping to the extent of being comatose, perhaps, but if it ever wakes up, it could be a force with which to be reckoned. Villa has pedigree, European Cup Winners long before Chelsea was even getting close (and one of only five English clubs so to do – I'll leave you to ponder the other four whilst I bore you for the next five minutes). Villa has won the FA Cup seven times and has a fan base that includes the Prime Minister, the Duke of Cambridge and Tom Hanks. That fount of all knowledge, Wikipedia, claims that Villa is 'one of the oldest and most successful football clubs in the history of English football', although I hear on good authority that this clause was added by Howard's father.

Last year, I told you about a particularly inspiring afternoon that I had spent in Tokyo. There have been very few inspiring afternoons – or evenings, for that matter – at Villa Park this year, though thank goodness there have been quite a few at Rendcomb. A few spring to mind. A November afternoon watching the XV pick themselves up after their first tournament defeat in the inaugural Jonny Wilkinson Cup and turn around an improbable half-time deficit to win their final game. A March afternoon in Surrey watching the Girls' Lacrosse team taking on

all-comers and beating schools with eight times as many girls as ours to get to the semi-finals of the Nationals. A November evening watching pupils from all parts of the school engage in a workshop with West End Star, Danielle Hope. A March evening watching our actors performing a play written by two of our own which will be performed at The Edinburgh Festival in a few weeks' time. And another March evening of fine French music, a home-composed quintet premiere and the delights of Fauré. Just a few occasions that have brought myself and others at Rendcomb a great deal of pride and inspiration. You will note that all the sources of these inspirational memories come from the pupils in the school. They are, of course, what they are because of supportive and caring parents and staff who nurture them at home and at school, but they are without doubt the life-blood of this community.

This year's inspection report from the Independent Schools' Inspectorate has highlighted many of the good and excellent things that we do at Rendcomb. You will understand that we are proud to have been graded as good or excellent in every area of school life right from Early Years through to the Sixth Form. It is pleasing that the inspection confirms that pastoral care and welfare are strengths of the school, acknowledging that we know how to look after young people. And it was encouraging to hear personally from our Reporting Inspector that she knew that, had the inspectors called a year down the line, we would be in even better shape. Having trained as an ISI inspector myself this year, I know how exacting the standards are (sorry, Mr Gove – I know you prefer OFSTED!) and I understand completely how well this school has done in securing favourable outcomes. For that, I should like to thank all of the staff in the school; getting inspection-ready is a time-consuming business, and much work has gone into getting ready for this one in recent years.

The school year began with a Senior Leadership Away Day themed 'Pulling in the Same Direction' down at Eton Dorney, and it was fantastic to see all staff in the school – teaching and non-teaching – pulling together with particular purpose during the ten-day period leading up to, and during, the Inspection. This was another moment of inspiration for someone not getting his kicks from watching Villa. I should also like to thank the parent body, who responded in what I was told were unprecedented numbers, to the questionnaires issued at short

notice in late January for those very helpful appraisals of what we do – and, in some cases, don’t do.

Most importantly, though, I should like to thank the inspirational pupils we have in our school for the impressions that they give, and for their commitment to giving of their best in almost all circumstances. I doubt that many Heads can say with hand on heart that during an inspection, every single inspector spoke to him or her individually to comment on how ‘wonderful’, ‘special’, ‘welcoming’, ‘open’ – pick a positive adjective – the students in the school are, but I certainly can. Inspectors could tell within hours of being here that Rendcomb does not use the word ‘family’ lightly. As in any family, the tone is set from the top, and I should like to say a particular thank you to Lucy and Howard, who are chomping at the bit to get on the podium no doubt; the prefect body; and the members of Six Upper who have set good examples this year in the Seniors, many of them playing essential roles as ‘buddies’, which is so central to cultivating a nurturing example in our community.

Those of you who know me well – and thanks to those that do and who support along the way – realise that I don’t want Rendcomb to remain – like Villa – a sleeping giant. We are never going to be one of the oldest establishments in the Premier League of Schools, but we can strive to be extremely successful in what we aim to do. I have never wanted us to be the best kept secret in the Cotswolds, but instead want Rendcomb to be a school with the fine reputation that it had both locally and nationally when I joined it in 1982; a reputation that had been established under Wills, Simpson and Lee Browne; developed under Quick and fostered by Medill; a reputation for nurturing young people – in the true, holistic sense as Noel Wills intended – and equipping them to make a mark in the world beyond school. Those intentions – very much a reaction to The Great War that we are remembering so prominently this year – remain central to the 21st century Rendcomb. I make no apologies for having ambition for this school and for the children in it, and for wanting those glory days to return to this bit of green and pleasant land. The school is certainly moving in the right direction, but there is more work to be done; and staff and Governors are already working through the helpful recommendations made in this year’s inspection and pushing forward for the period ahead.

In saying thanks on this special day, I should of course like to pay tribute to those staff members leaving us at the end of this term. Mr Hornsby comes to the end of his year as Dramatist in Residence, and does so on the back of a creative and imaginative Lower School play this week with his own adaptation of *The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe* taking the stage; Miss Hebert comes to the end of two years with us as Lacrosse

coach, pastoral support and, latterly, Marketing trainee; and Mr Layton leaves us after three years for the double-whammy of marriage and Africa, and we wish you safe passage in both endeavours. We also say farewell to Mr Anderson, who has joined the English Department for this year and who has contributed enthusiastically to our community: we wish them all every happiness for the future.

Miss Smith may have only been with us for a short period of time, but leaves an important legacy behind with the introduction of Economics to the curriculum. Over the last four years, Mr O’ Hanlon has encouraged many of our students in this inspirational setting to develop their artistic awareness, and we will miss his considerate presence at Rendcomb next year. I encourage you to support him and our students at The Paragon Gallery exhibition next month. As Mr Watson has intimated, Mrs Haas has been a lynchpin in Rendcomb Juniors whilst also being a cornerstone in my Senior Leadership Team; and I should like to thank you personally, Anne, for your wisdom and good counsel as we have tried to push teaching and learning forward throughout the whole school these last three years. All three colleagues move upwards to fresh challenges and opportunities, and we all wish you every success and happiness – personally and professionally – for the future.

We also come to a time of change in the Parents’ Association. Clare Davidson brought much-needed stability to the RCPA when she took over the role, and has had the unenviable task of seeing out one Head and bleeding another. Clare has done so professionally, when required firmly, and at all times – charmingly. Clare will stand down as Chair at the end of this school year, and I should like to thank her on behalf of the whole school community for the time, commitment and leadership that she has given.

Thank you to you all for your support of Rendcomb both today and throughout the year, and I hope that you enjoy the rest of this Founder’s Day and the Half Term that lies beyond.

There. I have not mentioned that it is Shakespeare’s 450th birthday this year. But I will end with Fitzgerald. This one is for our inspirational pupils, so if you are sitting next to them, prod them to wake up for this one; it might hold some weight with adults too: *“For what it’s worth: it’s never too late or, in my case, too early to be whoever you want to be. There’s no time limit, stop whenever you want. You can change or stay the same, there are no rules to this thing. We can make the best or the worst of it. I hope you make the best of it. And I hope you see things that startle you. I hope you feel things you never felt before. I hope you meet people with a different point of view. I hope you live a life you’re proud of. If you find that you’re not, I hope you have the courage to start all over again.”* ■

## Howard Auster, Senior School Head Boy



“It is our choices that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities,” so said Albus Dumbledore, Headmaster of Hogwarts School. Dumbledore had many wise words to offer Harry Potter, and has been an inspiration to many others since. Is it our choices that make us who we are? I would like to share some thoughts behind my choices at Rendcomb College which has made me what I am.

It was easy to choose the three schools I have attended: Minchinhampton Primary was a five minute walk across the beautiful Common where our family home

still is; Pinewood School reflected special opportunities including my father teaching me Music there; you may think the decision to come to Rendcomb also owed something to my other parent being there... but no, it was because it was the nearest senior school I could find to the Five Mile House.

Any thoughts of choosing to leave Rendcomb after GCSEs and the closing of the Five Mile House, to go to another college, were quickly dispelled when I learnt that the incoming Headmaster, like myself and the Chairman of the Governors, was an Aston Villa fan. Another good choice.

My first memory of Rendcomb is the new pupils’ chapel service. The then Headmaster, Mr Holden, told us all to have an ambition – something we wanted to achieve whilst a Rendcomb pupil. I immediately knew what I wanted to aim for; and I finally achieved it in Oxfordshire this term.

Cricket can teach us so much about making the right choices: which balls to play, which to leave; which balls to defend, which balls to attack. Life’s choices are a little like that: we may all want to be happy and successful, metaphorically playing the flashing cover drive, but sometimes we may have to leave things alone, or defend against what life throws our way. Another cricket choice is, as Shakespeare might have said, “to walk or not to walk, that is the question”. If I nick a ball to the keeper, I believe it is right to leave the wicket rather than try to con the umpires and opposition into thinking I did not hit it. In the same way, one can ‘walk’ through life with honesty and pride in oneself.

As well as sport, my other passion is music. I have chosen to pursue my studies

at Leeds Conservatoire, where I will be focusing on composition, as well as visiting Headingley, Elland Road and the Crucible. Musical choices, like cricket, can mirror life’s choices: we all have our favourite types of music, but if we only choose to listen to that one type all the time, it could become repetitive. I have been able to deepen my natural love of many kinds of music at Rendcomb: classical, jazz, pop and rock. By choosing to experiment in music I did not know, I have found that classical composing is my passion, shown with perhaps my two proudest moments at this school: in December, when the choir performed my choir arrangement of the school motto *quo lux ducit*, ‘Where the light leads’; and at Holy Apostles’ Church, Cheltenham, where my Wagnerian string quintet was performed last term.



Variety is the ‘spice of life’, too; so, in deferring my place at Leeds to 2015, I have chosen to accept Mr Ferreira’s kind offer of a gap year in his new school near Perth, Australia. This is a decision I had to consider for a long period of time, mainly because the rest of my family had gone straight on to university. But even though

## Lucy Kernon, Senior School Head Girl

it will be difficult to leave people who I will miss tremendously, in the end I made the choice to go, as it is too good an opportunity to turn down; and with the fact that I can guarantee a hot summer, I will be able to play plenty of cricket.

Thankfully, choice plays no part in the people I have met here. I have made friends with many people, of many different ages. My fellow year hasn’t been the easiest to teach (just ask the teachers), but I now feel we’ve finally ‘matured’ into a settled year, finding it easy to get along with each other; something I will miss hugely. However, what is perhaps one of Rendcomb’s greatest qualities is that it is easy to get along and be friends with anyone of any age, teacher or pupil. I will miss the ‘Rendcomb bubble’ and the people within it.

Mr Holden’s prediction in 2009 was right; from that first chapel service as a ‘new pupil’ to now, nearly an ‘Old Rendcombian’, time has flown by. Steve Sutton died last week, only a year older than me; he touched and inspired many people by his life story. He said, “Life isn’t measured by the time you’re here but by your achievements.” He made choices to live life to the full whilst he could. I urge pupils who are remaining here to make a similar choice: live Rendcomb life to the full and, as Steven said, “If life is like sucking a lemon, then make lemonade.”

And so now I join generations of Rendcomb students offering my thanks to our Founder, Mr Noel Wills, and his family, for being able to grow up in a beautiful environment that has given me the confidence and skills to make informed decisions that will illuminate my life ahead, ‘where the light leads’ – *quo lux ducit*. ■

Unlike Howard, who has had the start of his speech planned all year, I had to do some thinking about mine. I came to the conclusion that it would be another speech about my time at Rendcomb. This proved to be a much longer process than I initially thought it to be. Having written my opening paragraph, I then got the famous ‘writer’s block’, which left me on three paragraphs for a week before I finally made some progress.

When I first started at Rendcomb six years ago, I never imagined for one moment I would be standing here doing the Head Girl’s speech at Founder’s Day in my final year. Coming from a big state school, with about 100 pupils in my year, to a year group with only 11 girls was quite a shock. But it is a feature of Rendcomb I have learned to cherish. When people ask me during a tour what my favourite thing about Rendcomb is, I always respond by saying how I love having friends two or even three years younger, and being able to know everyone’s name; something that would never happen in a bigger school.

I would like to think that I have changed a lot during my time here. I came to Rendcomb not feeling very confident, wearing a pair of fashionably uncool glasses that were not dissimilar to Harry Potter’s (only his weren’t designer), and I was ‘kinda weird’ (some may say that last one hasn’t changed).

I still remember my Form 1 shadow day: DT with Miss Hughes; being so nervous I didn’t say a word; and getting back to Godman after a big lunch of pizza and pasta when Bliss decided she wanted toast (still to this day I don’t know how she eats so much). Now I am here at the end of Upper Sixth, all six years feel like one big year. My time spent in Godman was only one year, but I did learn one thing: I’m not a fan of the colour pink. Christine joined half way through Form 4, and our friendship was based on our inability to do Maths! In the words of Benjamin Franklin, “We didn’t fail the test. We just found 100 ways to do it wrong.” I am pretty sure our Maths GCSE was a combined effort.

Sport has been a huge and important part of my life at Rendcomb: three sports (hockey, lacrosse and tennis) that I had never played before, yet I soon picked them up. I spent many a Maths lesson passing on advice on playing goalie in lacrosse to Christine; advice I had received from a friend’s aunt who played lacrosse for England, who had coincidentally told me to play any position but goalkeeper. So where do I end up? Goalkeeper! Nevertheless, for the most part it has not been a truly terrifying experience. Playing for the 1st XII at the National Small Schools Tournament during Form 4 will probably remain my most daunting experience of my time here. Imagine being aged 14 in a team of primarily 17 and 18 year olds, in a final where the next goal wins, and one slip-up from me and the game was lost. I have never felt so ill during any sporting event. Having said that, to be able to say that I have been part of the National Small Schools winning team for three of the four years Rendcomb has won the title is a huge privilege; and captaining the team with Bliss in my final year was a very proud moment that I will hold in me for ever – mainly being able to lift the trophy!

## Senior School Head Girl’s Founder’s Day Speech cont.



I certainly developed my own technique in hockey, which usually involved me falling onto another player as a result of my very poor balance. But as Miley Cyrus said, “The minute you stop making mistakes is the minute you stop learning.” I understand this is a controversial person to quote from, but whether you agree with her new image or not, the statement still applies. School life is all about making mistakes, especially on the sports field, and it is these mistakes which help us to improve and move on with our learning.

Whether or not to stay on at Rendcomb for Sixth Form was something I spent a lot of time mulling over. Having been on taster days at Farmors and Prior Park College, I found that a big school was not for me, and the close-knit environment that Rendcomb offers was perfect. I have valued my time at Rendcomb and have gained many life skills, such as teamwork, leadership and the importance of communication.

This year I plucked up the courage to take part in the Dance Challenge. Well, actually I didn’t have much choice: Christine was never going to let me get out of it. This proved to be more of a challenge than I initially thought, due to my lack of co-ordination during a step ball change. I never managed to master the move, despite Katrina’s slow demonstrations. The eight of us involved will never live down the embarrassment of the performance shown that night.

Life in Park House is somewhat different from the other boarding houses. For one, it is a mixed house so there is no way of escaping the constant ‘boy’ humour and comments like “It’s a boys’ house with girls just living in it!” However, my two years in Park have given me the chance to find new friendships, especially with the boys; Tom and Ollie can deny it all they like, but they were extremely intimidating in Form 5.

Helping to organise the 2013 Christmas Dinner proved to be quite stressful, especially as the decorations were due to come on the day of the dinner. The table plan was the most challenging part, and I learnt that you certainly cannot please everyone. One thing that came of drawing up the table plan is that I cannot function normally after two nights of staying up until 2 am to sort it out. Christine calls me a toddler who needs an early night every night, otherwise I will be grumpy! I am sure my parents will agree with her.

Since being in Park I have cared less about what people think of me and just got on with things without needing the approval of everyone else. This is certainly a strength I will carry on when I leave in just over four weeks. Rendcomb provides an environment allowing students to grow and embrace themselves, and John Lennon said, “You don’t need anybody to tell you who you are or what you are. You are what you are!” ■

## Guest Speaker: Rt. Revd. John Pritchard, Bishop of Oxford

The Bishop of Oxford provided a model for a well-lived life, surprising us all by suggesting that we should try to follow the example of a goose. He cited several of the bird’s valuable characteristics and habits:

- As it takes off, the goose shows great Confidence.
- Flying in V-formation shows remarkable Teamwork.
- Its noisy honking is a sign of Encouragement to others.
- When the leader drops back to allow another goose to lead, this shows Humility.
- And if one of them is injured, others fly down to be with them, indicating great Compassion. ■

Mrs G Harford

# Farewells to Teaching Staff



## Mr C Vuolo

Carlo Vuolo retired from teaching in November 2013 having taught at Rendcomb since 1996. He had previously worked at St Birinus School, Didcot, in addition to having worked in industry, so he brought a practical strength to his teaching of Science. He always taught Biology to A level and Science to GCSE, providing him with a full timetable; and later in his career he acted as Head of Science.

His interest in sport was welcomed in a school: in the PE Department, Mr Vuolo taught PE at GCSE, and at A level when the subject was introduced in 2001 to increase the breadth in the Sixth Form. He also ran several of the successful Sports Days in the Summer Term. He immediately took over the reins of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, his particular interest lying in the expeditions.

Mr Vuolo has many other talents, including guitar playing, so it was inevitable that he would be persuaded to play in a school rock concert. He acted as Assistant House Parent and Tutor throughout his time at Rendcomb, and he was very positive pastorally. Like many of the staff at Rendcomb, Mr Vuolo has contributed in a wide variety of ways, too numerous to catalogue here. We wish him happiness and success with the next stage of his life. ■

Mr C Wood

## Mr M Slark

Mike Slark was appointed as teacher of Business Studies at Rendcomb in September 1992. Interest in Mike's subject has been very strong throughout his time at Rendcomb, even in the light of the recent addition of Economics on the curriculum, in part through his strong subject knowledge and experience as a Senior Examiner and lecturer at The Royal Agricultural University.

His role at Rendcomb developed considerably during his time at the school and he fulfilled a number of additional positions: Master in charge of Careers, Head of Business Studies, House Parent, Head of Sixth Form, Master in charge of Rugby and, most recently, Director of Sport. He and his wife, Ann – who herself has made many significant contributions to life at Rendcomb over the years – looked after two house communities, including Park House.

Many will know that Mike's true passion lies in sport – rugby in particular – and this is evident in the success of the teams at Rendcomb, which have traditionally 'punched above their weight' (as he would proudly assert) and come out with winning seasons against the odds. It is fitting that he decided to leave Rendcomb at the end of the rugby term after 20 years of coaching the 1st XV, basking in the glory of the very successful 'Jonny Wilkinson Cup': a much-needed national tournament for smaller schools and an MS production.

We wish Mike and Ann every happiness in the years ahead. ■

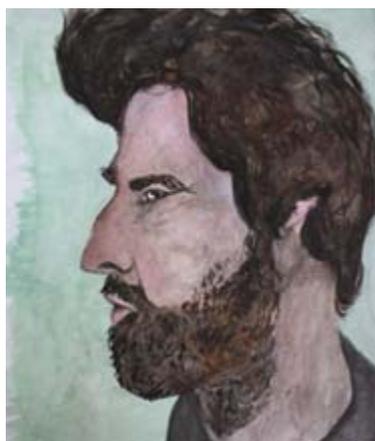
Headmaster

## Farewells to Teaching Staff cont.

## Mr A O'Hanlon

Over the last five years, it has been a privilege to have worked, so closely, with Austen O'Hanlon, Head of Art and Photography. I am glad to have had the opportunity to get to know him: as a gentle mentor, a charismatic colleague, a fine fellow contemporary artist and a lovely friend. Mr O'Hanlon has achieved so much during his reign in the department: he has given vital knowledge and experience to the pupils, warmth and laughter to his colleagues and inspiration to me, too. With heart-felt memories, we will miss his dear presence during our everyday school life. ■

Miss E Roffe



But it is the pupils who have, as ever, said it best:

*"Thanks for helping me improve my overall Art skills and for helping me to find a skin tone for my painting."*

Florence Harker Form 4

*"Thank you for the past two years and for helping me to mix the correct colours and sketch the right lines."*

Becky Edwards Form 3

*"You are a top teacher. The memory that sticks in my mind is the project that we did on The Holocaust, which was fascinating."*

Robert McLaughlin Form 4

*"Thank you for helping me to discover my talent for Art and Photography and for helping me get into my dream University."*

Maggie Hyde Form 6U

## Miss A Smith



Amy Smith joined Rendcomb in 2012 to set up the Economics Department, which, under her clear and inspired direction, has grown to become a thriving and popular subject amongst our Sixth Form. In addition, many students have caught the bug of trading through the Investec Challenge, as well as developing a surprising knowledge of current affairs. Colleagues will miss her straightforward approach, her innovative ideas, as well as her impeccable timing of purchasing the Stable Block coffee! Her tutees benefited from her considerable experience and high expectations for all young people; and yet her down-to-earth,

common sense approach included all in her care, and the end of school 'rapido' picnic will be a cherished memory for them. The younger years have loved her Maths teaching, which, she confesses, is a secret way of teaching them Economics A Level; they have enjoyed seeing numbers come to life through real-world issues. Her Games colleagues will never forget the time they mistook her for the abominable snowman, and hope she leaves a number of her many layers in the changing room for those she leaves behind. We wish her a very successful time at Dulwich, as Head of Economics. ■

Mrs S O'Sullivan, Mrs L Gregory

## Mrs A Ferreira

Angela and Neil Ferreira quickly settled and established themselves as “village people” and for their entire stay (seven years) they played a key role in the life of the school.

Mrs Ferreira’s first role in the Junior School was as a mum for we were delighted to welcome the twins, Matthew and Michael, into J5. In due course, they were to be joined by Colin, who quickly became a Rendcomb legend! From the outset, Angela offered her skills on a voluntary basis and her superb artistic skills were often put to good use.

As the family moved up the school, Mr and Mrs Ferreira took on the responsibility of becoming House Parents of the girls in Stable House. A generation of girls were fortunate to receive pastoral care from them, and valued Mrs Ferreira’s advice and guidance. Instead of cutting back in other areas, Mrs Ferreira became more and more involved, by becoming a Senior School Games coach and a Teaching Assistant for the Junior School! Her sporting skills were deployed across all games but she was always happy to coach tennis. She felt tennis was for life, not just for Wimbledon, and somehow amongst their busy family and school life, she even found the time to study and she qualified as a teacher. Her skills were utilised in the Junior School and Mrs Ferreira did invaluable one-to-one work as a Learning Support and English as Additional Language teacher.

Coming from the Southern Hemisphere (Zim) they naturally weren’t used to partying! Rendcomb inducted them well, perhaps too well, for the idea of an Aussie lifestyle developed. We were thrilled for the family when they secured their dream move to Albany, Western Australia, but naturally sad to lose such great teachers, colleagues and friends. Mrs Bartlett has already visited, Mrs Auster’s son (Howard) is doing his gap year in their school next year, and Mrs Watson and I soon plan to sample an Aussie/Zim braai.

Thank you, Angela, Neil and boys for enriching Rendcomb College Junior School and Rendcomb College. Our sincere best wishes for healthy, happy, and successful futures. ■

Mr M Watson



## Mr N Ferreira

**Neil Ferreira arrived with boundless energy that he maintained throughout his time at Rendcomb.**

He had a huge impact on all of the major sports; with his cricketing abilities, cricket has gone on from strength to strength throughout the College. Pupils attending his cricket academy really gained from his first class cricket knowledge. He later took on being Master in Charge of hockey, a House Parent, and still had time to gain two teaching qualifications.

He married Angela and together they ran the girls’ boarding house which started out in Lawn before moving location to Stable House. Colin arrived on the scene to join Matthew and Michael, adding to pupil numbers in the College.

Outside of the formal school environment, Mr Ferreira was highly competitive and many will testify to bruised shins after Friday night football. He played cricket for Poulton, helping them move up the league with scores over 200 or more at the crease. In addition, he participated in the local pub quiz, and was delighted when able to answer the question: ‘Who was power-sharing with Robert Mugabe in Zimbabwe?’ Morgan Tsvangirai was probably on the tip of your tongue, too!

He is already sorely missed and Australia does not really need another cricketer. We wish Mr Ferreira and his family all our very best wishes as they settle into their new life. ■

Mr H Marsdon

## Farewells to Teaching Staff cont.

## Mr I Anderson

Ian Anderson has enjoyed a fascinating career. After taking early retirement as a highly successful Head of Department in Cumbria, he decided to do a spot of short-term cover in schools across the country and – eighteen years down the line – is still enjoying his teaching enough to come a-running when Heads call in times of need. As a result, he has seen a number of the country's leading schools first-hand which must in itself give him the subject matter for a novel if only he had time to write one.

And so it happens that Mr Anderson found himself at Rendcomb last summer from a stint at Gordonstoun. He brought much needed experience and balance to the English Department and was the 'safe pair of hands' that Heads tend to like at certain moments in schools. He was swift to build relationships with pupils and with colleagues and he and his wife, Wendy, were welcome and supportive members of village life.

We will miss Mr Anderson's sage advice and wry humour in Departmental meetings next year and wish him all the best at his next port-of-call: Sedbergh School. ■

Headmaster

## Mr J Hornsby



Joe Hornsby, Director in Residence 2013-2014, was a funny and very unpredictable teacher, who would always make Drama lessons really fun. He stepped into his new shoes very well, and got hands-on with directing the Lower School play, *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*. He was also a very funny presenter for the Dance Challenge,

a judge for Theatresports, and will be remembered for bringing us The Potted Shakespeare Festival (will this be the first of many...?). ■

Ella Sims Form 2

## Introductions to Teaching Staff

## Mrs A Salt-Forster

We were delighted to welcome Mrs Salt-Forster into the Biology Department at the start of the Lent Term and she immediately made a most dynamic contribution to both the teaching and the sporting aspects of College life.

Mrs Salt-Forster was educated at Malvern Girls' College and is a graduate of the universities of Cardiff and Warwick. She has worked as a Project Manager in a legal company and her first teaching post was at Tudor Hall in Oxfordshire.

Last year Mrs Salt-Forster was married to Ian Forster, a former Head Boy here at Rendcomb, now a Major in the Army. She has many varied interests but in particular lacrosse, hockey and shooting.

Mrs Salt-Forster has already impressed staff and pupils alike with her professional and energetic approach in and out of the laboratory and I hope that this is just the start of a successful and happy career at Rendcomb College. ■

Mr J Stutchbury

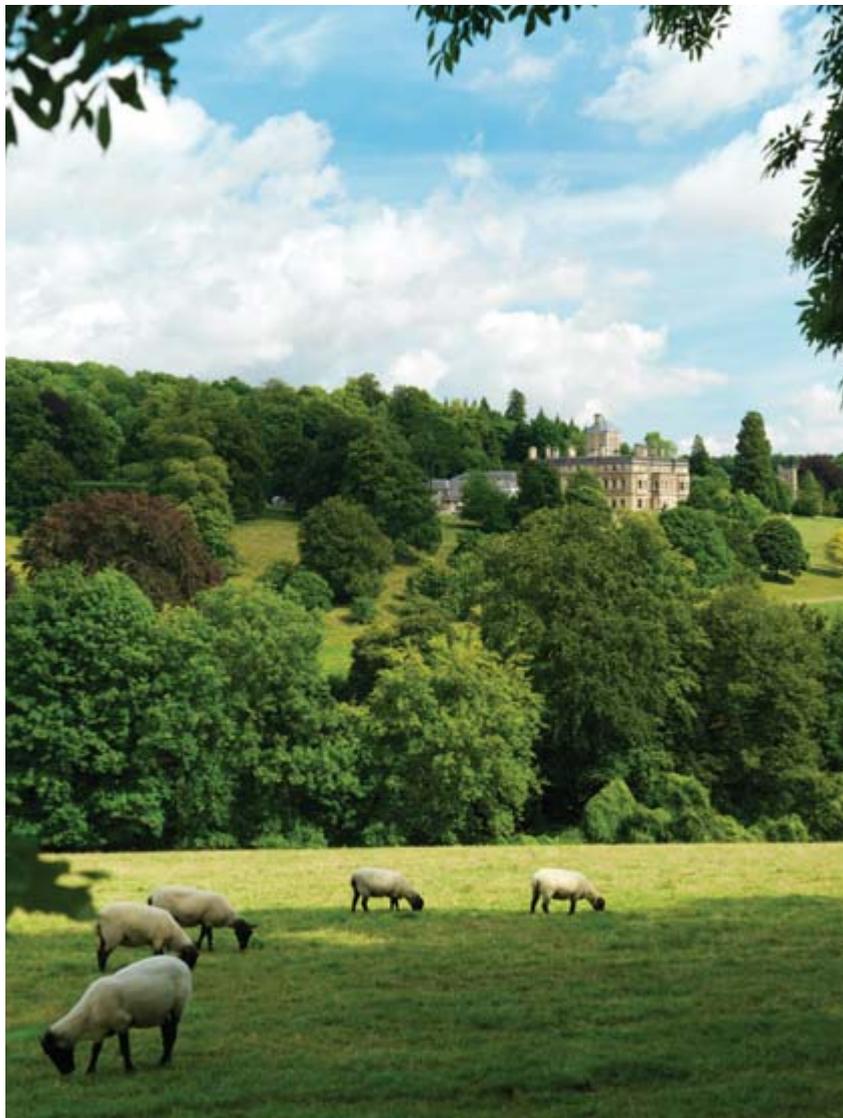
## Mr McGuire

After completing a BEng in Civil Engineering, I worked as a Civil Engineer for four years prior to studying an MSc in Computer Science. I was then employed as a Software Engineer for seven years, predominantly in the mobile phone industry, working for Microsoft and Panasonic amongst others. In 2005 I decided to pursue a childhood dream of travelling the world with my wife. We only planned to go for a six month break but four and a half years later, England beckoned us home. Highlights included swimming with sharks, seals and penguins in the Galapagos Islands, sampling Indian street food, learning to surf in Sri Lanka, watching the sun rise in Huangshan and teaching in South Korea for two years. It was the latter which led me to the Computing Department at Rendcomb, via a PGCE and three years teaching ICT and Computing at Cleeve School in Cheltenham. ■

## Mr B Sangster

Brian Sangster joined Rendcomb in January initially to cover the gap left in Business Studies teaching by retiree, Mr Slark. Mr Sangster has spent the majority of his teaching career at Burford School as Head of Economics and Business Studies and as Head of Year 13; during this time, he also spent evenings at the Convent of St Clotilde, Lechlade, where he was responsible for A Level Economics for thirteen years. In addition, he has also taught at Kingham Hill School and Rednock School.

It became clear early on in Mr Sangster's time with us that his wealth of experience as a long-serving Head of Economics and Business Studies in both the maintained and independent sectors and as an AQA Examiner would be valuable to Rendcomb and we look forward to his leadership of these departments this year. ■



## Mr N Hopton

Nick Hopton joined Rendcomb in September as the Head of the English Department. An English graduate from St Andrew's and a later Masters graduate from Cambridge, his passion for literature and education are clearly evident in all aspects of his life though he acknowledges that he has missed out until now on the one role for which he has the most appetite: leading an English Department.

His prior experience as an English teacher at Culford, continuing on to Prep School Director of Studies, as well as being a keen cricketer, musician and educational researcher, all add to the huge value we know Mr Hopton will bring to Rendcomb life. We have been eagerly awaiting his arrival at the start of this new academic year and look forward to his leadership of the Department. ■

Mrs S Read

## Mr W Mbanga

William Mbanga joined the staff as Director of Sport after five years at St Edward's School, Cheltenham, and a year at Chatham House Grammar School in Kent. A Business Studies and PE teacher, he has worked both in the Secondary and Further education sectors, as well as spending a brief stint in management consultancy. He is passionate about most sports (except for football!) and all physical activity, having grown up in the perfect climate of Southern Africa. William has extensive sporting experience at schools, grassroots and elite levels, with a particular interest in rugby and strength & conditioning, both of which he has been involved in coaching continuously for the past 15 years around his work commitments.

He started coaching in his final year at school, where he enjoyed a wide range of sport, which he continued at university, including provincial and national representative honours. Mr Mbanga believes that a sports programme should develop healthy, happy students who contribute positively to their community, regardless of their ability. Being a lover of the outdoors, he is loving working in such a beautiful school, but would like to change the British climate to suit his delicate complexion. ■

Mr W Mbanga

## Introductions to Teaching Staff cont.

### Miss A Mobbs

Amy Mobbs joined Rendcomb this September as Head of Art and Photography. Miss Mobbs was brought up across the border in Oxfordshire before reading History of Art and Design, with Fine Art Painting and Drawing, at Northampton University. Miss Mobbs felt vocationally drawn to teaching and went straight from Northampton to the University of the West of England to study for a PGCE in Art and Design and has subsequently worked in three schools: Trent College, John Mason as second in department and most recently, Henry Box School. Miss Mobbs is described as ‘energetic’ in her approach and that enthusiasm translates beyond the curriculum to exhibitions, drama design, D of E and even spills onto the netball courts. Miss Mobbs is actively involved in local community art projects and loves walking, music, film and theatre. ■

### Mrs A Zorab

Alex Zorab joined the Drama Department in September 2014 from St Ambrose College, a boys’ grammar school in Trafford. She has taught both Drama and English in her past schools, and here she teaches Lower School Drama, GCSE Drama and some Sixth Form Theatre Studies. Mrs Zorab will be directing the Lower School play and will lead the second Potted Shakespeare Festival which was so successful in its first year. She has marked both GCSE and A level written exams so we are looking forward to her insider knowledge! She is married to an Army Officer and is very much looking forward to immersing herself in the world of Rendcomb. ■

Mrs D Dodd

# Non-Teaching Staff News

## Team Update

It’s been business as usual for all those who support the teaching at Rendcomb this year, albeit with the long-awaited ISI inspection tucked into the middle of the year: the engine room that is the Catering Department received well-deserved praise from the inspectors, as did the Domestic Team which does so much to look after boarding and day pupils alike. Whilst health and safety can be the bane of everyone’s life it is a necessary part of keeping your children safe at school and it was pleasing to see that it, and all aspects around it, passed muster with flying colours. The inspectors read every one of the 83 pages of our policy – lucky them!

Changes within the team have been few and far between this year. September saw the retirement of John Jones, who for many years had been responsible for keeping the flower beds and borders so well maintained. Next time you pick up a couple of packs of bedding plants from the garden centre spare a thought for Andy Bennett, John’s replacement on gardening duties, as he plants 1500 of them in the 60 urns and many flower borders around the campus. Also joining the Works Team is Dan Cave, who arrived in March. Other changes have seen the departure of Brian Antill and Dawn Adams (Catering), and the arrival of Amy Armstrong-Prior (Catering), Rachel Inkpen (Domestics) and Gemma Walby (Admin).

New to the team is Hannah Boydell, Rendcomb’s first Development Officer. Hannah will be working closely to support the valuable work of the Old Rendcombian Society and The Friends of Rendcomb; married to an OR, Hannah already has a great understanding of the ethos and values of the school and the community, and will be using this to good effect as we look to the future of the school.

Our work will have carried on throughout the summer, with fee-bills being collated and checked, new pupils’ paperwork scrutinised and passed on, phone enquiries being taken and responded to, bus routes being confirmed and booked, and buildings maintained and spruced up. So much more will also have happened, but that gives a small flavour of what we get up to when the pupils leave for the summer break. A full range of summer events will also have happened, including this year the use of the exterior of the Dulverton rather than the interior. An outdoor theatre production is always a brave choice but one that should prove memorable for all those who will have seen *Oh, What a Lovely War!* Significant anniversaries for WW1 and Shakespeare will have been celebrated at Rendcomb this summer. ■

Bursar

## Gap Tutors

In 2014, we welcomed three new gap tutors. Miss Baker has come all the way from New Zealand. She took the job as it allowed her to travel, and meant that she could have a year out of her education. She is enjoying getting to know the works of a school and everything that goes on behind the scenes. Her real passions are Biology and Geography, which she will study when she returns home next year.

Next is Miss Connolly, who comes from Tasmania in Australia. She was keen to have the opportunity to live and work in England, and to travel. She loves how exciting and busy it is being a 'gappy'. When she has some free time, she prioritises shopping, drama, socialising and animals.

Miss Langford also comes from Australia, but Central Queensland. In her words, being a gappy is "always a good time", although she admitted it's a lot colder over here. Miss Langford lives on the beach, and she likes having fun doing different things. She will further her studies in Sociology after her time here.

We all hope that they enjoy their year here at Rendcomb. ■

Ella Sims, Maria Tutton Form 2

## Miss C Hebert

Cathy Hebert has certainly made the most of her two years here at Rendcomb. I am sure before she arrived she would not have thought that she would actively participate in activities such as horse-riding, shooting, staff football, ultimate frisbee and netball, and even find time to do some lacrosse. She has worked in all three of the girls' boarding houses, and in this academic year has supported Sue Gilling in Marketing, assisting with events such as The Land Rover Cup and International Women's Day.

Miss Hebert has been a great support in the Games Department, especially to me. She has demonstrated her teaching abilities by working with all age groups in all of our girls' major sports. I know from talking to all the girls that they really want to thank her for all her hard work.

Thanks for all you have done, and we will miss you loads next term, but also wish you well in New York and your new adventure. ■

Mrs K Coups



## Mr J Gilchrist

James Gilchrist joined Rendcomb at the start of the Lent Term as a Sports Coach and quickly added value to College life, with his expertise, efficiency and proactive approach. An Old Boy of Wycliffe College, James took a gap year after school and travelled to Australia where he worked as a 'gappy' in Brisbane, Queensland, before studying Sport Development at university. A keen and talented cricketer and hockey player with representative honours, James still manages to fit a few games in around the demands of College sport. He will be embarking on a Graduate Teacher Training Programme through Rendcomb and Buckinghamshire University next year to obtain his PGCE and become a teacher. In addition, he will also be Assistant House Parent in Lawn House as of September, and no doubt he will handle this important role with aplomb. ■

Mr W Mbanga



## A Year in the Chapel

**Rendcomb College Chapel has undergone a change this year. It has had the Senior College Choir in the stalls, which has improved the quality of the hymn singing quite significantly.**

The Reverend Godfrey Simpson is in charge of our Chapel and here are some of his highlights of this year. He enjoyed the Mothering Sunday service in March. In the service the visiting preacher, Canon David Cook former Vicar of Chipping Camden, spoke about his own mother who had supported her family as they were taken into captivity during the Second World War by the Japanese. He related times that she went without food to nurture Canon Cook and his siblings and brought with him a vase in which his mother used to scavenge flowers each week to place on a makeshift altar for weekly services for the prisoners.

There have been some other special visitors preaching in our Chapel this year. Mr Paul Auster, the Head Boy's father, spoke in Chapel at the beginning of the Summer Term; and another parent has also preached in Chapel – the Reverend Matt Frost, father of Joel and Anna. Sister Chris, a Franciscan Sister who wears a white rope with three knots representing the three vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience, spent 24 hours in the school in February. Two Bishops, the former Bishop of Warrington and the new Bishop of Tewkesbury, also visited Rendcomb College Chapel for the first time.

Reverend Simpson has led some special

services for members of staff, including the Baptism of the second son of Mrs Louisson, Benjamin, and Mr Torbitt's son, Matthew. In addition, a staff Prayer Group meets every Tuesday morning at half past ten during term time.

Assisting him in Chapel are the Chapel Prefects; this year's Chapel Prefects were James Mudge, Luke Nixon and Ollie Birden. They help with the hymn numbers, ringing the church bell, opening and shutting the south door, lighting the altar candles, and they ensure pupils are quick and sensible when they enter the Chapel.

It is not just the Senior School that goes to the Chapel but also the Juniors on a Wednesday at 1:20 pm. Twice a term they have a 'Chaplain's Challenge', which is a quiz between boys and girls on biblical matters.

The Chaplain has some plans for the new academic year. The Reverend Bill Sykes, his old School Captain, is coming to preach at the Harvest Festival Service in October. On Remembrance Sunday the former Bishop of Crediton, the Rt. Revd. Robert Evens, will be making his first visit to Rendcomb College. Reverend Godfrey is also excited about next year's Confirmation group.

Rendcomb College Chapel has been full of life this year and next year will be no exception. ■

Maria Tutton Form 2

**The Rendcomb Community was devastated to hear that our Chaplain Godfrey Simpson sadly died on the first day of the Michaelmas Term, 2014. A full and proper tribute to him will be published in the next *Rendcombian*.**

# Prefect Team 2014-2015

The academic year 2013-2014, for all of us in Six Lower, has gone incredibly quickly. Just ten months ago, some of our team was just joining the College, and all faced the challenge of starting the Sixth Form. And now we have been chosen to lead the College as prefects over the next academic year, our tenancy starting as of July. We have a great prefect team this year, consisting of very conscientious and enthusiastic students who hope to use their skills to improve the College over the next 12 months.

The Prefect body this year will be headed by us – Greta and Tom – and we are very thankful for the opportunity to lead the school and build the College from the students’ perspective, as well as providing support to the staff and students. We hope to make significant and tangible changes regarding the integration of all students and the parents of our pupils.

Each house prefect team has been specifically tailored this year to improve the communication and sociability between the years and to heighten the family feeling of the College. Daniel Thomas and Brodie Ash support the Brealys in Old Rec; and Florence Price, Olivia Ellis and Rozy Baynham aid Miss Bond, Mr Cox and their assistants in Godman. This tight Junior group, including our deputies of College, provide the best possible support to the early years of Rendcomb’s Senior School. Lawn and Stable houses are supported by James Tait and Sam Song, and Amy Benson, Natalie Jecht and Olivia Witts, respectively. The Sixth Form house, Park, is led by Kathryn Rew and Edward Davies.

The huge school-wide issue of food is being manned by Daniel Thomas and Rozy Baynham, who hope to improve the communication between staff and pupils over the matter, as well as driving new culinary incentives.

We also hope to increase the variety and quality of social events next year, and the team is mixed between day and boarding pupils to do this: Cerys Davies, Robert Lamble, Olivia Witts and Anna Rombelsheim are the Social Prefects, who hope to organise whole-school events more regularly to strengthen the links between all year groups.



The enrichment, cultural and environmental aspects of the College are a top concern; Kathryn Rew, Edward Davies and Amy Benson look this year to deepen the success of these areas. Weekly Chapel services will be conducted by the Reverend’s two aides Florence Price and Robert Lamble – who takes on the post his brother also held.

A new prefect title has been added this year: Sport Prefect. James Tait, who played in all three first teams this year, and Cerys Davies (Hockey Captain and Lacrosse Co-captain) are the two students who truly deserve and have adopted this role.

Finally, three students share the role of International Prefect, and look to support and care for the current international community, as well as broadening the range of international awareness. Anna Rombelsheim, Natalie Jecht and Sam Song are to take this mantle, and all three look to expand the already wonderful range of international activities and events.

The team is looking forward to leading the College into a successful and enjoyable academic year, and hopes to make lasting and impactful changes to the Rendcomb community. ■

Tom Pethick, Greta Weidenfeld Form 6L

# Features

## Behind the screens at the Medical Centre

**Q. What is the busiest time of the day?**

A. The morning dispensary. We have to check if pupils are well enough to do Games that day, re-do dressings and give out medication.

**Q. And what about the busiest time of the year?**

A. That's the start of the first term, when we have to do paperwork, look after rugby injuries and sort out new pupils' medical files.

**Q. What other big jobs do you have to do?**

A. During the rugby term we have to be at the side of the pitch for every match in case a player hurts themselves. We also help Mr Marsden with the Duke of Edinburgh expeditions.

**Q. What happens if somebody needs to go to hospital or to see a doctor?**

A. Sometimes an ambulance comes if the injury is really bad; but if it is not that bad, we take the student to the doctors' surgery at the bottom of the hill.

**Q. So roughly how many people come up to the Medical Centre each day?**

A. Any number up to twenty. In the winter, about five of these are sports injuries; that goes down to two or three in the summer.

**Q. What do you think makes the Medical Centre homely?**

A. We have got lovely beds, toys and a television. There is a special room for the Junior pupils.

**Q. What happens if you get a call from a boarding house in the night?**

A. It all depends on whether there are already any pupils in the Medical Centre or not, and what sort of problem it is. If we can, we go to the sick person; but if we already have pupils in, and if it isn't anything too bad, like a stomach ache, the pupil comes over to us.

**Q. What is it like sleeping in the Medical Centre?**

A. It's fine, but just a bit spooky sometimes as you can hear owls and foxes in the night. ■

Ella Sims Form 2



## Our Statue Saul

*"Eternal Life," thought Saul as he looked at his toe longingly, "Why was I given the gift of eternal life, and yet my toe was taken from me by a simple child?" The cuffs on his wrists rubbed against his skin roughly. "To think that I was vandalised by a mere weakling of a child."*

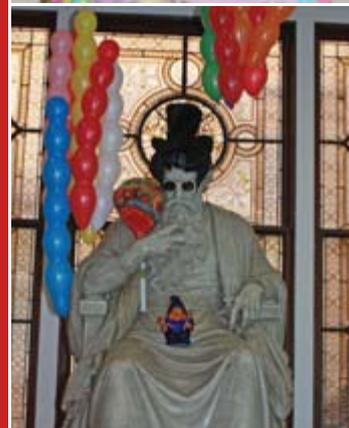
Saul the King did not deserve to be disrespected. His own monument was being completely ignored and disregarded. Not only this, but in the none too distant future he might be sold, and this did not give him comfort; after all, he had been an ever-present presence at Rendcomb College and he had almost forgotten what it was like on the outside. ■

Bob Tharme Form 3, Lucas Boyer and Philip Harrison-Josey Form 2

## Did you know...

- The statue of Saul was made in 1863 in Vallombrosa, Italy.
- His sculptor, William Story, was American and also created the Statue of Liberty.
- Saul is made of clay.
- Saul has been here for as long as Rendcomb College has, so he has seen it all.
- Saul's toe was damaged, (cut off by a former pupil?) and got lost years ago.
- Rumours that the toe was kept in the Headmaster's desk are reportedly untrue.

Ella Sims, Maria Tutton Form 2





# Academic Departments

# English

## Form 3 visit to Stratford-upon-Avon



Through the swarms of people we could still see the old-fashioned beauty of the town, before the time of cameras and coach holidays. Almost every building was made of wooden beams in a Tudor style; in the centre of the town, there weren't any modern buildings to ruin the original feel.

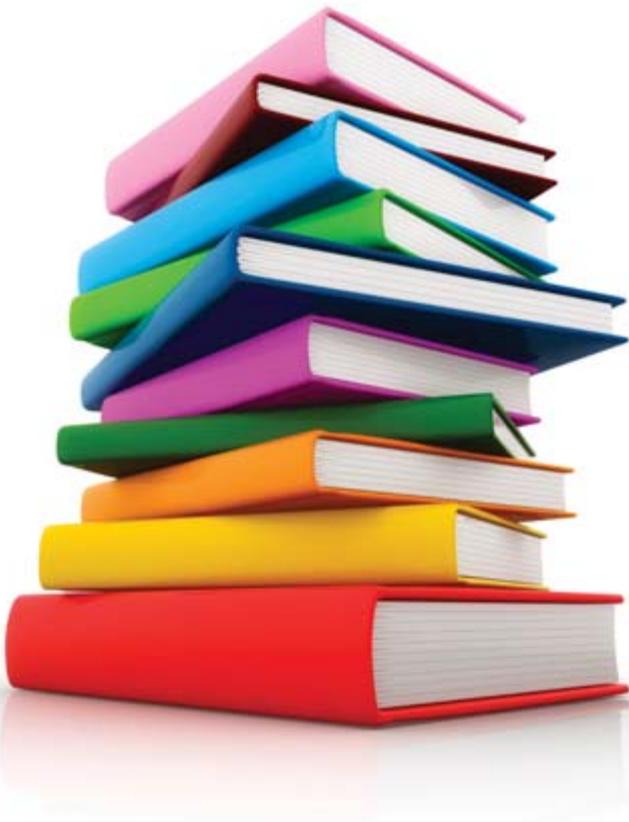
We went round a few different houses: firstly, Shakespeare's birthplace and childhood home in Henley Street. This is quite a small house looking onto the busy street so that William's father could sell his gloves. The next house was Nash's House in New Place. This is a moderately-sized house, but was famous because the house next door had been the home of William. This was unfortunately knocked down after it was sold to a man who didn't really appreciate Shakespeare's work. It had been the biggest house in Stratford, and you can still see the foundations of where it stood.

Then we went to Hall's Croft, which had been the house of Susanna, William's eldest daughter. She lived here with her husband Dr John Hall, who was a very good doctor. This house is very big, and would have been one of the best houses in Stratford, and is still very beautiful.

The last place we visited was Holy Trinity Church, Stratford. It is a massive church with thousands of intricate design features and figures, and has stunning stained glass windows. You can see the tombs of William Shakespeare, his wife Anne Hathaway, Thomas Nash, the husband of William's granddaughter Elizabeth, Susanna and John Hall. They are all sectioned off in a private space, and it is incredible thinking about the fact that Shakespeare was buried right by your feet.

I really enjoyed the day, and learning so much about Shakespeare was really good and made it so much easier to understand what his life must have been like all that time ago. ■

Grace Balchin Form 3



## Readathon

The task? Simple: read as much as you can in three weeks. At least it seemed simple when we first heard about it. You may think that the English Department was just trying to push reading on us; but the real reason was to give children who are severely ill a chance to escape their hospital beds and journey into the mythical realms that books behold. With the knowledge that we could make a change in other people's lives, the whole school embarked on the Readathon quest.

As many parents and other relatives forked out sponsorship money for their children, the Readathon began gaining momentum. In my case, the Readathon also gave me a chance to relive some of my old books again. It had been a very long time since I had opened my drawer that contained them, and as I pushed past all the other obstacles, I was motivated by the spirit of it all. When I finally reached my books I picked them up, blew off the dust and began to read. The books gave me a taste of what my childhood was like, and I was very worried that my favourite books all seemed to be about demons and horror.

By the end of the second week, I had read three of my old books, but I still had a way to go to reach my target of five. As the third week began, there was a real push all over the school to get as much money as we could. With this ethic in mind, I began my fifth book and finished it just in time. The next week, the English Department collected in the money raised: a total of £780, which means many sick children can now enjoy the thrill of reading. ■

Max Watson Form 4

## The places that make me

How do I share my experiences to the point where people will understand my passion for the places that I have been? How will people perceive the white, glossy, even shimmery shine of the sun reflected off the tiny individual flakes of cold white bliss? The silent glide of wood or metal against the thick frozen ice, or the loud barks and shouts from man and dog, or even the cheers of on-lookers. My favourite: the 'North Pole', where the only thing that separates me from large masses of muscles and sharp antlers is a thin wire fence, yet my child self gazes in awe.

Now fast forward three years. A strange foreign country; an undiscovered land to an eight-year-old me. The first bump of tyres against tarmac, walking with small legs, terrified yet excited by this new place with an unknown smell; cigarette smoke fills my lungs. I bring my fingers up to my nose, then get into a taxi, relieved of the vile smell. Driving to another unknown home, different signs appear in a language they call 'German'. As the years pass, different people and places do so as well, moving in then moving away.

Every year an 'Oktoberfest' comes around. The smells of freshly baked pretzels and waffles, sizzling Bratwurst, and Schnitzel with 'Pommes', as we say now. Booming sounds of voices with an unfamiliar band on the large stage. Flashing lights appear. Carts go faster and faster in a circle, and laughter and happiness fill me as I continuously get onto the ride, and afterwards maybe a treat of candyfloss will end the day perfectly.

Dark clouds appear as another plane takes us to another unknown place. To make more memories; crazy, hilarious, fun memories. But what lies ahead beyond this moment if for another minute, another second, even another hour, to enjoy or dread as I can choose? ■

Zoie Somers Form 5

## Man lying on a Wall

There's a man lying on a wall  
tired of being on his feet,  
tired of doing the same thing,  
tired of whistling the same tune,  
and tired of not being trusted.

He didn't see most things anymore:  
only the cloudy sky and the cold hail!  
His briefcase heavy of everyone's woe;  
his cigarette perched between his lips  
and his coal black umbrella waiting beside him.

Bird songs were blurred,  
yellow turned to grey.  
Mysteries were laid  
and pride turned to dust.

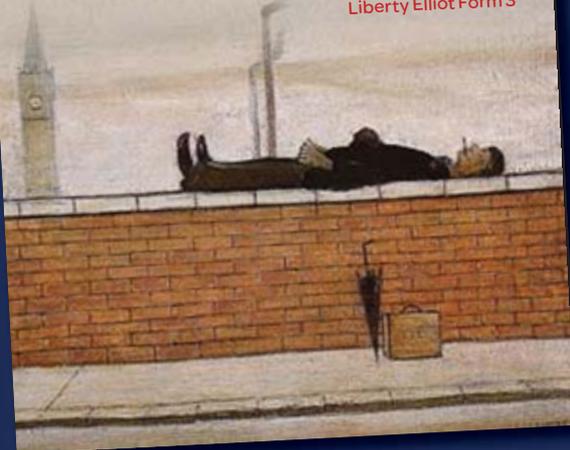
He wanted colour; a new beginning,  
a new world and a new way of living.  
Over the wall was exactly that  
but he didn't know how to get there  
or how to fight back.

But he found what's been missing:  
courage was that; and he treated it well  
and over the years  
he's learnt new skills,  
learnt new ways  
and paid his bills.

Colour came back:  
birds learnt new songs,  
mysteries were solved,  
and he smiled :)

He got up from the wall,  
took a big breath and tried not to fall.  
He stepped over the hurdle,  
his trouble for years,  
and found his new beginning  
his new world and his new way of living. ■

Liberty Elliot Form 3



## Pillow Ode

O wondrous pillow! O great and amazing invention!  
You are the thing to change my life.  
Your sweet smell of home wafts gently up.  
I wonder about your puffiness every time I lie back.  
O pillow, your turquoise and purple colour stands out boldly.  
I am amazed at how clean you and your case always are.  
Your comfy exterior is so warm and fluffy.  
You are light enough to hold in one hand.  
You are the best thing ever.  
Pillow, you are the best. ■

Elise Summers Form 1

## Apocalypse

The clouds wisped open,  
moving out of the way,  
to let him go up,  
into the heavens.

The wind raged;  
the old evergreens swayed;  
the olive trees swung;  
the flowers in the foreground were still.

The man was looking up.  
He raised his hands to the sky;  
he started moving up  
towards the open heavens.

There was no sun in sight.  
It was a dull and dark time;  
the mountains were a dark blue.  
They looked like waves  
about to wash over us  
to create a new purer world.

The man was in the skies;  
he was a lucky one.  
The Apocalypse was coming  
to wash the world  
of all the bad sins.  
If this is the end,  
where am I going? ■

Jack Warhurst Form 3

# Science

## Science through the Seasons

### Autumn

The newly refurbished laboratories were officially opened by Mr Christopher Wills, Chairman, and Mr Andrew Stafford, Director of The Dulverton Trust.

*"The new design is great – we do more practicals and have comfy seats!"* Josh Timmis Form 3



Upper and Lower Sixth chemists attended a **Spectroscopy Tour** at the University of Bristol, and the A2 biologists headed to North Wales for a four day **Biology Field Trip**.

*"We did several fieldwork experiments to collect data: one on the River Conwy; one on a rocky shore in Anglesey; and a study on plant succession at Morfa Harlech sand dune system – a Site of Special Scientific Interest, and the location of the Lucozade advert! The trip was really helpful, even though Poppy (the dog!) ate some of our samples."* Lucy Kernon Form 6U



Pupils in Forms 1 and 2 attended The **Horrible Science** show at the Everyman Theatre.

*"The finale, Billy Millers versus the Control Computer, comprised a tense countdown of firing Science questions to the audience. I'm glad to say the earth isn't overrun with 16 million human-sized bacteria, thanks to our help."* Philip Harrison-Josey Form 2

The new **J4 laboratory programme** began with two investigations, one exploring proprioception (the awareness of our body's position in space) through drawing shapes without direct visual feedback; and a second, recording the effect of insulation on heat loss using the newly purchased data loggers. They were also shown a heart dissection. Year 5 pupils from Rendcomb and other local schools took part in **taster days**. They were able to make slime using borax (polymers), experiment with iodine clocks, and react metals with acid to produce hydrogen pops. The Juniors were also given a demonstration from Bristol Chemlabs to introduce them to different physical and chemical changes.

*"Thank you so very much for a really inspirational visit to Rendcomb yesterday. The pupils all had an amazing time and were very impressed with the school, the facilities, the lunch, the warm welcome, and most of all with your fantastic science team!"*

Mrs C Braithwaite, St Francis School



The Senior Chemistry Society (SCS) took pupils from Forms 5 and 6 to the University of Birmingham for **A Forensic Chemist's Tale**, and throughout **National Chemistry Week**, pupils and staff were provided with tutorial activities to understand the likely contributions of Chemistry in developing cures for diseases.

## Science through the Seasons cont.

### Winter

Forms 5 and 6 went to the University of Bristol for their **Christmas lectures**. Sustained with mince pies and plenty of sweets, pupils learned of: the importance of carbohydrates; the Pharmaceutical Industry; *Chemical Delights*, including a liquid nitrogen shower! The Senior Chemistry Society was subsequently thoroughly entertained by an interactive lecture on **Chemical Magic** at the University of Birmingham, where, amongst the colourful and explosive reactions, the story of Rapunzel was brought to life with the production of nylon rope!

Pupils from Forms 1 to 3 participated in the **Flying Start Challenge**. Working with engineers from Messier-Bugatti-Dowty, they were tasked with designing and building hand-thrown gliders. They did very well in the Regional Finals, winning best poster and longest flight; and two teams progressed to the Grand Final at the Fleet Air Arm Museum. Furthermore, Max McKeown, Alexander Dennett, Maddy Morgan, Grace Knapp and Rebeccah Breare were selected to represent the College in the **IET Faraday STEM Challenge**.

### Spring

Sixth Form chemists were set the challenge of solving a murder mystery by the University of Bath, using **'spectroscopy in a suitcase'**, whilst GCSE pupils attended the **Eureka! Science in Action** series of lectures at UCL. The pupils were most interested in the lectures on material science, where they learned about the science behind the development of new high-tech equipment for trainers; and Hollywood Science, where Jonathan Hare, physicist, discussed whether or not some of the science in our favourite films – *Up*, *Speed* and *Moon* – is possible.

The Sixth Form chemists also visited UCL for an **A Level Chemistry day**, and were shown some horrific examples of what people find in their food, which left them without an appetite. To follow was an intriguing talk on artificial blood and vampires based on the TV programme *True Blood*. Another lecture informed us of the etymology of the elements, most notably lead, which derives from Saturn, the God who ate his offspring (as depicted in Goya's infamous painting).

Juniors and Seniors were treated to a **Space Odyssey** with Simon Ould (FRAS).

*"My favourite part was when they compared our own planets to countless stars that dwarf even the sun. When you look at this comparison, you really do get a feeling that you are small and insignificant. Actually this idea is untrue, because this is what makes you special. You are the only of you that exists, or will ever exist; and when you think about it like this, you really do feel big inside."*

Lucas Boyer Form 2

The **J4 laboratory programme** continued with pupils spending a happy morning in the lab performing forward rolls and measuring pressure changes through this gymnastic move. By the end, pupils were pirouetting, holding arabesques to challenge their peers to identify how these altered the exerted force. Pupils in Forms 1 to 3 spent the Lent Term developing their own investigations to compete in the **Science Fair**. The labs were rather messy on a Friday evening, with crushed up donuts, splintering chicken bones, flaming ethanol and a replica of the Bermuda triangle (complete with the ocean!) among the contenders; yet the pupils involved enjoyed themselves immensely.



During **National Science and Engineering Week**, pupils were asked to think outside the box during tutorial activities spanning topics from a possible zombie apocalypse to inventions to make life on earth more sustainable. In addition, a mufti day raised money for the work of Médecins Sans Frontières in Syria.

*"We went as Jane Goodall, known for her work with chimpanzees, and Marie Curie, best known for her work with cancer. The teachers in Stable Block had sheep masks, so they were all meant to be Dolly, who was successfully cloned after 267 attempts."*

Alicia Devine Form 1, Maria Tutton Form 2



Ably led by Peter Gregory, pupils in Forms 4 and 5 were tasked with the challenge of building a hot air balloon by studying the physics behind Archimedes' principle. Whilst they managed to get flight on their fourth prototype, the basket failed to lift. In true science fashion, pupils will have to continue to research, redesign, and retry.

## Summer

Form 1 attended the Cheltenham Science Festival.

*"We went into lots of presentations, one of which was to do with saving ugly animals – the ugliest was the blobfish. We also had a look at various other experiments like bottle rockets and hydrogen balloons, which everyone had to cover their ears for because of the loud bang!"*

Ella Burton Form 1



The Senior Chemistry and MedVet Societies spent an evening in Cheltenham. After the talk on *Dying to be Beautiful*, the group celebrated a successful year with a dinner.

*"We listened to Historian Suzanna Lipscomb talk about Elizabethan, Jacobean and Victorian make-up; following this, Dr Rosemary Leonard explained the often fatal consequences of the lead-based make-up and mercury lipstick that was so once so habitual to a woman's morning routine. Scarily so, Dr Leonard explained that lead-based compounds were still being found in cheap make-up today!"*

Olivia Ellis, Brodie Ash Form 6L

Vivian Lu, Emily Sharman, Ella Higgins-Anderson, Grace Balchin and Grace Knapp were chosen to participate in a Girls in Science day at Cheltenham Ladies' College.

*"During the day, we learnt all about the colour spectrum, stereoscopy, dyes and inks."* Grace Balchin, Grace Knapp Form 3



## Science through the Seasons cont.

### Summer cont.

Orlagh Brennan, Florence Harker, Jared Wason-Cooper, Tomotaka Ishiyama, Henry Goldsworthy and Tabitha Windle-Hartshorn are one of only 75 judging panels for the Royal Society Young People's Book Prize.



Form 3 visited the **Natural History Museum** to see the *Mammoth: Ice Age* exhibition. Aside from mammoths, pupils saw life-size models of polar bears and elephants to compare to the massiveness of the mammoth. An iFilm introduced pupils to the concepts of evolution and natural selection. In the same week, Form 2 explored the **Cotswold Wildlife Park**.



"We had a reptile talk and I got to hold a snake and a bearded dragon." **Maria Tutton Form 2** ■

Mrs S O'Sullivan

# Geography

The department has once more had an exceptionally busy year. In the Michaelmas Term, the 6th Form enjoyed numerous visits to St Edward's in Oxford to hear lectures from a variety of people including an Oxford Don, Professor David Thomas. This is something we do as part of the department's enrichment programme, which will continue next year with a series of new lectures planned.

In addition to this, I auditioned a host of 2nd Form students to represent the school in the inaugural Geographical Association Quiz which took place at King's in Gloucester. Once there, the students competed against six other schools and were asked questions in a *University Challenge*-type forum. Luckily, Miss Lewis, the Head of Geography at King's, who was quizmaster, was far friendlier than Jeremy Paxman; and although not the winning team, we all enjoyed our experience. From September, I would like to run an activity – the Geog Squad – whereby students with an interest in geographical general knowledge will be able to develop and hone their skills. The best will then be chosen to represent Rendcomb at the next GA quiz, so watch this space!

The Lent Term saw Mr Illingworth, Miss Lucas and Mr Brealy head off on our annual 4th Form field trip to Gloucester to study the regeneration of the city and the docks. This time, we spent the morning in the Barton Street area learning about how multicultural communities assimilate within the city. In doing so, we visited the Majid-E-Noor, the biggest mosque in Gloucester, established by The Gloucester Muslim Welfare Association in the 1960s. Our guide Ibrahim, one of the Imams, took great care not only to teach us about what it is like to be a Muslim and about the five pillars, but also emphasised the fact that this mosque is at the forefront of developing community relations in what is a very multicultural part of the country; with the levels of deprivation it is a very different environment from those to which Rendcomb students are accustomed.

A firm friendship between the department and the mosque was established. Mr Brealy was welcomed back with the Lower 6th just a few weeks later to see how the mosque supports the Gloucester Friendship Café and the St James' City Farm, both designed to promote community cohesion. The Lower 6th then endured the elements on a residential field trip to the stunning Pembrokeshire coast with Mr Illingworth. With the help of the Field Studies Council, students were able to collect really valuable data on a Psammosere for their Geog1 AS exam.

During the Easter Holidays, 19 intrepid geographers travelled to Morocco to sample the delights of the Atlas Mountains and to gain an understanding of arid geomorphological processes and landforms. The scenery was simply stunning and the people incredibly friendly. Unfortunately, plans were thwarted somewhat owing to what appears to have been food-poisoning. I for one will always remember the courage of every single student on that trip; they should be extremely proud of the way they coped and how they supported each other, as well as Miss Bond and me, in what were extremely difficult circumstances.

The Summer Term provided much better weather conditions for the remaining field trips. The 1st Form travelled to Cheddar Gorge to study the cave system and were given a taster in collecting field data – a very important skill for the years ahead; whilst the 2nd Form spent a very enjoyable morning looking at the various microclimates that exist around the vast and very beautiful Rendcomb site. The fieldwork programme was rounded off effectively with a 3rd Form visit to Bourton-on-the-Water to study the effects of tourism and to develop data collection skills in time for GCSE. One thing in particular I like about teaching at Rendcomb is the range of nationalities; our international students were particularly helpful when conducting the questionnaires, and it was nice to hear them conversing with tourists in their own language! ■

Miss M Lucas



# History

## First World War Battlefields Trip

The 4th of August 2014 marks the 100th anniversary of the day on which Britain entered one of the costliest conflicts in history – the First World War. What a poignant time, then, to be visiting the Battlefields in this centenary year.

After an early Sunday morning start, we arrived mid-afternoon at The Memorial Museum Passchendaele. Pupils faced their first grim statistics: during the British attack of 1917, there were 500,000 casualties in 100 days, for a territory gain of only five miles. There were many images, movies, a large collection of historical artefacts and several life-like dioramas, the main focal piece being an underground dugout tunnel with communication and dressing post, headquarters, workplaces and dormitories. Pupils were clearly shocked at Poelcapelle Cemetery where we visited the grave of Private John Condon, the youngest British soldier to die in the Great War at 14 years of age, and killed in action the same age as many of them. We completed the day with a visit to the grave of Private Valentine Joe Strudwick at Essex Farm Cemetery: another reminder of the young boys who lived to just 15 years. Georgia Pethick read the poem *In Flanders Fields*, in remembrance of John McCrae who wrote it there. An exhausted but enlightened team arrived for our evening meal at the hostel in Kemmel, after which a sudden re-surge of energy saw Mr Whitham, Miss Hebert and a large number of pupils play football in the sports hall!



Photography: Clem Ash Form 4

Monday, still on the Ypres Salient, saw us take in the Pool of Peace, a water-filled mine crater created when British mines blew the top off Messines Ridge in June 1917. Crossing the road for Spanbroekmolen British Cemetery, to see the graves of the Royal Irish Rifles and the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers killed at the Battle of Messines, we were joined by a lone donkey. Fortunately quick-thinking Ella Corcoran steered him back to his field, stopping him entering the cemetery! Next we visited the In Flanders Field Museum in Ypres for a guide through the human experience of war; this was followed by a walk to the Menin Gate for a talk in preparation for the evening visit to the Last Post Ceremony, free time, and the much anticipated visit to the chocolate shop! An afternoon of contrasts ensued with visits to Langemark German Cemetery and Tyne Cot British Cemetery; pupils found it particularly difficult to take in the black sombre tombstones and mass graves at Langemark compared to the white single graves with bright flowers at Tyne Cot. Surprise chocolate cake in the evening for our two birthday boys, before we were out again to hear the Last Post at the Menin Gate.

We recalled at breakfast on Tuesday 1st July that, whilst we were eating our toast and cereal, 98 years ago to the day in 1916, 100,000 British troops had already climbed out of their trenches to walk across No Man's Land for an attack on the German trenches, believing that the preliminary bombardment that had begun on 24th June had paved the way to victory. However, with the German soldiers sheltering in deep dugouts, concrete bunkers and tunnels, their machine gun fire ripped into the advancing troops as they emerged from their trenches. Later that day we stood in the very same front line trenches at Beaumont-Hamel, Newfoundland Park. At 9:15 am, believing the British had captured the German trenches, the 1st Newfoundland regiment had started their attack from behind the front line; by 9:45 am, many of these men were either dead or wounded. The next day only 68 men were at roll call, out of the 801 who had gone into battle on that fateful morning. This was by far the most poignant of our visits, walking in the footsteps of British and Newfoundland soldiers and visiting their graves. Canadian students guided us around Vimy Ridge Memorial, underground tunnels and trenches at Vimy Memorial Park: a tribute to the sons of Canada who fought and died there. After Lochnagar Crater, our final visit took in the impressive Thiepval Memorial to over 72,000 men who died on the Somme with no known grave. Like the Menin Gate at Ypres, their names are inscribed on huge panels. A birthday girl tonight with more chocolate cake, and a few braved the Belgium v. USA World Cup game.

A residential trip like this is only a success when the pupils make it so; a massive thank you, therefore, to all 42 pupils from the staff team: Mr Whitham, Mrs White, Mrs Read, Miss Hebert and Mr Kinson. A wonderful staff team it was too and thank you to them for their support before and during the trip. ■

Mrs M Kinson

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission maintains its cemeteries to an incredibly high standard, resulting in a poignant and emotional experience to all who bear witness to them. The German graves were rather sombre due to their simple and stark grey stonework. A visit to the Menin Gate to hear the last post was a very moving and thought-provoking experience, too.

Thomas Godwin Form 4

No prior knowledge could have fully prepared us for what we saw and experienced in Belgium and France. We were able to see many different cemeteries and museums, each more startling than the last. We experienced the Last Post Ceremony at Menin Gate and I was particularly shocked at the volume of people attending this ceremony on a daily basis. Here at 8 pm there is an eerie stillness as the final salute to the fallen is played. This is a very moving tribute to the courageous men and women who fell in defence.

Clem Ash Form 4

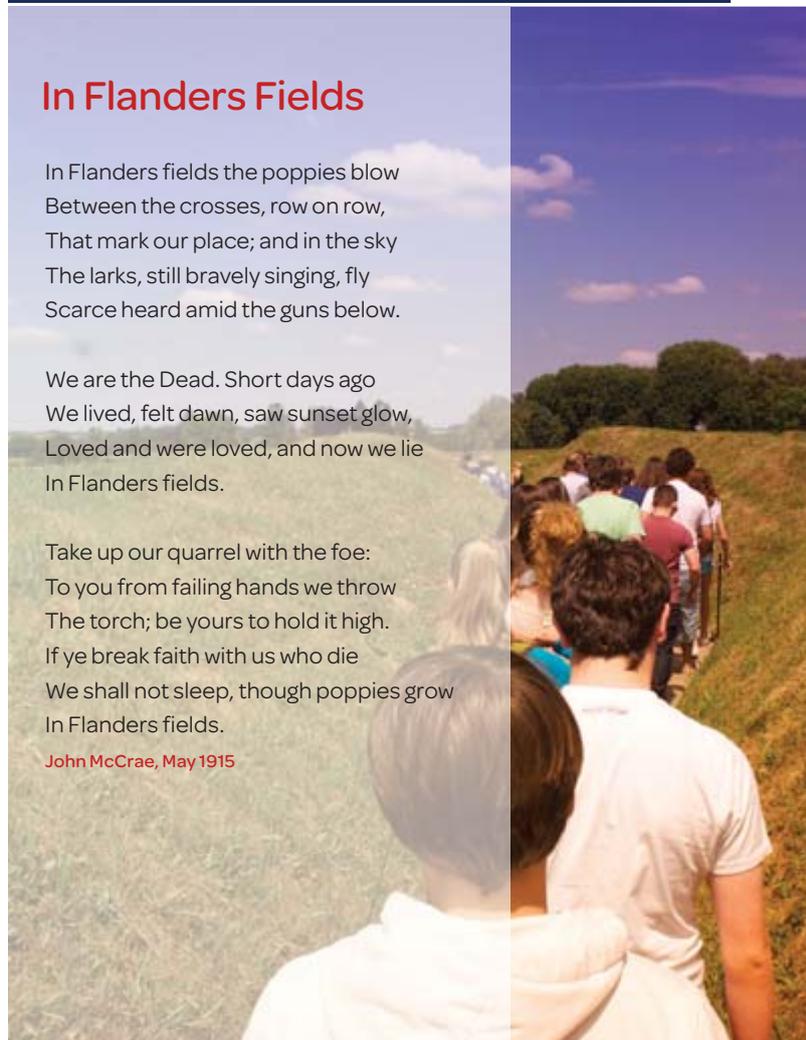
## In Flanders Fields

In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.

John McCrae, May 1915



# Modern Languages

## Montpellier: Forms 4 and 5 French language course



In the aftermath of a violent storm, we gathered in the early morning darkness on the Monday of October Half Term. Having clambered into the minibus, we set off in trepidation, fearing the worst. Our first challenge was to rescue Arthur, marooned the 'wrong' side of a fallen tree at Colesbourne. Much to our amazement, once on the motorway, we had a clear run to Gatwick, and our flight was on time. Even better still, we were welcomed in Montpellier by wonderfully warm sun; optimistically-packed shorts were hauled out of suitcases, followed by a quick dash to the loos for a 'Mr Benn' transformation.

From then on, the week continued to be a great success. We were met at the airport by staff from LSF, the French language school where we were to be based. That afternoon, we enjoyed a walking tour of the city centre, awe-struck by the labyrinth of old winding streets with an array of unusual and tempting

boutiques, whilst soaking up the vibrant ambiance generated by the youthful student population. Following this, we all put on a brave face ready to meet our host families with whom we were to stay. Dylan and Ollie were rather horrified to be greeted with three kisses each, but they would learn later that Madame Guinchault would not only ensure they were extremely well fed, but also enthusiastically engage them in many a French conversation.

The following three mornings, the merry band of ten pupils put their language skills to the test by participating in lessons. All were thrilled to feel their confidence grow; they came to understand that the key is to take the plunge, since making a mistake or two really doesn't matter in the heat of the moment. Meanwhile, Mrs White and Miss Longbourne were well-occupied, ensuring that break-time croissants were in adequate supply, and completing essential

Au début nous étions appréhensifs, mais quand nous avons trouvé nos familles, elles étaient vraiment sympas et accueillantes. Nous avons essayé de parler beaucoup de français et elles étaient très patientes!

Nos familles ont préparé des repas délicieux. Il y avait toujours beaucoup de pain et de fromage. Ma mère française était une bonne cuisinière!

Mais pour moi, ce qu'il y avait de mieux, c'était qu'on a dû prendre le tramway pour aller à l'école. C'était très indépendant mais vraiment amusant, et nous avons appris rapidement le chemin!

Lauren Shipperbottom Form 5



behind-the-scenes errands. Food quickly became a highlight for all, as the school provided us with high-quality and generous lunches each day (freshly supplied quiche, filled baguettes and pizzas), fuelling us for the afternoons ahead.

On Tuesday afternoon, pupils completed the Photomania challenge: armed with good old-fashioned cameras, they scoured the city for nineteen shots, ranging from spelling out *vite* with their bodies, to a pose with a pregnant lady. This was duly rewarded with some exquisite ice cream. Wednesday afternoon took us further afield to Nîmes, where we watched a 3D gladiator film in the impressive *maison carrée* before exploring the strikingly enormous and well-preserved *arènes*. Afterwards, we headed to *le Pont du Gard*, a spectacular feat of Roman engineering. A visit to *la Grotte Clamouse* was lined up for Thursday – France's most visited cave network, fittingly decorated for

Halloween; followed by time to explore Saint-Guilhem-le-Désert, a remarkably charming medieval village on one of the Saint-Jacques de Compostelle routes. Friday morning allowed for a more leisurely start before we were taken to the airport by our hosts, ready for our return journey.

Whilst the primary focus of the trip was linguistic, it was obvious that pupils benefitted on many levels. All quickly adapted to a city lifestyle, incomparable to the familiar territory of Rendcomb village. What is more, pupils relished the opportunity to prove their independence, for example by making their own ways between their host families and the school, with several competently navigating the tram system. Certainly the teachers fell in love with this exceptional city, and we very much hope that Montpellier will become a regular destination for the French Department. ■

Miss J Longbourne

## All aboard for Germany!

At Easter, the German Department set off for the Rhineland in western Germany. Pupils in Forms 1 and 2 participated in a residential-style trip, staying in youth hostels in Bad Neuenahr-Ahrweiler and Bad Honnef – perfect bases from which to explore Cologne, Bonn and other local towns. Meanwhile, a group comprising pupils in Forms 3 and 4 undertook the return leg of their exchange with pupils at the Gymnasium Calverienberg in Ahrweiler, a private grammar school with an Ursuline foundation, perched on a hill overlooking vineyards. ■

Miss J Longbourne



## Forms 1 and 2 German Trip

It was one of the best trips yet! We saw how Lindt chocolate was made, and we went to a history museum and Aqualand, which is an amazing pool with water slides. We spent a day at a theme park called Phantasialand which had lots of exciting different worlds. Another day we did something we just had to do and that was going to the Haribo factory!

One morning, we had a €1 challenge. We were each given a euro to buy something to fit into one of the categories: funny, German, practical, unusual or something your granny would like. Maria chose a kohlrabi and Alicia got a guinea pig gift card.

It was not just fun and games, as we did educational things as well. We visited our partner school where we went to an English lesson and were quizzed by the pupils. We printed our own stamp using the school's old-fashioned printing press. We got our creative side going in an art class drawing footprints walking on a page. I think we were popular as we got stamps with the first letter of our names on them. ■

Alicia Devine Form 1, Maria Tutton Form 2



# Forms 3 and 4 German Exchange

After an early start from Rendcomb and a long day in the coach travelling through France and Belgium, we finally arrived in Germany at 9 pm, to be met by our host families.

We had another very early start the next morning to go to our partner school, the Gymnasium Calvarienberg. We attended lessons in French, Maths, Music, History, PSHEE, RE, Sport and English. As school finished at lunchtime after a long and intense morning, we all met up in the park in Ahrweiler and had a game of football, England vs Germany. England won!

On Friday, we went by train to Bonn. We visited a museum called 'Haus der Geschichte der Bundesrepublik Deutschland' (History of Germany since 1945) and then we went shopping in the Haribo store which was thoroughly enjoyable! We had our lunch sitting outside the University of Bonn.

Trips for the remainder of the week were organised by our host families. Some of us went to the theme park Phantasialand, the Nürburgring, the cities of Koblenz and Cologne, or walked around the local vineyards with our partners. I went to Cologne and met up with some other Rendcomb students, where we visited the cathedral and had delicious patisserie cakes in the Café Reichard!

On Tuesday, we all woke up very early to catch a taxi to take us to the Bad Honnef Youth Hostel where the Forms 1 and 2 group had been staying for their trip. Before boarding the ferry at Calais, we stopped off at the Cité Europe hypermarket, which was handy for buying last minute gifts. The crossing back to Dover was a bit rough, but we made it back to Rendcomb in one piece later that evening, exhausted, but full of wonderful accounts of our time. ■

Grace Knapp Form 3

"After the exchange I felt a lot more confident with myself and my German! Also I really enjoyed making new friends."

Rebecca Breare Form 3

"I was really nervous about going and not liking the food but I absolutely loved it and would recommend it to anyone."

Megan Hardie Form 3

"I had a great time and I learnt a lot of German. Ich liebe Deutschland!"

Oliver Heneghan Form 4

"As daunting as it may seem, the exchange is amazing! I have made so many friends for life and have learned so much about Germany and myself."

Georgia Pethick Form 4

"Learning German at school is fun, but actually experiencing it and living there for a week makes it so much more fun! I wanted to stay forever!"

Eleanor Brealy Form 4



# Psychology

## AS Psychology

I don't know about you, but dreary Monday mornings trekking up three flights of stairs to a lesson doesn't sound fun to me, unless of course that lesson is Psychology. The lessons are full of energy and opinion, both from our teacher Mrs Harford and every member of our very busy, enthusiastic class. What I have enjoyed most has been that everyone has had an individual point of view, which is great, as almost every topic can be subjective; and so this often leads to large class discussions and debates. The variation of perspective makes for a process of learning which is both student-led and rounded.

We often experiment with the way we learn our subject: we practise Mindfulness in times of stress, or repeat famous experiments as a visual role-play or as a drawn storyboard. As well as this, student presentations have taken place nearly every week this year, each with their own approach to helping us learn a topic, theory, or study (often using rewards of chocolate as reinforcement for correct answers!).

I have also found I can apply Psychology not only in my personal life, but also as part of extensive research towards my Art and Photography A Levels – a depth of knowledge which I hope will secure me the grades I have aimed for this summer. So in essence, Psychology is not only a subject of our minds and behaviour, but also of our lives, which is why it can be interesting to all, and a great subject for acquiring skills to apply to your life in the future. ■

Lauren Seatter-Messer Form 6L

## Bristol Crown Court and Zoo

In June, the AS Psychology class headed out on a sunny day to Bristol Crown Court and then to Bristol Zoo: a day which promised to give a lot of contrast. The Court was a new experience for all of us. As we sat in the public gallery enthralled by the case below (Intent to Murder), or were actually in the court room with an intense case (underage Prostitution and Supply of Drugs), we were all gripped until it was over, including Mrs Harford.

The Zoo gave a different opportunity to try out our skills at psychological observation as we studied the animals' behaviour, and gave some interesting case studies for us to use next year. This was enjoyed by all, as well as offering a relaxing break from the intensity of the morning and a rest from the AS exams. Thank you, Mrs Harford. ■

Amy Benson 6L

## Visit to the Junior School



One of the studies looked at by the Lower Sixth Psychology class is on the subject of a child's ability to conserve information, conducted by Samuel and Bryant. To obtain a better understanding of this, Mrs Harford organised a trip to the Junior School where we could replicate the study ourselves. We were divided into several groups, each with a different material, condition and year group to test.

The materials consisted of: Play-Doh to assess mass, counters to assess numbers and water in containers to assess volume. The conditions showed three different ways of testing the pupils; and the different year groups provided a range of ages from four to eight years old, being roughly the same age range used by Samuel and Bryant.

Essentially, the experiment involved showing the substance in one form (for example Play-Doh in two balls) followed by a transformation (in this case squashing one of the balls), and then seeing if the child conserved the original information. Remaining loyal to the study, we, rather pessimistically, collected the number of errors during the test.

This was an incredibly beneficial experience for us as it provided very similar results to those found by Samuel and Bryant, with the conclusion being that conservation improves with age. It was also a change to see psychology amongst children in action; and we would like to thank the Junior School for allowing us to visit the pupils and to Mrs Harford for organising everything. ■

Kathryn Rew Form 6L

# Music



## Autumn Concert

The Autumn Concert enabled the many talented individuals of Rendcomb College to come together to create an unforgettable night of music in the Reading Room. The concert was opened and closed by the College Choir, which sang *Gloria*, *Everybody wants to be a Cat*, and *Circle of Life* from *The Lion King*. As well as this, many bands and individuals performed their pieces, such as Thomas May with his singing solo, and The Green Chameleons with their blend of musical ideas. One particularly gifted musician was our very own Head Boy, Howard Auster. He performed showing great promise for a later career of music. Over seventy audience members attended and most left the Main College that evening with a smile on their face. ■

Bob Tharme Form 3



## Form 1 Gamelan Workshop

On a Monday afternoon at the end of January, Form 1 went to the Pittville Pump Room in Cheltenham to play Balinese Gamelan which is an Indonesian form of music. We tried out many different instruments such as the Ugal, the Jublag, the Gangsa and even the Gongs. We would like to thank Miss Crisp for an excellent trip! ■

Ella Burton Form 1



# Matilda

on stage

At the end of January, Rendcomb's College Choir eagerly jumped onto the bus to see the musical version of *Matilda* at Cambridge Theatre, London. After a very musical, loud and enthusiastic journey, we arrived in the bright lights of the city.

Excitement spread throughout the choir group as we were escorted to our seats. The production had us all hooked from the beginning with extraordinarily funny characters and

extremely talented actors and actresses. All of us were shocked and amazed when Miss Trunchball spun around a poor girl by her pigtails; I still haven't worked out how that was done. Likewise we were moved by Miss Honey's sweet and generous nature, and petrified by the man who successfully played the terrifying Miss Trunchball. It was, however, agreed by many that the funniest character was Matilda's older brother: he didn't have a major part, but whenever he was on stage he spontaneously shouted out words such as 'telly' and 'backwards'. We were also very impressed by the little girl who played Matilda; she did an outstanding job, both in the acting and the singing.

As the play came to an end, we felt uplifted, and we sang the songs continuously as they were so catchy (and we are the Choir, of course!). Following the excitement of travelling to London and seeing the musical, the bus journey home was silent as we were all fast asleep. ■

Rozy Baynham Form 6L

## Ukulele extravaganza

In February, the Dulverton Hall resonated with the sound of strumming ukuleles. The informal lunchtime concert saw star performances by both staff members and pupils alike, playing a great variety of popular music from as far back as The Beatles.

The concert got off to a great start with Monday's Ukulele Club playing and singing along to David McCabe's *Valerie*. The Staff Ukulele Band (Miss Hughes, Mr Hornsby, Miss Crisp and Howard Auster) gave a great rendition of The Beatles' *Yellow Submarine*, and judging by the looks on their faces they seemed to enjoy it as much as the audience did!

There were also a number of solo performances, including a really moving recital by Ross Canning of *I'm Yours*, a great delivery of *An Octopus's Garden* by Tomotaka Ishiyama, and the lovely piece *Counting Stars* played by Alina Lisnenko.

All in all a great concert – George Formby eat your heart out: Carnegie Hall here we come! ■

William Vaughan Form 3



## Fauré's Requiem

Over the Lent Term, the College Choir worked on Fauré's *Requiem*. We performed in March in the Holy Apostles' Church in Cheltenham, along with other romantic French works, and with extra help from the Rendcomb String Quartet, the Capella Singers and the Gloucestershire Symphony Orchestra.

The concert opened with Rendcomb's Chamber Choir singing *Ubi Caritas* by Durfle. Next, was Kate Major on the clarinet, sensitively playing *Sicilienne* by Fauré; and Henry Mills' dramatic rendition of Debussy's *The Golliwog's Cakewalk* on the piano. Then, came a piece composed by Rendcomb Head Boy Howard Auster – *Siegfried's Lament*, inspired by Wagner and performed by the Pittville String Quartet. John Wright, one of the Rendcomb music staff, played Alain's *Litanies* on the organ: stirring and technically superb. Then, the Gloucestershire Symphony Orchestra along with some Rendcomb students played a piece by Fauré called *Pavane*.

Now it was the Choir's turn to sing all seven parts of Fauré's *Requiem* in Latin. There were two solos: soprano Amy Benson and guest baritone John Tucker. Everyone did superbly well and we all enjoyed it.

Thank you to Mr Franks for planning and leading the concert with the help of Miss Crisp. We hope to see you all next year, and maybe our choir will get even bigger. ■

Maria Tutton Form 2

## Percussion Workshop with Robert Brian

The Percussion Workshop began with Robert Brian, the best and most successful session drummer in all of the UK, drumming out a storm. He did so in a variety of different styles. He then got his colleagues on to the other drum sets, and together they played a cool recurring pattern. Then, he split us into groups so that we could practise our parts for the concert.

When the concert started, Robert and his colleagues played their spooky parts. This was followed with the opportunity for lots of questions to be asked. It was easy to see that he is both quite an experienced drummer and businessman. After the questions, we played the pieces that we had rehearsed an hour earlier. We all played quite well, although we were all terrible in comparison to Robert Brian. Overall, it was a pretty fun night. ■

Lucas Boyer Form 2

## An evening with Danielle Hope

As Miss Danielle Hope, the winner of Andrew Lloyd-Webber's TV show *Over the Rainbow*, stood before us in early November, many of us sat in awe, amazed by the talented woman in our presence. The news there would be a visit from the West End star had left many pupils in anticipation for weeks about this brilliant opportunity, wondering whether Danielle Hope had any words of wisdom to pass on to many of the budding singers and actors.

Upon her arrival she warmly greeted all of us and explained how she came to be as successful as she is, also answering many questions posed to her by the enthusiastic pupils, such as what first interested her about musical theatre and what was her favourite show to perform in on the West End.

Then the magic happened! The Senior School thespians were aided by Miss Hope to stage arguably the most dramatic song from *Les Miserables* – *Do You Hear The People Sing*. With tips on the dynamics of the song, the changing of tone and the dramatic facial expression in the piece, we began to create our masterpiece whilst Danielle Hope then proceeded to watch the Junior School's excellent performance of *I Dreamed A Dream*, also from *Les Miserables*. This workshop was a truly invaluable experience in which we were all taught many techniques to make our performances stand out and help us to shine.

Then came the concert. With an audience of around 120 people, it was safe to say we were all nervous for our performance of the well-known numbers that we had just begun a few hours before. However, to settle our nerves Danielle began the concert and sang *Roxy* and *A New Life* absolutely outstandingly, reminding us all why she won the *Over the Rainbow* television show at just 18 years old! Following Miss Hope came many musical numbers ranging from the fantastic



Carmen Lee singing *Castle on a Cloud* to Howard Auster and the Jazz Band performing *The Lady is a Tramp*.

However, there were three major highlights to the evening. Firstly, Danielle Hope's duet with our very own Rendcomb superstar Katrina Webb, singing *In His Eyes*, a piece sung with such power and beauty that many audience members were left in tears after the emotional performance. We have no doubt that Katrina will go far! Secondly, the stunning performance by the Junior School of their piece practised in the workshop: *Castle on a Cloud*. This blew everyone away, astonishing every person in the room with the talent and experience the Junior School choir seemed to have in their exceptional performance. Finally, for the big finale! The student workshop choir then sang *Do You Hear The People Sing*, enjoying every single second of the piece, which was radiated to the audience leading them to give us a standing ovation.

It was an honour to meet and perform for Danielle and a truly amazing experience – something I personally will never forget! ■

Olivia Witts Form 6L

# DRAMA REVIEW

## Le Mot Juste workshop and performance of *No place like...*



This year saw the return of our favourite theatre company, Le Mot Juste, for an afternoon of creativity for Fifth and Sixth Form dramatists. Le Mot Juste is not your everyday theatre company owing to their training at Jacques Le Coq's school in Paris; here, the company learned the art of physical theatre and mime, which is a key aspect to their performances. They came back with the performance of their latest production *No place like...*, a piece of theatre inspired by the true stories of elderly people from Stratford-upon-Avon. This devised play was both utterly hilarious, and at times profound, as the characters Rosa, Jean and Grantley plan to escape from their care home whilst reflecting on their past lives. The mixture of comedy and the futility of the situation tickled the funny bones and struck the heartstrings of the immersed students.

After the performance, the students took part in a workshop on creating work from scratch through manipulating an assortment of objects provided. The workshop also emphasised the need for ensemble synchronicity for physical theatre, to clearly portray all aspects of a scene and not just the people. What followed were inanimate objects coming to life with such hilarity to become more than their intended purpose. The pupils benefited enormously from this experience of learning different dimensions of performance style and the unlimited scope of imagination when tasked to make a scene out of people and objects. On behalf of all those who took part I would like to thank Sophie, Ben and Monika for a truly brilliant afternoon; see you next year! ■

Edward Davies Form 6L

## Master class with George Dillon

During the Lent Term, the College thespians were treated to a performance master class from Edinburgh award-winning actor, writer and director, George Dillon. A special evening in itself, the performance of *Graft: Tales of an Actor* was an outstanding example of acting precision and skill. The show took us through the peaks and troughs of an actor's life – from his first auditions, to becoming professional, all the way until his decline as an actor. A beautifully-paced and crafted one-man show; Dillon, being a close associate of Steven Berkoff, used all of the astounding tools Berkoff has developed to the very highest level. This was an incredible experience for the Lower Sixth candidates who needed knowledge and understanding of Berkoff for their Drama assessment.

If a stunning evening's performance wasn't enough, Dillon then ran a workshop for all senior drama students. Combining the self-control of kendo – a martial art – and his own vastly talented and extensive acting knowledge, he taught us rehearsal techniques, the art of mime and, of course, Berkoffian insight. We all felt that there could be no better way of learning Berkoffian theatre at its absolute best than with this performance and workshop. Our visitor gave us an invaluable tool in working towards the success of our A Level programme. ■

Tom Pethick, Alex Pugh Form 6L

## AS Drama exam

The AS Level Drama and Theatre Studies course is split into theory (60%) and practical (40%). Within the practical element, we had to find a script, and adapt and perform it in the style of Steven Berkoff, known for several acting roles – *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* and *Octopussy* being just two examples. His style of theatre is as far away from naturalism as you could possibly imagine, which was very challenging for our Drama class as we are heavily accustomed to naturalistic theatre.

We would require the skills of incredible physical control, distorted vocals, as well as the art of mime, as we created a piece using a selection of a play by Glyn Maxwell called *The Black Remote*. After two outstanding master classes from George Dillon (Steven Berkoff's protégé) and the Le Mot Juste company, we firmly grasped the Berkoffian style so ideas could flow within our group.

The day of our exam arrived very quickly; however, we were ready. Twenty minutes before we were scheduled to begin, the seven of us were frantically ensuring that every detail was in place. Mimi rapidly smothered our faces in white face paint – keeping within the Berkoffian style which features a monochrome costume and make-up design. James finished his lighting sequence while the Upper Sixth attempted to calm us down as we still had time to paint the all-important moustaches on Ed and Tom.

By 7 pm, we were in our starting positions – a semi-circle was created through a series of individual spotlights illuminating each of us. The examiner walked in; we were motionless in our starting positions until we heard the word 'commence' from Mrs Dodd. We moved with non-naturalistic physicality, spoke with extravagant voices, and threw all of our energy into our last performance of *The Black Remote*.

Nervously awaiting Mrs Dodd's return after the Upper Sixth's performance, we finally saw her approaching the Dulverton Hall to greet us with the astonishing news that our piece was in Band 1 – the top band, as were every single one of us in our individual marks. We've set the standard, as has the Upper Sixth; let's hope that we can maintain, or even beat, this Rendcomb record! ■

Kathryn Rew Form 6L



# DRAMA REVIEW

# JERUSALEM

Rendcomb's Senior dramatic event of the 2013-14 year was *Jerusalem*. Johnny "Rooster" Byron has written himself, with his silver tongue and brash nature, into his local folklore, and now resides as a drug dealer and anarchist in the woods of Wiltshire. The expertly told story follows Johnny, now living outside Pewsey, on the day of eviction from his long-standing mainstay.

Auditions were held in September, and soon after the casting decisions had been reached, the schedule of rehearsals began. The tight-knit main cast of fourteen worked furiously before Christmas on adopting the traits of Johnny's entourage: their accents,

the way they moved, the stage hierarchy and their respective interactions with other characters. This year's self-evaluation of our individual characters delved far deeper than in previous years, with one of the most crucial aspects of the play being its characters.

By November, with Luke Nixon (Rooster) and James Rose (Ginger) leading us, we had all adapted to the rigours of performing in such a play; also by this point we had understood the relevance of the piece in modern society, as well as its gravitas. The Christmas break itself was incredibly helpful for all, allowing the cast to consolidate line-learning and individually expand their performances. By February, after five months of rehearsals, the stage was set for Rendcomb's interpretation of a universally regarded 'modern classic'. The dress rehearsal went well even amid fears of snow cancellation, and with the Art Department's fine work on our caravan, by Tuesday the audience was ready for the airing of a play of equal ambition and difficulty.

The scene was strongly set by the cast of "Rooster's Ravens", dancing in a crowd of simulated, drug-induced mayhem. From here, we began to see the talent of Rendcomb truly unfolding. The first half laid the foundations of a hard-hitting story, comically introducing the main characters of the piece. Alex Pugh's Lee Piper, based upon the comic Lee Nelson, went down a smash hit, his ambition to move abroad and start afresh with the aborigines of Australia striking a comic cord with the audience. Davey, a blissfully secluded abattoir worker who has never left Wiltshire, was well-acted by Tom Pethick. The relationship between these two characters continued to develop throughout the play, ending in an awkward but somewhat poignant scene later in the play, as Davey forces Lee to go and start afresh.





Another well-worked onstage relationship brewed between the leading girl parts, Pea and Tanya. The two party animals enjoyed the basics of life and Olivia Witts and Kathryn Rew portrayed the pleasure-hungry teens excellently. Who could forget Louis Cruzat's often hilarious and, at times, deeply tragic take on local pub landlord Wesley? The core of this additional cast was Butterworth's tool throughout for comedy; but the more sombre tones of *Jerusalem* came in the subtle characterisations of Katrina Webb, Mimi Brady, Miles McKeown and Yannis Dimopoulos. The variation of characters here were truly staggering – from Mimi's well-proportioned attack on Johnny (she played his ex-wife) for his inadequacy as a father; to Yannis' frightening Troy Whitworth, the local thug in search of his daughter; across to the reserved blooming flower of a girl Katrina, morphed into Phaedra.

There were two truly outstanding performances by two of the departing Upper Sixth: James Rose and Luke Nixon. Learning their combined lines alone was a considerable feat, but in adding the comedy, variety and subtlety to their performances, each actor took their roles to another level from that of the rest of the cast. James portrayed the lonely, unloved disciple of Rooster with his typically strong physicality – bringing rock-solid drama to the scenes of a more muted nature, and bringing laughs to the rolling scenes of comedy. Luke's Johnny Byron was an incredible effort: he performed the brash, self-glorifying – but ultimately lost – soul of anti-hero Byron tremendously.

The ambition of Mrs Dodd, as well as her excellence in direction and patience, paid off with the whole team – from Greta as stage manager to Luke, beating that drum on the final night – providing a stunning series of performances that those attending will not forget quickly. ■

Amelia Brady, Tom Pethick Form 6L



# DRAMA REVIEW

## Drama Tour

There is no Rendcomb outing that could possibly be compared to Drama Tour. On a bright Sunday morning in late March, an army of theatre-goers gathered at Kemble train station, beginning a three day journey to the magical West End. Arriving in Paddington, the hoard of thespians made their way via the London underground to the Strand Palace, their temporary home for the next few days.



Once settled, we wandered over to the Lyceum Theatre where we were treated to a delightful performance of *The Lion King* bringing out the child in all of us. Afterwards, food was a necessity after travelling such a long way. We dined at Pizza Hut for the evening where many a laugh was shared. This eventful day was then concluded by the traditional 'Trafalgar Time', running wildly and even inspiring a member of the public to dance in the famous London square with us.

The second day saw us take part in the in the 'Theatre Hunt', showing off a variety of costumes including hippies and Ghostbusters. Next, to an exciting workshop with an actor from the exceptional musical *Les Miserables* who took us through a Rendcomb version of *At The End Of The Day*. Following this we then proceeded to a lovely Italian dinner and onto the actual performance of *Les Miserables*. Some were more ecstatic than others with Olivia Witts leaping at one of the cast members after the show in a desperate attempt to get a 'selfie'.

Our finale the next day was that of fear and trepidation as we built up to the performance of *The Woman In Black*. It was learnt at this performance that some people simply cannot watch a horror without grasping the person sitting next to them in complete fear, as I might have done.

All in all, the 2014 Drama Tour was one of brilliance and hilarity: bravo, Mrs Dodd, for organising such an event! ■

Alex Pugh Form 6L





# THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE

Adapted by Mr J Hornsby

For this year's lower school production in May, the Dulverton Hall was transformed into a beautiful attic space complete with beams, old trunks, and the wardrobe where the adventures were to begin. The audience was asked to leave logic at the door and open their minds to the imaginative world of Narnia: where all props and costumes were features of the attic space, including beards ripped out of the carpet, reindeer horns taken from stuffed animal heads on the wall, and old dust sheets used to signify the snow-covered landscape. The cast were all narrators, but would take it in turns to tackle the variety of strange and eccentric creatures that the four principles met along the way. The excellent characters that the students created were appreciated by their audience, and 'Beaver Fever' was just one of the talking points around the school following the production.

The cast fully embraced the theme and were encouraged to use their own inventive suggestions of how to transform the space. In addition to this the cast also mastered the use of projections, shadow puppetry and various other technically challenging skills. This gave them a real opportunity to develop techniques used in contemporary theatre, which was an initiative driven by our Director in Residence, Mr Hornsby, with Miss Hughes as Assistant Director.

From the humorous motivational stories shared before each performance, to the excellent execution of each and every character on stage, this ensemble extravaganza was an inventive and educational experience for all. Congratulations to the cast, and thank you to all who supported the production. ■

Miss O Hughes

# Design and Technology



This year, DT has come in a wide variety of topics, themes, and subjects. Projects created by Form 1 have ranged from bookends to board games, chiselling to chopping, and African wall-hangings. But the fun doesn't stop there: each year has been doing different things. Form 2 has worked on clocks, stamps and acrylic jewellery. Meanwhile, projects for Form 3 have included making moulds of their hands, using alginate – the same pink stuff the dentist uses to make impressions of people's teeth; using a printing system to print onto mugs as an enterprise scheme; and also printing onto clear acrylic to make beautiful and unique pieces of jewellery.



When I interviewed Miss Hughes, I got some other results, too. Her favourite parts of being a DT teacher are seeing very busy students making products they did not realise they could make; being able to make things in her own DT workshop; and being able to make things with the girls in Godman House when she is on duty. She also loves the activity sessions in which, this year, she has shown us how to upcycle furniture: I gave a very old stool a new lease of life, by painting and re-upholstering it.

If she was a Geography teacher, Miss Hughes would make models of volcanoes and rock layers. In History, she would show the pupils architecture from different periods, and look at the different costumes people wore. Her favourite project in History when she was a pupil at school was making a Tudor house out of shoe boxes! Personally, I think Miss Hughes should stick with Design Technology. ■

Alicia Devine Form 1

## March Hare Festival

J5, J6 and Form 1 were given a large white hare to design for the Cirencester March Hare Festival 2014. The theme of our hare was 'spring' and we used découpage, a French pasting technique, to make the surface of the hare smooth and shiny. I interviewed Miss Roffe to find out more about the project.



### *Can you explain the story behind the hare?*

It's a community arts project called Cirencester March Hare Festival 2014. The hare is linked to the ancient Roman hare mosaic now in the Corinium Museum. After being cast, between 45 and 50 hares were distributed, each to be embellished individually by locally known artists, community groups and schools. Our hare links the Senior and the Junior Schools' Years 5, 6 and 7.

### *Where did the hare come from?*

A local casting company.

### *What is the hare made of?*

Plastic and fibreglass.

### *Are you pleased with how the hare looks?*

Yes, because I feel it's a successful way of enabling students to work collaboratively, each adding a small element to a bigger piece of artwork. The process of découpage, when carefully placed, adds a lovely surface quality to the overall effect. It feels like spring has sprung.

### *What have you enjoyed the most about this project?*

I've enjoyed being able to find a solution to working with a large number of students. I have also found the pleasure of the technique to create harmony, balance and beauty.

### *Would you ever consider doing a project like this again?*

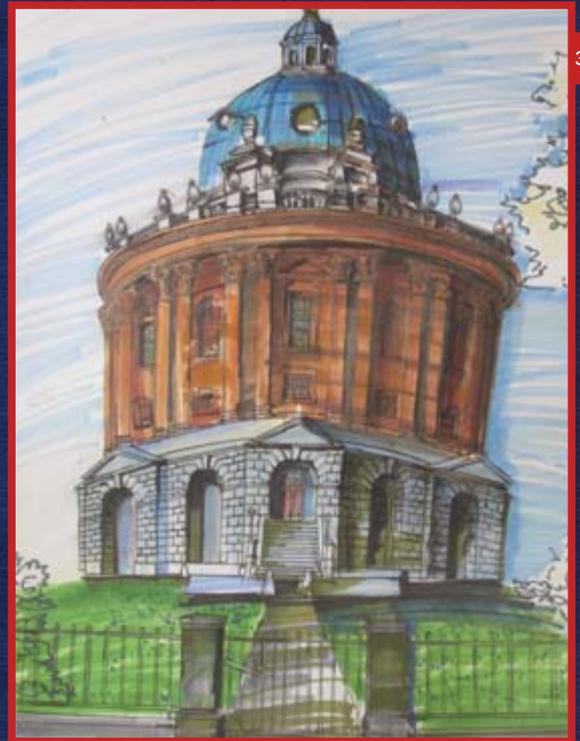
Undoubtedly, as part of my background has involved many community outreach projects. Also there are similarities to the workshops and activities that take place during MAD Week. ■

Ella Burton, Alicia Devine Form 1

# Art Review



1. Thomas Hansel
2. Christine Khirrecu
3. Malong Li





- 4. Malong Li
- 5. Emmeline Mehborne-Hubbard
- 6. Thomas Hansel

# Art Review

7



- 7. Christina Zhao
- 8. Florence Prince
- 9. Malong Li

8



9



10



11



12



- 10. Lauren Seatter-Messer
- 11. Zenobia Wang
- 12. Zenobia Wang
- 13. Duncan Graham

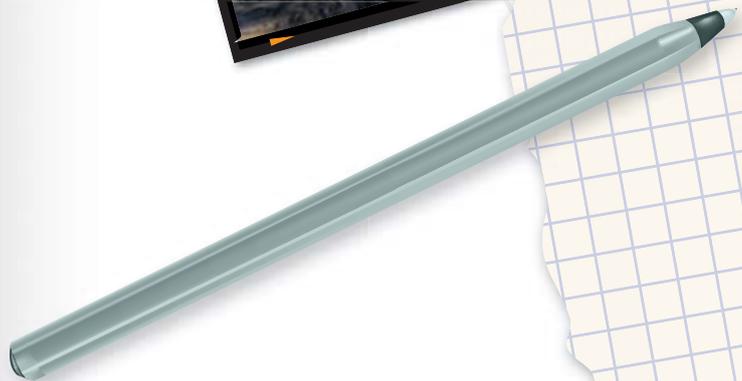
13



# Photography



1. Denis Bryanka
2. Fraser Spivey
3. Lauren Seatter-Messer
4. Lizzie Templeton
5. Amelia Brady
6. Ella Page
7. Fraser Spivey
8. Lauren Seatter-Messer
9. Lizzie Templeton





# International & EAL

## Life at Rendcomb as an International Student: three perspectives



The entire school is filled with kindness and happiness. I remember the first time I came here, it was in early April. The branches of the lilac and cherry trees were swaying in the breeze, as if they were dancing in the wind. And the air was sweetened by the flowers and blooms. It was so peaceful. But what made Rendcomb a wonderful school for me was partly the lovely teachers and the education, but also my cheerful friends. There are all sorts of friends: classmates, ponies (in the field by the boys' boarding house), and even teachers' dogs. It isn't just people, it is a community!

Firstly I am going to tell you about my close friends and they all have their own personalities. There are only four girls in my class, which is pretty awesome. We all hang out with each other, no one is left out. Normally, we all go to lessons together and wait for each other in the school library before we go in to lunch together.

One night, Charlotte was boarding with me in the same dorm. In the night, when I walked back to the dorm from the toilet, I couldn't find Charlotte. I was looking for her everywhere around Godman House and the corridors were really dark. I was really creeped out and I was about to ring the doorbell of Mrs Fielding's house, when I heard footsteps going down the staircase... It was Charlotte – she was hidden behind

one of the curtains in the dorm we slept in. She said to me huskily that she was trying to scare me when I walked into the dorm, but she didn't get into a good position. We held hands together while we were going upstairs back to our dorm because I didn't want her to 'disappear' again. I'd had enough. That was the scariest thing that happened in Godman House for me. We share our happiness together and also our tears together.

Ponies! They are so cute and adorable. I go there to see them every lunch break, if I have time. There were two ponies when I first came here, but now they've gone. One was called Sax and she was as white as Snow White. I loved her so much. I didn't get a chance to say goodbye to them. Luckily, there are six new ponies here now, so I get to play with them. I named them Shadow, Emily, Sian, Carolyn, Liz and Anya. I like all the ponies and I feed them waxy leaves from the trees nearby.

The teachers' dogs are so adorable too, especially Mrs White's and Mrs Salt-Forster's. Coco is the smaller dog of Mrs Salt-Forster, and Coco has a pair of brown eyebrows!

I am so pleased that I can live in this wonderful society with my supportive friends and lovely teachers. I know the time goes past at the speed of light. Soon I will be taking my GCSEs! ■

Vivian Lu Form 2

During my life at Rendcomb, I experienced the most wonderful time, and what I have to say is that I love Rendcomb. This school has been one of the best schools I have ever attended. The teaching quality is incredibly amazing. The teachers have good manners and attitudes, most importantly towards my academic education. I sincerely think they have lots of teaching experience and knowledge of the subjects. I like them all, especially my Design and Technology teacher, Miss Hughes. She explains the method to me in detail, and sometimes she is on duty in Godman House, where she makes things to decorate the house or for us to bring home.

The next thing that I love is my house, Godman, as well as my House Parents. Mr and Mrs Fielding have two cute and funny daughters. They are very nice and polite. In house, the girls help each other when they are down; or if anyone is confused with prep, people will help straight away.

This is my third year boarding in Godman, so now I always feel that I am at home and I love it because it is as though I have a big family in England. When I first came, I was so scared; I didn't know much English, but Mrs Fielding and my friends always helped me. Also, Jojo was my first friend in Rendcomb, actually in England as well, and I will always remember how much she helped me. ■

Coco Wong Form 3

I joined Rendcomb in November 2013. I decided to join Rendcomb because I didn't like the German school system. When I first saw the school I was amazed, I thought it was like Hogwarts. My first week was quite stressful, but after the first trip on the Sunday everything got better and I felt more confident.

The one thing that makes Rendcomb such a special place is the community feeling that I felt from the first moment. Another thing that makes Rendcomb so special is all the different nationalities, for example I'm in a dorm with a Spanish boy, Enrique, an English boy, Jack, and a Japanese boy, Tomotaka. We have so much fun together and we are always there for each other. ■

Johann Von Loeper Form 3



## International Celebration Evening

The International Celebration Evening was, as the Spanish say *excelente*. There are a good number of international pupils in the school so a wide range of countries were represented.

It was obvious that everyone had put lots of effort into making their stall as amazing as possible, and a good example of this was the Japanese stall. Tomotaka Ishiyama was wearing a ninja outfit and carrying a sword that he had made himself. He had origami instructions and coloured paper to teach the Japanese art of folding paper, and also a plate of sushi.

I really liked the Spanish stall because they had lots of food; I especially liked the olives. I represented Spain by wearing one of their traditional dresses known as a Spanish flamenco dress. I also learnt about the Spanish bullfighters and also about some of the amazing festivals they have, such as *San Fermin*.

The evening was a very good opportunity to find out about other countries, and to let international pupils celebrate their own cultures. ■

Ross Canning Form 3

## Starry May: An International Stars Concert



This year's International Stars Concert was the greatest concert I have ever been to in my life. It was hosted by international students and provided a platform for them to demonstrate their considerable talents.

In the first part, we had three songs, one piano solo, one violin piece, and one storytelling. I have to say the level of singing even reached that at the Eurovision Song Contest. We had a French song – *La Vie En Rose*, sung by Francesca Parshall, and a couple of English songs – *Cabaret*, sung by Shelly Zheng, and *Yellow*, sung by Malong Li. All the singers have beautiful voices and controlled the melodies perfectly.

The performance gradually changed from modern music to classical. We had a young violinist, Leo Wang, performing a traditional Chinese piece named *Butterfly Lovers*, with breathtaking control and sophistication. The piano solo performed by Kao Kimura was also astounding. She played the third movement of *No. 8 Sonata in C Minor* by Beethoven with accuracy and an exciting tempo which inspired other pianists in the audience. Following that we had some traditional Japanese comic storytelling by Tomotaka Ishiyama. His performance was flawless. His gestures made the story lively and enabled us to visualize the plots in the story. Everyone kept laughing from the beginning to the end.

After the interval, when we enjoyed delicious food with flavours from different countries, we had another young violinist, Vivian Lu, performing a classical piece named *Corrente*. Her handling of crescendo and diminuendo impressed everyone. Next, we had two beautiful Chinese girls, Lynne Wang and Vickey Liu, singing a Chinese song called *Like Summer, Like Autumn*. What a lovely choice of song as it was the Summer Term. Now it was my turn to play a piano solo, a classical piece named *La Campanella*, composed by Liszt. I played it with great passion. I wanted to use the music to say farewell to the friends who will be moving on soon.

Towards the end, we went back to calm modern music. Greta Weidenfeld sang *Say Something*, accompanied by herself on piano! She was able to play her dual role spectacularly well. At the end, we had a chorus by five Chinese students – Summer Ye, Malong Li, Peter Chen, Shelly Zheng and Jeffrey Chen. It is a shame that they are all leaving after this term, but their outstanding performance was a wonderful gift to Rendcomb! ■

Andrew Chen Form 3

# Academic Results

## GCSE-IGCSE Examinations 2014

Honor Birden, A\* B C\*\* A\* E\*\* Mf\* G\* Gm Ee M\* P\*  
 Louis Cruzat, B\* C\*\* Dr\* E\*\* F\* G\* E\*\* M\* Pe P\*  
 George Dimopoulos, B C Dr E F G E\*\* M Pe P  
 Lydia Farnham, B\*\* C\*\* E\*\* F\*\* Mf\*\* G\*\* Gm\*\* H\*\* Ee\*\* M\*\* P\*\*  
 Emma Fuchs, ScA A Dr E G Ee M Sc  
 Joe Garling, ScA A Dt E G M Pe Sc  
 Peter Gregory, B C\* Dt E Mf\*\* G\* H Ee\* M\*\* Pe P\*  
 Harry Hall, ScA A E G Gm Ee M Pe Sc  
 Daniel Hansel, A B\* C E G\*\* Ee M\* Ms\* Pe P\*  
 Daniel Jin, A B\* C\* Cn\*\* Es\*\* E\* Mf\*\* G H\*\* Ee\* M\*\* P\*  
 Henry Jones, A B C\* Dr E H\* Ee\*\* M\* Ms\* P  
 Laurence Jones, A B C\* Dt E\*\* G Gm Ee M\*\* P\*  
 Michell Kendall-Smith, ScA A\*\* Dt\* Dr E G Ee\* M P  
 Jacob Laycock, ScA A Dr E G Ee M Pe Sc  
 Hermione Llewelyn-Bowen, B C\* Dr\* E\* F\* G\* Gm\* Ee\*\* M\* P\*  
 Kate Major, B C E G Gm Ee\*\* M Ms\* P Sp\*  
 Shannon Martin, B C E Gm Ee\* M Ms\* P  
 Chloe Ponting, A B E G H\* Ee\*\* M Pe Sc  
 Kitty Reeves, A B C E G Ee M Pe P Sp  
 Charlie Roffe, A B C E Gm Ee M Ms P Sp  
 Lauren Shipperbottom, B\*\* C\*\* E\*\* F\*\* Mf\*\* G\*\* Gm\*\* H\*\* Ee\*\* M\*\* P\*\*  
 James Sinfield, B C\* E G H\* Ee M Pe P\*  
 Thomas Smith, A B C E\* G\* Gm Ee M\* Pe P\*  
 Pascale Summers, B\* C\*\* E\* F\*\* Mf\*\* G\*\* H\*\* Ee\*\* M\*\* P\* Sp\*\*  
 Finton Tanner, ScA A Dt E M Sc  
 Sam Tushingham, B\*\* C\*\* E\*\* F\*\* Mf\*\* Gm\* H\*\* Ee\*\* M\*\* Pe\* P\*\*  
 Jasmine Barker, ScA A E Gm Ee M Ms Sc  
 Jacob Crozier-Davies, ScA\* Dr E Mf G H\* Ee\*\* M Pe Sc  
 Vicky Liu, A B C\* Cn\*\* Dt Es E Mf\*\* M\*\* P  
 Arthur Mills, B\* C Dt Dr E F H\* Ee M P  
 Francesca Parshall, B C\* E F\*\* G\* H\* Ee M Pe P Sp\*  
 Nicholas Sedlmayr, ScA Dt Es E Gm\*\* H M Sc Sp  
 Julius Sigl, B\* C\* Es\* E G\* Gm\*\* H\* M\* Pe P\*\*  
 Zoie Somers, ScA A E\*\* Gm\* H Ee M Sc  
 Lynne Wang, B C\* Dt Es E Mf\*\* G M\*\* P  
 Christina Zhao, A\* B C\* Cn\*\* Dt Es E Mf\*\* M\*\* P  
 Harry Newman, ScA Dr E F\*\* M Pe Sc  
 Paula Noldeke, C\*\* Es\* E Gm\*\* M\*  
 Yannis Dimopoulos, M  
 Oliver Kendall-Smith, ScA G Ee Pe  
 Fraser Spivey, M Sc

Key: \*Grade A, \*\*Grade A\*, ^ With Distinction  
 Subject Key: A=Art, B=Biology, C=Chemistry, Cn=Chinese, Cw=Chinese Written Language, Dt=Design & Technology, Dr=Drama, Es=English as a Second Language, E=English Language, Ee=English Literature, F=French, Mf=Further Maths, G=Geography, Gm=German, H=History, M=Maths, Ms=Music, Pe=Physical Education, P=Physics, Rs=Russian, Sc=Science, ScA=Additional Science, Sp=Spanish.

## A Level Examinations 2014

Howard Auster, H, Ms, Mt  
 Oliver Birden, Ee, E, H  
 Joshua Cropper, E\*, G\* M  
 Yannis Dimopoulos, Ee, Dr  
 Daniel Gregory, C\*, Mf\*, M\*\*, P  
 Thomas Hansel, Af, Bs, Ps  
 Maggie Hyde, Ee, Af\*, Ap\*\*, E  
 Lucy Kernon, C, B, G\*  
 Will Li, Cn, Mf, E, M  
 Bliss McFarlane, Af, Bs, F  
 Louis Mernagh, Af, M, P  
 Luke Nixon, Ee, Dr\*\*, Mt  
 James Rose, Dr, E, Mt  
 Alex Tataru-Mills, Bs, H  
 James Taylor, Af, G, H  
 Alexey Belyaev, Af, Rs\*  
 Christine Khirrecu, Ee, Af, Ps  
 Mikhail Belyaev, Af, Rs  
 Anya Braimer-Jones, Af, Bs, Dr  
 Jeffery Chen, Cn, Mf, M\*\*, P  
 Razak Farley, Ee, E, H,  
 Yuru Huang, Cn, Mf\*, M\*\*, P  
 Malong Li, Cn, Af, M  
 Katrina Webb, Ee, D  
 Abby Qi, Cn, Mf, M\*  
 Kirsty Robinson, B, Bs, Ps  
 Peter Chen, C\*, Cn\*, Mf\*, M\*\*  
 Dorothy Guo, C\*, Cn, M\*, P  
 York He, C, Mf\*, M\*\*, P  
 Chilli Qian, Cn, M  
 Shelly Zheng, Cn, Mf, M\*\*  
 Danny Lin, C, Mf\*, M\*\*, P  
 Summer Ye, C, Cn, M

Key: \*Grade A, \*\*Grade A\*  
 Subject Key: Ap=Art & Design (Photo), Af=Art & Design (Fine Art), B=Biology, Bs=Business Studies, C=Chemistry, Cn=Chinese, Dr=Drama, E=Economics, Ee=English Literature, F=French, G=Geography, H=History, M=Maths, Mf=Further Maths, Ms=Music, Mt=Music Technology, P=Physics, Ps=Psychology, Rs=Russian,

# Pupils in the spotlight

# FAITH

## at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival



When I was fourteen, I turned to another heavy-footed dancer at the back of a rehearsal for the musical *Hairspray*, and we agreed that prancing was only for the sophisticated among us. It was then that James Mudge and I started to write together.

After many long nights spent sweating over a laptop in Mudge's room, we delivered our first attempt at a play. Looking back it was more of a pantomime; but it was enjoyable, and we were encouraged to write together again. Aged fifteen, I swaggered into Mudge's room one night to ask if he wanted to take a play to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. It was a mad idea, truly ridiculous and by no means possible; not to mention the monetary, accommodation and legal issues that we would face.

But with a strange confidence, we requested a meeting with the Headmaster. Prior to this, Mudge had already told me about the story of Imber, a ghost village which was evacuated in 1943. We were keen to develop these early ideas after discovering that there had never been a play about the subject before. Mr Martin was extremely supportive, and explained the level of commitment we would need to make this a reality. He suggested going up to Edinburgh to have a look at venues and to get a feel for the festival, before we went any further with our fringe ambitions.

Our breakthrough came from pure luck: whilst in Edinburgh, we struck on a company called theSpaceUK, which is well-regarded and has an impressive 12-14 venues across the city. After explaining to a rather lovely looking receptionist that I was a young aspiring writer/director from the Cotswolds, I was taken to the venue manager, who asked Mudge and I for a pitch. After hearing the pitch, he made a call and asked us to follow him. Crossing our hearts we did so, weaving our way through dodgy Scottish alleyways. Once at a different venue, we were taken into a backroom. A man waited at the desk, and a discussion about our next show followed. I subsequently discovered that this was Charles Pamment, owner of theSpaceUK.

We soon realised that we needed to make money to pay for the £800 venue hire. So initially, the two of us started to produce events to raise funds: an adaptation of Christopher Durang's *An Actors Nightmare* sold out to a packed Rendcomb crowd; during The Comedy Club, five comedians performed live stand-up in the Sixth Form Bar; in a mock talent show, we effectively ripped off *X Factor* rather badly. Next we approached the parents of the cast, as accommodation is a whole other ball game. Impressed with how far we had come, they decided to contribute by individually paying for their own child's accommodation, which, as you can imagine, helped us out greatly.

Finally, with Mudge almost having a breakdown with the level of admin work, we were registered. Our creative previews in school and at the Sundial Theatre showed weak points in both the script and the staging; so it was back to the drawing board. I decided to do a complete re-write of the show, allowing me to take it into different avenues which I wanted to explore. In an intense four-day rehearsal period in July, I found the actors more invigorated and challenged by the script, which excited me.

During the preview shows in Edinburgh, endless things went wrong; the excitement, nerves, tiredness and technical difficulties all seemed to be spiralling out of control.

Unfortunately, the first of the reviewers decided to pitch up on disappointing performances; and *The Scotsman, Fringe Guide* and *Broadway Baby* all heavily criticised. Confidence knocked, Mudge and I were astounded at how quickly our dream was being stung.

With my tail in-between my legs, I read the reviews to an unhappy and disheartened cast. But for some unknown reason, that strange and vague fifteen year old confidence returned to me, and I told them that things were going to change – dramatically. As we addressed the necessary issues, a renewed self-belief began to grow in this young, scared but hugely talented cast of Rendcombians.

Tuesday night brought around the Arts Awards review; we received a three star review and the accolade that this ‘performance is a shining example of what young artists can do.’ Our positivity developed, and the productions got stronger each night. Finally, on our last night, Ed Fringe Review were our last set of reviewers. It was sad that the production was coming to an end, but we knew that we had to impress. On flying home on my 18th birthday, I was cheekily reading on the plane our first four star review, stating that:

#### Faith – ★★★★★

*‘Faith’ is a great play in almost every aspect... this striking tragi-comedy showcases the best of fledging, British talent... The script, by Luke Nixon and James Mudge is fantastic – the play is a blend of both light-hearted exchanges and moments of intense desperation.’* Marnie Langeroodi

*‘Overall this is a play sparkling with diamonds... I cannot think of a more relevant and poignant piece of theatre, in this, the year of the WWI Centenary, whilst war crises rage on the other side of the world.’*

Bridey Addison-Child

These compliments made me extremely proud to be co-writer and director of a wonderful team of people. We had picked ourselves up, and achieved something truly remarkable. We hope this gives something back to the endless support we have received from Rendcomb, our sponsors and our families; we cannot thank you all enough. ■

Luke Nixon Form 6U

## Success with the Youth Music Theatre

During the Summer Holiday 2013, I was involved in the fantastic experience of being part of ‘Youth Musical Theatre UK’, a performing organisation for young people in Britain who love Musical Theatre. I had found out about the opportunity in the previous January, thanks to a leaflet given to me by Mrs Dodd. I auditioned in Bristol, being observed and critiqued on my dance, singing and acting abilities; the process went on for three hours, with an hour being spent on each discipline.

By March, I had been told that I had been accepted to be a member of YMT out of thousands of young people all over Britain and Ireland, and that I was due to be a cast member of thirty-six in a brand new musical in Aberdeen.

When I arrived months later, it was daunting to feel so far away from home surrounded by so many talented individuals; but days of intense hard work paid off. At the end of the two week

course, we had created a new musical called *The Drowning Pond* by Cathy Ford, a Scottish playwright and novelist. We performed for two nights, with three performances to the public, as part of Aberdeen International Youth Festival. I was lucky enough to play a lead role – a girl accused of being a witch and nearly murdered by a group of school girls. I had the delight of singing the closing song as a solo with the rest of the cast joining in the chorus.

*The Drowning Pond* isn’t your typical musical: it’s dark, yet fun. The director created a visual spectacle that astonished the crowd; the musical directors composed music that made the whole cast hold back tears every time, including ten part harmonies, beautiful melodies and rhythmic songs that I sing even now. We moved from songs of school children, of your typical ‘mean girls’, and of teenage love, to songs so sad that you were really moved by the performers’ emotion.

I’m thankful for the opportunity I was given; it has made me realise just how much I need to be a performer in life. I met some incredible people and shared a special part of my life with them all. ■

Katrina Webb Form 6U







# Houses

# Godman House



Godman feels just like a family. Our Sixth Form prefects this year have been Katrina and Maggie, who have always been interested in what's going on and have got along with everybody. At the beginning of the year, they judged our Prep Desk Contest; we had all brought in things to decorate our pin boards and shelves. Also in September, we had another great tea party for parents and tutors. Another special memory was the visit from the German exchange students later in the same month. We even played a game of table football – they were so fast!

Every Friday night, the girls are joined by the boys from Old Rectory for Friday Night Challenge. This starts out with three envelopes, each containing a fun group challenge, and the person who has the closest birthday picks one. Sometimes it is a game, like making a crossword from spaghetti alphabet (the only bad part was not being allowed to eat them, but it did not stop people from trying).

In October, there was a dinner party for parents organised by the Third Form, followed by the First and Second Form dinner party in November. Pupils worked hard to prepare three course meals in Mrs Fielding's kitchen.

All the parents had a wonderful time and particularly enjoyed watching their sons and daughters perform during the fantastic entertainment.

We had a Christmas party in December with an amazing drinks fountain and a huge selection of food. We were split into groups to perform a smaller version of the Nativity. A few days later, we all went bowling together in Gloucester, which was lots of fun.

Godman had its annual Bring and Buy Sale in the Lent Term. The homemade cupcakes were a blast and were truly delicious. There was love in the air at the Valentine's Party. The boys seemed to enjoy *I'm a Barbie Girl*, and the evening ended with a magical slow dance.

The year came to an end with a Leavers' Party for those in Godman and Old Rectory moving onto Lawn and Stable. There were bouncy castles, with lots of laughter, but there was also a sense of sadness as we said goodbye to Mrs Fielding. The next day, girls and parents had a chance to meet our new House Parent, Miss Bond, and we look forward to getting to know her and the new girls in another new year, which will give us another set of special memories. ■

Ella Burton Form 1, Maria Tutton Form 2,  
Becky Langley Form 3

## 'Auf Wiedersehen' to Mrs Fielding

Ten years of nurturing hundreds of children into young ladies has been the vocation that Mrs Fielding has accomplished whilst overseeing Godman House. In that time she has helped to counsel, guide and comfort the young charges as well as help them to be more creative, dynamic, emotionally intelligent, and just a 'good friend'.

The GodRec social events, such as the countless Friday Night Challenges, dinner parties and charity balls, would not have been the huge successes they were without her attention to detail and creative energy. No more will we see the 'nun' in our midst blessing proceedings at Christmas, Halloween and Valentine's parties. For a long time now we have thought that Mrs Fielding has been putting off an alternative vocation; but then we realised that she seeks to be Maria from *The Sound of Music*, bringing happiness to the Cotswold hills.

Mrs Fielding has been the veritable Edelweiss in the story of Godman House: she has a noble purity that can't help but radiate out to all those around her. It was a fitting tribute that the parents and pupils who attended the Form 3 end-of-year party took the time to sing *Edelweiss* (another echo of the *The Sound of Music*), with the pupils asking for an encore!

We wish Rachel, Simon, Miriam and Isabel a much quieter life as they enjoy more time together, and thank them all for being such an important part of so many young ladies' and gentlemen's journeys through their time in both Godman House and Old Rectory. ■

Mr A and Mrs A Brealy



# Old Rectory



They say 'variety is the spice of life', in which case the Old Rec boys have been positively fragrant this year through their social and charity events! It was wonderful to see the new faces gelling so well as they were welcomed by the 'old hands' of the Old Rectory boys; and the Adventure Weekend undoubtedly helped the First Form boys to get to know each other and the girls that much better. The parents were also welcomed into the fold by the tea party which enabled them to meet both one another and academic tutors.

The Friday Night Challenges once again required both boarders and day pupils of Old Rectory and Godman House to pit their imaginations, athleticism and engineering skills whilst creating paper towers, adverts, scavenger hunts and bin bag fashion shows. The houses' culinary and hosting skills were developed as they helped to serve up a feast of both food and entertainment at the two dinner parties held for parents, who were swept away by their creativity.

After all the hard academic work, it was good to see the boys letting down their hair at the celebration evenings such as the Christmas Party, Valentine's Party and the Chinese New Year Dinner; and there were a lot of strikes to be had at the Ten Pin Bowling evening. The Third Form proved to be a particularly strong year group in terms of socialising; and great thanks go to the Third Form Social Prefects who excelled at helping to put together events such as Barn Nights, Silly Sports, Treasure Hunts, as well as the parties.

The boys certainly put their energy into helping to raise funds for charities at, for example, the Bring & Buy Sale, where their cupcakes went down a real treat. The Old Rectory boys also exhibited their talents at whole-school events such as Theatresports and the Rock Concert, where a large number of boys raised the decibels with aplomb! Artistic skills were also encouraged as the boarders decorated their dorms with their own artwork on canvas.

During the Summer Term, the open air swimming pool proved a great hit during the evenings, in between experiencing the trials and tribulations of the World Cup matches. Hopefully England's Rugby team will fare better in 2015; and the boys delighted in being coached by the England superstar Mike Catt who definitely worked the young charges very hard!

Variety has been shown not only in the many special occasions during the year but also from the cosmopolitan nature of the house; the house of 67 boys has extended its reach to China, Italy, Spain, Japan, France and America!

Huge thanks go to the superb Old Rec Sixth Form prefects of Josh Cropper and James Mudge, who have dedicated so much of themselves to the benefit of the boys. A massive cheer goes out to Mr Thomason for all the energy he has expended in helping the house to fulfil its full potential. Last but by no means least, a big thank you goes to the boys of Old Rectory for making this year such a memorable one; what a 'spicy' lot! ■

Mr A and Mrs A Brealy



# Stable House



It seems perhaps fitting in the year of the 450th anniversary of William Shakespeare's birth that we take an extract from *The Seven Ages of Man* – or better yet... *Woman*:

*'All the world's a stage,  
And all the men and women merely players,  
They have their exits and entrances.'*

This has indeed been a year of change on the stage that is Stable House, with both exits and entrances a-plenty. After a term filled with fun and laughter, culminating in a wonderful house trip to Hyde Park's Winter Wonderland, Stable Girls said a sad farewell to Angela, Neil, Matthew, Michael and Colin Ferreira in December. We thank them for all their unstinting efforts to make Stable such a friendly house and wish them well in their new adventures on the other side of the world, even if

we do turn a slight tinge of green when we receive Mrs Ferreira's sunshine-filled postcards!

And so we made our own entrance in January 2014, complete with two boys, one spaniel, a tortoise and two guinea pigs, into the unknown territory of a girls' boarding house. Faced with the immediate challenge of the German Supper Evening, the girls took to the helm and created a three course extravaganza culminating in a tasty and 'artistically presented' Schnitzel. This embodied our ethos of developing personal responsibility as a necessary condition for success, a theme we shall continue to promote in the years ahead. Food also seems to be an emerging theme here, with campfire marshmallows, popcorn evenings and latterly a Tesco 'Little Luxuries' trip to tickle the taste buds. If there is one thing we have learnt about a girls' boarding house, it is that chocolate by the bucketful is a necessity!

Barn Nights were remodelled during the Lent Term at the request of the Fifth Form, with Stable and Lawn putting their heads together to create a selection of events such as quiz nights, dance challenges, karaoke and Twister games. Further developments on that front lie in store for next term, too. A huge highlight of the year was the Gatsby Ball, created by Mrs Bevans and Miss Bond (ably assisted by the entertainment team), who put on a fantastic event enjoyed by all.

The final event of the year was held at Craig Cohoon's Lake in Fairford, where the girls spent a Sunday afternoon blasting around on various inflatables at high speed. Certainly there were no dry eyes to be seen! Fond farewell gifts were given to Miss Bond (much-loved by the girls) to thank her for her time in Stable and to wish her well as she leaves us for new beginnings in Godman House in September.

And so time moves on; change will continue, building on the strong community ethos in Stable House to promote cooperation, encourage effort and reward care for others. We are especially looking forward to the entrance of Miss Harries, our new Assistant House Parent, in September as she joins us to play her part on the stage too. ■

Mr T and Mrs C Hossle



# Lawn House



Last year, we ended our entry for the 2013 Rendcombian with the line... "So let's see if we get a painting by numbers or an abstract expressionist?" Well, what a year it has been, and we certainly have had an international feel to our artists in residence!

Artists, as we know, can be extremely temperamental and we certainly have had our share of different temperaments this year. I think it's fair to say that we've had for the first time a wonderful and diverse selection of nationalities and they have all brought an array of talent and personality to Lawn House, which I think we can collectively say has been culturally quite inspirational for us. We have welcomed and said our goodbyes throughout this year to a number of our German, Russian and Spanish students, and our longest-serving (or surviving!) Spanish pupil finally departed on the last day amongst a crowd of well-wishers and tearful goodbyes. Alfonso has been a ray of Spanish sunshine for us this year, especially throughout the bleakest and wettest months; his beaming smile has permeated the house and considering all of the sporting injuries he has endured this year, he has continued to remain up-beat and positively buoyant!

Michaelmas Term is always a busy time, when rugby dominates the sporting calendar and from Mrs Cairns' perspective... the laundry room as well! It is a huge task for one person to wash and iron for over thirty boarders with their muddy kit and start all over again every two days; and this is without all the daily uniform and bedding that is in constant supply as well. We would like to thank Mrs Cairns and the rest of our brilliant domestic team for their continued efforts and boundless energy – keeping our house in such good order.

This year, Lawn House decided that their annual Christmas trip was not going to be the usual extreme sporting event such as the Snow Dome, or even the traditional Rendcomb theatre trip to London. The boys decided that this year would be celebrated with a rather civilised shopping, cinema and meal out in Cardiff's spectacular St David's shopping centre, much to Mrs Bevans' delight, but leaving Mr Bevans and Mr Whitham a little bemused by the boys' choice of activity. Mr B had been suppressing his excitement at the thought of another high-energy, adrenaline-fuelled toboggan run. However, it was an enjoyable and relaxed close to a busy term.

The Lent Term witnessed our boys dressed in their best bib-and-tucker for the biannual Fourth and Fifth Form ball. It was a fabulous evening and both boys and girls danced till late. The bucking bronco was certainly a challenge for most, especially for Mr Whitham who made numerous attempts to stay on for more than two seconds! A big thank you must go to Miss Bond, Mrs Bevans and the Fifth Form ball committee for their fabulous *Gatsby*-themed evening in the Dulverton Hall.

It was full-steam ahead in the Summer Term with the internal and GCSE examinations and one-by-one, we said goodbye to our Fifth Formers. A big thank you must be extended to our superb Head of House, Julius Sigl, who did an exceptional job of keeping the prefect team and daily rotas running efficiently. All of our house prefects this year were a wonderful combination of different personalities and they were each well-suited to their different roles within the prefect team. You are going to be a hard act to follow!

Last but not least, we say goodbye to our Assistant House Parent, Mr Frank Whitham. It is a sad farewell, having been with us now for three years, although he will be keeping his foot firmly inside the door when he returns to spend one evening a week with us as a duty member of staff. From the Bevanses and all the boys that you have seen through their Fourth and Fifth Form years in Lawn House, we would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude. No more early wake-up calls, Mr Whitham! ■

Mr P and Mrs M Bevans



## Memories from the boys

With the year over and done with, it's time for us all to reflect on the trials and tribulations of the past three terms. Something that we, the current Fourth-going-on-Fifth Form, can reminisce about is the move from Old Rectory to Lawn House.

Personally (and I say this with the best intentions), joining Lawn House came as a shock to quite a few of us, albeit in the end I believe that we fit in pretty well.

At the same time, finding things out for ourselves is a life skill, and being able to do that in such a safe environment is a big advantage. The Bevanses were especially helpful in offering a helping hand when we had troubles – Mr Bevans showing that although he can be strict he is really quite compassionate, and Mrs Bevans being the voice of order amongst the chaos of a house full of teenagers. Mr Whitham was there too, joined by Miss Lucas, Miss Harries and Mr Hornsby, all giving support along the way.

The independence (semi-latent independence, that is – we got a lot of help) that we were given upon entering Lawn has certainly been liberating. Many of us were refreshed by super-strict routines being replaced with lessons on how to be responsible; and as a year group, one can safely say that our Fourth Form year, with some small blips along the way, has gone smoothly.

Looking to next year and the joining of a new Fourth Form, everyone can rest assured with the knowledge that Mr and Mrs Bevans, the duty staff, and the Lawn House community will provide a great place for people to be themselves and will encourage them on the pathway to adulthood and independence. ■

Jared Wason-Cooper Form 4

When I first arrived at Lawn House, I was not quite certain what to expect. It was going to be a new experience of boarding three nights a week. However, I needn't have been worried, because from the very beginning Mr and Mrs Bevans were very kind and welcoming, and I soon settled into the routines. Before arrival in Lawn House, my grades at Rendcomb had not been great. However, I found that the boarding environment helped me settle into a better working pattern. Also, Mr Bevans was always on hand to help, and he would never lose patience no matter how often I asked. Knowing that Mr and Mrs Bevans wanted to see me achieve well, I was keen to improve in both my attitude and my work.

However, it was not all work; we had time for plenty of activities and fun. For example, Mr Bevans always had time to play a game of pool and it would be an understatement to say that Mr Bevans has a competitive streak. When not being thrashed at pool, we all spent a lot of time playing dodgeball, football and having pizza/film nights. However, the choice of films eventually had to be restricted as some of the boys found the scary movies too much, and by the sound of their screaming, they would have been better off at Stable House with the girls!

We have also had great days out such as the Snow Dome, Thorpe Park and Cardiff to mention a few. However, my favourite memories of Lawn House were spent inside the house, and it was always fun when Wales played rugby against England as the Welsh fan club consisted of only Mr Bevans. However, they do occasionally beat England, which is something Mr Bevans likes to remind us of on a regular basis.

In September, I will be moving to Park House, but I am certain that I will be a regular visitor to Lawn House, not only because I will miss Mrs Bevans and her delicious birthday cakes, but also because I still need to beat Mr Bevans at pool. ■

Jacob Crozier-Davies Form 5

# Park House



With the long summer holiday coming to an end, there were many things running through my head as last year's Michaelmas Term approached. Apprehension accompanied my excitement to be finally moving up into Sixth Form; and my first time boarding during my time at Rendcomb was something I was really looking forward to. My expectations of Park were high, especially after hearing what previous years had experienced; but it exceeded even these.

Park, being a co-educational house, is a very different experience from the other houses within Rendcomb, but an invaluable experience. Within the first couple of weeks of my Lower Sixth year, one aspect of Sixth Form life that I noticed differed from the Lower School was the large increase in work, and also the responsibility that we were given as we were now at the top of the school. It is a big step up from the Lower School, and we now all cherish more independence. The atmosphere within Park is one that is very relaxed, yet the work ethic is never forgotten.

Another thing that I observed whilst progressing through my first year of Sixth Form was the way that my relationship with teachers developed; something that has helped me to better my academic studies with the introduction to my A Levels.

Being a day student throughout my time at Rendcomb, choosing to board this year was a big decision, but a decision very worthwhile. Boarding allows you to experience Sixth Form's full potential. From movie nights in the Sixth Form Bar, to games of 'Man Hunt' around the surrounding grounds, there are plenty of things to do. Overall, I have really enjoyed my first year as a Sixth Former and I am even more excited about the prospects of this year. ■

Kathryn Rew Form 6L

## Social life

Members of Park really like to socialize: it balances work and play well throughout the year; and this particular academic year has been a busy one for the social prefects and Park House staff.

Where else to begin than our weekly visit to Bar? Situated under the College itself, Rendcomb's Sixth Form Bar is where students go twice a week on a Thursday and Saturday to unwind, relax and, of course, dance. Thursday night has remained popular throughout the year, with the chief coordinators continually varying the themes of the evening; some of this year's favourites included 'Halloween' and 'International', not forgetting 'Rave Bar'.

Park House students have also enjoyed weekend trips to Cheltenham and Gloucester for the cinema and shopping; as well as more adventurous outings to go llama trekking and mountain boarding.

Another highlight of this social year was the Sixth Form Christmas Dinner. This is the annual event that everybody looks forward to; it's festive cheer for all. This year played host to the first ever 'Parkee Awards' hosted by Katrina Webb and Oliver Birden. The House had voted for their "Manliest Man", "Funniest Parkee" and "Happy Parkee" among others, and the night's entertainment was preceded by the giving of the awards, much to James Mudge's delight. The dinner was followed by a very special Bar, where the festive fun continued.

Later in the year, the Sixth Form (well, those who could stomach it) took a trip to Alton Towers for the day. Despite the hail, rain and wind, the group enjoyed the renowned rides of the theme park, albeit with a damp ride home.

Our international students were not left without a taste of home this year, with the whole Sixth Form invited on a trip to Cheltenham's 'Real China' restaurant. The trip, organised by Mrs Coups, proved a huge success. ■

Tom Pethick Form 6L



# Boarding Community

## Boarders' Committee

The Boarders' Committee is a new initiative which we started setting up in Lent Term 2014. Its purpose is to provide a forum for the boarders to voice their opinions and suggest improvements to boarding life. This should help to rectify any problems which may arise; and promotes the binding together of all year groups and houses through events like the World Cup screening, which was organised at the end of the academic year.

The Committee consists of 10-15 members, two representing each year group in our twice-termly meetings. In this way we can identify common issues as well as individual wishes. One suggestion has been to wear smart clothes to Sunday Chapel services rather than school uniform; the policy was changed in the Summer Term. Now we are looking forward to another year of improvements and a year of focusing on forming a stronger boarding community. ■

Greta Weidenfeld Form 6L



## Giffords Circus

When we were told we were going to the circus, I was extremely excited. I mean, it is not every day that you get to see a bunch of clowns, gymnasts and talented performers doing flips and spins, and making everybody laugh. So we got ready and set off on the minibus.

The circus tent was easy to see, and you could smell the candyfloss from a mile away. The first thing we saw inside the tent was two chickens walking around the ring, and a donkey being stroked by a man dressed in worn-out clothes leaning against a gypsy caravan. This was because the gypsies had stopped in the circus ring and intended to stay for a little while but that was all part of the story behind the show!

My favourite trick was when two performers were juggling torches lit by fire whilst jumping all over the place. I had a fantastic time, and I am sure that everyone else did too. ■

Ross Canning Form 3



Sport

# Rugby

## 1st XV

### Officers of the club

Club captain: D. Gregory

Vice captain: L. Mernagh

2nd XV captain: E. Watkins



The 1st XV's season started with something of a surprise as I had not expected to be captain, but we went onto achieve stability and ultimately great success.

It all started when we travelled to Kingham Hill for a training game. This was a chance to see some new faces and where we were as a team. Although we started the match with every player being a member of the Sixth Form, James Sinfield and Robert McLaughlin soon proved themselves worthy of a place in our starting 15.

The season got underway with a great win against Warminster. This gave the squad belief that we really could have a go at being only the second team of "golden boys" in Mr Slark's era; but my dreams came crashing down the following week when we saw two ambulances and a change of pitch in our defeat to St Edward's Cheltenham.

Next up was our only away match of the season. The long trip to Leighton Park and then the hike from the changing rooms to the pitch is something that we have all had to endure numerous times over our rugby careers. This was not going to affect us. From the kick off, Alexy ripped the ball from their catcher in a maul before the ball was recycled and Sinfield took the ball blind, allowing Yannis to finish it off in the corner. After such a sublime start we built momentum allowing us to dominate the half. The second half saw the whole team having to defend. A few slip-ups left the final score at 24-26 to Rendcomb, a bit closer than we would have wanted after such a great first half. However, we had won against Leighton Park, something very few Rendcomb 1st XV's have been able to do.

We followed up our success away with three very good wins over Bristol Cathedral, Monmouth and Sidcot. Instead of a rugby match I think we might as well just play tennis against them – it was that end-to-end! But these wins led us into what would be one of my favourite weekends of my life.

The Jonny Wilkinson Cup provided us with a great chance to show the strength of our squad. The rugby got underway with a comfortable victory over Kingsley. Having reassured the boys that it would only get harder from there, we went back out to play Ewell Castle. Brodie's try was the only thing that separated the two teams. Finally we played St David's; a team we expected to be full of big bruisers from the Welsh Land. But nothing was going to stop us on that day and we won the match 19-0. Day two was a different day: a depleted squad didn't hit the ground running and we paid the cost losing our semi-final. With many heads down the 3rd/4th play-off seemed to be very painful. A team with very little fuel left in the tank had a first half to forget and a second half to remember. Having turned over a 15 point deficit we came out winners 19-15. The weekend gave a clear example of what I think Rendcomb Rugby is all about: a squad that always has players getting injured, making no complaints and enjoying every moment when wearing the 1st XV jersey.

Having personally not touched a rugby ball since the cup weekend, our next match was against King's Gloucester, a match that means so much to everyone present. And we brought back the scintillating form from day one of the tournament to make King's look like any other ordinary team.

We rounded up the season with a routine win against Sibford, followed up by a drubbing of Bristol Cathedral School; 45-0 was perhaps the best way to end what has been an outstanding season. This match showed just how far we have come as a team: early in October we only managed a narrow victory coming back from 17 points down, but our final Saturday saw a different set of boys, boys that had improved both in their attacking and defending. ■

Daniel Gregory Form 6U

## Playing record

TEAM	PLAYED	WON	DREW	LOST	POINTS FOR	POINTS AGAINST
1st XV	9	8	0	1	250	141
2nd XV	7	2	0	5	122	196
U15 XV	9	2	2	5	213	257
U14 XV	7	3	0	4	168	120
U13 XV	9	5	1	3	247	166
overall	41	20	3	18	1000	880

## Jonny Wilkinson Cup

TEAM	PLAYED	WON	DREW	LOST	POINTS FOR	POINTS AGAINST
1st XV	5	4	0	1	94	26



### U15

The U15s laboured through a transition season of sorts, with changes of lead coach, team captain and a myriad of injuries to produce some hard-won results, even when they may not have been victories in the traditional sense. A number of future stars have been identified, as well as needs. The needs include greater responsibility for physical (strength and fitness) training, greater awareness of the rules and tactical play, not to mention greater moral courage: to put one's body on the line for one's teammate, when they are running low on energy.

It's safe to say that results were hard to come by. With at least two thirds of the team out injured at some point in the season, continuity and momentum eluded us. In one match we had six players taken off injured and in another we had to play five different flankers, most of whom had never played there, just to make up the numbers. The positive from this is that we became a group of generalists, who learned to run the ball, to tackle everywhere on the pitch and who played a more southern hemispherical sevens-style game. The forwards were the weak link unfortunately. Other schools recruited bulk whereas we svelted operators. To compete in the modern game, every man must 'be a big un', so to speak.

If we could improve set pieces, quality of tackling and increase aggression and speed at the breakdown, this would be the basis of an excellent team. With a longer season and dedicated fitness and skills programme, the 1st and 2nd XV will have an excellent pool for recruitment in the coming years, particularly in the backs. Creative running and speed in attack are the watchwords of this year's U15s. Next year the words need to be 'one team' and 'every man a tackler/scorer'. ■

Mr J Torbitt

## U14

This season turned out to be very successful for the U14s, despite several games being cancelled. We proved to be strong in all areas, with the players we gained this year strengthening our team. The backs showed great commitment, and our pack was very strong, rucking most opposition off the ball.

Tomotaka Ishiyama displayed great skill on the wing, scoring numerous tries in vital matches. Sam Jones and Robert Sharman were great in the centre, making big tackles and damaging the defence. Joel Frost, at fly half, scored several times with his quick-thinking and important kicks. Asier Barranco Salegui and Ronaldo Hyde also played well on the wing, using their pace to good effect. Toby Tatara-Mills, at number 8, tackled amazingly this season along with Tom May, whilst also making some good runs. Andrew Chen, Bob Tharme and Cameron Watt played well at second row, all three tackling well. Josh Timmis was outstanding as hooker, meaning that our scrums and lineouts were very reliable. Enrique Garcia Sanjuan Santacreu, Tom and Jack Warhurst as props managed to keep the scrums under control. The team played very well together, with all our skills being developed and improving as the season went on. This is down to the tough coaching of Mr Ferreira and Mr Thomason!

I definitely felt that in the last match against Sibford, we played at the peak of our ability, with the tackling outstanding and the pressure we applied to their backs incredible, resulting in a win of 27 points to 10. It has been an enjoyable season for me as captain and I am definitely looking forward to the next one. ■

James Nickson Form 3



## U13

“Jackle and tackle” have been the U13s’ watchwords as they have certainly overcome sides by means of their skills and lion-hearted approach to competition.

The forwards were able to execute the set-pieces very effectively. The Front Row of Rayn Clark, Robert Segrave-Daly and Stef Hossle was strong and resolute. The powerhouse in the Second Row was provided by either James Hurley (who was one of the most improved players of the season) or the ‘new kids on the block’, namely Josh Carr and Harry Hale. The Loose Three certainly made their presence felt – Percy Vincent was a ‘crazy horse’ on occasion at Number Eight – whilst the Flankers, Michael Ferreira and Henry Holloway, were stealthily recycling the ball or jackling it from under the oppositions’ noses.

The backs have been one of the strongest in recent seasons. Charlie Pugh was a ‘leviathan’ of a Scrum Half, always prepared to take on as many players as possible at the fringes as well as delivering good, fast ball to release the Three-Quarters. Thomas Breare stepped up very well to fill the position when needed and he will be one to watch in the future. Morgan Seatter-Messer used his agility and strong spatial awareness to open up defences, at times his kicking out-of-hand was sublime. Rafael Torregrosa-Jones was the proverbial ‘crash-ball man’ at Inside Centre and he was a very effective defender. Will Lushington proved to be a quick Outside Centre who thwarted many attacks by his pace in the rush defence; going forward he was like an exocet missile. The Back Three were able to turn defence into attack very swiftly: Oliver Jones at Full Back made big tackles; Thomas Finch, Matthew Ferreira and Harry Baker finished off moves with flair. The subs of Jack Stanton-Cole and Thomas Haynes made their mark when called upon.

All in all, the 20-man squad should be very proud of its achievements (the exception being the King’s School match when they certainly underperformed); the skipper, Henry Holloway, will be so pleased with the team and there are a lot of players who are going to add a great deal to Rendcomb’s rugby in the future. ■

Mr A Brealy

# Girls' Hockey

## 1st XI

### Season's statistics:

Weeks: 14  
Sessions: 38  
Players: 17  
Match goals: 19  
Short corner practices: 4,261  
Trips to Monmouth: 92  
Number of times Frankie got hit on the foot: 457  
Miles run by each player (except Hermione): 843  
Axe tackles by Lucy: 16 per game



But this says so little about the season. We have been so lucky to have four Form 4 players 'on loan' from the U15s. Eleanor Brealy and Tini – what fine players – Ellie Jones and Orlagh Brennan making such an impact on the squad, and the two skilful goals which Orlagh scored providing proverbial icing on the cake.

To the Fifth Form: Kate Major and Lauren Shipperbottom have always been there for us, rolling on and off, playing out of position for the good of the team. Pascale Summers and Frankie Parshall have both 'given their all', and Frankie showed great skill in the game against King's. Hermione Llewelyn-Bowen, so effective on the line – literally – a great tackler who saved us on so many occasions.

So on to the magnificent 6L players... Amy Benson has become so fast and confident on the ball and is always prepared to put in the tackle. We have also benefited from a brace of Olivias: Olivia Witts, the 'pocket rocket' when at full throttle on the right wing, the astroturf beneath her melts: what a goal she scored at Monmouth! Olivia Ellis, our keeper,

a little reticent at the start but got to come off the line like an athletic gazelle to clear the ball at Mach 2. Up front, we had Kathryn Rew, who scored six goals and who caused so many problems for our opposition with her determination and skill, never giving up and glowing red at the end of a match; she has evolved into a fine forward.

And then there is the 'dynamic duo'. Rozy Baynham, a natural athlete who soldiers on with injury, worked so hard for the team with much appreciated loyalty and commitment. Cerys Davies played a key role this season, scoring seven goals, six from the short corner routine; intelligent in play, determined in attack, she was always prepared to defend: and all with a bandana.

Finally, the two musketeers of the Upper Sixth. For Lucy Kernon and Bliss McFarlane, the final school match was clearly emotional. Lucy has become such a special player, so brave in the tackle, never giving up. Seeing her in full flow is a sight to behold, and that tackle – wow. At the top of the pyramid stands Captain Bliss, leading by example and always putting in a strong shift on the pitch. ■



## 2nd XI

This hockey season has been enjoyed by old and new alike. The 2nds showed massive improvement and promise, not only in practices but also in matches. The girls' attitude was remarkable and much appreciated by coaches and the other teams. Their skills improved drastically throughout the term and even the girls who had never played hockey before contributed significantly to the team's performance. ■

Greta Weidenfeld Form 6L



## U15

This year, the U15 hockey squad epitomised effort in the face of adversity, where regular changes, injuries and work on developing basics skills meant that we struggled to make an impact on opposing schools. The upside is that skills' development and fitness training will have helped us to provide the senior teams next year with some excellent existing talent and potential in new players. Particular mentions must go to Ellie Jones, Eleanor Brealy, Jojo Bock and last but definitely not least, Nicole Li. Each one of these fantastic players led from the front and set the example for their teammates to follow, inspiring them through tough times and good. Next season is eagerly anticipated, where we will look to go from the local underdogs to the team to beat on the hockey pitch. ■

Orlagh Brennan Form 4

## U14

I would like to congratulate the U14 girls for their great efforts this season. We have not had many matches, but despite this we have still put in the effort. Miss Hebert has pushed our abilities trying to improve our ball skills, creating confidence with the ball. We have worked on the importance of looking up and working as a team. I believe our continuous practice of the wide range of drills has improved our stick skills immensely.

All Form 3 girls have committed to hockey this season, and I think this is shown on the pitch. A special mention should go to our goalie: Megan Hardie has always believed in the team even more than herself at times, and this was definitely needed in our matches. Throughout all our matches we worked together as a team, forgetting our differences and our disagreements and working as hard as we could. Unfortunately, the scoreline has not reflected the team's performance. Bring on next hockey season! ■

Rebecca Breare Form 3

## U13

The U13 team had an amazing season this year; with many first-time players, the girls have shown great interest in the sport, and have improved their skills hugely. With good playing from every single player, we have stayed together as a team and come through to win quite a few of our matches. With a range of different abilities amongst the group this season, the team have had to encourage each other to see the results.

Anna Frost, Ella Higgins-Anderson, Grace Tushingam and Jessica Baker held strong at the back whilst Ella Lister, Imogen Jones and Emily Sharman have shown impressive skills and determination in attack. A special mention must go to Vivian Lu, who has only just started in goal this year, remaining constantly positive and enthusiastic, and cheering on her teammates throughout the season. All the girls should be very proud of their work this season. ■

Emily Sharman, Grace Tushingam Form 2

## U12

This year's Under 12 hockey squad has been a success, with lots of match opportunities and excellent play from all players. However, a special mention must go to Emily Musgrave, Octavia Elwes, Imogen Jones, Jessica Baker, Alicia Devine and Vivian Lu (goalkeeper), who all accompanied me in playing U12A squad games, which were very successful.

Also, all of the U12B squad played extremely well, with captaincy by Ella Lister. As most of the Form 1 girls, including me, had never played hockey before, this season saw an amazing effort by everyone.

A highlight of the season for me was when the A squad played St Edward's in a 7-a-side match. We dominated the game with the final score being 7-0. This was an amazing achievement, and although we had not known each other for long, we still worked as a team. ■

Anna Frost Form 1

# Boys' Hockey

## 1st XI



With the season starting with a convincing win against Malvern College, a stronger side than our own, I thought we could go on to an almost unbeaten season. However, now looking back, that seems like it was slightly ambitious. That dream flew away as we unluckily lost 3-2 in our next game against St Edward's. This set the tone for the next match, and the next match... and even the next match!

However, fortunes changed when we played St Edward's for the second time, when we were home and had a new striker: he goes by the name 'the rat'. Nobody knows where he comes from, but he did manage to live up to his name and scored on his debut, helping us to beat St Edward's 2-1.

In the next game, he showed everybody that he is more than just 'a rat'; he has some extraordinary skills as demonstrated when he managed to pirouette his way around the defender and put the keeper wrong-footed to give us another victory on the bounce away at King's Gloucester. In my opinion this was the most important game of the season because last year

when we played them, we managed to come back from 5-0 at half-time, to then go on and draw the game 5-5. This year, I wanted us to beat them, but it started by looking like it was going to play out similar to last year's game, with us having to dig deep to ride out the pressure of their attacks. It had to take two sublime goals, one from Damon Young and the other from Luke Nixon, to achieve the victory; but we did it!

This momentum carried on through to our next game where we managed to beat Sir Thomas Rich's, which produced the goal of the season by James Tait (for the second season in a row). This all led up to the final competitive fixture, against Pate's, where we managed to beat them 3-1.

Finally, there was the Old Rendcombians' match where we were able to get the first and only draw of the season at 1-1, despite a controversial disallowed goal. This ended our hockey careers at Rendcomb as the 1st XI team, but who knows which of us will return next year as Old Rendcombians. ■



## 2nd XI

Being captain of the 2nd XI hockey team was a huge honour for me. I had always played for the team and enjoyed supporting the boys. With a side that was labelled as 'the best second team' for a number of years, we thought we were tipped for success. But injuries and bad luck played their part to give us some mixed results, although we did nevertheless play some very good, and enjoyable, hockey.

In training, Mr Stutchbury taught us the mantra of our team, regardless of our talents: work hard, play hard and enjoy yourself. I can genuinely say that I have never enjoyed being part of a sporting team as much as the experience I had with this one.

Unfortunately, during the season I was asked to move to play for the first team. After being sold on a free transfer, my loyalty was questioned; I handed down the badge of captain to the more than able hands of Tom Pethick. However, playing 2nd XI hockey had given me vital skills to go on and become a better player, owing to my personal development, the fantastic team dynamics, and strong sense of sportsmanship. I will never forget my time with the mighty Seconds! ■

Luke Nixon Form 6U

## U15

This year has been a successful one for the Under 15s, despite the number of injuries; every single player has improved and tried the hardest they can. A special mention must go to John Walker, for he worked really hard to earn a hard-fought place in the team.

We played six games, out of which we won two; but unfortunately we were beaten in the remainder. These statistics do not really describe how well we played or how hard we fought to win each hockey match. The quality of hockey was very high and we put up good performances against some formidable teams. Our two wins were against Marlborough School (5-2) and Dean Close School (5-0); both were very good games – we had some great passing moves and strong team-play.

More mentions must go to Harry Major (our top goal scorer, who scored eight goals overall); and Robert McLaughlin, who made many plays down the middle. Dylan Evans was the most improved player of the season; and, finally, a special mention goes to Ed Bogue, who scored three goals in his first time playing hockey. ■

Oliver Heneghan Form 4

## U14

The U14 boys played twelve matches with six wins, one draw, and five losses. We began our season with a new coach, new players, and an overall a team that had never played hockey together. We played well as a team throughout the term, fighting hard through Welsh rain, hot sun, and hail.

One of the most memorable matches was the game against Marlborough College, where we faced a physical side who fought well in the midfield. However, with excellent tackling from Josh Timmis and clinical finishing from Joel Frost, they were no match for us, with Rendcomb beating them 3-0.

Over the whole year we had players who thrived in every position with the solid defence of Toby Tatar-Mills, James Nickson and probably our most improved player in the team, Asier Barranco Salegui. Our goalkeeper was Tom May who saved us with his spectacular saves every game. In deep midfield was Josh Timmis who again improved massively this season, especially on his defensive skills. Then in attacking midfield were Alex Dennett, Sam Jones and Andrew Chen or super-sub, Bob Tharme. Our attacking was impressive with our star striker Joel Frost and our fast wingers, Robert Sharman and either James Duckworth or Tomotaka Ishiyama. I am looking forward to next season where I hope we can continue this progress in the same winning form. ■

Mr E Thomason



## U13A

The U13A team got off to a good start this season with a narrow loss to Prior Park and a win against St Edward's. These two matches, as well as the rest, showed off our skill, passing and determination. The season went slightly downhill from there with a sequence of narrow losses to teams like Bloxham, Cheltenham College and Rougemont. Although losing these matches, our heads never dropped and we carried on playing the wide passing game that we are used to, leading to many chances on goal; but due to narrow miscalculations we could not always find the back of the goal.

Our midfielders controlled most of the game play in all matches, and the key man making all the decisions was Oliver Jones. He led the team very well through the middle and created many chances on goal onto which our forwards, Rafael Torregrosa-Jones and William Nichol, could latch. The defence was fairly strong and consisted of Thomas Finch, Jack Stanton-Cole, Marls Aspinall and myself; owing to some slip-ups in marking, we gave the stronger teams chances to shoot. These shots had to be amazing to get past our solid wall of a goalkeeper, Morgan Seatter-Messer. Even the most brilliant humans have flaws, though, and this led to a couple of goals in most matches.

The whole team played brilliantly together and I hope this connection is continued, not just on the playing field, but in any other challenge life throws at us. ■

Henry Holloway Form 2



## U13B

This hockey season has been very rewarding for the U13B team with lots of hard work and effort going into our training drills. Our stick and tackling skills have progressed massively through countless training sessions, with many players showing great promise and capability to be great players next year. With every match our confidence has grown and as we have found ourselves playing more challenging teams, a rising sense of determination has occurred.

Over these last few weeks, in Lent Term, our awareness of space and our marking scheme have moved on greatly from the season start, coupled with fantastic play and match-saving performance by our well trained goalie, Joe Brewer, and great match-saving hits by our sweeper, Percy Vincent. With the cricket season right around the corner, we can't wait to get stuck into our sport next season. ■

Robert Segrave-Daly Form 2



# Lacrosse

## 1st XII



The lacrosse season 2014 was certainly filled with many highs and lows. The very first games of the season saw us take on Malvern St James and Cheltenham Ladies' College. Both games proved a tough challenge for our team; we were all a bit rusty, and made some basic errors, ensuring wins for the opposition.

However, the team was determined to put up a fight throughout the season. We took on Sherborne School for Girls one Saturday afternoon and played an incredible game of lacrosse to secure a 7-4 victory. This was the first time that Rendcomb have ever beaten Sherborne having lost to them in the final at the National Schools Tournament in sudden death two years in a row.

Another significant Saturday was when we played against St Mary's, Calne and Godolphin; despite not being victorious in either, the scores were fairly close considering the size of both schools.

On the last Saturday of term we travelled to Marlborough College to play against CLC, St Mary's, Marlborough, Wellington

and Westonbirt. After a short warm-up we took on CLC hoping to beat them this time round; however, playing on a shortened pitch didn't suit our style of play and led to a third victory for CLC. After a narrow defeat to Marlborough 3-2 we took on Westonbirt – a team we had beaten earlier in the season; but due to our inability to shoot, we drew 3-3. Wellington was up next, and we secured a comfortable win giving us the confidence that we could beat St Mary's. In a hard-fought game the final score showed a draw, which was unfortunate as a win was possible!

Our final game of the season against MSJ was also mine and Bliss McFarlane's final ever game for Rendcomb along with some of the Fifth Form pupils: we travelled to Malvern looking for a win. In a close first half, with goals at both ends, the half-time score was 6-4 to us. However, we wanted a solid win, so put 5 goals past the MSJ keeper in the second half leaving the score 11-7 to Rendcomb.

Bliss and I would like to wish Cerys Davies and Rozy Baynham both best of luck in captaining the 2015 1st XII. ■

Lucy Kernon Form 6U

## 2nd XII

This lacrosse season was the best season in my experience. We learnt so much – not only about building confidence, but also the importance of communication and of teamwork.

To be honest, I was not a big fan of lacrosse at first; however, through practice, I found lacrosse is much easier than I thought. Everybody in our team works hard during practice and tries their best in every game.

Building up our team was always really difficult; nevertheless, I believe we did a great job and our team is the best. Although we are a new and small team, we did have a number of good games. Thanks so much to everybody, but especially to our goalkeeper, Christine – you saved so many shots and were a great leader as our captain. We always worked hard and never gave up; I am so proud of our team! ■

Dorothy Guo Form 6U



## U15

The Under 15s had an eventful lacrosse season, facing tough competition; often against schools much bigger than ours that play lacrosse in both the Michaelmas and Lent Terms. Despite this, all team members showed real commitment, always competing to the best of their ability and never giving up; even when Top Pitch threw the harshest winds and snow our way!

The season got better and better as the girls gained more confidence and experience. We had a number of girls who had never played lacrosse before and it was great to see them improve throughout the season. Winning the 50:50 balls could swing the game in our favour and we quickly learned that it was crucial that we battle for 50:50 ball. As such, we spent a lot of practice time learning to compete against one another, especially on draws and ground balls.

We're all looking forward to playing with the senior teams next year, especially because some players were fortunate enough to play with them a bit at the National and Small Schools Tournaments.

Massive thanks must go to Ellie Jones for another fantastic season as goalie. She was consistent throughout the season and was always an integral part of our performance. There's no doubt that she will be just as important with the 1st XII in future years as she continues to improve. ■

Eleanor Brealy, Georgia Pethick Form 4



## U14

With a majority of the team having never played lacrosse before, the U14 squad had a very positive and exciting season. We thought it was going to be a learning year, but we surprised the coaches with a fantastic effort that led to some notable performances: only mere losses to very strong squads from Stowe and St Mary's, Calne; a smashing defeat against Tudor Hall; an indoor victory under pressured circumstances against Westonbirt; and a stellar performance at the Marlborough St Patrick's Day Tournament. It was also the first time the Rendcomb U14 squad participated in the National Schools Lacrosse Tournament. Facing a very tough group at the start of the day, the team was unsuccessful in progressing to the second stage of the day, but had tremendous efforts against larger schools with more experience. ■

Miss A Kelly

## U13

The lacrosse season went very well across the term for the Under 13s. We started off undefeated and continued to win for weeks until we got defeated by the Westonbirt team, but that didn't stop us from fighting and winning!

Since the Under 13s was a really small squad, we were joined by some Under 12s. All the players played extremely well, especially Grace Tushingham, Ella Higgins-Anderson, Emily Sharman, Ella Lister, Anna Frost and Jessica Baker.

Well done to all the players, and the Under 12s who had to play for the year above; you were all magnificent. ■

Eve Harker Form 2

## U12

This year's lacrosse season has been a really good term full of fun new fixtures and tournaments. As a new group, none of us had really played that much lacrosse before, so starting with the basics and working our way up was a challenge for all of us. The team was captained by Jessica Baker and Anna Frost, and Emily Musgrave was our goalkeeper. With a strong goalie, and good attack and defence, we found ourselves winning matches and having lots of fun, too. ■

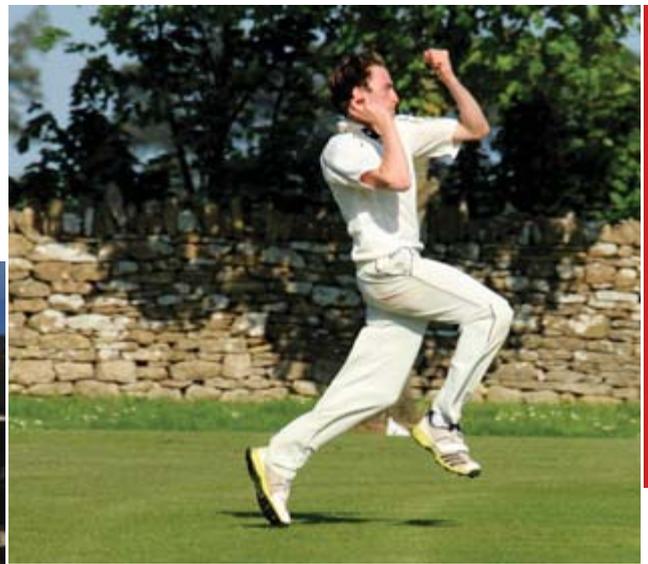
Ella Lister Form 1

# Lacrosse Overview

The 2014 season was another great success for Rendcomb College

TEAM	PLAYED	WON	LOST	DREW	GOALS FOR	GOALS AGAINST
All teams	94	41	41	12	437	474
U12/U13	16	10	3	3	90	58
U14	19	10	7	2	98	85
U15	11	0	11	0	27	106
2nd XII	11	1	10	0	24	94
1st XII	37	20	10	7	198	131

# Cricket



## 1st XI

Although this season has been a short one, it has shown some exceptional performances, both individually and as a team. As captain, and in my final season of Rendcomb cricket, it wasn't the results that I cared about most; it was the way we played the game.

Our first two games began with back-to-back victories against St Edward's School and Cokethorpe School. The first was played at home where we batted first in a 20/20 format. With contributions from all of our middle order, we posted a total of 134 which proved to be too many for St Edward's to get owing to our energetic and slick fielding, which continued throughout the season. Our next fixture against Cokethorpe was again a 20/20 owing to the threat of rain. However, we batted first and posted a score of 145. This happened to be my proudest moment as a Rendcomb cricketer as I managed to score a century; the celebration of my teammates, coaches and father as I scored a boundary to get to three figures is a special moment for me, and something I will never forget. However, with the job only half done, we again fielded superbly and managed to bowl Cokethorpe out with the last

ball of the match. What must be mentioned is Tom Pethick's six-wicket innings; as an off-spinner, at any level, this is a terrific achievement.

Unfortunately, the next two games against Sir Thomas Rich's and Gloucester Gypsies were both losses. We still fought well, as Bob Lambie made his maiden 50 for Rendcomb against Sir Thomas Rich's and we made 174 in our 40 overs. Sadly, this was not enough as Tommy's won with just six balls to spare. This was a hard defeat to take after a promising start to our batting as we looked set to make 200 with some more hard work in the field; it was ultimately a game that slipped away.

Next saw the visit of Gloucester Gypsies. This was a timed game in which we fielded first. In the hot sun, with a lot of overs to bowl, we restricted Gypsies to 200: a lot of runs, but a score we were not far from getting as we were bowled out for 178. Against a men's team, we did very well to get as close as we did; special mention has to go to Damon Young who looked as though he could win us the game with a splendid 48.

Our successes were a high, but our lows were higher. If a mistake was made, everyone was there to support each other, always there to lift morale; with this quality a team can always be successful.

I wish Rendcomb cricket the best of luck for the future and hope that the game is played in the right manner, as that is half the trick to being successful. ■

Howard Auster Form 6U



## U14

The U14s have enjoyed a very successful season. The team has played four matches; not as many as the school had planned for us, but a lot of the abandoned matches have been owing to rain. We won three out of four games, with some very convincing wins!

Our first win was only in the second week of term, so as some people hadn't played since last season, we were a bit rusty. We bowled first with our strong bowling attack; wickets didn't come quick, but as we brought on our next bowlers, the wickets started to fall. There was some very good bowling from Luke Hall, Sam Jones and Josh Timmis. Leighton Park put a big score of 148 on the board. We decided to open with a risky choice of Josh, partnered with an experienced opener in James Nickson. Josh stayed in for five overs and when he got out, I came to the crease. With James, we really started to lift up the run-rate with some great shots. James then got out on 29 with Toby Mills to come in; a few overs later, I reached fifty in – what I am told – was a controlled and stylish way! By this point, Toby was really starting to get some runs and hitting big shots! With five overs left, we needed 39 runs to win, so after an inspirational speech from our coach Dylan, we started to go all out. We needed six to win and we had one and a half overs. I was on strike and went for the big six but was caught on the boundary for seventy runs. Toby finished the game off, getting a score of twenty-two not out.

We lost our next game, against Malvern College, from losing our openers quickly. The highlights of this game were 43 for Toby and 37 for myself. Wickets came from Josh, Luke, Toby, Alex Dennett and Bob Tharme. We won the match very convincingly.

Our last match of the season was against Wycliffe; I won the toss and chose to bat first. Alex and James opened the batting; James got out early. I came out to try push the runs along and reached fifty closely followed by Alex. Alex got out on 58 after putting on a 97 partnership for the wicket. We finished our innings with 193, myself not out on 61. We bowled them all out for 55 with wickets coming from Alex, Joel, Josh, Bob and Toby – so a pretty convincing victory! ■

Joel Frost Form 3

## U13A

The U13 cricket team started with a match against The Elms. We began by batting but unfortunately we did not build a very high score; however, we had some good fours from Rafael Torregrosa-Jones and Marls Aspinall. Although the lower end of the batting order showed great potential, when it was their turn to bat they only had to score 39. We managed to take some good wickets and managed to keep their run rate low, but eventually after 13 overs they managed to get 39 and the game was done. From that match we found our weaknesses and we worked on them.

Unluckily there was more disappointment in the next matches, as again we could not get a high enough score in our batting. But also in these matches we took some spectacular wickets, especially from the younger bowlers.

In the last match of the season against St Edward's, our luck turned around. We won the toss and we chose to bowl. Every bowler bowled well and a special mention must go to Rafael Torregrosa-Jones for his amazing delivery that broke the bales. Our opposition only scored 76 runs leaving us in an optimistic frame of mind. Our openers started off well though unfortunately William Nichol got out, followed by further cheap wickets until Thomas Breare came in and with Oliver Jones stayed in for the rest of the innings, allowing Oliver to get the team's high score of the season of 55. ■

Henry Holloway Form 2

## U13B

The U13B squad may not have had the most successful season ever, but I believe a squad of mostly inexperienced players has put up a very good fight against much larger schools that have a much bigger selection of players to choose from.

I think the most valuable thing that the squad can take away from this season is getting more experience, confidence and the ability to work as a team; all things that they can use in future years of playing cricket and other sports.

I wish to thank the whole squad for playing so well and not giving up, and Mr Mbanga for coaching the squad so well and making it fun. In particular, I would like to mention a special thanks to Josh Carr, Charlie Pugh and James Hurley for helping me and the rest of the squad through a rather difficult season. ■

Thomas Finch Form 2

# Tennis

## 1st VI

This season for the 1st VI has been an anomaly. Why? We have barely been punished by the British weather, allowing us to actually play our tennis matches. Surprisingly enough, it has been the heat that has provided a difficulty that we have had to face; with multiple deuces, some games seemed never-ending, but with perseverance we succeeded in the end. Nonetheless, a challenging season has only played to our advantage: playing against stronger teams has allowed us to perform to our full potential, keeping our standards as couples high.

We have faced schools exceeding our size multiple times and emerged with impressive results: we narrowly lost 6 sets to 5 against Westonbirt, where our reluctance to approach the net from the baseline, according to Miss Bell, was part of the reason that we did not make those all-important break points. As a squad, we then fought back against Pangbourne winning 5 sets to 4, and continued our success playing Wycliffe winning 6 sets to 5. This season has seen some fabulous volleys from Olivia Witts and Cerys Davies; powerful serves from Rozy Baynham; spinning shots from Olivia Ellis and Francesca Parshall; as well as great pairwork and communication between Paula Noldeke and Kitty Reeves.

From practice in the sunshine to the matches in the humidity, all the girls involved in tennis this season have been enthusiastic, entertaining and excelled in their approach to tennis whether in a competitive situation or not; however, for some of us, (myself included) there is never a match without a little competition! ■

Kathryn Rew Form 6L



### U15

The U15 tennis team had a smashing season, with many triumphs. The team improved throughout the term and showed great tenacity. Although challenged by competing with lots of larger schools, we always came out with our heads held high and gave 100%. Thank you to all of our coaches, the catering staff, the parents and supporters and of course the effort that all of the team gave. We are all looking forward to the 2015 tennis season. ■

Eleanor Brealy Form 4

### U14

Although the 2014 Summer Term was short, the weather has mainly been fair, and so a good amount of tennis has been played, along with seven hard-fought fixtures, which all showed our tennis players at their best.

In our Games lessons, we have been developing all-round skills, with a few focused sessions on volleying and also improving match play. The skills we learnt were put to the test in the games we played against other schools, and will also benefit us for our next season. ■

Clare Farnham Form 3



### U13A

Rendcomb's U13A tennis team has battled hard for victory in all the fixtures this term. The players have practised hard, played hard, and fought valiantly against every competitor that had dared take them on. All of this hard work paid off, as the partners excelled in every game; not always by winning, but by learning from their mistakes. The U13s have all shown a vast amount of potential and have all enjoyed Miss Bell's fun and educational lessons. For the U13s, this year has been a great opportunity to take the sport seriously, and show competitors what we can achieve. This squad has done tennis justice, and has made everyone very proud. We are all, of course, sad that this prosperous tennis season has drawn to a close, but with the triumph and wisdom that we have taken from this term, we all look forward to next year with confidence. ■

Ella Higgins-Anderson Form 2

### U13B

Rendcomb tennis has been amazing: good matches, good games, good points, good rallies and overall good shots all committed by the Rendcomb girls on the tennis court. We have loved learning all the different techniques, improving lengths of rallies and tactics in every games session. Miss Bell and Miss Hebert are incredible coaches.

During the Summer Term, we have played Bloxham, Westonbirt, Farmor's, Pangbourne and many other enjoyable fixtures. We won against Bloxham and Farmor's, but unfortunately other teams were very strong so we were not able to beat them; however, many matches were very close. ■

Octavia Elwes Form 1



# Representative Honours

## Sam Tushingham

Wales Fencing

## Ed Bogue

Gloucestershire U15 Rugby

## Robert McLaughlin

Irish Exiles U16 triallist

## Alex Dennett

U14 Junior Regional Performance Centre (Hockey)

## Joel Frost

U14 District Cricket

## James Nickson

Wiltshire U15 Cricket

Gloucestershire Tennis

## Oliver Jones

SW U14 Hockey (Captain)

Gloucestershire Tennis

## Harry Baker

Gloucestershire Tennis

## Lucy Kernon

U19 Gloucestershire/Worcestershire Lacrosse

## Bliss McFarlane

England U19 National Academy &

U19 Gloucestershire/Worcestershire Lacrosse

## Rozy Baynham

Wales U19 & U19 Gloucestershire/Worcestershire Lacrosse

## Cerys Davies

U19 Gloucestershire/Worcestershire Lacrosse

## Olivia Witts

England U19 National Academy &

U19 Gloucestershire/Worcestershire Lacrosse

## Pascale Summers

U19 Gloucestershire/Worcestershire Lacrosse

## JoJo Bock

Austria & U15 Gloucestershire/Worcestershire Lacrosse

## Eleanor Brealy

England U17 National Academy &

U15 Gloucestershire/Worcestershire Lacrosse

## Ellie Jones

Junior Development Centre (Hockey)

England U17 National Academy &

U15 Gloucestershire/Worcestershire Lacrosse

## Rebecca Breare

Junior Development Centre (Hockey)

U15 Gloucestershire/Worcestershire Lacrosse

## Orlagh Brennan

Futures Cup finalist (Hockey)

U15 Gloucestershire/Worcestershire Lacrosse

## Grace Knapp

Junior Development Centre (Hockey)

U15 Gloucestershire/Worcestershire Lacrosse

Gloucestershire Tennis

Gloucestershire Athletics (U15 County 1500m champion)

## Clare Farnham

Gloucestershire Tennis

## Maddie Morgan

U15 Gloucestershire/Worcestershire Lacrosse

## Emily Sharman

Junior Development Centre (Hockey)

## Jessica Baker

Gloucestershire Tennis

## Emily Musgrave

Junior Performance Centre (Hockey)

# Sports Events

## Jonny Wilkinson Cup



Rendcomb hosted the inaugural Jonny Wilkinson Cup in mid-November, a tournament for 1st XV teams from smaller independent schools. Boys representing Ewell Castle, Kingsley, Newcastle School for Boys, Oswestry, Rendcomb, Sibford and St David's played group matches on Saturday before going into the sharp end of the competition on Sunday morning. The weekend was a good advertisement for school sport and was keenly supported by Rendcomb parents, pupils and staff. Parents generously gave of their time and expertise in supporting catering at the event, as well as making their vocal presence felt on the sidelines.

The final saw Newcastle School for Boys defeat Oswestry 36-0 after a series of impressive performances all weekend, taking the trophy back to the city where Jonny Wilkinson spent twelve years of his illustrious career as a Falcons player. There was perhaps something poetic about this result coming on the weekend that marked the tenth anniversary of the injury-time drop-kick that saw England seal a famous World Cup victory over Australia.

The host team played magnificently throughout the weekend. At the end of Saturday, Rendcomb were not only undefeated but also had not conceded any points; however, the victories did not come without a cost as the injury list

lengthened. Sunday morning brought a stiff semi-final against a rejuvenated Oswestry side, which Rendcomb lost by the narrow margin of 8-11. This loss set up the challenge of a third-place play-off place against Ewell Castle. 3-15 down at half-time, remarkable Rendcomb fought back with a gutsy second-half performance to win 19-15 in the final seconds of a tense encounter in front of a nervous home crowd.

The tournament was the brain-child of Rendcomb's former Director of Sport, Mike Slark, who was enjoying his final rugby season at Rendcomb at the time. 'I was very proud of the way our boys played; for ten minutes in the first game on Saturday, they played perfect rugby and the way that they fought back against Ewell Castle on Sunday will live long in the memory. It was a pleasure to host teams from across the country, and rugby was the winner this weekend with good spirit adhered to throughout the tournament. Well done to all involved, and to Newcastle School for Boys for being the first name on the trophy generously supported by the Wilkinson family.'

Thank you to the Home Team: Messers Slark, Marsden and Ferreira; Sister Julie and the Wiltshire Ambulance Service; the RCPA and a courageous and resilient 1st XV. ■

Headmaster



## Gloucester v. Japan

In November 2013, pupils from the top-end of the Junior School and the lower years of the Senior School had the honour of being invited to the Gloucester v. Japan rugby match to act as 'Guards of Honour' and individual mascots for the players from both sides. When we arrived, we all sat at the front in anticipation, but it just so happened that we were two hours early. So what better to do then to take a look around? We had a comprehensive backstage tour at Kingsholm courtesy of Gary Little and saw the history of the club right from its origins in 1873.

When the time came, we all lined up, and as the players strode by, we each latched onto a team member and marched onto the pitch. No-one but the Japanese players knew the Japanese national anthem, except for our good friend Tomo, a Japanese student in Form 3 at Rendcomb. The game started, and in the end, after a nervous start, Gloucester crushed Japan with a score of 40:5.

This was the first rugby match I've ever been to, and it will be the one that I never forget. ■

Lucas Boyer Form 2

## Small Schools' Invitational Lacrosse Tournament

In March, the 1st Lacrosse team travelled to Manchester for the Small Schools' Invitational Tournament. An early Sunday morning start soon gave way to a winning start for the squad, and ultimately a record-breaking result. The girls took on the likes of St Leonard's, Barnard Castle and Uppingham first, winning all by scorelines: 4-0, 11-0 and 9-0. It wasn't until the fourth game – a 4-0 win over Oakham – that the defence allowed a shot on goal and through that game caused ten turnovers.

Despite midday's let-up, the girls still managed to secure a 3-1 over Ampleforth College in the next game before returning to top form for a 9-0 win over Sedbergh. The undefeated record helped the girls' confidence heading into the toughest match of the day against Glenalmond College; this finished with an interesting 5-4 scoreline in Rendcomb's favour, which yielded the top seed for the knockout round. The semi-finals brought a re-match with earlier competitor, Sedbergh. Despite a rocky start, the girls played spectacular defence and managed to find the back of the net throughout the match to end up winning 5-0.

The finals had Rendcomb pitted against Glenalmond again. The Scottish foes were eager for a win this time, determined to take the cup back to Scotland. But another amazing defensive performance, including some phenomenal saves from goalkeeper Lucy Kernon, gave Rendcomb the 3-2 victory. With that, Rendcomb was named the Small Schools Champion for the fourth time ever, and the third time in four years. The squad finished with an unprecedented 9 wins, 52 goals in their favour, 7 conceded points, 10 saves and 23 caused turnovers. ■

Mrs K Coups



## National Schools Lacrosse Championships

The 1st Lacrosse team travelled to the Surrey Sports Park for the Rathbones National Schools Lacrosse Championships, which ran over two days at the end of February.

On the first day, Rendcomb fought hard against Lady Eleanor Hollis School, last year's and this year's runners-up, but fell a bit short in a 4-2 loss. This score became a theme throughout the day, as we lost 4-2 to local rival CLC and beat Haileybury 4-2. The other fixtures proved to be slightly stressful with two draws: 2-2 against St Helen's and St Katherine's and 3-3 against Harrogate Ladies'.

Once Friday's final matches had been played, the schools were broken up into four divisions based on their performance throughout the day: Championship, Division 1, Division 2 and Division 3. Rendcomb was seeded in Division 1 for the first time ever.

On Saturday, we took on a strong Benenden side that went on to win Division 1, ultimately losing 2-0. Next up was another strong side of Walthamstow Hall, who won the National U15s tournament last year; this saw our side go up 2-0 and later tie 3-3 before Walthamstow eventually pulled ahead 5-3. The girls secured their first victory of the day against North London Collegiate (3-1) before advancing to the knockout phase of the day.

First up, was London powerhouse, St Paul's Girls' School. This proved to be a tough match with both sides trading goals throughout the match, and tying 3-3 close to the end of the game. The defence made a great stop and through some great transition passing, the girls managed to get the ball into the attacking end. With less than five seconds left, Olivia Witts scored the game's winning goal to secure this unprecedented win that advanced Rendcomb to the quarterfinals.

Running on adrenaline and jelly babies, the girls took on and disposed of Bolton Girls' School 5-0 en route to the semi-finals. It was there they met up with St Helen's and St Katherine's again, but unfortunately we were not victorious in a 4-1 defeat. Despite the loss, Rendcomb's 1st Lacrosse squad is now ranked twentieth in UK. ■

Mrs K Coups





Enrichment

# Duke of Edinburgh

## Bronze D of E

Four groups set off from four different locations in the Stow area on a bright Saturday in May and the expedition was under way. My group got off to a great start; a local passer-by confidently informed us that we were going the wrong way, but she had no clue where we were going in the first place!

We were aiming to complete the 17 km walk/trek to get to Stow Rugby Club. Climbing up hills and crawling through woods, we made it to our destination ten minutes after Thomas Godwin's group. The fun really started when we had to set up our tents – which can 'make or break' a man. This tested James Sinfield and Oliver Heneghan to the limit when they discovered that they should have checked their inner liners as, unfortunately, theirs were not the right ones for their tent! A few ingenious sewing skills were put to the test and... failed. They settled for some good old-fashioned 'man stuff' and found some corrugated iron and old tyres to use as weights – all good D of E problem-solving! We dined *alfresco* with Pot Noodles and pasta in a mug; a feast fit for kings. We chilled out for the rest of the evening and got to sleep ready for the next day ahead of us.

Quarter past six (am): "Max, time to get up". Twenty-three minutes past: "Max, you really need to get up now." Twenty-five minutes past: "MAX, YOU REALLY NOW NEED TO GET OUT OF BED; WE DISCUSSED THIS LAST NIGHT; WHY AREN'T

YOU UP ?!" Our dulcet tones alerted the rest of the camp to the new day...

Eventually when Max had woken up, we set off again. We pushed on through, fighting against the hills and avoiding the cows which Max referred to as 'the Velociraptors of the English countryside'. A slight miscalculation resulted in us picking our way over asparagus crops (sorry), but we got back on track quickly and ploughed on through the rest of our route.

At last, we came to our meeting point where Mrs Read and Mr Marsden could see all our antics (being carefully hidden around a corner) whilst we tried to stalk towards the minibus unseen! After a final debrief, we knew we were on our way towards the end. We had one large push to get back to our finishing point, aiming to ensure we made it back to the bus in a positive frame of mind, even though people were tired and cranky.

D of E was a truly eye-opening experience that was very character-revealing: putting us up against the elements (it rained a lot) and showing us how to work as a team when we were really tired and really hungry, but all groups cracked on and did it; the 100% pass was a testament to our hard work. I feel these skills will definitely be of benefit to us in times to come. ■

Robert McLaughlin Form 4

## Shooting



### Clay Shooting at Millfield

In the midst of a gruelling Michaelmas Term, 13 members of the Rendcomb shooting team had the opportunity to travel to Millfield School for the Millfield Challenge. The team performed incredibly well, with the A team finishing third overall behind the host school's A and B teams.

The A team's 'high gun' was Miles McKeown and the B's James Sinfield, both registering an impressive score of 31. Cerys Davies was the ladies 'high gun' with a score of 24.

The College also defeated schools nearly twice our size such as Bradfield College, Cheltenham College, King's High, Sherbourne School, Solihull College and Wellington College. This is a tremendous achievement on its own; but also the students are only able to shoot once a week as shooting is just one of Rendcomb's many extracurricular activities. ■

Miss C Hebert

## Gold D of E

I have been on the D of E expeditions three times: two gold practices, and one the real thing with an assessor. I have to say that it is tough and tiring owing to the long periods of walking. It is not just about walking at least eight hours every day; it also includes the effects of weather, altitude, and temperature.

Before the expedition starts, we have to plan the routes (special thanks to Brodie, best planner ever), which should be within an exact range of distance; book the campsites; buy an appropriate amount of food so that it is neither too heavy to carry, nor too little to eat. All these things have to be done independently.

Then it is all about surviving. We learned how to calculate the time of rest and amount of water; we learned how to deal with blisters and bruises properly (and to take painkillers properly!); we learned teamwork by supporting each other and cheering up each other. Most importantly, we also learned how to secure a tent tightly so that it won't be blown away.

Navigation is vital on an expedition; this challenging work can either be done one after another, or by the best person. Things always happened to me, like I pointed out a bearing, and then I found my compass was broken, but the direction still proved to be right.



In the evening, we set up the pots and started to cook our supper; there is such a satisfaction when eating food cooked by ourselves. Sleeping in a sleeping bag gives a different feeling from sleeping on a bed: though less comfy, it is more fun.

When walking along the edge of the cliff, the silence and beauty of nature made it a pleasure to have come on an expedition. Beautiful scenery lies everywhere waiting for us to explore. Although we were not welcomed in some places (a marsh is terrible, it makes your feet wet for the whole day), these are wonderful places that we have explored. ■

Jerry Pan Form 6L

## Lower School Squad at Harrow

At the end of February, the school sent three teams (As, Bs and a staff team) to Churchills, a shooting ground on the other side of Oxford. There were six stands and a flurry at the end, where you shoot 100 clays in a team of four.

Having been given the briefing, we set off in our teams. After finishing all the stands, we went over to the flurry. It must be mentioned that when it was the staff team's turn, they impressively shot 98 of 100 clays! Needless to say, our staff team won the Teachers' Cup... even though they were in fact the only teachers' team!

After seeing how keen the opposition were, the pupils didn't initially have such high hopes as there were a number of inexperienced shooters in the team. However, our squad had a strong performance and a high finish. Of the 19 teams competing, we finished eighth, outgunning Harrow, Eton and Millfield, among others.

Additionally, three Rendcomb pupils ranked in the Top 25 shooters with team 'high guns' Harry Newman and Jacob Crosier-Davis ranking 16th and 17th respectively, and myself ranking 23rd. ■

James Sinfield Form 5



# First Form Adventure Weekend



Twenty-nine pupils participated in the First Form Adventure Weekend in the magnificent landscape of Shropshire at Manor Adventure at the beginning of the Michaelmas Term 2013.

The first of several activities was Raft Building. This brought the pupils together as a community of individuals who helped one another with the tasks which contributed to the construction of a highly successful raft, capable of carrying a whole year group at once! Most ended up in the lake at some point.

Other activities were High Ropes and the Confidence Course. These proved to be a challenge for most, but those who did struggle were helped with the encouragement from their fellow classmates; all those who made it across the small and treacherous ropes were praised for their accomplishment.

Next on the agenda was the Obstacle Course – pupils had to carry a large and very heavy canoe through an obstacle course, which required strength and determination. Although the weight was heavy, most of the groups managed to carry the mini vessel through the course in a respectable time.

Fencing proved to be a difficult task for some; however, others exceeded expectations, with a handful of pupils showing great talent for the sport. The battles took place in a rustic wood, making the fencing seem even more effective and breath-taking.

The last activity was Survival, where they were given the challenge to make a shelter big enough for their group, using a waterproof poncho, three ropes and some branches.

What a great start to the year they had! ■

Bob Tharme Form 3



# Riding Weekend

Nine students jumped into a minibus and headed to the Pembrokeshire coast in West Wales for the first exeat of the Michaelmas Term. Four hours later, we arrived at Nolton Stables, and almost immediately we all went to bed. It was so nice to have a long sleep! On Saturday morning, we began our day with breakfast at 7:45 am, before mounting our horses at 8:30 am.

We rode for two and a half hours through woods and fields, and along the beach, before grabbing a quick lunch that Mr Coups had prepared; then we went for a further three hour ride on a different beach. After such a long day, we were all starving but Mr Coups had prepared another delicious meal that included leeks with bacon, Spanish chicken, and cottage pie. It was just so good to get a big meal after a whole day of exercise!

The next morning, despite some aches and pains, we headed out for another two and a half hour ride before returning home. All in all, it was a great weekend of riding, filled with a lot of wonderful experiences. If I had another year at Rendcomb, I would like to go again next time! ■

Dorothy Guo Form 6U



# Special Events



## Dance Challenge

The annual Dance Challenge, at the end of September 2013, provided students from throughout the Senior School with an opportunity to express their dancing abilities and their levels of enthusiasm. Students were given a song and two hours to create an adventurous routine to be performed in front of the eagerly awaiting audience in the Dulverton Hall.

After a gruelling two hours of hard work and practice, the performers were ready to shine. Mr Hornsby welcomed us all with open arms and a pink suit that shone as much as the performers! We set off on a journey 'Back to the Eighties' with the Form 5 group dazzling us with their neon array of clothing to the song *Bounce*, which definitely warmed up the crowd. Next, we went forward in time to look after the gentle Lower Sixth men as the 'Four Pensioners', who may have broken a hip or two! Then saw the youngest team of all, a pair of brave First Formers, 'Team Cute and Fluffy'. They blew us all away with their impressive use of choreography and synchronization. "They were so adorable," according to Mrs Dodd!

Next came the mixed team of Lower Sixth and Upper Sixth looking rather 'High School Musical' but no... they were the 'Gymnasts, Jocks and General Banter' lot, who showed a snapshot of a stereotypical American high school life.

The penultimate group, 'Hashtag', took their place on the stage and showed creativity and great teamwork, despite being one of the youngest groups that took part in the evening. The Dance Challenge competition would not be complete without a Prefect team, and this year we were enthralled to watch 'Giggidy' take to the stage and show great passion and entertainment through a variety of group sequences.



With the dreaded dance-off on the horizon, the judges, Mrs Dodd, Mr Martin and Mrs Read, returned to the Dulverton, after some intense deliberation, to announce that it would be 'Giggidy' and 'Gymnasts, Jocks and General Banter' who would dance yet again. Both teams exerted all they had into these final dances; after giving it their all, it was left to the judges to decide. After a "very tough decision," it was decided that the team of Alex Pugh, Rozy Baynham, Amelia Brady, Yannis Dimopoulos, James Rose, Kathryn Rew, Tom Pethick and Ed Davies ('Gymnasts, Jocks and General Banter') were to be the winners.

Congratulations to all teams for having the courage to get up on the stage and perform so brilliantly. Thank you to all the judges, Andy Webb for lighting, and of course our compère, Mr Hornsby. Bring on next year! ■

Kathryn Rew, Amelia Brady Form 6L



## Theatresports

In March, Rendcomb College welcomed another terrific Theatresports competition. The judges (Mrs Dodd, Mr Hornsby and Mr Anderson) entered and the audience was introduced to the four awesome acts: Louis and the Croutons, Paps and Caps, Dawdling Along and The International League of Acting Geniuses.

The first round was called 'Storytelling': one of the members of each team telling a story which somebody in the audience had suggested, but they couldn't hesitate, or repeat the same words. Whilst the audience was giving story ideas to one of the presenters, another presenter played games with the rest of the audience. These ranged from 'Granny's Knickers' (someone was asked questions and always had to answer with 'granny's knickers' without laughing), to 'Yes and No'.

The second round was called 'Death in a Minute'. All of the members of each team had to make up a scene from the audience's suggestions, but the catch was that they all had to die (any way they liked) in one minute. This was followed by the 'Envelope Round'. The acts chose an envelope which had in it a time limit (1 minute, 30 seconds or 15 seconds) and task instructions.

The next round was called 'Sonnet, Sermon and Song'. This consisted of the acts doing a scene, but swapping between the different scenarios ('kung fu', 'romance' and 'horror'); they also had to include a nursery rhyme and a sermon. For the last round, the acts produced their own song about Headmaster's Assembly.

At the end of every round the judges had held up their scores. In the end there were joint winners: Paps and Caps and Dawdling Along. The evening finished with a dance/face-off between Head Boy Howard Auster and Christine Khirrecu. The night was a huge blast and everyone enjoyed themselves. ■

Ella Sims Form 2

## Fantastic Fireworks

In November 2013, Rendcomb College had another amazing fireworks night. There were lots of things to do, like going to see the bonfire's sparkling beauty, having witch's hair braids so you could look beautiful, and watching the spectacular fireworks display created by the Works Team.

It all started at 7 pm, with the parents and their children arriving in the car park so they could experience the mighty Rendcomb Fireworks for themselves; meanwhile, Mr Cairns and his men were setting up so that the night could finish with a bang and the House Parents were checking if all the boarders were there.

Everyone was enjoying themselves that night, eating up the last tiny drop of candyfloss, buying ice cream until they were full to the brim, and watching the bonfire until they could memorize every single flame of it.

Then, as they began to want more and more excitement, the fireworks went off. Everyone was whooping and cheering at every single bang, as if they hadn't seen fireworks before in their whole entire lives. We all agreed at the end that they had been amazing, brilliant, beautiful fireworks. ■

Ella Sims Form 2



## Warhorse Workshop

In mid-June, Andy Robertshaw, military and technical advisor to Spielberg during the filming of *Warhorse*, came to Rendcomb to run a workshop for Forms 1 and 2. We went to the Forest School and sat down on logs and listened. Firstly, he talked about the food in the First World War, and explained what other things the emergency rations were used for. He did the same for the Second World War and modern rations, but with a twist at the end – we got to try the modern rations. We had Tex-Mex soup, lamb casserole, and much, much more: they were (surprisingly) very tasty.

During afternoon activity time, Andy Robertshaw also gave Forms 1-4 a talk about how *Warhorse* was filmed, and his role as a historical consultant, and all the funny parts that happened in the filming.

Some fun facts that I learnt on the day were:

1. Spam was introduced in the Second World War.
2. They had different war menus for different countries.
3. There were fifteen different Joeys needed for the filming of *Warhorse*. ■

Ella Sims Form 2

## Potted Shakespeare Festival

The year of 2014 is a special year for fans of the Bard, as this year is Shakespeare's 450th birthday. Here at Rendcomb it was marked in mid-June with an evening of entertainment provided by the dramatic many of the school. Hosted by Alex and Charlie Pugh as the amusing Pucks, the audience was guided between the carefully chosen atmospheric locations around the campus – hallways, terraces and even St Peter's – observing a variety of extracts from the Bard's greatest works, including *Dream, Much Ado, Romeo and Juliet* and *Twelfth Night*.

Entertainment ranged from the intense Max McKeown to the hilarious 'Rendcomb Shakespeare Company', with members of staff (Harries, Hornsby, Hughes, Headmaster, Wyndow) directing short snippets of Shakespeare's best bits from comedy to tragedy to romance, and featuring students from First Form to the Upper Sixth.

The festival was kindly organised by Mr Hornsby who has left his mark on Rendcomb with his direction of the *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* and now the very successful Potted Shakespeare Festival. A huge credit must go to the directors, the actors and the audience for such a wonderful evening. ■

Edward Davies Form 6L



# Harry Potter

## Visit to Harry Potter World

About one hundred lucky pupils from Forms 1 to 4 had the chance to visit Harry Potter World at the end of the Summer Term. First, we were given wristbands to gain passage throughout the studio tour, along with passport booklets, so we could collect stamps along the way. We entered a cinema room and watched a short film introducing the Harry Potter series and main actors.

We walked through the Great Hall door into the Great Hall itself, where we saw some of the costumes and teachers at Hogwarts before going on through to other parts of the set. For example, we were able to see the Gryffindor common room, the boys' dorms, Dumbledore's study, the moving pictures, Malfoy Manor, the Ministry of Magic, Hagrid's hut, and the Weasleys' house. There was also a massive cage storing lots and lots of props, and even a part dedicated to quidditch. At the green screen, we were shown the Gringotts Vault cart, the Weasley's car and Hagrid's motor bike. We were all given the chance to ride on the brooms in the simulator.

We continued outside to see, amongst other things, the night bus, the Dursley family home, the house that belonged to the Potters before it was destroyed by Voldemort, and some of the chess pieces from the wizards' chess game in the second film. Then, heading back inside again, we went into a room with characters' masks; dummies that looked like some of the characters; mechanical props, such as the head for the actor who played Hagrid, and models of some of the magical creatures. Continuing on, we discovered the shops from Diagon Alley: Gringotts Bank, Flourish and Blotts, Madam Malkin's Robe Shop, Ollivander's Wand Shop, Quality Quidditch Supplies, Weasley's Wizard Wheezes and Eeylops Owl Emporium.

After looking at small models of the buildings from the series of films, we came upon a magnificent massive version of Hogwarts Castle, 15 feet tall and 50 feet wide! Nearing the end, we found ourselves in what appeared to be a stockroom full of wands... we had walked into Ollivander's Wand Shop. The shelves were as high as the ceiling and filled with boxes of wands labelled with every character from every film, as well as all the people who helped to make the films.

The trip was a lot of fun and I would definitely go again! ■

Alicia Devine Form 1







Junior School

# Welcome to the Junior School

## Headmaster's Review



In the Summer of 2003 Lynne and I were guests at the Junior School production of *The Wizard of Oz*. Eleven years on I am writing this brief introduction to the Junior School section of *The Rendcombian*, having just seen our brilliant pupils revisit that wonderful musical again! Where did all those years go? Where did 2013-14 go?

Time flies when you are having fun and this is a key aspect of life at Rendcomb. Once again, I am so proud of what our pupils have achieved and truly amazed by the diversity and breadth of their talents. I always await with relish the printing of *The Rendcombian* for it invariably conjures up fantastic memories.

I sincerely hope that when you read this record it will rekindle the feeling of warmth, enthusiasm and fun that is Rendcomb. Enjoy. ■

## Staff News



**Alison Whichelo**

We were fortunate to secure the services of Alison to cover Mr Colls' absence last summer. From day one, she gelled with the pupils who quickly developed a great liking for her enthusiasm, creativity, warmth and care. Alison brings considerable musical experience to our team and it has been a joy seeing the children continue to flourish in music. This has been particularly evident in the phenomenal growth in choir membership, currently approaching fifty J3-J6 pupils!

Hopefully, we can look forward to a long association. ■

Mr M Watson

### Junior School Heads of School:

#### Michaelmas Term:

Head Boy: Alexander Ross  
Head Girl: Rebecca Allen

#### Lent Term

Head Boy: Edwin Ward  
Head Girl: Freya Angus

#### Summer Term:

Head Boy: Rory Hughes  
Head Girl: Carmen Lee



**Tom Layton**

It is hard to believe Tom has been here four years but in that time he has become a key part of Rendcomb and very popular with pupils, parents and staff alike.

Tom has shown himself to be an all-round schoolmaster for his skills and interests are diverse. Primarily he has been a J2 Form Tutor, teacher of IT and Otters' French. However, his influence has been much wider felt. He has taught PE, Games, helped run the Eco team and acted as our light and sound engineer. On top of this, he has done boarding duties in Old Rectory and supported the Senior School Games Dept and most importantly been in charge of the staff football!

Thank you Tom for a great four years of enthusiasm, commitment and friendship.

We wish him every future happiness and success as he gets married to his fiancé Joey this summer and then as they embark on new teaching roles at Pembroke House Prep School, Kenya. ■

Mr M Watson



**Skye Scarlett (Gappie)**

Skye settled very quickly and she immersed herself in Rendcomb life and soon demonstrated many diverse talents. Skye was allocated to support J2 and she supported Mrs Smith and Mr Layton superbly well. Her caring and patient manner made her ideal to work with this age group and the pupils responded well to her.

Organisation was another forte of Skye's and her support on the administrative front proved to be invaluable. Her ability to work under her own initiative was also vital for Skye worked very hard on the costume and prop making front for our productions, most notably Rumpelstiltskin. Thank you Skye, and good luck in your future career. ■

Mr M Watson



**Julia Moyes (Gappie)**

Julia soon found her feet and quickly became involved in many aspects of school life. Within the Junior School her prime role was supporting the PE and Games programme and she certainly made a big impact. An accomplished games player herself, Julia proved to be an effective coach and she developed a great rapport with the pupils. Her work within Godman House, as well as her work as a Teaching Assistant for J3-J6, was valued and much appreciated. Sincere thanks Julia for all your hard work and friendship over the year and best wishes for the future. ■

Mr M Watson

## Anne Haas



Having been appointed as Headmaster of Rendcomb College Junior School in March 2003, one of my first tasks was to select a

Deputy. I chose Anne and the rest, as they say, is history. Over the past 13 years, 11 as Deputy Head, Anne's contribution has been immense and these few words cannot do justice to her.

Rendcomb and Anne's growth and development has been totally entwined. Anne's children, Andrea and Daniel have attended as pupils and Anne has flourished with the responsibility and demands made upon her.

Since I have been at Rendcomb, Anne and I have worked extremely well together and I have always valued and respected her opinion and invariably good counsel.

Across Rendcomb, Anne is much admired and loved and hundreds of pupils have benefitted from her high quality teaching and great humanity.

Rendcomb, and I personally, will miss Anne but it is important to think of her and not ourselves. Anne fully deserves the opportunity to lead her own school and I know that she will do a superb job at The King's School, Gloucester.

Thank you, Anne, for your brilliant contribution to Rendcomb. You have made a positive and lasting impact on so many lives; pupils, parents, colleagues and friends. We are indebted to you and sincerely wish you happiness and success in your first Headship.

Trying to mention what Anne has done at Rendcomb is impossible so hopefully this photo montage will bring back great memories. ■

Mr M Watson





# Eco News

## Eco Team News

The Eco team this year has been kept very busy. We have taken part in nationwide surveys including Switch Off fortnight, the TOTAL Green School Awards and the LV KitAid scheme. It has been run by Miss Rayner and Mr Layton and as normal there have been a fantastically keen and efficient group of children who have taken part from J3 up to J6. Our meetings have been interactive and fun, but also carried a serious message. We have taken care of our environment by litter picking, bird feeding and making sure lights and computer screens have been turned off. The children have represented themselves and the school in an extremely gracious way. We look forward to the new challenges that next year will bring.



J3H Switch off fortnight certificate



J5 Switch off fortnight certificate



LV Kit Aid Presentation



Kit Aid at Kingsholm



Litter Pick



J2 at the pond



Bug Hotel



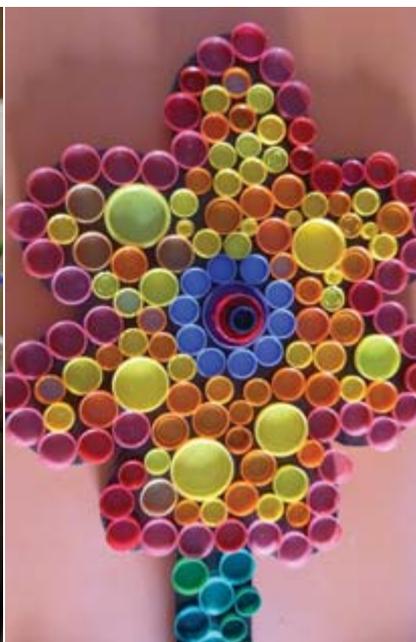
The Bee loving planter was planted by J5 last year



The plants have grown so that this year Year 5 can study the bees



Bee loving plants



*Recycled Bottle top flowers on display at St Peter's Flower Festival*

## Plastic Bottle Tops

Every pupil was asked to collect plastic bottle tops during the Summer term and the response was tremendous. All were put to good use on Big Arts Day and it is always lovely to make use of an item that may end up in a landfill site and to spread the message about re-use or recycle. Well done to all the children in J3-J6 who worked within their houses and the Otters and Nursery classes as they also designed some of the flowers. After two of the flowers were used in the Rendcomb flower festival, we now have 11 stunning flowers which are to be displayed on the playground.

Mrs L Watson



*Mr Layton and the Otters feeding the birds*



*Taking photos of nature*

## Total Green Awards

The Junior School were delighted to learn that they had been awarded two prizes in the recent National competition. Over 35,000 children took part from all over the UK and to receive two prizes is exceptional. The judges in London were impressed with the amount of knowledge the children had acquired and the immense amount of work teachers had put in to encourage the children's interest in the environment.

We were awarded Regional Winner of the 'Totally Creative' category for art work completed in the after school Art Club. The judges liked the various projects using a variety of recycled items which meant that we won £500 and a special certificate for our efforts. Amazingly, we also were given a Highly Commended award for the Totally Active category and an extra £250. This entry included records of Forest School activities and photographic evidence of J5 bee survey. This is a truly outstanding achievement and all the pupils and teachers involved should be congratulated.

Mr M Watson



*Otters photography day*



*Otters with Mrs Smith*

# Forest School Through the Year

## Autumn

Autumn time in Forest School is so much fun. The children enjoyed scooping up leaves into the wheelbarrow and making a huge pile for running and leaping in. The Nursery explored colour through autumn leaf sorting and making leaf kebabs. At Hallowe'en we made witch's potions and broomsticks and enjoyed toasting marshmallows on the fire. The children made nests for birds and dreys for Sidney Squirrel. The J3's have begun weekly Forest School sessions this year with Mrs Breare and Mrs Lee. They have had a fantastic time learning about Myths and Legends and using our wonderful outdoor environment as a setting for plays. The children have also observed growth and seasonal changes by following their own special tree in Forest School and enjoyed making dream catchers, and tree fairies and trolls.



## Winter

Wintertime and a shortage of snow this year! We looked after the birds, making different bird feeders to hang in Forest School. The children took part in lots of mini-beast hunting and we used our brilliant microscope connected to a laptop to observe the bugs closely and take photos. J2 explored measurement and mathematics to discover the oldest tree in Forest School – approximately 180 years old! Forest School has continued to be an extremely popular after school club with both boys and girls. The children have enjoyed taking part in team building games, den building and making collages.



## Spring

Springtime and the Rendcomb snowdrops appeared, followed by the daffodils and bluebells. The Nursery class made stick homes for the Three Little Pigs, dens for Freddie and Fox and enjoyed hunting for rabbit burrows. Reception and J1 made maps and trails for Red Riding Hood, Journey Sticks and worked together to create 'MudLand'. A big thank you must go to Amy Benson, our wonderful sixth form helper who has assisted us for two terms.



## Summer

Summertime in Forest School and our lovely green canopy of leaves has returned and the smell of wild garlic. The children have enjoyed lots of creative activities such as weaving spider's webs, making beaded stick fairy wands, painting with natural paintbrushes and turning Ruby into a beautiful butterfly with symmetrical wings. There has been lots of worm hunting and tree climbing. A team of skilled and enthusiastic parents kindly joined us for our Summer Working Party which yet again was a great success. The main shelter roof was repaired, nettles were strimmed and some new features were created such as a little willow hut, a weaving frame, a new shelter and a lovely table. A big thank you to all.

It has been another busy year in Nursery which has included so many highlights. Here are just a few examples of the learning opportunities on offer in our Nursery class which help the children to grow and develop.



# A year in Nursery

**September:** Exploring our environment helps to stimulate the diversity of children's play experience and contribute to their healthy development.



**October:** Forest school helps children learn from actively investigating the world around them.



**November:** Role-play helps children to try out ideas, feelings and roles. It helps them to retain new learning and integrate it with what they already know. They have the opportunity to re-enact the past and rehearse the future.



**December:** Taking part in nativities helps children to develop their confidence and self-esteem.



**January:** Junk modelling helps to develop their problem solving and fine motor skills.



**February:** Looking at books helps children's emergent literacy skills which are important building blocks toward the day when they will read independently.



**April:** Learning about frogs and tadpoles helps children to build and extend their knowledge, understanding and skills in a way that makes sense to them.



**May:** Trips helps children to get hands-on experiences and they actively observe, learn, and participate in the activities. It strengthens their absorption of the information and critical thinking skills.



**June:** Parents sharing experiences with their children helps to strengthen the bond with them and with us.



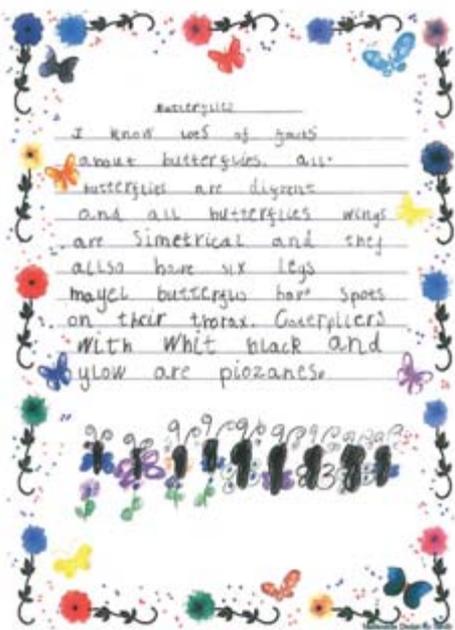
**July:** Learning to make friends is an important part of developing social skills and making children feel secure. Friends help us solve problems and let us know that we are not alone. They provide children with emotional support and role-models for copying.

Celebrating our 100th Day at School



Blackberry Picking

Super handwriting!



Messy Gloop!

## We Love School

The Children in Reception love to come to school. We have had exciting days, blackberry picking, visiting Gifford's circus and celebrating our 100th day at School to name just a few. The children have also been busy developing their skills. They are very clever children!



Ho, Ho, Ho!

## Special Visitors

We have been extremely lucky this year to have some very exciting visitors. The children have loved learning about lots of different topics and have listened very carefully. We now know so much about firefighters, Chinese New Year, first aid and what to do if we need the police. Our most popular visitors were the woolly and furry kind! Thank you to all of the people who have given up their time to talk to us.

# A YEAR IN RECEPTION

Sister



Mrs Major and Radley



Police



Mr Wills and his lambs





*Eric and a chick at the Farm Park*



*Pirate Henry on World Book Day*



*Luca loved spraying the hose!*



*Chloe exploring!*

## The Children

What an exciting year it has been for the Reception Class. Children have joined us from all over the world: China, America, Australia, Hong Kong as well as a little closer to home! We have enjoyed getting to know all about the different places the children have lived. The children have learned so much and have loved developing their skills. All the children are now able to read, write and add numbers. We are very lucky to have had such a lovely class with so many different interests and talents.

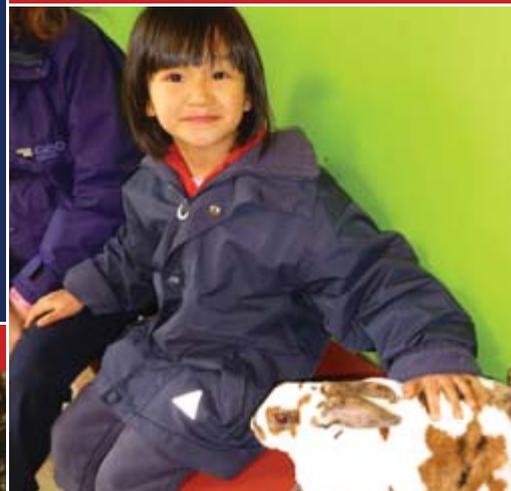


*Super name writing*



*Celebrating Thomas' 5th Birthday*

*Cleodie was a cowgirl in our Nativity*



*Ruby loved the rabbits*



*Firefighter Archie ready for duty!*



*Cooper testing the police officer's handcuffs!*

# J1

This year has been an exciting year for the children in J1 with so many different topics covered. We have learnt about Ourselves, Under the Sea and a whole term on all types of animals. The children have loved writing poems about animals, measuring ingredients to make biscuits and exploring materials to make a shelter for our class pet.



*Grace's snowman for our Christmas display was amazing*



*Willow was interested in exploring old cameras in ICT*



*Bella drew a fantastic picture of a whale during ICT*



*Eliza was great at measuring and stirring the ingredients for our dinosaur biscuits*

The children have learnt so much in all of the subjects we do. We love logging on to the computer in the ICT room, planting beans for our Science and painting in Art. Every day is different and exciting.

*Testing our senses was so much fun!*



*Eloise painted her rock carefully to make it into a Bumble Bee in Art*



*Sayako liked watching our beans growing for our Science work*

Our Maths lessons have included number work, shapes and length and weight. We loved measuring the ingredients to make our dinosaur biscuits and playing games to help us learn.

We have enjoyed our daily Literacy and Maths lessons and have learnt so much. In Literacy we have written stories, recounts and poems and performed these poems fantastically during our Otter's Spring Concert.



Ellie loves playing games in Maths to help her learn



The girls have also loved Forest School this year



Maelys enjoyed listening to so many stories on World Book Day



Esme ordered a rhyming poem in Literacy about an Angel Fish

We have had a number of special days and events this year such as our Christmas party and activities. We liked dressing up for World Book Day.



Emelia loved walking to post her letter home in Geography



We loved our trip to Bristol Aquarium

All of the children have learnt so much this year and have all developed their skills in many subjects. They are very proud of their achievements this year and fun has been had by all.

The children have had a very busy and exciting year. We have been on some wonderful school trips and learnt so much both in and out of the classroom. Here are some of the children's enjoyable moments from over the year.



We had role play fun in our topic about Florence Nightingale



We enjoyed the Florence Nightingale topic



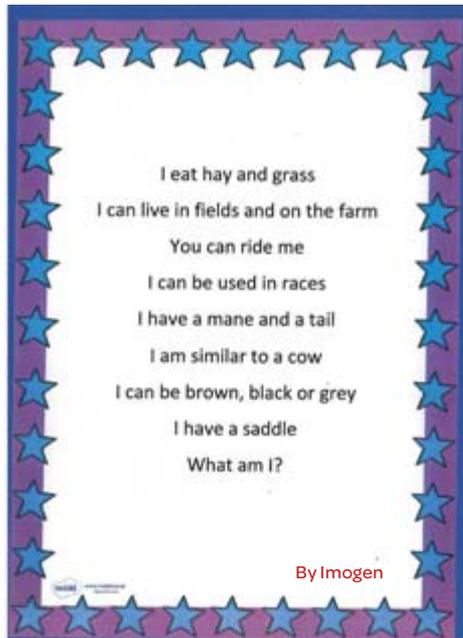
The North Star at Steam

### Steam Museum

We had a lovely time exploring the museum, looking around Queen Victoria's Royal Salon, finding out interesting facts about the GWR express passenger locomotive 'Caerphilly Castle' before walking underneath it and drawing it.



We had a fantastic day at the Steam Museum



Our visit to Steam  
 J2 went to steam last Wednesday,  
 first J2 had a look around the  
 We went to the engine, partly man  
 was there, so she worked all of us!  
 We went in Queen Victoria's coach and  
 it was very very scary then we had lunch  
 it was very nice, then we had challenge  
 Finally we went to the gift shop  
 It was really good fun!

By Amelie

Amelie wrote about the Steam workshop



We drew and painted sunflowers



Amber taking part in our class assembly

### Dolcetti Delights

We thoroughly enjoyed our trip to Dolcetti Ice Cream Company, where we watched ice cream being made before eating it. Yummy!



We really enjoyed visiting Dolcetti



Kitty and Amelie dress up for World Book Day

### Forest School

The children worked in groups to build a model of George Stephenson's Rocket during their topic on famous English Engineers.



Forest School Fun



Morgan and Ellen taking photos



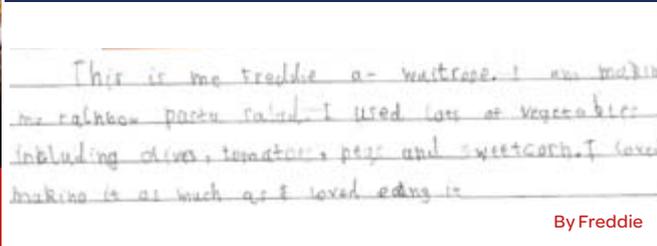
Here we are with Iain Green the wildlife photographer



World Book Day celebrations at Waterstones

### Waitrose

The children learnt all about a variety of vegetables and prepared a delicious and healthy pasta salad.



By Freddie



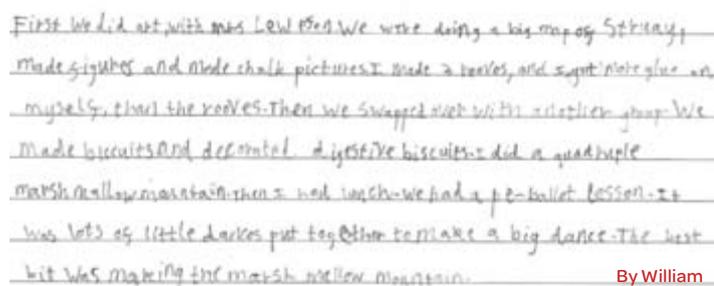
Freddie enjoying the cookery workshop

### World Book Day

We went on an exciting trip to Waterstones bookshop in Cirencester on World Book Day. All the children looked fantastic dressed up as their favourite book character.



At the Waitrose Cookery School



By William

William Wolton wrote about the Katie Morag day

### Katie Morag Day

The class had a great day of art, biscuit making and Scottish dancing.

Amelia enjoyed making biscuits



Samuel enjoyed baking



Tom Hall painting on Katie Morag Day



# Rendcomb College Junior Parents' Association



## New Faces!

2013-14 has been a year for new faces on the RCJPA and social team committee with new chairmen, many new committee members and class representatives as well as a newly created communications' representative position. As the new team came together, one of the first actions taken was to refresh and communicate the RCJPA's objectives and mission with a view to encouraging parents to participate in creating a more active, united and supportive school community.

The new team has continued the good work of the previous committee, with traditional events such as the Scholastic Book Fair, Macmillan Coffee morning, the Christmas Shoebox Appeal and the ever popular cake sales, raising over £1,100 for the school and the two charities nominated by our Junior School pupils ('Grief Encounter' and 'Oak and Furrows Wildlife Rescue Centre'). In addition to fundraising, the RCJPA also donated new items to the school, including relining of the playground that was resurfaced by the RCJPA last year and a new digital camera for the Nursery.

The children's Christmas parties were a big hit, with great entertainment laid on, as well as the traditional live animal nativity, hosted by Father Christmas. Our annual summer fete was also a great success, featuring popular activities such as splat the teacher!

We also experimented with a new event this year, hosting a very successful Hog Roast evening that featured great food, live 60's/70's music and some 'not so great' dancing! It was a fun and relaxed atmosphere enjoyed by all.

In closing, I would like to note that the RCJPA has received wonderful support and good will from many parents (both within the RCJPA and across the entire parent body), I would like to extend sincere thanks for their contribution and hard work this year and in anticipation of their continued support next year. ■

Mr T Roberts, RCJPA Chairman

# Music



It has been a year of great progress and outstanding performances in our Music department. We have warmly welcomed Mrs Alison Whichelo onto the team to share the music teaching with Mrs Hossle. Mrs Whichelo is a keen singer, so it is of no surprise that the choir has gone from strength to strength under her direction. Echoing the style of Gareth Malone, it has been our mission to re-ignite enthusiasm for choral singing and to encourage boys especially to join the choir. Having enjoyed music like *Rhythm of Life* taken from *Sweet Charity* or *I Dreamed a Dream* from *Les Miserables*, it was a fitting highlight of the year to be joined by Danielle Hope (*Les Miserables*) who put our singers through their paces in a singing workshop, culminating in an inspiring joint performance with the Senior School. This was, of course, just one of the many workshops and recitals led by professional performers and musicians. As a result, our appreciation of music

has travelled the world, from the sands of the Sahara in our October Tea Time concert to the contrasting drums and gumboot dancing of Africa!

In the spirit of *The X-Factor*, future stars have been born throughout the Junior School. Edwin Ward has entertained us with exciting performances on the piano, demonstrating his broad repertoire of styles, such as *Pirates of the Caribbean*, through to classical Beethoven Sonatas. Carmen Lee took our breath away singing *Castle on a Cloud* and demonstrated her destiny to be a star of the West End stage. Alex Hendrick – a budding opera star – and others have also enjoyed great success at the recent Cheltenham Music Festival where Rendcomb pupils were lauded with honours, distinctions and medals. The icing on the cake for Mrs Hossle was having a co-accompanist for the School Play *Wizard of Oz* – thank you Edwin! ■

Mrs C Hossle



## Trips Overview

Linked to our Anglo Saxons and Romans topics in History, we visited the Roman Villa and Corinium Museum. A new PSHE trip this year was to Skillzone, where the children were shown how to keep themselves safe in different environments and situations.



*Making potions in maths at Halloween*



*Easter Bonnets*



*Skillzone*

## A Riddle

What is always in front of you but  
can never be seen?

**The future**

*Jessica Mackenzie*

## A Riddle

I am an rodent that people despise  
I lurk in your bins at night  
I can give a nasty bite.  
What am I?

**A Fox**

*Topher Roberts*



## Forest School

The children have enjoyed their Forest School lessons this year. They chose a tree to focus on and have studied it throughout the year. They have also acted out play scripts, built dens and played games.



*Florentyna, Jessica and Georgina at Forest School*

## Corinium Museum

"I enjoyed our trip to the Corinium Museum because I love History. My favourite artefacts were the beads because they were colourful. I liked the grave because it looked historic."

Amelia Jones



Eleanor and Bella at The Corinium Museum



At The Corinium Museum



Roman Villa Trip



Chloe at Roman Museum



Toby and Felix making Roman medicine



Georgina's simile leaf



Hannah, Toby and Eleanor in front of their hedgehog totem pole

## A Riddle

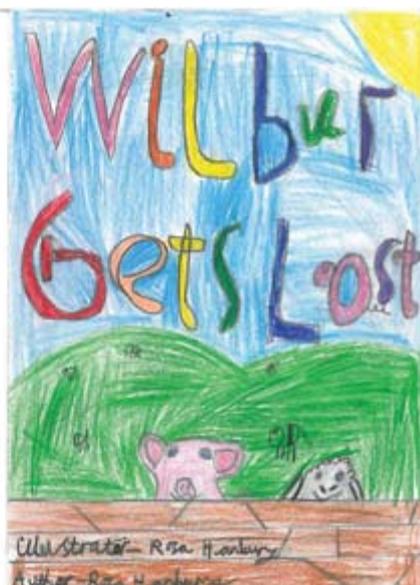
You can't see me,  
I am among the bushes and trees  
I wear shades of green.  
I can get injured.  
What am I?

An Army Man

Roo Jones



Rosa's blur and cover



William Pereira making a sandwich in DT



J4



@ Bristol

## @ Bristol

I went to @Bristol with J4,  
We started off on the first floor.  
Hamster wheel, hearts and fake blood too,  
The first floor just had too much to do!

Up the stair, round and round,  
What other fun things could be found?  
Animations from the makers of our favourite sheep,  
We made movies and drawings for us to keep.

To the Planetarium so much fun,  
We saw the Earth, the Moon, the Sun.  
Next for lunch, made especially for us,  
It had come with us on the bus.

We carried on with the upstairs galore,  
Freezing shadows, making bubbles and more.  
A workshop on movement and force,  
Another brilliant thing of course!

Millie and I went "In the Zone"  
On the cycling Millie definitely won the throne.  
At the end of the day, Mrs Auster thought we were  
going back by ship,  
Thank you teachers for a fantastic trip!

Jemima Martin

## Interview with Thierry

The children have been learning about mealtimes in France and talking about their likes and dislikes of food and drink. So what could be better than asking our very own French master chef, Thierry, about his job and food? Both classes worked very hard to produce a variety of questions in French to find out what Thierry thinks about French and English food. They thought of some questions in English to discover more about the life of a chef. We found out that there is very little that Thierry doesn't like, although it was surprising to learn that he doesn't have the French penchant for coffee or mayonnaise! Harry found out, that like him, Thierry loves seafood and fish and Arwen wanted to know if he likes snails – which he does! Zach's favourite food is jacket potato so he asked if Thierry liked them too; he does although it was interesting to learn that the French rarely prepare potatoes in this way.

*"Does Thierry prefer dark or white chocolate?"* enquired Daisy.

*"White, please!"*

*"Has he served food for anyone famous?"* wondered Bas.

*"Well actually, Prince Harry!"*

*"Where does our food at Rendcomb come from?"* Owen asked.

*"We are proud that the majority is locally sourced."*

Thierry was very impressed by the children's interesting questions and lovely accents. Most importantly, Thierry told us how his love of food and cooking was inspired by his Mum's cooking at home and that he started out helping and learning from her. So in the holidays get your aprons on and ready, steady, cook!

Mrs A Barker

## Chef Thierry visits the French class



## Redwood Ernest Cook Trust

Running about in the wood, through shady trees and beautiful bluebells in a gentle breeze.  
Ewan's elongated, energetic pond eel made lots of children laugh and squeal.  
Dripping, dripping rain was fun, squelching mud and then the Sun!  
Wiggling, wriggling tadpoles and newts and water in our wellie boots!  
Oakwood trees where spiders feed, woodlice, beetles and millipedes.  
Over in the wood, antlers and skulls of carnivore, big beasts, mini-beasts and habitats galore.  
Don't just stand there, there's so much more if you put on your coat and GO OUTDOORS!

Class Poem



Caleb Timmis at Ernest Cook Trust

## Science Taster Lessons in the Senior School

The pupils were very fortunate to be invited to Science taster lessons in the Senior School's new laboratories. They carried out an investigation to discover if practice makes perfect and discovered that it certainly made a difference! Also, Mr Stutchbury gave a fantastic demonstration of how our hearts work and even dissected an ox's heart for us! The children had a fantastic time. Thank you Mr Stutchbury, Mrs O'Sullivan and Miss Berry for giving up your time to allow J4 to have such a 'hearty' experience.



Senior Science taster sessions



Winning the Guy making competition



We made bird boxes for the Otters children



We baked cakes for a children's hospital charity

## Tudor Tuesday

The children enjoyed their Tudor Tuesday History trip to Gloucester Cathedral. They learnt all about the barber surgeon and his potions and lotions. Afterwards the children donned their habits and experienced life as a monk in Tudor times. They investigated Tudor clothes for the rich and poor and tried their hand at writing with a quill and brass rubbing. The final workshop of the day was to learn a Tudor dance. All had a great time.

Mr A Lawrence



Mr Badmanners class assembly

## Mr Badmanners Assembly

The class presented an assembly on manners, acting out the story of Mr Badmanners and teaching him a few lessons along the way. All the children spoke and performed really well, particularly those who had to step in at the last minute to learn the lines of the three pupils who were absent on the day. Well done everyone!



Gloucester Cathedral Tudor Trip

Ernest Cook Trust



Edward Mudge Outdoor week

Outdoor week





Recycled bottle top flowers



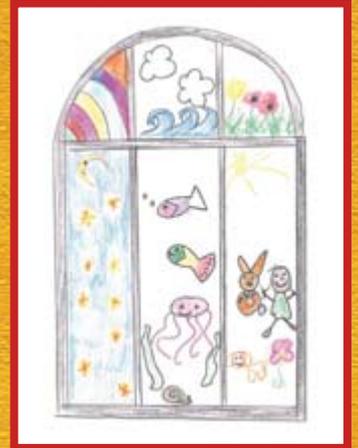
# Art Activity





Art

Amelie



Bertie



Jessica

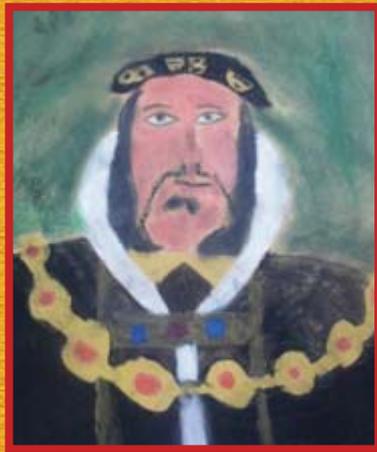


Art class outside drawing our landscape





Maddie



Thea



Millie

Arwen - Indian art



Jemima



Zach

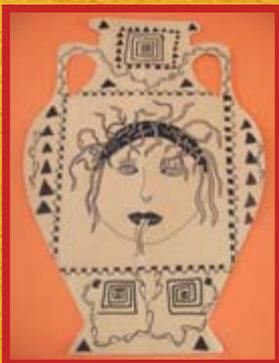


Henry - Indian art

Ellie



J5 and J6 Hockney painting  
(project combined with Senior School)



Kate



Cameron



Alex B - self portrait



Nathan - Chinese New Year



Rory - Portrait of Edwin



Alfie - self portrait

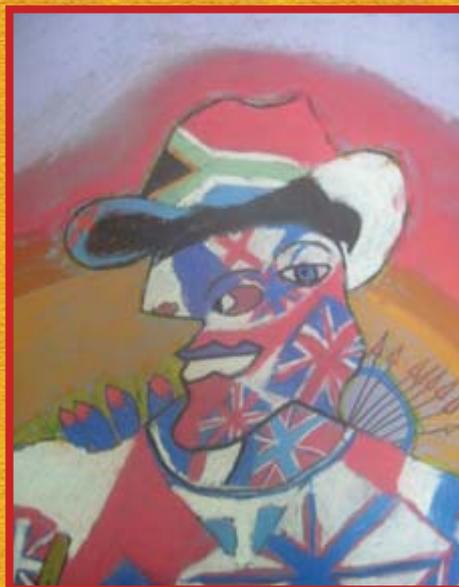
Ed N - Copy of Paul Klee



Carmen - inspired by Klimt



Emma - Cubist portrait



Freddie - Cubist portrait



Alex R - Cubist portrait



Evacuees for a day



Water pump action

## World War Two Evacuee Trip on the Train

For the World War Two trip on the train J5 dressed up fantastically with their own gas mask box. They dressed up as evacuees.

Luca Wills

We pretended to be riding on a steam train, sitting in the air raid shelter and arriving at the host farm.

Cameron Lynch

## Child's Perspective On

### World War II

- What if I do not reach the Air raid shelter in time?
- What if the air raid shelter is broken?
- What if I lose my gas mask?
- What if I starve to death?
- What if the train is bombed?
- What if I get homesick?

Isabella House

## Adult's Perspective On

### World War II

- What if I don't see my son?
- What if I disobey an order?
- What if I forget to write a letter?
- What if I cry?
- What if I run out of food?
- What if, what if, what if, what if?

Raife Hackett



Air raid shelter



Mrs Haas and Mrs Brealy catch a spy!



Evacuees on a steam train



## Harry's Visit from the Star College

When Harry came to visit he showed us what his chair could do and he told us that he used to go to the Star College, and now he works there. He told us about his life and what he has been through.

Thea Carter-Hughes

Harry told us that if you're in a wheelchair it doesn't mean you have to do things differently.

Nell Hanks



Harry from the National Star College meets the pupils



Water walk

## Water Walk Around Rendcomb

Mr Cairns took us on a fascinating walk along the River Churn. He told us about the leak that took forever to find and the creatures that live in the river's murky waters.

Sophie Freeman

On this water walk around Rendcomb, we learnt about the water meter, the River Churn and the lake, and how it turned into a ice rink in the winter. We also learnt about the man-made waterfall.

Phoebe Jones



Soffie Rigby won a day at The British Royal Tournament for writing a moving postcard to a soldier in Afghanistan.



Mr and Mrs Watson Mia Ford & Soffie Rigby at The Royal Tournament



Soffie Rigby and Mia Ford at the Royal Tournament

## Learning About the History of Rendcomb College

We walked around Rendcomb and looked at the old clues. We looked at a map and figured out what everything would have been in the old days when it was a house.

Lara Higgins-Anderson



## Outdoor Week

This week is about getting outside to learn about wildlife. We were learning about bees, what flowers they like and what type of bees can be found at Rendcomb.

Joe Sims

There were lots of types of bees. We then found our own spots and listened, smelled and watched.

Olivia Jones

We also took part in a heart and pulse rate experiment for science.

Lucas Booth



Joe studying bees



Bee survey



Outdoor week



J5 taking in the sea air at Clevedon

## The Coast Trip

Natalie Williamson – The coast trip was probably the best trip in year 5. We did lots of fun activities and we did some drawing and writing (We also got an ice-cream!)

Rosie Parkes – First we went to Portishead, there was lots of beautiful scenery; then we went to Clevedon and saw a very old tower. Finally, we went to Weston-Super-Mare, where we played rounders on the beach.

## Raising Money for NDCS

We made posters, collected money and made pictures with the coins, counting the money and filming the project, all for National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS).

Nathan Seatter-Messer

We helped raise money by doing our spelling test in sign language. It took me about a week to learn the whole alphabet and gave me appreciation of what deaf people have to do.

Sophie Freeman



J5 charity work raised £1,340 for the National Deaf Children's Society!



J5W and their Guy



Dress in pink or red for Children in Need



What a cool Guy!

### Special Days

I loved doing an assembly on Paying the Kindness Forward. I found out how people like to be treated.

Isabella House

Friends - Lara, Isabella and Cameron



J5H with their Guy

Experimenting in the Senior Science labs

Joss, Lucas and George B

Christmas fun



## Warwick Castle

We made our annual History trip to Warwick Castle. Our tour guide, Mr Watson explained and shared his vast knowledge of the castle as we walked along the castle walls and climbed both Guy's and Caesar's towers.

The pupils nervously entered the Castle Dungeon; the children came across some interesting sights and sounds. They were introduced to Tudor diseases, medieval torture, a trial, a beheading and if that wasn't enough, they even experienced a witches curse! The highlight of the tour was watching Mr Lawrence being tortured and humiliated for an unspecified crime. With all our nerves in tatters, we regrouped and had our lunch in the beautiful grounds near a working Trebuchet.

Despite some of the macabre experiences, it was clear from the smiling faces on the way home that everyone had a great day learning about the battles, sieges, murders, power struggles and hauntings of this magnificent castle.

Mr A Lawrence



## SS Great Britain

We travelled down the M5 to Bristol to visit a number of historical buildings and attractions in the South West. The first stop was Bristol Temple Meads railway station but there was no time for train spotting. Our next visit was to Brunel's magnificent SS Great Britain. We had our first glimpse of her stern as we entered the main entrance. Before we climbed aboard the children went to the education centre to learn more about the ship; who would have travelled on board and why and what the ship was later used for. Some of the children were also given the chance to dress up as a Victorian passenger.

Then it was our turn to board the SS Great Britain. The tour started below the decks, where the children were given an informative and humorous talk about the ship and the people who travelled on board. The cabins were brought to life with the sounds and smells of what it would have been liked to travel on the SS Great Britain. The finale was to go under the glass wall and inspect the hull and see the enormous rudder.

After lunch, we travelled to the awe-inspiring Clifton Suspension Bridge, where the children were given the opportunity to walk along the whole length and admire the views of Bristol.

Everyone agreed that we were travelling back with much more knowledge than we had arrived with and had enjoyed a wonderful day out.

Mr A Lawrence



## Klive Court

The children braved the extreme weather in Somerset on their residential trip to Klive Court just before half term. They experienced so many types of weather during the three days, including torrential rain, wind and snow, whilst participating in lots of challenging activities.

Team games broke the ice and everyone ended up getting covered in mud! They gave their best shot in archery and rifle shooting, scaled new heights on the high ropes in blazing sunshine and on the climbing wall during a hail storm.

They greatly enjoyed their night walk following badger tracks and finding their way through a maze, in the dark on a clear, stary night, as well as fossil hunting on a blustery beach.

It was wonderful to see J6 try lots of new activities and whatever the weather threw at them, they continually gave of their best, always with a smile on their face.

Mrs A Breauly



## DT Pupils & Parents Bridge-Building Challenge

The pupils were very fortunate to have a game group of parents join them for a DT bridge-building challenge. They worked in groups using K'Nex, card and string to build a working bascule bridge (drawbridge). All teams earned a large number of points for their teamwork and ideas and each group successfully completed the challenge. At the end of the afternoon the team which comprised Mr Roberts, Nathan, Edwin and Freya, had the most points and were named the winners but the best part of the afternoon was seeing the wonderful interaction between the adults and children and the fun that was had by all.

Mrs F Auster



## Pupils with German exchange students



## Rebecca Allen's ideas for a new school uniform in French

Rendcomb, le 29. janvi  
 Cher M. Watson,

Je voudrais changer l'uniforme de Rendcomb collège. J'aime la robe et la jupe. Mais je n'aime pas l'uniforme sportif parce que c'est trop sexy aussi le jogging ce n'est pas confortable. Le sweat de mon avis ça gratte. La robe d'été a un trou. Je voudrais changer la couleur à bleue et verte. Voilà mon idée pour

un nouveau uniforme scolaire.



Une veste bleue et verte aussi le logo vert et marron.  
 Un kilt bleu et vert. Un collier vert et des chaussettes vertes.  
 La robe d'été bleue et verte. Une chemise bleue et verte.  
 Je vous prie d'agréer, Monsieur, l'expression de mes sentiments distingués.

(Rebecca Allen)

## The Children Practise their German

We had a wonderful opportunity to speak some German and find out about life in Germany when they invited the third form German exchange students to the Junior School. This year there were 19 Germans aged 14-15 from Bad Neuenahr-Ahrweiler taking part in the exchange. The visiting Germans were treated to guided tours of the Junior School by some of J6. Both the accompanying teachers and students were very impressed by the politeness and willingness of their guides to say a few impromptu words in German.

After the tours, the pupils split up into small groups and the J6 pupils all managed to introduce themselves in German then ask questions in English about life in Germany – football, food and school were favourite topics!

The whole experience was rounded off with the popular game Duck, Duck, Goose in German (Ente, Ente, Gans). This time the English won with a fantastic run by Carmen who was the only one to get her partner out! As a reward the children had the chance to try sweets from the nearby Haribo factory called 'Pasta Flags' which are in the shape & colour of the German flag.

*"The Germans I met were very nice and although I only knew a small amount of German we understood each other."*

Bronwyn Rosser

*"It was a really fun and enjoyable experience. The Haribo sweets were great!"*

Will Cottrell

Mrs A Barker

# Prize Winners



The following prizes were awarded in Final Assembly:-

- |                                              |                                       |
|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Boys' Cross Country Cup                      | - Joss Breare                         |
| Girls' Cross Country Cup                     | - Isabel Verey                        |
| The Henniker-Gotley Boys' Victor Ludorum     | - George Beal                         |
| The Meborn-Hubbard Girls' Victor Ludorum     | - Isabel Verey and Ellie Miles-Sayers |
| Reeves Cup for Improved Reading              | - Ellie Hanbury                       |
| Roberts Family Cup (Otters Effort)           | - Amelia Holloway                     |
| Carden Cup for Music                         | - Edwin Ward                          |
| Dufosee Art Cup                              | - Freya Angus                         |
| Shackel Cup for Drama                        | - Rory Hughes and Bronwyn Rosser      |
| Shark Cup for Most Promising U9 Sportsperson | - Harry Brownless                     |
| Osborne Cup for Girls' Sport                 | - Alice Balchin                       |
| Palmer Cup for Boys' Sport                   | - Edwin Ward                          |
| The Haas Technology Cup                      | - Alex Boyer                          |
| Arkle Cup for All Round Improvement          | - Emma Roberts                        |
| The Environment Cup                          | - Alexander Ross                      |
| Trim Happy Cup                               | - Nathan Roberts                      |
| The Kindness Cup                             | - William Marriott                    |
| Potter Cup for Overall Contribution          | - Carmen Lee                          |

## Academic and Effort Prizes

- |     |          |                      |
|-----|----------|----------------------|
| J3L | Academic | - Bertie Parkes      |
|     | Effort   | - Jessica Mackenzie  |
| J3H | Academic | - Rosa Hanbury       |
|     | Effort   | - Eleanor Langley    |
| J4A | Academic | - Edward Nichol      |
|     | Effort   | - Katherine Marsden  |
| J4B | Academic | - Jemima Martin      |
|     | Effort   | - Henry Hiscock      |
| J5H | Academic | - Natalie Williamson |
|     | Effort   | - Anya Pereira       |
| J5W | Academic | - Cameron Lynch      |
|     | Effort   | - Rosie Parkes       |
| J6A | Academic | - Rebecca Allen      |
|     | Effort   | - Isabel Verey       |
| J6B | Academic | - Kitty Hale         |
|     | Effort   | - Carmen Lee         |

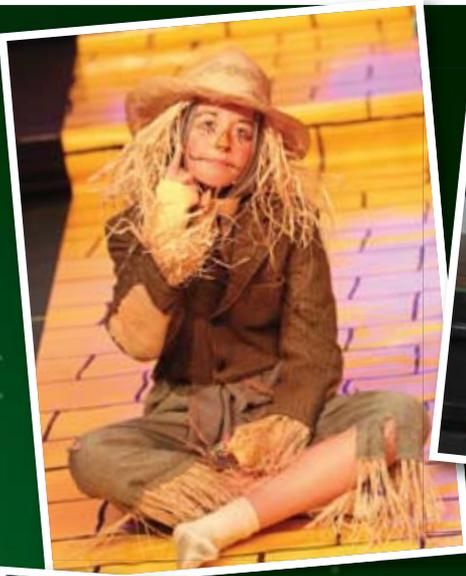


J6 Cocktail Party



# THE WIZARD OF OZ





# Drama Report

## Follow the Yellow Brick Road...

This year, J3-J6 were transported from Kansas to Oz during their production of *The Wizard of Oz*. The Munchkins looked amazing in their rainbow coloured costumes, as did all the J6 main characters, with all their make-up on. Who can forget the appearance of the 'raining man' cyclone and the singing and dancing yellow brick road! Sister Julie excelled herself at recycling so many costumes as well as making the amazing flying monkey costumes and Mrs Dalgeish created some stunning costumes for the trees and Mr Watson.

Everyone went on the journey following the yellow brick road with Dorothy (in her ruby slippers), Toto, The Scarecrow, Tin Man and Lion to the glittering gates of Oz. After a successful mission to kill the Wicked Witch of the West and the revelation that the Wizard of Oz was not a wizard at all, Dorothy and her new friends realised that they had the ability to fulfil their own dreams themselves, with a little guidance from Glinda, the good witch. Singing and dancing along to the old classic songs, as well as some Glenn Miller, thrown in, for good measure, all pupils left with huge smiles on their faces, having all grown so much in self-confidence. There were some amazing performances by individuals and everyone should be very proud of how the well they did on stage and I am sure lots of you have already watched yourselves several times over on your *Wizard of Oz* DVD.

What an amazing experience and my thanks go out, as ever, to all you wonderful people who helped make it possible for me to share my vision of Oz with you.

Just remember, *a heart is not judged by how much you love; but by how much you are loved by others.* ■

Mrs A Brealy (who is still finding green glitter everywhere!)



## Otters' Spring Concert

The Otters performed their Easter Show at the end of the Lent term. The concert began with a Spring in my Step, sang beautifully by all of the children. The J2 children recited an exciting class poem, individual poems followed and a humorous performance by the speech and drama group. The J1 children recited their own poems and sang a very amusing and fun song about Farmer Pete and his lost sheep. The Reception children performed 2 enjoyable nursery rhymes, *Three Blind Mice* and *Twinkle Twinkle Little Star* using hand bells. William Wolton played a beautiful piece on the piano, followed by Ellen Bankes and Amelie George on their guitars. The Nursery children also performed confidently and entertained us as gorgeous little green frogs. They did very well to remember all the words, actions and signing to their songs! All of the children deserve to feel very proud of themselves. Beautiful singing, entertaining poems and talented musicians all made for a wonderful Spring Concert. ■





## Staff Performance of A Midsummer Night's Dream

The Junior School staff donned their thespian gowns and performed a very special adapted show of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for the pupils to celebrate Shakespeare week. The children loved seeing their teachers all dressed up and enjoyed all the funny twists and turns of the play. A special mention must go to Mrs Lee for directing and organising the event. ■

## Prickly Hay – Nativity Hoedown

The Otters took to the stage this December for their impressive performance of *Prickly Hay – a Nativity Hoedown!* It was a Nativity full of wonderful costumes, make-up, singing, dancing and much laughter.

In this exciting Nativity, with a fun hoedown flavour, we follow Sam, brilliantly acted by William Wolton, a hardworking young stable boy who is trying to keep the stable clean and the hay fresh for all the animals in his stable – it's a very smelly job! No one seems to notice his hard work and it's making Sam feel very insignificant. His ever-faithful friend, Shrew, superbly acted by Amber Graham, tries to keep his spirits up, but Sam is finding it hard to feel important at all.

The Narrator, Amelia Holloway, told the story with such clarity and confidence. All the J2 performers had clear diction, beautiful singing voices and pure confidence on stage, which was evident for all to see.

The children in J1 were busy villagers and a Jolly Fiddler, Reception were cowboys and cowgirls performing a superb hoedown dance and the Nursery were lambs and angels. It was really hard to believe that the average age on stage was five. Each and every child from Nursery to J2 was involved and they all came together to perform a great Nativity. Morgan Meagher rounded off this wonderful performance with a beautiful solo of *Away in a manger*. ■



# Dance 2014

Dance is offered throughout the Junior School. All children that took part in The Cheltenham Festival of Performing Arts obtained high merits and distinctions of 79% and above. Many congratulations to Florentyna Stzuka for obtaining the bronze medal in the National class, aged 7-8 years.

A 100% pass rate was achieved for the RAD (Royal Academy of Dancing) international graded ballet examinations, which took place on 7 December 2013. Other than examinations and festivals, children get the opportunity to present and perform their work during regular parents' watching days. Some children had the opportunity to perform solos and group dance pieces at Assemblies and Teatime Concerts. Other than ballet, other dance forms offered are musical theatre, folk dancing and modern dance. ■

Mrs S Liebenberg



## Cheltenham Festival 2014

*"I enjoyed performing my Angel dance on the stage. It felt fantastic!"*

Grace Garcia Day J1

*"I was a bit nervous and scared the first time I did the festival. But this time I was much more confident and I really loved being on stage."*

Florentyna Stzuka J3

*"The Cheltenham Festival was an exciting experience and also very fun. You may not like it the first time but as you do it again you will build confidence and it will be so much fun!"*

Emma Roberts J6

## I love ballet

*"I have been doing ballet for 6 years and I am still really enjoying it. What I really enjoy about ballet is that you learn new steps and cool dances. Mrs Liebenberg is a great teacher and makes it fun."*

Anya Pereira J5

*"I love using props."*

Maelys Eggleton J1

*"I have been doing ballet since Reception. I have earned my Primary, Grade 1, 2 and 3 grades and now I am in Grade 4! Mrs Liebenberg is an amazing teacher and is lots of fun!"*

Freya Angus J6



# Sport

## Rugby



The 2013 season was a most enjoyable, successful and promising one. Every boy in J3-J6 represented the school and it was lovely to see their commitment, enthusiasm and emerging skills. Many of the boys have also become involved in outside club rugby and again it is so pleasing to see them develop such a passion for the game and benefit from this involvement.

Competitive rugby at Rendcomb starts in J3 and certainly the U8s displayed great potential. This was very evident at the Hatherop Festival where they competed against, and defeated, a number of much larger schools. One year on the U9s played some wonderful rugby emerging as unbeaten. The return of Jimmy Thompson, the season's top scorer, and the arrival of the Burr twins enhanced the quality of the side and they improved hugely as a team and importantly showed an appetite to work hard to win,

as seen in the final match where Rendcomb won a titanic battle against St Edward's 16 tries to 13.

The U11/10 teams were short on physique but not in skill, speed and heart. Despite the teams being largely J5 boys we competed extremely well, demonstrating a developing understanding of match play situations. The experience gained should allow us to field an exceptionally strong team next season. Harry Marsden captained the side well, helping to create a positive approach and style to our play.

Well done boys at every level. Also a special thank you to all the coaches for their tireless energy and hard work. In particular, I thank Mr Neil Ferreira who has contributed so much to the success of Rendcomb College Junior School sport over the past seven years. We wish him, and his family, health, happiness and success as they settle in Albany, Western Australia. ■

Mr M Watson

## Hockey



### U11 A

If any season is testament that hard work, commitment and effort pays off then this was the one. A rude awakening at Westonbirt Prep School began the season with a jolt but one from which this team learnt and grew as individuals and quickly became team players. A very close encounter followed against Berkmapstead School and from there the only way was up. Four matches followed and the quality of hockey soared with each outing. Games against The Richard Pate School and The King's School, Gloucester were both high tempo, competitive affairs but Rendcomb were always in the driving seat winning both matches by 3-1. Hatherop were next to face the Rendcomb firing line and a modest 7-0 victory was the result. The final 'return fixture' against Wertonbirt was, however, the grand finale. Determined to make amends and restore some pride, a win was all that mattered. Rendcomb dug deep and a thoroughly deserved 2-1 victory was theirs.

The success of this team was not down to individual stars but each person playing their intrinsic part in the jigsaw. Isabel Verey and Ellie Miles-Sayers were rock solid in defence and Rebecca Allen took no prisoners in goal. Captain, Bronwyn Rosser used all her experience in the pivotal CH position, supporting her defence whilst also driving forward in attack. The attacking line were goal hungry and Soffie Rigby and Kate Holloway worked tirelessly on their respective wings, feeding clean ball to our ever present 'goal hugger' Alice Balchin who ended the season as top scorer.

My thanks go to all the girls for working so hard and making it such a successful term. Your progress was remarkable!

**Colours were awarded to:** Rebecca Allen, Isabel Verey, Bronwyn Rosser and Alice Balchin. ■

Mrs J.L Hill



### U11 B

With two tough matches at the beginning of the season against Westonbirt Prep and The Richard Pate School, the girls learnt valuable lessons and demonstrated a hunger for the ball in the second half of the season. Playing The King's School, Gloucester, the girls revealed their competitive side by scoring 3 goals in the first half. They decided to set themselves a target to score another 5 goals in the second half, and they succeeded! This tremendous performance gave them a real confidence boost for their final game against Hatherop Castle. Rendcomb quickly took control of the game, scoring 4 goals. With players being moved out of their normal positions to allow for a fairer game, the girls took on the challenge and continued to score another 4 goals ending yet another match 8-0! The team showed much improvement over the season and it was an honour watching them play with such enthusiasm and passion. ■

Miss C Hayden

### U11 C and D

Owing to the strength and depth of girls in J5 and J6 this year, we were delighted to be able to field C and D teams for our home fixture against Berkhampstead School. Both were tightly contested, competitive games with the standard of hockey high across the two teams. The girls learnt a lot from their first experience of match play and though hard fought, both teams lost the rub of the draw with 1-0 defeats. ■

Mrs J L Hill

### U8 and U9

The U8s played just one match this season but celebrated with a 4-0 win. The girls made wonderful progress over the season and showed tremendous enthusiasm. I look forward to seeing them all develop next season as they play more competitive matches.

It was great to see the U9s gain confidence over the season and their competitive side started to show as the season progressed and this started to result in some wins. As our defence remained strong and pushed forward for tackles, the forwards worked well together allowing the girls to start to score goals. ■

Miss C Hayden



## Football

Overall 2013 was a good football season! Yes the U11s struggled and despite playing with great enthusiasm they were generally second best in their fixtures. Credit must go to our Captain of Football, Nathan Roberts, who always maintained a positive attitude and approach. At U8/9 and especially U10 level we played some superb football. It is always rewarding to see boys enjoying working hard to develop their skills and mastery of the game. Many players in J3 and J4 progressed significantly throughout the season and both teams display considerable potential.

The U10s quite simply were outstanding and fully deserved to remain unbeaten. When football is played well it looks easy but to achieve this you need quality players. We have those in abundance! We knew we should be strong but the addition of Joe Sims proved to be significant. With Raife Hackett captaining the team well and controlling midfield we usually dominated, including victories against strong sides such as Beaudesert (won 4-2).

Congratulations boys on playing good football. You can be proud of your performances and achievements and we can look forward with positive anticipation to next season. As usual the tremendous parental support was fully appreciated and for this we thank you. ■

Mr M Watson





## Netball

### U11 A

A narrow defeat to The Richard Pate School in the first week of term was a mere blot on an otherwise perfect copybook for this talented netball side. Confident wins away at Hatherop Castle (7-2) and Westonbirt (5-3) followed and it was evident we had a quality team emerging.

Captain, Alice Balchin led by example at Centre whilst Carmen Lee and Soffie Rigby demonstrated super consistency and intuitive circle play as they shared the shooting honours. Kate Holloway and Anya Pereira provided the link as nippy and effective wings whilst Bronwyn Rosser and Isabel Verey were suitably feisty in defence.

In the second half of term, Rendcomb showed real grit, beating The King's School, Gloucester (7-4) and Berkhamstead School (8-6). On both occasions frenetic play saw the teams matching each other goal for goal and in both matches, Rendcomb entered the final quarter trailing by one goal. To their credit, the girls showed terrific spirit, kept their rhythm and put pressure on their faltering opponents to secure victory. A final home win over Westonbirt (13-9) topped off an excellent season, showcasing the best netball I have seen played at Rendcomb to date.

Colours were awarded to: Alice Balchin, Carmen Lee, Isabel Verey and Bronwyn Rosser. ■

Mrs J.L Hill

### U11 B

The girls learnt a lot from their first match against The Richard Pate School, in particular, holding positions to create spaces to move in to. This put them in good stead for their next match against Hatherop Castle, where the girls moved with pace and purpose, winning 9-6. This took them in to the second half of term with renewed confidence, playing The King's School, Gloucester. Rendcomb quickly took the lead and demonstrated particularly good circle play, winning the game 7-2. Unfortunately, in our final match of the season we could not keep up with Berkhamstead's pace but I was incredibly pleased with the girl's continual positive attitude throughout the season. ■

Miss C Hayden

### U11 C and D

The C and D teams both played in our annual fixture away at Berkhamstead School. A tough opponent but both games were played in a friendly yet competitive spirit with many lessons learnt for our less experienced players. Well done girls! ■

Mrs J.L Hill

### U8

With another outstanding season, the U8s travelled to their first away match with huge excitement! Despite playing in heavy rain, the girls showed fantastic fortitude winning 3-0 against Richard Pates. Their second game proved a little tighter, but the girls steely determination allowed for a draw. Showing huge development and constant improved understanding of the game, the girls won their final game 4-0 with truly outstanding shooting!

Despite suffering some heavy defeats, the U9s persevered, making huge strides in progress. Their understanding of the game became clearer and passing became more fluent. They were finally rewarded with a 9-0 victory against Kitebrook in the last game of the season. I applaud your efforts girls, well done. ■

Miss C Hayden





# Rounders

## U11 A

The U11A team had an outstanding unbeaten season of rounders in which the results speak for themselves. In each of the five fixtures played, Rendcomb had a comfortable lead by half time and in their first two matches against Airthrie School and The Richard Pate School, Rendcomb had already drawn the match before their second bat. In total Rendcomb scored 58½ rounders and conceded just 32. Text book fielding also got the whole side out with balls to spare on two occasions against Westonbirt Prep and The Richard Pate School. Further comfortable wins over Berkhamstead School (14-9) and The King’s School, Gloucester (14-9½) capped off a faultless season. A mix of experienced Year 6 players and Year 5 new recruits made up the team captained by Isabel Verey. Massive congratulations to all the girls who played and although, too many to name each individually, special mention must go to Soffie Rigby J5 whose consistent batting saw her end the season as our top scorer.

**Colours were awarded to:** Isabel Verey, Bronwyn Rosser, Kitty Hale, Rebecca Allen, Alice Balchin and Carmen Lee. ■

Mrs J L Hill

## U11 B

Playing away at The Richard Pate School for the first match of the season, the girls were nervous as they are usually a very strong team and we had lost to them in the previous two seasons. However, with accurate bowling and tight fielding, we only allowed them to score 1½ rounders in the first innings; an incredible start to the game! With Rendcomb making some strong strikes of the ball we ended the game with an almighty 17-5 win. The girls were pumped for their next match against Berkhamstead School but again this side were incredibly strong and we could not break them. Playing on Estate Gardens, Freya Angus hit the ball of the game, reaching the brick wall! Unfortunately with Hatehrop cancelling their match against the U11B team, our last match was against Westonbirt Prep. Rendcomb were hitting the ball well and in the second innings, they started to take risks and this paid off as we were able to just pull ahead, winning the final game of the year 10½ - 9½. Rendcomb fully deserved this win and it has been such a pleasure to watch this team move from strength to strength over the year as confidence has increased from every player. The girls have always shown tremendous team spirit and have been a lovely team to coach. Well done girls! ■

Miss C Hayden



## U11C

The C team showed lots of promise with a cluster of young players emerging. They performed very well in their two fixtures starting with a superb 11-11 draw against Berkhamstead School. With confidence high, they were particularly unlucky to lose by just half a rounder in their second fixture against Westonbirt Prep (7 -7½). Well done to all who played. ■

Mrs J L Hill

## U8

With a rich selection of U8 girls, we fielded a very strong team. With a match each half term, we were able to get in a lot of practice in games lessons, with much focus on tight fielding and accurate throwing. The girls were responsive and this was evident in their match play. Demonstrating wonderful enthusiasm and great team spirit, the girls deserved their two outstanding wins and should be proud of their undefeated three seasons!

The U9s were fortunate to have many matches in such a short season, and although lacking in numbers, were not put off by a frequently changing team!

Thank you for the tremendous amount of parental support all year. It is much appreciated and we look forward to seeing you cheering the girls on again next year! ■

Miss C R Hayden

## Cross Country

### Rendcomb Cross Country Tournament 14

Rendcomb hosted this annual event in glorious sunshine that had been ordered in from the Caribbean for the afternoon.

Seven teams raced for the coveted shield. One hundred and twenty children competed across the two races that were held. The U9s course had been changed and shortened this year due to the number of children who were racing.

All of our children worked incredibly hard when racing. Pinewood were the eventual winners of the team shield.

Many thanks go to parents who supported our event in any way. ■



### Winter Warmer 11

This is the eleventh year that the Junior School has run this mile cross country race. It is extremely satisfying to see just how popular it has become, from humble beginnings over a decade ago to over sixty participants, all of whom volunteered to race it.

The course is not particularly easy and takes in the longest and steepest hills that our fantastic grounds have to offer. It is a real testament to the courage and fitness levels of our students!! Many of whom are only in their first year in the junior part of the school.

**Congratulations go to:-**

Joss Breare, who won the event in a time of 8:34, this was a new course record and Isabel Verey was the first girl to finish.

Edward Nichol and Amelia Jones were the first U9s in.

Congratulations to all the children who took part and to all the staff for helping and to the parents for watching. ■

Mr J Arnold

### Cross Country Tournament at Hatherop Castle

Nine runners from Rendcomb Juniors attended this tournament. There had been an interesting course change this year and it gave the route a more authentic feel.

All of our children raced well across the afternoon. The U11 girls' team came third, the U11A boys' team came third and the U11B boys' team came fifth.

**Team details are**

U11 Girls – Isabel Verey, Alice Balchin, Ellie Miles-Sayers

U11 Boys A – Joss Breare, Mitchell Bankes, Alfie Beckett

U11 Boys B – Edwin Ward, Raife Hackett, Luca Wills

Thanks to the parents who turned up to watch on the afternoon. ■



# Cricket



The U11s were led by Alfie Beckett and supported by his vice-captain William Cottrell. The majority of the side was made up from U10s. The season was a little mixed due to early postponements and weather cancellations. However, after a first game defeat against St Edward's there were encouraging signs which included George Beal taking four wickets. The U10s then played two matches of Kwik cricket against Airtherie and Kitebrook which ended in victory, which set Rendcomb up for the final match of the season against Berkhamstead. Rendcomb's team spirit and talent shone and with some tight bowling and solid batting with George Beal scoring 31 not out secured a fine victory. A special mention goes to Johnny Peake who had never kept wicket before and did a super job behind the stumps. Everyone played their part contributing with bat or ball with George Beal being our leading wicket taker with seven victims and run maker (46).

All the boys should be congratulated for their teamwork and hard work throughout the term and especially those making their debuts for the 1st XI. George Beal, Lucas Booth, Joss Breare and Lucas

Wills show true potential for the next season. The majority of the team was selected from Year 5 and these boys gained valuable experience playing up a level which bodes well for next season.

The U9 cricket season has seen a huge improvement over the course of the season and every boy in the year group has had a game for the team. It started with a draw against Kitebrook which we only just managed in the final over of the game. But the following match against St Edward's was a game in which we came up against a stronger opposition. We therefore did very well to bounce back and pick up our first win of the season against King's Gloucester in great style. The following week, we were turned over by yet again, a stronger side than us in Berkhamstead. We needed to win the final game of the season to come out even. Hatherop away. We went there and produced one of the performances of the season and won comprehensively. It was a superb season and some real talents have shone brightly this season. None more so than Harry and Edward. Positive contributions from Caleb and Jimmy have meant that as a squad they have a strong grounding to succeed in the future. ■



Mr A Lawrence and Mr T Layton

## Junior Sports Day



With the weather on our side, top pitch was a picture. All the children turned up with plenty of enthusiasm and eagerness ready to do battle. It was a highly charged atmosphere. Many races were well contested and a lot of effort went in to many individual performances. Some notable performances came from Alice Balchin, William Cottrell, George Beal and Ellie Miles-Sayers and one tie in the J6 Boys skipping race (Freddie Haynes and Nathan Roberts). There were several records broken by Lucinda Norris, Jimmy Thompson, Ellie Miles-Sayers and Alice Balchin. The inter-house relay races were, for many, the highlight of the day with Dunwoody winning the majority. Although, it was a two hour marathon, another successful sports day was recorded in the history books of the Junior School. Well done everyone and thank you for all the support once again. ■

Mr A Lawrence



## Otters' Sports Day

The Otters' Sports Day was a great success. We were blessed with beautiful sunny weather and all the children from Nursery to J2 took part. They all raced in running, bunny hopping, bean bag balancing and the spud and spoon!

The children worked really well in their team relay races and it was lovely to see the older children helping the younger ones. The afternoon concluded with certificates and medals being awarded and everyone celebrating with a well deserved ice cream. ■



# Chess



## Winner of this year's Chess Challenge is Lucas Booth

Chess has once again grown in terms of numbers of participants within the school as well as external matches played. Thirty seven boys and girls signed up for the in-school preliminary rounds of the annual Delancey Chess Challenge. The final places were hotly contested and Lucas Booth finally earned his place as Junior School Chess Champion after a very close match against Alex Boyer. Following this, these children earned enough points to play at the Megafinal in Cheltenham:

Lucas Booth, Alex Boyer, Edwin Ward, Joe Sims, Raife Hackett, Alfie Beckett, Joss Breare and Henry Hiscock all took part. Raife Hackett took the honours on the day by winning 3½ points and a rosette.

We also played chess matches against local schools in the Bingham Library Trust Chess Shield 2014. We lost our first match to Powells but soon warmed up, beating Kemble twice before drawing again with Powells. This put us in the finals which we played during the summer term. We were a little rusty as the summer term is not traditionally a chess term and were proud to finish the day as runners-up. For the first time, we were also included in a tournament between the Cirencester and Cheltenham Schools. Although rather one-sided, it was a great experience for all who took part as they found themselves playing against some of the top players in the country in this age group.

Congratulations to all who have taken part both in school and in match situations. It has been a very good year for chess. ■

Mrs A Haas

## Swimming Gala

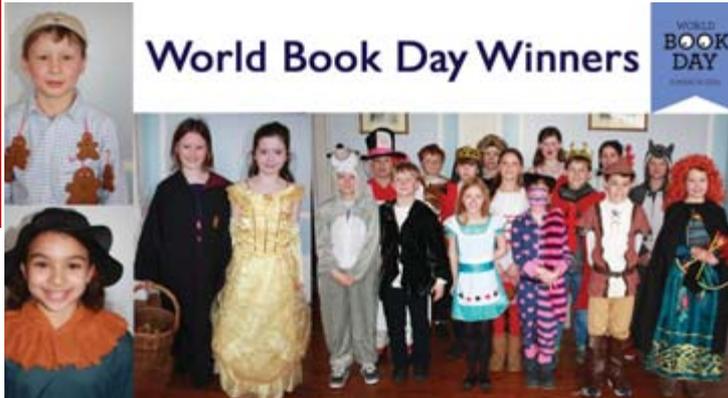


*Lucinda Norris & Alfie Beckett had a very successful afternoon*

Parents, teachers and children gathered around the pool for the annual Swimming Gala in brilliant sunshine. There was much anticipation and excitement amongst the children. Many races were closely contested; Lucinda Norris Year 3 swam very well breaking five records which included tying with Anya Pereira Year 5 in the Open butterfly. Alfie Beckett Year 6 swept the board winning all his races comfortably and in doing so he broke three records, taking six seconds off the individual medley. The gala was a great success with a nail biting finish in the Year 6 mixed house relay fingertip finish, which Corinium won, a fantastic way to finish an excellent gala, well done everybody. ■

Mr A Lawrence

# Special Days



World Book Day

## Sports Relief

Over 140 children, form tutors, teachers and parents ran a mile around the Estate Gardens in aid of Sports Relief. When they were not running they were inside the sports hall completing many challenges and exercises. What started off as a lovely spring afternoon turned very quickly to heavy rain including hail! Undeterred, the remaining children (and Mr Arnold who was completing his own challenge of running a half marathon) completed their runs. The children are hoping all their efforts will have raised lots of money for children less fortunate than themselves. Total raised was £644, plus Gift Aid. Congratulations everyone and thank you for supporting this great cause. ■

Mr A Lawrence



## Pancake Day Races

Pancake Day was very competitive this year with the J3-J6 representing their respective houses. Their task was to race two lengths of the playground whilst tossing a pancake. Each year group ran against each other, and from this there was a final between the winners of each year group. The finalists were Year 4 and Year 5 both from Corinium. It was a very exciting final with the Year 4 winning the event. Everyone had lots of fun and will not forget Pancake Day in a hurry. Well done everyone.



J4 Corinium Pancake Race winners



## World Maths Day in the Junior School



### World Maths Day

J3 to J6 enjoyed a challenging morning of Maths activities to celebrate World Maths Day. They completed a tower-building challenge which was won by Dunwoody and also worked hard to earn Mathletics points. There were several puzzles and problems to solve and a Speed Tables Competition. Bertie Parkes, Henry Hiscock, Anya Pereira and Kitty Hale were the champions of their respective year groups with Anya being the overall school champion for 2014 having correctly completed 100 tables questions in an astonishing 2 minutes and 21 seconds! The House which won the most points was Griffin. Well done to everyone who helped to show just how amazing Rendcomb children are at Maths!

Mrs F Auster



Junior School flower arrangement for the St Peter's Flower Festival



Come as a Star Day in aid of the National Star College

### K'Nex Final

Well done to Jack Bellamy and George Beal who attended the regional final of the K'Nex challenge and acted as fine representatives for Rendcomb.

Winners – Jack Bellamy & George Beal J5



Staff perform as One Direction on Come as Star Day





### Children in Need

All the Junior School children and teachers came in brightly or multi coloured to celebrate this special day. There was a fantastic atmosphere and some super combinations of colour. Many teddies and bands were worn. A grand total of £291.81.

Mr A Lawrence



Junior mascots at Kingsholm Gloucester v Japan rugby match



Daphne Neville Otter visit

### Inter-house Football Tournament

We saw the first ever inter house 7 a side Football tournament take place on the Estate Gardens. It was a very highly charged and competitive afternoon. Each house played each other in a round robin format. The winners this year were Corinium.

Japanese students visit the Junior School



Rendcomb College Junior School Christmas tree in Cirencester Church



Corinium House Cup winners

# Reflections from the Pupil Team

The team contemplated the skills they have developed through helping with this year's copy of the Rendcombian, and thought about the magazine's wider impact on the school community.

*'I hope that the magazine is really good and full of excitement!'*

Ella Burton Form 1

*'Being involved with the magazine helps me in 'improving my English, grammatical and editorial skills and allows me to develop descriptive, creative and informative writing styles.'*

Lucas Boyer Form 2

*'I think that I have improved my confidence in interviewing people.'*

Alicia Devin Form 1

*'It helps me with my English and it is fun to express my opinion. I like writing articles, especially in pairs.'*

Maria Tutton Form 2

*'The magazine is for visitors who want to either look at the school, or actually come here in the future. Also it is for pupils who want to know about what is happening in school, and for teachers to know what is happening in the other departments.'*

Ella Sims Form 2

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