



Rendcombian

The Magazine for Rendcomb College, Juniors and Nursery

2013

Rendcombian Magazine

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From the Editor



It is with a certain feeling of déjà vu that I compose my first editorial for *The Rendcombian*. Having been heavily involved in the publication of the school magazine during my own schooldays, I can still recall the pride and satisfaction of, as a pupil editor, seeing one's name in print. It is with this in mind that I have set about re-launching *The Rendcombian* as a primarily pupil-fuelled initiative.

It has been a delight to see the editorial team grow from modest beginnings in January 2013 into a diligent and enthused group of pupils representing Form 1 to Form 5. Seizing the challenge of preparing the magazine in the shortened time-frame of two terms, they have worked tirelessly every

Friday afternoon: planning, liaising, writing, proof-reading, organising, even entertaining the School Chaplain to tea in order to conduct an interview. Often, it has seemed that my role has simply been to ensure that the favoured Waitrose chocolate-chip digestives are in adequate supply.

I sincerely hope that reading this may too kindly, unearth or amplify your love of writing. Setting aside time for this deeply personal and enriching form of self-expression does allow one to momentarily reflect on transient events, initiating essential organic thought processes. I have no shame in confiding that my default approach is illegible pencil-scribbles on scrap paper. ■

Miss J Longbourne

Chapel Review

Godfrey Simpson has been the School Chaplain for three years and is a key figure in the development of the spiritual side of school life.

The Chaplain himself grew up in a vicarage, and feels that growing up there had significance in his decision to become a priest. His father, too, was a vicar – and Rev. Simpson felt moved to go into the ministry from the age of eight. It was either that or becoming an actor. He loves acting and stage performances so much that he would give up *The Sound of Music* and *James Bond* to keep the works of Gilbert and Sullivan! The passion he has for cinema and performance is evident in his services, with the aisles of the Church becoming his centre stage. Each week, a new sermon comes from his fingertips; although he admitted it is tougher writing a sermon for the students of Rendcomb College than one for his typical congregation: ‘Pitching it at the right level for students is the key. Keeping the topics relevant usually works!’

St. Peter’s has seen a change in the level of student participation this year. Olivia Witts kicked off 2013 with a rendition of *These are a few of my favourite things* from the Reverend’s beloved *Sound of Music*, and he is keen for more soloists to step forward and perform, whether it be singing or playing a musical instrument. He himself is a keen fan of music, especially hymns; he revealed his love for *Christ Triumphant* to the tune of *Guiting Power*. His passions outside the Church extend to his dogs, and sport, including hockey, cricket and rugby. And as an acquaintance of Christian Horner, he follows Formula 1 racing.

A year ago, the Chaplain floated the idea of Confirmation to the students at a Chapel Service with the hope that this would provoke some interest.

This year, following a letter to parents, seven candidates came forward for Confirmation Preparation. ‘It’s been a long time since there has been a Confirmation at St. Peter’s, Rendcomb,’ the Reverend remarked.

The Chaplain could not pinpoint a ‘stand out’ service this year, but among his favourites were the Old Rendcombian Advent Carol Service and the Remembrance Sunday Service. Also at the top of his list was the Christmas Carol Service – an ‘uplifting and special’ occasion. Reverend Simpson highlights Cirencester Parish Church as one of his finest places of worship: ‘It’s a very special place, and the music there is always lovely.’ ■

Quick-fire questions:

Cats or dogs?

Dogs, of course!

Bentley or Jaguar?

Well, the Morse Jag – 2.4.

BBC or ITV?

ITV – I like the news readers!

Tea or coffee?

I’m actually a coffee man! Difficult one.

Rich Tea or Bourbon?

Rich tea – you’ve got to watch the waistline!

‘Rugby or Cricket?’

Cricket.

Maths or French?

I don’t care for either, but French.

Footloose or Pirates of Penzance?

Pirates.

Alex Pugh, Tom Pethick, Brodie Ash Form 5



Confirmation Service

A memorable Service took place in St. Peter’s Church on Friday, 17th May when the following nine very worthy candidates (seven students and two members of staff) were Confirmed by the Bishop of Gloucester: Amy Benson, Daisy Little, Robert McLaughlin, James Mudge, George Pearce, Florence Price, Elizabeth Templeton, Mr Neil Ferreira and Mrs Jill Roberts.

This Service of Baptism and Confirmation within a Celebration of Holy Communion included some good congregational singing strongly led by an augmented choir, as well as a solo by Mr David Pope, who sang the first four verses of Psalm 23 in Hebrew, and a piano solo by Charlotte Jones during the administration of Holy Communion.

I am sure that all the nine candidates will have lasting memories of this Confirmation Service – a Service that inspired a mother of one of the candidates to write the following: “the Service was very moving, more so than we would have ever anticipated”.

Over refreshments in the Reading Room following the Service, the Bishop was able to chat informally to the candidates and their families. This occasion helped to bring the evening, which had gone through seamlessly, to a perfect end. ■

Reverend G Simpson

Founder's Day Speeches

Dame Fiona Reynolds



Thank you for inviting me to share your special day, and congratulations to all today's leavers and speakers, especially the two Head Girls and Head Boys who made marvellous speeches.

Since I was invited to come here, I've been keen to find out more about Rendcomb College, and I've been reading about your Founder, Noel Wills. He was an extraordinary man – a musician, scholar, lawyer and a countryman.

When he decided to establish a school, he looked for suitable premises. He could have bought a building in Gloucester or Cheltenham, but his love of the countryside led him to choose Rendcomb Park – this wonderful building and grounds that you know so well.

He worked with J H Simpson, the first Headmaster, to establish the school and I was interested to see a reference to their vision on the back of today's programme. But what was their vision? Well, it was a remarkable one. They believed the school should aspire to **'social, moral and intellectual education rather than mere scholarship.'**

Today we might question the 'mere' in front of scholarship when everyone is chasing academic success, but to me this is a wonderful vision, because it emphasises the wider aspects and attributes of life that are not achieved through academic work alone – teamwork, friendship, respect, fun – in fact, many of the things the Headmaster referred to as the values of Rendcomb.

But I think Rendcomb also offers something more, something that is a very

special gift that you have been able to enjoy – the beauty of your surroundings.

Because beauty really matters. Your surroundings here are inspirational and I'm sure that when you think back to your time here you will remember the place as much as you remember your friends and your experiences. The first green shoots of spring, the summer days spent down by the river, the glories of autumn as the leaves turn, and the chill of winter snow and ice.

Whatever you decide to do with your life, wherever you go in the future, this will be your memory bank. Look at it, remember it, and treasure it. Because it will be with you wherever you go.

At your age, I didn't have a clue what I was going to do with my life and I guess that many of you are the same. But I did know what I cared about, and what inspired me. I loved beauty, and the countryside, and I became a geographer. And because I followed my passion I've been lucky to have a life working in charities to protect our beautiful countryside, working first for National Parks, then the wider countryside and finally the National Trust. And now I'm off to Cambridge – a very different job, in another beautiful place.

I didn't follow a conventional career, but I did follow my heart. I did what I was passionate about. And because of that, I've had all kinds of wonderful experiences.

And so if I have a message for you today it is that you should do the same. In fact, if I may, I have three short pieces of advice for you:

- First, follow your heart. You will already have some inkling about what your passion is – what interests you at school or at home. Listen to that passion, look after it and follow it. It won't let you down.
- Second, determination pays off. That's not just about hard work (though of course that comes into it!) – and it's not about always winning. It's about trying, not giving up at the first hurdle, finding ways of pursuing your passion if something doesn't work at first. In a nutshell, be as good as you can you be.
- Third, relish every moment and every opportunity. Don't keep looking around the corner for what's coming next – enjoy and make the most of every moment.

This advice is not about the future – it is for now. You are lucky people – Rendcomb College offers an extraordinary range of experiences and opportunities and it is a special place to be, as we've heard time and time again today.

But deeper than this is Noel Wills' philosophy – social, moral and intellectual education rather than mere scholarship.

The beauty of this place was essential to deliver that vision, it was not an accident that the school was founded here. So carry Noel Will's vision and the beauty of this place with you wherever you go. Let it inspire you, nurture you and sustain you throughout your life. Let it help you to be the person that you want to be. ■

Dame Fiona Reynolds

Headmaster Roland Martin

Dame Fiona Reynolds, Governors, Guests, Parents, Colleagues and members of our School...

A heartfelt welcome to you all and a particularly warm welcome to Dame Fiona Reynolds and Mr Bob Merrill on their first visit to Rendcomb. As you will be aware, Dame Fiona has enjoyed a varied and interesting professional life ensuring that many of our National Treasures are indeed treasured and is about to take over as Master – should it be 'Mistress', I wonder? – of Emmanuel College, Cambridge. We very much look forward to hearing from Dame Fiona in a little while.

Pot Noodles.
Pot Noodles.

Possibly the most inspirational afternoon that I have spent since last Founder's Day was in a museum dedicated to the invention of Cup Noodles – or Pot Noodles as we know them. It might surprise you that such a lowly contribution to gastronomy can have had such an effect though it is really the man behind the noodle that had the impact.

Momofuku Ando was a man of persistence and vision. Deeply affected by food shortages in post-war Japan and having had a checkered business career including the loss of his company owing to a chain-reaction bankruptcy, Ando was driven by his theory that 'Peace will come to the world when the people have enough to eat'. This motivation inspired Ando to do something to make a difference and at the age of 48, when most of us might have been tempted to resign ourselves to the lot that we have been assigned, he spent every night for a year – every night – working into the small hours of the morning trying to find a way to first preserve and then reconstitute noodles. Eventually, he perfected a flash-frying method that dehydrated the noodles, which could then be revitalized by the addition of hot water. The resulting product, Chicken Ramen, was marketed in 1958 and revolutionized the food industry. In 1964, Ando founded the International Ramen Manufacturers' Association, ensuring that there was a standard to this new commerce that had to be met by suppliers.

On a business visit to the United States, Ando noticed that Americans seemed to enjoy instant noodles but that they break them up, put them in a cup and eat them with a fork rather than with chopsticks. Inspired, he returned home, worked out a way to get noodles into a Styrofoam cup and the Cup Noodle – or Pot Noodle – was born in 1971. Ando was 61 years old at this time, having a second revolutionary idea when most of us might be thinking of retirement.

Being a Gloucester boy, I am well versed in Robert Raikes' belief that even the smallest mustard seed can become a tree. The mustard seed that Ando started in his back yard shed in 1958 had become an industry that sold 98 billion instant noodle products by the time of Ando's death in 2007. And the man was still innovating to the last, having produced Space Ram – the first noodles for astronauts – two years before his death, at the tender age of 95. I wonder how many of us will be innovating at 95?

So, three milestones: Chicken Ramen at 48, Cup Noodle at 61 and Space Ram at 95. And he started with nothing but the ability to work hard; the persistence to solve the problems with which he was faced and the resilience never to give up, even when the going was tough.

HeadMaster's Founder's Day Speech cont.



I hope that there are lessons in this story from which we can learn. For those of us of a certain age, in our forties, sixties or even nineties, we might still yet have that revolutionary and transformative idea. More likely, perhaps, is the fact that those here who are a little younger have the world at their feet and have the power to shape their own futures by applying some of the qualities of Ando: graft, persist, endure. The young people whose lives we are shaping at home and at School have a challenging future ahead of them. They have to solve many of the problems that our predecessors and we have left them as an inheritance; they have to make the challenging decisions that will no-doubt be needed to take the country and the world forwards; they have to exercise strong leadership and exert influence in a positive way. These young lives will need skills as much as they need qualifications. They will need an understanding that time – if used wisely – is

their greatest ally; that being an effective team player is more useful than being an isolated talent; and that the quality of compassion is a necessity. They will also need to be courageous – to stand by their beliefs and convictions even when there are tempests beating around them – and creative in their approach to problem-solving.

Our Founder, Noel Wills was, like Momofuku Ando, a man of persistence and vision who believed in the power of changing destinies of others through perseverance and endeavor. It is with sadness that we are notably without our Chair of Trustees this afternoon, Major Wills, the Founder's grandson, who is unusually missing Founder's Day but who wished to be remembered to you all. I spoke with him the other day and we thought that this might be only the second Founder's Day that he has missed; but he assured me that he would be with us in spirit. Both these men, our Trustees, Governors and other supporters of the School such as the members of The Dulverton Trust who have been supportive in our wish to transform Science teaching at Rendcomb – and the Martin Wills Trust, who continue to act as benefactors – have been committed to preparing Rendcombians for their futures beyond School by giving them the best opportunities available to them here. You have heard our Chair mention the Performing Arts Project which has been at the front of our thinking for a while; this space will have multi-purpose, multi-use benefit to the School for all members of it, whether their strength is performance or not, and I am delighted that the School is investing in the future.

In all of our pupil speeches today, you have seen much of the quality that Rendcombians have: the confidence and creativity of William and Seren and the honesty of Vicky and Lance that I feel sets Rendcombians ahead of their peers. The challenges of preparing a speech for a public occasion such as this is daunting enough for a Head, Chair or visiting speaker let alone for young people with examinations and other

challenges on their minds. Our Head Girl and Head Boy have shown remarkable integrity this year and have been true to themselves and I feel that that quality has come across in what they have said this morning. Thank you, both. But one of the best things about our School is that you do not have to have been Head Girl or Head Boy to be given the confidence and skills that you need and of which I spoke earlier. All of our Leavers this year have been presented with opportunities and challenges that will help them to face their futures and their example is significant in influencing a retention figure that has for the second year reached 70%. I am very grateful to them for the contributions that they have made during their time at Rendcomb.

And the future looks very promising. I have been fortunate to spend a great deal of time in the classroom this last year not only with my own fantastic class of Fifth Year pupils but also visiting the classes of others. I expect that members of the School think that I have been observing teaching though I have really been evaluating learning and of course, that involves a commitment from the pupils to engage in the process. A couple of weeks ago I was in a challenging lesson. The content was challenging, the time in the day was challenging but most of all the teacher was challenging: challenging young minds to think, to help themselves to knowledge and the students in the class responded in spades; I was as impressed with the students as I was with the teacher and that made me feel very privileged indeed. You will know that Michael Gove was criticized at the weekend by a group of Head Teachers over his policies. I would do my own challenging at this point: what Head Teacher worth their proverbial would not want standards to be higher in their School, no matter what School it is? Is not an essential part of the human chemistry a desire to strive to improve? I am not sure that I want to live in a world where we are content with our lot.

It has been a privilege to represent Rendcomb in a National and International context this year: in the

context of an educational debate at the Society of Heads Conference attended by HRH Princess Anne, in the capacity of Chair of the Society of Heads' Future's Group and as a guest of the Shukutoku School in Japan. I am also delighted that Rendcomb has been recognized as the leading independent School that it is by the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference and that it has been reinstated to that organization, the HMC. It has been a privilege too, to see so much interest in the School this year: a larger registration at 11+ and 13+ in 2012 with next year looking potentially to better that interest with 15 confirmed registrations and 30 families already involved in the Admissions process for 2014. But the real rewards have come from witnessing our pupils' many triumphs across a range of skills and disciplines in the School: too many to mention, both individual and collective and all worth their own considerable weight so that it would be invidious to isolate a few. We should be very proud about what our students do – often against the odds or even sometimes against the grain – and the manner in which they go about doing it.

On this special day, I should like to thank all staff – across the School, teaching and non-teaching – who have worked hard in a range of contexts during the course of the year: many colleagues are absolutely dedicated to putting pupils first at Rendcomb and I value and commend that agenda. I should like to thank parents for their support of continued work at Rendcomb and for the valuable encouragement that they give to some fantastic young people. And I should like to thank those who are often unnoticed and undervalued in this School community, many of whom work closest with me, some of whom are related to me, who understand big pictures and tough decisions and who sometimes have to be more courageous than is acknowledged and who graft, persist and endure.

Thank you to you all, and I hope that you enjoy the rest of this Founder's Day and the Half Term that lies beyond. ■

Headmaster

Senior Head Boy Lance Baynham reflects on his time at Rendcomb



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But theatre at Rendcomb is not limited to plays. The Dance Challenge and Theatresports are two events which sum up the Rendcomb ethos; supporting others and having the confidence to leave your comfort zone.

However these aren't the only examples of Rendcomb culture; Duke of Edinburgh, school trips and music events such as the Jazz Festival and Rock Concert are all worthy of mention and, combined with some inspirational teachers, they culminate in creating rounded pupils, well-equipped to enter the real world.

Maybe the quintessential element of Rendcomb life is the friendships that develop. One of the side effects of being in such a small school is the close-knit community. I can say with confidence that it won't be difficult to keep in touch with the friends I have made at Rendcomb. These friends have played a central role in my life so far, and it has been great to see them all grow alongside me, although, not everything changes.

Perhaps, that is what the elusive and immeasurable 'Rendcombness' translates as. It's not just academic results, but the breadth and depth of education and the extra-curricular activities which I have mentioned that prepare pupils so well for later life. It's the courage to perform, not just in the classroom, on the sports field or on stage, but in everything you do. It's the constant positive attitude and outlook and, most importantly, it's the desire to take every chance that presents itself. I think, if Rendcomb has provided me with nothing else, although it certainly has, it has provided me with opportunity and, more importantly, it has given me the confidence to seize it. Horace said "carpe diem", Drake said "YOLO". Whichever mantra you subscribe to, the importance of seizing the moment can never be understated, and I hold it as central to the Rendcomb ethos. Milton Berle once said that "if opportunity doesn't knock, build a door" and I hope that beyond Rendcomb I never lose sight of that message. ■

Lance Baynham Form 6U

Senior Head Girl's Founder's Day Speech

If someone told me when I first started here at Rendcomb that I would be standing here today, I would have never believed them; however, here I am. Going back nine years ago, when I first arrived from a small local independent school, I put on my red and navy uniform and immersed myself into the Rendcomb life, and what an adventure it has been.

From the very start, one of the concepts that amazed me was the unique family-like bonds between all year groups. Whenever I speak to pupils from other schools, this always surprises them. However, to us it's normal. This is especially highlighted by the First and Sixth Form buddy meetings. These meetings are a great opportunity for the new First Formers to be embedded into the Rendcomb culture without the feeling of intimidation which can arise from being in new surroundings.

Another aspect of the college which is overwhelming is the stunning setting in which we are all lucky enough to learn. The peace and tranquility makes it the perfect location to enhance one's education and to develop friendships. I will especially miss the summers here: nothing can beat a day with the sun shining down on the beautiful school, when everyone has a smile on their face with trips down to the river, or ice-creams on the lawns.

I have been lucky enough to be able to witness much needed change throughout the school; and I can happily say that I will be coming back as an Old Rendcombian to see the completion, and to also see how the whole college has changed,

even if I am a little envious that all this change is happening now I am leaving. I would like to wish the Headmaster the best of luck to getting Rendcomb the recognition that it deserves and the long-term success that will come from it.

With Rendcomb being a small school, I have benefited greatly as it has allowed me to take part in many aspects of the school over my time here, some of which I would like to share with you today. The captaining of the 1st XI Hockey team and joint captaining of the Clay Shooting team have aided me in developing the leadership skills necessary to perform the role of Head Girl. What's more, my participation in school plays, with involvement from just doing make-up to going on to having my own lines, has built up my confidence to be able to do things like I am today. I can definitely say that the skills learnt from this will assist me in all my endeavours in the future. Being able to take part in so much has allowed me to be able to find my hobbies and to develop them. This has also enabled me to grow in confidence in order to ensure that everything I do is completed to a high standard. However, I would love to see Food Catering offered as a subject, as for me this is a great passion and one which I couldn't develop here at the school; and it's a skill which could benefit you in the future.

As I previously stated, with Rendcomb being a small school, it has benefited me; however, it has also benefited every pupil in the school. Rendcomb helps to bring out your

Many people use statistics to convincingly show how good something is, or how well something is doing. However, a rounded education cannot be measured by statistics alone. It's not just exam results and other such figures, it's the immeasurable element that makes Rendcomb special to me and I'm sure I'm not alone in thinking that. Having been here for a decade, from J4 of the Junior School to the present day, I feel enormously proud to say that I am a Rendcomb product. Rendcomb has moulded me into the

young man I am today, it's taken me from an immature young boy to the measured, considered and sensible man you see before you. I think you'll agree it's some transformation.

So, the essence of Rendcomb is something which you can't calculate and illustrate by statistics, and I hope the following will convey what the ethos of Rendcomb has given me over the years.

Sport has been a large part of my Rendcomb career. Rugby in particular has always been extremely important to me and

the camaraderie involved in a rugby team, especially a Rendcomb rugby team, really is unique.

Likewise, I have always seized every opportunity to perform on stage, be it *Oliver Twist* in J4, *The Demon Headmaster* in Second Form or *Footloose* earlier this year. I often find being involved in a theatrical production is remarkably similar to being involved in a sports team; both involve a great deal of cooperation, leadership and confidence, three skills which Rendcomb can pride itself on producing.

Senior Head Girls's Founder's Day Speech cont.

talents, by focusing on your strengths and improving your weaknesses. This can only happen in a school like ours. There's no such word as 'can't', and Rendcomb helps to show this. The passion present at the school reflects on, and feeds into, the pupils; this helps us to flourish, creating all-round pupils who enjoy learning.

Over my time here at Rendcomb, I can happily say I have loved every minute; as the saying "live, love, laugh" goes, I can definitely say that I am leaving the college having done that. I have taken every opportunity that I have been given; this has helped me to prepare for the next step in my life. I am lucky enough to leave with friendships for life; even my friends who wished to stay but for different reasons left at the end of Fifth Form cannot keep away, and many are here today. This is testament to the special unique environment. Also the friendships of my current year group: although being very male dominant, it's about making the best of a situation that you possibly can, which is something that I have done, and by the end I couldn't have wished for a better group with which to spend my last two years at the school. They allowed me to build up bonds with them, and they have also helped me to see aspects of the school differently rather than just through a female's eyes. I am also lucky enough to have laughed

uncontrollably at least once a day with fellow peers, members of staff and visitors, all adding to the beauty of the school.

Being in Sixth Form and maturing, the relationships with teachers also change. Although still having the same respect that you've always had for the staff, due to classes getting smaller, and more time spent out of class with them, you develop a friendship-type rapport. Something that I never thought I would be saying! However, the constant support that all the staff members have given me over the years means that I feel I can almost say that they are now my friends.

Now that my time here at the college is to be over in a couple of weeks, I will miss every aspect of the school. You have taught me the rights and wrongs in life, to follow my dreams, and in doing that to put passion into tasks to fulfil everything I do. Although I'm sad that this chapter of my life is closing, I'm ready for the next step in my life. This is thanks to Rendcomb for helping me to prepare.

Finally, from the bottom of my heart, thank you, to everyone. Thank you for helping me make memories, friendships for life and for helping me to become the young lady I am today. And to those of you who are lucky enough to be able to continue your Rendcomb journey, take every opportunity you can: enjoy yourself and work hard, as 'time flies when your having fun'. ■

Victoria Clark Form 6U

Junior Head Boy's Speech: The Perfect School

I have been very lucky to attend Rendcomb for seven years, nearly 63% of my life, excluding holidays of course; so I can speak with some experience. The teachers are kind, caring and very thoughtful, providing an environment in which learning and effort are rewarded.

For me there is no better junior school than Rendcomb. At Rendcomb everybody tries their best; we are encouraged to put the maximum effort into all we do, at all times. We will make mistakes, but at Rendcomb we learn and improve from those mistakes. At distinction assemblies our effort is rewarded. It is great to hear how well your friends are doing and for everyone to celebrate success.

We enjoy a wide variety of sports, including martial arts, tennis, fencing, archery and chess. I have been fortunate to represent my school in rugby, cricket and football. Despite being such a small school, we have fantastic results when we play matches against local schools. This year we have been particularly successful on the football pitch. Sport teaches us the importance of teamwork and develops sportsmanship. We always try to win and mostly do. It is important to appreciate the other team's efforts. But if we lose we have learnt to be a good sport, despite the fact that our Headmaster mistakenly supports Bath Rugby.

We are encouraged in the arts, playing a variety of instruments at high levels,

appearing at Cheltenham Festival, in carol concerts, on radio programmes. Right now I have a couple of photos in our annual photography competition. I hope I am as successful as some of our pupils have been in other competitions this year. Fraser Day was a national winner of the Sightsavers Junior Painter of the Year competition exhibited at the Royal Academy of Arts; Freddie Shetliffe and Carmen Lee won their age categories for the National English Prose Competition for ABF The Soldiers' Charity, and they will be visiting the Red Arrows and Royal Navy in Portsmouth as their prizes. J2 recently won a trip to the Walking with Dinosaurs show at Wembley after designing their own unique dinosaurs; and many of

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our pupils gained distinctions and positive commendations from the judges at the Cheltenham Festival of Performing Arts. This is to name but a few of our numerous successes: for a small school we have a tremendous number of activities.

This year we have already raised over £1500 for charities such as The Gloucester Young Carers and Beenie's World of Otters, reminding us of our responsibility to others less fortunate. As a result of supporting and raising over £5000 for the National Star College, some of us were invited to attend the Olympic Stadium and warm up the track, before the stadium was officially opened. I will remember that experience for the rest of my life. I met Fatima Whitbread, she's not much taller than me.

We have enjoyed residential trips to Kilve Court in Somerset, and France. Other trips I remember are the

STEAM museum, Warwick Castle, the WW11 air raid shelter in Cirencester, the Victorian school and the art trail. At school itself, we have an amazing landscape in which to learn, play and enjoy. Forest School teaches us about our environment, especially how we should preserve and care for it.

I have noticed that with each year the amount of prep seems to increase slightly, projects are added and distinctions are distinctly harder to obtain. Learning about Brunel developed into an engineering challenge, and various bridge designs were built and submitted.

These have been a happy seven years, giving me a strong foundation. I leave Rendcomb College Junior School expecting to apply maximum effort for the rest of my school career as I aim to become a lawyer. After all, Rendcomb was built by a lawyer so it must be a rewarding profession. ■

William Evans J6

Junior Head Girl's Speech



I'm taking a risk: my speech is in verse;
It's short and it's quick and yes, it's rehearsed.
My name is Seren, in Welsh it means 'star',
I've been at Rendcomb for six years so far.

I joined at age five with all the 'Otters';
The school seemed so grand, like Harry Potter's.
I made friends with Czeska who had lovely curls,
I think she was glad to see some more girls!

Cricket has Lords, and football has Wembley,
Our sacred ground's Distinction Assembly:
Birthdays and medals, recitals and hymns,
Stickers for EFFORT, proud parents and grins.

Kind Mr Watson, friendly Headmaster,
One hand can silence all noise and laughter.
Watching in wonder, it's always the same:
How does he always remember our names?

The teachers are friendly, caring and kind;
Lessons are learning and playtime combined.
For my confidence, Mrs Haas is to blame;
One gives us sweets, but she can't be named!

This year we've visited France and Kilve Court.
They were fun and exciting; a lot is taught.
We learned about Rendcomb in J5 history;
To think this was once a home is a mystery!

Now I can see that we all have our day,
Whether in classrooms, matches or plays.
Like all the J6s, who take their last bow,
Rendcomb has made me the girl I am now. ■

Seren Evans J6

Features

The Prefect Team



This year's prefect team has certainly had some tough acts to follow. In recent years, it has been observed that the prefect body has become increasingly involved in College affairs: organising events, assisting in the management of houses, handling other duties and pioneering new and, hopefully, long-lasting initiatives.

In essence, we strived to achieve three things this year: to be an effective voice of the pupils; to help provide effective examples and role models for other students; and to assist in guiding the school in accordance with the Headmaster's aims in *The Onward Journey*.

The prefects were led by Lance Baynham and Vicky Clark as Head Boy and Head Girl, and Jack Pethick and Charlotte Jones as deputies. Each boarding house has had a pair of prefects assigned to it, there to aid the Houseparents in the management, running and organisation of the houses and associated activities. Mr and Mrs Coups in Park House have been assisted by Aileen Huang and Jack Pethick, whose main tasks have included working on the Sixth Form Ball Committee and thinking about what to do with the house budget. Ben Margesson and Will Scott have supported Mr and Mrs

Bevans in Lawn House; both spent a good deal of time there and have had the joys of supporting their brothers in that house this year. Charlie Lamble and Ali Sinfield have frequently visited The Old Rectory to work with Mr and Mrs Brealy, with one of their main tasks, of course, being to help supervise the Friday night challenges. Vicky Clark and Vicky Zhu have helped out in Stable House; and Charlotte Jones and Luke Witts in Godman House. With relatively few female prefects, it is great to see each of them taking responsibility for a number of tasks and Luke Witts stepping in and offering his services.

The team has also held a number of other roles. Ali Sinfield, Charlotte Jones, Ben Margesson and Luke Witts have been the Social Prefects, organising themed bars for the Sixth Form (and occasionally the Fifth Form), planning whole school events and managing the social budget. Charlie Lamble and Josh Thomas have been the Chapel, Environmental and Cultural Prefects, whose task has been to aid Reverend Simpson in the chapel, Miss Lucas as Environmental Officer and Mr Jennings with Sixth Form enrichment. Sagittarius Zhang, Aileen Huang and Vicky Zhu have played an important role as International Prefects, assisting in the EAL department and looking after pupils living a long way from home. The Lawn team of Jack Pethick and Will Scott have also been on the Food Committee, trying to represent the interests of the pupil body in all issues food-related. Similarly, all prefects have attended School Council meetings wherever possible to discuss a whole range of issues, both in cooperation with, and on behalf of, the rest of the school. That should be the main aim of any prefect team: representing the interests of the pupils. ■

Lance Baynam, Vicky Clark Form 6U



Noel Wills (Captain Frederick Noel Hamilton Wills 1887- 1927) bought and moved into Miserden Park, one hundred years ago in 1913. He and his young wife (Margery Hamilton Fraser, whom he married in 1912, the daughter of a High Court judge from North West Scotland) had previously taken various rented properties, some in Somerset, others in Warwickshire; but it was not until they found Miserden that they landed on an agreeable manor house and estate in which to start their married life together and bring up a family. In 1913 their eldest daughter, Theodora, was born, succeeded soon after by Michael in 1915. With five children of their own, and Rendcomb College founded across the way above the Churn valley, Noel was sadly not to be long for this earth. He died a young man, aged 40.

The Wills family retains more than a passing interest in this College of ours - or rather theirs, for it is a family concern - shepherded along its way after Noel's death by his widow, Margery; his son, David; his grandson, Major Tom Wills, a governor since 1965, who was brought in to shadow his uncle - 'Rendcomb meant a lot to David, he was quite a benefactor' - shortly after which, Tom was invited to become a trustee. Tom

100 years of the Wills family at Miserden

talks of how little he knew of his grandfather - 'Actual records of my grandfather are lost in the midst,' - for not only did Noel die aged 40, but Tom's father, Captain Michael Wills, was lost at War when Tom and his twin, Freddie, were just about to turn three, their younger brother, John, fewer than two years of age. 'My grandfather was obviously a man of many parts: he enjoyed the arts; he enjoyed riding; he enjoyed fishing; he painted quite well.' Noel was something of a tri-partite soul who wrote for journals, edited anthologies of essays and poetry - some of his watercolours can indeed be enjoyed by us all today, in the Reading Room at College, and senior ORs might remember his huge picture 'The Steep Climb to Peace' which once hung in the tower, now back in a Wills family home in the Borders - while sustaining a vigorous life outdoors too.

To an outsider, or a newcomer, the family is complicated in that it is large; the five children of Noel went on to have several children apiece themselves. Hence, last year, we asked Tom to furnish us with a family tree, which now hangs in the Wills Conference Room, in the former apartments where Rendcomb's Heads lived until the sixties. Being able to see the web of Willses reminds us all of the familial connection and the kind, dynastic governance behind the College; Tom steers the ship with a gentle hand, but not losing sight of where we, and the family behind us, are headed.

The village of Rendcomb has benefited from Wills involvement too; Tom's twin, Freddie - a former Captain in the army and High Sheriff of Gloucestershire - lived for many years in Rendcomb bringing up his three children, serving as Church Warden at St Peter's. The College currently enjoys

the beneficence not only of Tom, as Chair of the Trustees, but also of Tom's cousin, Linnie (whose brother Noel Gibbs 'a bright chap, far-sighted, an intelligent chap' also served as a trustee and governor before ill health prevented him from continuing); cousin, Catherine; nephew, Richard who farms locally; niece, Imogen - most recently elected into the governing body who has 'a good brain; works for the Home Office; lives nearby but commutes up to London' - ensuring that future generations of Rendcombians will continue to benefit from a Wills education. Tom's son, Nicholas - 30 this year, enjoying the army, about to join the Parachute Brigade as a Staff Officer - will expect to take up a position in the family education business before too long. Nicholas will ultimately inherit Miserden Park, 'Nicholas is very fond of the place and I think I've always felt as with any family, you want the next generation to take it on or you hope they will, I think it's so important that they have lived in the house because then they will have a sort of soft spot for it. I'm sure that will bear out with Nicholas. I think if you suddenly inherit, having never known the place, it's much harder, but he takes a great interest in everything.' As for the College, 'he is aware of his future responsibilities, and although you don't want to throw too much at him too soon, I think Rendcomb, fairly soon, should come his way.'

Major Tom Wills remembers his paternal grandmother, Noel Wills' widow 'a lovely person' very fondly, having spent much of his childhood in Gloucestershire. After Tom's father Michael was killed in active service in North Africa, his widow - Mary Margaret Mitford - returned to England from Cape Town. She had followed her army



officer husband – serving in Palestine – to a flat in Cairo, Egypt in the late 1930s, before war broke out; Tom and his twin Freddie had been born in Alexandria in 1940, John a year later. Families were evacuated out of Egypt to South Africa, ‘spending the war years in Durban.’ Tom’s earliest memory is of coming to England ‘on the troop ship’ after the war, particularly the ‘deck drills, the life jackets and a flashing red torch’ with no idea that their father had been killed. They landed at Liverpool from whence his mother promptly took her young family to Miserden – Tom remembers the bad winter of ‘47 spent there - before finding a house in nearby Ewen when his mother remarried Tim Gibbs ‘a friend and contemporary of my father’s, a very good stepfather’. Their home was close enough to see much of his grandmother as he was growing up. ‘Grandmother was wonderful with all her grandchildren, so warm, welcoming,’ apparent from the picture hanging in the hall at Miserden (above), of the benign matriarch surrounded by a teenage Tom, his brothers and cousins. And so Tom became increasingly aware of this place called Rendcomb, and the College, as part of what the family did. He was brought

along to Founder’s Day ceremonies as a boy, in the Quick days. In his thirties, he lived in the village of Miserden in The Old Forge for six years; close at hand to his grandmother. She remarried after the war, a Canadian Air Force Officer Huntley Sinclair who enjoyed walking. Based in Gloucester, ‘rather romantically, they met as he was out walking one Sunday’ in the Frome Valley below Miserden. This love of the outdoors is a pervasive Wills trait: much as he self-effacingly tells you that he is ‘a jack of all trades and master of none,’ to walk the grounds of Rendcomb with Tom is an education in itself, so knowledgeable is he about each and every tree. It has not only been the Cotswolds of Gloucestershire, though, which magnetize the family, there is a strong pull towards Scotland; with names like Hamilton and Fraser in the lineage, it is hardly surprising. A love for Scotland rubbed off onto Tom’s father – ‘he loved the sport, the fishing, deer stalking’ – since his grandmother used to rent a property at Achnashellach, Wester Ross, for holidays with her teenage family, the whole family ‘shunted up to Inverness on the train from Kemble and on to the Kyle of Lochalsh’; subsequently Michael tasked Margery

with the purchase of Coulin, contiguous with Achnashellach; Tom and his cousins enjoyed happy times there in the holidays and Tom still journeys north to fish and stalk each year.

Nearby Batsford was bought shortly after Miserden by Noel’s older brother, Lord Dulverton, an arm of the family which also retains a dynamic interest in Rendcomb; The Dulverton Trust recently gave substantial funds for the renovation of the Science labs in the Stable block. The family has evidently always rallied round each other. Tom talks of how Noel’s brother ‘was very helpful’ to his grandmother after Noel died, he ‘looked after the children and helped out with everything really.’ Similarly, the synergy of the current ‘clan’ is evidently to the College’s benefit.

Tom explained what he has enjoyed most about his role at Rendcomb College, ‘One of the nicest things to find is you meet people you haven’t met before and there’s a Rendcomb connection – they either have a child at Rendcomb, and say how much their child enjoyed Rendcomb and go on to tell me of their son or daughter’s success as a managing director of somewhere ... or someone you’ve not met previously

recognizes the name and says, ‘Oh you must be something to do with Rendcomb’, so that’s always nice.’ He continues, ‘It’s a family inheritance that one feels duty towards, to keep it within the family; something one’s been brought up with, and so one’s seen it flourish to the school it is today. It was even smaller then [in 1965] and one’s seen progression to co-education, Anthony Quick’s vision; and then the Junior School, which the governors, under the Chairmanship of Howard Phelps, asked Gerry Holden to set up.’ Tom is proud of Rendcomb ‘being a successful school, holding its own amongst much bigger more prestigious competitors.’

And on this 100 years of Willses at Miserden, what have been the highs of living at Miserden? ‘You kind of grow into a place, one was a bit daunted by the house to start with, but when my grandmother died I knew I’d have to face the house. It needed a complete overhaul inside, nothing had been done, decoration-wise, for years. So that took a couple of years after she died in 1980 and I moved in in ‘82. So two years to make the house more comfortable. The kitchen is much more convenient now, the hall used to be the main sitting room, but it’s not a warm room with the north wind coming straight through the front door, so the telephone room made for quite a cosy study. I made three let flats, entirely separate, which has been very successful. It made the house much more manageable. One of the original tenants aged 98 is still there.’ That fact says much about Major Tom Wills; he is someone who engenders staunch loyalty amongst those around him. As the member of the Wills family with the longest tenure of service to the College, we are certainly most grateful for his unfaltering commitment to Rendcomb. ■

Mrs K Martin

Science Refurbishment



Before refurb



After refurb

The Science Department has undergone a complete transformation in 2012-2013, with five laboratories being refurbished to the ‘gold standard’ of teaching and learning, creating discrete areas for practical and theoretical work. This exciting development, only made possible by our small class sizes, allows pupils and their teachers to maximise the learning in every lesson. Pupils will be able to learn theory sitting comfortably in chairs, rather than perching on stools, with an excellent view of the interactive whiteboard, and at tables that can be moved to facilitate group work and discussion, developing those all important communication, problem-solving and planning skills. Furthermore, time for practical work will be gained through not clearing away books and blazers.

The project has been generously supported by The Dulverton Trust and The Martin Wills bequest and the Department is very grateful for the support that these benefactors have given.

Huge thanks must go to Pete Cairns and his able Works Team, as well as to the Bursar, Trustees, Governors and Headmaster for their support. ■

Mrs S O’Sullivan

Farewells to Teaching Staff



Mrs A Barnett

Andrea has worked at Rendcomb for the past year covering Sally Mills' lessons. She very quickly found her feet in the school and was successful in delivering stimulating and creative Lower School Drama lessons. She also involved herself in helping Lower Sixth Theatre Studies prepare for their Artaud practical exam and encouraging them in their pursuit of excellence. She became a vital side-kick to Mrs Dodd with her good humour, love of McSteamy and vast chocolate consumption!

She moves on to Denmark Road Girls' Grammar School and we wish her well in her new appointment. ■

Mrs D Dodd

Miss S Mills

Miss Mills came to Rendcomb to renew her acquaintance with the college, having taught here before with Sixth Form Performing Arts. She came to teach Lower School Drama and rapidly established herself as a kind, responsive teacher with a keen desire for her pupils to learn and flourish. She was also a much needed partner in crime for Mrs Dodd and helped with many school events such as Dance Challenge and Theatresports.

She directed Lower School plays showing a good eye for detail and characterisation. Sadly, over the recent past, Miss Mills' time with us has been blighted by illness and it was with much sadness that she resigned her post this summer. We thank her for all of her kindness and good humour and wish her future good health and happiness. ■

Mrs D Dodd

Miss J Quick

I have been extremely lucky this year to have had such a wonderful Graduate Assistant. Jess has been an absolute asset across the school: coaching Hockey and Lacrosse; supervising the Art and Music Departments in the evenings to enable students to work independently; undertaking Lawn House evening duties; and assisting with Duke of Edinburgh (culminating in a five day expedition with the Sixth Form in the Black Mountains). But above all, she has been a star in the History Department, helping to update materials, and creating some wonderful PowerPoint presentations and activities which will be used in years to come.

Jess is an inspirational teacher already. She will be missed not only in the Department, but also by the students. The First Form thoroughly enjoyed the Chepstow Castle visit organised by Jess; a wonderful day was had by all. The fact that she settled into teaching so smoothly made my job so much easier. Any school will be proud and lucky to have her as a full-time History teacher in the future.

We wish her all the very best as she embarks on a PGCE in Secondary History teaching at the University of Bristol in September. ■

Mrs M Kinson

Mr P Jennings

Paul Jennings led the English Department with energy and enthusiasm for over a decade. He very quickly established himself as a passionate advocate for literature and learning. Exam results steadily rose, as did the number of pupils continuing on into the Sixth Form to study the subject at A Level. He also found time to establish the new post of Head of Sixth Form Enrichment, being responsible for bringing a wide range of visiting speakers to the college to challenge and educate Sixth Formers on Thursday evenings.

Paul is also an enthusiastic showman, and many college events such as the Dance Challenge and Theatresports have benefited from his comedy and compering skills. Furthermore, he has been a much valued staff member on our Drama Tours to London and History/German trips to Berlin. Although a committed Manchester United fan, he coached hockey and was a vital, but rather terrifyingly enthusiastic, member of the Staff Friday Football team!

Paul has taken up a teaching post in Switzerland and is looking forward to new and exciting challenges. He will be sorely missed by staff and pupils alike. ■

Mrs D Dodd

Mr D Pope

Mr David Pope has spent this year with us leading the Spanish Department.

What was University like and what did you read?

'Best days of my life! I was an undergraduate at New College, Oxford, where I sang as a Choral Scholar in the professional Choir, travelled the world, made numerous recordings and broadcasts and appeared before royalty in several countries. Oh, and I studied Classics – Latin, Greek and French. Later on, I went back to Exeter College, Oxford, to do a Masters in Spanish.

Have you found teaching different from how you imagined it would be?

It's different every day. You never know how quickly a pupil is going to understand what you're trying to teach, or what you are going to learn from him or her. As soon as you think you have got one point or concept nailed down, there's another question from the class.

Who has been the biggest influence on your life?

Successive choirmasters, from the early days in my Parish Church choir, through professional choirs such as New College Choir, Magdalen College Choir, Westminster Abbey Choir, St Paul's Cathedral Choir right up to international opera outfits like Les Arts Florissants and La Chapelle Royale. These guys get the best out of you if you let them and if you are prepared to go for it and discover it in yourself.

How have you found Rendcomb?

I have loved it at Rendcomb. Everybody – the students, the staff and the non-teaching staff I have met have been amazingly friendly and eager to help when I have asked, and there is a genuinely warm feeling of friendship to be found everywhere. I think it even exudes from the golden Cotswold stone of the buildings.

What would you change in Rendcomb College given the chance?

The computers. I would buy in Macs and the whole iOS ecosystem. Yes, they may be more expensive, but they are beautifully designed, they work, they last longer, and they are easier to use. ■

New Teaching Staff

Mrs R Romero

I have joined Rendcomb College as the new Head of Spanish, and I am delighted to be part of the community at this school; I could tell straight away that this is a very special place.

I am from the city of Granada in Spain, and I undertook my university studies in Seville and Madrid. Before coming to the UK a few years ago, I also lived in Germany. I really enjoy living in England, but I still always look forward to spending time with my family at the beach back in Spain.

I first decided to learn a foreign language, in my case German, as a means to improve my employment prospects. I soon realised, however, that learning a language can mean much more than that; for me, it is a portal to discover other ways of living, and others ways of understanding the world. I am passionate about languages and I hope to share this enthusiasm with as many of you as possible. ■

Mrs R Romero

Mr I Anderson

Mr Anderson joins the English Department for this academic year. He brings to the Department a huge range of experiences across the sector. Mr Anderson ran a Department successfully in Kirkby Lonsdale, Cumbria for seventeen years before deciding that he should like to pursue short-term contracts in different learning environments; recent contracts have placed him at Heathfield, King William's College, Downe House and Gordonstoun. As well as teaching English, Mr Anderson will be in charge of Debating. ■

Headmaster

Mr J Hornsby

Mr Hornsby comes to Rendcomb as our first Director in Residence.

He has a BA [Hons] from the Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts in Community Drama and has experience of leading student drama workshops at the Empire Theatre, Liverpool. He will be teaching all Lower School Drama, some GCSE Drama and directing the Lower School play in the Summer Term. ■

Mrs D Dodd

Mrs E Noble

Emily Noble joined us in September 2012 as the Latin tutor, coaching a small number of students to GCSE Latin. She lives in Shipston-on-Stour with her husband Ed and daughter, Sophie. She studied Latin and Ancient History at Warwick University, graduating in 2008. She loves Latin because of its rules. To her, translating a text is like solving a puzzle. In her spare time she keeps some pet sheep, her favourite of which is called Florence. ■

Mrs S Young

Rendcomb College's American Studies' tutor, Susan Young, is both a U.S. National and an experienced teacher from the United States. She has a detailed knowledge of the U.S. Education System at both High School and University level.

The American Studies course examines major events in American history beginning with the colonisation of the continent, the American Revolution, the origins of the U.S. Constitution and continuing to the 20th Century. The course also surveys the major political, economic, social and cultural developments in the United States. The course also examines the structure of the U.S. Government, citizenship, the rise of the states and important current affairs in the U.S.

In addition, our American Studies tutor, Mrs Young, will be on hand to offer advice and help to navigate the whole process of applying to U.S. universities. ■

Shadowlands by Sarah Read

Inspiration for *Shadowlands*:

I've always enjoyed writing, but had never really felt compelled to put any of my work forward for publication. That is until I worked at my last school.

Every day after lunch, the whole school would sit in their classrooms and read silently for 15 minutes. It didn't matter whether you were a student, teacher or head teacher – at 2 pm we all got out our books and read.

Although this sounds like an excellent idea, for some of my students it was the moment they dreaded most in the school day – purely because they didn't enjoy reading. We had many conversations about why this might be, and countless trips to the library to try different books (both fictional and factual), but nothing seemed to spark their instinct for reading.

Finally, we worked out the crux of the problem; the length of the novels they were reading were too weighty, and the smaller, more accessible stories, were aimed at readers far younger than themselves and therefore didn't interest them.

After discussing this issue with a friend one day, they suggested that I write a novel that was aimed at the 'reticent' reader – one that would appeal to young adults, but would contain simplified language with shorter chapters...thus the idea for *Shadowlands* was born.

I decided to centre the plot around a fictional world because I love the idea of escapism in novels. The joy of reading about somewhere that could potentially exist (in a galaxy far, far away!) appeals to my imagination and, as I'm always telling my students, if you don't enjoy and engage with your creative ideas, how do you expect anyone else to!

I am incredibly happy that my publishers (Austin Macauley Publishers Ltd) decided to take a chance on both a new author and concept, so as they say: watch this space!

Shadowlands will be available to purchase towards the end of 2013. ■

'Blurb' for *Shadowlands*:

An engaging fantasy novel which grips your interest from the very beginning. This scintillating adventure by Sarah Read encourages readers to abandon their previous conceptions of science-fiction. Written with the 'reluctant reader' in mind, this shorter novel allows you to engage with the characters in a manageable format without detriment to the imagination.

Hathonia; a perfect place to live. That is until the Shadows come, until the flames start to move in strange patterns, until one woman hears the call from the land of the Shadows. As Alexis and Simone attempt to strive to understand the changes in their homeland they begin to realise that the answers all lie in the *Shadowlands*. ■

Extract from *Shadowlands*:

The awakening:

Yessin stared into the fires at the temple complex. The sky above burned brightly with thousands of star lights gazing down at the world below, passing judgement on the lives of the mere mortals beneath them. Yessin however, knew different, he was no mortal – he had a direct connection with the Hathanoi, a connection that had taken years of dedication to build and nurture, and one that he would protect at all costs.

The fires seemed to burn brighter tonight, seemed to glimmer with a fiercer intensity. Yessin had foreseen this moment many centuries past. He knew that if he missed his moment tonight, he would never get another chance like this.

He turned his attention to the sleeping city beneath him. A small grin passed over his smooth features and passed into his eyes, which appeared to gleam in the snaking embers of the fire. Tonight, one of the Hathoni would awaken that which was dear to him, that which would eventually belong to him...that which he could use to completely control both his own destiny and that of the entire city. The years of waiting would finally be over; all he needed to do now was to discover the chosen person. If they belonged to the lower Hathoni his task would be much easier, he knew that destiny had an ironic misplaced sense of equality in judgement that would hopefully ensure that his next task would be easy to accomplish.

Mrs S Read

Non-Teaching Staff

An interview with Mr Cairns, Works Manager

The only disadvantage of living and learning in such a beautiful environment is that it has to be maintained. Whether it be snow ploughing, tile laying, grit throwing, alarm testing, grass cutting or anything else in the infinitely long list of daily safety and up-keeping jobs, Mr Cairns and his team of maintenance staff are ready for the job.

He himself, now confined to 80% office work, Mr Cairns let us in on the life of Rendcomb's Works Team. 'It's all quick decisions and fast solutions,' he suggested, as the maintenance staff have a flexible schedule – 'We have very little to start and we get busier as the day goes on.'

The routine for the maintenance staff is considerably different from the rest of the school; instead of a set system, they are constantly reacting to the on-going issues and needs for the day. The calls to each house for repairs are now similar, since

the boys have moved to the roomier Lawn House. The usual call is often for window repairs, but the maintenance team's expertise lies further than glass fixes. The new Science labs are being removed and fitted by the team, and Mr Cairns believes that they are the main focus for the staff this summer. 'We'll have them all in, and fitted, by the end of June.' Alongside the development of the Science labs, Mr Cairns revealed that exciting times are ahead for Rendcomb – 'I can't say too much, but there are some major developments coming to Rendcomb in the next five to ten years.' He puts the sudden thrust of development down to an exciting new Headmaster, and admits that his team, with the new leadership, will be incredibly busy. 'There are exciting times ahead,' he re-iterated. 'It's all go from here.'

The team itself has a strong morale, with Mr Cairns very much at the spearhead of

entertainment on the job – 'I've never grown up!' he said, after being asked who is the joker in the crew – 'I am definitely the joker.'

It seems, however, for all his comedic gold, that he can't quite surpass Mr Stutchbury, his shooting compatriot, with the gun. 'He's quality. No doubt he's better than me.' A joker, a shooter, hardworking and influential – Mr Cairns has a big role in Rendcomb. A role, however, that he doesn't treat as a job: 'I don't regard it as a job. I love working here. I love coming in, with the staff, and students.' The maintenance boss enjoys the atmosphere around campus – 'Throughout the years, it's no 'them' or 'us'. A Sixth Former can speak to a First Former, and speak as if they were in their year. It's great to work, and live, in a family-like atmosphere. Of everywhere in the world, this place – even working here – is the only thing I'd miss. I love it. It's just fantastic.'

It seems that much excitement

Quick-fire questions:

Cheese or ham?

Ham

Art or drama?

Art

Pie or crumble?

Crumble

Land Rover or Land Cruiser?

Land rover

Tea or coffee?

Coffee

12 duck-sized horses, or 1 horse-sized duck?

1 big duck

surrounds Rendcomb's future, and that Mr Cairns and his team of workers are at the forefront of making these developments possible. Despite the hard work, the pressure and difficulty of being at the pinnacle of Rendcomb's progression, Mr Cairns will no doubt still find time to train the shooters, retain his top spot in student and staff banter, and maintain the beauty of the surroundings. ■

Tom Pethick Form 5

An Interview with Mr Naylor, Commercial Manager



Having established in the early stages of the interview that he is in fact a 'custard' rather than 'cream' man, a man who prefers Italian cuisine to French, and perhaps most controversially, a supporter of the fat chip, it became clear that Mr Naylor is a man of a refined taste.

The undertaking that goes with the Head of Catering title is sizeable to say the least. The relentless cycle of daily meals, combined with an influx of meetings and preparations for school events, would be enough to stretch any other man too far, but not Mr Naylor. He takes it all in his stride with the help of the hard-working catering and domestic teams. And if needs must, he could even be found in the kitchens; it is not uncommon to find Mr Naylor with his sleeves rolled up doing 'some good old washing up'.

Mr Naylor has been a prominent figure at Rendcomb for the past fourteen years, having previously worked for the BBC. He was keen to share past experiences and was very quick to point the finger at Thierry for being 'the biggest joker in the kitchen', with Simon from catering not far behind. Mr Naylor assured us that his passion for baking was present at an early age, perhaps due to his mother's famous 'stew and dumplings'. He recalled fond memories of baking Victoria sponges and selling them to the local old ladies. His nostalgia for cooking was obvious, and when presented with a question concerning an alternative career path, he was quick in response: 'I honestly don't know what I'd want to do if I couldn't cater.'

When asked what he would change about the school he struggled to answer, before reaching the conclusion that 'perhaps longer lunch breaks would allow pupils to spend longer in the Dining Hall and enjoy their meals to a greater extent.' He was keen on pushing for further developments in Main College, including a possible cosmopolitan cuisine area, providing a more refined dining experience. His appreciation of food is matched only by his enjoyment of Rendcomb itself. ■

Brodie Ash Form 5

Farewell to Mr and Mrs Hardy

It is with great sadness that on 28th March 2013 we said farewell and best wishes to Jim and Pearl who, as Catering General Assistants, have worked tirelessly to support Rendcomb College throughout their combined 46 years of service. Jim started at Rendcomb College in 1989, and in 1991 he was joined by his wife Pearl. During their time they have helped to look after thousands of students and staff always with a happy smile on their faces, and a dedication and loyalty to the customers and their colleagues that will be impossible to replace.

Jim and Pearl have over the last couple of years eased their way into retirement with a job share which has started to give them a taste of what is to come and we all wish them a long and happy retirement. They will be very much missed by the colleagues they leave behind and the Rendcomb family. ■



Quick-fire questions:

Right Twix or Left Twix?

Right

Favourite sport?

Badminton

Three items to take to a deserted island?

Matches, a wind-up radio and 'Larousse Gastronomique'

Would you rather fight twelve duck-sized horses or one horse-sized duck?

One horse-sized duck, I'd take on the big guy.

Headmaster

Rendcomb's special friendship with Shukotoku School

The Headmaster was most fortunate to have been invited to open Shukotoku High School's new premises, in Northern Tokyo, in April 2013. Rendcomb has a long-standing connection with the Shukotoku School's community, thanks to a relationship garnered initially by former Headmaster John Tolputt; we have regularly received pupils on twelve month placements from the school over the years.



The opening ceremony, attended by dignitaries and new pupils of the school, was a most decorous affair. The freshmen students were remarkably austere and sombre, neither a giggle nor a whisper out of place throughout the lengthy ceremony. There was much formality and dignity in the proceedings: pupils and parents were immaculately turned out; staff, governors and the Sensei (Japanese Headmaster) all took to the stage in ceremonial gowns and rosettes; greetings, bows to each other, both before and after speeches, marked time and tempo.

Mr Martin spoke of the importance of community and the importance of giving service in his speech, translated, sentence by sentence, into Japanese for the benefit of any listeners not yet fluent in English.

Shukotoku is an interesting school in its international outlook; pupils are taught English rigorously and encouraged to spend a year abroad in an English speaking country to develop their fluency in our language. Our associates at Cotswold Wind Academy work hard to ensure that these placements happen comfortably and efficiently. Another aspect of CWA's work is to bring Shukotoku pupils to Gloucestershire for two week placements over school holidays, during which Japanese boys and girls stay with families in homes for cultural enrichment and educational programmes arranged in Cheltenham. Incidentally, if any Rendcomb families would like to host a Japanese student for two weeks, do please contact Mrs Stutchbury in order to be put in touch with CWA's contact in the UK.

On a further occasion, Mr Martin was invited back to address the whole body of 1600 students. A less formal event, but one where the pupils still observed a strict and regimented code of behavior: line upon line of beautifully presented, intent, alert students.

Later, our Head met with their Sensei over a prolonged traditional Japanese meal, where much business is done in Japan. There were more speeches, and some interesting victuals for an English palate unused to such delicacies. Most importantly was the sense of a real synergy of ideologies and a great feeling of symbiosis between the two Heads. Future relations between Rendcomb and Shukotoku look very promising indeed.

The Headmaster and his family are most grateful to all in the Shukotoku community, and particularly to Mr Yoshimoto and Cotswold Wind Academy for making them so very welcome, and for extending the hand of friendship across the continents. ■

Mrs K Martin



During October Half Term, the Headmaster and his family visited Kosovo to look at some potential links for Rendcomb.

Kosovo is the world's youngest country – a difficult birth in 2008 after years and generations of conflict – with the youngest population. There are too many children for its schools so state schools operate shifts: you might attend early in the morning; late in the morning; or in the afternoon. Teachers work two of the three shifts. The average monthly wage in Kosovo is about 370 Euros (£296).

The Serbian-Albanian conflict saw many atrocities and massacres committed under the banner of Serbian supremacy and the leadership of Slobodan Milošević. We seemed never to be far from a village where an atrocity had taken place. One afternoon, we were given apples by a man who was harvesting them from a tree; we were told minutes later that the tree was very special to the man: his three brothers had been killed under it during the war. It

would be naïve to suggest that the atrocities of this conflict were one-sided. Serb villages and churches were burned, vandalized or desecrated in 2004-5 by angry Albanians wanting revenge.

Odd though it might seem to some, Tony Blair is revered as a national hero in Kosovo – so much so, in fact, that there are thirteen children who have been christened Tonyblair (one word) in the country.

We spent some of our time in the Ashkali-Roma community, a marginalised group which constitutes 2% of Kosovo's population. The average family size in this community is seven; we visited a home where 13 children (eight from one family, and five orphaned cousins) and two adults sleep together in the same small room. Many of these children are not allowed to go to school, either because they do not have a birth certificate or passport; or because they do not know their alphabet or – simply – because they do not have shoes on their feet. One member of every household is responsible for going into town

Kosovo Visit

each day to go through rubbish bins in the hope of finding things to use/recycle/sell. A kilogramme of plastic bottles will earn 17 cents – less than a fifth of a Euro or 14p. Our friend, Elizabeth, went out with two members of the community to experience what this forage was like. In three hours, three people collected eight large bin bags filled with plastic bottles. This is effectively nine hours of work. They cashed the bags in for 2 Euros and 18 cents (£1.75 or 58p each). Finding aluminium cans is slightly more lucrative, reaching 30 cents for a kilogramme (24p); batteries are the most lucrative form of rubbish earning 75 cents per kilo (60p).

One of the boys, Ahmet, was invited to be a part of a charity day by the UN. 100 Kosovan children from poor backgrounds were given a balloon to which they attached a wish before letting the balloon go; Ahmet's wish was to obtain a passport so that he could attend school.

Some teachers have been known to discriminate against Ashkali-Roma children, to exclude them from sitting at desks and even strike them for no reason. However, there is a body of teachers who are really dedicated to education and who taught underground lessons in garages during the war when the Serbs closed universities and banned schools from opening; some teachers ran the risk of crossing barricades and literally risked their lives to make sure that young people were educated.

In spite of their poverty, the people we met were embarrassingly hospitable and insisted on giving us sweet drinks, tea and baklava – a walnut and honey cake. It is a severe insult to turn down Albanian hospitality.

A film about our visit can be found on YouTube. <http://youtu.be/z2wX31ty7js>. ■

Headmaster



Academic Reports

English & Creative Writing

Horowitz Competition

At the beginning of the Michaelmas term, Rendcomb College was set the challenge to ‘write like Horowitz’; the winners would receive tickets to meet, interview and listen to the great man himself at the Cheltenham Literature Festival.

The English department received many entries which showed a clear awareness of his writing style, and were equally impressive in their delivery. We eventually chose our winners, and sent them off to find out more about Anthony Horowitz.

Congratulations again to:		
Form	Winner	Runner-up
1	Grace Tushingham	Matthew Ferraira
2	Alex Dennet	Layla Isher
3	Aubrey Young	William Witts
4	Laurence Jones	Sam Tushingham

Anthony Horowitz at the Cheltenham Literature Festival

All authors have a fort ; some are naturally Children’s Authors, others find their place writing for adults. It takes great skill to be able to successfully convey a style of writing to your ideal audience, and there is one great author that comes to mind, amongst many others – Anthony Horowitz. He is a superb author, also credited for his skills as a screenplay writer, and he has written episodes for popular TV series. In October, he graced Cheltenham by visiting the Literature Festival, and was kind enough to agree to meet a few students who had managed to write a creative prompt in a style like his own. I was fortunate enough to be one of those students, and there is something immediately about this man that grabs your complete attention: he has this air about him that draws you in, like a nearly tangible veil of his imagination and the touch he has to literature. Many write

only for the money, but Anthony Horowitz is not that kind of author; he genuinely writes because he loves it, and he has a very close relationship with his amazingly crafted characters. Something that immediately struck me when I was meeting with the man was his ability to make me think while I was struggling to contain my laughter at his jokes. With his strange fascination of throwing people he has met into his stories, I sincerely hope I am not scheduled to die gruesomely in his next tale.

As a child growing up, I stumbled upon his claim to fame, *Stormbreaker*, when I was rather rudely going through my older brother’s books. Even from this young age, I loved to read and immediately got tangled up with Alex Rider’s adventures, following diligently until the last of his adventures. Soon after, I discovered his *Power of Five* series, and just as quickly was thrilled by

reading the adventures of Matt in a small town ruled by the Old Ones. I’ve never really given authors much thought as people, but speaking with the mastermind behind all these stories has shed a new light for me. I endlessly admire his ability to face crowds, despite the rather harsh background he came from, and he can turn anything – for example, his son in an elevator for one minute – into a great story that grips his reader until the very end. I, being an aspiring writer, find him to be one of my role models, because my inspiration has to be violently flung down from the heavens of ideas before I even think of a remotely interesting story, but having a chat with Anthony Horowitz led to at least five different stories from taking in simple things from the room. If there is any author to meet, or listen to a lecture from, it is Anthony Horowitz with his witty humour and endless grins. ■

Aubry Young Form 3

Poetry Competition

The Lent and Summer terms have seen the English Department introducing some national poetry competitions to the student body.

The entrants have had some superb rewards to look forward to, and we’re hopeful that the applicants to the (yet to be judged) ‘Poetry Rivals’, ‘National Poetry Society’ and ‘Women’s Poetry’ competitions will see their poems in print soon.

Students who entered the recent ‘Poetry Games’ competition were all incredibly successful, with all entrants going on to be published in the Poetry Games South West regional anthology. We hope that some will also be selected to have their poem judged in the national final, and hopefully win an iPad.

Congratulations to all of you who have done so well in these competitions, and I hope that those students who have not yet entered will be encouraged to do so!

Poetry Games Anthology winners:

Aubry Young, Thomas Godwin, Daisy Little, Dylan Evans, Edward Davies, Sunday Lendis, Georgia Pethick, Maggie Hyde and Jared Wason-Cooper.

Belief by Edward Davies

Belief is the essence of one’s true self.
Belief is the sense of our own will;
To do still what is moving,
To pass the impassable,
To see what is blinding,
To beat the unbeatable,
To overcome infinity.
Belief is to have seen the true mean’ of another.
Belief is a force to be doubted by ignorance.
However for all Giaour,
Festering in your vast hives;
Belief is the power that thrives,
As the world turns sour;
Ever growing, hour upon hour.

As You Like It

To wrap up the topic of Shakespeare, the Third Form, under the grace of the ever-thoughtful Mrs Read, received the opportunity to journey to Stratford-Upon-Avon for a long day of Shakespearean immersion followed by one of his famous comedies, *As You like It*. By divine intervention, we didn't quite make it to studying tragedy, so no theatres were flooded by the tears of the over-emotional students.

During the follow-up to the play, we were given a tour of Stratford-Upon-Avon. The destinations included Holy Trinity Church, where Shakespeare himself is (supposedly, I hasten to interject, just in case this information is proven wrong sometime in the future) buried; this is also the home of a large, colourful bust of Shakespeare created some seven years after he died. It is believed to have been financed by his family, so thereby considered to be an accurate depiction of the great playwright and poet. Following Holy Trinity Church, we strolled about and visited Shakespeare's home, which had been torn down long before we could do anything about it. Directly across the street is located Stratford Grammar School, the school Shakespeare is believed to have attended, since such a literary genius cannot be pulled out of thin air without some sort of teaching. A journey upwards into high places allowed a picturesque view of Stratford, followed by some free time.

The play itself was absolutely riveting, filled with amazing actors that maintained the Shakespearean language and explained things subtly yet clearly. Despite the late night, the trip was still thoroughly incredible and one of the best ways to start the wind-down of the year in a fun and educational way.

A big thank you goes to the English department and to the man Shakespeare himself, whoever he may be, for providing us with such an intriguing national treasure and trip out to learn more.

Aubry Young Form 3

Trapped

They don't know yet, but they will eventually...they will know that I betrayed them, I am the one who will be ruining their lives! I had to do it though, no one understands the choices I have and had to make. For my own selfish reasons...but I still have to do it, my freedom depends on this, save my friends or save myself. We have been running for far too long. We will have to stop soon.

We stopped for a second; silence. The soundless wait only made me more worried; every second my friends were running was another second they were wasting. Soon...Soon, my stomach started to turn and my hands went damp with sweat, one place would show the Guards where we are. I was told not to get this attached but now I have, I'm trapped inside myself and there is no escape, no light at the end of the tunnel, only death and darkness.

The excitement in their eyes was killing me, I was leading them in the wrong direction, the direction towards their death and they had no clue.

I heard Maximus scream, my stomach dropped. I panicked and sharply turned around not to see him in pain, but to see him fall to his knees in relief, only his hand was raised pointing into the dark gaps of the trees, and that's when we saw it...A Light.

Jacob Crozier-Davies Form 4

www.rendcomb.org.uk

How would a rainbow feel if you could touch it?

Eventually, I touched the rainbow: an unbelievable experience. I felt so strange when I stood on the ground and lots of birds, which looked like fairies, lifted me up to the sky and into the cloud. I don't know where they came from and I felt completely strange and yet new. The reason for the use of the word 'eventually', is that these days I have been observing the rainbow. The teacher asked us to look at how beautiful the rainbow is and its formation. I have dreamt about the rainbow plenty of times. Now I should share the happiness and enjoyment with you, what I felt when I was standing on the rainbow and touching it, almost tasting it!

The red part of the rainbow was hurting me when I touched it and when I tasted it, I felt it was too sweet. I tried to think because red means hot, it would be the reason why it hurts me and why it is too sweet. But it was a start of that beautiful thing. Then it was orange, orange is a bit sour but soft like when we peel the skin of an orange! The yellow symbolizes lemon, it was much more sour and tough. When I touched the green, it felt like when we were lying in the grass, the wonderful feeling we got. It was much softer than the others. Blue is my favourite colour. When I touched it, I felt a little cold but comfortable. Purple is a mysterious colour; when I touched it, it seemed like it was moving! It was really interesting.

Afterwards, the beautiful birds came to me again. They said they were a blessed embodiment to content my little dream. I think I like the rainbow deeper!

Lynne Wang Form 4

The Missing Years

Two years. Two years I have waited. Now here I am, walking back to the place where it all started: waiting to see my bride. What will she look like? What kind of personality will she have? The curiosity and excitement is building up inside me. Finally, the time has come; I will see my bride...

Two years ago

I am walking away now; I have just agreed with Frankenstein, he has two years. Two years to make me a bride; then I will go. Never come back. I will leave the past behind and so will he. He is my creator; he will do this one last thing for me. If he fails, he will never forget it. He would live in despondency for the rest of his life.

What I will do for these two years, I do not know. I will journey to the wildest west, wherever my feet take me I will go. But I will know when two years are up, I will know when to turn back, and I will. I will make sure I am back in time to meet my bride.

So I started to walk. I walked and walked until I could go no further. I came across some people. Some stood, frozen with terror. Some ran away instantly. I was scared. I had no one. I was anxious

about what the future would hold. No one knows how I feel. They presume that because I am a monster, that I am big, brave, strong. Frankenstein created me to be like the rest of the human race. I am in the way that I have feelings. I feel worry. I feel sadness. I feel every emotion possible, apart from joy. I do not know if I can feel this, as I have never had the chance. I hope though that when I greet my bride I will feel joy for the first time ever. I felt a flicker of hope when I came across a sweet woman. She said she would help me. She said that she felt for me. But most importantly, she offered to be my friend. I respected this woman. I wanted her to be my friend. But she wasn't. She turned out to be just like the rest of them. A man came in, he shot me. I felt pain, I was grief stricken. This woman who had offered to be my friend, offered to help me, was just like the rest. She fooled me into believing she was charitable. She wasn't. It was she that made me who I am today. She made me want revenge. I wanted revenge on Frankenstein, for creating me like this.

I found a rock. I sat on it and thought. I looked up at the sky, I asked why, why had he created me like this? For the first time ever, I cried. Does anybody know what it feels like to be so alone? I had

had enough. I refused to live like this. So many thoughts, so many feelings were rushing through me. Two of the main ones were anger and sadness. I felt anger towards Frankenstein, and sadness towards myself. I decided to think positive. I decided that I would think about my wife. I was thankful that Frankenstein was going to do this for me. But that does not get rid of the anger.

A few weeks to go

I have spent the two years thinking about how I will spend life with my bride. I went and built a log house in the woods. No humans ever came by, it was peaceful. I was hopeful towards the future. I killed animals for my food. I lived life as a monster. Soon I will be free, I will have a wife. I will no longer be alone. Maybe, I will feel joy.

Two years, two years I have waited. Now here I am, walking back to the place where it all started; waiting to see my bride. What will she look like? What kind of personality will she have? The curiosity and excitement is building up inside me. Finally, the time has come.

I will see my bride...

Grace Tushingham Form 1

Mathematics

In November 2012, all mathematicians in the Sixth Form took part in the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge and achieved 5 Gold, 11 Silver and 11 Bronze certificates between them, with Sagittarius Zhang qualifying for the next round, the British Mathematical Olympiad. He was awarded a distinction for his performance on this 3 hour paper.

In December, at the regional Senior Maths Team Challenge, Sagittarius, Mark Xu, Daniel Gregory and York He achieved second place, losing out by just one question to Pate's Grammar School.



In February, Forms 4 and 5 took part in the Intermediate Maths Challenge. A special mention must go to Vickey Liu who went through to the subsequent Olympiad round and achieved a distinction certificate.

In March, Form 4 set one went out on an Enrichment Day, and pupils were inspired by Ben Sparks to pursue Maths to A level and beyond! Read the article by Hermione Llewelyn-Bowen on this page.

Also in March, Jared Wason, Maddy Morgan, Vitaylia Bortalevich and Andrew Chen (Forms 2-3) entered the Junior Maths Team Challenge and achieved 14th place in a very tough regional final consisting of 24 teams.

Fifth and Sixth Form mathematicians finished the Lent Term by taking a full 55 seat coach to 'Maths Inspiration' lectures at the Hippodrome in Bristol.

Finally, in April, 30 Form 1 and 2 pupils sat the Junior Maths Challenge; Maddy Morgan and Philip Harrison-Josey achieved 'Best in Year' at this level. ■

Mr S Clarke



Form 4 Maths Enrichment Day

The Fourth Form top set Maths group undertook a Maths Enrichment Day in March. The day started off at 8 am, with an hour's bus journey awaiting us. On arrival, we were chaperoned to the school's main hall where many other schools and possible Maths geniuses were waiting. A short talk by the host school's Maths department started the Maths enrichment activities and made all our brains start working. One fact that struck us was that people who do A Level Maths generally earn 10% more than other people, a good enough reason to do Maths in the Sixth Form! We were then separated into around 14 teams and in each team there were, at most, two Rendcomb students, leading us to socialise with the other schools. There were three rounds in which sheets full of beautiful Maths questions were laid out, longingly waiting to be solved. Our team consisted of myself, Honor Birden and two new acquaintances though sadly we did not win!

After the Maths rounds, cupcakes were given out and within ten seconds, Rendcomb pupils were surrounding the tray. Following that came another talk by Ben Sparks, a young Maths graduate from Oxford, who is also a talented musician (his singing group 'Out of the Blue' reached the semi-final of Britain's Got Talent); regrettably, he did not bring out his guitar and give us all a tune. His talk – a lecture really – was on 'The Creation of Number' and was fascinating; we learnt that not only did our number line cause the death of a Mathematician in Grecian times, but also that there is an imaginary number line, running vertically to the horizontal number line.

The day left five Rendcomb students clasp bars of Dairy Milk chocolate to mark their success. Laurence Jones was in the team which came third; Christopher Menz and Daniel Jin were in the team which came second; and Vickey Liu and Johnathan Chau were in the winning team. This just goes to show that quantity is not necessarily the best thing; it's the quality that matters. Rendcomb had the smallest number of students amongst all the schools that day, yet we still had two students in the winning team! ■

Hermione Llewelyn-Bowen Form 4

Science

2012-13 has been a very busy year in Science, with the refurbishment of the laboratories a key part of our development as a Department. In addition, members of the Department have been working hard to enhance, enrich and extend the Science curriculum taught throughout the School, resulting in cross-curricular work and partnerships with organisations beyond the School.

Science and Engineering

Pupils from Forms 1-3 took part in the Flying Start Challenge, a competition to build a hand-held glider. As part of their involvement, they visited the Messier-Bugatti-Dowty plant in Gloucestershire, looking at how landing gears are made for the largest commercial airlines. Winning the regional heats with ease, the pupils then took part in the Grand Final, which was held at the Fleet Air Arm Museum, near Yeovil.



Science and Literature

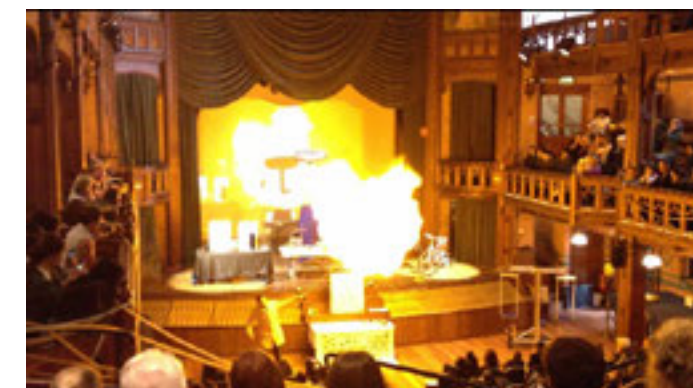
The newly founded Senior Chemistry Society (SCS) (open to Forms 5-6 Upper) visited the Cheltenham Literature Festival to hear Mark Henderson discuss the necessity of scientists being involved in politics, as part of a talk on his book *The Geek Manifesto*. The book is available to borrow from the Library.



Science and the Royal Institution

Several pupils from Form 4 were lucky enough to hear Dr. Peter Wothers (Cambridge University, Winner of the RSC Nyholm Prize for Education 2013) deliver a shortened version of his 2012 Royal Institution Christmas lectures, aptly titled 'Taming the Elements'. *'Some of the funny parts were when he weighed a girl with false gold (ed: gold-plated tungsten) because he wanted to find out how much gold a person would be worth. Another demonstration involved many balloons, but this time he didn't blow them up. They were filled with different noble gases, and the volunteers who held them said they felt weird; Xenon, the most expensive one, even felt like a fluid. It was a wonderful experience.'*

Julius Sigl, Carlos Suarez-Catrain Form 4



Science and Geography

Members of the SCS and the Geography Department visited Swindon Academy to hear 'A Pollutant's Tale', an interactive demonstration on atmospheric Chemistry, given by Tim Harrison (University of Bristol). Pupils extended their understanding of the stratosphere, and the role of atmospheric gases in ozone depletion and climate change, as well as the chemistry behind photochemical smog, finishing with a hopeful message of the current technologies that can provide the seven stabilisation wedges (Pacala and Socolow, 2004) for our current carbon emissions.

Science and Maths

Mrs Gregory excelled herself in the daily riddle competition for Staff, as part of NSEW, solving all the puzzles to win herself a copy of the New Scientist Magazine's excellent book *How to Fossilise your Hamster*, which we trust will encourage her in her scientific endeavours!

Science

Science and Medicine

Rendcomb celebrated NSEW in style - literally dressing up as favourite Scientists, Mathematicians or Engineers to raise money for Médecins Sans Frontières. Prizes were awarded for the best costumes, with Miss Hughes winning as Marie Curie, and many members of Old Rec being highly commended.



Science and Technology

The Senior Chemistry Society visited Birmingham University for a talk on the latest research in Nanotechnology. This included the use of zeolite sieves in water purification, utilised in disaster relief water treatment.

Science and Perfumery

Tim Harrison (the University of Bristol’s ChemLabs Director of Outreach) delivered a talk to over 80 pupils on the role of Chemistry in the Perfume Industry. Pupils were able to smell key ingredients, including whale vomit, used in aftershave, and the excretions from the anal glands of a civet cat, an essential ‘note’ in Chanel no. 5!

Science and Investigation

Thomas Godwin, Harry Major and Oliver Heneghan scooped the Senior School first prize and Josh Carr took the Junior School top spot at the inaugural Science Fair, which was held as part of NSEW. The poster competition was judged by post-graduate students from the University of Bristol and a member of the Institute of Biology. Whilst judging took place, pupils were treated to a talk by Dr. Preeti Kaur on her research into extremophile bacteria, which sees her travelling around the world to investigate hot springs, geysers, mud pots and fumaroles.

Science and Robotics

All of Form 3 visited the Cheltenham Science Festival for a morning workshop exploring the effects of low and high pressure on materials, including marshmallows, snowflakes, superconductors and fizz dips. This was followed by a robotics building workshop, and a short talk on genetics.

Science and Forensics

Pupils in 6 Lower solved a ‘body in the lab’ puzzle during their Chemistry lessons this year, using spectroscopy equipment on loan from the Royal Society of Chemistry. The pupils had to run through wet and dry analytical tests to determine if the researcher’s death was an accidental overdose, or predetermined suicide or murder.

Science and Wildlife

Pupils from Form 2 visited the Cotswold Wildlife Park, enjoying the sights of rare and unusual animals, such as camels, tapirs and giraffes, before taking part in a workshop on classification.

Science and Art

As part of Music, Art and Drama (MAD) week, pupils from Forms 2 - 6 Lower created four ‘living paintings’ out of succulents, sedums and moss, the latter collected from Rendcomb woods. Each ‘painting’ has an insect ‘hotel’ above it, to provide suitable nesting sites for solitary bees, lacewings and ladybirds. The project was inspired by a Californian florist, Flora Grubb, as well as work by Amy Curtis, an emerging talent at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2013, and supported by the Hoo House Nursery near Tewkesbury.



Science and Space

Pupils from J4, J6, Form 2, 5 and 6 Upper, as well as members of the wider Rendcomb community, set off on a ‘Space Odyssey’, in a mobile planetarium, with Simon Ould, Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society. Simon linked each journey to relevant aspects of the curriculum, updated us on the latest news from space exploration, and allowed us to marvel at the beauty and enormity of the universe, describing how VY Canis Majoris, the largest discovered star, is seven hundred thousand billion times the size of the earth.



Science and Ecology

Luke Witts, Tristan Stevens, Poppy and Mr Stutchbury spent three days investigating the river and mountain ecology of Snowdonia for the 6 Upper Biology field trip, using surveying techniques familiar from theoretical lessons, as well as developing new skills through workshops led by local conservationists.

Science and the University of Bristol

Pupils in Form 4 extracted and analysed caffeine, whilst the 6 Lower Chemists synthesised anaesthetic benzocaine at the world-class undergraduate laboratories at the University of Bristol. Pupils then attended two short lectures, one on how the pharmaceutical industry develops medicines; and another on the role of analytical Chemistry in understanding antiquity, focusing on as yet unpublished research analysing biomarkers in pottery to determine if the residents of Teotihuacán imbibed a specific alcoholic drink to supplement their meagre diet. Finally, pupils were entertained with a ‘Chemical Delights’ lecture, which included chicken eggs melting!



The department’s vision is to ignite a passion for understanding and exploring the world around us, and to develop the skills and abilities of our pupils to allow that passion to become a lifelong love of learning. If you are able to support us in achieving this aim, for example, through mentoring pupils or speaking at events, we would love to hear from you. ■

Mrs S O’Sullivan

Geography

The department has had an exceptionally busy year and the students have enjoyed the numerous activities and trips that have been on offer to them. This kicked off with the Fourth Form undertaking their annual trip to look at the regeneration of Gloucester docks. All worked exceptionally well to collect information that was then used to write up a mock controlled assessment. This was rapidly followed by a navigation exercise for the First Form around the local area, which was very nearly disrupted by some very curious cows and some slightly wild horses – there was something certainly strange with the local wildlife that day. Luckily this just served to make the day more interesting for the students involved!

The Lent Term saw Mr Illingworth and Miss Lucas head off with the Lower Sixth to Betws-y-Coed. Here, students saw the very best of what Snowdonia had to offer in terms of glacial features and all worked incredibly hard against the Welsh Winter elements to collect and write up their study on Psammocere succession in preparation for their Geog 2 AS exam. The only downside was having to watch England get thrashed by Wales in the Six Nations; at least Mr Bevans wasn’t around to gloat!

The onset of more clement conditions in the Summer Term provided perfect conditions for the remaining fieldtrips. The First Form went off to Cheddar Gorge to study the cave system. The Second Form spent a very enjoyable and productive morning looking at the various microclimates that exist around the vast and very beautiful Rendcomb site while the Third Form disappeared off to the ‘Venice of the Cotswolds’, Bourton-on-the-Water, to study the effects of tourism. The year’s fieldwork programme was very nicely rounded off by a superb data collection day on the River Churn. In gloriously warm weather, the students worked tirelessly and efficiently to collect their data in preparation for the controlled assessment write-up next year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues in the Geography department for all their help and in sharing vast expertise and knowledge, and in particular all the students for working so hard and enthusiastically all year. ■

Miss M Lucas

Geography

Cheddar Gorge Field Trip



The Form 1 Geography field trip to Cheddar Gorge, led by Miss Lucas, was an amazing and fascinating day. During the minibus journey, we played a game called sweet and sour, in which the whole of the bus would wave at a passing car. If they waved back they are sweet, if not then sour. The total for the drive there and back ended up being 40 sweet, and 37 sour. When we finally arrived in the gorge, everyone was struck by the high mountainous sides that enveloped us on either side.

As we moved into the town centre, we saw rivers, shops, cave entrances, and large mountain sides. The first stop was Costa Coffee. The teachers went inside and got coffees while the students were outside working on their first assignment, footpath erosion, in which we had to count how many people pass by going either left or right. For one group's results, it was 125 left paths and 63 right paths in ten minutes. In another group, that did car path erosion, it was 34 cars left and 56 cars right.

We then climbed the staggering 274 steps of Jacob's Ladder. Up and up we went. When finally we reached the gorge, Mr Illingworth lined up everyone up for a stunning photo before he explained the geography of the gorge.

When everyone got back down the 274 steps of agony and annoyance, we all headed back to the town centre. Ms. Lucas directed us to the caves and we all explored the wonders of the dark, damp cave man home that was found in the 1800s.

When our cave experience was over, everyone rushed to the shops to spend all the money they could. When everyone was ready, Form 1 headed back to Rendcomb College to resume their daily lives as Rendcombians. ■

Lucas Boyer Form 1



History

Form 1 visit to Chepstow Castle

After Headmaster's Assembly, we congregated in Saul's Hall to collect our packed lunches before heading to the coach. After the one hour journey, we arrived at Chepstow Castle, where we met our guide, Kevin Hicks, a retired veteran soldier. Kevin walked us around the site telling us the history of the castle. Around the back of the castle, he told us all about drawbridges and the graffiti on the wall, and how the back of the castle was fake. Then in the dungeon he turned off the light; it was pitch black, everybody screamed.

After a lunch break, Kevin showed us the cellar and told us a legend: if somebody blows a war horn, the knights from the round table get up from their tomb. He then showed us some of his archery skills, which involved him shooting at a pretend skull, first in the eye and then right through the head. We also got shown some medieval surgery: how to get out an arrow that has gone right through the head, using a pretend severed head for a demonstration. Then we got shown the end of the real castle, and Kevin told us all the fun he had as a guide at Hallowe'en time.

After that, we got to go and collect our bags, and then we returned to the coach to drive us back to Rendcomb. ■

Ella Sims Form 1



Modern Languages

This year has seen some significant changes—last year, Mr North, former Head of French, retired from Rendcomb, giving way to our new Head of French, Mrs White. The Spanish Department also saw the departure of Mrs Hill; and we have been extremely fortunate to benefit from Mr Pope filling her shoes with great enthusiasm. Finally, Miss Longbourne has joined us to teach both French and German.

Some drastic alterations have undergone architecturally in order to create a new classroom. We are now looking forward to the further development of our teaching space to ensure that we can make most effective use of our rooms, and that we are technologically up-to-date.

We have been delighted to welcome several young European visitors throughout the year: Form 5 and Form 6 benefitted from meeting a French student who was being hosted by Mrs White whilst preparing for her Bac (the French equivalent of A Levels); and Form 2 lessons were brought alive by two French pupils who came to Rendcomb for a two week cultural visit.

The Modern Foreign Languages Department continues to develop opportunities for pupils to have authentic experiences of European languages and cultures. In the Easter holidays, Form 5 pupils participated in the highly successful joint German-History trip to Berlin; June saw Form 1 and Form 2 enthused throughout a French speaking day held at the Global Languages Immersion Centre in Gloucester. The coming academic year, a group of French GCSE students will undertake a study course in the vibrant city of Montpellier. In addition, our bi-annual German exchange with the Gymnasium in Bad Neuenahr-Ahrweiler will take place, involving Rendcombians from across all year groups exploring the Rhineland. ■

French Immersion Day

The French Department was keen for pupils to have the opportunity to use their language outside the classroom. We wanted them to experience a range of different things that they can achieve with the level of language they currently have.

The Network for Languages offered us the chance to spend a whole day at the new, state of the art language immersion centre in Gloucester, and this more than exceeded our expectations.

The Global Language Immersion Centre (GLIC), which is located near the docks, close to the newly refurbished end of Southgate Street, is a fantastic resource for language learning. We hope after this, our first visit, that we will return regularly to make use of the facilities, which include a film studio with green screen, and a large, versatile project space with touch-screen plasma technology for pupils to use.

At the end of a busy day pupils were enthusiastic about the experience. ■

Mrs S White

From the pupils:

To start off, everyone was split up into groups of about ten and assigned a tutor. We then were sent to the Immersion Room, or even Salle d'Immersion, which was filled to the brim with highly advanced technological equipment. Every group then started a French vocal warm-up. For our group, we passed a ball around and shared our knowledge of previously learned topics. All the groups then split in half. We were then told we would be making a show, rap or play about the solar system entirely in French. For our group, we made the opening scene of our film, which replicated that of a reality TV show, followed by a rap that was terribly embarrassing. When they showed our film at the end of the day, we were humiliated beyond repair, but it was still hilarious. This funny video that was made by us was deemed the funniest of all. And as a result, it was played again. ■

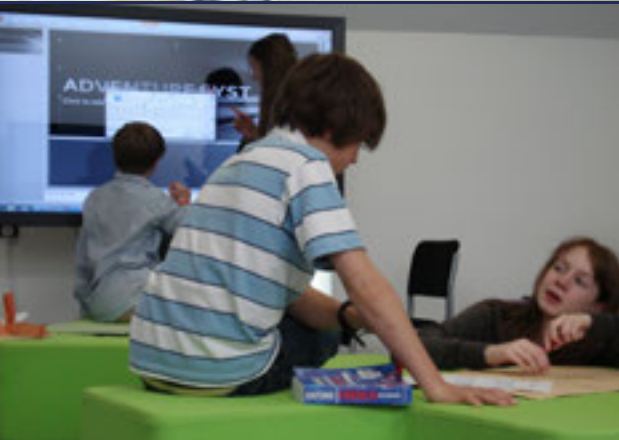
Lucas Boyer, Thomas Finch Form 1

*Autrefois, Aujourd'hui
Autrefois, j'étais une chenille.
Aujourd'hui, je suis un papillon.
Autrefois, j'avais les jambes.
Aujourd'hui, j'ai les ailes.
Autrefois, j'adorais le sol.
Aujourd'hui, j'adore le ciel.
Autrefois, je marchais.
Aujourd'hui, je vole.
Autrefois, j'étais coincé,
Aujourd'hui, je suis libre!*

Denys Tkach, James Hendrick Form 3



Aubry Young Form 3, Miss J Longbourne



ICT

ICT has essentially been removed from the modern curriculum, where the majority of pupils were bored with making posters and amateurish presentations, not to mention endless screenshots proving they had done their work. Here at Rendcomb, we have introduced Computing and Computer Science as the replacement for ICT, offering more interesting and varied avenues of study. This brings the opportunity to learn how things work, to construct new and interesting thing such as robots or computer games, and to develop critical thinking skills that will support learning across the curriculum.

The Department will be developing how we teach this subject and it will be available across all year groups within a year's time. We are supporting it with Activities sessions focusing on Computer Games Design; this allows pupils who may not study GCSE or A Level Computing to learn to design and program something a little bit different.

The School has given funding to develop the School's ICT infrastructure and this summer we are building a new fibre optic connection to vastly improve our connection to the Internet. Following this, we will be introducing a new Learning Platform, where students and teachers will be able to access all of their learning resources, work and information wherever they are, all from within your standard web browser. The next step will be to look at how we use laptops and tablets in the classroom, with trials of using them in some lessons, ensuring that the School develops the infrastructure to support learning. New computers with improved specifications and performance and leasing schemes are also being investigated.

If the IT Department can find the time amongst all of this, there is the hope to run a games development server, which students could log into and maybe even try a bit of Minecraft (other games might be available!). This will create the opportunity to develop student ideas and learn new skills, without having to worry about breaking it or having to buy expensive computers or software to get involved.

To succeed in Computing, you need to learn to be independent, learn quickly, apply what you learn and make new things all the time by both looking back at what you have learnt and looking around for new sources of learning and information. You can't wait to be told the answer, you have to figure it out for yourself; sometimes, there is no answer to be told: you have to make it yourself.

What has made the best impression on Mr Torbitt this year? In his own words: 'Getting Computing up and running. When one of my classes spontaneously started singing the Star Wars theme tune after learning how to create the opening sequence (where the story scrolls up the screen), it made my day! The sheer enthusiasm for what I regard as the toughest subject in modern education is astounding and I'm glad to see that there are so many people in Rendcomb who love coming to class and getting stuck in, no matter how confusing I make it seem at times! I firmly believe that there are people here who could do amazing things, and I am proud that it's my job to help them realise their potential through Computing.' ■

Lucas Boyer Form 1

Psychology



In the Michaelmas Term, the Upper Sixth Psychology group listened to a talk by Richard Bentall, Kathryn Ecclestone and Oliver James at the Cheltenham Literature Festival in which the topic of drug treatment for mental disorders was discussed. This is a particularly relevant and controversial subject as patients with depression, ADHD and many other cases are being prescribed drugs which over the long term could be, in fact, exacerbating the case, meaning a new approach is in order. Consequently, the quiet talk in Cheltenham turned into quite the heated debate. The subject is an important part of our syllabus and therefore very beneficial for our studies.

Later that term, Paul Menhinick, came to show us how the Police record the memories of eyewitnesses to reconstruct the faces of the offenders. This provided excellent preparation for a subsequent visit to Cheltenham Police Station, where we gained an insight into the routine and procedure of criminal investigations and disciplines. There, we were kindly given a tour around the building and saw various departments such as the CCTV of the whole of central Cheltenham and the holding cells for criminals. This trip was very useful as it gave a first-hand experience of another topic on which so many of our research studies are based.

In the Lent Term, Mrs Harford and I visited The Nelson Trust in Brimscombe, Stroud, a Charity set up to treat addiction – in particular, for those people who are likely to go to prison. Drug addicts are rehabilitated there, and people with severe trauma from past experiences are treated and cared for. It was very interesting to find out the workings of an organisation such as this, and to better understand the different treatments tailored to the needs of each drug addict or trauma sufferer. We definitely learnt a lot from this very interesting and insightful trip. ■

Alistair Sinfield Form 6U

Economics

In September 2012, the A Level Economics course was launched at Rendcomb, and it has been a true success. This first year has seen a large number of pupils taking the subject, both at AS and A2 Level. Miss Smith's principal aim is to make Economics as accessible and as interesting as possible. Pupils are encouraged to follow current affairs closely through a variety of different media, as connecting with real-life events is vital to success in the subject. Students have picked up the technical language, diagrams and style of essay writing particularly well in a short time.

Last academic year, 40 pupils in ten teams entered the IFS Student Investor Challenge. This is a national competition open to those aged 14-19 that gives a taster of buying and selling shares to make a profit. Teams have £100,000 of virtual money to invest in the stock market and, through researching market information provided online by Bloomberg, will make judgements on what shares to buy, and when to sell. A national league table runs throughout the competition period from November to February. Despite relative inexperience in the competition, all of Rendcomb's ten teams made a profit over the trading period – truly impressive!

This academic year there will be plenty of opportunities to get involved with Economics outside of lessons. Economics Reading Group will commence in the Michaelmas Term to take advantage of the wealth of Economics literature available to students. Economics Society will run in the Lent Term and will give students the opportunity to present on topics of their own interest, to debate issues and to watch documentaries. Students in Forms 4 and 5 are welcome at both of these activities to get a taster of the subject to help with A Level option choices. Students will also be encouraged to enter the Royal Economic Society national essay competition, and will have the opportunity to write articles and reviews for a school Economics magazine.

So why study Economics? It is an academic subject which, although sometimes difficult, combines many skills - essay writing, data analysis, numeracy, and knowledge of what is "going on" in the economy and society. It is certainly not just about money or Maths! The subject is very dynamic, and theoretical work is illustrated with real-life events as and when they occur. As it is so fast-moving, it takes some hard work to keep on top of, but it is a very rewarding subject. It is such an important subject; it is not specifically any one skill, but it covers many, giving you a wide and transferable skill set. ■

Maggie Hyde Form 6L

Design Technology

Every subject has its beauty, whether the fact that it's useful or enjoyable, or whether there's something about it that will draw in the right sort of people. Design Technology is a highly unique subject in its own right, combining both a creative flair with a practical taste as it crosses across other curriculums to produce something to which nothing else can truly compare. What other subject mixes Art and Maths? There's arguably also some Physics involved in designs and creations, as it's quite difficult for one to defy the laws of gravity. Then again, at the rate Rendcomb pupils are going with Design Technology, they could soon be redefining what qualifies as 'impossible.'

Each and every class has been hard at work this year. Form 1 has created cultured mobile phone cases, tying in what everyone loves best: phones and different countries that some students may call home, Rendcomb being blessed with a wide array of different international pupils. They're currently trying their hand at creating something as if it were to be sold in the Bristol Zoo gift shop, and who knows what they'll roll out. Forms 2 and 3 both went about creating board games, not only the actual game but all the pieces, cards, and even the box for packaging. Alongside, Form 3 also studied Precious Metal Clay (otherwise known as PMC) to fashion silver and copper pendants in time for the Christmas holidays. The GCSE pupils have been pioneering new designs for the world to make life even more convenient. The functions of their creations range anywhere from cooking to camping; they're shaping up to be the innovative minds for tomorrow's gadgets.

The range of products planned for next year (though it's all very 'hush-hush') are incredible; you may find yourself doing anything from rewiring a circuit board to equipping the department's laser cutter for acrylics.

The Design Technology department has been doing plenty of work behind the scenes, too; several activities have been conducted over the course of the year. Shabby Chic, an environmentally friendly project, reuses furniture on its lasts legs that is anything but pleasing to the eyes, almost magically transforming it into something beautiful. More recently, a calligraphy activity has been opened up, teaching students the art of the written-related visual art. It takes quite a lot of determination and a steady hand for the art of harmoniously expressing yourself with a skilful technique. Alongside the two activities, the Design Technology department has graciously been supplying props for various drama functions.

Every design and creation rolled out this year has been impressive in its own right, though a few stick a bit more prominently. The modern material Precious Metal Clay allows students to create a design that has never before been used and never again will be. Forms 4 and 5 have been simply astounding with their inventive approach to their designs. Here's to a continuation of Rendcomb pupils going above and beyond with all their designs, and to a fantastic year. ■



Aubry Young Form 3

Art Review

Rendcomb College has been gifted with both amazing academic pupils and creative pupils, as this academic year has proven time and time again.

Perhaps at the centre of this imaginative flair lies the Art Department directed by Mr O'Hanlon and Mrs Roffe. The department focuses especially on individual creativity unmatched by almost no other subject, producing an excellent standard of art.

Events this year have been tantalizingly varied. Work from the department has been exhibited in Cirencester, whilst the College was graced with the visit from the painter, musician, and poet Helen Garrett in her collection of 'Landscape and Belonging'. At Easter the department took a trip to New York. In addition, there has been a photography competition on the topic 'Light and Shade,' open to the entire school with some superb entries.

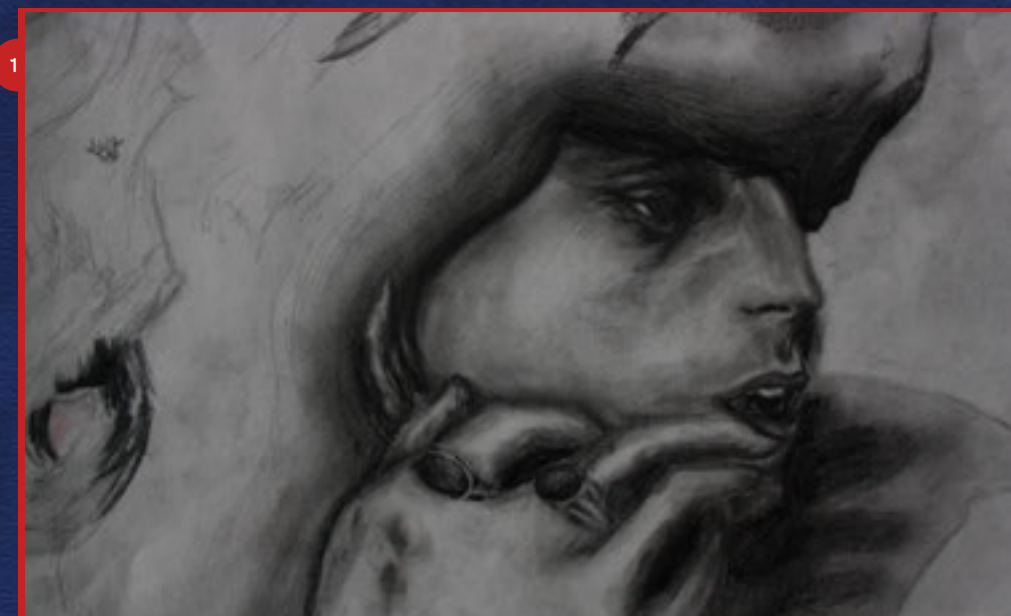
However, what really reached out to all at Rendcomb was MAD (Music, Art and Drama) Week at the end of the Summer Term, which involved professional musicians, artists, and theatre companies visiting Rendcomb for a period of three days. Even for those who despise the Arts with the passion of a fiery sun (which England rarely sees), it was an excellent opportunity, without the confines of the usual timetable, for inner creative juices to be released.

Next year, aspiring artists at GSCE level will be studying natural forms and utilizing the beauty of the campus to aid their ambitions. The Fifth Form too will be studying the environment in the form of figures which are in the environment. In the Lower School, the Third Form will soon tackle the sometimes painful challenge of human sculpture, and the Second Form will be creating a culture billboard. A trip to London is simmering in the possibilities of the future, as well as several Lower School art competitions. Rendcomb College is a fortunate school to be not only academically excellent, but also to be home to artists of many talents. ■

Aubry Young Form 3

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1. Imogen Pollard
Noel
2. Nora Beran
Dual Leopard
3. Sam Scott
Untitled



Art Review

www.rendcomb.org.uk

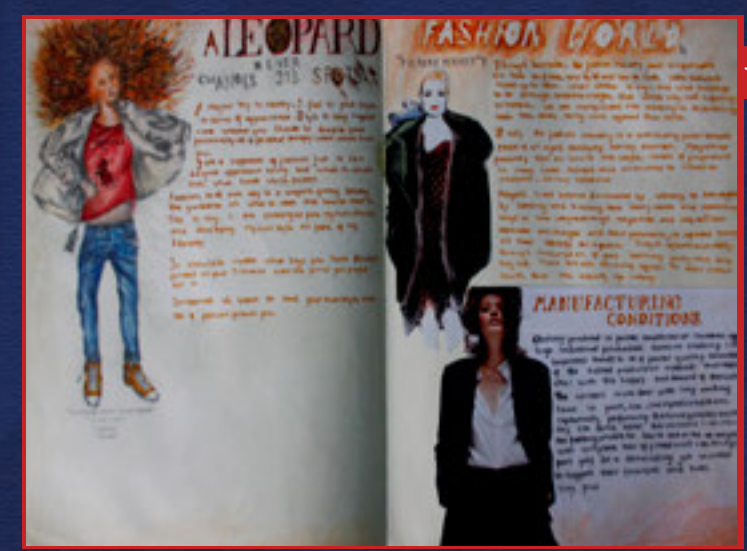


- 4. Henry Mills
Emergence
- 5. Imogen Pollard
Vogue
- 6. Lauren Kraven
Looking Out

GCSE Art

The students have worked hard this year to create a dynamic set of coursework based on the theme of 'Identity' alongside ten individual questions. They created personal responses using a range of media. These included a sculptural installation by Henry Mills based on the theme of 'caged bodies' and focusing on the work of the artist Anthony Gormley. Lauren Seatter-Messer explored 'caged emotions', with multiple images and views. Emmeline Meborn-Hubbard created a body of work centred on 'self-image'. Imogen Pollard focused on how the media portray stereotypes and often dictate how young people should look. ■

Mr O'Hanlon



- 7. Emmeline Meborn-Hubbard
Self Portrait
- 8. Lauren Seatter-Messer
Untitled
- 9. Victoria Cao
Three Studies of Blossom
- 10. Imogen Pollard
Sketchbook Page

1. Christine Khirrecu
Rembrandt
2. Anya Braimer-Jones
Gestures
3. Maggie Hyde
Portrait
4. Maggie Hyde
Portrait
5. Maggie Hyde
Flight of the Raven
6. Tom Hansel
London Riots

A Level Art and Photography

This year brought a diverse group of students with a range of approaches. They worked hard to develop their work based on the theme of 'transformations' and titles set by AQA. Their responses included examples such as Maggie Hyde's large scale *Ravens*, which demonstrate the positive and negative personalities associated with the bird. Tom created a strong body of work based on the London riots using a graphic approach to his painting. James Taylor's work was based on mixing neo-classic and modernist architecture to create an installation. Yi Pans' photography, focusing on the work of the artist Bill Viola, culminated in a projection using multiple screens. ■

Mr O'Hanlon



Photography Competition

The photography competition this year demonstrated the range and ability of our students.

The winner for the Junior School was Nicky Musgrave in J4; his use of his shadow demonstrated a creative viewpoint.

The Senior School was a strong field of students. Regan McGriff and Antonia Thiele were both highly commended for their photography, whilst Maggie Hyde entered a well-composed and well-exposed image, which demonstrated an advanced use of depth of field to create contrast and depth. However, Lauren Seatter-Messer produced an amusing and dramatic image that gave her the winning photograph. ■

Mr O'Hanlon



This February saw the Art Department trip across the pond to The Big Apple.

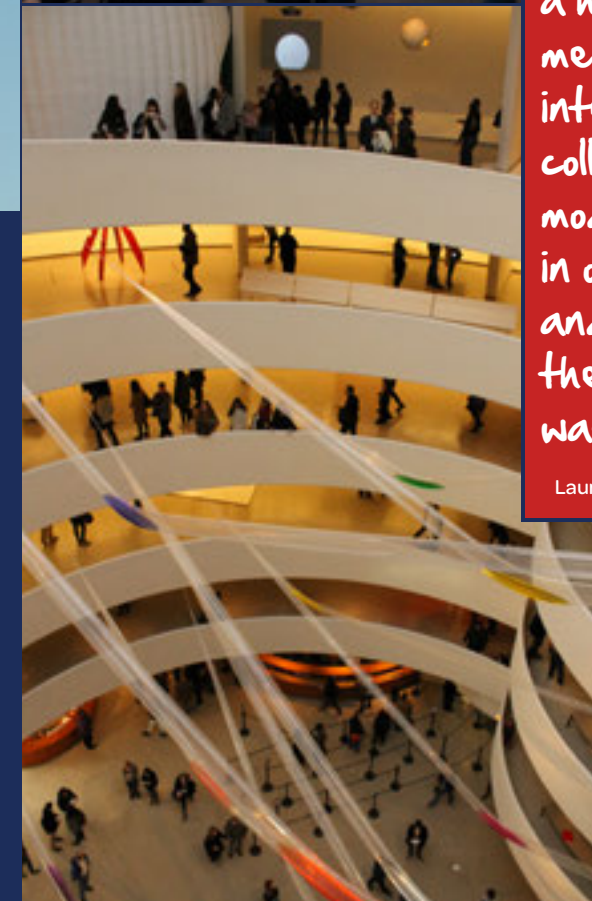
The 22 students (who had to get up at 4.00 am for the departure!) were a credit to the school: they were full of enthusiasm, energy and a genuine curiosity for everything New York had to offer.

We experienced a great deal during our five day visit, from the city's main Art galleries and museums, a boat trip to the Statue of Liberty, amazing views from the top of the Rockefeller Centre, and ice skating at night.

With lots of wonderful photos and sketches to look back on, we will all be left with some truly great memories of this overseas trip. ■

Mr S Kelvin

Art Department visit to New York



'M.O.M.A was a highlight for me. Such an interesting collection of modern art in one place and to see them in person was amazing.'

Lauren Seater-Messer Form 5

Music

Pupils Summaries of Events

Holst Museum Trip

We looked around Holst’s house, learning interesting facts and looking at his possessions. We saw the actual piano that he composed his famous pieces on, and we saw the different rooms that included a nursery, a kitchen and some bedrooms. Also, we took part in doing the chores that Holst’s servants would have carried out. It was a fun trip that and we definitely learnt a lot.

Philip Harrison-Josey Form1

Tosca at the Royal Opera House

A handful of Rendcomb students were lucky enough to go and see *Tosca* in the Royal Opera House. It was a fantastic opportunity and we all had an amazing time admiring the talent the opera had to offer. Thank you, Miss Crisp and Mr Franks, for organising the trip!

Orlagh Brennan Form 3

Alan Maclean Piano Masterclass

The Alan Maclean piano Masterclass was an incredible experience for me. I thought he was incredibly enthusiastic and he really helped me to improve on many things concerning musicality and techniques. He clearly knew what he was talking about, and he had something very unique for every individual who played so that they could take it away and practise. I have to say it was one of the best moments of my Rendcomb life.

Ollie Baylis Form 6U

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra

Going to see the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra preform in Cheltenham Town Hall was inspirational and definitely gave me some ideas for a few of my compositions. One of the things that interested me was seeing how the different parts of the orchestra interacted with each other.

Before the concert, a violinist and a trumpet player from the orchestra visited Rendcomb to give a talk on what they were going to play. This included some interesting ideas on how and why Stravinsky made his excellent symphonic piece, *Firebird*. They showed us different mutes for the brass family and even brought the original score for *Firebird* in which Stravinsky wrote his own comments.

Henry Mills Form 5

Interview with Paul Cordell, Visiting Music Teacher

What instruments do you teach?

I teach the guitar, mainly the electric guitar. Within school I teach a range of guitar styles.

How long have you been teaching for?

I have been at Rendcomb for 24 years and I have been teaching guitar for 25 years.

How old were you when you started learning the guitar?

I started playing the guitar when I was 14.

What gave you the passion to learn, and then go on to teach, the guitar?

I saw a band at school and it appealed to me. So I decided to try the guitar, and I had so much fun that I really wanted to work at it and learn more. I had a very good teacher when I was learning; and I felt once I had left Music College that I could share the experience I had had when I was learning guitar.

Do you like coming to teach at Rendcomb? Why?

Yes, I do! In the Music Department there are a number of different music teachers at different times. It feels nice to be part of a team, and I enjoy that as it is not like that at all schools. Over the years I have been fortunate to have had a number of students from Rendcomb who have had successful careers in the music business, working for record companies or even running studios. At the moment I have some students who are going on to Music College, and I will be excited to see how their careers develop.

How many other schools do you teach at?

I teach at three other schools: Cheltenham College, Farmors school in Fairford and Kingshill School in Cirencester.

Do you have your own band out of school?

Not at the moment, but my friends and I do gig together.

Have you ever wanted to travel the world?

Yes! I have done a lot of traveling already. I have been to America and many parts of Europe and Scandinavia. I would like to travel to Asia; experiencing new cultures and environments appeals to me.

Maria Tutton Form 1, Becky Langley Form 2

Cheltenham Jazz Festival

Rendcomb was a significant presence at the Cheltenham Jazz Festival this year. Firstly, the College sponsored Gregory Porter, seemingly the biggest draw of the weekend. As an American jazz vocalist, songwriter, actor and Grammy nominee, Porter was the Artist in Residence at this year’s festival. A preacher’s son, raised in the gospel tradition, he trained as a city planner, played line backer for San Diego, before writing and singing his way to the top. Playing to a sell-out house, Porter and his band thrilled the crowd on Saturday evening with his magical deep powerful voice, tight rhythms and gentle humour. Opening with *On My Way To Harlem*, featuring *Water* and closing with *1960 What? Opolopo Remix*, he held the audience. Immediately off stage, he and the band chatted with a lucky few Rendcomb music students, who he aptly advised to ‘Keep going, and keep doing what you’re doing and keep searching for that sound’.

Furthermore, on Sunday morning, under cloudless skies, Rendcomb’s Senior Jazz Ensemble performed to a packed and appreciative audience on the ‘Jazz It Up’ Stage in Montpellier Gardens at the Cheltenham Jazz Festival. For many, the ‘Jazz It Up’ stage is an annual highlight of the festival, as the cream of Gloucestershire’s school jazz ensembles are picked to perform on a large outdoor stage, with professional sound and lighting, before taking the opportunity to mingle with the festival crowds after their performances.

The ten students representing Rendcomb rose to the occasion admirably and performed a varied programme encompassing classic 1930s standards (*Black Coffee*), funky contemporary charts (*Let’s Hear it for the Boy*) as well as a string of swing numbers made famous by the late, great Dave Brubeck. Particular highlights included Oliver Baylis on drums and Howard Auster on bass who skilfully negotiated the tricky 9/8 metre of Brubeck’s *Blue Rondo à la Turk*. The twin guitar team of Lance Baynham and Tristan Stevens took solo honours on Herbie Hancock’s *Watermelon Man*, whilst Charlotte Jones and Katrina Webb both impressed in their solo vocal spots. The last word must go to the newest member of the band Form 5 student Henry Mills, who showed courage and skill in performing an expressive solo piano composition by Oscar Peterson.

A number of staff and parents supported the event on the morning which was a fantastic advertisement for the talent nurtured at Rendcomb. ■

Mr D Franks



Music Tour to Venice

A First Form Perspective



In the Easter holidays, a small choir of mixed ages went to Italy and stayed just outside of Venice for five days. Our tour guide, who was half Italian, told us about the places we passed to make the bus ride to the hotel more interesting. The first night in Venice Lido was enjoyable. We had our own bathroom with a shower, a balcony, four beds and a small television. The rooms had ornate keys, a cool lift, and an impressive bar and restaurant. The meals there were quite elaborate, but I must say they were delicious; there was always a first course, main course and dessert.

For breakfast on our first day, I had chocolate cereal which tasted a bit salty. Then we went off on a bus ride, then a boat ride, to Venice. It was beautiful and we walked through alleyways and over lots of villages. We made an unexpected stop at a small shop selling drinks, gelato (ice cream) and other snacks. Then we went to the Peggy Guggenheim Museum, where the American art collector lived from 1949 to 1979. I saw a granite statue which reflected my image like a mirror. The shop sold fancy pencils and even fancier rubbers! Next, a boat ride to a port for lunch and another boat ride to a museum called the Accademia with high ceilings and paintings all showing the Bible story as well as sculptures. We prepared to perform in the restaurant; it was fun!

On the second day, we went to the Vivaldi Theatre and I heard a soprano, alto and orchestra performing operatic arias. We performed in the theatre too. It was huge, and an Italian school watched us as well as tourists who had seen the invitations we had with us earlier on the boat-bus. We were all nervous as it was our first public performance, but they liked the recital, which was great. There was also shopping time and I brought four magnet masks and a Venice bag which I use as a schoolbag now.

On the third day we went to an international school to meet a lot of Italian pupils who all spoke English. They served pasta, tuna and tomato sauce at their canteen before we performed to tons of people. The performance was okay but sad as it was our last one. The students loved the *Hey Jude* finale. They sang and clapped, and cheered really loudly when the performance was over. We even did a *Hey Jude* encore. Ollie Baylis and Jojo Bock got a lot of attention when the concert was over by playing their instruments before they were packed away. The school also had its Music Department on the roof and a roof-top garden.

On the fourth day, we went on another long boat ride to Murano, a glass blowing island, and watched glass blowing and had time to buy glass and other souvenirs. Then we went to Burano, a lace making island, and we went shopping where there were more masks, glass and, obviously, lace shops! There was a river through Burano that was a green colour.

If you went on this trip I hope you had as much fun as I did. The trip was a fun music experience and my first time exploring and discovering the secrets of Italy, which I would recommend anyone to visit. ■

Maria Tutton Form 1

www.rendcomb.org.uk



A Sixth Form Perspective

During the Easter holiday, the Music Department went on a music tour to Venice, taking pupils from the First to Sixth Forms. As a member of Sixth Form, I can say that it was a very enjoyable trip with experiences in which I was privileged to have taken part. There was great social interaction between the wide-range of year groups represented: something that is always very positive at Rendcomb.

The aspects of the trip which I personally enjoyed the most were the two concerts, especially the concert at the English/Venetian school where everyone performed terrifically, and also the interaction with the members of the school after the concert. However, what was perhaps as enjoyable was our impromptu performance: when waiting for a water bus in Venice to go back to the mainland where we were staying and with ten minutes to spare, we decided to sing *Locus Iste* (a choral work) from memory, a cappella. We started to sing and soon after we had at least forty members of the public listening and filming our performance. This was a great experience and showed off the talent we had, but also was a demonstration of the great communication of music that different nationalities could share together.

Obviously the trip had many highlights, but particularly memorable were a visit to a virtuoso opera concert in St. Mark's Square, the group outings to visit the different islands in the Venetian lagoon and also the astonishing art exhibitions in the Guggenheim Museum and Gallerie dell'Accademia to name but a few.

I should like to thank Miss Crisp, Mr Agg and Mr Franks for organising the trip and also for the hours of preparation work put into practising the programme for the concerts in which we performed. ■

Howard Auster Form 6L

Venice Photo Competition



DRAMA REVIEW

Footloose 2013

In the beginning, there was dancing...

Footloose follows a world where dancing is prohibited in the sleepy, disaster-struck town of Bomont. Can the rebellious Ren McCormack overturn the tyrannical dictatorship of Reverend Moore, change the law and...throw a dance?

Footloose 2013 was highly anticipated by both the performers and the audiences. Competition for roles was fierce, and there were rumours of sassy, new, acting assassins—ready to grab the lead roles right by the reins. After much deliberation, the cast was set, and we furiously rehearsed away, preparing for the opening night in February. Many months of rehearsal went down without a hitch and the appetite for performance grew amongst the acting population. Katrina Webb set the bench-mark immediately in rehearsal: her booming voice blowing off the Dulverton roof, supported by the tremendous trio of Kathryn Rew, Olivia Witts and Lizzie Templeton. All people settled quickly into their parts and all was well. Our tight cast was then struck by disaster when cast members were lost. A frantic re-shuffle of roles, among the hectic schedules, left us in a state of panic. With the performance looming just weeks away, a spot of snow was not what we wanted. Further set-backs meant further panic. By the dress rehearsal, all hopes were dashed, and the overwhelming sense

of optimism had faded. What was the 2013 Rendcomb production to do? It needed a cast unity, hard-work and, most importantly, bravery to succeed.

Opening night: the Dulverton Hall, buzzing with anticipation, filled to the rafters. Mrs Dodd sat nervously, notepad in hand. After months of bone-breaking hard work, there was no more she could do. Mr Franks and the cowboy band were set and Mrs Scase could do no more to enhance our wonderful costumes. It was time for the cast to step up and perform, to defy the odds and pull off a spectacular show – and that is exactly what they did. Charlotte Jones – as Vi Moore – ruled the Moore house roost, whilst Yannis, Harry and James Rose were too busy being half-naked ‘heroes’ to hear the roars of feminine appreciation oozing from the crowds.



From Josh Thomas to Eddie Geerah, from Bomont High Teenagers to heel-clicking cowboys, credit must go to every cast member on making *Footloose* a wonderful show. It did take bravery to perform in a show that had been knocked down by so many set-backs, and all performers should feel proud to have been a part of this show. A very, very special thank-you must go to Tristan Stevens, who stepped into the shoes of the main role with only a month of rehearsal period left. He didn't just wear those shoes; he made them his own, and pulled off three superb performances.

Footloose 2013 – the show that wouldn't die. ■

Tom Pethick, Edward Davies Form 5



DRAMA
REVIEW

LORD of the FLIES

Behind the scenes

The Lord of the Flies is an adventurous, but terrifying story of a group of school boys whose aeroplane crash-lands on a desert island, after being evacuated from the Second World War. This group of teasing, cast away, decision-making school boys quickly turns into a murderous, bloodthirsty pack of savages who hunt, kill, feast, dance and rule the island.

The Lower School performance of *The Lord of the Flies* was a great hit, with each of the three performance nights in May having a packed audience. The lead roles were Ralph, Jack, Piggy and Simon, played superbly by Hermione Llewelyn-Bowen, Emma Fuchs, Lauren Shipperbottom, and Ella Higgins-Anderson.

I played Johnny, a little-un with a mean streak, but one of the younger ones. Before the audition, we thought that the characters' names, which were all boys, would be changed to girls' names if played by girls. But during the first rehearsal, we decided that we all should keep the real names, to keep the authentic story. I loved every rehearsal and every moment of the performances themselves. I had to really keep my focus and try really hard not to smile when my friend in the audience grinned at me at the beginning when the 'plane' crashed and in the dress rehearsal when the photographer took a close up photo with me having to give an evil stare. It was exciting that we all had to run upstairs in Main College after every interval and at the end of each show to make sure that the audience didn't see us.

Well done to all members of the cast and crew, and everybody who helped make this production so successful. ■

Charlotte Brelsford Form 1



The Actor's Nightmare



The Actor's Nightmare was first performed in the early Eighties and was inspired by the well-documented dream that many in professional and amateur theatre contexts have: that they are about to perform in a play that they have neither rehearsed, learnt nor about which they have any knowledge. Essentially, it is a play based upon an anxiety dream that is shared by many.

George (immaculately captured in this performance by Alex Pugh) is an Accountant who finds himself propelled onto an empty stage, not certain where he is or how he got there. The Stage Manager (a suitably bossy Olivia Witts: all actors have come across SMs like this!) informs him that as understudy, his time has come and he must take the place of a recently and haphazardly injured leading man. George reveals to the audience that he neither knows his name nor thinks he's an actor ('I think I'm an accountant'), and has no idea in what play he's supposed to be performing.

What follows is a wonderful mixture of farce, satire and pastiche. George is almost literally pushed onstage dressed as Hamlet, and finds himself opposite a glamorous actress, Sarah Siddons (Kathryn Rew, who showed mature poise throughout), who seemingly is in Noel Coward's *Private Lives*. George does his best to guess the lines, having apparently had some knowledge of the play, but of course he struggles, much to the superbly demonstrated frustration of his colleague on the stage and the Stage Manager, who intervenes to dust the props and deliver some prompts. Things get worse for George when he is caught in a romantic clinch with Ms Siddons by his stage wife, Dame Ellen Terry (dramatically and petulantly played by Katrina Webb), before being deserted on stage only to be accosted by a Polonius-like character spouting Shakespearean verse (a superbly pompous Alistair Sinfield). George is out of his depth and is left alone to improvise a poor pastiche of a Shakespearean soliloquy.

Carnage ensues: George finds himself thrust into a Samuel Beckett play (a combination of *Waiting for Godot* and *Endgame*: 'nothing to be done?'), of which he has even less knowledge and comprehension than of Shakespeare. The joke here is clearly at the expense of often unfathomable Beckett himself; and Christopher Durang's satirical pen is at its sharpest, at this point.

Continues over the next page



Then suddenly he's Sir Thomas More in Bolt's historical drama *A Man for All Seasons*, facing a beheading for opposing Henry VIII's marriage to Anne Boylen. Alarming, the executioner (Yannis Dimopoulos – straight out of the *Scream* franchise) seems a little too real for George's comfort!

In any context, this was a fantastic piece of ensemble acting, Edward Davies, James Rose, and Robert McLaughlin also playing hilarious cameo roles; but that the company had managed to piece together such a tight piece of theatre in only four weeks is, frankly, remarkable. Timing was pristine (and needs to be in such a play), characterisation was expansive and production was professional. Much credit should go to NM Generation and the rising talents who are Luke Nixon and James Mudge; they have a superb directorial eye and clearly know how to bring a team together to best advantage in a pressured context.

The Actor's Nightmare? Not really. More, *The Audience's Delight*. Thank you to all involved for a much-needed end of Michaelmas tonic. ■

Headmaster

A Pupil's View

The Actor's Nightmare was the second NM Generation production that I had seen.

I thought this was a really interesting and unique piece of Rendcomb Drama. James and Luke did an excellent job of directing the play and the entire cast was exceptional. It was quite an achievement to have learnt the play in only four weeks and to have perfected the performance to such a high standard.

I particularly enjoyed the performance of Alex Pugh who played the hilarious role of George Stanley Ernest. Or whatever his name really was! His timing was really impressive and his delivery made everyone laugh. However, everyone who acted in the play did really well and made the play very interesting to watch.

It was the first time that I had seen a play performed on the stage in The Dulverton Hall and a lot of effort had obviously gone into the production of the play as well as into the rehearsals for the actors. ■

Jude Martin Form 1

Drama Tour



On a cold winter's morning, Fifth and Sixth Form Thespians made haste to London on the 11th annual Rendcomb Drama Tour. This weekend predominantly consisted of being utterly crazy, but we did indulge ourselves in the sophisticated world of theatre. We saw children swinging from the rafters in *Matilda*, a bumbling man making everyone laugh hysterically in *One Man, Two Guvnors* and, finally, we took a journey through time to visit the master of falsetto, Frankie Valli, in *Jersey Boys*.

Not only did we indulge in various top-notch musicals and plays, but also we were sophisticated in other ways. We visited The National Theatre, where we benefitted from a tour around the building in a manner of professionalism and superiority. We also visited the National Theatre Studio where we watched a film of the theatre production, *Coram Boy*. This was an incredibly enriching, yet slightly traumatic, experience for us all. The more experienced thespians, that is the Upper Sixth, knew what the play was all about, so they nodded along like Churchill dogs as if to say, 'I know about this.'

A key element to every Drama Tour is the Theatre Hunt. This year there were a variety of attires: Avengers, Smurfs, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, babies, Zoolanders, zombies, Easter Bunnies on scooters, and lifeguards, all mildly amusing for the general public; this is pretty normal for a Rendcomb College Drama Tour.

Food was definitely another highlight, consisting of all-you-can-eat Pizza Hut, Planet Hollywood burgers, glorious cupcakes from Cupcake Corner and copious amounts of McDonalds, with the result that everyone returned from a fabulous trip thirteen stones heavier.

Thank you to Mrs Dodd, Mr Jennings and Mrs Barnett for staffing the tomfoolery, and for recording our ridiculous moments! ■

Charlotte Jones, Alistair Sinfield, Josh Thomas Form 6U

International & EAL

An Evening of International Celebration

It is important to ensure that all students have an opportunity to embrace the multicultural aspects of our school. Rendcomb encourages students to be enthusiastic and creative about their diversities by asking all students to participate in our International Celebration Evening in the Michaelmas term.

This year's event was extremely successful. Students of a variety of nationalities hosted interactive stands displaying language, culture, entertainment, refreshments, history, arts, and music. These ranged from Chinese dance and Spanish bullfighting demonstrations (minus a bull, I hasten to add) to a Japanese origami table and a typically British round of golf.

With special guests from the Gloucestershire Mandarin School, several international guardians and parents, and a large number of British and international students, the event was buzzing. It was a fantastic opportunity for all our students to interact and learn a great deal about other traditions and aspects of other students' cultures. ■

Miss O Hughes



Pupil perspective

This is a good day of international celebration. You can learn a lot about a country's culture and history.

The Chinese people really like drinking tea; 'savouring tea' is not only a way to discern good tea from mediocre tea, but also how people take delight in their reverie and in tea-drinking itself.

What is 'American food'? America is a country with a quick pace of life. Fast food restaurants offer people on the run everything from fried chicken to fried rice. Of course, one of the most common quick American meals is a sandwich. Peanut butter and jelly is an all-time American favourite.

Germany's New Year celebrates the time either side of a week. During this period, each household must put out a fir tree. The people exchange presents in the moments before midnight on New Year's Eve before jumping into the New Year. Children often dress up in new clothes and form bands, for example playing the harmonica and accordion in the street.

In the International Celebration Evening, you could see lots of interesting things and learn different countries' cultures and hobbies: Mahjong and Calligraphy, for example, which are China's traditional entertainment activities. Mahjong is a very popular pastime activity in China. If you want to play Mahjong, there must be four people together. You will find that this game is very interesting and stimulating. Calligraphy is the art of making beautiful or elegant handwriting. It is a fine art of skilled penmanship. Today, there are three main types or styles of calligraphy: (1) Western or Roman, (2) Arabic, and (3) Chinese or Oriental. This project focuses mainly on Western calligraphy with a glimpse at the other two styles.

On the other hand, you could eat some delicious food in International Celebration Evening, like sushi. This is a very popular food in Japan. Sushi originates from the practice of preserving fish by fermenting it in rice for months, a tradition which can be traced back to ancient China. It originated during the Tang Dynasty, though the sushi adopted by modern Japanses has evolved to have little resemblance to this original Chinese food. ■

David Zhang Form 6L

International Stars Concert

Thursday 2nd May was a night owned by Rendcomb's international students. Many of our international students seized the opportunity to perform in our International Stars Concert. The performances ranged from traditional pieces to material very close to the hearts of the students. The event proved very emotional, empowering, and educational.

It is one of the aspects of our Cultural Enrichment programme to allow students to have an insight into the varied cultures and traditions of fellow students. We consider this to be invaluable in today's multicultural world and this evening was well supported as part of the Enrichment programme.

Complete with national flags, a beautiful spread of intercontinental buffet food, international comperes, and a whole host of talented students, this evening was a huge success.

Well done to all involved. ■

Miss O Hughes

Pupil perspective

It was an exciting night. We had a wonderful time, with some excellent international musicians; they played some beautiful melodies.

The German girls used their attractive voices and a guitar brought a soulful song. Also, Jojo and Larissa played a popular song just using two cups, without any instruments: that was amazing. In addition, some Chinese students showed their talent in music. Some of them played piano, violin and guitar, both classical and pop music. But I liked the pop music best. It makes me feel relaxed.

Anyway, we were absolutely thrilled to enjoy such a wonderful musical world which was made up of all kinds of music. Thanks so much to everyone who brought melodies to make the night great. ■

Claire Hu Form 6L



Academic Enrichment

International Women's Day

In 1911, nine years before Rendcomb College was set up, the first International Women's Day took place. By 1977, the United Nations recognised the day as a day for women's rights and world peace.



Last year was the inaugural International Women's Day at Rendcomb, the initiative of Kerri Martin. As part of this celebration, the school made and decorated yards of bunting. After the event, the bunting was carefully stored in Godman. Or so we thought. Unfortunately, the bunting had become seriously crumpled while in hibernation and the Godman Girls had to get inventive: faced with the not-so-trivial task of ironing many yards of pink and blue, they contributed to IWD by ironing the bunting with their hair straighteners – a brilliant solution!

On Friday 8 March 2013, Rendcomb honoured Oxfam's International Women's Day by holding a luncheon for our Fifth and Sixth Form girls and fourteen special guests. The guests were composed entirely of Cotswold based women who have done impressive work in their chosen

fields of law, publishing, third sector, entrepreneurship and military, among other professions. All gave generously of their time, knowledge and wisdom about careers and opportunities in the workplace. Following a musical interlude from local folk duo The Conseulas, guests and pupils enjoyed a Rendcomb school lunch in the Reading Room. The keynote speech was delivered by Donna Renney, Chief Executive of Cheltenham Festivals.

The luncheon helped to raise money for Oxfam, while also providing a great learning experience for the girls and an enjoyable distraction from the normal workday for the guests. ■

Mrs S Gilling



MAD WEEK

A three day festival of Music, Art and Drama at the end of the Summer Term. The magically productive and focused atmosphere is best encapsulated by the following pupil quotations.

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"Roman Villa was ace and taught us how to work as a team."



"I really enjoyed Quest Ensemble. I never thought I could accomplish so much!"



"Shakespeare on Toast was interesting because you could act freely instead of being yourself."



"Bollywood Dancing was really fun and it was interesting to learn about India."



"My favourite activity today was Circus Skills. I can juggle now!"



"Stop Animation was amazing. All ages were made welcome, so it was very integrating!"

"In Shabby Chic, it was fascinating to make old furniture seem new."

"I did Willow Lanterns. It was really, really cool and fantastically relaxing. Thank you!"



"I discovered that wood carving is not impossible."



"The Platform was great. I learnt many acting skills. It was a fun challenge to perform on an 8 foot stage."



"I loved Paper Cuts. I never knew I could make one month of the year look so cool!"



"Vertical Garden has been fab. I love the idea of a 'living wall' in Rendcomb."



"Young Film Academy was amazing. I have learnt new drama skills. Thank you for such great new experiences."

"Fishing Boats was really inspiring, and very expressive. I loved it!"



"Graffiti was a new experience!"



"I thought that my activities were both mentally and physically invigorating."

Berlin Trip 2013

All was quiet on the Western Front until the 2013 Rendcomb Berlin Trip landed in Germany. On the 13th of April 2013, nine brave explorers bore the excruciating heat and sunshine of Berlin for five days, armed with the teaching crew of Mrs White, Mrs Kinson and Mr Jennings. By the time the afternoon plane had landed, the group was geared up and ready to go. After a lengthy walk to the hostel, several hours to settle in, and a misguided walk just around the corner, we found the local Croatian restaurant. Day one ended with a lovely meal, and a late night.

The late night was matched by an early morning, and a quick breakfast before going out to the Story of Berlin Museum, a tour of the extraordinary history behind arguably Germany's most eventful city. The tour involved history from the medieval ages, right through to the modern day, including the First and Second World Wars, the East/West divide and the Cold War. After a sobering walk through, the group headed to a guided tour of a nuclear bunker designed for action in the Cold War. The eerie bunker highlighted the naivety surrounding nuclear warfare in the period, and provided good revision of defence strategies for the Sixth Form historians. Soon after the bunker tour finished, we



found ourselves in Alexanderplatz for a visit up the Fernsehturm. The 370m tall building, with a 304m high viewing platform, provided a different perspective of Berlin. A quick ride down (six metres a second!) in the elevator, and an enthralling race in rickshaws, which raced – at times illegally – through the city centre, got us to the Brandenburger Tor. Perhaps the icon of Berlin's unity, and indeed separation: the building was built to celebrate the city's future, and is now used to remember its past. However, the lasting memory we will all hold of the Brandenburger Tor is Mr Jennings' intimate conversation with a Sheffield Wednesday fan. The day was rounded off in style, with a meal at the incredible Sony Centre.

A warm day greeted us the next morning and the brave decision for the Brits to wear shorts prevailed as we were rewarded with glorious sunshine. 'Shorts of the Day' went to Dan Thomas, and he led us through the Tiergarten to the Soviet War Memorial, before leading us further onto the Reichstag. After one failed entry, one failed booking, and a short walk, the group made its way to the Holocaust Memorial. A statement of grief, and loss; when you walk to the centre it is a moving memorial. The exhibit was unfortunately closed, but we went away feeling moved nevertheless. Having stopped to scan the fruits of the Ampelmann shop, we found ourselves between a Bugatti Veyron and a Skoda Yeti, in a café situated – strangely – above an art gallery, between car show rooms, and below an office. Such is the city of Berlin... The cakes and drinks fuelled us sufficiently to tour the Berliner Dom, a grand cathedral, which like so many other places in Berlin had added historical value due to renovations pre- and post- war. The grandeur of the cathedral was matched by the enormity of the Olympiastadion. Home to the controversial 1936 Olympic Games (which was infamous for the Jesse Owens incident, as Charlie Lamble was keen to point out) the now 75,000 seated stadium holds Berlin's top club, Hertha BSC. The remnants of the Nazis' plans could still be seen around the stadium, which was a pioneer in capacity and crowd control, through the Greek-like architecture of the buildings, the colossal statues they had built, and the sheer plainness of the site. The third day ended with a long journey back to the hostel, and the threat of further sunburn.

The failed attempt at booking a visit to the Reichstag was rectified by the morning, as was entry to the Holocaust museum. The simplest of museums packed an incredible punch. The moving images of Jewish families, victimized under Hitler's leadership, and their journeys, was thought-provoking and emotional; some



of us not believing what we were seeing, some reliving part of their Sixth Form syllabus. In the emotion, the group managed to lose Mr Jennings, and after a mad search, we found him, and trudged – the museum's sights still firmly in our heads – to the now filled in area formerly used as Hitler's bunker, and on to the Gestapo's headquarters. As well as a small exhibit, the site remains as one of the few inner-city areas where the Berlin Wall stands as a large segment, untouched for 20 years. The final stop on the thought-provoking tour through Berlin's standout monuments ended with lunch by Checkpoint Charlie. Although not an important area in either world war, or indeed the history of Berlin itself, the checkpoint stands as a reminder of the Cold War and as a place where a third war could have even begun. By late afternoon, some were tired, but



even more were hungry. The last supper could only have been in one place: the Sony Centre. A last dinner for all in Berlin was enjoyed thoroughly, and on a fresh wave of energy and on full stomachs we made our way to the Reichstag. The great glass dome provided an excellent night-time view of Berlin. We made our way down the spiralling staircase of the dome, and despite dropping significant hints, and then pleas, we walked back to the hostel rather than 'rickshawing' for one last night in.

Despite the clouds, another warm day was to be our last in Berlin. The squad made our way to KaDeWe, some for brunch in the square, some to shop, and some to get lost finding the toilets. Not only did KaDeWe show off the democracy in western Berlin before the wall came down, but it also still houses some of the most luxurious, and over-priced, clothing and watch labels in the world. KaDeWe would be our last stop in Berlin. Soon after leaving we collected our bags, taxied to the airport, and finally waved goodbye to the beautiful city, the great food, and a great trip. ■

Tom Pethick Form 5

A Taste for American History



The American History Museum trip of December 2nd was a great chance for reflection on the lifestyle of those separated by the Atlantic Ocean - and a fun chance for the American students to jump in and add to the information of the superbly informed guides! While the initial prospect of surrendering a Sunday morning reserved for sleeping in for most students was daunting and horrifying, those who did go had a wonderful time, even though it was rather cold in the Roman town Bath.

The many American students were only too happy for a taste of their own history again, nodding along to the information of the guides, mouthing the words to the familiar phrases. It is important as a school to frequently delve into other cultures, both ones radically different and the accustomed Westernized ways. The 'special relationship' between England and the United States is what brings so many of our American pupils over to Rendcomb College, allowing the two different cultures to meet and socialize as if part of a great extended family - and having a day at the American Museum only more profoundly strengthened that bond. With friendly guides, small groups, and close relationships already established, the entire trip was a great enjoyment, with playful bantering between exhibits and attentive learning when necessary.

With our Headmaster taking us, the trip was made even more enjoyable with his thoughtful input and his humorous remarks - the highlight still ringing clearly in my ears: 'Where's Carlos? It's too quiet.'

An enormous thanks to all who made this trip possible, to our kind guides, and even more so, to those who attended and made it the fun educational experience it was. ■

Aubry Young Form 3



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Academic Results

GCSE-IGCSE Examinations 2013

- Brodie Ash, B* C* E* G** Gm** H* M Pe P* Ee*
- Guy Baylis, A B C E* F G M Pe P Ee
- Rosalind Baynham, B* C** E* F H M* Ms Pe* P* Ee*
- Amy Benson, B** C** E** F** G** H M** Ms** Pe* Ee**
- Nora Beran, A Dr Es Gm** M P
- Edward Breal, ScA Dr E G H M Pe Ee Sc
- Konrad Broncel, E Es G Gm** M* P
- Denis Bryanka, A Es E M P Rs**
- Victoria Cao, A B* C** E Es H Mf** M** Pe* Cn**
- Jacob Davidge, B C* Es* G** H M* Pe* P* Ee Sp
- Cerys Davies, ScA E F* G M Pe* Ee Sc Sp
- Edward Davies, B** C Dr* E* G* H* M P* Ee**
- Benjamin Elliot, A B C* Dr E G* Gm M* P* Ee
- Olivia Ellis, B* C** E** F G** H* M* P** Ee**
- Stuart Gallop, A B C Dt E G H M P Ee
- Edward Geerah, ScA Dr E* G H M Pe* Ee Sc
- Duncan Graham, A B* C** E G* Gm H Mf* M** P** Ee*
- Daniel Haas, B C Dr E G H M Pe P Ee
- Oliver Kendall Smith, ScA A Dt E G M Pe Ee Sc
- Olivia Knapp, B* C** E* Fr** G** Gm** H** Mf** M** P** Ee**
- Lauren Kraven, A* B C* E* G H M Pe P Ee
- Dina Kunze, ScA* E* Es* Gm** M Sp
- Daisy Little, ScA A E Fr H M Ee Sc Sp
- Sarah Luttge, ScA Es* E Fr G Gm** M
- Marshall Ma, ScA A Es E Mf* M* Pe Sc
- Alexandra Mason, ScA Dt E* Fr G M Ee Sp
- Miles McKeown, B C* Dr E G H* M P Ee*
- Emmeline Meborn-Hubbard, A* B C* E Fr G H M P Ee
- Henry Mills, A B C Dt* E* Gm M** Ms** P Ee
- Arjun Patel, B C* E* Fr G H M Pe P Sc
- George Pearce, ScA* A Dr E G M Ee Sc
- Tom Pethick, B C* Dr** E* G** Gm* H* M* P** Ee**
- Imogen Pollard, A** B C* E* Gm** H M* Ms* P Ee*
- Florence Price, A* B* C** E* Fr H Mf* M** Pe P* Ee
- Alexander Pugh, ScA Dr E* G H L M Ee Sc
- Kathryn Rew, B** C** Dr** E** Fr* H M* Ms** P* Ee*
- Emma Richardson, A B* C* E** Fr G* M* P** Ee* Sp
- Anna Rombelsheim, B C* Es* E Fr** Gm** M P
- Cameron Rowe, ScA* E Fr G H M Ee* Sp
- Christopher Schaurte, ScA A Es E G Gm** H M Sc
- Sam Scott, A* B** C** E** Fr** G** H** Mf** M** P** Ee**
- Lauren Seatter-Messer, A** B C Dt* E* Gm** M Pe P Ee
- Fraser Spivey, ScA E G M Pe Ee Sc Sp
- Rafael Suarez, ScA Dr E H M Pe Ee Sc Sp
- James Tait, B** C** E Fr** G** Gm** Mf* M** Pe** P** Ee**
- Elizabeth Templeton, B* C Dr E** Gm H M Pe P Sc**
- Dan Thomas, B* C** E** Fr* G** Gm** H* Nf** M** P** Ee**
- Edward Watkins, B C E Fr G Gm* H M P Ee
- Olivia Watson, B C Dt E Gm H M Ee* Sc
- Greta Weidenfeld, ScA Es* E Gm** M
- Olivia Witts, B** C** Dr* E* Gm** H* Mf* M** Ms* P** Ee*
- Damon Young, B C E* Fr G H M Pe P Ee
- Jamie Young, ScA E G H M Ms Pe Ee Sc

Key: A*-C; **=grade A*; *=grade A

A Level Examinations 2013

- Hongyang Bao, C* Cns* Mf M** P*
- Larry Lu, C Cn Mf M**
- Mark Xu, Cn Mf M** P
- Judaea Zhu, Cn Mf M** P
- Lance Baynham, Ee* H* M*
- Victoria Clark, C
- Charlotte Jones, Ee Dr Ms
- Ben Margesson, Ict Bs G
- Jack Pethick, Ee G H*
- William Scott, Mf M* P
- Alistair Sinfield, Ee Dr Py
- Tristan Stevens, C B* M
- Joshua Thomas, Dr G
- Luke Witts, C* B M
- Oliver Baylis, F M Ms
- Aileen Huang, Cn* Mf* M** P
- Charles Lamble, Ee Bs* H
- Bubble Pan, Cn Mf Ph M
- Vesper Liu, C* Cn* Mf M*
- Sagittarius Zhang, C** Mf** M** P*
- Vicky Zhu, Cn* Mf M* P

Key: * grade A; ** grade A*

Subject Key: A=Art, B=Biography, Bs=Business Studies, C=Chemistry, Cn=Chinese, Dr=Drama, Dt=Design & Technology, E=English Language, Ee=English Literature, Es=English as a Second Language, F=French, G=Geography, Gm=German, H=History, Ict=Information Communication Technology, L=Latin, M=Mathematics, Mf=Further Mathematics, Ms=Music, P=Physics, Pe=Physical Education, Ph=Photography, Py=Psychology, Rs=Russian, Sc=Science, ScA=Additional Science, Sp=Spanish.



Godman House

A new pupil's perspective

Interview with Mrs Fielding, Houseparent of Godman



How long have you been working in Godman?
I've been at Rendcomb College since 1994 and started working in Godman in 1995 when Godman changed to a girls' house. I've been a houseparent since 2004.

What cheers you up after a long hard working day?
I like my job so much that I don't need cheering up after a day's work! It's very tiring, though!

What has been the funniest thing in Godman?
I find some of the Friday Night Challenges very funny, also the chats at bedtime I have with the boarders. It was really funny when the girls were all ironing the bunting for Oxfam Women's Day with their hair straighteners!

What is the best thing about being a houseparent for Godman?
I love getting to know the Godman girls and their families and meeting international families and finding out about the countries they come from. It's very rewarding to be in a job where you can help people and see them grow in confidence.

How do you juggle teaching German and being a houseparent for Godman?
I have to be organised and do lots of work in the evenings and the school holidays.

What else should someone thinking about coming to join Godman know about the house? Can you sum it up in three words?
We have fun! It's a home as well as part of school. We hold dinner parties for parents where girls help to cook, entertain and serve; we have big sister evenings, camp fire parties and regular bake-offs! Three words? Friendly, caring, fun!! ■

Ella Sims Form 1

I started Form 2 part way through the Michaelmas term. I have been made to feel very welcome. I have made new friends very quickly; they have all supported me along my way. They have also assisted me to find my way around the school.

In Godman, there is loads to do, including: 'big sister' evenings, cake sales, bring and buy sales, and fancy dress parties. Also, we have had dinner parties where you cook for all the parents. The parents had a menu to choose from including a starter, main meal, and dessert. We make our international students feel at home by holding cultural meals as well.

There are three new gap tutors called Miss S Scarlet, Miss S Milledge and Miss J Moyes. They have all been a great help to Godman. They have assisted us with 'Friday night challenges'.

Highlights of 'Friday night challenges' include the time when each team had a can of alphabet letters and we had rounds of different topics; we had to use the letters to spell words. There was also a time when we got in to groups and performed the Nativity scene. ■

Becky Langley Form 2



Old Rectory

Boarding at the Old Rectory

Boarding at Old Rec is one of the highlights of my Rendcomb life. Before I tell you about the routine, I would like to mention our super Houseparents, Mr and Mrs Brealy. Before I decided to come to Rendcomb I looked at two other schools, but one of the major factors which drew me here was the wonderful, kind, caring Houseparents.

After school has ended we have prep time, this is an hour long period of time (5:15-6:15pm) for revision, school homework and, if you've finished, quiet reading. The whole of Old Rec then heads off to a delightful supper. When we return to house, we spend the rest of the night either hanging out or watching a movie. There are often many other things to do too, such as dodge ball, rugby on the lawn, tennis and cricket. If you do get through all these, there is the games room.

We go up to bed at 9pm with our 'lights out' at 9:15. After 'lights out' we must not talk or run about. Our dorm is a five man dorm. It is shared between the First and Second Forms: we are three First Formers (including me) and one Second Former, and occasionally a flexi-boarder joins us. Our walls are a dull white, but are livened up with Simpson posters! Our bed sheets have Spiderman or a skateboarder on them.

In the morning, we are woken up at 7:15am on a standard school day; on a Saturday we get a blissful lie-in till 7:30am. Breakfast usually starts at 7:30am. On most days it's a main diet of croissant, bacon, eggs, baked beans and cereal, washed down with a smoothie, tea, coffee or water. Call over is at 8:15am; then school starts, and the routine starts again.

Thomas Finch Form 1



Godrec Pool Party

Godman and Old Rectory often join forces for Friday evening entertainment. On the 7th of June 2013, there was a pool party that was held for Forms 1-3 girls and boys. It was sadly a cold windy evening for a swim, but most kids toughed through it. Getting in and out repeatedly was a bad idea though, because this speeds up hypothermia but don't worry - no one contracted it!

After swimming around for a bit, everyone got out for a quick dry off. While we were shivering and cold, three groups of pupils performed some terrible but hilarious synchronised swimming pieces. After our fun in the freezing cold was over, everyone headed back to House. When all were dry and warm, we headed over to Godman for doughnuts and a coke, which concluded our cold but fun night.

Lucas Boyer Form 1



Winter overview

Another year, another adventure...

This year has been one of many new and exciting adventures, especially for the First Formers who went on an Adventure Weekend in Shropshire early in the Michaelmas Term. Since then, our Form 1 boys have continued to grow closer together and build new friendships.

And then came the Friday night challenges, which saw us dressing up as crazy and exciting monsters. And for Form 3 came the start of social evenings held in 'The Barn', most memorably the 'Onesie Night' when we saw some very funny and awesome 'onsies'.

This year, we had a rather unusual Christmas trip to the cinema, to the hilarious story that is 'Nativity 2'. It was a great time for having fun and having a laugh, and, I hope, a trip that which all Form 1 to 3 boys and girls will remember.

Obviously, the anticipated and awesome snowfall gave the boarders a brilliant opportunity to test the hills of Rendcomb to the maximum. We sledged, had snowball fights and made some amazing snowmen.

James Heneghan Form 3



Rendcombian - The Magazine for Rendcomb College, Juniors and Nursery



Stable House

From a new Form 4 student

From a new international student

From the Head of House



The atmosphere in Stable House from the first day was excellent; all new-comers were welcomed by seasoned veterans and the house was full of happiness and excitement from day one. Although finding the first few days hard with being in such a different environment, I found friends quickly. I love the international diversity of Stable with girls from all over the world as this allowed me to understand different cultures, having left a French school in London. The particular atmosphere in Stable is next to none, and there is always someone to talk to, whether the wise Houseparents, a member of the influential Fifth Form, or just someone in your own year.

In Stable, there is a sense of love mixed with the odd drama of teenage girls. The Stable prefects also play a very large part in Stable life as they are always there for you and they are very organised, looking after the 'Barn' nights held on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday, making sure everybody knows what's happening in the week and ensuring the new students are settling in well.

My first ever year in Stable has given me the opportunities to find new friends that I will forever be in contact with. At this point, I feel I need to mention the one German student in Form 4, Antonia, who is leaving - we will all miss you dearly.

The stress of exams in Stable all bubbles up in May but everyone is here to encourage each other, and that plays a key part throughout the months thereafter. I'm looking forward to spending another year in Stable and the joys of Mrs and Mr Ferreira's stock phrase 'Just get on with it!', which sums up Stable life. ■

Francesca Parshall Form 4

I started my time at Rendcomb in September 2012. The decision to come here wasn't easy for me; it is a really big step to take. You come to another country, with another language, and you are surrounded by people you don't know, but I can tell you that it is definitely worth taking this step. The moment you arrive at this school you notice that all the worries and anxieties you had before you came here were completely unnecessary. Everyone helps you if you ask them for help, or if you seem to be lost. All the students are really willing to get to know you, and you feel even in the first days really comfortable in your classes and especially in your boarding house.

The Houseparents help you in many situations and are always there for you if you need them. Rendcomb is really concerned about the students that join the school, especially the teachers, who help you in the lessons to improve your English and support the international students to understand everything they say. I don't regret my choice to come to Rendcomb and now I can say that this school is my second home. I have made friendships for life.

A year abroad is not a year in a life; it's a life in a year. And for me, it has been so memorable that I have decided to extend the stay! ■

Greta Weidenfeld Form 5



Having spent three years in the comfort and familiar pink of Godman House, the journey to Stable House looked daunting to us all; though looking back now, I wonder why. Stable, without a doubt, proved a welcome change from what we had become accustomed to, with a new lease of independence granted. I'm surprised Mr and Mrs Ferreira weren't shaking in their boots! Their support and guidance has helped us all through our rough patches and tantrums, coupled, of course, with the help of Miss Bond, our Assistant Houseparent. During my time in Stable, my admiration for Mr Ferreira has definitely grown; where anyone else would run terrified from a large group of arguing teenage girls, he is all too eager to step in, often laughing at our pettiness, offering witty remarks and diffusing the tension. Mrs Ferreira and Miss Bond must be acknowledged too for their remarkable patience and understanding.

The atmosphere in Stable is one of cheerfulness; it is a lively and welcoming House, a place I am grateful to return to after a long day at school. With endless reams of activities from German suppers, hosted by our international students, to pizza and pampering evenings, Stable is an energetic and bubbly house, brimming with personality and humour. The sense of family is undeniable as Stable really has proved to be a home away from home.

I have had the enormous pleasure of acting as Head of House this year, and I must again thank Mr and Mrs Ferreira for trusting me with such responsibility; I have enjoyed the role very much and working alongside Mr and Mrs Ferreira and the prefect team has taught me valuable lessons.

My two years spent in Stable seem to have flown by all too quickly and though I look forward to the venture into Sixth Form, my goodbye to Stable will be an emotional one. A massive thank you to Mr and Mrs Ferreira, not forgetting Miss Bond, for acting as my advisors, friends and parents; my time here has been unforgettable. I know anyone embarking on their Stable journey will enjoy it as much as I have. ■

Olivia Ellis Form 5

Lawn House

Michelangelo V Picasso?



Just when we think we've got it cracked with the routines and rotas, kidding ourselves that things will roll along even more smoothly than they did last year (at least the plans on paper suggest that it should), the boys arrive!

It is just like having your first baby all over again: you've read all the books and bought all of the paraphernalia, and you think that you are prepared for every eventuality. Suddenly, it arrives and you realise very quickly that this little bundle of energy refuses to fit into the context of any 'how to train your baby' manual!

We've tried to write the 'how to be a good Houseparent' manual, but we are finally realising that each year brings with it a different perspective. So, we are learning to 'roll with the punches', and adapt to the uniqueness of each individual who presents himself in turn on that very first day of the Michaelmas Term.

This will be our sixth year as Houseparents to the senior boys and I think that we can safely say that we start each year now with a completely blank canvas; without having too many preconceptions, and ready to watch with anticipation as this work of art unfolds as we move through the academic year.

Each year shapes a different set of individuals, and for the first time this year we have said goodbye to our boys who have been with us from Form 3 right through to the end of Lower Sixth. It has been a fascinating journey with them and a privilege to hand them over to Park House; we hope that we have turned out some well-rounded, confident and, more importantly, 'caring' young men.

With a new canvas at the ready, who knows how conventional or how abstract it is going to be this coming year. The 'raw materials' arrive one by one on that first day of term; so let's see if we get a 'painting by numbers' kit or an 'abstract expressionist' ... ■

Mr P and Mrs M Bevans

This year has seen the senior boys put their own stamp on Lawn House in one way or another. Our Fifth Form year seems to have been a gruelling and relentless assault of examinations, with little time to waste. However, the recreation time the boys have had seems to have been put to good use.

There is quite literally never a dull moment in Lawn House. Sitting in the epicentre of the school campus this is hardly surprising. Whether it's the frighteningly competitive termly pool competitions, or Mr Whitham's 5-a-side football games, there is a constant buzz of activity surrounding the House.

The legendary Lawn House movie and pizza nights are one of the highlights of each term, giving the boys the opportunity to scare themselves to death with our annual horror movie marathon.

This year has witnessed the rebirth of 'Rugby Sevens' into Rendcomb life, arising only out of the passion and determination of the Fifth Form boys, and driven by Mr B's unforgiving and rigorous training sessions under the floodlights on the Estate Gardens during the Michaelmas and Lent terms.

We rounded the year off with our annual Fifth Form trip to Thorpe Park, where along with Mr Bevans, Mr Whitham and Miss Quick, we had the time of our lives.

The combinations of personalities and talent are diverse here in Lawn with over seventy Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Form boys housed over three floors, and I can only say that the undivided care and attention of Mr and Mrs Bevans has resulted in a great year for the whole House. Their remarkable house ethic has fuelled the growth and maturity of every boy, creating a balance of respect which cannot be matched.

As I move up to the Sixth Form and Park House, I will take many happy memories of my time here in Lawn. ■

Brodie Ash (Head of Day House) Form 5

As I say goodbye to Rendcomb College ...

My second and final house in Rendcomb, Lawn House, has been an integral part of two very important years of my life. From the ages of 14 to 16, not only is one expected to work to the level required to achieve the best GCSE results one possibly can, but also one begins to mature into a young adult while doing so. Therefore, the years one spends in Lawn House are paramount in setting up habits and a suitable work ethic to carry on to A Level - the exams that help decide our future.

It would be wrong to single out individuals, but such an attention to the niceties has never been a strength of mine, so I'll do it anyway!

Mr Bevans instils in us this drive that is required to grow, with some boys more receptive than others. Whenever he's not losing to me at pool or talking about this year's British and Irish Lions Tour, he is constantly reminding me and the other boys of the importance of respect for each other and having a purpose. No man could be more suited to guide teenage boys through two years full of choice and consequence. I can honestly say I'll miss his ability to give and receive (mostly) witty remarks and his caring side, which he may not want you to know about.

Behind every good Housemaster however, there is an equally good Housemistress. Two Mr Bevanses would be too much to handle and so Mrs Bevans is the perfect yin to his yang; providing motherly love and discipline which includes the frightening ability to keep even Mr Bevans in line.

Finally, Lawn House's very own Robin to Mr Bevans' Batman (though I didn't realise Robin drove a hairdresser's car!), Mr Whitham. One of the lads through and through, Mr Whitham is like an extra friend to the boys of the house and whenever he's not teaching about 'Supernovas' or the motor effect, he's showing off his kick-flipping on a skateboard or scoring his token wonder-goal. Such responsibility at a young age is truly impressive and a perfect complement to the experience of Mr and Mrs B.

I am not sorry that I haven't talked about what we do in the house because for me, it's the people who make a house what it is. Sure, football, house competitions and enjoying nights down at Barn have been amazing, but this house would be a shell without the people in it; so it is those that I would like to credit for making my two years here so defining. From all the boys to the aforementioned staff and the staff I haven't mentioned, it is you that have made my experience so individual and memorable.

Thank you! ■

Samuel Scott Form 5



Life in Lawn – an International Viewpoint

It is pretty strange to come to the College as a boarder, especially when you have spent your whole life in a state school. All those new students you have to get used to, then another language and a completely new school system. When I came to Rendcomb, I thought: 'Who are all these people, and where is my room?'

It is even stranger to live in a foreign country knowing that you have left all your friends back in your native country, whether it is Germany, China or Spain. The first days are the hardest: you aren't confident with the language, you have to get used to new teachers; in fact, everything is new to you. However, it gets easier when you find some people from your own country, which happens. My first friend was a German boy; his room was exactly opposite mine.

It was a good time from then on. I started to understand English better and got into the habit of living at school, where you have to get up at 7 o'clock in the morning and go to bed at 10 o'clock. It took a while, but after I found some confidence in my speaking, I started to make English friends; and the first thing they told me was how to play pool.

However, the weekends are something completely new. Not only do you still have school on Saturday, but Sunday too is a challenge. Usually, though, there is no chance to get bored, especially if there is a paintball trip or something similar.

It is also good to have Houseparents like Mr and Mrs Bevans and their assistant Mr Whitham. They aren't as strict as you would expect from a British College, so even the morning wake-up call ends up being 'get up Mr whatever-your-name-is'.

Overall, I would say it has been a great year. If you have got a crazy Spanish friend called Carlos, you will have a great time here. ■

Julius Sigl Form 4

Park House

Life in Park: three voices

During my long summer break after the stresses and strains of GCSEs, I was anxious about the upcoming step from an immature, adolescent member of the Fifth Form to a mature, responsible member of the Lower Sixth. I'm glad to say that with the help of Mr and Mrs Coups' welcoming attitude, the generally positive attitude of students and the enjoyably chaotic Park House Common Room, the transition has been almost seamless. I was told at the beginning of the year that this is to be the largest Sixth Form ever, and that the overwhelming number of people could make this an intense year but in fact, I couldn't have felt more relaxed this year.

One of the many things I've enjoyed most about life in the Sixth Form is the increased responsibility. The Sixth Form Bar has been an enjoyable privilege to have, too. Another perk I've enjoyed is a closer relationship with my teachers, for the simple reason that it makes the classroom a much better environment to be in and thus makes the learning experience a lot more pleasurable.

All in all, I have thoroughly enjoyed my first year as a Sixth Former, and I am even more excited about the prospect of what lies ahead next year.

Oliver Birden Form 6L

I have been here nearly one year!

I have really enjoyed the time spent in Rendcomb College and Park House so far, especially when we celebrated my 18th birthday. The other students in Park surprised me with a yummy birthday cake: thank you!

This year, I have learnt to wake up when the bell is rung ready to focus on my



studies. The fresh air and the outgoing and friendly students in Park House have made my experience at Rendcomb a good one. Interacting with the other students in the Common Room has helped make me less shy and nervous. I am really grateful as it is not easy to leave your own country and come to a new school and culture all at once.

Malong Li Form 6L

7th September 2011. The first day of my Park House life. It was the beginning of a new and exciting world for me. No longer was the usual school uniform required; we were now in a co-educational house and, of course, there was the even more exciting prospect of 'free' – I mean 'non-teaching' – periods. That day feels like it was only yesterday, yet here I am as a now retired Park House prefect being asked to give an overview of my life in Park House these last two years.

If I had to sum up my life in Park House in one word, it would certainly be a difficult choice. 'Whacky' could be one, as there have certainly been some whacky events: strangely themed bars such as the 'Pirates v. Ninjas bar' and the widely popular 'rave bar'. I don't think there has ever been a stranger dance floor than the one seen at last year's 'out of the hat bar', on which a nun, a penguin, a cowboy and Princess Jasmine

Jack Pethick Form 6U

were 'busting some moves'. Moving away from bar there have also been numerous other 'whacky' events such as Fort Building Night, during which a group of 17-18 year olds discovered their inner child once more, creating forts out of sofas, cushions and cardboard boxes. There have also been several Quidditch tournaments; and finally the giant football match between Sixth and First Form buddies, on what must be the steepest pitch ever played upon.

Another word I could choose would be 'chilled'. Although there have been stressful periods of coursework and exams, life in Park for me has always had a relaxed feel to it. Everyone in the house works hard and is determined in their academic goals, yet we Sixth Formers also appreciate fully the phrase: 'All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy.' The Summer Term is one where this is certainly the case, with lunch breaks and evenings often taken up by relaxing on the grass outside in the sunshine or playing giant rounders up on the golf course.

However, I think the word 'happy' is one that best sums up my time in Park House over the last two years. Park has been a place where I have had the opportunity to finish my Rendcomb career with close friends, create memories I shall never forget, and provide the best environment possible for me to succeed.

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A Hectic Social Calendar

During our time in Park House there have been many social events organised for us. First, there was the wonderful Christmas dinner at the end of Michaelmas Term. The previous Upper Sixth planned the dinner and decorated the Dulverton Hall. The best decorations on hand were the party horns placed on each table. The Upper Sixth also created certificates for certain attendees. For example, I was given a certificate for the 'Smiliest Person in Park'. The food Mr Naylor and his staff put together was amazing. Following dinner, everyone headed to Bar where we carried on celebrating and enjoyed a disco.

The biggest event of the year was The Fire and Ice Ball, which was organised by Miss Berry. Girls were meant to wear red and the boys were to wear white or blue. Miss Berry organised a great night with amazing entertainment, including girls on stilts and fire tricks. There was also a Rendcomb College ice sculpture which was impressively detailed and lasted for a few days after the dance! Each table was issued their own disposable camera, which provided consistent entertainment throughout dinner. All tables produced both interesting and embarrassing photos for all to enjoy a couple of months later.

Every event we've had this year was amazing: Park is sick!

Carla Ambrouis, Bliss McFarlane Form 6L



Sixth Form Bar

This year, the Bar has been used to great effect in providing a fun and spacious area for the Rendcomb Sixth Form to relax and socialise on Thursday and Saturday evenings. Themed bars have been a great success with the social prefects thinking up various interesting and rather extravagant suggestions each week. Due to the large space that the Bar provides, nearly anything is possible. 'Beach' and 'rave bar' have been popular this term along with Favourite Musician and the rather alternative 'headphone bar'.

The Sixth Formers were happy to welcome the Fifth Form to Bar in the Michaelmas Term for the annual Fifth and Sixth Form Joint Bar, where the theme was 'Nerds and Geeks', and also the much anticipated annual 'acoustic bar', whereby students have the opportunity to showcase their skills with the microphone and various acoustic instruments to create a hugely enjoyable environment for all who attend.

The Bar this year was also used to great effect when the notorious 'NM Generation', run by Luke Nixon and James Mudge, came to town. The long awaited Comedy Store was hugely successful and the bar area played a huge part in its success by allowing a spacious area for many acts to preform without getting overcrowded.

However, as good as Bar is, the Lower Sixth Form full boarders feel as though it is not being used to its full capacity and, in order for the full potential of the Bar to be fully exploited, work must be done! It was at this point that two boys approached Mr and Mrs Coups and asked whether giving Bar a make-over was a good idea. The plan went ahead and the two boys assembled a team of elite troops to get to work on the target. Swift hand strokes and heavily trained muscles were needed to successfully re-do Bar; the instalment of a cinema screen and projector, along with bean bags, a fresh coat of paint and other accessories have transformed Bar into a teenager's dream.

We welcome the current Fifth Form into the Sixth Form next year and look forward to thinking up more 'barmy' bars for your enjoyment.

Tom Hansel Form 6L

An overview of the Buddy System

The buddy system at Rendcomb involves a volunteer from the Upper Sixth Form being 'buddied' with a Form 1 student. Once they are paired up, they then meet and converse on the Monday of each week. In my personal opinion, this is an excellent idea because it gives Form 1 students the chance to talk to a more experienced, and hopefully matured, student audience.

Buddy meetings subsist to encourage: talking, eating biscuits, joking, and just plain-out fun. Buddy meetings are a great way to connect people that are too shy to strike up a conversation with people double their age and size. Form 1 is quite fortunate to have a system like this.

The Buddy BBQ through Sixth Form eyes

The annual Buddy Barbecue was held in April and members of the First and Sixth Forms came together for the sunny evening. We enjoyed Mrs Dodd's slightly blackened but none the less tasty burgers which some of the First Form boys didn't stop eating. With the help of Prefects, Mrs Dodd had satiated every student present with burgers, hot dogs, ice cream and copious amounts of coke.

Then it was on to Mr Thomason for the main event - the eagerly anticipated, arguably hazardous, football match. On the battlefield outside the Reading Room, teams were picked and the game began with a good 20 on 20 match ahead. Limbs were broken, friendships turned to brutal warfare and Mr Thomason was wrestled to the ground because of his poor refereeing. Well, not quite. Many grass stains and a penalty shoot-out later, the evening was over; the Sixth Formers had exerted enough energy for a month and the First Formers were still hyper!

An excellent evening enjoyed by all, brilliantly catered and refereed by Mrs Dodd and Mr Thomason. ■

Alistair Sinfield Form 6U

The First and Sixth Form Buddy Quiz 2013, in the Lent term, was one occasion of great fun, and significance. A wide variety of questions were posed, ranging from band names to gaming to TV programmes. There were five winners: Luke Witts, Howard Auster, Ben Margesson, Morgan Seatter-Messer and Henry Holloway. These intellects emerged victorious leaving everyone else at the quiz in the dust.

At the end of April, the First and Sixth Form Buddy Barbeque was an enjoyable experience with Mrs Dodd taking charge of the cooking, and Mr Thomason organising a fortuitously fun football match. It was a great way to wrap up that warm Summer's Eve! ■

Lucas Boyer Form 1



Buddy Quiz through Sixth Form eyes

A Rendcomb Buddy Quiz does not simply organise itself. So when we, already a fantastic and well-oiled team, were asked to take the mantle from Dan 'Quizmaster' Geerah, even we approached it with a certain degree of trepidation. However, after a period of meditation and soul searching, we emerged from our dojo of solitude with a format, a quiz and, more importantly, a Pokemon theme for the teams.

Lights. Action. Showtime. The quiz started. First and Sixth Formers alike entered under the impression that the quiz would be easy and that victory would be a certainty. The pre-tournament favourites were lead by Mr Baynham, who, fresh from his offer from Oxford University, had an air of confident swagger about him; but the Buddy Quiz soon proved to be a far more daunting and stoic task for the young man than any of the entrance papers. He had no idea about the intellectual torture that lay ahead.

The questions flummoxed, the knowledge bewildered and the answers eluded the dumbfounded students. In fact, the highest scoring team only got 62% of the questions right... I mean, who in their right mind knows the technical term for a male swan?

It's a 'cob', for future reference.

So on to the heated battle which would separate the men from the boys. Some blatant, appalling, monstrous, morbid and downright wrong cheating from the 'Steel Team' was met with outrage and anger from the other teams, and appropriate punishments of stoning for Tom Hansel and shooting at dawn for Oliver Birden were quickly agreed on. And the quiz proceeded.

In the end, the winning team emerged from the pack, soaked in the tears, blood and anguish of their vanquished and inadequate foes. To be completely honest, the 'Water Team', comprising Holloway, Margesson, Auster, Seatter-Messer and Witts, was the best team the whole way through the tournament and completely deserved its win. An honourable mention goes to the team of Baynham, Pethick, Clark, Lushington and Brelsford who lived up to the top seed tag to finish a respectable second place finish: a commendable effort.

Despite the epic nature of the quiz, the most important thing about the night was the bonding that took place between the First and Sixth Forms. The age gap was bridged by mutual hatred of the quiz masters and the shared intellectual pain the questions caused.

Next year, the responsibility of Buddy Quiz will fall on younger shoulders with new ideas, but we offer these two humble pieces of advice: try to make the Sixth Former doubt whether his or her education has been worth the time. And punish cheats to the full extent of your power. ■

Charlie Lamble, William Scott Form 6U

Social Events

Charity Ball 2013

The Charity Ball 2013 started off by having Form 1 to 3 students walking down the stairwell in Clock Hall and looking ravishing while doing so. As Mr Brealy called out the names of the people who were walking down the stairwell, the parents, Mrs Thomason and Mrs Brealy snapped photos of all students possible.

As the starters were set out in the Dulverton Hall, everyone rushed in to soak up the atmosphere and try to figure out the theme of the evening. It was an 'underwater' theme, with sharks and fish everywhere and *Finding Nemo* playing in the background. As supper continued and everyone had finished their starter, the main course was brought in by the Form 2 students. After this, the yummy stuff came in: dessert! We then moved to the dance floor almost immediately.

As the night went on, everyone danced energetically, but for those that were tired of dancing or just didn't want to, there were games. Every game could be purchased for one 'token', which was quite cheap. There were a couple of games like: Ring-Toss, Test your Destiny, Raffle-Barrel and many more! At the end of the night, there was a name-drawn raffle in which lots of prizes were given out. As the night wrapped up, everyone went home tired and happy and with lots of "stuff." ■

Lucas Boyer Form 1



Sixth Form Ball

With the theme of 'fire and ice' for this year's biannual Sixth Form Ball, the night was set to be filled with excitement and good times. All that was needed was for Miss Berry to lead the ball committee of prefects in organising and setting up the event.

On Saturday 23rd March, parents and pupils arrived through an atmospheric Saul's Hall, passing by mesmerising fire and ice dancers (some on stilts!), to cocktails and drinks in Clock Hall. Amongst the plentiful fire- and ice-themed decorations was our very own 'fire and ice' ice sculpture, popular for photo poses. In accordance with the theme, girls were asked to wear red and boys were to wear white.

Upon Mr Naylor's dinner announcement, guests proceeded to the Dining Hall where we enjoyed some lovely themed food prepared by the kitchen staff. After the meal, we were given a show by an impressive fire-eating dancer on the terrace outside, who battled through the freezing March night (too apt for the theme!). As the evening went on, parents and students continued to socialize and enjoy themselves. Many of the students danced the night away, but special mention should go to Christine Khirrecu for her outstanding dance moves.

The event was a thoroughly successful, enjoyable and memorable event for all; and the ice sculpture remained standing outside for a number of days afterwards as a lasting tribute. ■

Alistair Sinfield Form 6U



Comedy Store



One night.
Five comedians.
It can only mean one thing:
it's *The Comedy Store*.

A staggering 150 people descended into the bowels of Rendcomb on Wednesday 12th June, to witness the latest creation of 'NM Generation': *The Comedy Store*. Five comedians: Tom Pethick, Ed Davies, Alex Pugh, Carlos Suarez-Catrain and James Rose all provided a night of laughter and entertainment which was hosted by Luke Nixon, James Mudge and Ollie Birden. Aided by the fantastic Paolamarie Tan and Carla Katharina on pancakes and drinks, the whole evening 'washed down' nicely with everybody enjoying a new diverse experience unlike one seen before here at Rendcomb. The comedy was sharp, the lemon on the pancakes even more so and sporting specially designed shirts by Josh Cropper, Paolamarie and Carla, all looked the part and raised a significant amount of cash for our Edinburgh Fringe Festival fund.

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The five comedians' material had been developed over a period of six to eight weeks, overseen by Luke Nixon, James Mudge and Ollie Birden. The project was set up because Luke Nixon and James Mudge saw a niche for a new experience. As a team, 'NM Generation' set out to produce a fantastic evening which culminated in an individual stand-up comedy night. The night started with Ollie Birden warming up the crowd to signal the start of the night's stand up for *Rooms 1, 2 and 3*. The night then finished with *Critique The Week* which was a spinoff of *Mock the Week*. We would personally like to thank all of our comedians and helpers; we couldn't have done it without you. For more 'NM Generation' projects follow us on Twitter and find us on Facebook; and of course, watch out for Sunset Radio and our new play *Faith* which is set to be released in the latter half of 2013. ■

Luke Nixon, James Mudge Form 6L

Dance Challenge 2012

This year's Dance Challenge brought together five all-inspiring teams to compete for the winning title of Rendcomb Dance Champions. Taking centre stage in the Dulverton Hall was the very funny, the very extravagant, Mr Jennings; he provided his natural and consistent brilliance as our compere for the evening. The judging panel this year included the dexterous Mrs Dodd, the marvellous Mr Martin and the benevolent Mrs Barnett.

There was much laughter and intrigue as the performers were introduced to the floor one by one. Once all the dancers had assembled, Mr Jennings let battle commence, starting us off with 'The Little Uns'. This group consisted of an impressive array of members from Forms 1 to 4, and laid down a solid opening routine to Olly Mur's *Dance with Me Tonight*. Our next competitor was 'Uncontrollable', which comprised members of Forms 1 and 2 who lived up to their name with some superb dancing to a Swedish House Mafia track, proving to be an entertaining watch for all. The third team to take to the floor was none other than the 'Eddy492 Dramatic Dance Society', who came second last year and had returned with a vengeance. They showed great team work,

adding in a bit of country line dancing (no doubt inspired by the rehearsals for *Footloose*), with noticeable performances from Tom Pethick and Denis Bryanka to the song *Domino* by Jessie J. Next up to bat, was a Lower Sixth team with a very interesting costume look, and in their own piece they were, shall we say, expressive in their dance of what can only be described as 'Rendcomb ballet', which involved an excessive amount of 'leaping'. A special mention goes to Yannis Dimpoulos, who gracefully sprung about the room in a rather dainty manner. And finally, the reigning Sixth Form champions took their place in the spotlight. With many prefects amongst their ranks, it was exemplary to watch such a diverse group in action with their own take on Kelly Clarkson's *Stronger* with a rather bizarre Star Wars related twist. With the acts having 'given their all', the judges were left with a very burdensome decision to make as they hurriedly fled to the Staff Common Room to confer while the Dulverton Hall was flooded by a mass of students viciously dancing to *Saturday Night Fever*. The judges soon returned with their final decision: 'Eddy492' and the Sixth Form prefect team 'Strictly Come Intergalactic

Star Destroying Rebellious Empire' were to go through to the dance-off. One after the other, the teams stepped into the limelight once more for an ultimate display of their supreme dancing capabilities. Both teams performed with absolute professionalism and left the judges in a strenuous deadlock. As Mrs Dodd took the microphone to announce the winner, the crowd fell fatally silent. All eyes were strained on the judges. The echo of a fly coughing could have been heard as the incredibly tense and deafening silence was brought to an end by news that the judging had been so tight that only the audience could decide the champions of the evening. And so, with great delight and enthusiasm, the spectators shouted in a mass cacophony of noise the name of their favourite dance group. The shouts for the Sixth Form were strong and hopeful, but it was not enough and there emerged a winner: 'Eddy492' were crowned Dance Champions 2012 as well as being showered upon by chocolates and victory. Congratulations to Rozy Baynham, Nora Beran, Denis Bryanka, Cerys Davies, Ed Davies, Eddie Geerah, Miles McKeown, Tom Pethick, Kathryn Rew, Chris Schaurte and myself. A big thank you must go to all the acts, our immense compere, the judges and our wonderful technical team. It is tremendous nights like these which make Rendcomb special. ■

Alex Pugh Form 5

Theatresports

This year's Theatresports saw teams comprised of many different year groups battle it out in the toughest of gladiatorial arenas. However, the baying audience of the Dulverton Hall cried not for the blood of the Coliseum, but for the laughter that came as a result of students having to make up funny scenes on the spot whilst trying to abide to the devious rules of the various games.

This year's games included a strange Papal effort, a Multi-National Group which set themselves up as a joke from the start with their team featuring an Irishman, a Scotsman, an Englishman, a Frenchman and an Italian, and a remarkable cross-dressing effort which was worryingly convincing for some members of the audience. Each team was faced with a number of fiendishly difficult rounds which included amongst others 'Death In A Minute', 'Song, Sonnet, Sermon' and 'Sit, Stand, Lean, Lie', in a number of different environments, including 'a concave spoon', 'a red nose' and 'the Headmaster's office', all of which were performed in front of three fearsome judges: Miss Milledge, Mrs Dodd and the Headmaster. The eventual winners were Robert McLaughlin, Honor Birden, Tom Pethick, Katrina Webb and Lance Baynham, who narrowly beat their opposition over the rounds. The evening was brilliantly compered by Mr Jennings whose wit and repartee kept the event flowing smoothly. Unfortunately, we have a year to wait until the competitors take to the arena once more. Some (in the Upper Sixth) have managed to win their freedom but others must step up to take their place... let the games begin! ■

Lance Baynham Form 6U



Winter Sports

Rugby 2012 - Overview

The College has fielded five teams this season on a regular basis, playing a total of 48 games, winning 29 with one draw, and scoring a total of 1233 points.



The U13s have enjoyed a very successful season, with six wins and one draw out of eight matches; and they have scored an average of 18 points per match in the process. They have shown great determination, both in possession and in defence, as well as plenty of skill, and their success has been very well-deserved. The forwards have been extremely well led by Sam Jones, and he has been able to count on great application from several of his teammates.

Andrew Chen, as the ‘try machine’, has shown great strength and determination in his position at number 8. Joshua Timmis, as a resolute hooker, was able to bring accuracy to the lineouts; and Jack Warhurst proved to be a very powerful tight head prop. Regan McGriff was a very fast and courageous blindside flanker; and the other positions were filled by the ‘young



pretenders’: Percy Vincent and Jude Martin (both very powerful in the set pieces and with ball in hand), and the nimble tackling and ball-carrying colossi of Henry Holloway and William Lushington.

This pack was able to supply very good quality ball for the backs who were inspired by the likes of the Minety RFC trio of scrum half James Nickson and centres Robert Sharman and Joel Frost. The other positions were impressively filled by Alex Dennett or Morgan Seatter-Messer at fly half, and on the wings were Ronaldo Hyde and Matthew Ferreira. Rafael Torregrosa-Jones was an extremely useful full back as he had plenty of pace and coped well with the opposition’s kicks. Michael Ferreira played the occasional match, either on the wing or at open-side flanker, and Charlie Pugh coped impressively at scrum half or as a winger.

Mr Brealy would like to thank the whole squad for all of their endeavours, but a special mention must go to Robert Sharman for being the consummate captain, as he always led from the front and commanded a great deal of respect from his team mates.

The U14s were, once again, a very small squad, both numerically and physically, and they endured a tough season. Nevertheless, there were three wins from seven games. Robert McLaughlin led the side superbly and scored over 20 tries in the season. Max Watson gave him great support as vice-captain, and Oli Heneghan led the backs well with key decision making and effective goal kicking. The most improved player of the season was Alex

TEAM	PLAYED	WON	DREW	LOST	POINTS FOR	POINTS AGAINST
All teams	48	29	1	18	1233	1002
1st XV	12	9	0	3	346	190
2nd XV	12	7	0	5	327	265
U15 XV	9	4	0	5	192	251
U14 XV	7	3	0	4	222	185
U13 XV	8	6	1	1	146	111

Summers, both in terms of attitude and of his commitment to the team. William Witts has played brilliantly in a variety of different positions and was always prepared to do what the team needed of him. Overall, the team has been on a steep learning curve, and they will be the better for it next season.

The U15s started out with a fresh intake of potential stars this year and have benefitted from the injection of pace and aggression, not to mention the humour that this has provided. From a heavy-hitting start to training on a rock hard pitch in September, to sliding about in the mud in November, the team has seen it all this season. Big wins, big losses, with some well-matched opposition in between, the team has learnt some tough but valuable lessons about how rugby is changing, and they have started to change with it.

The team has produced a core of players with great potential in the coming years, who will make a great contribution to senior rugby in the future. With more time, tactical awareness, tackling and forward play will improve, but the real positive to take from the season has to be the side’s potential as a running team that can play an expansive game, with most of the team now capable of running a try in from 40 metres out if presented with the opportunity. The focus has been on making every man a ball-carrier, as this is the way that rugby is going, and also the way to beat all comers.

The U15s have struggled with a raft of injuries to the most experienced players, but this has been offset by giving other players their chance. Stars of the year have

to be Arthur Mills and Archie Hine, who have put in 100% in every training session and in every match. An honourable mention must go to Johannes Hoffman for never giving up despite never having even watched rugby before September.

The highlight of the season was a 47-26 win over Bloxham, as the team proved that they could beat bigger schools and bigger teams, with creative play and a hard-hitting blitz defence.

This season’s 2nd XV were a young squad with most of the boys being drawn from Form 5. Nevertheless, a winning season was secured with seven wins from twelve matches. Even more so than in the past, many members of the squad were called up to the 1st XV; and these boys, such as Ollie Kendall-Smith, Edward Watkins, James Tait, Arjun Patel and Sam Scott, when called upon, never let the 1st XV down.

This season did see some big wins and big losses, but defeat has helped the boys to understand where they can improve. The team has worked hard to learn how to control the things that can be controlled, and to marginalise those things that are beyond control; and, in so doing, has produced a team with great potential.

Finally, a big thank must go to the captain and leader of the team, Eddie Geerah. He led from the front and was the most consistent player of the season.

The 1st XV enjoyed another winning season with 9 wins from 12 matches. This record might have been even better had the season not been constantly disrupted by long-term injuries to several key

players. Despite this, the XV showed great character to find ways of winning a number of very hard-fought encounters; and the wins against Kingham Hill, Rougemont, Monmouth and Leighton Park come to mind in this context.

A real highlight of the season was the 45-5 victory at Bristol Cathedral School, which is never an easy venue; the quality of rugby on the day was outstanding and a joy to watch.

Nearly 30 boys have represented the 1st XV this season and many will return next year. This is a huge positive to take forward to next season which will see some real competition for places, and the very real prospect of a truly outstanding season. The focal point of next season will be the Jonny Wilkinson Cup, a new national competition for the 1st XV’s of small schools, which will take place at Rendcomb in November.

That is for the future, but, for the moment, the commitment of a number of players who have now completed their last season of Rendcomb rugby must be acknowledged. For Jack Pethick and Tris Stevens, the season was overshadowed by injury, and the 1st XV would have been a better side had they stayed fit. Thankfully free from injury at last, Lance Baynham deservedly enjoyed a successful final season.

Finally, the captain and vice-captain, Harry Ellis and Will Scott, were absolutely committed to the cause and both made exceptional contributions to the season. Many thanks must go to them.

In conclusion, some thanks to the catering staff, to the groundsman and to our medical staff; but, above all, to the coaches and to the players for their outstanding efforts this season. ■

1st XV



1st XV Rugby Squad 2012

- Birden
- Mudge
- Tatara-Mills
- Auster
- Pethick
- Cropper
- Stevens
- Mernagh
- Gregory
- Scott S
- Ellis
- Baynham
- Cook
- Priestner
- Scott W
- Dimopoulos
- Taylor
- Davidge

If asked to pick one word to describe the College 1st XV's 2012 season, I am sure that many would say something along the lines of 'injury' or 'disruption' and, of course, from one perspective, they would be right. However, these words have a negative feel about them, when really the 2012 season was a very positive one, both in terms of results and building for the future. 'Overcome' would be my word of choice as, during this season, we have certainly overcome a range of setbacks, mainly injury, to fight our way to a deserved winning season, beating a number of teams which we had not previously beaten during my time at Rendcomb.

The season opened with a tough-fought win against Kingham Hill, accompanied by, unsurprisingly, a number of injuries. However, we fought hard and defended with tenacity, taking our limited attacking opportunities well. Our second

game came too quickly for a number of injuries to heal, and the holes in the squad could be seen. Nevertheless, the boys fought hard, succumbing to only a small defeat. Then came what we knew would be one of the toughest games of this season, against Rougemont. As we expected this was a physical game and the forwards really stood up to be counted, securing the game with a last minute 'Jacob Davidge try', converted coolly under great pressure by Oliver Cook.

Exeat then provided a well-deserved rest and a chance for injuries to heal. We travelled to Malvern for the return match, hoping to get one back on them, with a better representation of the 1st XV available. Starting the game with bus legs, it looked to be another tough fixture, but, after 20 minutes we were up and running like a well-oiled machine, coming out with a large victory. This momentum was carried to the next game away at Bristol Cathedral School. The forwards really fronted up to Bristol's physical style of rugby, providing quick, clean balls for the backs. This advantage was exploited by the backs, with Rendcomb playing the best rugby I've seen a Rendcomb 1st XV play, coming out with another convincing win. The momentum continued further into the next week, with a game away at Sidcot. We let Sidcot into the game with some poor defence; however, our attacking abilities kept us in the game, with the backs stringing together some impressive moves resulting in tries. In the



end it was conversions that proved to make the difference. Our three big wins of the first half of term were followed by a solid showing against Monmouth at home, resulting in another win. Leighton Park then came up to Top Pitch, with a confrontational and physical approach. However, the boys rose to the challenge to emerge victorious.

We looked to take our successes to Bloxham away, and started strongly; however, we were unable to turn field position and pressure into points, fading in the final ten minutes for a disappointing loss. Rain and an exeat weekend allowed for a good break before the long-awaited match against King's School Gloucester. However, rather than injuries healing we managed to add a few more to the list. It simply wasn't to be, and the game ended in defeat. The season did end with one more convincing victory at home which allowed the boys to end on a high note.

Such was the extent of injury that nearly thirty players represented the 1st XV this season, all of whom have given it everything out on the pitch. A number of Form 5 pupils have ably stepped up and gained invaluable experience for future years, most notably James Tait, Ed Watkins and Ollie Kendall-Smith. Sam Scott established himself as a key member of the back row in the second half of the season; and, finally, Jacob Davidge had an outstanding debut season as full back.

The Lower Sixth was the best represented year group in the team, which is

promising as they move on to be the senior and most experienced players next year. In the forwards, James Mudge, Ollie Birden, Josh Cropper and Howard Auster all played their part and should become key members of next season's pack. Alex Tatara-Mills and Louis Mernagh showed outstanding potential and a high level of skill, carrying the ball with power and pace. Dan Gregory effortlessly made the transition from the backs to open side wing forward, providing speed around the park and great fitness in a season where quick balls for the backs have been of the highest importance. In the backs, Yannis Dimopoulos and James Taylor offered contrasting qualities on the wing, and Ollie Cook is developing into an outstanding player at fly half. Rounding off the contingent from the Lower Sixth was Harry Priestner. He has led by example throughout the season with his crunching tackles and line breaking runs; and, perhaps most impressively, he has already scored 100 tries for Rendcomb, which is a testament to his commitment and enthusiasm for rugby.

Finally, to the senior boys, with whom I have been fortunate enough to play throughout my whole Rendcomb rugby career: Tristan Stevens, a flanker, whose knowledge for the game gave him the edge over countless opponents; apart from the countless charge-downs, I struggle to pick his defining moment, which is because he just gets on with it without making a fuss. It was a real shame his season was cut short

by injury. Jack Pethick also suffered from injury, but this was a season of maturity for Jack (not that his ability on the field has ever been in question), and he let the rugby do the talking. It was a shame that we lost his ball carrying skills and physical presence for such a large part of the season; and a late comeback for the final game was pleasing to see, as was witnessing the ball sail over the posts after a well-struck conversion.

Lance Baynham has been a keen rugby fan ever since I've known him, and this passion for the game has shown in his play throughout the season. Always on his toes, Lance dictated Rendcomb's attacking play with aplomb throughout the season, and I find it hard to believe that it's been his first full season in the 1st XV. I find it even harder to believe that in a season so full of injuries he hasn't missed a game once! Finally, Harry Ellis, who would be the first to assure you that he isn't the best player on our team, but he would always give 100% and more. His leadership and encouragement was second to none; and if there's one thing he taught us, it was certainly commitment.

Obviously none of this would be possible without the coaches. Firstly, Mr Marsden who ensured that the forwards were always in the best position possible to secure quick ball for the backs; and Mr Slark who has driven us to new levels as a squad, and in particular the backs. Thanks for all the years.

A great season and well done to everyone who was involved. ■

William Scott Form 6U

Girls' Hockey 2012

1st XI

Season statistics:

- 1. Players for the 1st XI: 19
- 2. Hours on the astro: 97
- 3. Goals scored during indoor training: 568
- 4. Number of times Larissa got hit by a ball travelling at a match and just said, "I'm fine!": 9
- 5. Number of short corner practices: 9,863



Firstly, the fact that the 1st XI was represented by 19 players this season confirms why this proved to be such a successful squad; all the players should be congratulated for their determination, skill, and honest hard work. The season was a heady mix of frustrating losses, very clear wins, and nail-biting draws (as in the final match against Leighton Park). Overall, we scored 11 goals and conceded 16; clearly we were pitched up against some very experienced opposition.

Let us reflect on the 'gladiators' themselves. As ever, a great deal was asked of each player. A total of 12 members of Form 5 were called up to the 1st XI, and the appearances of several of these players were cut short due to injuries. The brace of 'Laurens' as wing certainly 'gave their all', clearly making a great difference in attack. Both Florence and Alex were brave in defence, blocking many of the opposition's moves. Meanwhile, Emmeline and Daisy, so effective in the back line, were always willing to fit in where needed, often pushing the opposition backwards (much to our opponents' frustration). A particular thank you goes to Olivia (Knapp), a dynamic and relatively new find for the team, who hit hard on the wing and never gave up, causing real problems for the opposition. Likewise Katherine, so cruelly taken from the team by injury, deserves recognition for her wonderful contribution, especially as 'chief timer' in the indoor matches. Olivia (Ellis) evolved into a most confident and effective goalkeeper and it was a joy to watch her take on attacking players and see them outgunned.

Nevertheless, the three 'musketeers' of Form 5 were Rozy, Olivia (Witts) and Cerys. Olivia, as mid/forward, really was this year's 'nuclear-powered hornet': so skilled and blisteringly fast, she made an immense contribution (the solo goal against Kingham Hill will always be remembered), for which the team was very grateful. With Rozy and Cerys, the team polished its short corner routine, which when hooked up was devastating; their full contribution, however, stretched far further. Rozy at centre-mid, the key linking role, and a strikingly effective and skilful player, must have lost 5 litres of blood from knee injuries, at least! Cerys remained a rock in the midfield and attack, always so brave in the tackle with such a fine strike of the ball.

Turning now to the Lower Sixth: Christine must be thanked for her support and loyalty; whilst Carla and Larissa, having never played this beautiful game before, became key members of the squad: skillful, determined and brave. No wonder Germany is a world beater in hockey! The team could not have done without Lucy and Vice-Captain Bliss, both quite amazing players: Lucy on the rear guard in defence hammering the ball away, and Bliss scoring goals up front as our top goal scorer.

At the top of the pyramid, in the Upper Sixth, Charlotte was sadly lost to injury at Half Term; yet up to this point she had given everything she could, including constant smiles and good humour. Finally our Captain, Vicky, took on a role which is never easy and rose to the challenge, winning the respect of the team. In particular she liaised closely and discreetly with Miss Bell, the true role of a hands-on leader.

Without doubt, the team owes its sincerest thanks to all the coaching staff for the planning and organisation, the essential makings of the season. ■

Miss S Bell



2nd XI

The 2nd XI team welcomed many first-time players in the Michaelmas term. The girls' skills improved drastically throughout the season, as did their enthusiasm and interest in the game. Although their only match was not a win, their play demonstrated that the girls have grasped the game of hockey and adapted to team play.

Their coaches are very proud of their efforts, and we look forward to seeing even further improvements. ■

Miss L Kelly

U13s

The 2012 season represented a steep learning curve for the U13 team. With a range of different abilities amongst the group, the girls had to learn to work together and encourage one another in order to see positive results. After a rather disheartening loss against a strong Prior Park side at the beginning of the season, the girls worked hard to improve their skills and team work during practices, resulting in an impressive win against Kingham Hill in the second half of term.

Grace Knapp, Clare Farnham and Emily Sharman continuously displayed impressive skills and a hearty determination in attack, whilst Rebecca Breare, Coco Wong and Liberty Elliot held up a resilient defence during matches. A special mention also needs to go to Megan Hardie who, as goalkeeper, remained constantly positive and encouraging to her team mates throughout the season. All the girls should be very proud of their improvements this term, and I wish them all the best of luck for next season. ■

Miss J Quick



U14s

This year, the U14 hockey team has a lot of which to be proud. Led by Captain Orlagh Brennan, the girls improved their skills and fitness throughout the season, and their hard work paid off when the matches began.

Having started off successfully with a 3-2 victory over St. Edward's of Cheltenham, the team continued its strong play: of the seven matches played we won four, drew one and lost two. The team welcomed many first-time hockey players to pitch, who deserve recognition for their efforts and determination. The coaches would also like to thank first-time goalkeeper Lizzie Handley for her outstanding play. ■

Miss C Hebert

U15s

We played five games of which we drew two and lost three. However, this is not a true reflection of the team's actual game-play, which went from strength to strength as the girls developed their fitness and agility. The best game of the season was against Wycliffe, an 'end to end' game at home; although unfortunately having scored first, we ultimately lost 2-1.

Honor Birden was fearless throughout in goal. Meanwhile, Lauren Shipperbottom, Pascale Summers, Zoie Somers, Kasey Griffin and Antonia Thiele held up the backs. A special mention must go to Zoie, Kasey and Antonia for joining the team this year having never played hockey before; in addition, Kitty Reeves, Kate Major, Hermione Llewelyn-Bowen and Chloe Ponting, who steadied the ship in midfield executing some fantastic transitions. Again, recognition should go to Hermione for gutsy performances in all matches, and to Chloe for her hard but accurate passing through midfield. Finally, Lydia Farnham, Emma Fuchs, Rosie Gower and Francesca Parshall were outstanding in the forwards; these girls were always hugging the posts! Francesca, also new to hockey, should take particular credit: she scored her first ever goal at home against Wycliffe! Rosie Gower was also impressive for her work rate and persistence in every game. ■

Mrs K Coups

Spring Sports

Boys' Hockey

1st XI

Played 8, won 4, drew 2, lost 2



This season, I was fortunate enough to play in the most talented 1st XI team of my three years in senior hockey. Having missed three fixtures owing to snow, our first game took us away to St Edward's. This was a game which a few of you thought we had no chance in after a limited preparation and a minor loss to the seconds in the usual Monday afternoon scrimmage; however, the majority of the team had the belief that, if we put our 'all' into it, we would get the result we deserved. We worked well considering the lack of preparation, and in the end it was a moment of individual excellence which paved the way for a well-earned draw: all the years of practising penalty flicks finally paid off for Ben Margesson as he casually flicked the ball into the top corner.

The next Saturday, the match against Bristol Grammar School proved less of a challenge, but allowed us to evaluate all the players in different positions. Ollie Cook got ahead in the goal-scoring table as he casually knocked in a hat-trick in the first twenty minutes, and then went on to add another soon after being subbed back on in the second half. The following game was the home fixture against King's Gloucester. The game was open and end-to-end, until Joshua Thomas decided to take advantage of the new rules and score an own goal.

After Half Term, we defended resolutely against Bloxham for a 1-0 victory, in mine and Josh's absence. Unfortunately the next Saturday, we were unable to salvage a positive result against Christ's College at Monmouth. I was again absent for a feisty encounter with Cheltenham Wednesdays, which the guys won with ease having been set on the way with the goal of the season by James Tait.

The final two fixtures gave the opportunity to really show how we had progressed over the year, with both of them coming against teams we had played before. First up, was St Edward's at home; we took an early two goal lead, only to relinquish it early in the second half. We dug deep, though, and in the remainder of the second half scored three unanswered goals,

including my first for the 1st XI team. After this great win, we had King's Gloucester away, and what a game it was! As usual we started slowly, and we were punished for it. At half time we were 5-0 down, and looking at an embarrassing loss; however, we turned it around in the second half coming back to draw with the final play of the game. In both of our final two games we got a better result than we had when playing these sides previously. Having started with snow, the season also ended with snow, which unfortunately robbed us of our final game against ORs, leaving us with a record of played 8, won 4, drew 2, lost 2.

Finally the team would not be complete without the 'old boys', the Upper Sixth. Josh proved himself against all the doubters, and who could argue with his method of taking a 16? Luke proved himself worthy of a position in the 1st XI team through dedication in the pre-season, and this was matched by his performance on the pitch. Charlie's no-nonsense, classic style of defence proved invaluable when trying to close out games. Finally, the only player to have played in every hockey team with me since First Form, my vice-captain Ben Margesson: our prolific strike partnership from First to Fourth Form was broken up when we reached the 1st XI as you dropped to midfield and I moved all the way back, but your consistency and maturity on the left of midfield was priceless throughout the season. Thanks for everything. ■

William Scott Form 6U

2nd XI

Played 8, won 6, lost 2, goals scored 20, goals conceded 5

There is nothing that can be said that will tell you more clearly what an outstanding season this has been for the Second XI hockey team than the playing record. First off, I should like to congratulate the team on what, I believe I'm right in saying, is the most impressive set of results achieved by any of the teams put out by the College.

The Fifth Formers who stepped into the side have done remarkably well. At the back, Alex Pugh put in some fine saves; in defence, Eddie Geerah was formidable and time and time again aided the attack in one of his daring breaks up the pitch. Likewise, Guy Baylis shocked everyone with his ability to take the ball under a huge amount of pressure whilst remaining exceedingly calm and relaxed. The midfield gratefully received the addition of Arjun Patel, who, when he wasn't moaning, rolling around on the floor, showed some impressive skill on the wing. Jacob Davidge similarly never failed to inject some real speed into any attack, and scored a number of winning goals; and Chris Schaurte had as part of his armoury an almost deadly strike, to anyone standing even vaguely in front of the ball. And, of course, the later part of the season saw the arrival of Damon Young.

But, perhaps, it was the Lower Sixth players to whom we must pay closer attention, as they will be the leaders of next year's squad, and I have no problem saying that they'll do a 'bang up' job. Louis Mernagh conceded only one goal all season, proving to be crucial in several games with some truly monstrous saves. He was ably assisted in defence by the now incredibly experienced Josh Cropper and the mighty Oliver Birden, who showed us that he could very well blossom into a formidable striker as well; and, following his early injury, Luke Nixon returned to trouble any defence he came across.

Yet, it is with regret that we must say goodbye to some who have been stewards of the Rendcomb 2nd XI side. Up until this year, this would have included Charles Lambie, but regrettably he was called up to bigger and better things in the 1st team. Ali Sinfield has been a long-standing member of the 2nd side, and his ability to 'ghost in' behind defences, rather like Caspar over here, has made him a thorn on any defence's side; Ali often scored what proved to be the crucial goals in matches, particularly in our final game against King's. In the middle, we were graced with the presence of Tristan Stevens, who, when he was conscious, managed to stroll through even the toughest of defences.

But there was one member of the side whose magnitude has never been challenged. Mr Stutchbury has inspired, entertained, enlightened, and occasionally, even coached the Second XI for many a year now and has almost been like an extra player for us. His enthusiasm for the game is infectious, and it is no coincidence that we lost without him. Mr Stutchbury, we speak on behalf of the entire team in saying that we are exceptionally grateful for all that you have done for the side. ■

Jack Pethick, Lance Baynham Form 6U



U13s

Played 7, won 5, lost 2, goals for 27, goals against 14



The U13As proved to be an impressive squad with the good sporting qualities of willingness to learn and improve, the desire to work hard for each other, and perhaps, most importantly, a collective ambition – a real ‘can-do’ outlook.

There was strong goal-keeping from Morgan Seatter-Messer, who showed very good agility; Jack Warhurst also kept well when required. The defence was just as solid: Josh Timmis as sweeper, behind James Nickson (one of the most improved players of the season) and, on the left and right of defence, Will Lushington and Sam Jones. The midfield of Oliver Jones, Alex Dennett and Matthew Ferreira worked hard and very effectively together, constructing well-worked inroads to the opposition’s “25” as well as tackling back with gusto. Up front, there was formidable attacking and finishing from Michael Ferreira on the left, Joel Frost in the centre and Robert Sharman on the right. Regan McGriff subbed into the forwards very well when needed. In essence, the team was a joy with which to be associated.

They are a group of players to watch for their future achievements and development; they should be especially commended for the camaraderie and teamwork displayed right throughout the season. A special mention must go to Alex Dennett for his captaincy – he certainly led by example! ■

Mr A Breal

U14s

Played 7, won 5, lost 2, goals for 9, goals against 7



It was another successful season. Of the seven games we played, we walked away as winners in five of them.

We made an excellent start to the season with a great 3-0 win against local rivals Dean Close. This strongly contested game tested Denys, our flying goalkeeper, on many occasions before we took command with an opening goal from James Heneghan. From then on we took control and saw out the game with another two great goals.

The match against Dean Close gave us a great start, but our best performances had to be against Marlborough College and Christ College, Monmouth. These were impressive team performances against good opposition. Both were tightly contested but we persevered and ran out winners in both matches, 1-0 and 3-2 respectively.

Throughout the season, we had to change the team as a result of injuries to various players, not necessarily through Hockey. But this did not impact the team as much as it might have, down to the good spirit and will to win shown by all.

The whole team deserves praise but special mention must go to those players who have made a key contribution in specific games and throughout the season – these players being Robert McLaughlin, Max Watson, James Heneghan and Denys Tkach. ■

Oliver Hennegan Form 3

U15s

Played 8, won 1, drew 1, lost irrelevant



Having had several fixtures cancelled owing to the snow on the supposedly ‘all weather’ pitch, the U15 hockey team got its season off to a rather late start playing Dean Close at home. Following an inspirational tactical briefing from Mr Marsden, the squad took to the pitch to engage in a physical, mental and spiritual warm-up. Next, our sizeable captain, James Sinfield, used his great Jedi powers to win the toss bravely in the face of great opposition from the opposing captain. After a truly incredible pushback by Sam Tushingham, skilfully received by James Sinfield, the ball found its way to Arthur ‘The Swag’ Mills on the wing, who served a delightful cross into the opposition’s ‘D’. Despite some suspect defending, a rushed clearance found its way to Dan Hansel, who sent an incredibly fortunate strike onto an opposing defender’s stick, who then unluckily deflected it into his own goal. If there had been a crowd, they would have gone wild.

Following an emotional half-time team talk from the skipper, his brave men marched out for a

second half sure to be filled with incredible play. As a result of some valiant defending by Tom Smith and Joe Garling, and heroic goalkeeping by George Dimopoulos, we regained possession and went on the hunt for more glory. After a powerful surge down the left wing, the ball was passed to James Sinfield, who then teed up Archie Hine to send a magnificent strike past the helpless goalie. This set the trend for the remainder of the match, with Rendcomb continuing to fire ball after ball into the opposition’s ‘D’. Eventually, after a crazy run by James Sinfield, the ball was passed to Sam Tushingham, who majestically carried it into the ‘D’ and hit it across the goal, where Archie Hine was again waiting to convert with another awe-inspiring finish. The match finished 3-0 to Rendcomb, a score line that didn’t reflect the true nature of our absolute dominance over the opposition.

Sadly though, despite great effort, we were unable to score any more goals this season... ■

James Sinfield, Sam Tushingham Form 4

Lacrosse 2013: Overview

TEAM	PLAYED	WON	LOST	DREW	GOALS FOR	GOALS AGAINST
All teams	68	37	24	7	289	240
U12/U13	8	6	1	1	56	26
U14	17	7	8	2	57	59
U15	15	7	7	1	46	61
2nd XII	7	3	4		32	40
1st XII	21	14	4	3	98	54

The 2013 Lacrosse season was another winning season for Rendcomb, despite the weather. Listed below are the highlights of the term.

U12/U13s

Coached by: Mrs K Coups, Miss J Quick & Mrs S O'Sullivan
Team: Megan Hardie (GK), Maddie Morgan (C), Grace Knapp, Eleni Dimopoulos, Liberty Elliott, Rebekkah Breare, Clare Farnham, Layla Isher, Vitaliya Bortalevich, Alina Parshina, Emily Sharman, Ella Higgins-Anderson, Coco Wong, Amelia Ward, Grace Tushingham

This combined team only lost one match all season and this was by a single goal. The girls should be extremely proud of themselves as we played against some very strong schools during the term; they should be especially pleased with their three all draw with Godolphin, the number one ranked lacrosse playing school in the country.

MVP: Rebekkah Breare
Best Attack: Maddie Morgan
Best Defence: Grace Knapp

U14s

Coached by: Miss A Kelly
Team: Ella Corcoran, Orlagh Brennan (C), Ellie Jones (GK), Georgia Pethick, Olivia Grzelinski, Sunday Lendis, Rebecca Edwards, Silvan Medina, Josephine Hoffman, Olivia McDowell-Foord, Jojo Bock, Aimee Timmis, Lizzy Handley, Nicole Li, Satsuki Takei, Georgia Hine

These are the Division 2 South West Regional Champions! The team played against strong South West lacrosse opposition on the way to this title. They faced the likes of Cheltenham Ladies' College and St. Swithun's, playing St. Helen's and St. Katherine's in the final.

MVP: Ellie Jones
Best Attack: Olivia Grzelenski
Best Defence: Aimme Timmis



U15s

Coached by: Mr M Coups & Miss C Hebert
Team: Hermione Llewelyn-Bowen (C), Lauren Shipperbottom (C), Zoie Somers, Kate Major, Rosie Gower, Pascale Summers, Emma Fuchs, Chloe Ponting, Kitty Reeves, Honor Birden, Lydia Farnham, Antonia Theille, Francesca Parshall, Kasey Griffin (GK), Vivi Groschl, Jasmine Barker, Lynne Wang, Christian Zhao, Vickey Liu

The highlight of this season for the U15 was playing in the National Schools Championships in London in March. The day started at 05:45 with breakfast kindly put on for us by Mark Robbins; the long journey to London was beginning. Having already received the draw, we knew what lay waiting for us! On arrival at the Harlington ground, the girls were extremely excited having never been to such a large event before, especially when they realised that there were shops! We had a dream start by drawing to Guildford High School, and this continued as we either beat or drew the following schools: North London Collegiate, Bedford, Berkhamsted Collegiate, St. Swithun's and Moreton Hall.

The semi-final was the next hurdle to be faced; by now there was lots of attention being paid to us, with people asking which school we were and where it is etc. But the girls took this in their stride and we were soon on the field of play against Benenden School. Unfortunately we lost this game 4-2, but we made a name for the school and we are now placed fourth in the country at this level.

MVP: Hermione Llewelyn-Bowen
Best Attack: Francesca Parshall
Best Defence: Pascale Summers

2nd XII

Coached by: Miss A Kelly & Miss J Quick
Team: Christine Khirrecu (GK, C), Daisy Little (GK, C), Dorothy Guo, Lauren Seatter-Messer, Lizzie Templeton, Emma Richardson, Claire Hu, Sarah Luttge, Olivia Watson, Larissa Tsevi, Eva Stenzel, Nora Beran, Anna Rombelsheim, Linda Jung, Paolamarie Tan, Victoria Cao, Sophia Kuhn

This has been the most successful 2nd XII in the history of lacrosse at Rendcomb. The girls won three games during the season and scored 32 goals on the way.

MVP: Dina Kunze
Best Attack: Sophia Kuhn
Best Defence: Larissa Tsevi

1st XII

Coached by: Mrs K Coups & Miss C Hebert
Team: Lucy Kernon (GK) (C), Bliss McFarlane (C), Rozy Baynham, Cerys Davies, Olivia Knapp, Kathryn Rew, Livi Witts, Livi Ellis, Vicky Clark, Charlotte Jones, Lauren Kraven, Emmeline Meborn-Hubbard, Alex Mason, Flo Price, Amy Benson, Carla Ambrosius

The 1st XII have picked up the mantle left by the others as we start a new era for Rendcomb lacrosse. The team performed to a high standard ensuring that we completed our third winning season in a row. The team contained only two members of the Upper Sixth, so the sights are set high for next year, providing that the weather does not intervene like this season. Highlights for the team have to be beating both of our local rivals, Cheltenham Ladies' College and Westonbirt.

I would especially like to thank all the coaches without whom all of this would not be possible. ■

Mrs K Coups



1st Lacrosse

This season, we had many new players in the Firsts’ squad. We worked a lot on our defensive and attacking play throughout the season, which proved to be a key part of our playing technique.

We started the season well, beating both Canford and Tudor Hall, which meant that we qualified for the Small Schools Championship. We continued our winning streak by beating Westonbirt, one of our local rivals, and RGAO. The next challenge for Rendcomb was a strong Godolphin side in a mini-tournament at Malborough. We knew this would be a tough game but despite recording our first loss of the season, Rendcomb scored the first goal of the game, a great achievement.

Next, we travelled to London for the National Schools Championships. We had a number of players struggling with injuries and sidelined by injuries and therefore were only able to take a small squad of 17 to Nationals. Despite this disadvantage, we stuck to our game-plan of using our speed and strong midfield play to exceed everyone’s expectations by placing atop the 2nd Division for Saturday’s games.

On the Saturday of Exeat, we travelled to Oakham for the Small Schools Championship, and prepared ourselves for some challenging games and weather the following day. Unfortunately, owing to snowfall overnight, the tournament was cancelled. This travesty meant we had a long drive home, without even picking up our sticks. However, not all was lost because we will remain Small Schools Champions for another year.

The 1st team maintained their undefeated record in open play for a second year, making it yet another fantastic season. ■

Lucy Kernon Form 6L (Co-Captain 2013)



U14s

The U14 lacrosse team had an excellent season. With many wins, the whole team really showed how Rendcomb can be a team, with the players never giving up hope in each other. We battled all that Top Pitch could throw at us and stayed strong. Rendcomb did very well at the tournament at St. Swithun’s where we won the SW Regional Tournament. This is an amazing achievement for all of the girls as we are a small school and there were some much bigger schools there.

Thank you to all of the coaches who coached us; the team has really developed this year and all players should all be very pleased with their results. ■

Eleanor Brealy Form 3

www.rendcomb.org.uk

U15s

The U15s have had a great season composed of many great practices, fixtures and tournaments. We had a number of players who were new to the game but we worked together as a team to improve each other’s stick skills as well as fitness.

The highlight of our season was travelling to London for the National Schools Championships. Despite a very early start (6am departure from Rendcomb!) team morale was high throughout the day and, in Miss Kelly’s words, ‘everyone was pumped’ for this amazing opportunity. Over 50 teams competed at the tournament, and despite many of the other schools being a lot bigger than us, we placed third overall. We were incredibly excited about how well we played and our outstanding finish in the standings.

Throughout the season, all players on the field really improved. During each training session, we had targets for defence, attack and midfield, and we worked hard to achieve them. Thanks to our coaches Miss Hebert, Mr Coups and Miss Kelly, we have had a great season and can’t wait for next year. ■

Lauren Shipperbottom Form 5

Representative Lacrosse Honours

The following girls were selected to play for Gloucestershire county teams:

Senior teams: Rozy Baynham, Cerys Davies, Lucy Kernon, Lauren Kraven, Bliss McFarlane, Olivia Witts and Katherine Rew

Junior teams: Eleanor Brealy, Orlagh Brennan, Rosie Gower, Hermione Llewelyn-Bowen and Kate Major

The following were also selected to play for the South West Region and Wales:

Cerys Davies and Rozy Baynham

As we’re both the smallest school in the country and are the only school to play lacrosse for one term, we should be extremely proud of the number of girls selected. All of the girls played and represented Rendcomb well at their Country, Region and County.

Congratulation to all the girls selected! ■

Mrs K Coups

Summer Sports

Cricket 2013

1st XI

This cricket season was easily the most successful of the past few years at Rendcomb. The squad had a great balance of ages, providing energy and experience. As is normal at this time of year, weather cost the team a few fixtures and exams resulted in some fixtures being played by a senior XI rather than the 1st team. Overall the final record was played eight, won five, drew one and lost two; however, this included a perfect record of four out of four against other schools.

The squad was built on a strong and deep batting line-up, with a consistent bowling attack to back up the batsmen. Howard Auster and Alex Tatara-Mills provided a solid opening partnership regularly at the top of the order, with each batsman scoring four 50s each. James Tait strengthened over the season at three, and looks to have cemented the role for the coming years. Batting at four, and as the captain, Will Scott chipped in on a regular basis, finishing the season with an average of 50, which included guiding the team to their only victory over a gents' side with a terrific 91 not out. Between them, the middle order of Charlie Lambie, Eddie Geerah and Jack Pethick found stability and runs easy to come by. In one of our first matches we had a little batting collapse, but Jack Pethick made a superb 50 for the team. The bowling attack backed up a strong season of batting. The Upper Sixth bowlers Charlie Lambie and Jack Pethick bowled with great economy; whilst Damon Young, Alex Tatara-Mills and Tom Pethick took wickets regularly.

With only having four members of Upper Sixth in the squad, the team looks primed to grow even more next season and find wins even easier to come by. Howard Auster will be taking over as captain; good luck to all the boys next year. ■

William Scott Form 6U



U13s



After a great success for the U13s last year, this year's team was hoping to thrive in success for the 2013 cricket season. Certainly we have had a strong batting and bowling side, with the team being captained by Joel Frost.

Some of our great performances came from Michael Ferreira, who got into three digits with a top score of one hundred. James Nickson has had a brilliant batting season with his top score being fifty one not out. Alex Dennet and Joel Frost have both put figures on the board, with Alex getting over fifty at the start of the season, and Joel getting fifty not out. There are some names I haven't mentioned, but throughout the team we have some outstanding batsmen.

The bowlers this year have been Michael Ferreira, Sam Jones, Matthew Ferreira, Joel Frost, Alex Dennet, Luke Hall, and James Nickson. The bowler who has taken the most wickets out of these fine players is Joel Frost, who took four wickets in one match. The bowling side this year has been one of the best bowling sides I have ever seen.

Of our eleven games, we won eight. Our game against Cokethorpe School at home really stands out. We bowled first and took early wickets, but our opening bowlers came off and some batsmen started to stick around and score some runs. Then we started to break through again and take wickets. In the last over, we bowled them all out for one hundred and five, with great bowling performances from Joel and Alex, with Joel taking three wickets and Alex taking two. We came into bat and put a good total on the board to start the innings, but they suddenly struck and Rendcomb lost wickets. It all came down to the last over, and we won with three balls remaining. Thanks must go to Ollie Jones and Matthew and Michael Ferreira for their great batting performances. We also played the same school again but we won with a lot more ease than the first game; we played with Joel Frost getting 46 not out and James Nickson getting 39 wickets not out, and also Matthew taking two wickets.

This has been a great season. The best bowler has been Joel Frost, and best batsmen has to go to Michael Ferrari with his outstanding century giving us our top score of the season of two hundred and five. ■

Mr N Ferreira

U14s

This year we played five matches, won three and lost two. The whole Third Form was involved in this year’s team, and everyone played their part to form a strong squad. Caspar Krohn and Kaleb Griffin did particularly well considering this was their first time playing cricket.

Our first match against Kingham Hill was very successful with Dylan Evans getting a hat-trick. Everyone in the team put maximum effort into all the matches and applied everything they learned from training onto the pitch with great bowling from Oliver Heneghan, Denys Tkach, Clem Ash and Dylan Evans. In a game against Bristol Grammar School, Oliver Heneghan scored an impressive half century, giving him a total of over 130 runs this season. It was clear that Alex Summers and Will Witts impressed not only themselves but the whole team with an excellent improvement in bowling and fielding. Max Watson played very well in his new position as wicket keeper and Harry Major and Denys Tkach opened the batting with a solid partnership.

I would like to congratulate the team on another good season with Oliver Heneghan being the most valuable player and Alex Summers being the most improved player. ■

Dylan Evans Form 3



Tennis 2013

What a great season! Everyone excelled in all their games with notable victories such as those against Pangbourne, Wycliffe, St Edward’s, Bloxham, and Leighton Park. We may not have won every match, but everyone consistently put 100% effort into their games. With 21 wins and 3 draws out of 38 games, we have played some fabulous, thrilling and tense tennis. In total, we have played 342 sets which is a minimum of 2,052 games, all of which were played with a competitive edge accompanied by laughter and smiles all round.

No set was simple, not every serve was set in the serving box, not every volley was victorious, but not one player gave up; matches were turned round and bursts of energy led to success. The U13s, some of whom had never played before, particularly demonstrated this by their determination to keep going and stay in the game! There were some great individual performances: Clare Farnham has played some beautiful tennis at her first county tournament. Congratulations to her and we wish her all the best for her future tournaments.

This season has seen minor set plays flourish into major game plans that have made a large impact upon our performances. More and more shots have been played right down the line, pushing the opposition to the limit, as they have had to run across the court to return our powerful shots. Drive volleys gave us total domination, and it left the opposition with no chance of return. We have gained more experience in the way we play; tactics have become a part of our game and have

resulted in many outstanding winning points. Second serves have been strengthened and first serves are now equipped with top spin causing the ball to bounce at angles taking the opposition by surprise. Furthermore, the 1st tennis team was able to embark on our first experience of mixed tennis at Rendcomb. This proved to really boost our confidence when faced with powerful shots hurtling towards us, and it was very enjoyable.

The coaches that were brought into the school were of huge benefit to all of us, as it enabled us to improve our techniques and eliminate bad habits; however, this was easier said than done. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed cardio tennis, as it made fitness enjoyable and with the addition of music, the level of enthusiasm rose even higher. Every one of the coaches has stood by our sides and led us to the success of this season and from everyone we thank you. I cannot wait to see what the next season brings! Of course, our victories would not have been possible if it weren’t for all the wider support we received. This includes the catering staff, and the pupils and parents who came to cheer us on.

For some this has been the last season here at Rendcomb, such as Olivia Knapp. As your partner I thank you for all the great matches we have had and, as many people know, you and I are very competitive, which only strengthened our determination to succeed. These qualities are also seen in Rozy Baynham and Cerys Davies.

The Rendcomb tennis season was suitably rounded off by a trip to Wimbledon. This gave all of us the opportunity to experience the professionalism and civilised atmosphere that Wimbledon provided. This was also an excellent learning experience for us, seeing the determination of the singles players and how quick and sharp the doubles teams are. All of this will help us to improve our game to equal our success or even improve them next season. It was an unforgettable trip and speaking on behalf of all the girls who went, we cannot thank Miss Bell enough for getting the tickets. ■

Kathryn Rew Form 5



Trip to Wimbledon

The Wimbledon school trip was an exciting day out for everyone that went.

We went to the women’s quarter finals. We saw many players including S Lisicki, A Radwanska, M Bartoli, S Stephens, who all played some great shots and awe-inspiring tennis; and then we had some humorous, more relaxed tennis with the McEnroe brothers.

We had some rain and some of the matches were postponed, but this did not ruin the day at all. The atmosphere was amazing. It was great to see the tennis players just walk past you before and after their matches. The purple, white and green theme is very apparent at Wimbledon, and even the flowers are these colours.

We enjoyed walking around the grounds and the outer courts. Some of the things we saw included the Fred Perry statue and Henman Hill / Murray’s Mound. It was interesting seeing the ball boys and girls, they march together to perfection! We also found out that there are no pigeons at Wimbledon because a hawk called Rufus flies around in the morning to scare them all off!

The shop was busy as always, and all of us managed to buy some lovely souvenirs: there were all sorts of things for sale including wristbands, key rings and Wimbledon towels. Some of us added to our experience by having the famous Wimbledon dish of strawberries and cream, and we noticed that many people around us enjoyed a glass of champagne or Pimms.

Everyone walked back to the bus tired but inspired. It was a great day out – thank you Miss Bell and Mrs Ferreira for taking us! ■

Clare Farnham Form 2

Sports Events



Rendcomb College pupils share Gloucester Rugby's big day

At the last minute, a group of Rendcomb's students were invited to a breaking press release regarding Gloucester Rugby's involvement in the Rugby World Cup 2015: Kingsholm Stadium is to host four World Cup fixtures. The students were able to witness the press conference that announced the fantastic news. The conference table consisted of a few familiar faces including: Jimmy Cowan (ex New Zealand All Blacks player), Nigel Davis (Director of rugby at Gloucester) and Mike Tindall. The spokesman for the conference firstly gave a speech explaining the benefits of holding a handful of 2015 RWC fixtures at Kingsholm; he then proceeded by opening the panel to the floor – a wave of silence rushed over the seated audience, and the conference came to a slow inevitable end.

Immediately following the conference, we were guided down to the pitch side where the BBC and various other photographers had set up ready for us. We wore 2015 RWC T-shirts, and a group shot was taken with Jimmy Cowan and Nigel Davis. After the photos had been taken, one of the guides at Kingsholm showed us around the home team's changing rooms: he talked us through their pre-match warm-up and after-match warm-down; he also showed us the ice baths. But unfortunately this was the last objective on our list, and we then departed Kingsholm ready for the 2015 World Cup in two years. ■

Clem Ash Form 3

Land Rover Premiership Rugby Cup at Rendcomb

Rendcomb College hosted a rugby tournament for thirty-two Gloucestershire U11 and U12 clubs in April in the county stage of the national Land Rover Premiership Rugby Cup. A total of over 1,250 people came and enjoyed excellent grassroots rugby in the lovely setting of Top Pitch. Mike Tindall gave the prizes and signed a lot of autographs. This was very much a family day. As well as watching and playing rugby, everyone had the chance to try their hand with the new remote control Land Rovers over a challenging purpose built mountainous course.

The successful series of nationwide tournaments continues to grow and allow young rugby players to showcase their capabilities in a professionally run environment.

The Under 12 final was a fantastic spectacle for those in attendance, with the impressive Cinderford team keeping their composure to secure a fine victory over Clifton RFC, who showed great integrity in defeat and made sure that they challenged right until the final whistle.

In the Under 11 final, Cleve RFC were triumphant, playing with great confidence to defeat Cheltenham Tigers, who displayed great resolve to ensure that Cleve had to be at their very best throughout the match, so that they could be crowned Regional Champions.

The winning team in each section, Cinderford and Cleve, went on to play in the final at Twickenham in May. ■

Mrs S Gilling

Photography: Mr R Wheatman



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Sports Day 2013

Team Results:

1st – Edwards

2nd – Radcliffe

3rd – Redgrave

4th – Bannister

After the last year's wash-out, the 2013 Rendcomb Athletics Day was blessed with both fine weather and fine performances. The Edwards team led the competition throughout and deservedly took the trophy, ending the recent dominance of Bannister. Individual performances of note included Grace Knapp's record-breaking run in the U13 800 metres, beating the old record by a massive 20 seconds. She also set a new record in the 400 metres. The U13 sprint events were dominated by Robert and Emily Sharman, who set new records in the 200 and 100 metres respectively. The other new record was set by Alici Currao, one of our visiting Italian students, who won the U13 Girls' 300 metres event. ■

Mr C Vuolo



New Records:

Boys' U13 200m – Robert Sharman 26.83s

Girls' U12 100m – Emily Sharman 14.64s

Girls' U13 800m – Grace Knapp 2m33s (smashed the old record by 20 seconds)

Girls' U13 400m – Grace Knapp 1m05s

Girls' U13 300m – Alici Currao (visiting Italian athlete!) 50.63s



Duke of Edinburgh

A guide to Gold D of E

**Four days,
12 students,
80 km,
what could possibly
go wrong?**

Welcome to D of E Gold. For those of you who are not familiar with the Award, the format is something along the lines of:

- Pack a bag to the brim with everything you could need for the next four days;
- Jump in a minibus and drive two hours to some remote national park where you are metaphorically abandoned;
- Walk for the next four days over 80km of rough terrain and through serious rain;
- (You may also experience blistering winds, serious injuries and also seriously angry and frustrated people);
- Then, finally, return back on the minibus and sleep for the rest of the week.

Sounds fun? Probably not, but as everybody will assure you it certainly is. Along the way, there will be new experiences, new skills acquired, and perhaps even new friendships. There is one thing that is guaranteed by Gold D of E, though, and that is a challenge. From the task of making maps, booking campsites,

buying and packing food to the expedition itself, D of E is a test from start to finish.

Mr Marsden's creative outdoor genius is enough to see you through the worst of all weather, situations and even arguments. Mr Illingworth's knowledge is second to none (under contract we have to say apart from Mr Marsden's ...but it's still pretty good). These two outdoor giants will train you and guide you through the journey of a literally life-changing experience. To cliché a cliché, "If you don't try, you'll never know."

You must also remember that the expedition forms only one part of D of E. There is also volunteering to be done, a new skill to be acquired and a sport to be participated in. This is, however, all part of the fun. Best of all, one gets the opportunity to be presented with the award by the very Duke himself at Buckingham Palace upon completion (terms and conditions apply).

It's an amazing experience which bizarrely we have enjoyed. D of E Gold is certainly something which both looks good on the CV and will enhance you as a student of Rendcomb and also greater society. ■

Luke Nixon, James Mudge Form 6L



Two perspectives on the bronze award practice expedition



We embarked on our Bronze D of E Expedition on Saturday 23rd March. Despite the snowy conditions, we set off in our groups and all too soon we were on the road.

For all of the groups, the practice walk was a great chance to practise the skills we had learnt in the D of E activity sessions. Each group had a teacher to guide them, (or in our case, to get us lost! – Miss Lucas) and our target was to be out walking for six and a half hours on a pre-planned route. However, in our group it turned out to be slightly different.

We passed many horses, climbed over many a stile and for some reason, some of us felt inclined to do a little jog down some of the more obscure bridle paths. We had a lot of fun, fuelled by many food breaks along the way!

All too soon, we were on the last leg and at this point we were all pretty exhausted and team morale was running low, but then we saw... Top Pitch! We have to admit, we have never been so glad to see the playing fields before!

And so, with mud on our faces and smiles all round, we arrived back at school and soon learnt that everyone else had finished hours ago and had already gone home!

Overall everyone had a fantastic time and we can't wait for the real expedition. ■

Kate Major, Lauren Shipperbottom Form 4

When the Form 4 Duke of Edinburgh students left for their practice expedition, thunder cracked like popcorn in a microwave. Snow thumped the tarmac, indenting it with every blow. Nothing was visible but the thick white fog that stood between us and freedom. But despite harsh conditions, fifty determined, motivated individuals soldiered on with no regret. One group in particular excelled beyond all others... Nothing could break them... Zero chance of defeat...

First on their agenda, a theme song. After much debate and references, the answer was clear: Nyan Cat! After this anthem was established, wildlife fled as the elegant roar of the newly found a capella group bellowed through the land. The scenery all around gave the impression of a winter wonderland as the snow had settled on each individual branch of every tree. The trip was full of laughter and jest, as I had the much desired honour of being the only member of the group to trip over a fence and fall flat in the snow. Harry later informed me that I didn't even need to climb the fence. Songs and dreadful puns were practised throughout the trip as Henry delivered lead vocals, in a rather elegant manner.

All in all, the D of E Expedition was loads of fun, but physically challenging. I can highly recommend the award. ■

Mitch Kendall-Smith Form 4

Outdoor Learning – the Rendcomb Way

We all know Rendcomb has space – over 200 acres of beautiful park and woodlands to be precise. But did you know that all of it is one large classroom? Sure, there are small classrooms inside buildings, but have you ever considered what you could learn by stepping outside and looking around with open eyes and active imagination? We have! That’s why we have developed a programme of Outdoor Learning to use the natural world as a setting to challenge and develop our understanding of ourselves and each other.

Our programme starts in Nursery and the Juniors, where we use our Nature Garden and Forest School to recognise the natural environment, to smell, touch and see how living things survive and interact. We learn valuable skills to help us survive by keeping warm and dry, by learning what we can or cannot eat, or by making things for ourselves. In this way we are actually learning how to build a society, so that one day we can play a full part in our global society.

In the Seniors, we step it up a gear! Using our newly created Outdoor Learning Environment, we work together to solve seemingly impossible puzzles – how do you get a ball out of a six foot circle without touching it, or how do you cross an obstacle on a plank that cannot touch the ground? In so doing, we are learning the principles of teamwork and leadership. We learn that to be an effective leader, you must also be a helpful team member. We learn that, with the right attitude and behaviour, we can work together to achieve more than we ever thought possible. Whether by building our own shelters, creating drinking water from the earth or sending messages without speaking, the skills we develop outside help us in our academic work inside too. All this is underpinned by psychology and behaviour modelling so that we learn effective strategies to analyse and communicate, to decide and act, ready to give our best.

Yet it’s not just Rendcomb’s pupils who benefit. The programme helps guests and staff too. Other schools, rugby players, businesses and clergy have all joined in with our programme to learn about themselves and each other while having fun. Just look at our own Grounds Team for proof! ■

Mr T Hossle



Shooting

We aim to inspire, instruct and to develop an individual’s interest and skills in clay shooting; and to allow a pupil to reach his or her full potential in the discipline of clay shooting and represent the College in both regional and national shooting championships.

Since the launch of the College’s Shooting Club in 1993 over two thousand pupils have been introduced to clay shooting with many continuing at university and enjoying what has become a lifelong passion. The College has secured three first places at the Schools National Championships in the ‘paired’ category and has for the last 12 years secured an ‘A’ team position in the top eight schools in the country. For the last 11 years Rendcomb College has successfully defended our position as the top shooting school in Gloucestershire. Last year’s Old Rendcombian team (Harley Phelps, Rory Clark and Adam Phelps) took first position in the Public Schools’ Shooting Nationals with a conclusive score of 101/150.

This year, the College has three qualified coaching staff with a range of qualifications that includes C.P.S.A. (Clay Pigeon Shooting Association) level 1, A.P.S.I (Association of Professional Shooting Instructors) coaching qualifications and full membership of Institute of Professional Shooting Instructors (I.P.S.I.). Having a number of instructors allow us to divide the pupils into small squads for coaching and instruction from novice to advanced level.

The College is most fortunate to have over 200 acres of open parkland in which to shoot within the guidelines agreed with our neighbours. This allows us to construct varied and challenging targets to suit all standards of shooters, without the need for costly transport and use of commercial shooting grounds, for our regular shoots. The team for the National Championships trains both at the College shooting site and at Chatcombe Estate, run by the Olympic shooting coach Ian Coley. The shooting layout consists of a wide variety of targets using the English Sporting discipline and fully automated Laporte and Promatic traps are used throughout.

We hope to build and develop on the current enthusiasm and dedication of the present pupils and secure a podium position at the National Championships in three years and a first place overall in the next five years. The Academy is fully committed to the introduction and development of safe recreational shooting, charity fund raising and forging further links with the local community. ■

Mr J Stutchbury



Riding

This year's riding activity saw everyone, even the experienced riders, improve over the course of the year. Groups travelled to nearby Talland Stables either once or twice a week.

In both the Michaelmas and Lent terms, riders worked in the indoor facility. The beginner group worked to understand the basics of riding. The intermediate group worked to perfect their walk and trot. The top group worked to perfect their canter and control of their horse.

In the Summer term, all of the riders were able to take advantage of the warmer weather and work in the outside arena. There the beginners advanced to working on trot, the intermediates to canter and the advanced group began practising their jumping.

All of the riders improved throughout the course of the year and some riders improved enough to move up a group. The best part of the year was that we managed to make it through the year with only a few people falling off and no injuries. Thanks for everyone for an amazing year of riding. ■

Mrs K Coups



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Riding Holiday

During the first Exeat weekend of the Michaelmas term 2012, Rendcomb College embarked on a riding holiday. Although we were a small group – just enough to fill the standard minibus – we took this as a positive opportunity to become close with each other. In fact, the group was very diverse with pupils surprisingly representing six nations: Britain, America, China, Russia, Germany, and New Zealand.

The first day was very exciting as we spent the whole time traveling to Pembrokeshire in Wales! Whilst the journey was long, we lightened up the atmosphere by singing some road trip songs by the likes of Katy Perry and One Direction, and *Gangnam Style*. Having arrived, the trip itself passed very quickly. We first enjoyed some explorations of the self-catering house in which we were to stay: it was huge and each room was fashionably designed. The room I stayed in was referred to as the 'American Room'.

The next day, we had a delicious full English breakfast cooked especially by Mr and Mrs Coups. We left around half past ten in the morning to go to the stables. Each of us had a horse suited to our abilities. The horses were very friendly, and we soon became acquainted with them on the trails through the forests in the valley. We were then divided into groups: I was in the cantering group, the highest level, but there were also two other groups. It was a sunny warm day in Wales, and we could see the coast clearly at the top of the valley. The views were unlike any others I'd ever seen. Afterwards we rode on a small beach a bit before returning for lunch and break. When we were all done with our sandwiches and cakes, we went back to the stables to ride more. This time we rode on a much larger and quieter beach, following the shoreline as the sun started setting. This was a magical experience – I wish I had had a camera! That night, Mr Coups excelled himself again by preparing supper with an entrée, main and dessert; all courses were fabulous and of restaurant standard. I had salad with hummus, Mediterranean chicken and couscous, followed by some lemon cheesecake. Then all the girls got together to watch a movie and quickly fell asleep.

The following day we left roughly around the same time to get to the stables, and did some indoor games before going out for the last time to the valley again. It was sunny just like before, and we really savoured the last moments of riding. When we returned we ate lunch at the house before saying our goodbyes to the remarkable landscape of Wales and heading back to Rendcomb. ■

Maggie Hyde Form 6L



Nepal Expedition



Thirteen intrepid students departed from Rendcomb on 20th July to fulfil what was to be an experience they would never forget: the chance to trek to Everest Base Camp, 5350 metres above sea level in the heart of the Himalayas. The trip consisted of twelve trekking days, eight to reach Base Camp and four to race back down. The trek began in Lukla, which can only be accessed after a forty-five minute, light-aircraft flight ending in a landing at one of the shortest landing strips in the world. From then on, it was heads down and walking poles at the ready as we had to negotiate a gruelling ascent of over 3500 metres in the next week and a bit. I have to say I was a bit concerned when one of our party went down with the effects of altitude within five minutes of getting off the aircraft, which was a record for a Far Frontiers expedition!

Small communities were scattered along the route and we stayed in 'Tea Houses' which are designed to accommodate trekkers - luxury was simply not an option. The bathroom facilities were so basic (bad!) it's best that I don't talk about them further! The beds weren't much better; often a threadbare mattress on a wooden base. Frequently, the skill was to try and sleep without falling out of bed, as many did not appear to be designed for "normal" sized people. Having said that, one of the effects of altitude is insomnia so any more than a couple of hours of sleep was a bonus and falling out of the bed was the least of our worries! The most amazing thing was that not once did I hear

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any grumblings about the standard of the accommodation, the fact that there were no showers (for over a week!) and that the toilets were.....well as I said the least I say about those the better. Everyone just got on with enjoying what was an exhilarating and life-changing experience.

We spent an average of six hours walking each day and our pace got slower as we gained altitude. By 4500 metres, the struggle for oxygen is actually quite intense. On several occasions I thought I was going to pass out simply by walking up a few steps. In this environment, it didn't matter that I was the teacher; often, I was supported and encouraged to carry on by the students and for that I was extremely grateful! Yaks and Sherpas carry provisions for everyone in the mountains; only vegetables and grains are grown there. Seeing the locals, some the same age as the students, carrying loads that were probably the same weight as them at such high altitude on their backs really made the students appreciate how people have to survive in LEDCs. It is a cliché, however; I believe it will make them realise how lucky they are that by a twist of fate, they were not born to live a life of such toil.

Throughout the trek, the views were simply amazing and there is no doubt that is what spurred us all on. Our fantastic guide Kieran told us at the end that not many groups manage it all the way to EBC; however, there was never a question of stopping with our group. After everything we'd been through, we were going to get there and indeed we finally made it on the 8th day. That day the gods were definitely smiling on us for we were awarded with breath-taking views, including of Everest itself.

The trek back to Lukla took half the time and descending was an amazing feeling – one could almost taste the oxygen! Having said that, there is a sting in the tail of the expedition in that the last 300 metres into Lukla is back up a very steep ascent. However, this was no problem for the Rendcomb students and their Geography Teacher – the last 50 metres was sprinted by all!

The last two days in Kathmandu were equally amazing as the place is frenetic for those who are not used to LEDC cities. The rule on the road is "anything goes" and as well as dodging pedestrians and other cars there are also the cows to contend with as they get priority over everything else! The students loved the experience and spent most of their time honing their bartering skills.

While we were away we were like a family. We looked out for each other, encouraged each other and above all we all enjoyed each other's company. There are not many schools where Third to Sixth Formers will mix so easily and where students will look after the teacher just as the teacher looks after them! Although as a group we have now parted company, and some students have left Rendcomb for good, we will always remember the amazing seventeen days we shared together. ■

Miss M Lucas

Volunteering & Charity

Go Volunteer

The Go Volunteer programme, co-ordinated by Mrs Harford, provides Sixth Form students with invaluable opportunities to contribute to wider school life and the local community. They reflect on their experiences:

"This year I volunteered outside of school, helping to coach my local Football team. I enjoyed it as firstly I got a chance to coach my favourite sport – Football – and it also gave me the basic coaching skills I needed to gain my level 1 coaching badge which I gained last summer. Overall it was a very rewarding and enjoyable experience." ■

Josh Pethick Form 6U

"This year I volunteered in the Maths Department. I found it rewarding to help students who find Maths more challenging than I do. I learnt to be patient, and became better at explaining concepts." ■

William Scott Form 6U



"Working with J2 has been a joyful and exciting way to spend my Thursday afternoons. It has given me a chance to interact with the younger pupils. The volunteering programme has been thoroughly enjoyed by all participants involved." ■

Victoria Clark Form 6U

"I worked in a shop as a volunteer last year. I went there once a week. That's a good chance to teach me something about business. During my volunteering, I learnt many basic skills, like ironing clothes, clearing up. When a customer came in, I needed to introduce our products to them and communicate with them which really helped my speaking and interpersonal skills. Also I learnt business skills, like how to attract people's eyes, how to introduce yourself etc." ■

Vesper Liu Form 6U



Enrichment: The Ideas Partnership

On the 18th April, Elizabeth Gowing came to the College to tell us about the charity that she helped to set up in the underprivileged areas of Kosovo. Elizabeth told her story of how she had met a girl in Fushë-Kosovë's 'Neighbourhood 29' who she believed should be in school. She was shocked to hear that, because the girl was over the age of nine and had not registered for school, she was not allowed to join a school without doing a test, which obviously was not possible without some sort of basic education. Elizabeth therefore made it her mission to get Gjelane to school, but had not thought of the many others that were in exactly the same position. Before she knew it, Elizabeth had thirty children turning up to her first class all eager to learn and thankful of the opportunity they had been given. With hard work and the support of adults and volunteers, Elizabeth managed to help all the students achieve the best results in the test and gain access to the education system.

However, this was not the end of her journey, and Elizabeth was soon faced with the problem of keeping the children in school even when most of the time it was not their choice to leave. There were battles against local schools turning children away, but sadly, the most common thing was parents withdrawing their own children just so the families could get by. Many of the children helped their parents to collect rubbish for a living and this showed Elizabeth that she needed to do something to help these families' incomes. Soon, she started the Sa-Pune soap range, helping the mothers of the children to make rustic low-cost soaps which they could sell on to compensate for their child's labour. This has been a great success and subsequently led to further projects including bikes for the fathers and cloth-collection routes.

The charity is now well-developed and growing every day. It was great to hear how enthusiastic they were about anyone offering to volunteer, whether it is for months, weeks or even just to experience what parts of the world like Kosovo are like on your travels. There are a wide range of activities to take part in, including marketing of the projects' produce, teaching children English or other basic skills; and, more recently, computer skills which are necessary for almost anyone looking for a job these days.

Like any charity, The Ideas Partnership is always in need of help or donations, large or small, and after hearing the stories from someone who has experienced it for themselves, and set out to help the children, it is very encouraging that there are ways that you can contribute positively and make a difference. ■

Joshua Cropper Form 6L





Junior School

Welcome to the Junior School

Earlier today, the year was brought to an end by our annual Final Assembly and Prize Giving. It never ceases to amaze me, as we review the past year, how much our pupils and staff have achieved, both individually and collectively. The Olympic Summer of 2012 seems to have inspired everyone even further making this year a “Golden” one. Academically, the pupils have flourished across all age groups and this is no better evident than in J6 where three Academic, two Sport and an Art Scholarship were awarded and eight Grammar School places were attained! Sport, Art, Drama, Music and Dance have each made significant contributions to this wonderful year. A key aim here is to provide breadth and diversity of opportunities and I am sure the following pages will reflect this. Enjoy the Rendcombian and I trust that it rekindles extremely happy memories. For prospective families, I hope it gives an insight into the life of our unique school and that it will make you want your child to benefit from the outstanding all round education that is on offer at Rendcomb College Junior School.

Mr M Watson, Junior School Headmaster



Staff News



Philip Colls

After eight years of great service to Rendcomb College Junior School, Philip decided to take retirement from teaching. During this period, he has inspired and motivated a generation of singers and we have been privileged to enjoy so many outstanding performances from his classes and groups. He was instrumental in establishing the informal “teatime concerts” which now provide a regular platform for our pupils to perform and gain experience. Over the years, Philip has also been the Musical Director for all of our J3-J6 productions as well as many of the Nativity plays and Spring Concerts performed by the Otters. Sadly, one area that he was not so successful in was improving Mr Watson’s singing!

On behalf of all of his pupils, the parent body and his many friends and colleagues within the Common Room, we send our sincere thanks as well as our very best wishes for a long, healthy and enjoyable retirement.



Bianca Lunn
(Gap Student)

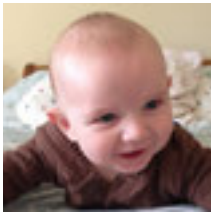
The majority of Bianca’s time was split between supporting Nursery and J2 and she very quickly proved to be a tremendous asset. In a quiet and unassuming fashion, she got to know the children and became a valued and established member of our team. Bianca was always hard working and displayed a lovely sense of humour. In her work, it became very evident that she had a real artistic flair and this was utilised in helping to produce some outstanding and colourful wall displays. At the Christmas party, Bianca clearly highlighted her musical and dance skills in a rather impromptu version of the Haka! Everyone at Rendcomb appreciated Bianca’s tremendous organisation and friendship. As she returns to New Zealand to continue her studies, we extend our deepest thanks and best wishes for the future.



Michaela Wann
(Gap Student)

We were delighted to welcome Michaela from Australia for her gap year at Rendcomb College Junior School. She supported the staff and the pupils across many lessons and activities. Primarily, she was employed to support the Games programme and she was outstanding in both Physical Education lessons and in coaching the girls in hockey, netball and rounders. She also decided to display her sporting talents within the staff 6-a-side after school activity where she regularly made Mr Layton look rather silly! After Junior School hours, Michaela played a vital role in supporting the girls in Godman House where her hard work and reliability were much appreciated. Michaela has a delightful personality and her positive and enthusiastic approach to her year here endeared her to everyone. We offer her our sincere thanks and wish her every future success and happiness.

Congratulations to...



Louise and Richard Louisson on the birth of their second son, Benjamin William Louisson. He was born on 9th October, 2012, weighing 8lbs 15oz.



Melanie and Dan Bleaken on the birth of their second child, Tom. He was born on 22nd November 2012 at 12.19pm, weighing 7lbs 12oz.

Eco News

Rendcomb, set within the stunning Cotswold landscape, is naturally an outdoor based school and it is very important that our pupils learn to appreciate and protect their local, and wider, environment. The Eco-team play a vital role in this process and their passion is to be commended. William Nichol, J6, has led the team extremely well and the J3-6 members have participated with great enthusiasm, knowledge and understanding. On a day to day basis, they have encouraged and overseen our recycling initiatives and ensured that the Junior School campus is litter free.

Within the year, they ran the "turn off" fortnight campaign to educate us all on the importance of saving energy and water, motivated us to wear our wellies to raise funds for Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust and helped plant nearly 200 bee and wildlife friendly plants for the GWT Plant sale held at Rendcomb on May Bank Holiday Monday.

Various children have been involved in a water audit, a bee survey, Climate Cops Day and a River Study. Hedging supplied by the Woodland Trust was planted by Year 5 pupils to continue The Jubilee Hedge planted in 2012. This new hedging, called The Coronation Hedge, will hopefully become established to attract wildlife. Recently, a raised bed to encourage bees was planted by Mrs Watson and J5 following their survey of the types of plants to use and having cost them out and purchased them within a set budget.

It is always good to be recognised for our work in this area and it was with great pride that J2 were invited to The Three Counties Show as a reward for the superb winning designs of an Eco-Farm created by Roo Jones and Archie Storey - clearly we have some young creative minds that will continue to inspire the Eco-Team.



Roo Jones and Archie Storey J2 win 'design an eco farm' competition at the Three Counties



Alexander Ross J5 launches his competition boat



Kate Holloway J4 weaves her dream catcher



Joshua Carr & Kellan Somers J6 conducting a river study with Mr J Arnold



J5 Bee loving planter



Bumble Bee Safari



Hedge planting



Planting for the Gloucestershire Wildlife Plant Sale (Photograph courtesy of the Wilts & Gloucestershire Standard)



Off to the woods today



Making the most of Forest School

Climate Cops

Both J5 classes saw Climate Cops. They came to Rendcomb to tell us all about energy and waste. The very first thing we did was see K'eyush the polar bear. He was one of the cartoon characters in the climate cops. They told us all about water and energy. We were asked to stick Velcro clouds, rivers, water wheels, seas, the sun and solar panels on to a board to show how much we knew about the water cycle. We also talked about it and who ever got it right earned a sticker.

After we were talking about K'eyush we made a movie about a recycling advert. I read about trees being turned into paper and I think that Emma talked about elephants' tusks being cut off. That was very sad. Willow was an Olympic runner with a water bottle she put in a recycling bin and Carmen was a normal lady putting rubbish out of her handbag in the recycling bin. Then we all shouted "The end. Remember to recycle!"

Freya Angus J5



Climate Cops interviewing Mr Watson about how eco friendly our school is

Forest School Through the Seasons

Our Forest School sessions take place in all weathers and are flexible in order to make the most of the learning potential that nature provides at any one time. Forest School is a wonderful place to experience the seasonal changes at first hand. Here are some of our favourite activities and achievements this year.

Autumn

Autumn leaves provide us with plenty of fun activities: making swirling whirling leaf decorations, leaf crowns and leaf pictures. The J1 class enjoyed sweeping up big piles of leaves for jumping into and throwing the leaves up into the air and watching them fall. The children made assault courses for squirrels which included zip wires, balance ropes and tunnels. We discovered different types of fungi which we researched using the internet. The children made dens for hedgehogs, and stick men. Reception made a giant tipi following their 'Homes' topic – the whole class managed to fit inside.

Winter

Winter brought the snow and a fantastic opportunity for tracking. We followed deer prints all the way from the woodland classroom right into the middle of Forest School. The children took part in Forest School Winter Olympic challenges and made beautiful ice sculptures which we hung in the trees. We kept warm by the fire pit, made cosy shelters and drank hot chocolate.

Spring

Springtime and the Rendcomb snowdrops appeared. We made little homes for the woodland elves in 'Snowdrop World'. Nursery enjoyed lots of squelchy mud painting and making muddy tyre tracks with the trucks and diggers. We explored different textures in Forest School and enjoyed bark rubbings. Harry Brownless and his dad, Mark, made some fantastic new swings for Forest School which are extremely popular. Thank you to the Brownless boys!

Summer

Summer sun at last and we enjoyed playing shadow games. Nursery used sticks to make an outline of Mrs Hardie's shadow. The children have taken part in lots of tool work during the Summer Term, including using the saws and drills to make picture frames and medals. Our annual Working Party proved to be another great success with a team of twelve volunteers all working extremely hard. Repairs were made to the shelters and the fire pit, willow was planted, and several new and exciting features were created such as our new big archway entrance, mud painting easels, a table and new seating circle.



Play is at the heart of all development and learning for young children and this is when they learn at their highest level. In nursery, we plan a range of exciting activities to cover the seven areas of learning and development that shape the Early Years' curriculum.



Personal, Social and Emotional Development involves helping children to develop a positive sense of themselves, and others. We have been reading stories about being kind and we all helped to make a big rainbow fish display to remind us about being kind to our friends.



Nursery

Literacy Development involves encouraging children to link sounds and letters and to begin to read and write. The Post Office was great fun and the children enjoyed writing post cards to each other.



Mathematics involves providing children with opportunities to develop and improve their skills in counting, understanding and using numbers. We had great fun measuring and going on a shape hunt around school.



Communication and Language Development involves giving children opportunities to experience a language-rich environment. Throughout the year, we have enjoyed a range of books and stories. We especially enjoyed acting out Goldilocks and the three bears.



Physical Development involves providing opportunities for young children to be active and interactive. Ballet has been popular during the year and we have also loved PE this term.



Expressive Arts and Design involves enabling children to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials. We loved all of the messy activities especially the dinosaur swamp.



We have all had a super year in Reception. In September, we came to school ready to learn. Our topic was 'homes'. We especially enjoyed building our own tipi in Forest School. We started to learn our numbers and Jolly Phonics sounds. The highlight of the term was the Otters' Nativity, 'Born in a Barn'. In the Spring Term we learned all about fairytales. We listened to so many different stories and did lots of writing about them. We particularly enjoyed dressing up as princesses and knights in our castle role play. We got ready for the Spring Show and began to learn to play the handbells! In the Summer Term, all the children were able to write words by themselves. Our topic was 'Minibeasts'. The children have loved using their new skills to write fact sheets and books about different insects. In maths this year we have learned to add and take away! We are all very clever children!

Our Reception Year



"I made my frog collage using wild garlic and sticks". - Willow



"Our trip to Roves Farm".



"I made letters from the playdough". - Sayako



"I was really good at the guitar!" - Ellie



"I loved playing in Percy the Park Keeper's hut!" - Benedict



"I fed the lambs at Roves Farm; it was really funny!" - Eloise



"I painted a life size me!" - Rory



"I got to wear Laura B's Olympic gold medal, it was very heavy!" - Grace GD



"I got really muddy in Forest School!" - Eliza



"I love making things, these are glasses!" - Colin



"I found some slugs on a rainy day in Forest School". - Maelys



"I like picking blackberries and my crumble was delicious!" - Esme



"I love dressing up as a tiger!" - Grace T



Aiden reads to his J4 Buddy

J1 have learnt so much this year and have enjoyed all of their topics. The favourites have been Dinosaurs and Under the Sea, especially with our trip to Bristol Aquarium.



Mrs Liebenberg and a group at the Aquarium



We learnt so much at the Aquarium



William ready to post his letter home



Busy at Forest School

A favourite part of the week is our Forest School session. This year, the children have discussed the seasons and which animals and plants we have in our forest. They have enjoyed making shelters and feeders for the animals we have learnt about.



Tom H liked making bird feeders



World Book Day - Aiden and Alexander with Frankie from J2 - Who are we?



Jack and William getting messy with papier mache

The children have learnt lots in Maths this year and have loved exploring new concepts such as counting in 10s, addition and subtraction and practical lessons with height and weight.



Ellen, Rex and Kitty weighing objects



Rex and Freddie love getting messy

Samuel and Alexander with the big magnets



Amber and Esme exploring magnetism



Making Mince Pies - Yum!

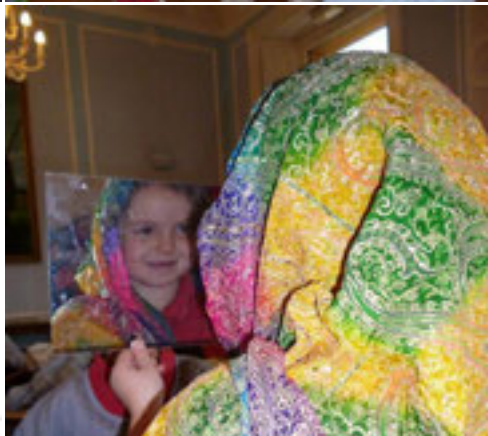
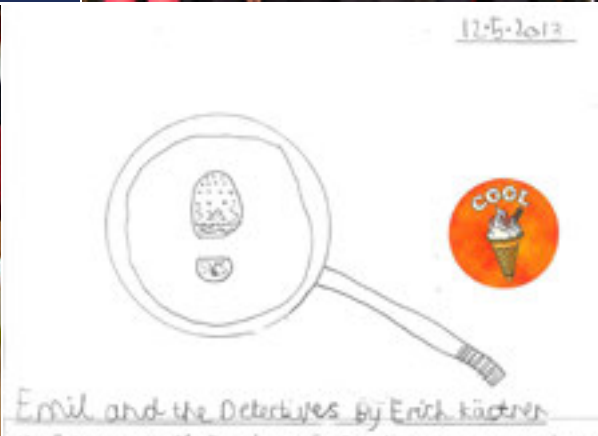
In Literacy this year, J1 have written their own stories, researched in non-fiction books and written poetry. They love their buddy sessions with the J4 children and enjoyed it when they read the books they had written especially for us.



The fun of World Book Day



J2 have had a fantastic year! We have covered so much, both in and out of the classroom and we have all enjoyed our learning. Have a look through some of the pictures and see just how much fun we have had and how much we have learnt and covered. We have won two national competitions that have seen us go to the Three Counties Show and Walking with Dinosaurs. Other trips have included Quenington Fresh Air exhibition, Steam and Waitrose. We have also benefitted from special days that have been arranged here at school, including our Toys and Games day, Katie Morag day and our Otters Autumn day.



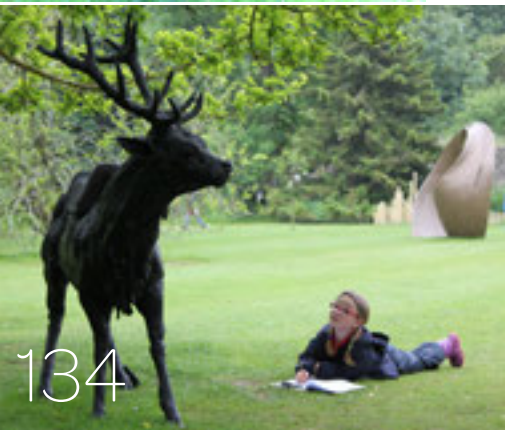
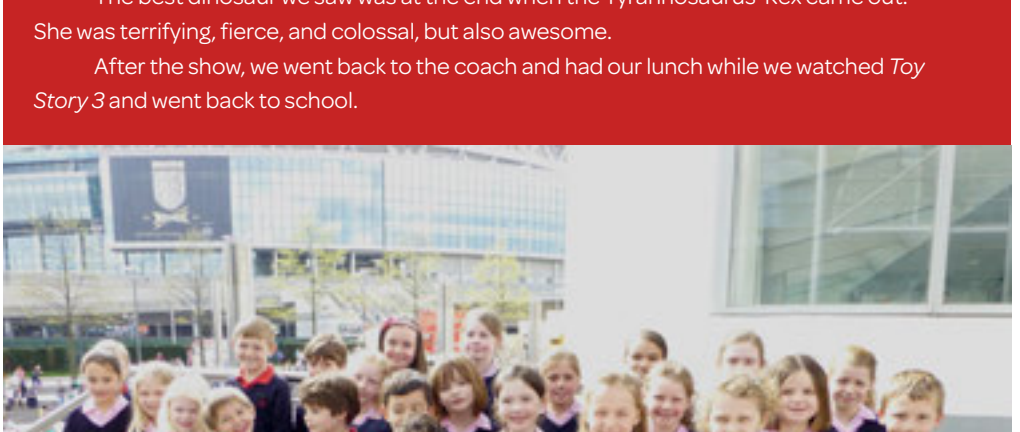
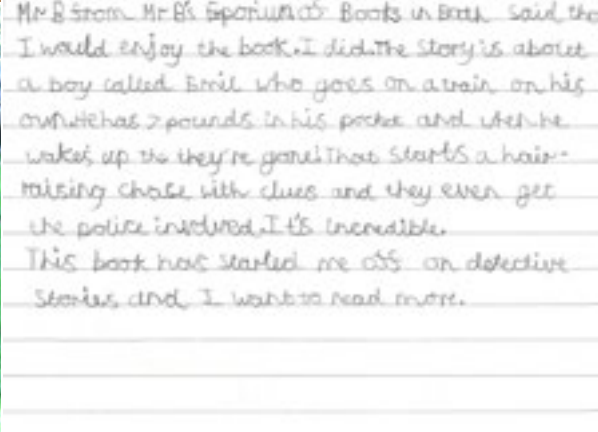
In May, J2 and friends went to watch Walking with Dinosaurs at Wembley Arena. First we got on the coach at school and, on the way, we watched How to Train your Dragon which was brilliant. Whilst we watched the film, we had a snack.

When we got there, we had our picture taken in front of the Arena and then we went in and sat in our comfy seats. Finally, the show started and the first Dinosaur appeared. Andrew, a palaeontologist, came out and told us some facts about the dinosaurs. We saw some eggs hatching and the baby dinosaurs came out. They were cute but suddenly a big dinosaur ran out and ate one of the babies.

During the interval, 30 million years passed. In the second half, we saw some grumpy dinosaurs having a fight to the death. At last, the fight was over and the younger dinosaur won when he broke the elder's sharp tusk.

The best dinosaur we saw was at the end when the Tyrannosaurus-Rex came out. She was terrifying, fierce, and colossal, but also awesome.

After the show, we went back to the coach and had our lunch while we watched Toy Story 3 and went back to school.



Rendcomb College

Junior Parents' Association Report

The RCJPA has enjoyed another very busy year.

As well as organising fun events for the children, including the Christmas parties, the Book Fair, the Easter cake sale and the Fete, we have also hosted social events for parents and staff of both the Junior and Senior School – memorably, the MacMillan Coffee morning and the Spring Fling.

Several fund raising events were held throughout the year helping to raise money for our two nominated charities (Gloucester Young Carers and Beenies' Otter World), as well as the Junior School. The MacMillan Coffee morning continues to go from strength to strength with an array of popup shops. A record 118 shoe boxes were donated to the Samaritans' Purse Operation Christmas. This year a Summer Raffle was held with a host of fabulous prizes. This is to help fund development of the playground.

The Spring Fling was held on a beautiful May evening, where 136 parents, staff and friends from both the Junior and Senior Schools enjoyed a champagne reception, followed by a four course dinner after which there was dancing to live music from a live six piece band, 'Pop of Ages'. Guest of honour was Mr Phil Vickery (ex-England Rugby Union Captain and winner of Masterchef) accompanied by his wife Kate and her parents. Mr Vickery kindly ran the charity auction which raised over £2,000 in aid of our two nominated charities. The final lot was supplied by Phil for The Pied Piper Appeal, of which he is Vice Patron, which reaches out to help sick children from across Gloucestershire.

The year rounded off perfectly with the annual summer fete which was well attended by the children and their families.

Gill Crofts, Chair RCJPA



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Juniors' Music

This year has been an exciting time for the development of music at Rendcomb. It has been our aim to continue to provide many opportunities for the Junior School children to perform with the Senior students in workshops and the Senior Carol Service and to take our performances further afield, beyond the walls of Rendcomb. Thanks should be given to our visiting music teachers for their huge contribution throughout the year.

Concerts

Our year of musical performance began with the first concert in October, where the children presented 'Rooster Rag', by Michael Hurd, a lively cantata with jazz, blues and rock 'n' roll rhythms. Mr P Colls entertained the children with his theatrical demonstrations of 'Chanticleer' the rather grand rooster, ably assisted by Mrs B Lee as choral speaker and narrator. Children could be heard humming the melody lines in the corridors! A number of talented soloists also performed, showing the breadth of instruments offered at school. Many of these soloists made up the Junior Orchestra who were led by Mrs de Burgh playing 'Oom Pa Pa' from Oliver. The jazz theme was further developed by J5 and J6 who demonstrated their knowledge of the style through their performances on the ocarina, newly introduced at Rendcomb.

The Lent term remained busy with performances including an informal tea-time concert, with toe-tapping performances from the Junior Orchestra and the 'Ukulele Choir'. The J4 Rock Band and the J6 Rock Band, taught by Mr P Cordell had their first live performance and it was a great opportunity to see all genres of music-making represented in this show.

All of the children showed their collective enthusiasm through their performance of Gary Barlow and Lloyd Weber's 'Sing', accompanied by Stefan Hossle improvising on percussion.

Mrs C Hossle



Musical Outreach at the National Star College

The Junior School visited the National Star College to perform a concert for the children there. The performers were Rory, Carmen, Lottie, Edwin and the Junior School Choir.

The choir was first on the stage and they sang some lively Christmas songs. Rory played *Golden Eye* on the saxophone which sounded great.

Carmen and Lottie performed *Skyfall* together, where Carmen sang and Lottie played the piano. Next up was Edwin. He played *Pirates of the Caribbean* and *Maple Leaf Rag* on the piano. It sounded great and he got a big applause too.

As a finale, the choir sang another Christmas carol. Altogether it was a very good performance from Rendcomb and everybody enjoyed it.

Edwin Ward



J3 have had a wonderful year both inside and outside the classroom. We attended the Cheltenham Literature Festival where we were involved in a workshop with the much loved Minimus (see Edward Nichol's report) and travelled to Chedworth Roman Villa. There we dressed up as monks and made herbal medicines as part of our History Roman study as well as visiting the Corinium Museum where we became grave detectives. We loved writing poetry as well as creating our own Hansel and Gretel play scripts and acting them out in the Woodland Classroom. During Outdoor week, we read fables and made our own totem poles, wrote our own fables and acted them out in Forest School. We learnt a lot while practising our assembly all about pollination and thoroughly enjoyed performing it!



J3 at Corinium



Maths Measuring

Katherine Marsden
Chocolate Cottage, Chocolate Lane,
Pancake Hill, Cheltenham,
Gloucestershire GL54 4AW

18th April, 2013

Dear Mr and Mrs Gingerbread Men,

I am very sorry that I ran away so that you couldn't eat me. I am sorry. I will try not to but I just can't help it. I love your animals, they look so beautiful.

I like the pretty fields with the long wavy grass. Are you yummy? I am very naughty and I love sweets and cake. I eat anything and I won't do anything naughty again.

So don't tell that I am naughty and come to my birthday party.

Love from
Katherine xxxxxxxx

P.S I will have sweets and cake ready for you at the party.

What Am I?
I live underground.
When I come up,
Birds tend to eat me.
Robins pull me
But I never give in!
Even humans can eat me
But when they do:
They are disgusted
By my pink coat!
What am I?

Caleb Timmis



Outdoor Geography



Slaves at Chedworth



Post Office Walk



World Book Day

A Riddle by Alessia Cottrell

It's round and slimy and pretty,
And is very slow.
In French I am called an escargot!
What Am I?



J3 Pollination Assembly

My Goodbye Letter

Clarissima Minimus,
Gratias tibi ago for being such a nice mouse.
Love from,
Lulius

P.S. You are such a wonderful mouse that I want to keep you as a pet!

Edward Mudge



Sebastian's DT Project

Hats are a miracle and everyone agrees
And some are big and some are small.
Some have spots and some have dots.

Thea Marriott

Woodcutter and Step Mother



Our Trip To The Literature Festival

On Thursday 11th October J3 went to the Cheltenham Literature Festival to see Babra Bell who writes the book called: Minimus-The Mouse who Made Latin Cool. To begin with we learnt Latin greetings such as "Salvay Magnis". Next we did a page of the book together. We then saw pictures of Babra at museums about the Romans. We finally sang Old MacDonald in Latin which was my favourite part of it, but it did give me a sore throat! We said goodbye and then left!



Christmas Party



Edward Mudge and Caleb Timmis



Hansel and Gretel



Chedworth Roman Villa

Dear Scooby Doo,

I do love dogs very much.
I think I saw lots of them in my back garden. They are here now.

Can you give me some tips on how to look after them? How many Scooby snacks have you eaten?

How many mysteries have you been on?

I like your films.

Love from,
Harry

On the yellow leaves like my Grandfather's jacket,
Breezy wind trashes the trees.
All I love is nature itself, it's true,
All the moss looks like candyfloss.
Ever long green looks like a green bean,
Tree light shivers on the dark blue pond.
The quiet and peace deers coming,
Water twirling like pancakes.

Freddie Billington



Pond



Thea at Chedworth



Ernest Cook Trust Habitats Trip

Happy Habitats

On the 10th June J4 were in a rush,
To visit the fantastic Ernest Cook Trust.

We were going to be explorers of habitats,
Of birds and beasts- maybe even rats.
What we may see filled us with glee!

We spotted some skulls and a dead shrew,
There were so many animals more than a zoo!

We learned how to recognise a centipede and millipede,
And how a blind mole digs a great big hole.

We learned that leeches have 32 brains,
They must know the timetables of all the trains!

Last of all we won't forget their advice:
"Don't pick ,don't lick and be careful with a stick!"

Lara Higgins-Anderson

World Book Day



Reading Buddies

In English, we made books for our reading buddies. My book was called *Sally and the Tooth Fairy*. It was about a little girl called Sally helping the tooth fairy who couldn't do her job any more. In the end, a wizard gives her wings. My reading buddy was called Amelia, I think she really enjoyed the book. Her favourite part was when Sally got her wings at the end. Her favourite picture was Lauren, a tooth fairy helper accidentally dropping Sally's tooth on her head! I really liked writing this book and hopefully my reading buddy liked it too!

Amina Chambers



Buddy Reading



J4 Showing Off Their Home-Made Christmas Cakes



Fun In The Snow



J4s Love To Bake!

An Amazing Day Out

I went to Bristol
To see the stars,
Venus, Jupiter, Saturn and Mars.

We ran on the wheel,
Made the water flow.
Then had a chat
About all we know.

We touched an eye ball
That was slimy and gross,
Looked at the lens
Really close.

We went in a stomach,
Which moved around,
It digests the food
Quite quickly we found.

A great day out
It was over too quick.
I went on the bus
And felt really sick!

Anya Pereira

J4s Love to Bake

First, at Christmas, we made some absolutely scrumptious Christmas cakes topped with icing. Next, at Easter, we made some chocolate Easter flake cakes that looked delightful with a chocolate Easter eggs on the top. Finally, we did a Comic Relief 'bake off'. All the cakes we baked looked absolutely delectable and we sold them, raising nearly £100 for charity. And yes, they were all delicious too!

Nathan Seatter-Messer



At Bristol An Amazing Day Out



J4 Tudor Assembly

J4 Tudor Assembly

J4 entertained the rest of the Junior School with their class assembly on the Tudors. King Henry VIII, played by Johnny, was a guest on the 'Ant and Dec Show' along with his six wives (Phoebe, Sophie, Soffie, Rosie, Anya and Ellie). The comperes, Jack, Lucas, Luca P and Joss asked many probing questions to help the audience understand how each of Henry's wives fitted into history and to judge whether he really was a bad husband!

Remember:
divorced, beheaded, died, divorced, beheaded, survived!



Gloucester Cathedral Tudor Day

Gloucester Cathedral

We arrived at Gloucester for our Tudor day. Our first workshop was about medicine. Here we met a barber surgeon who showed us a pole with red and white stripes on it that you can still see outside barber shops today. He also showed us a leech. Next we learned about Tudor diet and the difference between rich and poor people's food. We made marzipan fruits and a pomander. The third workshop was about Tudor clothes and I got dressed up as a rich man with a feather in my hat. Last of all, we did Tudor dancing and we had to hold hands with a girl in a circle dance!

Raife Hackett

Art

Soffie Rigby J4



Joss Breare J4



J3 Pattern Rubbings



Thomas Haynes J6

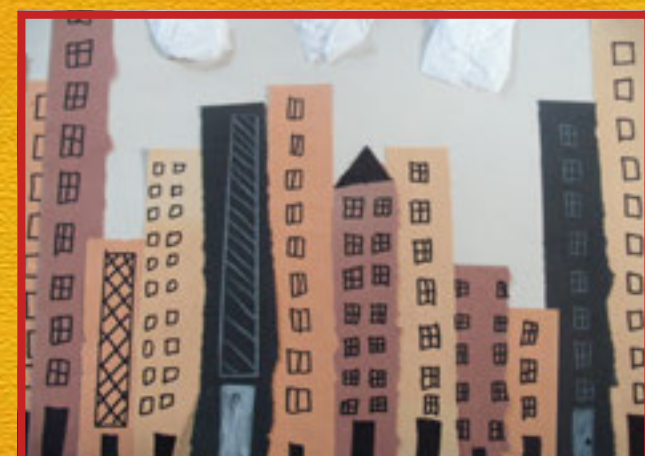
Emily Musgrave J6



Kate Holloway J4



J3H Bowls



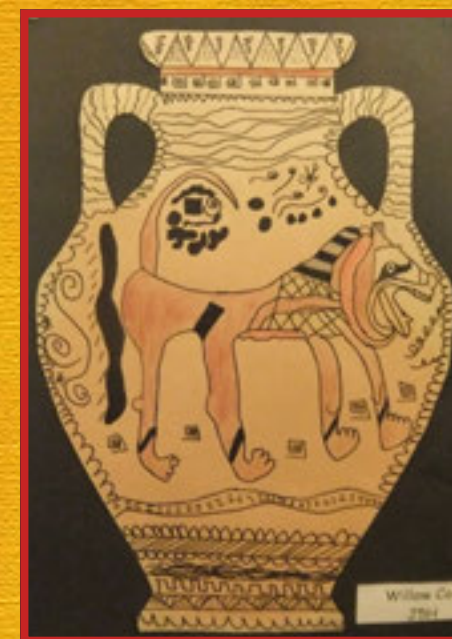
Carmen Lee J5



Taylor Lynch J6



Lucas Booth J4



Willow Cox J5



Fraser Day J4 - Winner of Royal Academy Painter of the Year



Lottie Williams J6

Art Club

Soffie Rigby J4



Cushions



Daisy Billington J6



Mahony Knight J3



Ink Blown Trees



Lara Higgins-Anderson's Collage J4



Emma Roberts J5



Seed Frames



Rebecca Allen, Freya Angus and Emma Roberts sewing



J5 Make Their Own Biscuits

Trip to the Air Raid Shelter

J5 went on a trip to the air raid shelter in Cirencester. Mr.Irvine started us off by taking us to a car park that, in the 1940s, was a railway station where the evacuees would be evacuated from. Right next to the train station, there was a building built by Isambard Kingdom Brunel where people would usually buy their tickets from. Mr Irvine talked to us about the railways and how the trains used to approach the station.

We made our way into the air raid shelter. Inside, there were wax models of different types of people in the war. My favourite was the paratrooper. There were triple bunk beds, because the shelter had to accommodate twenty-four people. German doodlebugs would come over but they never knew where it was going to land. Suddenly the engine would cut out and you could hear the whining of the bomb coming down. Also in the corner of the air raid shelter there was a thirty cannibal machine gun that was usually on the wings of a Lancaster or Lincoln bomber. Altogether it was a great trip and I learnt a lot about the Second World War.

Edwin Ward



Rory Hughes on World Book Day



Visit to the Air Raid Shelter

Don't DIS me

Don't dis me
Don't disobey me
Don't disapprove of me
Don't disappoint me
Don't disagree with me
Most of all don't
Dislike me.

Rory Hughes

The Water Walk

On a cold Thursday, J5 went on a water walk. Pete talked to us about the school's old water system. After that Pete took us to the two silver covers. There was a square metre of water. Then he took us to this old water gauge; then we saw a shrew.

Next we went to Cheltenham gates. We crossed the river into the wood then we sat down on some logs and talked about water.

We followed the river and Pete told us that there was another river under the River Churn. Finally, we came back to school with very cold feet. On that day I learnt a lot of information.

Isabel Verey



Water Walk



Alex Hendrick with Greek Artefact

The Greek Project

When we all found out that we had a Greek project, we were all a little scared and excited as none of us had done a large project before. In lessons, we covered topics such as looking at an artefact and I chose to look at some Greek coins, one of which had the sign of Athena on it. We also did a time line to give us an idea of when the Ancient Greeks were around.

At home, the first thing I did was plan my Greek project out so that I knew what I had to cover. The main topics I wanted to cover were States, The Gods, Science and Maths, Writing Skills and Warfare. I was specifically interested in the Gods for I found them fascinating because they had lots of power and they were like heroes of the day. I especially liked looking at their ranks, e.g. Hera the queen of the gods who was married to Zeus the king of the Gods.

The thing I found most interesting was looking at the Greek battleships and the way that the best one of all, the trireme, had three rows of people. I was surprised at the amount of people that were needed to row the boat.

I was really proud of myself and my Greek project.

William Cottrell



William Mariott with Greek Artefact



Greek Trireme Re - enactment



Coastal Trip J5 Group

The Coast

J5 went on a coast trip to Portishead, Clevedon and Western-Super-Mare. We set off on the school minibus and travelled to Portishead. We talked about how marshy the land was.

Soon, we got on the bus and travelled all the way to Clevedon. While we were there we discussed the small area of water around us and what it was used for. Then we walked up to the graveyard and talked about the surrounding houses. We also discussed how we could tell the port was old and looked at how high the tide was.

Later, we went on to Western-Super-Mare and drew a picture of the beach. We were given our lunch and ate it on the beach. After lunch, we had a game of massive rounders, girls against boys. Luckily, the girls won! and the score was 35 to the boys and 5 to the girls. Mr Watson bought us all an ice-cream which was a real treat.

Willow Cox



Freddie Haynes Boat Making



Millie Butler and Bees



Using iPads in the Outdoor Area



Watching Ground Bees



5W on World Book Day

Kilve Court

This was the tenth trip to Kilve Court in North Somerset and it did not disappoint. Sub-zero temperatures were the order of the three days and the children very quickly learnt to wrap up against the bitter cold.

Activities included, abseiling, mountain biking, grass sledging, high ropes, archery, air rifle shooting, a beach walk, a night walk, ice-cream eating and the world famous second evening competitions.

All of the children enjoyed themselves tremendously and many new activities and challenges were tried over the course of the three days.

J6 returned to school buoyed by their experiences and anxious to tell stories of their time away and return to their families for a well-earned rest.



Mon Collège

Je m'appelle Guillaume et j'ai onze ans mais mon frère a vingt ans. Je commence au collège à neuf heures moins vingt-cinq et mon collègue s'appelle Rendcomb College. J'aime les maths mais ce n'est pas ma matière préférée. Avant ça, j'ai VRQ et je déteste ça toujours! Mon professeur préférée s'appelle Madame Lee et mon jour préféré est le mercredi. Les cours finissent à quatre heures moins le quart. Mon uniforme est ennuyeux. Mon meilleur ami s'appelle Tom.

William Evans J6



Red White and Blue Armed Forces Charity Poetry Competition

Me

I am me who inspires myself: Me!
I love to be outdoors climbing trees or being funny,
My speciality is making people laugh!
I learnt to ride a bike when I was four and a half,
On the local footpath!
I am a friendly loyal thinker who loves to run and tinker.
I like to jump around on my pogo stick
And then do a bouncing trick.
I love running around on a rugby pitch
But now and again I get a bad stitch!

Freddie Shatliffe (Winner)

Corinium Radio Poetry Competition

Adverb Poem

Slowly, silently the lion stalks his prey,
Hurriedly, rapidly the prey runs away.
Playfully, roughly the kittens fight in bed,
Sweetly, innocently demanding to be fed.
Proudly, boastfully the horse jumps the jump,
Sadly shamefully he lands with a bump.

Gemma Harvey J6A (Winner)

J6 SS Great Britain

Two excited Year 6 classes sped down the M5 to Bristol to visit a number of historical buildings and attractions. First stop was Bristol Temple Meads railway station. There was no time for train spotting. Off we went to the main event, Brunel's magnificent SS Great Britain. We had our first quick glimpse of her stern; the excitement grew. The children went to the education centre to learn more about the ship.

We then were allowed to board and went below decks where the children had an informative and humorous talk about the ship and the people who travelled aboard. The cabins were brought to life with the sounds and smells of what it would have been like to travel on a ship. 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 look at the views of Bristol.



Orienteering Report

As part of Outdoor Week, we went Orienteering. We were first put into groups. I was with Harry and Taylor. It was a Star Orienteering course. Our first point was number eight. We ran up the hill then over the style. Out of breath we clipped number eight. We ran back down to the playground and grabbed the map showing our next point. It was not so far away this time. We headed off to the circle of trees and clipped the point. We ran back and grabbed another map. I really enjoyed orienteering and can't wait to do it again on Mini Mad Day.

Gemma Harvey J6A



Warwick Castle

J6 made their annual History trip to Britain’s ‘ultimate’ castle. Our tour guide, Mr Watson, explained and shared his knowledge of the castle as we walked along the castle walls and climbed both Guy’s and Caesar’s Towers.

J6 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 experienced a witches curse. With all our nerves in tatters, we regrouped and had our lunch in the beautiful grounds amongst the Peacocks.

After lunch, we went to see the other side of the castle and came across a working trebuchet and the birds of prey. With a short walk the final part of the tour was a demonstration by Warwick the bowman.



Invertebrate Study at the River Churn

For a science lesson, we went down to the river and were examining the life in the river. Firstly, we had to get into groups of three. I went with Gemma and Lottie. When our group was called into the river, we had to fill up our tray.

Gemma held the net in the water while Lottie and I used our feet to push the river bed into the net. Once that was done, we emptied it into the tray and looked at what we had found. I found out that my feet were wet so my wellies had holes in them.

The first thing we noticed was the Fresh Water Shrimp swimming all around the tray; it seemed like there were millions of them. I found a small blue snail shell and identified it using the key; it was a Rams Horn Snail.

After some more time spent looking in the tray, we found some worms that just kept wriggling. Their bodies were made up of many tiny segments. We used a microscope to identify the invertebrates. Amongst other things, my group found a Ram’s Horn Snail Shell, a Fresh Water Shrimp, and a Non-Biting Midge Larvae.

Taylor Lynch J6A

Prizes

The following prizes were awarded in Final Assembly:-

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Boys’ Cross Country Cup | - Milo Wills |
| Girls’ Cross Country Cup | - Emily Musgrave |
| The Henniker-Gotley Boys’ Victor Ludorum | - Milo Wills |
| The Meborn-Hubbard Girls’ Victor Ludorum | - Emily Musgrave |
| Reeves Cup for Improved Reading | - William Wolton |
| Roberts Family Cup (Otters Effort) | - Jessica Mackenzie |
| Carden Cup for Music | - Riley Rowe |
| Dufosee Art Cup | - Joshua Carr |
| Shackel Cup for Drama | - Taylor Lynch |
| Shark Cup for Most Promising U9 Sportsperson | - Joss Breare & Raife Hackett |
| Osborne Cup for Girls’ Sport | - Emily Musgrave & Mollie Tice |
| Palmer Cup for Boys’ Sport | - Milo Wills & Thomas Breare |
| Phelps Effort Cup | - Thomas Breare |
| Arkle Cup for All Round Improvement | - Seren Evans |
| Trim Happy Cup | - William Evans |
| The Kindness Cup | - Imogen Jones & Czeska Sztuka |
| Potter Cup for Overall Contribution | - William Nichol & Gemma Harvey |
| The Good Example Cup | - Charlie Wade |



Academic and Effort Prizes

- | | | |
|-----|-----------------|--|
| J3L | Academic Effort | - Anna Wateridge
- Amari McGriff |
| J3H | Academic Effort | - Edward Nichol
- Jemima Martin |
| J4A | Academic Effort | - Cameron Lynch
- Amina Chambers |
| J4B | Academic Effort | - Natalie Williamson
- Rosie Parkes |
| J5H | Academic Effort | - Kitty Hale
- Freya Angus |
| J5W | Academic Effort | - Carmen Lee
- Isabel Wateridge |
| J6A | Academic Effort | - Milo Wills
- Taylor Lynch |
| J6B | Academic Effort | - Harvey Cole
- Czeska Sztuka |



Junior School French Trip

At the start of the Easter holidays, 45 children from J5 & J6 went to Berck-sur-mer in France. It was an action-packed three days starting with an exciting journey through the Eurotunnel and a tour of the WW2 museum at Ambletuse. Over the next two days there were visits to Etaples market, a supermarket and a wonderful artisan chocolate factory with a tasting session which everyone loved. The children had written letters to some French children in a local school and were able to visit the school and meet their friends. It was a pleasure to listen to the children making a super effort with their French and watch them playing a traditional French ball game outside. The day ended with a trip to the beach for a sand sailing lesson which was loved by all. The last day started with a tour of the WW1 cemetery at Etaples followed by shopping at the hypermarket. In the afternoon everyone had a go at making croissants and dough in an artisan bakery before setting off home.



I think the more I got speaking to my French friend the better I got to know her. We definitely tried to communicate well with each other.
Millie Butler



The cemetery was quiet and sad. Some of us found our relatives' graves.

Edwin Ward



My favourite activity was the bakery visit as I learnt how to make croissants and made some when I got home.

Lottie Williams



I really enjoyed the chocolate factory visit because I've always wondered how you made chocolate!

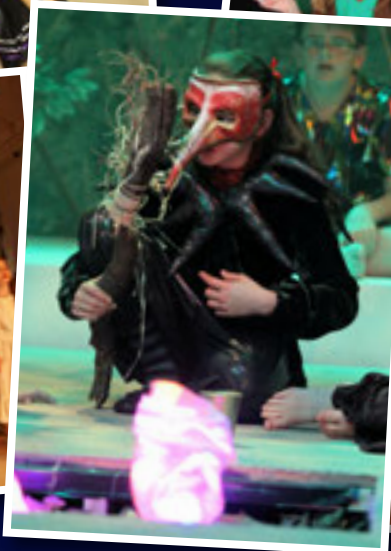
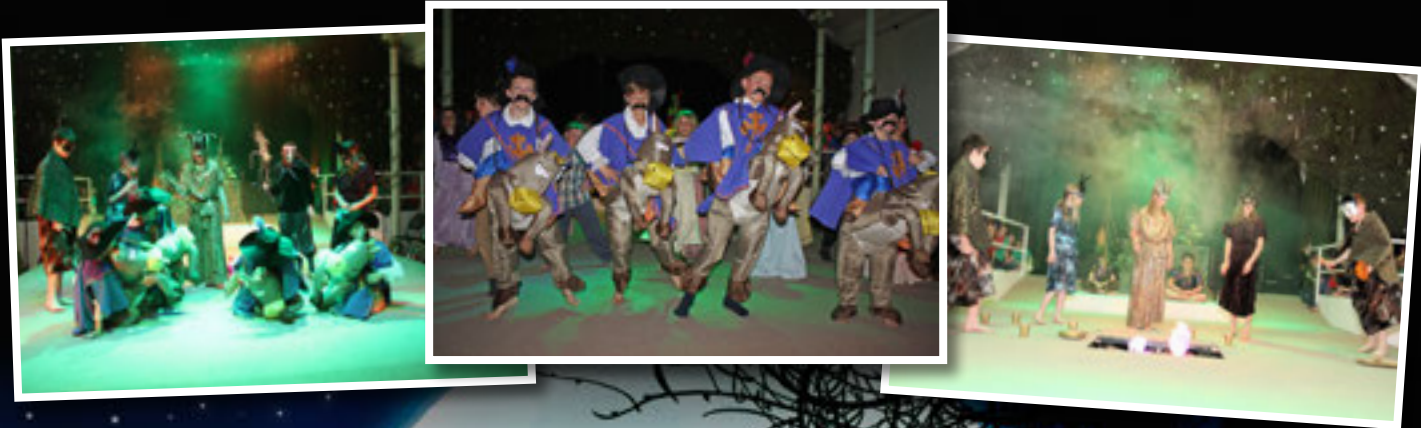
Bronwyn Rosser



I loved the market because it was fun seeing what was being sold and comparing the differences to a British market.

Joshua Carr





Rumpelstiltskin



There were many golden performances this year from the 100 strong cast from J3-J6 in the Junior School production of *Rumpelstiltskin* (Out now on DVD!). The J6s took on the lead roles with the J5s acting as understudies as well as villagers and courtiers. The J3s and J4s enjoyed their elevated position for performing as villagers on their platforms.

The audience was captivated throughout with all the action, songs, dances and musical interludes. Who can forget the *Harlem Shake*, *Gangnam Style*, *Viva La Vida*, *I dreamed a dream* and *Can you feel the love tonight?* Let alone Mr Watson spinning around as a golden dream, or was it a nightmare...? According to Seren Evans, 'It was Mr Watson's best part ever!' Daisy Billington exclaimed, 'I never knew he was such a good dancer.'

The musketeers and their blow-up horses caused much amusement for all. Stefan Hossle and Michael Crofts had the added pressure of also playing in the band alongside my wonderful Musical Director Mrs C Hossle, Mrs F Auster & Howard Auster.

The staging, built by the works team for *Lord of the Flies* worked wonderfully well for us this year, including the awesome fire pit, which we used to good effect for the Goblin Kingdom scene. Emily Musgrave felt that the 'new stage really helped us perform better.' Czeska Sztuka sensed that 'everyone was really involved and it was magical.'

The stage was brought to life by the stunning lighting and sound created by Andy Webb and Will Owen. Mrs A Haas, my Assistant Director, did a fantastic job at always keeping me focused and making me stick to the schedule.

It was Taylor Lynch's 'first play ever and it was amazing.' She played the part of Rumpelstiltskin and was awarded the Drama prize for her wonderful acting and her very mature approach to rehearsals. Will Evans said, 'it was the best play I've done. It flowed really well.' Harry Hale stated that 'the parts were well suited to the individuals.' Gemma Harvey thought that 'all of the ad-libs were really funny.' I was delighted that the children were confident enough to be able to improvise on the actual nights, whilst maintaining their characters and getting lots of laughs.

Mrs Sztuka, Mrs Mudge and Mrs Ferreira must be thanked for creating such amazing costumes and Miss Scarlett for sourcing all the other costumes in the tower. I realise how much time it must have taken!

Luke Nixon and Josh Thomas, two Sixth Former volunteers helped me enormously over the months in lessons during the rehearsal stages with the pupils, for which I am very grateful. I am really glad that they got to see the end product.

A massive thank you to all my colleagues and all the cast, who helped make my 'crazy' dream a reality, it was an enormous team effort. Gold medals should be awarded to you all!

Mrs A Breal



Otters' Productions

Nativity – Born in a Barn

Back in December, the Otters and Nursery put on a fantastic Nativity show, 'Born in a Barn'. There were some excellent performances by Henry Carr as the rooster, Jacob Roe as the cat, some wonderful solos were sung by Ellie Roe as the Angel Gabriel and Jess Mackenzie as the donkey but the dancing camels were the highlight of the show. Lots of time and practice was put into the whole production and the scenery was designed and assembled by Mrs McKenna who made the whole set sparkle.



The Easter Show

For the Otters Easter show, every child in J2 learnt and recited a poem; the J1s sang and performed a class poem, while the Reception children learnt how to play the hand bells. A big well done should also go to the following musicians, Lucinda, William W, Ellie, Rosa and Margot, who all performed a piece on their instruments.

It was lovely to have the whole of the Otters coming together to celebrate Easter and the end of term!

Dance 2013

Dance is offered throughout the Junior School. The children that took part in the Cheltenham Festival of Performing Arts obtained distinctions of 80% and above. Children are currently preparing for their RAD (Royal Academy of Dancing) international graded ballet examinations, which take place in November/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 Distinction Assemblies. Other than ballet, dance forms offered are musical theatre, folk dancing and modern dance.

Mrs S Liebenberg



"Ballet is my favourite thing because you do all different dances such as character. I also like my ballet teacher. She is a very good teacher. She pushes us to perform lots of things, but with kindness."

Amina Chambers J4



"I was really nervous before the dance but also very excited. My dance was called "Getting ready for the party". I remembered all of my steps and really enjoyed it."

Emma Roberts (J5) at the Cheltenham Festival of Performing Arts



Junior Sport

Rugby

Boys in all age groups worked hard throughout the season and every team played well and represented the school in the right fashion and spirit. It is always a delight to see boys enjoying the great game of rugby and this year we have more boys than ever before playing outside of school, representing club sides. From Distinction Assembly it was clear how many of these were recognised at end of season ceremonies as either "player, clubman or most improved of the year"!

At Under 11 level, we had good depth if not too much real quality within the A team. Up front, we showed good physicality and strong set play but in the loose we lacked cohesion and at times were defensively brittle. In the backs, we displayed good attacking lines, excellent ball-handling skills but lacked blistering pace and therefore a real cutting edge. This was especially evident in our only heavy defeat at the hands of Berkhamstead. Tom Breare, captain, led the team superbly from scrum-half and it was he and Milo Wills, fly-half, who were our best defensive players and provided the greatest attacking threat. Winning just over half of our fixtures was a commendable achievement. The under 11 B team has a superb season emerging unbeaten, which demonstrates the depth within this age group. Led by Harvey Cole, the Bs played some delightful attacking rugby and they gained some remarkable results against some much bigger schools. Their most notable achievements were in defeating Berkhamstead 28-14 and beating St. Edward's away in the final match of the season by 21-19! This was the first time a Rendcomb U11 B rugby side has finished "Invicta" so well done boys and Mr Lawrence, their coach.



U9A



U11A

At Under 9 level, every boy represented the school within both formats of the game, tag and contact. It soon became evident that this group were going to be quite special and so it proved for in nearly every match we dominated and emerged "invicta" over the course of the season. Everyone made telling contributions to the team's success including Johnny's great defence and Luca W's and Nicky's super support play but it was Raife's try scoring ability and Joss Breare's tremendous never give in style of leadership that gave us such a successful platform. This group show great potential and we look forward with much optimism. In due course, this group will be supported and strengthened further by our U8s who showed considerable potential in the matches and particularly at the Hatherop Castle School Festival where they secured three wins out of five games.

Sport is competitive and trying to win is important. However, the style of play is also important and all our teams and squads should be proud of their standard, attitude and rate of development. Every boy from J3-6 represented the school this year, another remarkable achievement. Well done boys and their dedicated coaches.

U11 Colours: Thomas Breare & Milo Wills

Mr M Watson

Hockey



The U11A season began with a squad of girls taking part in the Prior Park Preparatory School pre-season Hockey tournament. This was a ‘baptism of fire’ so early in the term but an invaluable experience for all the squad that played and a good opportunity to practise before the season began in earnest. Playing positions were quickly realised and our two newcomers to the sport, Taylor Lynch and Bronwyn Rosser, quickly got the measure of this fast and furious game! The season began proper with two excellent wins over Sibford (5-0) and local rivals Berkhamstead (1-0). Captain, Emily Musgrave, led by example on the pitch and terrorised many a goal keeper with her persistent shooting. Aply supported by Taylor Lynch and Gemma Harvey, the trio worked hard to move the ball down the pitch and dodge many an opponent. For me however, by far the best hockey played all season was in a frenetic match against a strong side from The Richard Pate School. Rendcomb took it to them and an end to end game ensued where the teams matched each other goal for goal until finally the whistle blew on a 3-3 draw. Mollie Tice was tireless in defence and time and again cleared her line to feed our forwards with clean ball. Two awkward games on bumpy grass pitches were a temporary blip in an otherwise superb season and the girls bowed out with a strong win over The King’s School, Gloucester (3-1).

The U11B team were lucky enough this season to host two matches split in half, allowing every girl to play a number of matches. We started off the season very strongly against Sibford School with a 5-1 win. This was followed by some far tougher matches, but the girls remained dedicated and started to demonstrate their knowledge of the game and put drills learnt in lessons in to practice. By the end of the season, the year 5 girls were showing what they were made of and I know they are looking forward to returning to the Hockey field.

At U9 level, despite having some girls new to hockey this term, we had a very strong side. The season started off with a great win against Hatherop Castle School (2-1) which continued in to our next match with an even larger win against Sibford School (5-1). The girls showed such enthusiasm and commitment, which was evident by Kate Holloway making a number of dives to ensure the ball ended up in the back of the goal. The girls went from strength to strength throughout the term and their perseverance was rewarded by a win against The King’s School, Gloucester (2-1) to end the season.

U11A Colours : Emily Musgrave, Mollie Tice, Gemma Harvey and Taylor Lynch

Mrs J L Hill and Miss C Hayden

Football

The U11 A team was well balanced and developed into a fine footballing side. Defensively, we were secure which allowed our midfield to generally dictate matches. Our Captain, Milo Wills, ran the midfield and frequently he unleashed the attacking threat of Joshua Carr which was particularly evident against Hatherop (5-1) and Berkhamstead (2-1). Our only reverse was against St. Edward’s where, despite heroic defending from Harry Hale and a super headed goal from Tom Breare, we went down 2-4. The approach from all the boys was first class and I hope that they will continue to enjoy this wonderful game. Meanwhile the U11Bs began their season with a convincing 11-0 win against Hatherop but struggled when up against the larger schools with more players to choose from. Perhaps the highlight of the season was Bailey’s first-half hat-trick against Hatherop. Importantly, a true team spirit was evident throughout the season; well done boys on exemplary behaviour and attitude. This was also true of the Cs in their 0-0 outing versus Berkhamstead.

The U9 squad was probably the most naturally talented of all our sides and they certainly displayed some tremendous skills, determination and enthusiasm during the term. In fixtures, we usually proved far too strong for our opponents with Raife Hackett and Luca Wills demonstrating a super understanding of match play, and they provided the creativity to make numerous goal scoring opportunities. Despite scoring many goals, it was somewhat frustrating that we weren’t as clinical in front of goal as we should have been. This was certainly the case in our loss to St Edward’s where we had many chances but failed to convert. However, this was put right at the Hatherop tournament where we brushed teams away before gaining revenge against St Edwards defeating them in the semi-final. Pinewood ran out winners and again, we didn’t take our chances, but it didn’t detract from a marvellous achievement in becoming Runners-up. Overall, a season that offers much promise for the future.

The U8s had a small squad and varying abilities but they represented the school with great pride and played well in their first season together. They gained a well deserved victory over Berkhamstead with Caleb Timmis leading the line, Edward Nichol strong in midfield and Harry Brownless solid in defence. The remaining matches brought a draw and a loss but everyone played with determination, passion and pride.

I thank our players for their efforts this year, the coaches for their professionalism and endeavour and of course the parent body that came out to support in great numbers in all weather conditions.

U11 Colours: Joshua Carr & Milo Wills

Mr M Watson



U11



U9

Netball

Jostling for calendar space in amongst cross country fixtures, the U11A team had four matches this season. Gemma Harvey captained the side with characteristic enthusiasm and was ably supported by her Year Six peers. The team began on a positive note with a comfortable win over The King’s School, Gloucester. Playing positions quickly became clear and Taylor Lynch and Czeska Sztuka successfully took on the shooting honours. Two tough matches followed with a very tight contest against Rosehill Westonbirt in which Rendcomb were

unlucky to miss out on another win. Progress was however made in many aspects of the game. The girls’ match awareness increased as did their reactions on the court. The season concluded with a deserved victory in a competitive rematch against The King’s School, Gloucester in which both sides showed true determination, matching each other goal for goal before Rendcomb ended the game 7-6. This marked a fitting end to an enjoyable season. Well done to all who played.

The first game of the U11B season against The King’s School, Gloucester was split in to two separate matches, allowing all the girls to play. The first team secured a win which was a great start to their season. Over the weeks, the girls worked hard at their drills and general fitness, realising that they must mark their opponents far closer to enable them to intercept balls and take possession. By the end of the season, you could see a huge improvement in the team’s awareness of the game and were making stronger and more accurate passes, which resulted in giving us more attacking opportunities.

The U9A team played two matches this season. Again with a number of our players new to the game, we still presented ourselves as a strong side. Our first match of the season, against The King’s School, Gloucester, got us off to a terrific start, with a big win (6-1). The girls struggled to contain their excitement to be playing their first Netball match; their passion and high spirits saw us secure a win from our first game, aided by tremendous shooting from Isabella House. The second match of the season was an A and B team fixture against Hatherop Castle School. The girls demonstrated their focus during games lessons, as they marked their opponents closely, made excellent interceptions and were keen to grab any free balls. The B team ended their first match on a high, winning 6-3.

Mrs J L Hill and Miss C Hayden



Cross Country

Winter Warmer 10

This was the tenth running of this event. The weather made an appearance and provided us with the wettest course in ten years; added to an already difficult course were some new bogs and some freely flowing springs.

There were a record number of fifty two participants and all tried exceptionally hard across this tough, rural, undulating course. Some of the runners even finished without their shoes. The bogs had claimed these; retrieving them afterward was an interesting task!

The winner of the race was Milo Wills in a time of 8:41, Emily Musgrave was first girl in, in 3rd place and in a time of 8:45. Joss Breare was first U9 in, in a time of 9:09 and Ellie Miles-Sayers was first U9 girl to finish in a time of 11:37.

This was a new course so the above times are all records.

Cross Country Tournament 13

In March, Rendcomb College Junior School hosted a cross country tournament. The weather was particularly wet and windy and made the conditions underfoot particularly difficult; this is cross country running as it should be. It is also no exaggeration to say that we can claim to have the hardest course on the circuit.

Rosehill-Westonbirt, Berkhamstead, St Edward’s and Pinewood all took part and Rendcomb entered two teams. All of the children gave one hundred percent in what proved to be deteriorating ground conditions as the afternoon progressed. Notable performances came from Joss Breare who was second and Luca Wills who was seventh in the years three and four race. Milo Wills was fifth and Tom Breare seventh in the years five and six race. These positions as well as our other good results meant our A team finished in second place, behind Pinewood who won the overall team event

Mr J Arnold



The Otters’ Sports Day

Every child in the Otters had the opportunity to show their prowess in a number of different events on their Sports day. Sack races, spud on spoon races, bunny hop races and traditional sprinting were all part of the order of the day. It was an afternoon of fun and achievement. Well done Otters.

J3 – J6 Sports Day

Rendcomb’s Juniors’ Sports Day took place on Wednesday the 19th June. Everyone sat in their houses: Corinium, Griffin and Dunwoody. Firstly, the year 3s ran their races and then the older ones ran. After this there were skipping races and finally the longer running races and the relays. There were many very exciting races especially the girls 400m in which Emily Musgrave came first with Isabel Verrey coming second and breaking a school record for J5. The last two races were very close with Corinium beating Dunwoody by a foot. Milo Wills, a J6 in Corinium, won all of his races which everyone thought would put Corinium in front; but despite Corinium’s brave effort to win, Dunwoody won. Later on, all the medals and awards were handed out. It was lovely and sunny and everyone tried their best. Overall, it was a great day.

Compiled from reports written by Carmen Lee, Kitty Hale and Millie Butler J5

Cricket

William Nichol was the club captain who led his team with pride and passion. His team travelled to Cheltenham cricket club to play a very strong Berkhamstead side which included two county batsmen who amassed runs very quickly. One highlight was Tom B who was recalled to the attack and narrowly missed out on a ‘hat trick’ for the second successive season. St Edward’s were our next opponents who were very strong and competitive. However, Rendcomb bowled well and put up a valiant defence. Unfortunately though, our batting was a little short on runs and we fell short of the target. Once again a bright spot was the emergence of a future opening bowler, Alfie Becket J5, who took four wickets in the match and shows much promise. As the season progressed a much improved performance was seen by all the players; good effort boys.

The second eleven also played two matches with very little experience of this complicated game. Rendcomb’s never give up attitude came to the fore and they persevered but to no avail and lost both matches. Many players had never represented school before in this formal game but gained valuable experience for the next summer season.

The 2013 season for the U9 team will be one to remember, owing to the fact that we did not lose a single game to rain nor did we lose a signal game to any other school. It was a season of winning for everyone involved. We had a number of boys showing some high class skill with both bat and ball, which helped us not only win matches but win them very convincingly.

There are 12 boys in J4 and they all played in the team (George Beal, Joss Breare, Luca Wills, Mitchell Bankes, Nicky Musgrave, Johnny Peake , Nathan Seatter-Messer, Jack Bellamy, Fraser Day, Raife Hackett, Luca Pollitt, Lucas Booth). Other schools struggle to have their whole team bowling well, but not us; all the boys bowled well and this is where we capitalised. Joss Breare was the best bowler of the team, taking the most wickets for the least runs.

When it came to the batting, we had many boys that like to hit the ball hard and in every match we played we scored more boundaries than the opposition. Our running between the wickets was fantastic too; we made runs where others did not.

I am really proud to have been their coach. It is not always about winning but also about improving standards and everyone’s play. This happened as these boys listened and improved through the season.

U11 Colours : William Nichol,Tom Breare

Mr A Lawrence and Mr N Ferreira



U9



U11

Rounders

Home advantage was apparent this season as the U11A team notched up two impressive wins on home soil against The King’s School Gloucester (15 - 14) and The Richard Pate School (8 - 4). Of the other three matches, it was a matter of small margins. Berkhamstead School, Rosehill Westonbirt and a rematch at The King’s School, Gloucester all proved to be highly competitive and tense affairs with the biggest deficit being just two rounders. Captain, Mollie Tice led by example and bowled consistently, ably supported by Emily Musgrave at backstop. Mention must also go to American-born Taylor Lynch who converted her experience of softball into rounders and ended the season as our top scorer. Looking ahead to next year, Isabel Verey, Carmen Lee and Bronwyn Rosser all gave a good account of themselves at A team level.

Rendcomb U11B started off the season playing The King’s School, Gloucester. With some good batting and clean fielding, we won our first game (29 - 7). The following two matches were both tough games and nail biting close throughout. The girls showed great camaraderie, supporting each other well, and were beaten by just half a rounder. The final game of the season was again against The King’s School, Gloucester. Due to bad weather conditions, we played two shorter innings of 18 balls. The girls demonstrated their determination to secure another win against this team, calling to each other and creating a strong fielding barrier that could not be broken, ending the season on a high, with a clear win (7 - 2). The girls showed much progression over the term and it was great to see the pace of play pick up.

The U9A team are an extremely dedicated group and have gelled well together. After losing their first match of the season by just half a rounder, the girls showed rapid progression and were quick to learn from their mistakes, winning every other match. All the girls are now connecting with the ball and some tremendous hits have even had spectators diving for cover! The girls should be very proud of a truly excellent season of rounders. Top scorer of the season – Soffie Rigby.

The U9B team played two matches this season, the first one against Berkhamsted School. They proved to be a strong side but we played hard and Emily Christie managed to score a fantastic rounder through sheer willpower and quick running. Rendcomb’s final match of the season was against The King’s School, Gloucester. We were playing against their U11B team who were far more experienced. However, this did not deter our girls who showed even more grit and determination to succeed. The girls cracked down on their fielding and made quick decisions, preventing the opposition from scoring too highly. With a last minute rounder by Lara Higgins-Anderson, Rendcomb were victorious and ended the season with a win!

U11A Colours: Mollie Tice, Emily Musgrave and Taylor Lynch

Mrs J L Hill and Miss C Hayden



Swimming Gala

A range of talented swimmers took to the water resulting in the breaking of seven school records. Alfie Beckett (x2), Mollie Tice (x2), Nicolas Musgrave, Joss Breare and Daisy Cole all did exceptionally well to break the long-standing records.

Despite the weather being colder than we had hoped for, everyone took the plunge and we saw some exciting races, where many children achieved personal bests.

A great afternoon was had by all; many thanks to all the parents who came to cheer the children on and to all the staff who supported the event.

Miss B Perry



Equestrian Activities

Two riders have led the equestrian field for Rendcomb Junior School. They are Mollie Tice and Monte Swain-Grainger and both have had tremendous success this year. Mollie won her section at the prestigious Stonar Schools Mini One Day Event riding her lovely schoolmaster, Cobweb, while Monte has represented Rendcomb in both show jumping and eventing on his new young pony, Taxi.

Monte has had continued involvement on the polo pitch being a member of the winning pony club team for the Jorrocks Cup, while Mollie has branched out into pony racing with great success.

Both these year six pupils have a very promising future in equestrian sport. Well done!

Mrs D Walton Smith



Pony Racing 2013

My season started with the Beaufort Hunt point to point at the beginning of March. It was the first time I had raced my pony, Ninfield Millionaire's Splendour, who is called Teddy at home. He is only little, very pretty and bred in Sussex to go showing. We came 3rd which was amazing as I was nearly last at the start and had a lot of catching up to do. Grandma was there to watch and she was very pleased. The children who beat me were all much more experienced. The race I enter in is for ponies 138cm or under, and children aged 9 – 15. At the Beaufort I was 10 but I was 11 for all the rest of the races in 2013.

A great thrill was winning at Cheltenham. I rode in the Novice Riders' Race, and it was so exciting coming up the home straight, battling it out with the other ponies and then Teddy just lowering and extending himself to get to the post in front. I really enjoyed the opportunity given to us jockeys by the Pony Club, to use the same facilities to change in and weigh out in as A.P. McCoy and all those professional jockeys.

I went on to win at the Cotswold Vale Farmers' Point to Point, the Berkeley and the Wheatland. When I was beaten, it was by the likes of ponies called Switch it On (Josh Bryan) and Little Chick (A.J. O'Neill) who are ridden by children of trainers and have had raced alot.

There is a points system awarded so that at the end of the season, there can be a West Midlands Champion for my size pony. I won it! George Daly was second. I got a new coat and quite a few other prizes, and a huge trophy which I get to keep for a year.

Finally, they had a National Championship in Leicestershire, to which my Mum took me. I nearly came 3rd, but Ella McCain, daughter of Donald McCain whose father trained Red Rum, held on and I finished 4th.

The older children I raced with continue racing in the summer but I am not going to as I would have to carry eight stone for which I would need two stone in lead to go under the saddle. So I will just do point to points for now which don't have specified weight. It is great fun and great training for the future when I intend to be a professional jockey.

Mollie Tice J6



Chess

This has been an exciting year for chess in the Junior School. Once again, during the Lent term we participated in the 18th Delancey UK Schools Chess Challenge. The children played seven rounds during the term and Milo Wills, Raife Hackett and Alfie Beckett qualified for the Megafinal Round. Alfie Beckett triumphed to become the overall school chess champion. Alfie Beckett and Raife Hackett went on to represent the school in the Chess Megafinal played at St Edward's in Cheltenham. They both performed very well in a particularly high powered and daunting arena.

In addition, this year we were invited to participate in the Bingham Library Trust Chess Shield 2013. The chess team this year has been made up of five very willing and talented volunteers. Tom Breare, Milo Wills, Alfie Beckett, William Cotterell and Harry Hale comprised the team and Thomas Haynes, Edwin Ward, William Nichol and Alexander Boyer joined us in the last match as part of an extended team.

We won two and drew two of our matches and tied for first place with Powell's C of E School. We then played an exciting final at Bingham Gallery resulting in a tie between the two schools. In the words of Robin Craven, the event organiser, "It was great to see the children come in, all excited and buzzing, and then when the chess started the focus on chess took over instantly and all was intensely quiet. The standard of chess played for children of their age was remarkably high..." It was an extra treat to be handed the shield by the new mayor of Cirencester, Joe Harris.

This year's success augers well for next year as there are many budding chess players in the pipeline.

Mrs A Haas

Special Days

Children in Need



A Grand Total of £387 was raised



Best Dressed

Red Nose Day

Rendcomb Juniors rose again to the challenge and got fully behind this year's 25th anniversary of Comic Relief. The children were encouraged to dress head to toe in red and BIG. There were big tummies, big hair and who could forget William Evans' big squeaky feet? Besides selling the traditional noses, many, many cakes were sold in the Otters, with J3 and J4 baking, decorating and selling their cakes. A special treat for the children and lucky parents was an exclusive appearance of 'Onesie D'. Staff, under the choreography of Mr Lawrence, danced spectacularly in a variety of onesies including a guest appearance by Mr Blobby! We raised a grand total of £516.

Mr A Lawrence



Staff 'Onesie D'

15.03.2013

An Olympic Golden Afternoon

Pupils of Rendcomb College Junior School spent a golden afternoon with Olympic dressage super star Laura Bechtolsheimer. Laura was making a return visit to Rendcomb to talk about her recent London Olympic experiences with her horse Mistral Hojris (Alf to his friends). Laura spoke of how amazing it was to receive her medals and the pride she had in being part of the team that won the first ever dressage gold for Great Britain. The pupils were thrilled to be able to see and touch real 2012 Olympic medals. Headmaster, Martin Watson commented that, "Laura's dedication and motivation will inspire our pupils, the next generation of athletes, to aim high and to strive to be the best they possibly can in their chosen sport." During Laura's visit a cheque for over £5,419.80 was given to Holly Plummer, of the National Star College in respect of money raised by Junior School pupils who participated in the Olympic Gold Challenge.



World Book Day

On World book Day, I dressed up as Daphne from the Greek myth, *Apollo and Daphne*. I found an old sheet and then stuck leaves all over the sheet. It was fun to make my costume. I also made a crown and stuck branches and leaves all the way around it.

I learnt a poem, which was called *Bed in Summer* by Robert Louis Stevenson. I thought my poem was a good choice because I enjoyed learning and saying it. When it came to saying my poem in front of the judges and the Junior School, I felt really excited but also nervous.

I enjoyed seeing other people's costumes and listening to the poems. I thought the class poems were really interesting, especially J4 and J5 Green group because the way they arranged themselves to say the poems was different. I like the way some people are very creative about making their costumes. It is really interesting to see the different range and variety of costumes that people came up with.

Isabel Wateridge J5

World Maths Day



On March 6th, we celebrated World Maths Day by having a morning of challenges ranging from a times tables competition, puzzles and a bridge building exercise, to worldwide on-line speed mental arithmetic games. All the children worked really hard in their mixed age groups and had plenty of fun. The school speed tables champion was Harvey Cole who correctly answered 100 tables questions in 3 minutes and 44 seconds. The House which gained the most points over the morning was Corinium.

Mrs F Auster

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