



Rendcombian

The Magazine for Rendcomb College, Juniors and Nursery

2012

Rendcombian Magazine

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from the Headmaster



“
...though we cannot
make our sun
Stand still, yet we will
make him run.
”

One of my favourite poems, Andrew Marvell's *To his Coy Mistress*, proposes the argument that we should spend our transient existence metaphorically making hay while the sun still shines. It is what is known as a 'Carpe Diem' poem, urging its reader to 'seize the day'. A year after arriving at Rendcomb, I should like to think that many days have been well and truly seized, that a good number of nettles has been grasped, that a fair few opportunities have come a-knocking. And that many a metaphor has been mixed! I should also like to think that the young people at Rendcomb are seeing times a-changing in a positive way and that they are feeling confident about embracing the possibilities with which an education here can furnish them.

It has been with great pride that I have witnessed the commitment that our pupils across the whole School - Juniors and Seniors - have shown in a number of contexts during the course of the year and the scope of pupils' achievements is frankly enormous given that we are a relatively

small community. It is also significant that so many of our pupils give so willingly of their time and energy to help others: the strength of community service across the School is a distinctive part of Rendcomb life.

You will find in this year's magazine, extracts from the report that I added to the year's Financial Statement which outline in detail key pupil achievements and the many charitable endeavours in which our community has been involved. I feel that it is important to record these magnificent achievements in a school's magazine which should provide an accurate record as well as providing an interesting read.

As Marvell would suggest, 'Time's winged chariot' does hurry near and I would urge all of our pupils to make the most of seizing each day and grabbing every opportunity that comes their way. I hope that Rendcombians feel an urgency to be the best that they can be in as many areas of the School as they can. Moreover, I hope that they will always consider the wider picture beyond what many people keep telling me is 'the Rendcomb bubble'. ■

Review of Activities & Achievements

The academic year 2011/12 was an important transition year for the School with a new Headmaster at the helm and a strong sense of purpose emanating from Governors through to the grass roots community.

Academically, this was a particularly successful year at A Level. As a growing school, we had a much larger cohort this year than last with eleven more pupils taking A2s. That over 37% of them attained A* or A grades says much of their efforts and those of their teachers. Both A*-B and A*-C percentages were higher this year than in previous years. Sixth form pupils were finalists in the UKMT Senior Maths Team Challenge for the second year in succession.

Of the students waiting to confirm offers in further education over the summer, 97% of them secured places. 74% of students secured their first choices and 90% secured their first and second choice establishments. High-flying Russell and 1994 Group Universities figured strongly, accounting for 60% of students' destinations, including a highly sought-after place at Oxford to read English Literature.

At GCSE, 79% of grades were A*-C with two pupils leading the way with fifteen A* grades between them. Year 10 students at the College produced a record performance in the modules that they took in Science and Mathematics this summer. 61% of the grades attained by this cohort were at A*/A grades boding very well for next summer.

We are working hard to raise academic expectations of our pupils. We have been eager to utilize data more effectively (tracking and profiling in Juniors; MidYIS and ALIS in Seniors) to monitor students and set targets. A new Rewards and Colours policy has been introduced; we have re-assessed the purpose of Scholarship; we have started to review the role of the Tutor; we have widened the Sixth Form curriculum; we have introduced a meaningful Professional Development and Review programme for staff; we have recruited first-rate practitioners into key positions; we have put in place purposeful, yearly Departmental Reviews with Heads of Department; we have introduced expectations over regular lesson observations. To

encourage independent learning, we have introduced the Extended Project Qualification for the Sixth Form. We have set ambitious targets for the next five years and we intend to meet them.

We have continued to undertake work to improve and enhance the buildings and grounds for the benefit of pupils. The full interior redecoration of the last boarding house in the cycle was completed during the year. The work carried out to boarding houses in the previous year achieved its aim of creating more spaces for boarding pupils in the upper part of the school. The Nursery area underwent structural enhancements to improve the indoor/outdoor flow for the youngest children in school. Our natural environment has been utilised to create an area for Outdoor Leadership work, an initiative which will be accessed by pupils of all ages.

We have enjoyed three significant plays this year: *Our Country's Good* for Upper School; *The Pirates of Penzance* for Lower School and a short play written and directed by two of our Fifth year boys.

We have also enjoyed a range of impressive concerts this year: GCSE performers; informal concerts; workshops from internationally renowned musicians; Stars of the East, focused on international students; Leavers' concert and most impressive of all, Zimbe, a concert that brought together Junior and Senior choirs; the Seniors' College Choir has grown to 57. A jazz band that was formed in September opened at The Cheltenham Jazz Festival's *Jazz it Up* event in May. The end of Michaelmas Carol Service brought much praise from those who attended. 119 instrumental lessons are given each week to Senior pupils; 50 music examinations were passed, three with Distinction and fifteen with Merit.

37 students enrolled in the Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award scheme and 14 enrolled for Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award.

Significant pupil achievements were numerous: Winners of International Cricket Tournament for Small Schools in Dubai (Emirates Airline School 35 ARCH Trophy); winners of National Small Schools Champions at Lacrosse (for the second year running);

representation (2) for Wales U18B team and I for England U18 to compete at the Home Internationals; six girls played Lacrosse for West of England; thirteen girls from the School were awarded County places in Lacrosse; representation at U17 Gloucester Rugby Academy; representation at Stroud District U16/U15 Rugby; representation at U15 Girls' Junior County Hockey Development Squad; representation at U14 Girls' County Hockey and Junior Regional Performance Centre (part of the England Hockey set up); representation at U13 Girls' Junior County Hockey Development Squad; representation at JRPC (Junior Regional Performance Centre) U18 Boys' Hockey; representation (2) at U15 Boys' Hockey; representation at U13 Boys' Junior County Hockey Development Squad; representation as 1 of 6 girls for the Under 12 LTA AEGON Glos County Cup; representation for County Cross Country Championships (2/60), Gloucestershire County Athletics (2/105) and South West Schools' Cross Country (Silver); Gloucestershire Schools' Athletics Association District Cross Country (First place in the year 8 and 9 girls' race); Silver Mile Youth road race in Stroud (1st place); representation for Great Britain at the European Martial Arts Games and three Gold Medals; 8th Ranking at Stonar National One Day Event; 1st and 4th rankings at BHS Regional Competition at Talland; representation at National BHS Competition; Gold medallist at U14 Premier Foil; Silver medal in Gloucestershire U16 Boys' Foil; third place in Premier Series U14 Foil; Southern Region U16 Boys Champion at British Youth Championships; 7th place in Southern Region Men's Foil; semi-finalist at Ellet Cup (Golf); starred School with Nina Gold Casting; representation with Scallywags agency, London; acting representation for Channel 4, BBC and in the film, Ferrari Ki Sawaari; Distinction at Cheltenham Festival (LAMDA); representation at Bandwagon Music Education Project; two current and one former pupil sang in the Welsh Choirs Festival at The Royal Albert Hall.

We also have a young man who has gained his pilot's licence! ■





Review of Activities & Achievements - Juniors

Juniors have had a successful and busy year. Academic achievement continues to be high. The classes from J2 upwards were linked to an international online maths programme, Mathletics, where during Michaelmas, J5 were 4th nationally and 10th across the world. A significant number of pupils from Juniors achieved scholarships in the 11+ entrance exams. Work is being done towards the 'Bristol Standard', a benchmark of Early Years high achievement, and hopefully this will be achieved by February 2013. Three 'Houses' were introduced: Corinium, Griffin, Dunwoody. These are administrative rather than physical, and have proved to be very popular, further strengthening team ethic and healthy competition.

Part of the legacy of London 2012 was the desire to widen sport to the youth of our society. Many of our families have risen to the challenge and have committed their children to experience new sports. In recognition of our support, and level of fundraising, 8 pupils were able to participate in the pre-Olympic parade on Sunday, 1st April in the Olympic Stadium, with a team of four competing in a relay race. The pupils produced *Peter Pan* in the summer, a production involving all pupils from J3 upwards.

Achievements from Junior Pupils have been impressive: Regional Winner Sightsavers with the Royal Academy of Arts Junior Painter of the Year 2012 competition; National Winner Sightsavers with the Royal Academy of Arts Junior Painter of the Year 2012 competition; two regional winners of Junior Painter of the Year 2011; a J6 pupil awarded a commendation from NGO Charitable Trust Art Competition; a J6 pupil winner Glos Wildlife Decorate a Welly Competition; 5 J6

pupils were winners of the Corinium Radio competition in 2012 and we had 4 winners in 2011; Hampton Court Flower show garden art competition – 2 Winners – one displayed art work as part of the show garden and the other pupil had his work published in the Applebee book; Speech and Drama awards include several gold and silver medals at the Cheltenham Festival of performing Arts each year; Ballet performances at Cheltenham Performing Arts Festival including a Bronze medal, as well as high merit and distinction awards in 2011; Guinness World Records Record Holder – part of Face Britain to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee – most artists working on the same art installation 2012; 25 Children passed Royal Academy of Dancing International Ballet examinations in 2012, many being awarded with Gold Medals/Distinctions; Chess Challenge: 18 pupils have made it to the Regional Chess Megafinal in the past 3 years; 2 have then made it on to the Gigafinal; Mathletics: Rendcomb College featured 5th on the international leader board during 2012; an exceptional Junior School Pianist has performed in many Senior School Concerts; J6 pupil: Winner of the Post Office 'Write about your Hero' competition for her Mandela letter; represented the Knex Challenge at Local Level; horse riding successes include being placed in Stonar Schools inter schools One Day Event; representation at St Mary's Calne Schools Show Jumping competition; Final of the Burghley mini One Day Event Pony Championship; Eventers Challenge organised by Bloxham School; a pupil's e-book 'How Life Began' has had almost 4000 views online. ■

Charitable & Community Work

Charitable work included: the introduction of a 'Go Volunteer' programme, with Year 12 pupils working with several local organisations; prefect involvement in Village Community life, including inaugural Rendcomb Fete (March, 2012) supported by whole School; Rendcomb Run supported by pupils and parents from whole School in support of Soldiers' charities (the fete and run raised over £4000); Duke of Edinburgh provided community opportunities for Years 10-13 (e.g. coaching at Stratton FC). Initiatives with ABF, Children in Need, CHYP, Gloucester Rugby Community, Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, Jeans for Jeans, MacMillan, 'Movember' (testicular and prostate cancer awareness), Operation Christmas Child, Red Nose Day, The Scrubditch Care Farm Project have been supported by the School community.

Links with Cheltenham Festivals have been strengthening this year: Rendcomb sponsored an event in September 2011 (Michael Morpurgo) and the School's Jazz Band performed at The Cheltenham Jazz Festival's 'Jazz it Up' event. Some of our musicians performed at a charitable concert run by Barnsley House Hotel and Spa for local conservation charities. In December, a minibus of EAL students spent the morning at Leighterton Primary School, Tetbury bringing some cultural enrichment to the School. A celebration of International Women's Day was held for Year 11-13 girls and attended by a number of influential Gloucestershire women including Nell Gifford of Gifford's Circus fame. Rendcomb's artists collaborated with two local state schools to display work to mark Holocaust Day, 2012 and also professionally exhibited work at Calcot Manor Hotel. We

have a well-established link with a German School and run bi-annual exchanges; this year was one of the exchange years.

The Juniors pride themselves in the charitable links which have included: National Star College, Cheltenham – In August 2012 The Juniors' Headmaster and his wife attended a prize giving ceremony at Team GB House, Olympic Park in recognition of the Junior School's fundraising – one of just two schools invited; other charities have included Cirencester Food Bank; our partner school in Uganda, The Lords Meade School; CHYP - The Council for Homeless Young People; old people in our community - Food for Life Partnership Roast Dinner Day; Slimbridge Wetland Centre; Sight Savers Appeal; Breast Cancer Research : Breast Cancer Care; MacMillan; Red Nose Day; Gloucestershire's Wildlife Trust Wear Your Wellies Day; Operation Christmas Child shoebox collection.

In the community, the school has been working closely with a number of local organizations (Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, Duchy Originals Garden Organic for School, The Royal Horticultural Society, Year of Food Farming; Active Kids get Cooking and the Woodland Trust, The EDF Pod, nPower Climate Cops and Eco-schools) in the further development of our Woodland Classroom Area; been involved in local competitions (ABF The Soldiers' Charity, the Royal Navy & Royal Marines Charity and The Royal Air Force Benevolent Funds Poetry Competition and Corinium Radio); many local children attend vacation sports weeks including athletics, cricket (run by a member of staff), rugby and general sports. Organisations such as Cantores Chamber Choir, the Cirencester Chamber of Commerce, Cirencester Hockey Club,

Cirencester Lacrosse, Cheltenham Festivals, Gloucester Rugby Community (who ran sports' camps in December and August), Gloucestershire and National Childminders' Association, NCT and The Victorian Society have accepted invitations to hold meetings / use facilities this year. The Old Rendcombian Society, has held sports fixtures and meetings each term. Our involvement with Natural England's High Level Stewardship scheme has led to several invitations to other Schools and organisations offering use of our site and we hosted both a three performance run of Wind in the Willows and a wildlife ramble for Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust in 2012.

Support has been given to Cirencester Youth Cricket, Sport For All (Cotswold District Council), Cirencester Citizens' Advice Bureau, Purton Amateur Dramatics Group, Gloucestershire Police, North Cerney British Legion, North Cerney Conservative Association, Gloucestershire Early Learning Group, Elizabeth Finn Trust and the Cirencester children's guitar club. Some of these have been hosted with a small amount of input from Rendcomb Staff while others have been supported with a good deal of time and effort.

In addition the College has loaned minibuses to North Cerney Primary School (our nearest state primary school) to transport pupils and provided meals to this School. ■

Chapel Reflections...



“
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”

Chapel Reflections...

One of the main Chapel Services at the beginning of the Michaelmas Term was the College/Parish Harvest Festival Thanksgiving Service at which the former Archdeacon of Cheltenham, the Venerable Hedley Ringrose, preached. Archdeacon Ringrose, who is also a College Governor, alarmed some members of the congregation when he took a pair of secateurs to a lovely floral arrangement to illustrate the importance of pruning - both literally and metaphorically!

It was good to welcome for the first time to Rendcomb College Chapel the Vicar of Cirencester, Canon Leonard Doolan, who preached at the College/Parish Evening Service on October 16th. Also in October, on the last Friday before half-term, it was a joy and our privilege to welcome back to Rendcomb Mr. Bill White, a former member of staff. Mr White spoke with great feeling to the students about Rendcomb College in the 60s, when he came here as a young master straight from University in his Austin A40 Somerset!

On November 2nd, All Souls' Day, a very moving Service took place in the Chapel that morning; a number of names of departed loved ones (submitted beforehand by students and staff) was read out during the Service. This was the first time that such a Service on All Souls' Day had taken place at Rendcomb, and I thank the Headmaster for encouraging me to hold it.

On Sunday, 13th November, Remembrance Sunday, the Chapel was overflowing for the Service of Remembrance led by the Headmaster at which members of the local branch of the British Legion were present to hear an excellent address delivered by Canon Paul Iles, a former Residentiary Canon of Hereford Cathedral. Finally in November, one Service we will never forget was the one on Wednesday, 23rd November, when the Children's Officer for the Diocese of Gloucester, the Revd Dr Sandra Millar, gave a riveting talk to the students on the meaning of Advent.

As always the Carol Service, held on the last day of Michaelmas Term in the Cirencester Parish Church, was truly magnificent, with outstanding music and thought-provoking readings.

In the Lent Term we had quite a few visiting speakers including the Archdeacon of Cheltenham, Mr Ray Lewis from the Eastside Young Leaders' Academy in London, Canon Celia Thompson who is one of the Residentiary Canons of Gloucester Cathedral and the Bishop of Tewkesbury. It is always good when one of the Houses leads a Chapel Service on a Wednesday or a Friday, and in the Lent Term on Wednesday 21st March Godman House led a very well-planned Service. The last Sunday Service of the Lent Term was a

Mothering Sunday Family Service for the College and Parish at which the Revd Jan Moore, a retired priest living in Stratton, gave a lively and thoughtful address on mothers.

In the Summer Term on Sunday, 6th May at our Evening Service we invited for the first time some of our International Students to read the same passage of scripture in their own language, and very moving it was too. Also in the Summer Term, I held for the first time two Holy Communion Services for members of Staff (teaching and non-teaching) in the chancel of the Chapel on a Tuesday at 5pm. It is hoped that such Services will become a regular feature in the calendar.



During the past year, apart from visiting speakers and five House-led Services, we have also enjoyed having members of staff (Mr James Stutchbury, Mrs Georgina Harford, Miss Mary Harries and Mr Peter Cairns) sharing some of their thoughts with us at our Chapel Services. It has been particularly good to have had the Headmaster addressing the School regularly in Chapel throughout the year, and also leading the Prayers when we have a College Service on a Sunday.

Chapel Services, needless to say, would be very dull without organ music, and so we do thank our excellent organists, Mr John Wright and Mr Robin Baggs, so much for their massive contribution to College worship. And, finally but not least, I would like to thank our two very dependable Chapel Prefects, Chris Minton and Tom Benson, for carrying out their Chapel duties, including the tolling of a Chapel bell five minutes prior to a Service (first introduced in the Michaelmas Term), with great aplomb. ■

Reverend G Simpson

Founder's Day

Extracts from Sir John Holmes' Founder's Day Address

Ladies and gentlemen,
It is a great privilege to be here. Thank you for inviting me. It is a particular pleasure to be coming from one example of the generosity and vision of the Wills family to another. The Ditchley Foundation, dedicated to the promotion of transatlantic and wider international understanding, was established thanks to the vision of Sir David Wills. Both the School and the Foundation are the results of a great philanthropic tradition which we should not ignore or forget – we may need philanthropy more than ever in the future.

The role of a speaker on these occasions is to give you advice. I hesitate to do so. I am not sure I listened much to advice at your age, certainly not from grey-haired gentlemen, and experience is the best teacher. But some life lessons are already too late by the time you have learned them. So here goes.

My message is in fact simple. It's about the importance of taking a close interest in what is around you. It is easy to live in a relatively small bubble of school, home and friends. The world outside seems a long way away and not particularly relevant to you. Politics and politicians seem boring, and the TV news doesn't say anything of interest to you. None of it seems to matter much. I understand why and how you might feel like that. But it's not true. It's not all boring, and it does matter. You need to understand what's going on. And you can also do something yourself about some of it, in whatever way, to make the world a better place. It's your future, and in due course it will be your children's future too.

Government is difficult, much more difficult than people imagine – more difficult than running a business, or even

a school. There are many tricky choices to be made. The pressures and the potential consequences are multiple, big and complicated. So getting it right is not easy, whatever the bloke in the pub may think. And the decisions governments take matter. Luckily for us, at elections we are not having to choose between two completely different ideologies – communist revolution one way, military rule the other. There is a lot of agreement about the basics of a relatively free market, health and schools, and a safety net for people who are struggling for one reason or another.

But even in this country the parties are not the same and the choices politicians make will make a huge difference over time, including to each one of you. What they do matters and it matters to you. So you need to try to understand what is going on. And above all you need to vote. If you don't vote you will certainly get the government you deserve and you may not like it much. The ability to vote in an election is a huge privilege. And it's the essential difference between free societies like ours and dictatorships. If you don't like the government, you can always throw them out.

People who don't have the vote understand this. Those who have had it for a long time take it for granted and don't value what it means. So take an interest in politics, try to understand what is going on, beware of simplistic solutions and extremism, and politicians appealing to emotion rather than reason. And above all always use your vote. If you only remember one thing I say – and even that would be a miracle, I guess – remember this: always use your vote.

My sermon goes further than this. It's important to understand what is going on in the world outside this country too. Why is

the eurozone in such a mess? If you figure that one out let me know. Why are the Syrian people revolting against their government and what can we do about it? Why haven't we fixed the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians despite more than 60 years of trying? Why do governments still not seem to care very much about the global environment? Why don't we do more about a world where about a billion people still go to bed hungry every night while we are all getting fatter?

The world is a very different place now from even ten years ago, and I am not sure everyone has yet caught up to this. The days of comfortable western superiority when we controlled most of what went on in the world and could give other countries smug lectures about how to run their affairs have long gone. China, India, Brazil, Indonesia and many others are rising economic and political powers, and influence is slipping away from us. Meanwhile the digital age is changing everything. Governments no longer control information in the way that they did before. Frontiers don't matter so much. The latest massacre in Syria is on YouTube before even the BBC know about it. Protesters tell each other on Twitter where to turn up to make sure that enough of them are there to deter the authorities from shooting at them. Mostly this is good. Dictators can't get away with massacring innocent civilians in secret and stealing all their country's resources to put in Swiss bank accounts. People are demanding freedom. They want to be treated like adults, not idiots.

But all this makes the world more unpredictable and perhaps more risky. We need to work harder to understand it and influence it. Don't get me wrong. I am not saying the world is going to hell

in a hand basket. Lots of good things are happening out there. Rising prosperity in China and India has lifted hundreds of millions of people out of poverty. There are fewer wars between states than probably at any time in history, though still lots of civil wars. Awareness of human rights and environmental threats has risen dramatically. Individuals are empowered by the social media. On-line communities of like-minded people can have a huge influence on what happens in the world, mostly for the better.

But we cannot be complacent. A country like Britain has to earn its way in the world. You have to earn your way in the world. So we need to engage and understand, speak foreign languages, study in other countries, work in other cultures, go and be humanitarians handing out emergency relief in grim places, even become diplomats to try to make the world run more smoothly. We can't afford to retreat into our little island, however nice and comfortable it is. And it's fun as well as challenging out there.

So that's my message. It's your world and you need to understand it and try to shape it. Many of you will want to go out and make money in the world. We need people to do that, to create things and create wealth and jobs. Making money is fine. I have nothing against it. It's been said that money can't make you happy, but it sure helps. But public service is important too. It has its own rewards. Politicians are not all idiots, and civil servants are not all blinkered bureaucrats. Philanthropists like those from the Wills family make a real difference in the world. We need all of them.

So good luck to all of you who will be leaving and trying your luck in the world. ■

Head Boy's Founder's Day Speech

There are two especially great things about days such as today; firstly, that it acts as a time to remind us all of how fantastically lucky we are to be here. But more importantly, it acts as an opportunity to give thanks to the man who is responsible for all the brilliance of Rendcomb: Noel Wills. Noel Wills did not simply found this school as an establishment; he put his heart and soul into making it live up to the vision he had in mind.

Of course, a question that is important to ask ourselves at this point is a question that has been discussed by many: would Noel Wills be just as proud of Rendcomb 92 years on from when the first twelve students arrived? To answer this question, we must first know what Mr Wills wanted his school to become. Looking at the original ethos of the school, there are two primary features that Noel Wills hoped for from Rendcomb. Firstly, to be a school where character is prized over all other aspects of a person; secondly, to be a school in which everyone is able to fulfil their talents, but more importantly which we are able to be involved in areas in which we may not already have a talent.

In answer to the first consideration of the importance of character, I think one of the most important things about Rendcomb is its ability to make a profound positive change within a person's character, to help them to become better, happier individuals. At this point, I'd like to read an excerpt from Phil Oepen's Leavers' Article, a 500-word farewell each member of the upper sixth puts together in their last few weeks before leaving school. Phil writes:

'When I first set foot in Rendcomb, I felt I was some kind of social and academic wreckage, unconscious of such values as responsibility, diligence or self-confidence. But suddenly, there was this jolly ol' college in the beautiful Cotswold's with all these friendly and cheerful Englishmen and my little lazy world got turned upside-down.

I was not used to rules, routines, and as my January exams turned out to be absolutely horrendous, I started to give up. But a certain Mr Coups thought differently. Every night he came into my room, cheered me up, and told me how much of a change I've made. And I actually started to see what I can achieve at this school, what opportunities I was just about to waste in this once-in-a-lifetime experience.

So I began to realize what actually happened around me, how warm and affectionate all those people actually were, how strong this sense of community was, and how hard and passionately those teachers were trying to press some knowledge into this new German boy. At that point I was surprised at what ease I could revise for my summer exams, and I came to love this place, and the people within it.'

I think Phil expresses what many people at Rendcomb feel: how we, through the passion, enthusiasm and friendliness of teachers and students, are able to come to the end of our time at Rendcomb AS better people. I think this shows that, more than ever, Rendcomb is still living up to Noel Wills' wishes to place character as the most important feature in a reflection of a person.

Before I move on, it is worth noting what Phil said about the support he received from Mr and Mrs Coups. Over the last two years, they have been continuously open and supportive House Parents to all members of the 6th form, and I know myself and the rest of the house owe a lot to them for that. So thanks go to the both of you.

Head Boy's Founder's Day Speech cont.

So how about the second consideration: the ability to make the most of our talents, as well as trying new ones? It is said that there is nothing better than a talent to get people out of their shells, and many of the people in this room serve as living examples of this notion. To be able to make the most of Rendcomb, you have to understand the school's belief that there is far more than academic success on its own which is needed to help live a fulfilling life. Students gain an eagerness, an openness and a friendliness in their approach to the world: all skills needed throughout life.

So, returning to my overall question: would Noel Wills be proud of the school Rendcomb has become? I must be careful not to make assumptions on his behalf, but looking at where Rendcomb has got to, and what a force of good it is, I believe anyone in his position would be infinitely proud to be able to look at this school and acknowledge that they were the ones who started it all, just as I am massively proud to say I am a Rendcombian.

Holly and I, as well as all the other prefects, have been enormously lucky in that we been in positions which have

allowed us to know, and talk to, the large majority of students and teachers at this school. After multiple Headmaster's Assemblies, I'd like to take this final time speaking in front of you, to say to every student in this room a massive thank you: not only those Upper Sixth who have been great friends to me over the years, but also to those from the younger years who have all been in a word, fantastic.

This year more than any before has been a Rendcomb full of energy, and, if I am to be completely open and honest, it breaks my heart having to leave this school, saying a final goodbye to such a genuinely great group of people. And I do hope you all realize quite how great you are. For me, it was not until I got to 6th form that I truly realized that the school Noel Wills founded was by no means an ordinary school. The campus beautiful; the students optimistic; the sense of community and friendship strong.

And to those of you who are more fortunate than I am, and have longer than two weeks left at this brilliant school, enjoy every moment of it...you are all fantastically lucky to be here. ■

Jake McKeown

Head Girl's Founder's Day Speech

For me, Rendcomb hasn't just been a school; it has been a way of life. I am the tenth member of my family to come through the school and I am the last of this current generation. When I joined J3, the Junior School was only just getting going; there were six people in my class, three of whom will be leaving at this end of this year. I have loved watching the Junior School grow up alongside me.

It was at this young age that my passion for Rendcomb started and long may it continue. The quality of the Junior School has been demonstrated today by Max* and Emily* who have been such a great double act. Perhaps we will see you in seven years' time addressing the whole School as Head Boy and Girl. Who knows? It seems an appropriate time to thank the Junior School staff for all that they did for me. Mrs Haas helped me turn my dyslexia from a weakness to a strength. She helped

me realise that with a lot of effort I could succeed academically. Just like most things, the more you put into something the more you will get out of it.

I would thank the senior school staff, for all the time and effort they have put in, making my time at Rendcomb as enjoyable and rewarding as possible. I would especially like to congratulate Mr Martin on a successful first year, and long may it continue.

So am I ready to leave after all this time? I think so, I feel Rendcomb has moulded me into the person I am today, ready to face the outside world. Rendcomb has given me the skills I need to survive and hopefully thrive.

What happens if I just can't live without Rendcomb? I may just have to come back and return as a teacher! As did Mr Wood, then Mr Brealy, Mr Thomason and even the Headmaster. But I may have to leave that to Jake, who I know will be a truly great teacher.

Rendcomb has definitely given me the opportunities to thrive, as it does with all its students. As you would expect, the School gives each pupil the skill to grow in learning and education. However, I feel Rendcomb's uniqueness lies in the fact that it continues to teach and develop those personality traits in pupils that the Founder set out all those years ago. We Rendcombians are open and engage with our surroundings. We have a cultural enrichment programme, Godman cake sales, Friday night challenges, we play Quidditch, we go on trips, perform plays, music events, sports tours, tournaments and of course we have the staff to keep us on the straight and narrow. This diverse set of opportunities, and the fact that I could follow all of these opportunities and not have to choose between them, was perfect for me. Earlier I mentioned that I had dyslexia, and this meant that you would naturally find me

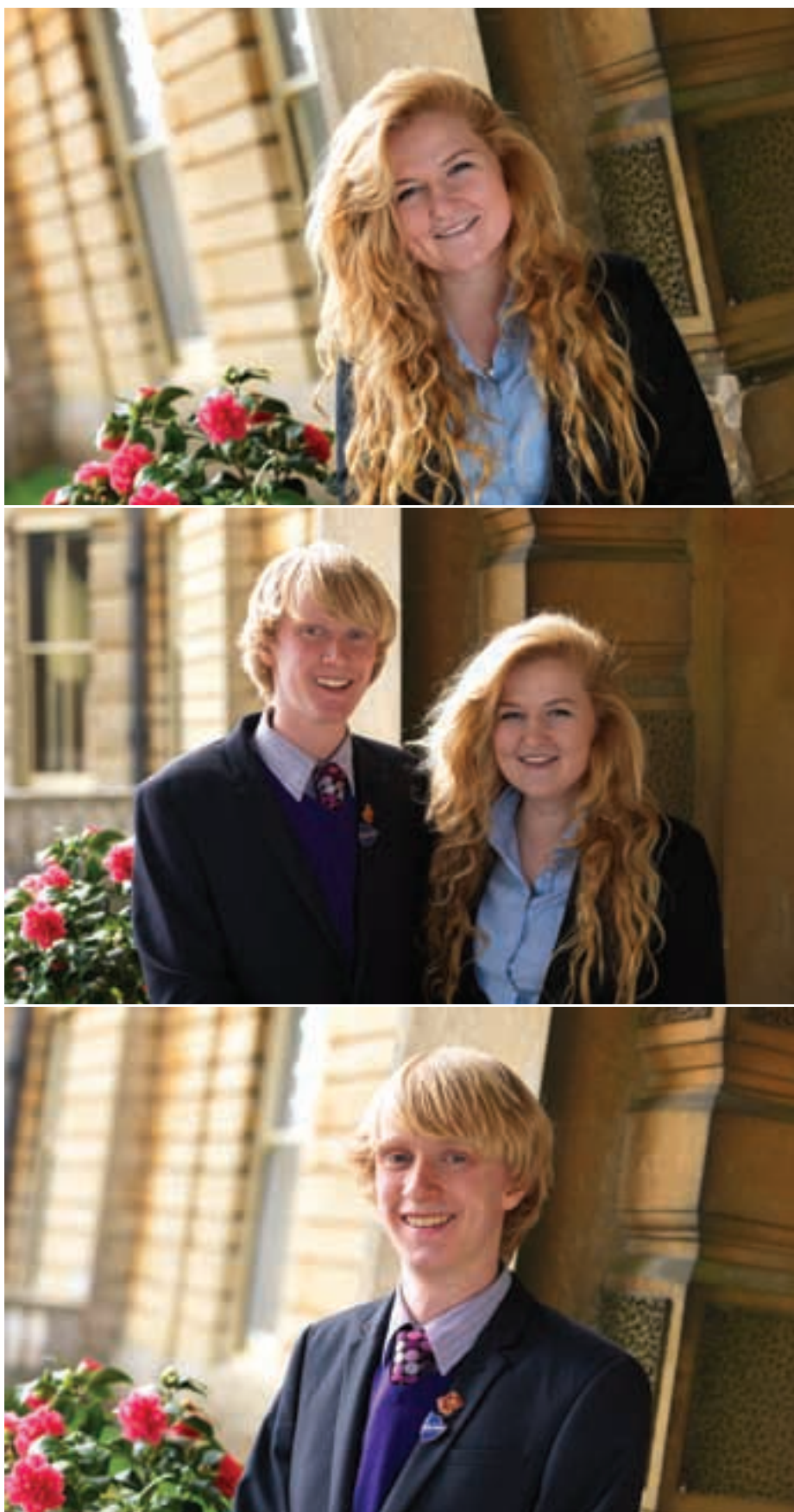
on the stage or playing sport before ever getting me to read a book, praised for the talents I had, yet also supported in developing those that were less strong, including my reading. The plays and musicals at Rendcomb lit my passion for performing and helped me become a more confident and open individual. The rush after a performance, for me, is about being high on life. This meant my enthusiasm for the next play, and the requirement to learn lines, was a way of helping me read while working towards doing something I loved. This idea that each pupil is treated as an individual is a crucial ingredient into making a Rendcombian.

The sports teams at Rendcomb have helped me learn how I could keep my cool under pressure and how communication on and off the field was so important. My brother, now an Old Rendcombian, said to me recently, 'you won't play in another team that plays with the same passion and heart as you have at Rendcomb,' and unfortunately I think this will be true. I think that it must be down to the fact you live alongside your friends, so by the time you get on the field you are unified as a team, and don't play for yourself and individual glory, but for your team mates and the well-earned shared victory. We have had an incredibly lovely year group and I think we will continue to keep in contact - with OR year groups, supporting each other over the decades, coming together to celebrate good times, but more importantly to support each other through the bad.

There is a unique support network that is the family of Rendcomb, past, present and future, including my parents and me. So my journey as a pupil is over, but my journey as an Old Rendcombian is only just beginning. To those of you lucky enough to still be a pupil, take all you can from the Rendcomb experience and when you get to Sixth Form, you will be able to help give something back.

To conclude, I will leave you with the lyrics of a song: 'If you get the chance to sit it out or dance, I hope you dance, I hope you dance.' I know I will ... Thank you. ■

Holly Phelps



Extracts from Headmaster's Founder's Day Speech

Had you told me twenty-three years ago when I was sitting where you are sitting that I would end up standing where I am standing at any point in my future, I would have thought the possibility ludicrous. But it is a tremendous honour and privilege to be so-doing on a day when we pay tribute to a great man of foresight at an exciting time for his vision for Rendcomb to be refocused and reinvigorated.

With the great canon of Literature from which to choose an opening gambit, it is perhaps surprising that I have found myself thinking of *The Lion King* 3, Hakuna Matata. Some of our younger audience members may know it. Timon, a rather accident-prone Meercat encounters the wise old mandrill, Rafiki for the first time. 'Hey, where did you come from?' asks Timon. 'Oh, the better question is, 'where are you going?'" laughs Rafiki in reply.

In essence, both of these questions have been prominent in my mind over the last eighteen months both in personal terms and in the context of Rendcomb: where it has come from, where it has been and most importantly, where it is going. Of course, for me as an Old Rendcombian, there is a degree of crossover at this point: I remember some of the journey that Rendcomb has been through and return with a sense of vocation – and I do not use that term lightly – to help to take the school to where it could and should be going in the next few years.

Margaret Fairless Barber, a writer of Christian meditations, reflected 'To look backward for a while is to refresh the eye, to restore it, and to render it more fit for its prime function of looking forward'. Looking backwards, becoming reacquainted with the School's history; speaking with a number of Old Rendcombians and former staff members has certainly helped to 'refresh the eye'. However, the most inspirational and restorative relationship I have re-formed is with the Founder himself, Noel Wills. Through reading his Collected Verse and

Prose this year; from trying to tune into the relationship he formed with another great and revolutionary educationalist, James Herbert Simpson, Rendcomb's founding Headmaster, and through learning about the ways that these two men shaped and changed the dream that Noel Wills had for the School I have felt fitter for the purpose of looking forward to where we are going.

In a part-spiritual, part-existential moment, Rafiki gives his student, Timon some advice: 'Look beyond what you see'. Noel Wills was blessed by being able to look beyond what he could see: a society ravaged by the horrors of the First World War, a class culture that was unfair and an educational landscape that was uneven. Blessed by talent, privilege and a noble integrity he was determined to do what he could to change some of the injustices that he beheld. He also held a twenty-first century view – and I have not made an error there – of what a good education involved. Noel Wills believed that music, Art, outdoor activity, sports, drama and an essential appreciation of the world in which we live was an important part of a good educational experience, supplementing learning with a culture that encourages and promotes a love of learning. In short, there is very little that we can learn from the practiced rhetoric of some of my more esteemed and carefully publicized fellow Heads that could not have been suggested by the Founder of this very School almost a hundred years ago.

It is no accident then that the document you have been given today, *The Onward Journey*, begins by asserting the importance to Rendcomb of being a Wills School. We should celebrate how fortunate we are to have benefitted from the vision of Noel Wills and as Rendcombians, be proud to have been a part of the School that he founded. We should be thankful too that the ongoing support of his legacy has been so carefully nurtured by members of the Wills family, the support of Trustees and good Governance.

You have in front of you *The Onward Journey*. The document gives an outline of our plans for the next five years for the Seniors. It is not just a glossy brochure or a makeshift prospectus: it is a declaration of intent. I make no apologies for putting an academic agenda on the table: Rendcomb is an academic School that teaches an academic curriculum. Our role as teachers is to ensure that good teaching and learning is at the heart of everything that we do; our role as managers and Governors is to ensure that every decision is motivated by an educational purpose; our ambition for our children is that they can be the best they can be and that they leave the School having developed interests, skills, relationships and passions that will stay with them for life. I make no apologies for emphasizing the boarding ethos that should be the dominant and driving culture in the school from which all pupils – day and boarding – can experience an enriching co-curricular programme. There have been abundant individual and collective achievements in all areas of the School this year of which we should be proud. There will be more of them in the future. I make no apologies for stating that we should be using our site purposefully to provide educational opportunities for our pupils or that we should be developing facilities to give whole-school benefit to the Rendcombians of the present and future.

For all of us here, I should like to close by commending to you the words of Ralph Waldo Emerson, another visionary: 'What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us'

Rendcombians, guests, colleagues, parents: we all have 'within us' the stuff that will make Rendcomb a School of which Noel Wills would be proud. Now, let's achieve that goal... ■

Staff News

Never an average day for a Bursar

While many may not know who Mrs Eleanor Sharman is, she is actually one of the most important people on campus. As Rendcomb's Bursar she controls everything that is not directly involved with teaching and learning. "If you work it out I do the financial side of the school, I'm responsible for all the buildings, all the grounds, health and safety, all the catering, all the cleaning and all the administrative tasks," Mrs Sharman said. With so many responsibilities, tasks and staff to manage it's hard to fathom how she does it all. "I have four main people that report to me: Pete Cairns who's the Works manager, Mark Naylor the Commercial Operations manager, Susie Watkins the Finance manager, and Carol Endersby who's my secretary, and I probably speak to the four of them three to four times every day."

When asked to describe the job of a Bursar Mrs Sharman rightly described it as juggling. "We operate 52 weeks a year, even when the pupils go away we carry on working, and are in fact busier when there's not pupils here because we can get more done; but of course we also use the buildings for outside use as well. We have weddings, dinners, parties and conferences so the juggling, for me, comes for the increased demand for the buildings and the requirement to get the buildings maintained and upgraded; and trying to do all this whilst making sure we're in a financially strong position." Eleanor Sharman has plenty of practice juggling all that comes with the job as she was previously a Bursar at a state school. "All schools have their own quirks but this is just a bigger, slightly more complicated, version of that. But my background is actually not in schools. My background is Hotel Management, which has probably stood me in good form for dealing with a school, especially a boarding school as they aren't that different," she said.

While all aspects of the school are important, Rendcomb is perched on roughly 230 acres so the works department can require a bit more of her attention. "Given the size of the place, the buildings and the grounds, the works probably takes a

little more time. Also we're dealing with quite old and complicated buildings so it's never your average problem where you can call someone out. If you need work done normally you need a specialist team. The works team hasn't done anything particularly large this year as they've needed to do much routine work. A lot of what we do people wouldn't even notice. For example over the summer, we renovated one of the roofs on one of the sides of Stable Block. Now nobody would've noticed that, but it was something that had to be overseen and happen during the holiday period," Eleanor said. "However, in previous years we've done bigger projects with the renovation of Park House, the creation of Assistant House Parent housing in Lawn and Stable Houses and we've swapped those boarding houses over."

When deciding what department or project takes priority it all comes down to the students. "Pupils come first. If there's something a pupil needs or something that is affecting the pupils, than we try to prioritize that," the Bursar told us.

On top of everything else Mrs Sharman seems to pick up the little pieces that can fall through the cracks and still go unnoticed once picked up, such as stepping behind the picnic tables to serve staff members at the Headmaster's Barbeque or driving the shuttle up to Top Pitch and back on Open Day. While these tasks are not officially part of her job they are connected to her overall job of supporting the school. "If I can do something that the school will benefit from, like driving the shuttle bus on Open Day, then that's what my role is. Fundamentally our role is just to make sure we can deal with things that might otherwise land on the Headmaster's desk."

"I don't really do pressure. I have a very down to earth view on things, that if we all just work together and get on with it, than we can achieve it. There's no point in creating pressure in any situation because it doesn't do anything." ■

Miss C Hebert

News from the Medical Centre

It was a very busy start with the rugby this year as many students came off worse for wear after only the first match! Sisters Julie and Louise have been busy patching the students up so they could get back on sport as soon as possible. We can usually be found on the touchline, ready and waiting, to tackle anything that comes our way (even the ball!).

I, Sister Julie, have been watching the rugby for 25 years and still do not know the rules! I guess I never will.

We have had the usual complaints of coughs and colds, the headaches and sore throats, sore muscles and joints. We have also had a good range of excuses as to why the students feel they should be off games. We can usually tell who is genuine. Students, you have been warned!

This year we welcomed Sue Ellis to the medical centre on a regular basis as the School Listener. She has helped out when required for 20 years but we felt everyone would benefit from her expertise if she had a set day she would be in school. Sue provides a confidential service for students and staff and is here to listen to all the worries and concerns you may have and hopefully help you through any tough times.

We had another successful first aid training session for a number of staff to give them the knowledge and confidence to help in emergency situations.

Sisters Julie will continue to provide support and care around the clock during the term to keep everyone healthy and happy, and, although the Medical Centre is sad to lose Sister Louise as her family is posted abroad, we have been glad to welcome Sister Fiona Stanford and Sister Jill Church. Both join us with a wealth of medical experience. ■

Sister J Rogers

Farewell to Lindsey North



Lindsey North's retirement marks the end of an era. It is impossible in a short article such as this to cover all aspects of his contribution to Rendcomb, but I hope it will give a flavour of the part he has played in College life over the last sixteen years.

Brought up in Barnsley, Lindsey came to Rendcomb in 1996 as Head of French after spells at Cheltenham College and Sir Thomas Rich's in Gloucester. In his role as a linguist Lindsey inspired generations of pupils, especially the high-fliers, with his love of modern languages. He is immensely knowledgeable about his subject, and puts it across with that air of cultivated eccentricity which is so often the

hallmark of the good teacher. His knowledge of European culture and literature is profound, and if you want to know about Racine or Flaubert or Moliere, then Lindsey is your man. Nor have his languages been confined to the classroom: he has taken school parties to Normandy, and he ran the Cheltenham/Annecy exchange scheme for many years until health and safety legislation made such a scheme impossible to continue.

As a Housemaster, Lindsey has what I imagine is a unique distinction – running three different houses in his time at Rendcomb. He started with School House in 1999, took on the job of running Stable House from John and Sandra Williams in Sept 2001, did that for seven years, and finally ran the 3rd Form day house, College House, until this summer. Being a housemaster takes over your entire life, but, as Bobby Morgan wrote in the recent OR Newsletter, Lindsey 'had the essential requirements – a respect and affection for the pupils in his charge and endless patience in dealing with their disasters... I was always struck by the sensitivity and compassion that Lindsey displayed in handling situations when boys were in trouble, even when he had every right to be livid with the culprit'. That is the mark of a caring Housemaster, and he commanded genuine affection from the students under his charge.

And then there is sport. Lindsey began by running the U15B cricket team, but within a year he had succeeded John Watson as Master in charge of Cricket, a job he continued to do until 2003. Cricket flourished under his amiable, affable guidance, and his period in charge coincided with one of the most successful periods in Rendcomb's recent history. He then transferred to running Minor Games,

an important task in any school, and once again his contribution was greatly appreciated by pupils and hard-pressed house staff alike.

Outside the classroom, Lindsey's interests are legion, as the following (selective) list makes clear: Bob Dylan; Bruce Springsteen; Eric Clapton; foreign travel (notably to the USA and Australia); cameo appearances as a guitarist in Rendcomb rock concerts; walking on the North Yorkshire coast and enjoying a good pint of bitter. He is also of course a Liverpool supporter – though perhaps one shouldn't mock the afflicted.

It was, however, in Drama that Lindsey found his true vocation beyond the classroom. The cast in school plays always looked forward to Mr North being in the audience: with his infectious laughter, they knew the show would go well when he was in the house. He also appeared on stage himself: as Pop, the aged and rather bewildered hippy in *We Will Rock You* and, most notably of all, as the Elvis Presley look-alike, Vince Fonteyn, in *Grease*. The Rendcombian reviewer at the time, Richard Murray, wrote "It was left to Mr. North to wear the most ridiculous wig and play the part of Vince Fonteyn, a part which I think he should consider playing on a full-time basis if he ever decides to cease teaching." So perhaps Lindsey can now consider a new career path.

Looking back over Lindsey's time at Rendcomb, he has been more than a teacher – he has been a true 'schoolmaster', giving unstintingly of his talents and always willing to help out when needed. There can be no greater praise in his vocabulary I know, but the description fits him exactly. Bobby Morgan, as ever, summed it up perfectly at the end of his article in the OR newsletter: Lindsey "can look back and say that he really has done it all". He has indeed, and we wish him a long and happy retirement. He will be genuinely missed. ■

Mr M Graham

Miss Joy Gibson

When Ron Kelsey retired in 1995 and I became Head of Chemistry, it was always going to be a challenge to attract a well-qualified and dedicated Chemist to join the department and share the teaching at all levels. We were fortunate to appoint Joy who had taught at Denmark Road, Gloucester with its high standards and who had strong practical skills. It was immediately apparent that Joy is a thorough and committed teacher and soon she took on the coordination of Lower School Science. She ensured that the science staff had access to well organised worksheets and a wealth of resources for practicals and demonstrations. She also arranged many interesting trips, including the annual visit to the Cheltenham Science Festival.

Joy always strived for clarity in her explanation of Chemistry. She always tried to give extra time to those who needed it and to find ways of stretching the more able students by entering them for the Royal Society of Chemistry's Chemical Olympiad or for Advanced Extension papers. Consequently she was able to inspire many students to pursue Chemistry or Chemistry related degrees at university.

Joy took over the running of the department from me and provided great support when I became Director of Studies. Despite an absence due to a serious illness, Joy bounced back and threw herself into the teaching of Chemistry once again. Finally she took on the responsibility of coordinating the Biology, Chemistry and Physics departments.

Rendcomb has been fortunate to have such a dedicated teacher of Chemistry, continuing a long tradition. The College will miss her and I speak for many Old Rendcombians when I say 'thank you for the Chemistry and enjoy a long and happy retirement'.

Chris Wood OR and former staff



Mrs Hilary Hill

Hilary Hill was recruited to the Modern Languages Department as part-time teacher of Spanish in 2007 and subsequently took on full responsibility for teaching this subject up to GCSE level.

Spanish becomes available to students in the third year and has become an increasingly popular choice at Rendcomb for many students. Hilary took the difficult role of being a one-person Department very seriously and was conscientious and thorough in her approach to teaching.

As a part-time teacher here, Hilary was able to use her skills in other educational establishments where she taught French, notably at The Royal Agricultural College.

We wish Hilary well with her future plans on her retirement from Rendcomb.

Headmaster

New Staff

Economics

*Miss A C Smith,
BA (Hons), PGCE

English

Miss S E Jones,
BA (Hons), PGCE

ICT

*Mr J W Torbitt,
BSc (Hons), PGCE

Latin

Mrs E Noble,
BA

Learning Support

Mrs C N Hossle,
BA, AMBDA, Dip ED, PGCE

Science

Mrs S K E O'Sullivan,
MA, PGDip, PGCE, MSc

Modern Languages

Miss J S Longbourne,
BA, PGCE

Mr D J Pope,
MA, MSt, PGCE

Music

Mr D J Ashman,
BA (Hons), PGCE

Games

Miss C Hebert
Miss A Kelly

Mr A Ponting

Miss J K Quick, BA

Miss Amy Smith

Miss Smith recently came to Rendcomb after spending three years at Dulwich College in South London. She is the Head of the Economics department, a subject that is being offered at Rendcomb for the first time.

What do you like about Rendcomb?

I love the small classes - getting to know the kids well, and also getting to know the staff. I also really love the buildings, they are so beautiful, and the Stable Block is amazing.

Are there any extra-curricular activities with which you're involved?

I coach Hockey in Forms one and two, which I really enjoy. I was a county hockey player when I was younger, and have played for many teams, so it is really good to coach at the younger levels. I also run the Economics society, in a Friday activity slot. I am in the midst of promoting the Student Investor Challenge to Rendcomb students, where students can take fake money and sell for profits on the stock markets. It's a national competition with national prizes but Rendcomb's top team will also receive a prize.

Please tell us a fun fact about yourself?

Well, I have a pet gecko. He's called Scout and he's six years old. They're meant to live for twenty years - so I've made a big commitment!

And finally... do you have a favourite Band? Or song?

Yes I LOVE Arcade Fire. Any song of theirs is my favourite. Any song at all. ■

Tom Pethick

Miss Sarah Jones (Mrs Read)

Miss Jones is teaching English at Rendcomb after spending four years at the Isambard Community School in Swindon. She is getting married during the school's half term break and will then become Mrs Read.

What do you do at Rendcomb in addition to teaching?

I love coaching the 4th Form Hockey though, as I played it throughout my time at school and I'm looking to move into the Duke of Edinburgh side of things too. I also help out on duties at Old Rec. It's extremely fun.

How are you settling into life at Rendcomb?

It's great! I'm settling into Rendcomb very well. I like the students - they are all so polite and seem always to smile! I love the surroundings; the beautiful countryside around here is spectacular.

If there was one, what would you say is a fun fact about yourself?

Rock climbing. I train once a week and I love it. It links in with my ambition to help with the D of E expeditions, because I love being out and about. I am hopefully going on a rock climbing holiday to Spain within a couple of years, to test my skills!

Have you got a favourite Band or song?

I like the Foo Fighters. I like them so much that my Wedding song is an acoustic version of Everlong. It's great. ■

Tom Pethick



Mrs Saskia O'Sullivan

Miss O'Sullivan studied at Cambridge and taught previously at Ribston Hall High School years before coming to Rendcomb as Head of Science.

When and why did you decide to teach?

As a Senior Youth Worker, working with young people in Southmead, Bristol, I was involved in setting up participation projects, meeting with pupils after-school and in the holidays. I then married a teacher, whose parents are teachers, and this led me to consider a career in teaching, which I am very glad I pursued. Teaching is better than I expected. I never wanted to be a teacher at school or University, yet, having become one, I can't think of a more important or rewarding job than being involved in the education of young people who have the potential to achieve wonderful and rewarding things - I love my job!

What was Cambridge like and what did you study?

I studied Natural Sciences at Cambridge, which was fantastic - you don't have to specialise in a particular science early on, so you effectively keep studying a broad diet of science until your third year. There is also, as with all Universities, so much to be involved with beyond the lectures, tutorials and practicals, so I was able to play University lacrosse and athletics, act at the Edinburgh fringe and Minack theatre in Cornwall, row for my College 1st boat, sing in King's College Chapel and on tour in Italy - as well as the usual student socialising. ■

Miss Jessica Quick

Miss Quick joins the Rendcomb staff as a Graduate Teaching Assistant after studying History at the University of East Anglia.

Tell us about life at Rendcomb?

I help in the History department in Main College. I have always wanted to work in schools and coming to Rendcomb has made me decide I definitely want to be a teacher! I also teach sport (hockey to the almighty U13s this term) and I help out with Duke of Edinburgh. I really enjoyed school myself and I enjoy working in a school so that I can carry on learning.

Who has been the biggest influence on your life?

Sarah Outen. She was the first woman to sail around the Indian Ocean single-handedly. She is very inspiring and she shows how important it is to challenge yourself.

What was your first day teaching like?

My first time standing up in front of a class was nerve wrecking but very positive!

Any particular moments you've found starting a teaching career that have been challenging?

I think that the start of something new is always challenging but Rendcomb has been especially welcoming, particularly Miss Berry with whom I share a house. ■

Dan Thomas



Mr Jonathan Torbitt

Mr Torbitt is Rendcomb's new Director of ICT. He joins us from a teaching post in Bedfordshire and a career in the Army.

When and why did you decide to teach?

I started teaching of sorts in the Army, as a Regimental training Officer, then with Recruit Soldier training and finally in my last two jobs in the Army, mainly working with the Afghanistan campaign.

What past Jobs have you had?

I have been an Army Officer – Trained recruit soldiers; delivered logistics and humanitarian aid in Kosovo, Macedonia and Iraq; designed logistic systems for the Apache Attack Helicopter as well as Airborne/Air Assault troops in the Army; mentored former mujahdeed in the Afghanistan National Army with some interesting 'on the job training' in Helmand; finally worked in Defence Intelligence as part of 15 (UK) Psychological Operations Group effecting strategic and tactical change in various theatres (not of the cultured type!). Possibly my coolest ever job title was SO3 PSYOPS(A) - Officer Commanding Tactical Team Alpha! More recently I have taught ICT and Computing in an outstanding comprehensive school in Bedfordshire

Why Rendcomb?

Two things: the chance to design my own courses and to provide a cutting-edge learning environment from scratch made me apply; when I walked into Reception I knew that this was the place for me. I trust my instincts and am rarely wrong in this regard.

How are you finding the school?

a) Outstanding b) Challenging
c) Rewarding d) Supportive e) Positive

How different is this school from the one you went to during the teen years?

In some ways, very different. My school was in inner city Belfast and you would come back after the summer holidays to find the school windows smashed as a result of the marching season protests. However, in some respects it was very similar that whilst it was a much bigger day school, the teachers knew every single pupil to see and by name, all 1300, and this was before computer systems with photos on them.

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

Don't care, will take them all on. ■



Mrs Cheryl Hossle

Mrs Hossle joins Rendcomb's Music and Special Educational Needs departments, coming with a wealth of experience in a variety of schools.

Please tell us about your journey into teaching?

My first degree is in Music and as a mature student, I studied for my Masters in Education. Second time around, I was much more diligent and put more effort into reading the books properly. I like new challenges and have been lucky enough to have a varied career within education. Working within the field of special education, there are always challenges, but the rewards are very great. I decided to teach when I was at Music College. I had thought about travelling around with an orchestra and playing the Double Bass, but had not thought everything through. My Double Bass teacher advised me to get a PGCE after my degree. Having parents who were teachers, I was not too sure ... However, when I embarked on my PGCE in London, I was launched into a totally different life from Music College. Meeting a mix of children from Somalia, India and Pakistan during teaching practice, I never looked back. In my first post at a boys' prep school, as a newly married RAF wife, I drew parallels between the men on the squadron and my own class.

Who has been the biggest influence on your life?

God. My Christian faith is something I value strongly, but also my family.

Quite recently, I orchestrated a Cathedral Service for five schools, in order to raise money for a charity called 'the Knock-On Effect' created by a student Rosie Kilburn, who was suffering from cancer. This culminated in a wonderful event but more importantly money was raised to benefit the siblings of those suffering from cancer.

Surprise us. Please tell us something else about you?

My favourite pastime is being in my sea kayak and paddling around the coast... ■



Miss Cathy Hebert and Miss Alexia Kelly

Miss Hebert and Miss Kelly have come to Rendcomb after recently graduating from Universities in the United States. They are Graduate Assistants, coaching lacrosse and hockey while also helping out with House duties, science and marketing.

Miss Hebert cites the 'pretty beautiful grounds' as her favourite things about Rendcomb; Miss Kelly is a particular fan of the staffroom cakes.

Please tell us an interesting fact about yourself:

Miss Hebert: 'I hate fruit. I don't like any types of fruit at all.'

Miss Kelly: 'I have a concerning addiction to peanut butter: both crunchy and smooth. When it is mixed together with Nutella it creates a dangerous combination.'

Finally, what would you say has been your most embarrassing moment at Rendcomb so far?

Miss Hebert: 'I was out on a run, down from Top Pitch, reaching the bottom, I felt pretty proud because I hadn't fallen over any of the roots spread all over the trails. So, I briefly stopped looking at the floor and carried on running; as soon as I'd done that, I managed to trip on one of the tree roots and was sent tumbling down a hill. Unfortunately this happened in front of most of the Works team - very funny but very embarrassing.'

Miss Kelly: 'This would have to be when I stalled the car a mere 15 times on the drive near Stable House. Every time I tried to go again, the car just stalled, at the moment when a lot of the 5th form pupils were walking past. Very embarrassing.'

Kathryn Rew

Miss Jennifer Longbourne

What was University like and what did you read?

I did a Joint Honours degree in French and German at Bristol University. The highlight was my second year: I moved into a house with three good friends. We spent much of our free time giving our home some much needed love, in the company of some mice... and a slug, which took up residence in the oven. I should also mention my third year which I spent abroad in Bonn and Tours; this was certainly life-changing, even if a little lonely at times.

Is teaching different from how you imagined it would be?

Teaching is full of surprises - it's hard to imagine accurately even what the next day will be like, however carefully you plan your lessons.

Funniest moment in your career? or two even?

A very naughty pupil at my last school took it upon himself to lock himself in my classroom cupboard as a joke. Not only did he manage to turn off the light, but also he had the cupboard key in there with him. It took some thinking to work out how to get him out; and I'm not sure how funny it was at the time!

Who has been the biggest influence on your life?

It's slightly sentimental, I know, but it has to be my father. He has encouraged me to be determined to succeed no matter what. In fact, if it wasn't for him, I probably wouldn't be here.

Surprise us. Please tell us something else about you

I tend to be rather enigmatic - I'm not one to give much away about myself! ■





Art Review

This year, the Art students worked on a variety of projects that inspired creative thought and interpretation by all.



The Sixth Form art students were given the topic of "Agony and Ecstasy." The pupil's task was to understand what was meant by the phrase and, through the use of any combination of materials, find a way to explain what it means. Two of the pupils that really understood and excelled in the project were Upper Sixth students Holly Phelps and Kat Daly.

Holly looked at the film "The Stalker" and created a pictorial representation of the movie. The director, Tarvski, had a really good understanding of light, forms and structure; so she was interpreting a filmmaker's work that already had sensitivity to painting. Kat was looking at the nature of animals and instincts while also exploring the ominous, sometimes violent, persona of animals in nature. Her theme was also based on the poems of Ted Hughes that were inspired by nature.

The A2 Photography students worked on a project titled "Halcyon Days," which refers to remembering positive memories, particularly memories of childhood. Miles Metcalfe looked at the sense of place as well as the sense of belonging students have. Jordan Thomas looked at bygone days and

his childhood, considering the elements that had helped form the person he is today.

The GCSE students were working on colour and emotion of the face and exam course work. The students chose different starting points and produced a series of individual paintings and sculptures. The students' artistic responses were varied, eclectic and individual but all produced strong work.

The Holocaust Memorial day reminds us of the atrocity committed to humankind and helps us learn from our past. We worked with the Lower School students to try to get them to understand the number of different people that were persecuted and to perceive the scale of what happened. We had them focus on symbols and how symbols often have more power than direct imagery. Using symbols, we wanted to see how they symbolized the Holocaust in a way that it would be remembered and never repeated. The work of 53 students from years 8 and 9 was combined to make a Holocaust Shroud for Cirencester Parish Church; it was also on display at the Rendcomb Art exhibition at Calcot Manor. ■

Mr A O'Hanlon and Miss C Herbert

3



1. Chanelle McGriff
Title
2. Holly Phelps
Circus Man
3. Miles Metcalfe
A Sense of Place
4. Kat Daly
Prowling
5. Jolice Wong
Water
6. Beryl Zheng
Red String Man

4



5



6



Art Review

For Rendcombians,
a sense of place was
found at Calcot Manor

2



1



3



1. Christopher Minton
Remains
2. Emma Lavender
Dove
Holly Phelps
Rose Self Portrait
Christine Khireccu
Textile Design
Emmeline Meborn-Hubbard
Cat
3. Kat Daly
Containment

In celebration of two years of hard work a batch of Rendcombians' GCSE and A level artwork was displayed for all to see at Calcot Manor. The exhibition, titled "A Sense of Place", designed by Mr. O'Hanlon and Ms Roffe, was meant to celebrate and bring recognition to the students' original works.

"Calcot Manor exhibition came about because I wanted to create an art exhibition with student art work that was perceived as a professional exhibition rather than as a school art show," Mr O'Hanlon enthused. "I also wanted to get the artwork out of the school environment and into the public so that members of the general public could see it. We were also selling the art work so it was important that the show be handled in a professional manner."

Students ages 14-19 had the opportunity to get their paintings, drawings, sculptures, videos and photographs selected by the Art department to be displayed. "It was a selective exhibition in that Ms Roffe and I, as well as our Upper Sixth students selected the work to go into the exhibition...I think most people thought that the standard of work and the presentation were professional and impressive. We were looking for high quality work but we were also looking for work that showed range in terms of media, materials, technique, style and context. I felt it was a really good culmination of two years' worth of work and it was representative of those students and their body of work. Everyone who came was very enthused."

With the title of the exhibition coming from a title of a student's essay about having a sense of place within their school, it was important to choose a place that had similarities to Rendcomb. "We felt that the work was placed really well at Calcot Manor because essentially it's a Cotswold Manor in the middle of the countryside, and so is Rendcomb. There are some similarities between the two".

The event was a success in that the students' work was seen and sold to the public but most importantly it was a success because it set a strong foundation for what Mr O'Hanlon hopes will become a biannual event for Rendcomb College.

Mr O'Hanlon would like to thank everyone that made the Calcot Manor show a success but would especially like to thank Ms Roffe for her dedication, hard work and teaching over the past two years, the Headmaster for supporting the exhibition, the Rendcomb College Parents Association for funding the exhibition, especially their unwavering support, Peter Cairns and the works team for creating the boards as well as loading and unloading the exhibition, the students for their hard work and the incredible staff at Calcot Manor. ■

Mr A O'Hanlon and Miss C Herbert

DRAMA REVIEW

When I first heard that there might be a chance of me directing Rendcomb College's *The Pirates of Penzance*, I thought that I might be able to steer the good ship full steam ahead without falling foul, running aground, or crashing on the rocks of self-doubt and despair. As soon as I beheld my trusty crew (of whom I speak in no 'Pethic' ular order), I knew that I would Rew the day when we eventually sailed into port (for as any seafarer will tell you – it's the sailing over stormy seas that's important, not the dropping anchor).

The Pirates of Penzance

Led by Tom (Pirate King) Pethick, and ably steered to the fair shores of success by Sam/Will Cabin Boy, the crew looked to their Witts to buff up and polish the Masthead of success and dispel the barnacles of bad acting. How my pirate cup overflowed with the ale of content as the triumvirate of Pethick, Rew and Witts led Messers Anderson, Jones, McGriff, McKeown, Pearce, Timmis, Warhurst, Wason-Cooper and Watson a merry dance (and dance they did), at once filling the stage with rakish pirate japes and capers! Oh, how my face ached from smiling as I beheld the pirate crew as they merrily fought their foe and wooed their women (more about that later!).

Oh yes, as each week passed and the likelihood of reaching the dry land of sure-footed performance and the fresh water of note perfect, line perfect singing dwindled, so I recharged my cup of hope with others' efforts. How will I ever forget Eddie 'Ten'tion' the Sergeant Geerah with his sassy dance steps and 'do-as-I-do, not as-I-say' attitude to dance? His worm? His leadership of PCs Brealy, Frost, McLaughlin, Suarez, Cruzat and Summers? No, this water-biscuit of joy was the nutrition which staved off scurvy and kept this sad old cap'n from going mad.

Or are my memories deceiving me? Have I partaken of salt water or felled the albatross of truth with the arrow of forgetfulness? Just as the sun rises in the East, so every beauty has its day. The good pirate ship would not have kept its course straight and true if it hadn't been for the leadership of the principal maidens. Many a rehearsal I found myself like mariners of old distracted by the fancy footwork and charmed by the melodious harmonies of the maidens, all led by Emma, Lauren and Eve. Such were Emma's alluring charms that we



almost had to re-christen the Pirate King Bluebeard. Thankfully the coracle of pirate passion was tempered by the innocent loveliness of the 'younger' maidens. For this ensemble - with their colourful dresses, tuneful voices, synchronised dance steps and quality acting - all of which kept the good ship POP afloat every night of its run - for this, this old sea dog is grateful.

But what of the father to these Maidens? What can be said about the man who climbed the mast of syncopation single-handedly to raise the flag of excellence? How can I begin to summarise Major General Pugh's masterful moves about our vessel's deck, or his interesting inter-action with the fixed digital score? Suffice to say the sextant of song had never rung truer!

Even now the oceans of memory elude me. For as with every voyage, the beginning and end must be set true. So it was with our hero and heroine, Edward and Olivia. As our voyage embarked and then anchored, so their characters' tale of love and woe wove a web in the good ship POPs' casts' hearts.

However, no Captain would be worth his epaulettes if he didn't mention the shipwright who created the craft in the first place - so special thanks to Mrs Scace for all her help with the costumes. Then again, no roll of honour would be complete without mentioning the swashbuckling song-smith Cap'n Franks who regularly commandeered the craft, press-ganging her crew to submit to tuneful tidal waves of headway-making, hornpipe-jigging harmonies; he forced them to walk the plank of possibility into the hungry jaws of the serpent of success - for which I am most grateful. Lastly, before my little speech moors in the Bay of Content, I would like to offer my enormous thanks to the person who commissioned the vessel - Mrs Dodd (not to mention the behind the scenes helpers who did more than I can say). I enjoyed the voyage. Thank you! ■

Mr J Marshall

Our Country's Good was in stark contrast to our previous show *Hairspray*. Cheesy smiles, tap dancing and musical choreography were replaced with whipping, torment and brutality, as we told the story of life for the first convicts to arrive in Australia. However, a play is put on in the Australian colony, bringing hope to the convicts in a world of darkness.

Our Country's Good

The cast was split into two worlds – convict or officer – and people quickly took to these roles, with different costumes, changing rooms, and make-up: the officers wore grand red jackets from the Royal Shakespeare Company, while convicts wore ripped rags and were covered from head to toe in fake mud. The segregation soon led to the officers striding into the make-up room pushing past convicts, proudly calling 'Empire!'

This performance continued on the stage, as Eric Li was transformed into a ruthless thug, shaking, shouting and sneering in rage throughout – audience members would cower should he come close to them. Opposing him were Tom Benson and Jake McKeown, they acted as the two officers of decency in the moral darkness of the First Fleet in early Sydney.

Just as the 'play-within-a-play' allowed convicts to shine, this play brought

to light new actors such as Maria Highlands, who for the first time in her life took to the stage in the tragic role of Liz Morden, which she acted with great understanding and powerful emotion. However, many old-time Rendcomb stars performed, such as Kat Daly who was the bumptious Dabby, as well as Ali Sinfield and Kathryn Rew, who fantastically portrayed a highly complex officer-convict relationship.

The legend of Rendcomb performances, Holly Phelps, took to her last role at Rendcomb after appearing in nearly every show since *Les Miserables* at the age of eight. Holly played the lead female Mary Brenham, giving both poignancy and subtlety to a remarkable character. Performing as Mary's love interest was Harry Ellis, who played Ralph Clark with a fine understanding of this gentle hero.

Thanks must also go to Miles Metcalfe for stage managing the show after many years of the job, always ensuring each rehearsal and performance went as smoothly as possible.

Off stage there are many staff members to be thanked, from Mrs Scase for the brilliant costumes, to Miss Mills and her team for make-up. But behind all of it was Rendcomb's very own Queen of Drama – Mrs Dodd. Once again her directing took Rendcomb to a world they had not attempted to show before, going to great lengths of organisation and effort to entertain hundreds of family and friends, and for that a large thanks is well deserved.

This year's brilliant performance proved the versatility of Rendcomb actors, who pulled off a highly challenging play to a professional standard. Well done everyone! ■

Mrs D Dodd



Drama Tour



At the end of the Lent Term, after weeks of literally counting down the days, the 5th and 6th form drama students went on the annual drama tour. Drama Tour is a unique trip in that everyone manages to find every part of the trip fun – not just the workshops and the plays, but the train journey, hotel rooms and the register are all part of the experience. In fact, Dan Sand said to Mrs Dodd, “You know, even if Drama Tour was just going to Kemble Station and back, it would still be just as fun”.

During the three days, groups dashed across London on Theatre Hunt dressed as gangsters, Mario characters and superheroes; we attacked cast members with begs for autographs and photos after shows; we got over-excited when we jumped onto the London Eye. But of course, Drama Tour wouldn't have been complete without the shows: nostalgia arose while watching *Wizard of Oz*, Mr Jennings and Mrs Dodd had to stop themselves shouting in anger at *Billy Elliott*, and many girly screams were heard during *Woman in Black* (although many of those came from the boys).

Drama Tour was also a chance for people to prove their determination: Harry Priestner took the words “All You Can Eat” as a challenge, eating 20 slices of pizza, a new Drama Tour record; the group attempted a Cha Cha Slide flashmob at Trafalgar Square but were told to turn the music off by ‘the system’, but despite this the audience still gave cheers of support, so we quickly relocated to Piccadilly Circus. Many people also showed courage as they stepped into the Fortune Theatre, home of the terrifying *Woman in Black* and had the chance to go on stage and try knocking on the door.

After three days of excitement, we were exhausted. However, we still managed to muster up enough energy to serenade Mr Bevans with ‘Jolly Good Driver’ and ‘The Wheels on the Bus’ as we returned home. ■

Mrs D Dodd

Economics



I was curious about everything that happens around me. Studying economics satisfies my curiosity.



A Level Economics student

Youth unemployment, the Eurozone crisis, petrol prices, global warming, government debt, and university tuition fees – it will be impossible to escape economic issues when opening a newspaper this weekend.

Economics is a fascinating subject to study, as it helps you to look more deeply into the world around you, specifically how and why it functions as it does. It can also give you new perspectives on some of the most pressing and challenging problems facing the world today such as climate change, poverty and inequality, and how the government should tackle issues such as binge drinking and obesity. Economics does not revolve solely around wealth creation, or peaks and troughs in financial money markets. Economic decisions and activities impact on many different areas of society and on our own everyday lives – interest rate fluctuations, energy prices, gender pay gaps and football transfer prices, to name but a few. In a world where there is increasing debate about scarcity of resources, economics plays a key role, in that it is fundamentally concerned with how to allocate those resources most efficiently.

Outside of the classroom, teams of students are currently taking part in the IFS Student Investor Challenge which gives them the opportunity to experience the dynamic world of share trading. Competitors are given £100,000 of virtual money to invest in the stock market. By reading and forecasting market information provided by Bloomberg, they must identify shares and make judgements on when to buy and sell in order to make a profit. A trip to New York is up for grabs for the winners so GOOD LUCK TRADERS! ■

Miss A Smith

Economics A level is a new subject option at Rendcomb this year and is already proving to be a popular choice with 20 students studying the subject at A/S Level. Miss Amy Smith, Head of Economics, joins us from Dulwich College in South London, having previously worked in the banking sector after gaining a degree in Economics from the University of Nottingham.

English

It has been another fantastically busy and successful year in the English department: trips galore; challenging ideas and Literature; entertainment; inventive creative writing; academic success of the highest order!

'English Matters'... indeed it does!



2011 began at a gallop (literally), as the school was proud to host Michael Morpurgo at the Cheltenham Literature festival; quite a coup and thoroughly enjoyed by all those who were able to attend. In 2012 the College will once again play a leading part in the Literature Festival by hosting the universally acclaimed writer Anthony Horowitz. Rendcomb is dedicated and committed to being a key participant in such an important and high profile literature festival. Later in September first and second formers were able to listen to the world-acclaimed Malorie Blackman talk about her work, another hugely significant visit.

Throughout the year we have been to see plays such as *The Tempest*, *Under Milkwood*, *Journey's End*, *Twelfth Night* and my particular favourite, *The Homecoming* at the RSC: a brooding and terrifying piece the Sixth Form were studying for their set text.

In class, we have been writing plays for competitions, making videos and presentations, book-swapping on 'World Book Day', writing well, being creative, scripting plays for performance, reciting poetry live and engaging in inter-class debating. On top of that, we have been preparing for the first folk to go through the IGCSEs which has been a success: 92% A*-B in English Literature for example. And 'A' level? Terrific results but our finest accolade must go to Tom Benson for getting into Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, to study English; no doubt he will come back and haunt me when he knows more than me. Actually, I think he already does; well at least that's what he tells me! It has been a great year all round for students who threw themselves at work, took risks and had fun.

Next year? Well we are thinking of a little 'Irish Experience', but more on that at a later date. And possibly a reading weekend: watch this space! ■

Mr P Jennings

Geography



The First Year students, as part of a project on the geography of the village of Rendcomb, undertook some fieldwork lessons around the village. The students visited the Rendcomb Mill and discussed this important building as well as the crucial nature of the River Churn on the settlement of Rendcomb. The students also visited the village hall which uses geothermal energy as well as the College's main building to discuss its heritage. Mr Cairns, Works Team Manager, spoke to the year during a lunch break about the College's sustainable practices such as recycling waste as well as the College's tree planting program. He also alluded to the plans for the College's estate grounds and the use of the farmland across the valley for elephant grass to be used as biofuel. The students also visited the site of one of the springs that emits from the valley side due to the Fuller's Earth Clay (volcanic ash deposits) sandwiched between the oolitic limestone deposited beneath tropical seas some 170 million years ago. ■

Miss M Lucas

Six months in Rendcomb by a grateful geographer

Rendcomb College has been a trainee teacher's dream for the past two terms. I thought it wise to gain observational teaching experience before beginning my PGCE course and my good fortune brought me to the imposing yet welcoming doors of this impressive school. It was the end of the Michaelmas term when I came to visit, the Christmas tree was decorated and the Junior School carol concert was in full voice – immediately I had a good feeling.

My contract depicts my role as part-time teaching assistant and whilst accurate, this description does not do my time at Rendcomb justice. Under the always encouraging and supportive wing of Michelle Lucas, I have had a fantastic time in the Geography Department. Geography is a broad, dynamic, relevant and exciting subject and the attitudes of the staff and pupils learning it at Rendcomb reflect this perfectly. I have had the pleasure of working with almost all year groups to different degrees; observing, assisting and teaching both in the classroom and out in the field. Highlights of my geography work at Rendcomb include teaching the coasts topic to the 2nd form. To be given the

responsibility of teaching a whole topic has been brilliant and something I didn't expect to happen so early in my training. It's been great to really get to know a hard-working and enthusiastic group of students, helping them to learn while also learning myself from their ideas and creativity. Further, lessons I've learned about planning, lesson structure, methods of teaching and designing my own resources have been invaluable. Among other geography highlights are the enthusiasm with which the 4th form students approach almost anything they're faced with, a British Isles quiz with the 1st form, our departmental 'Where in the World' quiz, and a lesson at the river with the L6th.

I spent a term helping with the Junior School during their netball sessions. Having an afternoon a week with the younger girls was great fun, the girls worked hard despite the often freezing cold weather and it was lovely to see their improvement over the term. Senior school lessons in which I've been able to observe and assist include Science and Maths - both subject areas that do not exactly come naturally to me! Thanks must go to members of staff for your willingness and support.

I have thoroughly enjoyed immersing myself in Rendcomb life. Getting to know the boys at Lawn house during my evening duties has been a particular highlight, as have all the Duke of Edinburgh trips I've been involved in. Time spent with the students outside of academic life is a side of teaching I hope to always be involved in, wherever I work. A chance for staff and pupils to connect on a different level and to recognise one another as human beings seems to be an underappreciated advantage of schools like Rendcomb College. I have enjoyed being part of Rendcomb village, too. Visiting the village shop, getting to know the neighbours, working a shift at the village pub and exploring our beautiful surroundings, as well as living at number 15, have been unexpected pleasures which have only enriched my time here.

Next for me is a year at Newcastle University on a PGCE secondary Geography course. I look forward to the next step in my career and thank all at Rendcomb College for your company, encouragement and inspiration – what a lucky girl I've been! ■

Miss J Bale

AS Geography Fieldwork

As part of the AS Geography course, students are required to undertake fieldwork. This is essential not just for the techniques paper which the students sit in May but also for furthering their knowledge of key ideas and processes. This year we decided to take the students to North Devon and the North Somerset coast to undertake fieldwork measuring sand dunes, as well as looking at how this part of the country guards against coastal erosion.

On day one we travelled down to North Somerset, specifically to Kilve and then onto Minehead. At Kilve the students were shown some amazing examples of faults and folds and were taught specifically how this affected the rate of erosion on this part of the UK coastline. As if this wasn't exciting enough the students then had the opportunity to find and collect the numerous types of fossils that are prevalent in this area. It was then off to Minehead where students had time to buy that all important seaside ice-cream and were then shown and taught about the specific management techniques which have been employed in this area to stop coastal erosion.

Normally, evenings are spent going over what has been taught in the day, however, on this fieldtrip the students were treated to a three course banquet by our hotel. By the time we had finished eating there was no time left for work, so we all trampled off to bed - some even had the good fortune to bag a four-poster. (Who says Geography fieldtrips are all about roughing it? - At Rendcomb we like to do things in style!)

Day two was spent studying the dune system (Psammosere) at Braunton Burrows near Bideford. Despite the wind and the rain (a must for any Geography fieldtrip) it was a great day. Students learned not just the techniques needed to survey a dune system but also how important it is to understand the problems of conducting such fieldwork. They also learned that when it comes to asking questions about the great variety of plants that inhabit such areas, there is really only one person to ask....Mr Illingworth, who managed to impress all with his near encyclopaedic knowledge. ■

Miss M Lucas



Royal Agricultural College Lectures

The Sixth Form Geographers went to two impressive lectures at the Royal Agricultural College hosted by the Cirencester Science and Technology Society.

The first was given by Jonathon Porritt, CBE, chair of "Forum for the Future," on "Putting Population at the Heart of Sustainability". The talk was very relevant to the students' studies which look at the issue of global population growth (reaching 9 billion in the next 40 years) and the resources required to sustain this level of humanity. Mr Porritt spoke very eloquently about the challenges that lie ahead for the world's population and the need for the slowing of the world's population as crucial to enabling sustainable development. He put forward the concept of the "new normal" whereby we are becoming increasingly desensitised to drought, flooding and other natural hazards that are increasing in frequency and magnitude as a result of climate change.

The second lecture was given by Professor David Coleman (University of Oxford's Demography Department) on "The Future of Human Reproduction" which was very stimulating and addressed the falling birth rates around the world and the difficulties facing Europe in particular as a result of the fertility level falling below replacement level. ■

Mr A Brealby

History

As in previous years my Battlefields trip was very quickly oversubscribed and I wish therefore to thank all parents and students for your much valued support. The trip was a huge success, students were exceptional dealing with the different emotions that a trip like this entails, one minute visiting wartime cemeteries, the next fun and laughter on the coach or back at the hostel, they were a credit as always to Rendcomb College.



First World War Battlefield Trip 2012

We left Rendcomb at 6.30am Sunday 1st July, very poignant as my GCSE students pointed out on the journey as it was 96 years to the day that the British suffered around 60,000 casualties with 20,000 dead on the first day of the Battle of the Somme. We missed out on the ceremonies held across the Somme area on the Sunday but were able to witness the many wreaths and bouquets when we arrived in the area on Tuesday.

Arriving in Belgium at around 2pm to glorious sunshine which stayed with us for the duration of the trip, we quickly forgot the very early start as students were let loose in the Trench of Death at Diksmuide, the last remaining part of the Belgian front. This was followed by an unplanned visit to Hill 60 to see the crater formed when the mines were blown in June 1917, the shock of which was felt in London, before the students climbed into one of the bunkers. A walk through the reconstruction of a 6 metre-deep British dugout complete with communications and first aid posts, headquarters and sleeping accommodation left us feeling quite claustrophobic at the Memorial Museum Passchendaele. Making the most of the lovely weather we walked around the lake, visited the outside cafe or explored the adventure playground! The seriousness of our Battlefields tour hit home on the final visit of the day to the grave of Private J Condon, who is almost certainly the

youngest British soldier to die on active service in the Great War, he was only 14 years of age when he was killed in action in May 1915 – a very sombre thought for my 45 students on the trip who are of the same age.

Monday still on the Ypres Salient saw us take in the Pool of Peace, a water filled mine crater before a visit to the In Flanders Field Museum in Ypres for a guide through the human experience of war. A walk to the Menin Gate for a talk in preparation for the evening visit to the Last Post Ceremony before free time for shopping, lunch and the much anticipated visit to the chocolate shop! Students and staff arriving back on the coach loaded with bags and boxes of chocolate. An afternoon of contrasts ensued with visits to Langemark German Cemetery and Tyne Cot British Cemetery. Students particularly found it difficult to take in the black sombre tombstones and mass graves at Langemark compared to the white single graves with bright flowers at Tyne Cot. A visit to Essex Farm was made on the way back to the hostel to view the grave of Private V J Strudwick killed in 1916 at the age of 15 years, another reminder of the young boys who lied about their age to fight for their country.

Tuesday saw an early start and the longer journey to the Somme area for visits to the underground tunnels and trenches at Vimy Memorial Park and the Vimy Ridge Memorial, a tribute to the sons of Canada who fought and died there, followed by lunch at the Ulster Tower, sitting outside in the sunshine taking in the scenery before our guided walking tour of the Somme battlefields, following in the footsteps of the 1st Battalion of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment, one of the first brigades to go over the top on that fateful day in July 1916, with our lovely and knowledgeable Canadian GAP student guides. A final visit to Lochnagar Crater and Thiepval Memorial to the Missing before the long journey back and a later evening meal, which saw the staff running around arranging the dining room for a birthday surprise for one of our students, balloons, presents and a huge cake which ended the day on a high.

The return journey would not be the same without a few hours of shopping in Cite Europe, a delight for both students and staff! On arriving back in Folkestone to glorious sunshine we reminded our driver, Fred, that it was England he was supposed to have brought us back to but lo and behold within half an hour we were experiencing torrential downpours: welcome home!

A massive thank you again to all 45 students, you were absolutely superb, and a massive thank you to the staff team of Sarah White, Alice Berry, Frank Whitham and Simon Kinson for all your support before and during the trip. ■

Mrs M Kinson

STUDENTS' REFLECTIONS: BATTLEFIELDS TRIP 1st - 4th JULY 2012

The Battlefields trip was a mixture of emotions, from excitement to empathy. Mornings at the hostel, coach trips and evenings had nothing but happiness and laughs. Trips to cemeteries and memorials showed people's emotional side with everyone walking around quietly with much respect. For me, the German cemetery Langemark was most saddening. Gravestones were dark and dull with an average of around 15 soldiers each, approximately 10 unidentified. A single row included around 500 German soldiers. These figures are unbelievable. In contrast the Allies were buried individually with much brighter gravestones. Breaks from imagining the horror of 1914-1918, included eating Belgium chocolate in the town of Ypres and shopping in the Cite Europe. Visiting Ypres and Somme were both once in a life time experiences.

Duncan Graham

The Battlefields trip was definitely a highlight of this year. Despite the early morning start everyone was excited to get onto the bus for the long drive to Belgium. After a long cross under the sea, along the motorway and crossing the borders we finally reached our first site, the trenches.

Exploring the trenches knowing that men had fought in such cramped conditions really gave us an insight on just how harsh it would have been to fight at war. We continued to visit Hill 60, Pool of Peace and walking through our first cemetery it became hard to deal with seeing the vast number of men lost at war.

We were all glad to reach the hostel that first day and finally settle down and relax. Once reaching our rooms we made ourselves at home and although it had been a long day, some of us found it hard to get to sleep...

We visited a Museum featuring an imitation of a dugout in WW1. Even knowing that we were safe, I couldn't face staying in the dimly lit, confined space for too long.

Overall, it was interesting and helpful as we could understand just how the soldiers would really feel being kept in such conditions. It was an amazing experience and it was lovely to have the teachers there to help us understand and enjoy the trip even more.

Imogen Pollard

IN FLANDERS FIELDS THE POPPIES BLOW

Between the crosses, row on row,

That mark our place, and in the sky,
The poppies blow

When pupils go abroad for school trips, all that they can think about is the fun of the trip; are we going to have hot weather? What will I wear for this day? Will there be a nice gift shop? But on the way to Belgium, not one of us understood the true extent of the horrors of the Great War. Our first stop was at 'The Trench of Death' in Diksmuide, where the pupils were able to experience the Trench life, like how cramped the dugouts were. The roofs were low and muddy puddles covered the floor, giving a damp smell that hit you as soon as you entered the dugout. This gave excitement throughout the group, the first stop of the trip, and everyone getting their cameras out to pose next to the sniper holes or the monument. As soon as we left to carry on to our next visit, the pop music of the pupils choice was playing on the speakers, children were chatting and everyone was in an eager mood for more.

However our coach pulled outside of Poelcappelle Cemetery and that's when the mood of the coach instantly changed. Rows and rows of white stone slabs were erected next to us, in a beautifully arranged allotment with flowers and shrubs positioned in between each row. We were explained to how the youngest soldier to fight and killed was located here in this cemetery, Private J. Condon, only 14 years old, the ages of some of us on the trip. We were left to walk around the gravestones, and experience our first Great War Cemetery. For most, it was an experience that left them saddened. Nevertheless, the friendship between the pupils showed and everyone began to comfort each other, taking some time to reflect on the stone benches provided on the side of the cemetery. Poelcappelle had clearly caught the attention of the pupils and had made them understand the true horrors of the war; the amount of casualties and pain for the families of the soldiers. The Battfields Trip of 2012 will be something that many of us will remember for the rest of our lives, and will help us all to understand more clearly the First World War.

Emmeline Meborn-Hubbard

Scarce heard amid the guns below.

The trip centred not just on tactical warfare and the bare facts, but also the effect the Great War had on civilians' every day. This was a key theme in the fantastic 'In Flanders Field Museum', which is situated in the completely renovated Cloth Hall of Ypres. We visited many cemeteries, parks and monuments, but the German Cemetery Langemark touched many people the most. Up to 25 German soldiers buried under each grave, in the dark cemetery, alongside a mass grave of 25,000. It was moving to see the horrors and effects of the war, not just on civilians, soldiers and leaders, but on those who lived in the future.

Tom Pethick

The Rendcomb Battle fields Trip was an amazing experience that I will never forget from the moving cemeteries to the Ypres chocolate shop! There were some brilliant sites on the first day where, after a very early start, we visited the Poelcappelle Cemetery where Private J. Condon was buried, the youngest soldier to die in the war, Hill 60 and the Belgian "Trench of Death," where you could walk through the dugouts filled with water. Then there was table tennis and Pool against Fred, our great tour guide and driver. The next day we visited Ypres, where nothing is older than 100 years and the Flanders Fields Museum. After a trip to the chocolate shop we listened to the last post, where I was so amazed both by the number of names on the walls but also by the Belgians excellent English that I accidentally trod on a man's foot! The Last Post was incredibly moving and something I won't forget, especially the playing of one of my Violin pieces on the bagpipes! The most moving site though was the German cemetery where twenty soldiers were buried under one stone, a stark difference from the British graves with one for each person. It shocked me how many graves there were but also how special and well cared for they were. Many were for unknown soldiers yet they were still well kept with flowers and inscriptions. It is only when you see the graves that you realise the full extent of the war and can put into context the number of dead.

Then on the second to last day we went into France to the Somme Valley and walked around the trenches at both the Somme and Vimy Ridge, guided by our interesting and funny Canadian guides. The trip in to the tunnels, cold and pitch black when the lights went out, gave a real feeling for the hardship of life and the story of the "Devils in Quilts," the Scottish army, famed for their fearlessness. This was mixed with the sad tale of the Newfoundlanders who were caught in the cross fire of two machine guns and the Thiepval Memorial to the thousands of men missing in the Somme. There were massive holes blown by the British to dislodge the Germans, the shockwaves of which could be felt in London. These were often filled with water but in some you could see the full extent of the blast. Along with these there were the areas cordoned off due to unexploded shells, a creepy reminder of the dangers of the war.

The last day saw a long and sleepy couch journey to France and a mass shopping trip to Cite Europe before catching an earlier train and arriving back in England with some wonderful and moving memories. An amazing and enjoyable trip!

Amy Benson

Take up our quarrel with the foe;

To you from failing hands we throw

The torch; be yours to hold it high

If ye break faith with us who die

We shall not sleep, though poppies grow

In Flanders' fields.

The battlefields trip was very enlightening but not for the faint-hearted, it is an emotional rollercoaster ride packed full of museums, cemeteries, battle fields, craters and most important of all-Chocolate!!!! Of course it is a very serious trip. We learned many interesting things and experienced an almost parallel dimension of life in the trenches, with visits to Vimy Ridge and an extensive and practical tour by Frédéric (a very passionate and knowledgeable student from Quebec). Overall a brilliant trip!

Ed Watkins

IN FLANDERS' FIELDS' THE POPPIES BLOW

Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place, the soldier's grave,
The larks, still bravely singing, fly

The Battlefields trip was very emotional and touching which brought peers closer to one another. But on the journeys back and forth to cemeteries and trenches etc... and at the hostel brought music, laughs and happiness which extinguished all sadness. But as well as all the emotions lingering around it was also very educational and we learnt a lot about war, the conditions, tactics etc... and the huge masses of people that gave their life for the great war which was astonishing especially Private J. Condon who died at the age of 14 and Private Strudwick who died at age 15, this shocked everyone. But with all this sadness there was a relief in the form of a visit to Cite Europe and also a deal at the chocolate shop in Ypres!

Overall it was a great trip which will be remembered for a long time thank you.

Arjun Patel

The battlefields trip was an emotional but very enlightening trip that allowed us to look further into what we have been studying. The sites we visited had an amazing effect on us all and really helped us to visualise the facts and figures we'd learnt in the classroom and really emphasised the devastation of the First World War. In particular the grave of Private J. Condon, who died at just 14 years old was a shocking scene and the overall atmosphere amongst the students was of both honour and sadness that a boy, not even as old as us, had fought so admirably in the war.

Our trip took us to Tyne Cot Cemetery, where there are graves of 11,871 soldiers and a memorial to remember the names of almost 35,000 soldiers. The graves engraved "Known only to God" were particularly upsetting and it was here that most people found time to themselves to think. The headstones included the soldiers name, regiment and age. The innocence of the boys - and many were only boys - who suffered was truly heart wrenching. Throughout the visit you are accompanied by a lone girl's voice reading the names and ages of the missing, and it was truly moving. The cemetery itself was a fitting testament to the heroes who died at Passchendaele, and the whole experience is one of peaceful remembrance and admiration.

The trip did adopt a different atmosphere than the normal Rendcomb College trips which could only be expected and was really quite fitting to the situation. It was by far one of the more memorable and interesting trips of my time at Rendcomb.

Olivia Ellis

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

The trip was a very interesting and moving experience. We visited a lot of cemeteries which were overwhelming and really moving. The one that was the most breath taking was Tyne Cot cemetery; it is the largest British cemetery which was hard to take in. The grave stones were endless and this really moved everyone. As soon as we entered the cemetery every single person on the trip went silent and respected the place without command which I think reflects the manner of Rendcomb students on this trip. Another part of the trip which was particularly interesting was the trenches at Vimy Ridge. We went down into the underground tunnels and experienced the conditions the soldiers went through. This was mind blowing to everyone and really helped the GCSE students visualise the conditions that we have been learning about. I am proud to say I have visited the battlefields and I feel that it is something that everyone must do. Overall, it was a very interesting trip and one which will be remembered throughout my life time.

Florence Price

The Battlefields Trip was really interesting and I will always remember this trip. I found the cemeteries depressing because the cemeteries (particularly the Tyne Cot British War Cemetery and the Langemarck German Cemetery) showed how many men died in the war and I found that extremely upsetting for I believe that the First World War was a pointless loss of life. However seeing all of these cemeteries (such as the Poelcappelle Cemetery and Essex Farm) was a moving and fascinating experience. The cemeteries also demonstrated how young some of the people were who fought in the war for example Private J. Condon who died in action at the age of 14! Moreover I didn't realise how many people had no known graves, memorials like the Thiepval Memorial and Menin Gate illustrated this. These 2 memorials combined showed that there were 128,000 people who have no known grave. Furthermore listening to the last post at Menin Gate was very thought-provoking and touching. I enjoyed listening to the bagpipes and looking at the names on the gate's walls.

The trip revealed that many of the British and French graves are well-kept and elaborate with 1 grave per person, whereas the German graves are just grey slabs of stones which have up to 20 people per grave. At the Langemarck German Cemetery, there was 1 mass grave which had 25,000 bodies in it!!

The museums were very informative and enlightening. Additionally the guided tours at Vimy Ridge and the Beaumont Hamel & Newfoundland Park were fascinating and I thought it was incredible that we walked through the trenches, the mines and on the Somme and Vimy Ridge battlefields. It was amazing to see the places that we had learnt about and to walk where the soldiers had walked in the Great War. All of the other sites were really worthwhile seeing and were inspirational.

The trip was also fun and wasn't all doom and gloom. I enjoyed shopping in Belgium and eating Belgian chocolate. After busy days we returned to a clean and modern youth hostel. The hostel's food was a lot nicer than I thought it would be and the facilities were excellent. The shopping trip to Cité Europe was enjoyable and I loved trying on clothes and testing designer perfumes.

So overall, I found this trip memorable, interesting and quite sad. But I enjoyed myself thoroughly and I can take a lot of lovely memories from this trip that will last me for a lifetime. Thank you very much to the staff who came with us and to Mrs Kinson for organising this amazing trip. And to Fred the bus driver who was hilarious and really nice despite the fact that everyone was extremely tired after visiting the sites. So thank you Fred for being a great bus driver and giving us a laugh. This trip was incredible and I would love to go again!

Olivia Knapp

Take up our quarrel with the foe;

To you from failing hands we throw

The torch; be yours to hold it fast;

If ye break faith, but with us, though

We shall not sleep, though our lives are

In flames;

I really enjoyed going to Belgium and France to look around cemeteries, trenches and battlefields that we have previously studied. The trip was definitely something I feel everybody should experience, I learnt a lot and it was overwhelming yet enjoyable.

The first day after travelling we went to a cemetery with a fourteen year old boy in, this came as a real shock as although we had learnt about how many people died, you can hardly see how many people there are until you see all the gravestones. I thought the cemetery was huge, but then it was tiny compared to the cemeteries we saw the next day. I found it very interesting how by just looking at the German cemeteries and British cemeteries you could certainly tell the difference. The British grave stones were white, all placed in line, with flowers around and shortly cut grass, however the German cemeteries were smaller yet had up to 30000 more people; the gravestones were a small black cross which represented on average 12 men, there were no flowers.

Not only did we visit cemeteries but also some great museums including "In Flanders Field" and "Passchendaele". These were especially interesting. We also visited battlefields and saw lots of trenches including at the Somme. This was probably my favourite day as we saw the Thiepval Memorial, La Boisselle Lochnagar Crater, Ulster Tower and were guided showed around Beaumont Hamel and Newfoundland Park and Vimy Ridge.

The trip was very emotional and it was often hard to take it all in. However, I would recommend it because it was very enjoyable and we all had a lot of fun.

Rozy Baynham

Mathematics

At last! Something to rival Drama Tour

The Maths Department has been unusual in previous years: it is one of, if not the most important subject offered at Rendcomb, yet without proposing any tours, trips or outings. The Biologists frequent zoos, the Linguists go and visit distant and backward lands like Germany and we think the Thespians go to London or something. Yet this year the Maths Department broke its cycle and showed the world that Mathematicians have personalities, imagination and some of them even have a sense of humour. It is true what they say: Maths does, indeed, govern the laws of the world, the universe and nature, I mean, if a tree didn't have any 'real roots' it would fall over wouldn't it? This is why the Maths Department needed a tour; we're not referring to the bad quadratic roots pun, but because Maths is quintessential to the ways in which the world works and it is impossible for anyone, regardless of vocation, to go through life without needing a 'degree' of Maths, even lumberjacks, as they're always dealing with 'natural logs'. But enough advertisements for Maths and awful puns, you probably want to know what we actually did.

Unfortunately, Maths Tour 2012 polo shirts didn't arrive on time, so, unlike Drama Tour, we maintained some dignity and wore suits. The excitement for the highlight of the mathematical calendar had been growing exponentially in the weeks preceding the trip, and by the time the day arrived, the excitement curve was at $dydx=I$. The bus was shaking from Rendcomb to Bristol with the Maths Tour 2012 song: "some to infinity that I used to know", and upon arrival the anticipation was tangible. Needless to say, the speeches at the Bristol Hippodrome did not disappoint.

The talks began with "From Google to Graphics", an interesting presentation on how, essentially, GCSE and A level maths is all that is needed to understand the theory behind how Google and PlayStation games work (for Xboxes, you don't need anything past First form). Following this was "The Maths behind Game shows", which showed us how to get the odds of game shows on our side, just in case our Maths qualification doesn't get us anywhere. The talks concluded with "The Science Behind Rollercoasters", a talk from John Roberts, one of the leading Engineers behind 'The London Eye', 'The Big one' at Blackpool and the Top Gear stunt that involved a car being driven upside down in a tunnel (not by Mr. Clarkson as the programme led us to believe). However, arguably the most interesting thing to come about from this talk was some of the questions raised, including: "How much for a go on your 'Big Dipper'?", "How big is your 'Big One'?" and "Would you rather be attacked by 12 duck-sized horses or 1 horse-sized duck?" Perhaps the biggest accolade for the Rendcomb was one of the ushers approaching Philip Oepen and congratulating him on the behaviour of his group of children. They were even more impressed when he informed them he wasn't a teacher.

Maths Tour 2012 was a complete success; not only extremely fun, but also hugely informative. We only hope subsequent years will have the chance to go on a similar Tour. ■

Lance Baynam, 6L

Maths Challenges

Last November, all mathematicians in the Sixth Form at Rendcomb College took part in the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge and achieved an all time high of ten Gold certificates, with six pupils going through to the next round, the British Mathematical Olympiad Round 1. Special mention must go to Constance who was awarded a distinction in this paper.

In December, the Senior Maths Team (Connie, Chang, Sag and Mark) won the regional final at Wycliffe with an amazing score of 169/176 which gave them a place in the National Final. So in February they travelled to the Camden Centre in London where 63 teams competed in the 2011/12 STMC Final. The overall winner of the competition was Alton College in Hampshire; however Rendcomb College scored a very respectable 156/186. During the morning there was also a poster competition, which was won by the Royal Grammar School from Newcastle, with Rendcomb College in second place.

Also in February the fourth and fifth form took part in the Intermediate Maths Challenge, a special mention must go to Sam Scott and Daniel Gregory who achieved impressive scores and qualified for the next round.

In March, the Junior Maths Team consisting of Sam Tushingham, Pascale Summers, Georgia Pethick and Jared Wason gained 10th place out of 26 in a very tough regional final at Wootton Bassett School.

In April, 30 first and second form pupils sat the Junior Maths Challenge with Maddy Morgan achieving Best in School at this level.

The year ended with a record number of pupils taking A level Maths and Further Maths, gaining 10A* in Maths and 3A* in FM, with many students going on to secure university places to read maths related subjects. ■

Mrs L Gregory

Modern Languages

1st & 2nd Form German Trip February 2012

Rendcomb's ninth German trip to Bad Neuenahr-Ahrweiler, south of Bonn was once again a huge success. The 1st and 2nd Form stayed in two youth hostels – firstly in Bad Neuenahr-Ahrweiler, very near to our partner school, and for the last three nights in Bad Honnef on the other side of the Rhine. The 3rd and 4th form students stayed the whole week in families from our partner school. On the first day, we visited our partner school, going to some lessons and also producing our own postcards in the school printing workshop. The pupils also met the Headmaster, Herr Schülting. Our partner school 'Gymnasium Calvarienberg' is in a very attractive old town with many traditional half-timbered buildings and an old town wall. The pupils enjoyed looking around the church with its stunning and very unusual painted interior. Unfortunately, it was bitterly cold and started to snow heavily so the scavenger hunt that we had planned had to be postponed.

Friday's visit was to the Nürburgring exhibition centre, where there were many interactive activities, simulators, rides and famous racing cars from the past. The pupils very much enjoyed this visit and we also met up with some of the exchange students and their partners. As it was a beautifully sunny afternoon we drove to the Rhine, took a ferry across the river and spent a few hours in another very pretty little town, Linz am Rhein. Here, the pupils

went on a scavenger hunt and had another opportunity to practise their German in the shops. Pupils from our partner school came to the youth hostel in the evening and we had a German-English 'Challenge Night' organised by Matthias Jashke, one of the teachers who accompanied the exchange visit to Rendcomb in May.

On Saturday, we first stopped at the Haribo outlet store in Bonn where we stayed for half an hour before going to the 'Haus der Geschichte', a museum of 20th Century German History. After lunch, we went into the centre of Bonn, where we had a look inside the Minster, at the town hall and Beethoven's house. Some of the pupils went inside the house (they do not allow large groups) and

at the end of the tour, were allowed to play on one of the old pianos on display. The lady who invited them to do this made it clear that this would not normally be allowed, but that she felt they deserved a special privilege for having been so well behaved and interested in everything as they went around the exhibition. The pupils were really delighted to have been given this opportunity.

Sunday we set off to spend the day in Cologne, starting at the zoo, which is always popular. The pupils were given a quiz and asked to find out some of the names of the animals in German. We then made our way to the river, so that we could then walk along the banks of the Rhine into the city centre. We took the group up the 598 steps to the top of



Modern Languages

Cologne Cathedral to admire the view and walked back to the Rhine through some of the old streets to the Lindt Chocolate Museum. This was obviously a very popular visit and pupils were given the opportunity to taste as well as watch the manufacture of chocolate and have a look around the museum exhibits on the history of chocolate and its production.

On our last full day in Germany, we set off bright and early for the Sealife Centre in Königswinter, where we spent an hour and a half. We then walked to the foot of the nearby Drachenfels, a mountain which is famous for being where Siegfried slayed the dragon. Although the pupils enjoyed the train ride up, the view at the top was non-existent, due to the heavy mist and we

went straight back down on the train as we were advised that the footpaths down were very icy. Our last activity was a trip to Aqualand, a huge swimming pool complex in the north of Cologne with indoor and outdoor pools, slides and a 'crazy river'. Again, this was a very popular visit. In the evening we had a very informal talent contest, with many of the pupils taking part.

The journey home was uneventful and the pupils were impeccably behaved. We stopped off at the Cité Europe near Calais for an hour or so to give the pupils the opportunity to speak some French and spend their remaining Euros. We all arrived back at Rendcomb rather exhausted, but very happy and hopefully having learned some very useful German! ■

Mrs S White and Mrs R Fielding



3rd & 4th Form German Exchange February 2012



Most of the exchange students were unusually subdued in the coach going to Germany and spent much of the journey practising useful phrases, as, although they had all been in contact with their exchange partners, they were a little nervous about what was in store for them. They were all to be staying with German families for a week, some in Ahrweiler and many in the surrounding villages.

They needn't have worried. When we met up with all the exchange students on the following morning, they were all smiling. The only thing they didn't seem very happy about was how incredibly early all the German students had to get up to get

to school on time! The exchange students spent the morning in lessons and were then given a tour around Ahrweiler in the afternoon. Some also met up with the staff and younger members of the group at the Nürburgring the following day, but apart from that, they were in families and with their exchange partners for the rest of the week. As school finishes at lunchtime, they had plenty of time to visit all the attractions in the area. The partners, by and large, all got on incredibly well and everyone was very sorry to have to leave at the end of the week.

We were very pleased, therefore, to welcome the German group to Rendcomb in May. They all said that they

Iceland Trip

April 2012

The Geography department's first visit in several years to Iceland took place in the middle of April. The weather, for the most part, was kind to us and as a result we were lucky enough to be able to visit all our intended venues with minimal interruption. This meant that we were able to appreciate superb views across the Mid Atlantic Ridge as well as amazing ice caps and glaciers, which are so often shielded by cloud cover. Our hostel, located near the unpronounceable town of Hvalsollur, afforded us superb views of the volcano that twice brought the world to a halt - the equally unpronounceable Eyjafjallajökull which was worryingly very close but very beautiful to look at.

In the relatively short time we were there, the group enjoyed a visit to the Blue Lagoon as well as the delights of various Geothermally heated swimming pools, including some that had slides – a real plus for the students who showed the locals exactly how they should be used. The students also came to appreciate the cultural differences between them and their host country, illustrated best by the very high standards of personal hygiene which must be

observed prior to entering the water. This certainly raised a few eyebrows among the students and indeed the Teachers!

One of the highlights of the visit was our trip around the Thingvellir region (Rift Valley area) that included a visit to Geysir and Gullfoss, one of the most impressive waterfalls in world. Another day took us to the coast to observe the rugged basaltic landscape that has resulted in the classic coastal scene as described in many a Geography lesson. From there, it was onto a typically quiet and deserted coastal town called Vik where students had the opportunity to buy those all-important Icelandic cardigans. A short drive on, took us to a series of waterfalls including Skogafoss and finally onto the snout of Solheimjökull, the 'Black glacier' - so called because of the huge amount of debris it carries.

Other highlights of the trip were the visit around the geothermal power plant as well as the afternoon spent in the most northern capital in the World, Reykjavik.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the students for their impeccable behaviour which made the trip a very pleasurable experience for Students and Teachers alike. ■

absolutely loved Rendcomb and were very complimentary about the families with whom they were staying. They went on many day trips: to Stratford, to Oxford, to Cirencester and also joined the Geography trip to Bourton-on-the-Water as well as going to lessons and taking part in activities such as shooting, cricket, lacrosse and scone baking at Rendcomb. They also particularly enjoyed the visit to the Junior School, where they played games and shared Haribo with J6.

We very much look forward to many more successful exchanges in the future and welcoming the pupils from Gymnasium Calvarienberg back to Rendcomb soon. ■

Mrs S White and Mrs R Fielding



Music

Senior School Music at Rendcomb

The Music Department continues to be a bustling hub of activity at the heart of the school. With academic music lessons for both Senior and Junior school students, instrumental and vocal tuition from twenty-one visiting music teachers and a plethora of extra-curricular clubs all taking place in the department, there is rarely a moment when music of some sort can't be heard drifting from the windows of the Music block.



Particular musical highlights this year have included the annual Carol Service held in Cirencester's exquisite parish church, where the College Choir performed a selection of traditional carols alongside an extract from composer Alexander L'Estrange's contemporary choral work 'Zimbel'. The Chamber Choir meanwhile, tackled Taverner's harmonically tricky setting of 'The Lamb', before capping the year at the annual Founder's Day service with the debut performance of 'Crucifixus', a choral anthem written by Lower 6th student Charlotte Jones. The current choir will hope to build on this promising start as it works towards its forthcoming tour to Venice during next Easter 2013, supplemented by a fresh intake of singers entering Form 1.

On the subject of younger singers, members of Forms 1 - 4 had a chance to flex their vocal and acting talent during the Lower School spring musical, a three-night run of Gilbert and Sullivan's comic operetta 'Pirates of Penzance'. It's the turn of the Seniors next year, with a full-scale staging of 'Footloose' the musical lined up for February 2013.

Keyboard players have been kept on their toes this year, inspired by Head of Keyboards Mr. Carter who gave a virtuosic recital of Brahms, Ravel and Schumann in the Spring term, and chaired an unpredictably nail-biting piano scales competition for students, as well as hosting a festival of piano duet performances from students from both the Juniors and Seniors.

Results in Associated Board and Trinity Music examinations have provided some notable successes this year, both vocal, instrumental and in theory. Stand out performances have included Sam Tushingham's Distinction in his Grade 5 Recorder and Kathryn Rew and Amy Benson, both of whom scored high Distinctions in their Grade 6 singing examinations, with many other excellent results coming from other students. Meanwhile, Daisy Little and Olivia Witts won honours in their respective rounds at the Cheltenham Festival of Performing Arts. Hearty congratulations to these students and to all others with music exams under their belts in the past year. ■

Mr D Franks

Mercury Prize-nominated pianist Gwilym Simcock Leads Improvisation Workshop at Rendcomb

It's our firm belief in the Music Department that all students at Rendcomb should be offered the chance to listen to and work alongside world-class professional musicians. In the Michaelmas term former Ray Charles saxophonist Greg Abate flew in from the States to host a workshop for the school Jazz Ensemble, before giving a virtuosic duo recital to students and parents, accompanied by pianist Alex Steele. The students in the Jazz Ensemble have been in hot demand ever since, performing at quite a number of school concerts and events, and making an spirited debut on the 'Jazz It Up!' stage

of the Cheltenham Jazz Festival in April. Howard Auster's nimble double bass work drew particular acclaim, as did solos from saxophone section stalwarts Tristan Stevens and Luke Witts.

During the Spring Term, Mercury Music Prize-nominated pianist Gwilym Simcock spent a day at Rendcomb working with talented improvisers drawn from ten schools around Gloucestershire. It was a particular delight to welcome a musician of Gwilym's standing to Rendcomb, as the pianist is now firmly established as a world-class draw on the piano circuit. In a new initiative Rendcomb had teamed up with Cheltenham

Festivals to present this event, and twelve schools from around Gloucestershire send their elite musicians to participate alongside our students. We hope to collaborate again with the festival's education team on future workshops.

With recitals scheduled for Michaelmas 2012 from pianists Jeremy Carter and Sarah Steele, and musical workshops for students led by members of the Brighton Symphony Orchestra, and by former National Youth Music Theatre Director Peter Allwood, the next few months promise to be a busy and stimulating time for students. ■

Mr D Franks



The Dutton Jazz Summer School at Rendcomb

On a sun-blessed summer weekend in August (yes, there was one!), Rendcomb played host to a diverse group of musicians, ranging from thirteen to sixty-something in age. Drawn from all over Gloucestershire and beyond, the lure was a new summer school featuring workshops, tutorials, concerts and jam sessions focused on developing improvisation and interaction in a group setting. Frank Dutton, a former student of Rendcomb and noted jazz journalist and archivist recently left a bequest to the school, with a specific request that the art of jazz improvisation be developed at the College. The Summer School was just one of a developing programme of educational endeavours being set up to honour his request. Tutors included former Loose Tubes flautist and composer Eddie Parker; pianist, accordionist and Associated Board senior jazz examiner Pete Rosser, and rising Welsh guitar star Lee Jones. The weekend was a great success, with many friendships made and several participants vowing to continue playing together in their own groups. ■

Mr D Franks

Music

Zimbe! Songs of the African Diaspora



On an unexpectedly balmy evening in March 2012 over eighty singers and musicians joined together in Rendcomb's Dulverton Hall to perform composer Alexander L'Estrange's acclaimed African oratorio *Zimbe!*. A unique fusion of exuberant traditional African song, hushed classical chorales and semi-improvised jazz band accompaniment, the performance allowed singers from Rendcomb's College Choir, Chamber Choir and Junior School choir to work alongside a professional six-piece band from London and a 'semi-chorus' of musicians from the acclaimed Cheltenham ensemble The Oriel Singers. Spurred on by a rousing warm-up session led by the composer of *Zimbe!* himself, the students rose admirably to the occasion and, directed by Mr. Franks, produced a performance that will linger in the memories of many at Rendcomb. Special mention should go to L6 student Oliver Baylis, who joined the professional band on congas and African percussion. In addition an African-themed first half included stand out performances from vocalist Harry Ellis with

the Rendcomb Jazz Ensemble, as well as spirited piano ragtime from the 4th Form's Henry Mills and promising Junior school newcomer Edwin Ward. Rendcomb's Head Boy, Jake McKeown, was watching the performance and had this to say:

'Months of *Zimbe!* rehearsals all came together on one Thursday night, as hundreds of audience members flocked to the Dulverton Hall to enjoy a night of cheer and joy. Senior school and junior school singers combined in brightly coloured outfits, and then ... it began. Altogether the *Zimbe!* concert acted as a goose bump-inducing emotional rollercoaster. Was it the power of Eve Jarman's soprano solo? The cute points garnered by the Junior School choir? The raw enthusiasm of Mr Marshall? Or perhaps just the effect of pure happiness in audio format created by the massed choirs and six-piece band?

All in all this was a brilliant evening put together by our very own Mr Franks (who couldn't pass up the opportunity to play a bit of saxophone!).' ■

Mr D Franks

Ukulele Concert: Lent Term Friday 3rd Feb, The Reading Room



The students presented another successful ukulele concert in the Reading Room on Friday 3rd February. I was very pleased that we had some returning performers and some first time performers. In this way, the Ukulele Club has not only encouraged students to learn a new instrument, but also to transfer musical knowledge between instruments, understand chord progressions, and provide easy access to performing in a relatively informal environment. The lunchtime concerts always prove entertaining and popular, and the students thoroughly enjoy participating in them.

A few highlights of this year's concert were the beautiful voices of Johanna Bock and Eleanor Brealy, and the hilarious performance of Coldplay's Fix You, by Edward Watkins and Cameron Rowe complete with striped shirts, bow ties and a triangle.

Thank you to everyone who participated. ■

Mr D Franks

Psychology

We have had another excellent and stimulating year in the Psychology Department, particularly as Miss Mucci kindly taught the Thursday lessons, and the A2 students taught many of the other lessons! The A2 class was taken on magical mystery tours by individual students – we have been whisked off to Park House Common Room, the Forest Classroom, the White Room, several Junior School classrooms, to list just a few. These lessons were firmly based on the psychology memory theory of Loci, linking semantic memory (knowledge) to episodic memory (actions). We have had interesting visits:

Our A2 Psychology class were lucky enough to receive a visit from Mrs Hornby, who as well as being a Governor for Rendcomb is also a Management Specialist; she was able to give us a talk on the psychology behind management. We learnt about the four different categories of management/leadership type people can fall into (as well as to what degree) and the advantages and disadvantages of each. From here we could try and work out where we might be on the category scales, and what disadvantages we could try not to fall trap to, as well as working out where all of our teachers were on the scales! Jack McKeown

We (A2 psychologists) visited Stroud Police Station as we were studying Forensic psychology and specifically how suspects are interviewed. We visited the cells, the CCTV room, interviewing rooms (for suspects), and listened to a presentation about cognitive interview. The cells setups are specially set up for different types of offenders. For instance if the bed is very low it is set up for people who are in a confused state of mind, such as drunk people, in case they might fall from the bed. The supervising room was a very interesting and memorable one for me, we could find that the cameras can nearly cover every single area in Stroud, and the Police are able to supervise nearly everywhere in Stroud through a number of screens. We had a real touch of what we learnt from the text book through this psychology trip, and it was such a valuable experience for us! Shelly Hou

Not to be left out, the AS psychologists had a serious and eye-opening morning at Bristol Crown Court, observing several cases – deciding sentencing for a drug-related offence; determining the grounds for conviction for fraud (£9 million); child abuse (witness via video screen). And then we were off to the Zoo: ■

Mrs G Harford

Science

During 2011-12, Science enrichment featured prominently for Forms 1 and 2, who joined the Junior School in a Fossils Roadshow, discovering different types of fossils, including those in amber, and taking part in a lively discussion on the extinction of dinosaurs. Form 2 also enjoyed a trip to the Wildlife Park, seeing a wide variety of animals, with the meerkats winning the day for sheer entertainment. During the Summer Term, Form 1 attended the Cheltenham Science Festival, enjoying the mini-challenges at each stall and marvelling at the engineering behind racing cars, whilst Form 5 attended a Science lecture in Oxford.

2012-13 looks set to be bigger and better, with the founding of a Senior Chemistry Society, committed to extending and enhancing the curriculum for Forms 5-6. The Society has already explored the benefits of hydrogen fuel cells and visited the Cheltenham Literature Festival to hear about why Science matters, from Mark Henderson, Head of Communications at the Wellcome Trust. They plan to find out about the Chemistry of Space at the University of Bristol next half-term, and further visits will include the University of Birmingham and, more locally, the Cirencester Science and Technology Society. The Sixth-Form Biologists will head off in the Lent Term to Snowdonia, to undertake their annual field trip, exploring rocky sea-shores and ancient woodlands, whilst the Physicists continue to enjoy the delights of vacuums and static electricity closer to home. Repeat visits are planned to the Cheltenham Science Festival and the Wildlife Park for the new Form 1 and 2; and Form 4, those Form 5 pupils interested in AS-level Chemistry and the Sixth-Form Chemists will take part in an enrichment day at the University of Bristol after the summer examinations. Keen engineers in Forms 1-3 are taking part in the Flying Start Challenge, working with engineers from local firms to build a hand-propelled glider, ready for a regional competition in March 2013. Also, in that month, the department will host a planetarium, joining with the Juniors, and all associated with Rendcomb are very welcome to join us for a session at the end of the day, though spaces are limited, so please do book early through the School Reception. ■

Ms S O'Sullivan

Science

Look Back in Amber



'Jules, the fossil man' came to Rendcomb, in March, and gave a very entertaining talk to Forms 1 and 2.

We learned about how fossils were formed and then searched for fossils in trays filled with various rocks and stones. It was very exciting, especially finding fossil shark teeth.

We then looked at the perfectly preserved remains of small invertebrates, such as ants and flies, which had been trapped in pieces of amber. They were over one million years old and looked no different from those around today.

We finished with a discussion about dinosaurs and the theories of how they became extinct. It was a really interesting hour. ■



Second Form trip to the Cotswold Wildlife Park

The Second Form enjoyed going on the annual trip to the Cotswold Wildlife Park on the 18th June. The trip left soon after Headmaster's Assembly, and with our lunch and phones at hand, we eagerly awaited our arrival. The journey took roughly forty minutes, which went incredibly quickly.

Upon our arrival, we set off around the main campus, whose sights included camels, ratites and even the tapirs (I didn't really know what they were up till this visit!). The array of colourful, wonderful, wacky animals presented a barrage of interest and opportunities for new knowledge. One member of our group enjoyed a particularly interesting episode with a giraffe...



Amazing as the animals were, the most exciting part of the trip was the playground. It comes to something when mature children start to fight over a swing (funny as it may be), or push each other down the slide. We could have spent the entire day enjoying the facilities on offer. However, after being reluctantly hurried away by Mr.Vuolo, we soon found ourselves enjoying a ride on the train. The view was better than it had been on the pathway; so many people noticed animals that they couldn't see before.

But then came an even better part. A man named Bob talked to us about Classification. Did you know that there are four orders of reptile, and that one only contains two animals? Neither did I. He told us many interesting facts, and we learnt a lot.

Finally, we visited the Wonderland that was the gift shop! Thousands of plush animals and choices of candy were among the merchandise. After finishing our purchases, we then set off back to Rendcomb, tired and happy. ■

Jared Wason-Cooper

Academic Results

Tom Benson (A*A*A), who has been a pupil at Rendcomb since 2005, led the way on results' day at Rendcomb College with two A* grades and an A, securing a place to read English at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford University. In a year where Rendcomb continued to build on academic successes, fifteen students gained straight A*-B grades across their subjects, in a group where 38% took at least four A level subjects, and some sat as many as five or six A levels.

Constance Xu (A*A*A*B) dropped only 25 UMS out of a possible 1200 UMS over the 12 Mathematics/Further Mathematics modules: a stunning achievement. Tommy Lin won

the metaphorical prize for quantity and quality with A*AAABB at A Level.

Chang Chang attained A*A*ABB and Betty Hu secured A*A*AA. Head Girl, Holly Phelps, and Head Boy, Jake McKeown, both of whom came up through Rendcomb Juniors, attained impressive results (A*AA and AAB, respectively) as well as contributing to a multitude of other areas of life in the School.

At GCSE, Josh Cropper and Dan Gregory impressively attained fifteen A* grades between them setting high standards of what can be achieved lower down in the School.

GCSE-IGCSE Examinations 2012

H Auster, iE* iEL B C F H** M* Mu* Pe* P
A Bagusat, F Gm** M
A Belyaev, A B iE M* P
O Birden, iE iEL ScAd D G H Mu
W Cai, iE** iEL* B** C** D G* M** Pe P*
J Chen, A* B C M* P
O Cook, Pe
J Cropper, iE* iEL** A B** C** Dt** G** H** M* P**
Y Dimopoulos, iE* iEL D H Sc
H Ewan, iE iEL B C* F G* H M Pe P
K Gibson, iE iEL* A* B* C* Dt* G* H M P
C Greening, iE D
D Gregory, Mad** iE** iEL B** C** G** Gm* H* M** Pe** P**
T Hansel, iE* iEL* A* B Dt G M Pe P
G Hempleman-Adams, iE iEL ScAd A B Dt H Sc
M Hyde, iE* iEL* A* B C G H** M Pe P
L Kernon, iE* iEL* B* C** F G* H** M* Pe P*
C Khirrecu, iE* iEL** A* B C D G H M P W Li B C M** P
L Lochbihler, E* Gm** M P
T Martin, A B C M P
B McFarlane, iE iEL ScAd A F Gm
L Mernagh, iE iEL A B C D G M* Pe P*
A Metcalfe, iE iEL ScAd A Gm H Sc
J Mudge, iE** iEL* B* C* D G H M P
L Nixon, iE iEL* D* M Mu
H Priestner, iE* iEL B C D G M Pe* P
I Roettger, iE F Gm**
J Rose, iE A B C D G H M P*
N Sevastyanov, M
B Spurway, A C Dt G
P Tarleton, iE* iEL* B C F G H M Pe* P
A Tatara-Mills, iE iEL ScAd G H M Pe Sc
J Taylor, iE* iEL* A B C F G* H M P
H Williams, iE iEL ScAd A Dt G H M Sc
J Williams, iEL ScAd M Pe

Key: A*-C; **=grade A*; *=grade A Pass Rate=79%

A Level Examinations 2012

Tom Benson, Ee** Fr* H**
Max Birden, Bs Pe Py
Charles Black, Ee A H
Becky Cai, Cns M** Mf* P
Chang Chang, C* Cns M** Mf** P
Echo Cheng, Cns A M
Chris Couch, lct* Bs M**
Kat Daly, Ee*A** G
William Fang, Cns* M* Mf P
Deenah Faruque, Ee A H
Dan Geerah, B C M
Paddy Gilling, Ee Bs H
Oliver Greenaway, lct Ee Bs
Andrea Haas, A G Py
Maria Highlands, A Bs Py
Shelly Hou, Cns* M Py
Betty Hu, B* C* M** Mf**
Eric Li, Cns Ee Dr Py**
Tommy Lin, B* Cns H M** Mf* P*
Nester Liu, Cns M** Mf P
Chanelle McGriff, A
Jake McKeown, Ee D* Py*
Miles Metcalfe, A D
Chris Minton, A G H
Kai Missalla, Gm* M* P
Megan Mulhall, Ee Bs H
Philip Oepen, Bs Gm** M P
Holly Phelps, A** D* Pe*
Daniel Sadjadian, lct D M
Charles Shi, Cn M** Mf* P
Thomas Jordan, Ee** A* H
Zoe Wang, Cns M** Mf P
Jolice Wong, Cns* A Bs M
Constance Xu, C** M** Mf** P
Erick Yu, C Cns M** Mf*
Bernice Zheng, Cns M* Mf* P
Beryl Zheng, Cns** A M

Key: * grade A; ** grade A*

Rendcomb College Scholarship Awards: 2012/13

11+ Awards

Grace Tushingham, Academic, RCJS
Philip Harrison-Josey, Academic, RCJS
Henry Holloway, Academic, RCJS
Robert Segrave-Daly, Academic, Rosehill, Westonbirt
Oliver Jones, Sport, RCJS
James Nickson, Sport, Malmesbury Secondary School
Marls Aspinall, Music, Holy Trinity, Gt Cheverell, Devises
Jude Martin, Drama*, RCJS
Max McKeown, Drama, RCJS

13+ Awards

Orlagh Brennan, Sport, RC
Eleanor Brealy, Sport*, RC
Ellie Jones, Sport, RC
Georgia Pethick, Art, RC

Other Awards

Lauren Shipperbottom, Academic, RC
Tom Pethick, Drama*, RC

The Noel Wills Scholarship**

Katrina Webb, Deer Park School

The Frank Dutton

Sixth Form Music Scholarship+

Howard Auster, RC

* Titular: no financial award has been made.

** Noel Wills was the School's Founder and this award is made annually by the Wills family, in line with his founding vision, to an outstanding candidate from a State school in Gloucestershire.
+ Frank Dutton was a pupil here, a very keen Jazz player who was passionate about his music. When he died recently he kindly left a bequest to the School.

Subject Key: A=Art, B=Biology, Bs=Business Studies, C=Chemistry, Cns=Chinese, Dr=Drama, Dt=Design & Technology, E=English, Ee=English Literature, iE=IGCSE English Language, iEL=IGCSE English Literature, F=French, G=Geography, Gm=German, H=History, lct=Information Communication Technology, M=Mathematics, Mf=Further Mathematics, Mad=Additional Mathematics, Ms=Music, P=Physics, Pe=Physical Education, Py=Psychology, Sc=Science, ScAd=Additional Science.





Godman

We have been blessed once again with wonderful prefects in Andrea and Maria, who have always gone the extra mile and been great fun and a great support in house.

Miss D'Amato and Miss Mucci took on the extra responsibility of doing weekend duties and in true Godman style kept the girls busy baking and making. Our gap tutors have likewise been a delight to have in house and a huge support.

We have of course had our usual events such as the 'big sister' evenings, cake sales, the charity bring and buy sale, two fancy dress parties 'Out of this World' and 'Winter Warmer' and our biggest parents' dinner party yet, with 62 parents to cater for!

Highlights of 'Friday Night Challenges' included our Christmas theatre trip to see 'Grease' - a popular choice - and we were treated to our usual witty sketches and dance routines at our Christmas party.

Overseas boarders all prepared very successful themed supper nights with recipes from home, starting with Jojo's Austrian supper night and followed by Coco's Hong Kong food night and Mako and Miyuki's Japanese food night.

Other memorable events include toasting marshmallows and singing around the campfire, trick or treating, the teddy bears' picnic on Paradise Island and barn nights for the 3rd form, including a Burns Night Barn Night, an American themed barn night and a beach themed barn night.

We were very sad to say goodbye to the 3rd form and hope that they were given a good send off at the 'End of an Era' party, with lots of fun jousting and bouncing. ■

Mrs R Fielding

Old Rectory

We are delighted that Mr Thomason has joined the Old Rec team as our residential tutor. It is the second time that he has been part of our team as he used to be an Old Rec prefect.

We were pleased to see so many parents attend the Godman and Old Rectory tea party on the Old Rec lawn on the first Saturday after Games, we were very lucky with the weather.

By the end of the second week we whisked the first form off to Shropshire for a bonding weekend. They rose to all the challenges, including the compulsory dunking during raft building!

Friday Night Challenges came thick and fast with the unceasing support from our dynamic Old Rec Prefects; Eric Li, Christian Couch and Philip Oepen.

The boys love any excuse to dress up, so the fancy dress parties are always popular as was Hallowe'en!

We raised lots of money for charity at our annual Bring and Buy Sale and Charity Cake Sales.

The Old Rectory and J6 Big Brother evenings were well attended, which were always full of high energy and lots of fun.

The parents' dinner parties were hard work, yet rewarding, learning lots of vital life skills along the way. This year saw a record 62 parents attending one dinner party.

The First Form and 6th Form Buddy Quiz, Barbecue and football matches were enjoyed by all.

As the 3rd Form prepared to move on to Lawn House, it was time to say farewell to two very special people. Mrs Maureen Allen retired as our Old Rec laundry lady and cleaner after many, many years of committed service. Mr Lindsey North also said 'au revoir' as Head of 3rd Year Boys and Old Rec Tutor. We will miss them all and wish them well in their future endeavours. ■

Mr and Mrs A Brealy



Stable House



Pre A Student in Stable House

Living in Stable House is just like being back at home.

The first time I came here, I felt Stable House was just the place that I want to live in. It later felt like a place that I could learn a new way of living within a community. I learnt about good behaviour, the appropriate way to dress, and the importance of social skills. Sometimes, I feel Mrs Ferreira is really strict, for example if I do not join in, in games in the afternoon, or I do not go to dinner because I am feeling lazy, she will tell me I need to join in and give me the reasons why. I know she just wants to make us to integrate and settle into the new environment. In this way, she is a really strict teacher for me.

In the second term, I had some trouble with making friends and I was really upset at that time but Mrs F' gave me a lot of opinions and asked me to relax; from this time I felt Mrs F' was a psychiatrist, and Stable House is like a Psychological Clinic, it's really helpful.

This term, I joined in with Horse riding, and some other activities, and I have just come back from the banana riding. At this time I felt Mrs F' was just like my friend, and Stable House is just like my home. "My home in England - my second home." ■

Dorothy Guo, Pre A

Boarding at Rendcomb

Rendcomb is a second home to boarders. Being a boarder means you get to experience the full life of Rendcomb from evening activities to various weekend events.

Boarding in Rendcomb begins after 5pm, when the academic day is finished. Prep runs from 5.15 to 6.15 pm and for older pupils there is an extra hour from 7 to 8 pm. Once all of our prep is done, we have time before bedtime to exercise, to visit the gym, to play squash and tennis, to make items such as Christmas or Easter decorations in crafting sessions or sometimes just to relax and chill out with friends and other boarders. On certain nights, the older houses can go down to Barn to socialize with the other pupils from different houses. In the summer term (if the weather is good) a swim is put on in the evening for the boarders to make a splash. On Friday nights, a number of day pupils board to enjoy the evening activities that are on offer. For Godman and Old Rec, a Friday night challenge takes place; these are always fun. (I seem to remember taking part in a 'bin bag fashion' challenge a few years ago) and for Stable and Lawn, a Barn session gives the boarders a chance to socialise and relax for an hour.

At weekends, days out are organised every Sunday. These can be anything from days out ice skating, shopping or the more recent trip to Cadbury World. My favourite trip of the year has to be Stable house's day out to Drayton Manor Park - it was so much fun. Luckily, I love roller-coasters, so I thoroughly enjoyed it!

Even though boarders sometimes feel the stress of work or being away from home, we have the other boarders to cheer us up, as well as having the House Parents around for chats. Life at Rendcomb is never dull, and I love being able to board at a school that has such a friendly atmosphere. ■

Olivia Watson, Form 4



4th Form in Stable House

It seems that no matter how much work I have or however many hours I spend doing my work, there is always some way to chill out in Stable. It could be Barn three times a week or the fourth and fifth form Ball every other year. Of course one is slightly more stressful than the other, where everyone is set into a blind panic that they will be wearing the same thing as one another.

Barn on the other hand is a lot more laid back and a lot less stress is caused by socializing with your peers a few times a week.

In the Michelmas term every house chooses a show they wish to see. This could be anything from Mamma Mia to the Woman in Black. In the Michaelmas term of 2011 both Lawn House and Stable House chose to view Grease. I can safely say that everyone from both houses enjoyed it. Maximum embarrassment was caused by the fourth form girls suddenly bursting in to song and dance as if they were part of the cast.

As a final trip for the house as a whole, before the fifth form left for study leave was a day out at Drayton Manor. This was a tremendous hit with all involved; even those who wouldn't necessarily welcome the thrill of Shockwave and Apocalypse but would stay on the big wheel all afternoon.

This past year in Stable has certainly been an eventful one. There have been some funny moments that I'm sure will be remembered for a long time after we've all left Stable House. ■

Daisy Little, Form 3

L6 in Stable House

Living in Stable House this year has taught me many things. It was my first time for me to leave my hometown in China. I was very nervous but everyone was very friendly in Stable.

They always took the initiative to say hello to me and asked me how my mood was and I felt this helped to relax me. I was very shy to talk to other people as my English was not very good. The houseparents' and students who live in Stable have always taken the initiative to communicate with me, and help me to improve my English.

This year I have been very happy in Stable, except I have worried about my grades. Next year I will move up to Park House and I will try to improve my grades and English, but I will never forget my time in Stable House. ■

Shelly Zheng, 6L

Lawn House

Life in Lawn House



Lawn House goes from strength to strength! As we close the door on 2012 we reflect on the year that has seen our boarding and day numbers escalate ... not only did we outgrow Stable House, but perhaps we are well on our way to outgrowing Lawn House as well!

Mr Cairns can we have an extension please?

We must be doing something right to be a thriving boarding and day community.

The year began with the 'lilac' theme being greeted with a rather unassuming acceptance and therefore we all sighed with great relief that we didn't need to urgently redecorate. However, there is always one and that one person could only be Charles Greening!

Our first few weeks of Michaelmas term witnessed Charlie beaver away with masking tape, dust sheet and paint roller in hand; frantically applying three coats of magnolia matt finish in-between prep sessions and well into the evening, in order to create that all-important ambiance! We were all well impressed with the professional finish and it was such a shame that he didn't remain in boarding long enough to appreciate his efforts. However, we are sure that whoever is lucky enough to land Charlie's room next year, will be very appreciative of all of his hard work and we wish Charlie all the best as he leaves us for new pastures.



Then came Lent term and the boys were catapulted straight into mock and modular examinations and I'm afraid that from hereon in the story becomes rather monotonous as our boys didn't really come up for air until the end of the summer term. Examinations were the order of the day and this left very little time for much else in this rather busy academic year.

However, we did make time for some memorable Lawn House sleepovers. Back to back movies became progressively 'spookier' and as darkness closed in, those with the grit and determination to see it through, endured it to the bitter end along with Mr B, who most probably only managed four hours sleep by the time the 'ghosties and the ghoulies' had stopped haunting our brave young men. They insisted on visiting the bathroom in groups of three, just in-case something supernatural was lurking in the darkest corner of the toilet cubicle!



Summer term and once again our intrepid 5th form boys, braved the thrills of 'Thorpe Park' for their final Funfair-Farewell day out, during a break between those all-important GCSE examinations.

Before we knew it, it was all over and the GCSEs were done and dusted for another year. As our 5th form departed, the house seemed to take on a different feel, it was the sudden realisation that our 4th form was now stepping up to the plate and taking its place at the head of the table. Discussions ensued as to what shape next year's 5th form would take? Who would put themselves forward for those all-important 'management' positions (house prefects)? How would they manage the new 4th form and what would be their hopes and aspirations?

Luca departed in that final week! He was obviously quite overwhelmed by the response of his peers as they rushed to

hug him before waving him off and wishing him well on his final journey back home to Germany. We wish Luca all the very best and look forward to his return, after he completes his 5th form year at school in Germany.

Leavers Weekend and the 6U chapel service and luncheon held a special place in our hearts this year. This was our first group of boys who were placed in our charge as we started out as Houseparents at Rendcomb College. It was a great privilege to play a part in shaping these young individuals' lives and we are especially grateful to Christopher Minton, Charles Black and Tommy Lin, who supported us in their Lower Sixth year and returned to us as our 6th form prefects in the Upper Sixth.

Bravo to all of our boys who leave us to start the next stage of their academic lives.

We look forward to the new academic year and all it brings. ■

Mr P Bevens and Mrs M Bevens



Park House



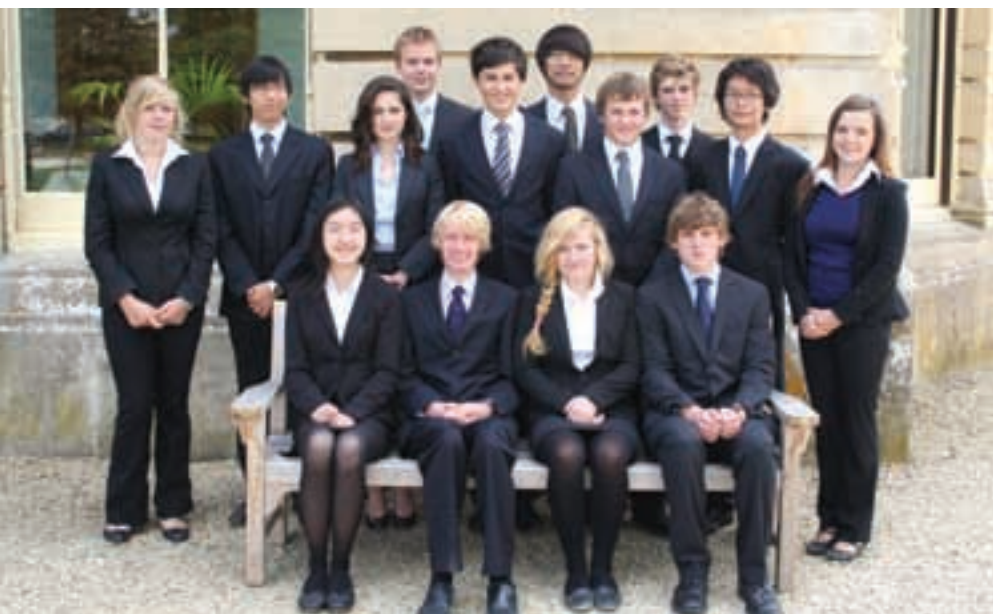
The wonderful Park House: much like a prize for reaching the end of school. In this past year, we've done just about everything under the sun – making the most of our last years at Rendcomb, while of course getting the balance just right and getting work done too.

Park House Events

Park House has produced a huge range of weird and wonderful events this year, from wacky events such as the Pirates vs. Ninjas bar and innuendo bingo, to the more civilised Sixth Form enrichment nights.

The Sixth Form bar, as always, has played a huge role in the Sixth Form events calendar this year, with themed bars being a particular highlight. The social prefects did a great job of coming up with weird and wonderful themes for the bar nights, such as rave bar, superhero bar and out of the hat bar which saw perhaps the strangest dance floor yet, consisting of penguins, firemen, nuns, lumberjacks, cowboys and, of course, Jordan Thomas dressed as Princess Jasmine.

Away from the wacky bar nights, Park House also produced a number of more civilised enrichment nights which were interesting, enlightening and enjoyable for the sixth formers. These, like bar nights, were extremely diverse, with sixth formers





taking part in wine tasting, cooking and talks from inspiring people such as Ray Lewis.

Park was also involved in many events with other year groups across the school this year, with many of the sixth form being part of the successful buddy scheme. This saw the Park House residents having great fun with their first form buddies in the buddy quiz, barbecue and football match. Park also produced many hard rocking bands this year for the annual Rendcomb rock concert, with a sixth form band winning the fantastic prize of a recording session at Yellowshark recording studio.

Events this year were not confined to Rendcomb itself for the sixth form, with weekends also filled with activities such as shopping trips, cinema trips, Zorbing and banana boating which were enjoyed by all - even if some people did lose their swimming shorts banana boating!

What a fun filled and successful year for Park house - bring on the next! ■

Jack Pethick, 6L

Ray Lewis



Ray Lewis' entrance into Rendcomb College was preceded by a certain flurry of speculation. Usually Sixth Form enrichment is straightforward - a guest, at Mr Jennings' behest, has been asked to talk about a particular topic, which we know well in advance. Ray Lewis was different - a mystery man. Mr Jennings professed ignorance about the topic of his speech, or even who the man himself was. Internet searches were thwarted by the existence of an American Football player called 'Ray Lewis', which excited some of the boys into thinking we had shipped him over specially on loan from the NFL.

Any disappointment felt that Ray Lewis was not, in fact, a footballer was quickly quelled when we were introduced to the man himself. An acquaintance of the Headmaster, Ray Lewis was in fact the leader of a charity which got boys from disadvantaged backgrounds places into high-end schools, and a former assistant to Boris Johnson.

Most speakers for enrichment come to teach the Sixth Form something new- Ray Lewis encouraged us to use what we already knew and to think in a different light. He took the example of the London riots, and with the help of some enthusiastic audience participation; in particular some rousing speeches for and against the justification of the riots by Holly Phelps and Harry Ellis; he encouraged us to see the complexities on both sides of an initially straightforward argument. He then challenged us to think about ways in which change could be effected, fielding solutions from the audience, and encouraging us to apply ourselves to a problem which seemed initially too large to tackle; how to improve our society for the benefit of us all. He was certainly an accomplished speaker, mixing charismatic seriousness with a sense of humour that compelled the Sixth Form to listen and participate. Laughter and serious political thought contained within one hour, all while keeping the attention of fifty teenagers - no mean feat, but one accomplished with apparent ease.

If the mark of a good 'Enrichment' is that it leaves you with more questions than answers, then Ray Lewis certainly achieved his aim. Many of our cultural enrichments inspire momentary interest before they are forgotten. However even now, Ray Lewis remains a figure in the minds of the Sixth Form, many of whom are inspired by the messages he gave; not to simply accept things at face value, and to believe that we can change the world around us - if only we properly apply ourselves to the task at hand.

This was Ray Lewis' first visit to Rendcomb, but I am sure that it will not be his last. ■

Tom Benson, 6U



Sports & Co-Curricular Reports

Winter Sports

Rendcomb Rugby 2011

The College has fielded five teams this season on a regular basis, playing a total of 53 games, winning 30 with three draws, and scoring a total of 1167 points.



The U13 squad was a group of young men that really galvanised into a formidable team. Robert McLaughlin was a 'man mountain' of a player and skipper, scoring some 38 tries throughout the season, an outstanding feat, and the forwards were very ably led by Max Watson. There are some players to watch next season in the U13s, Joel Frost and Robert Sharman to name but a couple, and Dylan Evans and Oli Heneghan were two of the most improved players, and this is great news for next season's U14s. There were some real nail-biters such as the matches against Exeter Cathedral and Kingham Hill, and Mr Brealy would like to thank all of the boys for their great commitment and for a really grand season.

The U14s was a very small squad, both numerically and physically, and endured a tough season. Nevertheless, there were three wins from eight games with the best against Stanbridge Earls. The side improved considerably over the season and has been well captained by James Sinfield. The pack was strong even when under pressure from bigger sides, and the backs also showed significant improvement over the season especially as not many of them had played together before. In the best spirit of Rendcomb rugby, every boy in the year who



was fit to play, played, and played to the best of his ability.

The U15s won 8 of their 12 matches, enjoying a winning season that was characterised by great team cohesion. The leading try scorer was Jacob Davidge with 18 tries, and, although three comprehensive victories were recorded, the other five wins were closely fought and keenly contested. The final game of the season ended in bitter defeat to King's School Gloucester, with the boys leading 12 – 10 with ten minutes left when fate dealt a cruel double blow with injuries to Jacob Davidge and Brodie Ash. Despite brave resistance the opposition scored two tries to make the final score of the final match 12 – 20. There are many excellent players in this team who will make their mark in senior rugby next year, and Mr Vuolo would like to record that it was a pleasure to coach such a committed group of players.

For the 2nd XV, it was a season to remember, with the best results the College has recorded at this level for many years. The team was captained by Oliver Greenaway, who led from the front, and the boys played with passion and a total belief in themselves, even when they met bigger opposition on the field. Many of the

players represented the 1st XV during the season, showing the wonderful depth of talent that characterised the senior squad this year. Mr Ferreira notes that there were two major features that underpinned the success of this team. First of all, they showed great support for each other when times got hard and, secondly, everyone took full responsibility for their job in the team. It is too hard to single out outstanding individual efforts because there were so many by so many different people, but a big thank you must go to Oliver Greenaway for all the effort that he has put into rugby at Rendcomb College over his career.

The 1st XV enjoyed another winning season with nine wins and a draw from 15 matches. This season's success was built on a perfect blend of youth and experience, with fifth formers making the difficult and challenging transition from U15 rugby, and doing it so well that Harry Priestner, Paddy Tarleton, Ollie Cook and Louis Mernagh are already firmly established as 1st XV players, and, in addition, James Taylor and Alex Tatara-Mills also forced their way into the side. Other fifth formers played and never let the side down, and the future is full of promise.

A special mention must go to the 'county boys', Harry and Paddy, as achieving

Gloucestershire county honours is a truly outstanding achievement given that this region is a genuine 'hotbed' of rugby. Many congratulations to both of them in representing the College and the County with such distinction.

From the lower sixth, Tristan Stevens, Will Scott and Harry Ellis improved all season and will be the rock on which next year's XV will be built. Alongside them will be Lance Baynham whose senior rugby has been blighted by injury so far.

Finally, the 'senior pros', in their last season of College rugby, Christian Couch, Tommy Lin, Philip Oepen, Charles Black, Max Birden and Christopher Minton showed outstanding commitment to the cause and have been deservedly rewarded with a season to remember.

Occasionally, the physical battles were lost against more powerful and mature sides, never for want of effort but through a simple lack of physical presence. At their best, the 2011 1st XV played rugby of the highest quality and was a delight to watch. The boys saved their best to the last. Their magnificent victory over KSG on the last Saturday of the season was a fitting reward for all of their efforts throughout the season.

At the heart of all of this was the captain, Daniel Geerah, in his third season in the 1st XV, he could not have given more and he is another worthy candidate for Rendcomb rugby's 'hall of fame'. Dan has been an outstanding leader who personifies all of the finest traditions of College rugby.

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

Mr M Slark

1st XV Rugby 2011 Captain's Report



A wise man once told me, 'to be truly great on the rugby field, you have to have your mind in the fridge, and your body in the fire'. And this season, we have been truly great.

Back in 2008, I remember sitting at the rugby club dinner, as a 'shandy boy', looking up towards the 1st XV captain as he spoke about the triumphs of his season. He mentioned commitment and determination, words I had always thought spoken just because it is a good phrase to put in the final speech of a season'. However, when reflecting on this season and the 1st XV of 2011, it is clear to me that these words fit better than any others. The players have shown commitment and determination greater than I could ever have asked of them. Committed to develop, determined to have fun, committed and determined to win.

The squad was youthful, and this meant for some games, having an entire back line made up of fifth formers, but this has never been a disadvantage. Very strong bonds have been made both on and off the pitch, and that is exactly the perfect building block for a College senior rugby team. I recall one moment in this season which perfectly sums up the mentality of the fifth form boys. This involved Patrick Tarleton in the game against Rougemont. It was half time in this close fought encounter, and after I had made my usual speech about 'reducing mistakes and taking any opportunities we had', Mr Slark offered his usual words of wisdom, and then he turned to Paddy and told him that, if the opportunity came, he should attempt a drop goal. And so twenty minutes into the second half, Paddy cleanly caught a kick from the opposition and slotted a fantastic drop goal from our own half.

This year the fifth form has really stepped up to the mark, proving their skill and worth in the 1st XV. They have tried new things, some of which have worked to great effect, others not quite so well, but these boys have always somehow, in one way or another, made their mark during a game and of course during this season. From Patrick Tarleton, Harry Priestner, Louis Mernagh and Ollie Cook who comfortably settled into the team early in the season, to James Taylor and Alex Tatara-Mills who managed to fight their way to become well deserved first choices by the end of season. Another mention has to go to Yannis Dimopoulos for never letting us down when called upon. Even against the biggest opposition, these boys have fronted up, putting in some memorable tackles, and the skill and team work shown by these boys have exceeded all expectations. I am immensely proud to have shared this season with you all. Good luck for future seasons.

1st XV Rugby 2012

1. Lin
2. Couch
3. Oopen
4. Black
5. Tatara-Mills
6. Mernagh
7. Stevens
8. Ellis
Gilling
9. Geerah (capt)
10. Cook
11. Scott W
12. Priestner
13. Birden M
Minton
14. Taylor
Dimopoulos
15. Tarleton



Moving on to my lower sixth comrades, I would like to thank Harry Ellis, Will Scott, Tristan Stevens and Lance Baynham for the support they have provided for the team. With a year's experience under their belts, the lower sixth set out to get their shirts quickly and this produced a situation of competition for places, which is always fantastic to see in the senior squad. I am in no doubt that the team next year is in good hands, and that the lower sixth boys will help Rendcomb Rugby grow from strength to strength. A mention must also go to the support provided by Josh Thomas as touch judge this season.

The senior players in this team have my utmost respect. In some cases, this was only the second year I played rugby with them, although I have been in the company of others for five years. I am not sure if I can actually describe how awesome it has been. All the way through the school, both on and off the pitch, the support and entertainment they have provided me with has been enormous.

I will never forget the remarkable 'duracell' fitness of Paddy Gilling, the Germanic energy of Philip Oepen, the understated but rock like presence of Tommy Lin, the passion and reliability of Charles Black, the individuality and support of Chris Minton (so desperate to start the last game of the season despite his injury).

And then there was Max Birden - in the first match of the season, he started, he scored, he broke his collar bone. That was pretty much how Max's season went. However, whenever he was on the field, he performed. Whether it was during training or a match he put in an enormous amount of dedication. His training didn't just consist of the mere five or so hours that are timetabled; he would regularly sneak off to top pitch during his own free time to get some practice in. It was such a shame that he stood on the sideline for 11 of our 15 matches, but he was our greatest supporter, and he would come on a two hour bus journey, just to support the team. Overall, Max has had an outstanding rugby career at Rendcomb, and it was fantastic that he was back on the pitch for the final victory of the season.

Finally, for a player who has impressed everyone this season. Chris Couch has gained respect from all corners of the pitch, proving his worth in the tight and in open play. He has been the leader of

men on the field and he would definitely be a contender for player of the year. He has dramatically increased his intensity and has made massive improvements in his all round game. Setting an example from the front seems to be what he does best, and I am grateful for his commitment and I know the rest of the squad share my view.

In conclusion, I would like to thank two gentlemen who have led me all the way through my time in the 1st XV. Mr Marsden has been responsible this year for numerous things, above all for coaching the forwards. He has shown an eagle eye when it mattered most and his military experiences and knowledge has kept us entertained up on top pitch. He has kept the forwards tight knit and well trained, and this has proved a major asset to the team.

The final person that I would like to thank is Mr Slark, whose thought process of rugby, rugby and more rugby has aided the development of individual players, and the team as a whole. As Director of Sport, he organises all the fixtures for all of the age groups, as well as everything else that makes the season work. Fortunately for us, this gentleman's talents do not stop just at the organizational side of things, he also brings great experience to the game and to the training sessions. His experience ranges everywhere, from moves in the backs to the many gruelling ways to keep the squad's fitness levels peaking at the right time. I would like to personally thank him for all the support he has given me during senior rugby. He has enough passion and enthusiasm to share with everyone, with still enough left over for the following seasons.

As I have come to the end of my time playing rugby for Rendcomb, I would like to say thank you for everything. It has contributed an enormous amount to my whole Rendcomb life, and brought me memories I know I will always treasure, especially those from the last couple of years. I have learned so many new things, and met so many people that are no longer just faces of Rendcomb, but are friends. You all have my respect and I hope I have earned yours. From the first to the last game, I have loved every moment. Enjoy it while it lasts, guys, because it all goes way too quickly. I'll leave you with this, '29-17 to Rendcomb'. ■

Daniel Geerah

Girls' Hockey Report

Played 34 Won 16 Lost 9 Drew 8

This year we were once again treated to a fabulous exhibition of hockey produced by all years of the college. It was always lovely to hear very positive comments about the college from many opponents and parents at the end of what was a very competitive and successful season. Every year group took on board the advice given to them by their coaches. They battled hard to keep possession and used their initiative in competitive nature to assert themselves to create chances and regain parity to convert goals to reality, showcasing their talents and providing a great advertisement for lady's hockey. They remind us all of what can be achieved with enthusiasm and hard work.



1st X1 Hockey 2012

Phelps (capt)
Haas (vice capt)
Mulhall
Daly
Highlands
Metcalf
McFarlane
Williams
Gibson
Faruque
Jones
Clarke
Kernon
Spurway
Khirrecu



1st XI Hockey

(as summarised at the Hockey dinner)



Some statistics of the season:

1. Hours on astro 87.
2. Players for the 1st XI = 17, goals = 18
3. Number of times Maria fell over in goal = 26
4. Number of times Charlotte Jones missed the ball, smiled and ran after it 962.
5. Number of short corner practices = 4284

Well it has been a fine season for the 1st XI, playing eight matches and scoring 18 goals, most from short corners (Thank you Holly), but statistics really do not tell the story of 13 weeks of fast, intense and at times very pretty hockey.

We opened the season with a 5-0 win in Kingham Hill, all was boding well. We did lose a couple of games, but only to very polished teams: Christ's College and St Edwards to name two. Certainly, no disgrace at all. Both teams commented on the players being so determined, tough and linking play, the players have been such a credit to the College.

And so to the players. On paper at the start of the season, we clearly had some inexperienced players in the squad, but as we know we don't play on paper, we play on astro and these younger players were led by the more senior experienced lionesses. From the 5th form, seven players gave everything to the team. Christine and Abi worked so well in various positions, always willing to fit in where needed. Hannah (until her injury) and Barley were so effective in mid-field and very able to push the opposition backwards. The skill and ball control of Kemi and Bliss showed throughout the season, each of them scoring three goals; and Lucy, without whom we would have lost more games. To the 5th form thank you for all the wonderful work you have put in this season, it bodes well for next year.

So to the Lower 6th. Firstly to Merle, Isobelle and Pauline, not actually playing but working in the wings for a possible call up, fierce in the Sports Hall for the indoor training. Thanks you all so much for your loyalty to the team. Charlotte Jones you have matured as a player so much, your work rate has doubled and you never forgot to be so polite on the field. Vicky, also from the "acorn has the oak tree grown", you were taking on players and beating them, even surprising yourself at times. To the Lower 6th, how can we thank you enough, we couldn't have done it without you.

Onto the Upper 6th, six players, all real class. Firstly Megan, scorer of three goals and always a danger in the 'D', did actually turn up on time for some practices. Megan thank you for all your efforts this season. Deenah (Smiler), who was not full of confidence at the start of the term but grew and grew, always prepared to get in the way of the opposition and never back off. What a finale, a goal in the Kings Gloucester match so well deserved. Maria, what a talented keeper; I have lost count of the times you kept us in the game, agile and quite athletic, so very well done, even if you did keep falling over. Kat, so hard working, I think you ran a marathon in each match, you will never give up, like a 'nuclear powered hornet'. You have been so influential in the team's success, the match versus Christ's College and King's was quite superb, thank you.

And now the dynamic duo. Andrea Hass (Vice Captain), three goals. The queen of the right wing, such a key role, you have been quite superb. If you scored three you made double that. You are quite outstanding as a player, thank you so much.

And so to our Captain, Holly Phelps, I have coached many 1st XI teams over the years and Holly you have been simply outstanding, with a fierce desire to win. You have scored eight goals but most importantly you have led the team from the front, 'leading into battle' and you have commanded the respect of us all. We literally could not have done this without you. Thank you so much. On behalf of us all, I would like to thank all the coaching staff, without them we couldn't do this, but most of all to the person that makes us all happen, Miss Bell. You have worked so hard again this term.

To all the 1st XI of 2011: my congratulations on such a fine season. I have so enjoyed coaching you. I will remember this team as a fighting team, you have been so prepared to do whatever it takes and succeeding. You are a credit to the College, a credit to yourselves and I am proud to have been part of it. Thank you. ■

Mr J Stutchbury

Lacrosse

TEAM	PLAYED	WON	LOST	DREW	GOALS FOR	GOALS AGAINST
All teams	82	45	30	7	450	243
U12/U13	13	5	8		40	52
U14	14	2	11	1	54	94
U15	11	9	1	1	91	49
2nd X11	7	1	6		12	49
1st X11	37	28	4	5	253	103

This season has been another great success for Rendcomb College

The U12/U13 team was coached by Miss D'Amato this year who has achieved some great results. The finale of the season was playing for the first time in the South West Regional tournament at U13 level. This meant that the team were up against schools like Sherborne Girls who play Lacrosse during the Michaelmas and Lent term, no mean feat considering some of our girls had only been playing for approximately six weeks. This did not deter the girls and they performed to the best of their ability managing to get a ranking of seventh in the Region. This is a great achievement for us. The Most Valued Players for the year at this level are Grace Knapp and Ellie Jones.

The U14 team was coached by Miss Mucci and Miss Berry and although much of the season was a steep learning curve for the girls it ended in glory, with a draw and a win against Marlborough U14s and a fantastic win against St. Helen's and St. Katherines' School to end the term. At the U14 Regional South West Tournament the team was placed 11th in the Region. The MVP for this team had to go to Eve Jarman who decided to take on the position between the pipes and was absolutely fantastic saving the game on numerous occasions.

Mr Coups and Miss Bell coached the U15 team into a winning season, they played games against schools such as Cheltenham Ladies' where they drew; they were unfortunate not to win. The might of this team could not be kept down and when asked to play Canford 2nd team or Marlborough 3rd team this did not phase them; they took them on in their stride coming home victorious. Well done ladies on a fantastic season and to Cerys Davies for being awarded the most deserved MVP award.

The 2nd X11 was coached again by Miss D'Amato. This team broke a record before stepping onto the field of play as the team was made up of Rendcomb International students many of whom had never

played before. After a few weeks of learning how to play the team set off for their first game against Tudor Hall. Although not victorious the team was eager to play more games. As each game went on the team got better and better, ending the season on a win over Canford 2nds. The girls should all be extremely proud of their achievements but especially Christine Khirrecu, for a superb job in Goal and her reward of the team's MVP.

Mrs Coups 1st coached the 1st X11 through its second consecutive unbeaten season, beating some formidable teams in the process. The highlight of this season has to be playing at National Schools and in the Small Schools Championships. At the National Schools tournament we qualified after the first day to play in Division Two of the championships. After making life hard for ourselves by drawing three out of the six games we miraculously found ourselves in the semi-finals. We beat Marlborough College 3-1 and then advanced to the final where we met Sherborne (a rematch from last year). This year however, the game went to double overtime and golden goal. Unfortunately, we did not win but we are now ranked in the top 30 schools in the Country. The following week we had to do it all again in the Small Schools' Championships where we won all of our matches on the way to the final and met up with Claremont (another rematch from last year). This game also went to double overtime and golden goal. Thanks to Megan Mulhall's fantastic free position we won the game 7-6. The awards for this team are: Lucy Kernon for her brilliant display as Goalkeeper for the whole term, who received the Best Defence Award; Holly Phelps, Best Midfield; Megan Mulhall Best Attack (Megan also set a new school record this year by scoring 335 goals in three seasons whilst representing the 1st X11) and Andrea Haas who received MVP.

I would particularly like to thank Andrea, Holly and Megan for their devoted years of service to the game. ■

Mrs K Coups

Lacrosse Tour October 2011



On Saturday 22nd October, 2011, Rendcomb College Lacrosse Team departed for its first overseas tour to Hannover, Germany. The 16 player team consisted of a mix of female students aged 14 to 18, many of them Gloucestershire residents.

The first game was scheduled against Hamburg's Black Pearl Lacrosse team. This game was the first of four games scheduled to be played on Astroturf and under floodlights, a new experience for the majority of the team. Rendcomb won the game 8-4 with Megan Mulhall scoring 5 and Cerys Davies being awarded MVP.

Our second game was against Hannover and another new experience for the majority of the team as we played International rules and had three referees. The score at half time was 3-1 to Hannover, after half time we equalised and soon took the lead with inspirational goals from Megan Mulhall and Bliss McFarlane. Holly Phelps, Andrea Haas, Barley Spurway and Lauren Kraven were a great defence unit at the back, with critical saves being made by Lucy Kernon in the final few minutes and the equalising goal being scored by Delia Rich in the last minute for the game to finish 8-8. Andrea Hass was nominated as MVP for this game for her excellent all round performance.

The third game took us back to Hamburg to play the Hamburg Warriors Lacrosse Club. We had been informed that this team was on a par with the Hannover team so with some trepidation we arrived at their club ready to play another night time game. After a long warm up to rid ourselves of the three hour journey we played a solid first half but we were two goals down at half time with the score being 5-3. In the second half we went on to produce a fantastic display of lacrosse with Bliss McFarlane leading the attack and producing the best individual performance of the tour

scoring five second half goals and ensuring we won the game with the score of 13-7. Megan Mulhall scored five goals, Holly Phelps scored an amazing free position goal, and Rozy Baynham and Cerys Davies both added to the score sheet. Barley Spurway also played exceptionally well in defence closing down the opposition at any given moment, especially in the second half, unsurprisingly Bliss McFarlane was MVP for this game.

Our final match of the tour matched us against Hamburg Rising Stars. The expectation of this game was that their team would not be quite as strong as the others we had played, so this enabled the coaching staff to give key responsibilities to less experienced players to see if they could marshal the team. Olivia Witts and Barley Spurway stepped up to the challenge of leading the attack and defence and they both showed great leadership with Olivia receiving MVP. The final score was 12-7 to us with Delia Rich scoring three and Maria Highlands scoring her first ever goal. The attitude and ability showed by this less experienced team is excellent news for lacrosse at Rendcomb College for the next few years.

All the touring team want to thank the Hannover and Hamburg Lacrosse clubs for all their kindness in hosting the tour and to send a big thank you to all those parents, supporters and Sponsors who made this tour possible. ■

Mrs K Coups

Top Goal Scorer	Megan Mulhall 15
MVP for Tour	Bliss McFarlane and Holly Phelps
Special Mention	Barley Spurway

Boys' Hockey

Rendcomb hockey is alive and well. All the players and the coaches of the ten squads have once again shown a great deal of commitment and collective ambition throughout the season.



The U13s squads have achieved some very good results, playing increasingly expansive and structured play. The U13As won or drew over half of their 12 games with a positive goal difference; the core of the squad was Second Years, ably led by Oliver Heneghan. The U14s grew in confidence as the season progressed, ending up with three wins in their eight fixtures; their success severely hampered by the loss of Peter Gregory to an Alpine injury at Half Term. Mr Bevans' U15 'Killer Bees' won both of their matches and the U15A squad also performed very well; Edward Brealy presided over seven victories out of their eleven fixtures – the squad scoring 28 goals, almost twice as many as they conceded!

The Senior squads also gained a lot of pleasure and enjoyment whilst at the same time developing their techniques. The 3rd XI, with Eric Li at the helm, played six very close games winning or drawing half of their matches. They showed a great deal of character as they took on much more experienced opposition. The 2nd XI had the joint captaincy of vocal keeper Josh Thomas and solid defender Chris Minton. The spoils were shared with three wins and three draws out of their nine games. In his third season with the First's Dan Geerah was named captain of the 1st XI, with his 'Vice' being Max Birden, who was certainly in the mix for most improved player. This young squad, composed of many U16's, met with some very tough tasks against much larger schools, but Mr Ferreira was able to get the most out of them, raising their game so much that they ended up with impressive statistics: P12 W7 D2 L4 GF 33 GA28.

This has been a good season with which to 'sign off' my tenure as Head of Boys' Hockey and I would like to thank all the College staff and players that have helped to move Rendcomb hockey forward over the last decade or so. I wish Mr Ferreira all the very best as he picks up the 'hockey mantle'. ■

Mr A Brealy

1st XI Hockey 2012

1. Geerah (capt)
2. Tatara - Mills
3. Couch
4. Scott
5. Auster
6. Gregory
7. Hansel
8. Margesson
9. Williams
10. Tarleton
11. Priestner
12. Lamble
13. Birden



Basketball

This is the Rendcomb basketball team.
We love basketball!



Now basketball is my favorite sport, I like the way I can dribble up and down the court, and as you know basketball is a fabulous sport to keep healthy. So, let's enjoy playing basketball!

There are several matches in each term. I remember the last game we played we won. In that time, we realized the significance of the sense of competition and cooperation. Also, we needed a mainstay, I think it was Bubble Pan, he got nearly 30 marks in that time.

Normally, we practice every Monday and our coach is Mr. Coups. He usually leads us to do every week appropriate match training, it really works.

Our captain is Erick Yu, he was Upper Sixth last year, so our basketball team has lost several important players. Therefore, we need fresh men to join us, if you are interested in this sport, please sign up!

You are welcome to join us, Rendcomb Basketball Team needs you, and we will be better!! ■



Hangyang Bao (Bao), 6L

Summer Sports

1st XI Cricket 2012

1st team: Played 7 Won 4 Lost 3

As I write this, with the rain pouring down, and having just received a message from Wisden stating that 'it is recognised that the 2012 season was exceptionally wet and that a huge number of games were abandoned,' my thoughts go back to our Dubai cricket tour in April and, in particular, to our match in Abu Dhabi where, we were told, it had not rained for three years.



1st Team Cricket 2012

1. Birden (capt)
2. Scott
3. Lamble
4. Pethick
5. Tatara-Mills
6. Birden Oliver
7. Priestner
8. Thomas
9. Gregory
10. Tarleton
11. Auster
12. Baylis
13. Geerah

This English 'summer' has been rather different. We returned from Dubai as tournament winners, and with high expectations of the domestic season for a 1st XI that would be built around the key members of the victorious tour party and skippered by Max Birden. Sadly, the story has not been one of runs scored and wickets taken but of cancelled matches. The end of season cricket festival was especially hard hit with two of the three days being washed out without a ball being bowled.

Nevertheless, six matches were completed and the 1st XI prevailed in four of them with wins against Pate's Grammar School, Kingham Hill School, Bloxham and the Gentlemen of Worcestershire.

The team's most prolific batsmen were top scorer Howard Auster, Alex Tatara-Mills and William Scott. Their highest individual scores were 36, 37 and 48 respectively, and the lesson for next year is clear in that there is a pressing need to take scores like this and turn them into the more substantial scores that will establish dominant positions at this level of cricket. The XI's key batsmen should be aspiring to scoring centuries next season.

The leading wicket taker was Alex Tatara-Mills with a best return of 4-41, and he was well supported by Charles Lamble and Daniel Gregory. Other players such as Jack Pethick, Josh Thomas, Harry Priestner, Oliver Birden and Patrick Tarleton had their moments, and a really encouraging aspect of this season was the depth of all round ability in the team. As most of the team will return for one and, in many cases, two more seasons, the future looks to be bright, as long as it stops raining.

Thanks must go to Mr Ferreira for his coaching and support of the team this season, as well as for his overall organisation of cricket at Rendcomb in what has been a very challenging season. I know that he is very much looking forward to seeing these players fulfil their considerable potential next season.

Finally, we must acknowledge the efforts of two stalwarts of College sport who have now played their final matches, 1st XI captain Max Birden and Dan Geerah. Their contribution to sport at Rendcomb has been outstanding, this year and over years past, and they will be greatly missed. ■

Mr M Slark

U15 Cricket 2012

Played 4 Completed 3 Won 2 Lost 1 Abandoned 1

How do you describe this season? 'Rain affected' would be an understatement!

I have never known a summer term to be so interrupted by the weather, but there were some impressive performances by various individuals. James Tait was the most consistent player in the side, particularly with the bat. In four innings he scored 280 runs, was not out once and averaged 93, while with the ball he took five wickets in the three games that were completed at an average of 10.8 runs per wicket. These are extremely impressive statistics and it is frustrating that his season was so curtailed because of the weather as it would have been interesting to see how he would have progressed in a normal season. However he was not the most successful bowler, this was Cameron Rowe, whose medium pace and accuracy caused a great deal of problems for the opposition and he also took 5 wickets at an average of 8.6 runs per wicket.

Both of these players were ably supported by several others and the most unlucky bowler was probably Damon Young who regularly created problems for the opposition but never got the success he deserved. He also showed promise with the bat and I am sure would have contributed more, given the opportunity.

As a team this side is keen to work and develop its skills. The bowlers were supported by some excellent fielding in the matches we played; in particular Jacob Davidge, Oliver Baylis and Chris Schuarte took some impressive catches. It would have been nice to have played more matches but the last game of the season summed up the term; 1 over and 1 ball bowled and 1 run scored before rain intervened again and the match was abandoned. Let's hope next year the weather is kinder! ■

Mr D Baker



U14 Cricket 2012

Played 5 Won 0 Lost 4 Abandoned 1



This was rather a disappointing season in terms of results, but on the other hand there was a lot of learning which took place. Over half the team had not played cricket before and this showed in our results, but all of the boys' cricket skills improved over the season.

Tom Smith was captain of the team and showed that he had good talent when it came to bowling. He opened the bowling for the team and would not go for too many runs but did not have the fire power to take enough wickets. Peter Gregory also opened the bowling with Tom and improved throughout the season. Peter's batting was his best talent; as a hard hitter of the ball he could cause damage to any bowling attack. This showed in our last game where he scored a very quick 53 not out when we were chancing a very big score. Archie Hine was the most improved player during the season. His batting and bowling became more consistent with him putting in vital contributions to the team's course of trying to win a match or two.

Overall I hope that the boys enjoyed their cricket season and remember some of the new skills that they have learnt, so that next season they can carry on improving and hopefully win a few more games. ■

Mr N Ferreira

U13 Cricket 2012

Played 6 Won 5 Lost 1

The U13A squad had a brilliant season even though the weather was not very helpful with it being the wettest April to July on record. This was a team that had a very good mixture of Form 1 and Form 2 boys in it. This means that there will be another good year to come for the next U13 season. As a team, boys played well together and showed that they could be a very ruthless team if they wanted to be. This was illustrated in two of their matches. One, against Dean Close U14Bs where Rendcomb beat this team even though the boys they were playing against were one or two years older than them. The other one was against Kingham Hill School where Rendcomb batted first and scored 140 runs in 20 overs and then bowled Kingham Hill out for 18 runs, winning by 122 runs.

We played six matches, won five and lost one. There was some very good batting from Joel Frost, James Nickson, Alexander Dennett, Oliver Heneghan, James Heneghan, Robert McLaughlin and Dylan Evans who all showed promise to become good batsmen and contributed to a good season.

Dylan Evans shone with the ball. At times he got hit for runs but whenever he bowled he took wickets. Against Kingham Hill he took six wickets and a hat-trick.

We had a number of U12s in our team. They will have to lead the team next year with some of the experience they have gained from this season.

A special mention must go to Robert McLaughlin who captained the team very well. He led from the front with his bat and was the Wicket Keeper for the team.

Well done to all the boys in the 2012 U13 squad! ■

Mr N Ferreira



Dubai Cricket Tour

The cricket tour returned from Dubai as proud possessors of the Emirates Airline School 35 ARCH Trophy. Having recorded two victories in the round robin stage of the tournament, Rendcomb qualified for the final, staged at The Sevens Stadium in Dubai, on the basis of net run rate.

The College batted first and posted a score of 139 which was relatively disappointing in light of the fact that the team had comfortably passed the 200 run mark on two previous occasions. Their opponents, Sharjah YTCA, a talented and disciplined batting side, set about this target which required a run rate of less than 4 runs an over and which appeared to be well within their grasp. However, the Rendcomb boys rose to the occasion and bowled and fielded with great spirit and tenacity to create some real pressure on the batting side. Just as their opponents threatened to take control, the College took vital wickets and in an incredibly tense and exciting finale, with the scores level, Howard Auster and James Tait combined to run out YTCA's last man, and the result of the final was a tie. With Rendcomb having already beaten YTCA in the preliminary stage of the tournament, the trophy was awarded to the College.

In addition, Howard Auster was awarded the trophy as 'player of the tournament', thoroughly well-deserved with an average of over 60 runs (and a highest score of 90), wickets, catches and stumping's, as well as skippering the side. Other notable performances included a 5 wicket haul for Alex Tatara-Mills and one of 4 wickets for Tom Pethick, and an extraordinary innings of 85 from just 43 balls by Will Scott.

Ultimately, this was a great team effort and all of the boys made their contribution over the course of the tour. The tour was a huge success, both on and off the field, with some great memories for all of the boys. ■

Mr N Ferreira and Mr M Slark

Girls' Tennis Report



There is no easy game of tennis, no one throws sets away. Rendcomb College tennis teams showed that they will never give you an inch, will always be aggressive and step up on the court, and play some phenomenal games with amazing spirit. Sadly, many matches were cancelled due to the unreliable British summer, but the girls' tremendous work ethic was not dampened and they continued to work tirelessly to practice their sweeping serves, cross-court forehands, down-the-line backhands and attacking volleys. When we were down points we raised our game and showed great resilience, we then upset our opponents' rhythms creating chances that provided us with an incredible season of results and successes. ■

Miss S Bell



Rendcomb Goes Olympic

The College organised an 'Olympic themed day' for J5, J6 and Senior forms 1-4

The essence of the day was to give the pupils opportunities to sample some of the less high profile Olympic sports (essentially, not track and field) by using 'in-house expertise' and bringing in outside coaches. The pupils could choose to do four of the nine sports that were offered. We offered: archery; fencing; handball; martial arts; shooting; tennis; volleyball; water polo; wheelchair tennis. The opening ceremony consisted of a presentation on the history and development of the Olympics as well as contributions from one or two members of the local community with Olympic connections. The day came to a close with a tug of war competition.

A huge thank you to all colleagues who helped with this in any way and, above all, great credit goes to Sarah Bell who really did put an enormous amount of work into the day.



On 4th July, Rendcomb had an Olympic day where pupils from J5 to Form 4 experienced a range of different sports. I did martial arts, handball, water polo and wheelchair tennis.

First we had an opening ceremony where Mr Vuolo spoke to us about the history of the Olympic Games and where they had been held each year. I am sure everyone learned something different but I learnt that the Olympic Games originated from Greece in 776 BC. Mr. Fisher and Mr. Cairns had been invited to come and tell us what their connection was to the Olympic Games. Mr. Fisher explained that he was going to go to the Olympics in 1948 to compete in the high jump. However, three weeks before he managed to cut his leg on barbed wire and couldn't go. But he still holds the best record for the high jump at his prep school. Mr. Cairns didn't compete in the Games but he had made aluminium horse shoes for the horses competing in the Montreal Games.

My first sport was martial arts and here we learned many attack and defence moves. First we learnt how to punch and, fortunately



for some, no one got punched properly! We were taught that the punch we would most likely do was the running technique. (This meant that we should just run in any situation!). After this we learnt how to defend a punch if someone dares to punch you. The instructor told us the best way to win a fight (even though you should never be in one yourself) was to use the simple techniques such as to move out the way of the punch and then run! My biggest lesson in that was to run away from ANY fight!

My next sport that I took part in was handball. I knew that handball was a fast game a bit like football, netball and basketball all combined. Scott, our teacher, taught us the skills of the game. These were dribbling like basketball, throwing and catching like netball and, most importantly, team work like football (sometimes!). Unfortunately, the weather stopped us from playing any further and we never got into a match, much as I would have liked to.

After lunch, I did water polo. This was in our outdoor swimming pool and at first it was freezing. After a couple of relays and

swimming exercises most of us were warm. In water polo you are not allowed to touch the sides of the pool for a rest and so you had to tread water for a lot of the match. In the game you are only allowed to use one hand for throwing and catching (this is whilst treading water) and this proved extremely difficult. It was cold in the water but I enjoyed myself!

My last sport of the day was wheelchair tennis. The rules of the game are similar to normal tennis apart from you are allowed two bounces and the backhands are different. Also, you're in a wheelchair! Driving the wheelchair took a while to figure out but we all got the hang of it. For people that played tennis hitting the ball was quite easy but other people struggled especially on the strange backhand hit. I found that it was a lot harder than tennis itself.

To finish the sporty day we had a tug of war competition organised by Mr Marsden. It was a great day and everyone enjoyed themselves.

Many thanks to Mr Slark and Miss Bell for organising the Rendcomb Goes Olympic Day. ■

Rebekah Breare, Form 1

Riding at Rendcomb

At Rendcomb riding is enjoyed by all who take part. We have students involved both through school and outside of school. Our riders range the Juniors all the way up to the 6th form. During term time school takes a small gathering to Talland School of Equitation, we have weekly lessons here and our riding skills have improved. The lessons we have are truly enjoyable and the instructors are understanding and enthusiastic. ■

Mrs K Coups



Diamond Jubilee

Founder's day had a twist this year, falling as it did at the start of the Jubilee weekend. At school, we introduced a morning chapel service and a big family picnic to get everyone in a patriotic mood for the upcoming events of the weekend. Across Britain, many events took place: hundreds of street parties; the huge concert held in the Mall in front of Buckingham Palace; Gary Barlow wrote a song (of course); everyone found a way to celebrate.



One of my favourite things that took place was actually a few weeks before most of the festivity, this was 'The Face Britain Project', where children aged between four and sixteen drew a self-portrait, in any medium they wished and these pictures were projected onto the front of Buckingham Palace, in the shape of the Queen's face. Rendcomb Juniors all submitted a picture and so were part of this World Record breaking event.

Rendcomb has a special Jubilee weekend claim. Fourth former Livi Watson's father, Squadron Leader Jamie Watson, was lucky enough to be the pilot chosen to fly over Buckingham Palace in the Dakota, World War Two plane. Livi and her family are extremely proud of him.

Closer to home, in my household, excitement was abounding. Bunting was raised outside our house and hung up inside, cupcakes were made and crowns were worn. It was a truly rare occasion and was thoroughly enjoyed by all. ■

Lauren Seatter-Messer, Form 4

Duke of Edinburgh Bronze



D of E was a ... colourful experience to say the least, but where to start? Perhaps when we set off from Rendcomb would be the appropriate place to begin. Bags packed and boots tightened, it was hard to determine whether the feeling amongst everyone was of excitement or horror, and looking back I wonder which would have been the most apt. The words of the fifth formers bronze experience were fresh in our minds and were not very comforting to say the least. I guess one thing was definite; our expedition could not possibly be as catastrophic as theirs had been, three hours stuck in a field didn't sound like a good way to spend our Saturday.

However, as much as I hate to admit it, my group in particular didn't exactly get off to a flying start. Due to the several buildings and rivers we had intended to walk through, Mr. Illingworth had very kindly adjusted our route for us. I must admit, somehow I don't think Mr Bevans would have been quite so sympathetic, in fact it wouldn't surprise me if he made it his own goal to meet us at every river just to watch us struggle... 'Character building' he might call it.

We hadn't even managed to get out of Rendcomb before we faced our first real challenge; trying to get 11 girls and their 11 rucksacks onto the minibus. Though we could do with packing a little lighter next time, I do feel obliged to point out that we weren't nearly as bad as the boys, the contents of their bags included hair gel and even moisturizers. My personal favourite

was Luca's 3 kilogram bag of pasta, his reasoning being that it was a 'bargain' and he had concluded that his group could have pasta for every meal (a good source of energy) and then they would have less to carry home again. There must be some sense in that somewhere.

Five flapjacks, ten sandwiches, a bag of raisins, a pack of sherbet lemons, five boxes of cereal and a slice of biscuit cake later we arrived at our base for the evening; Stowe Rugby Club. One by one the groups collapsed into the campsite, and those of us who had arrived earlier, in true Rendcomb spirit, sat smugly in our tents, drinking hot chocolate, and being of no help whatsoever. Though after the hour a certain group spent attempting to pitch their tent, we thought it was about time to enlighten them to the fact that it was actually a lot easier to assemble if the poles were in the tent the right way. While all of us who had walked 17km plus that day ate our pasta and noodles, the staff feasted upon their fish and chips without a single offer to any of us.

The following day we were up at the crack of dawn, eager to get walking and back to school after a not so comfortable night's sleep. Much to Livi Witts' horror she was woken up at seven by the shaking of her tent, we found it hilarious, but I don't think she was quite as amused. Nevertheless we set off from the campsite at the ridiculous hour of half seven in the morning, in high spirits that we maintained even after we'd made the wrong turning before even leaving the campsite. Walking back... it's fair to say, I have never laughed so hard or for so long in my life.

Miraculously, with Rozy Baynham's exceptional map reading skills, we all returned back to school in one piece, and the sense of achievement made even the blisters worth it. The expedition presented many challenges and at certain points the easiest thing to do would have been to give up, but of course through sheer determination and grit every single group completed their expedition. Teamwork was undoubtedly the key in our success, while the relationship between five sleep deprived teenagers could quickly deteriorate in such a situation, I'm proud to say in every circumstance team members only came closer together despite a few bumps along the road. All I can say is bring on the gold! ■

Olivia Ellis, Form 4

Theatre Sports

Ah, Theatresports. This year a bigger challenge than ever, with suggestions for locations ranging from a trumpet to a smelly sock: an actor's nightmare! Yet despite this, there were – as always – many fantastic moments. Tom Pethick's Peter Griffin impression had people in stitches, and I swear I swore someone cry with laughter as Lance proclaimed as a Gladiator "I remember my first time waking up in the trumpet".

In many ways the star of the show was Mr Jennings, who returned to compere the show with his natural wit and humour, proving once again that he is a Rendcomb legend. Judging the performances was the experienced thespian, Miss Berry; long-timer and Queen of Drama, Mrs Dodd; and the "grand fromage" himself, Mr Martin.

The story round was perhaps one of the most successful ever, with Mr Jennings having to make up excuses as poor as "you fiddled with your hair too much" to get people out of the round, which was a great shame as Harry had only just started to explain the flaming butterflies. The teams then went on to play a range of theatre games: Jake's team ran around a concave spoon in five seconds, while Ollie Birden felt being in a pineapple was too much, leaving five people dead. Holly's team showed their strength as Ali was lifted to become an umbrella and Will was wrapped around Luke as a coat, while Phil's team went mental, like actually mental – except Alex Pugh who instead went camp!

The winners were, once again, the team of theatrical underdogs: A License to Slightly Entertain. They entered with the theme of James Bond; Howard Auster looked even creepier than usual as the evil henchman of villain Robert McLaughlin; however, his Irish accent still charmed the ladies. They attacked Judi Dench, played by the team's token female Kathryn Rew, before the ever handsome and highly fetching Jake McKeown came in as James Bond to save the day. His Bond girl, Harry Ellis, then entered looking absolutely gorgeous in a skirt.

Well done to everyone who competed, those who judged, Eric and Dan as the scorekeeping-clowns and all those supporting in the audience. Except you, Jacob Davidge. The next time Mr Jennings wants to humiliate you in front of an audience, you accept it. But of course, the biggest thanks must go to Mrs Dodd who spent hours making sure Theatresports happened. Bravo! Hats off! Round of applause! ■

Buddy System



The Rendcomb Buddy system involves a volunteer from the Sixth Form being paired up with a First Former to be 'buddies' for the year, and this year saw a record number of Sixth Form volunteers. This meant that this year's Buddy BBQ was even more mayhem than usual. After Mrs Dodd cooked up (with much burning) burgers and hotdogs and we had consumed excessive amounts of ice cream, the highlight of the buddy year began: the football match. Over 40 people took to the pitch, half on Jake's 'Team Sporty' and half on Dan's 'Team Lad'.

For those who haven't played Buddy Football before, the rules are different from the normal rules: there are none. Players took a shot, only to find the goal had moved halfway down the hill; Clare and Eleni attached themselves to Dan Geerah, and attempted to distract him by discussing gardening; referee Mr Thomason sent off Max every time he touched the ball.

After some clever manipulation to ensure it was a draw, it came to a tie. So, with the Headmaster in goal, the penalty shootout determined 'Team Sporty' as the winner.

This year's buddying has been a tremendous success, with many people hanging out with their buddies outside of the meetings – I now see Clare Farnham as Dan and Holly's new adopted daughter. Thanks to Mrs Dodd for all the organisation of yet another great buddy year!

Jake McKeown, 6U

Dance Challenge 2011



As the time approached for this monumental event, there was panic amongst the Staff and Prefect Team as to whether there would be enough troops to tackle this challenge. However, in true Rendcomb style, herds of students from all ages united in the Dulverton Hall for the Annual Dance Challenge, and what a night it was...

Throughout the night, students 'two-stepped' and 'leap frogged' their way through a wide range of genres, from a Break Dance-off to Body Popping Grandmas, in a bid to impress the judging panel, which consisted of Mrs Dodd, Miss Mills and Mr Martin. Leading this force of students were the two comperes for the evening: Lance 'The Noble' Baynham and Tristan 'The Brave' Stevens. With their quick-witted nature and confident approach, they warmed up the audience, willing them on to cheer and scream for their peers. From quick fire questions, to their own dance-off with Oli Greenaway to the sound of *Night Fever*, the two comperes managed to bring a large amount of energy to the evening.

The 'Rendcomb Girl Saints' that consisted of Godman Girls, performed a hard-hitting and well-rehearsed piece to the vocals of Adele's *Someone Like You*. These girls managed to float around the stage, stunning an audience. This atmosphere of tranquility and beauty was soon broken when Snoop hit the speakers saying *Sweat*, and a flood of Third form girls hit the stage and pulled off a faultless routine. Equipped with their wellies and umbrellas 'The Wellington Brigade' was able to incorporate some creative manoeuvres.

The Lawn House boys managed to come up with both a technical routine and name. 'Team Super Awesome Fire Breathing Dragons/ Awesome Razz' consisted of Nikolay Sevastianov, James Rose, James Mudge, Toby Martin and Luke Nixon.

The 'Edy 1492 Fan Club' danced an energetic routine to the David Guetta track; *Where Them Girls At?*, which consisted of a waist-coated Eddie Geerah, being backed up by a robotic Chris Shaurte, a hip Dan Haas, a jaw dropping Alex Pugh and an impressive Ed Davies, bringing together an original routine that appeared to have been choreographed by Louis Spence!

This year, two Sixth form teams took to the stage. First up, was a routine consisting of a dance off from "The Sizzle Dizzle Monkeys" including a flying Ali Sinfield, a break dancing Jolice Wong and a suitably dressed Ben Margesson. However, the winner of this fantastic show was "The Elders", a.k.a the Prefects. This awesome routine was simply: thirteen grandmas/grandpas, "getting on the floor" to Jennifer Lopez. The coordination and skill involved in this routine was incredible and brought about a well-deserved win.

A most memorable evening, it highlighted the fantastic spirit of the College while allowing students of all ages to get involved. Big thanks must go to Andy Webb and Miles Metcalfe for their fantastic lighting and sound. ■

International Viewpoints



I have had a good time this year at Rendcomb College. It has been a very special time for me. I have tried to do lot of things; these are tennis, hockey, lacrosse, cooking, choir and gardening. They have all been very enjoyable. I usually practiced choir once a week and the teacher, Mr Franks, is very kind. Hockey and lacrosse were my first experiences. At first it was difficult for me to catch a ball, but it was very fun. I played tennis and badminton in Japan, but I didn't really like them. Now, I love them. Boarders often play tennis and badminton. So, I often played them after school.

After dinner I usually watch a film, play tennis, bake something or do my homework because it was free time. Sometimes we would have sports day or barn night or something. Our dormitory mother and other staff were very kind in Godman House.

I also did some activities. I did craft club and gardening; craft club was very interesting. I made a lot of things which are decorating a book, mobile phone holder, and picture with the computer.

In gardening I helped to grow plants and really enjoyed it.

On the weekend boarders could go to cinema or shopping or some entertainment. I had a good time. Boarders have to clean the kitchen, when on duty. And tidy their bed. Bed time is about 10 o'clock, I thought it was too early for me, but we start school early!!

I had good time in Rendcomb College and I want to visit again. ■

Mako Kueo, 3rd Form Student from Japan



I have been at Rendcomb for 1 year and I have had lots of valuable experiences here. When I came to England, I was so nervous because I had not lived in a dormitory before. Also I did not have any confidence because I could not speak English very well and I am shy, so I thought I wouldn't be able to enjoy it here. However, all of the boarders in my dormitory are funny and always try to make me laugh. I enjoyed every evening and weekend.

Also I had an activity every day. I loved all of them especially games, which are changed every term. I enjoyed lacrosse and hockey in the first and second terms. They are sports that we don't play in Japan. Some universities have lacrosse clubs but I won't join there.

I didn't learn an instrument before I came to England but here I have begun to learn to play the guitar. I wanted to learn other instruments and I started to go to the ukulele club. Ukulele and guitar are very similar so I understood things I think I will continue them both in Japan.

I had some chaellenging experiences but I had more good memories. I enjoyed my year in England and at Rendcomb very much. ■

Miyuki Shizuta, 3rd Form Student from Japan

I started at Rendcomb in September 2011 and I'm in the 3rd form. In 3rd form I have many friends; they are all very friendly and very nice. An English school is very different from a Chinese school. They speak a different language and it's more comfortable than the Chinese school.

The first time I came to England my feeling was that it's good. The air is nice and people are very kind. After being here for only two weeks I felt settled in the school. To settle in is very difficult; you must work very hard and speak more English to your friends. In class we are more relaxed and talk more than in China. There are many activities at Rendcomb College, sport, cookery, ICT, library etc. They have wonderful teachers in this school they are all very kind to me and teach me well.

Rendcomb College is surrounded by hills, and we can see many plants and animals like cows and sheep. This is very common here. Sometimes we can go outside to see the nature, when we have finished a lesson. We always play with all the year groups. It's the 1st form, 2nd form and 3rd form in a dorm and we can play with each other at break. Rendcomb's food is very delicious. They have fish and chips on a Friday; this food is very conventional in England.

This year I have been very happy to have come to Rendcomb College. I will stay on to do my GCSE's. ■

Jerry Li, 3rd Form Student from China





Journeys End is the first English literature book I have read since I came to Rendcomb. I learnt it in my English class as a part of my English exam. The play is set in World War One and is about a British fight with Germany at no man's land. It is very difficult for me to understand the language at first, but I soon found how interesting the play is. Different characters have their own personalities and emotions. The story told me how they try to cope with bad situations and I soon became impressed by their optimism and bravery. I also have a deep thought about the war. Why should people fight with each other although they have done nothing wrong? Only for the reputation, territory and money they have to sacrifice so many people's lives. There is also a huge impact on the families when a member of the family joins the war. The play ended up with Raleigh's death. It was a tragedy and I learnt that no-one can accompany you through your whole life. We should realise how precious the time is and try to value it, so we don't regret it in the future. This book is very significant to my life and I have learnt a lot from it. As an International student I really enjoy the English Literature, culture and expect to explore more. ■

Victoria Cao, 4th Form Student from China

Leighterton Park Primary Visit

Rendcomb organised a trip for our students to go to another school and educate the little children. There were three or four teams of Russian, Chinese, Japanese and German Rendcombians.

Bubble, Bao and I were in the Chinese team, and our lesson was to teach the children about Chinese language, writing, reading and speaking. We were very excited about this experience.

At about 8 o'clock in the morning, the teams went to the school with Mr Martin and Miss Hughes. We were looking forward to this experience as it was our first opportunity to teach little children. When we got there, the teachers welcomed us, and they organised us into each different classroom to teach children. The Chinese team went from the youngest people to the oldest people to teach.

When we got in the first classroom the children smiled, and they were really cute. The teacher introduced us and then we started teaching. We started with numbers in Chinese, writing 1 to 10 on the board, and then taught the pronunciation and stresses. Then we asked them to write on the board. They didn't know how to write so they looked at our words and then copied them out. However, the words which were copied out were very different from Chinese; but we could understand and we still encouraged them. I think it was the first time they wrote Chinese so it was really good but sometimes when they wrote the words we were smiling because it was so funny. Some of them wrote from the up side to the right side, and some of them wrote from the right side to the left side. It was the way of the ancient! When the children were learning, the teacher was learning as well because she asked us how to pronounce somethings.

The above was in the first classroom, and then we entered the second classroom. When we got in there the teacher told us there was a child who couldn't hear what we were saying. So we had to wear a thing to speak into (I don't know what the name in English is), and then we started teaching. These students were older than the first students we worked with, we taught them some Chinese numbers and some easy words as well. In that classroom there was a girl who knew a little Chinese. I asked her why, and she said she learned a little before with her parents.

After break time we went into the third classroom. In this room they started to ask us how to write their names in Chinese. It was hard work and Bubble, Bao, and I almost had no free time because they asked lots and lots about these.

Time was now flying by and before we knew it we entered the last classroom. They were the oldest children so they asked us lots of hard questions. Some questions we didn't even know how to answer.

Throughout the process we were very happy. It was our first experience of teaching children, just like when we were small. Looking at them made me remember my childhood, it was a special feeling. If we have another opportunity like this I think I will do it again. ■

Big Charity Day

The Rendcomb community has always done a lot for charity. We regularly wear funny clothes and bake cakes for various charities, but this year we decided to go a bit further. We threw open the gates of the school on Sunday 25th March, 2012 to host a Village Fete, a football marathon and a multi-terrain run.



In beautiful sunshine, the event kicked off at 7am on the astro turf, with a 12 hour football marathon. The clocks had just changed so this was really 6am; but Stratton Youth FC is an intrepid lot and got things moving with a Dads and Lads session. Rendcomb's own Max Birden has been playing and coaching with Stratton this year and he played virtually all day.

At 9.30 am The Rendcomb Run, a multi-terrain run around our lovely grounds, was called to starter's orders. The route started with a nice gentle downhill section to the River Churn and then through the Churn, along the water meadow and a long pull up hill. Old fashioned Cross Country running is not for the faint hearted. The run was a fundraiser for ABF The Soldiers' Charity and we were delighted to welcome serving soldiers from ARCC and 29 Regiment at South Cerney. Several soldiers ran in full kit and were not particularly enthused about running in the river crossing. First off was the 10K; followed by the 5K and finally a 1K fun run. We had proper chip timing, which meant serious runners would push themselves and race hard, whilst the less serious could enjoy their achievement.

Highlights of the Rendcomb Run:

OR's Rory Gilling and Liza Dibble winning fastest male and female in the 10k race

First Formers, James Duckworth and Grace Knapp won fastest male and female in the 5k

The fastest boy in the 1k race was won by Mitchell Banks (J3) and the fastest girl was Emily Sharman (J6).



Meantime, the Prefects' Fete got underway. All stalls were run by pupils and enjoyed by all but as always the Treasure Island and doughnut eating stalls were very popular and offered good photo opportunities. Off duty footballers, runners, teachers and Governors arrived to test their doughnut eating skills. None, of course, could beat small, determined children. As the sun continued to shine, the Rendcomb Jazz band entertained us for a very relaxed afternoon.

As with any new initiative, a lot of planning, preparation and anxiety went into the day. But we need not have worried. It was a fantastic day. Everyone enjoyed themselves, and we raised over £7,000 for ABF The Soldiers' Charity, Helen and Douglas House, CHYP, Scrubditch Care Farm and Sport Aid/Stratton Youth FC.

Thank you to all who helped and supported this worthwhile and enjoyable day. The charitable beneficiaries came to Headmaster's Assembly at the beginning of the Summer Term for the cheque presentation. Each offered a short but moving account of what they do and how the monies would be used. It was great to know that our efforts will have real impact on local charities. ■

Christian Couch, 6U and Andrea Haas, 6U



Go Volunteer

This summer term, the Lower Sixth has been given the opportunity to enrich the lives of members of the community who required help in a scheme called 'Go volunteer'. The scheme was developed to strengthen the links between the school and local communities by the positive word of mouth that our actions would receive. 'Go Volunteer' is a pilot scheme pioneered by Mrs Halford and Mrs Corkett in an attempt to establish whether or not a more permanent scheme would be feasible for students to participate in next term. Based on the feedback we have received, which has all been fantastically positive, the future 6th form can look forward to the same opportunity in the future that we have experienced this term.

As well as the intrinsically 'good' feeling of knowing you have brightened someone's day, we gained vital life skills. The 'Go volunteer' scheme gives us confidence in how to react to similar situations in real life. In other words, it is a win-win situation with the volunteers also benefiting as well as the people we helped.

One group of students, including myself, helped in the Junior School. The first session we helped with, was what turned out to be the only literal, dry run for their sports day. The subsequent sessions we spent helping in the classroom, in subjects slightly out of our comfort zones like, me helping in Art and Jonas Probest in Maths!

Similarly, a larger group of students went in to Rendcomb village to assist the residents with household tasks from window cleaning to dog walking. The students performed amicably, with every single report received being hugely positive.

Finally, a group of students were taken off school premise to work with various organisations with whom Rendcomb has affiliations. The expedition to Scrubditch Care Farm involved two students helping in the upkeep of an organisation which helps people with disabilities to work relax in a rural idyll. Our students helped keep the Care Farm in a wonderful state during their time working there.

Another group went in to Cirencester and this group was split in two. Half went to a retirement home where our students were required to simply chat to and get to know the senior citizens. The other half worked in the Helen Douglas House Shop. The proceeds from this shop go towards helping provide hospice care for children and young adults in Oxfordshire and surround counties including Gloucestershire.

As the American author Harper Lee puts it in her novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*: "You can never truly understand someone until you climb in to their skin and walk around in it." In the tranquil bubble of Rendcomb life it is easy to forget about people with whom we have no contact and yet who need help. I feel the 'Go Volunteer' scheme helps bridge this gap by the sharing of experience and, that is why, I believe, it is imperative for future 6th formers to do. ■

Charlie Lamble, 6L

The Opportunities

After half term in the Summer Term all 6L had a taste of volunteering.

Opportunities included:

In Cirencester

- chatting to elderly people (Cirencester Young Neighbours Scheme, Watermoor House)
- helping in the Helen Douglas House Charity Shop.

At Scrubditch Care Farm

- helping the clients with horticultural work.

In Rendcomb Village

- for elderly people – cleaning windows, mowing lawns, walking dogs, helping at a lunch given by The Cotswold Friendship Group.

In the Junior School

- helping with lots of lessons and activities.

In the younger years of the Senior School

- helping with German, Art and Maths lessons.



The People who had kindly offered the opportunities said:

'We do hope you will come and see us again. It was fun!'

Cotswold Friendship Group

'The students were lovely! – very helpful and friendly'

Rendcomb residents

'I was very impressed by their maturity and empathy, and by the way they got on and worked with adults with disabilities' *Scrubditch Care Farm*

'Lovely young people' *Watermoor House*

The students said:

'had a fine time! – Ollie Baylis, cleaning windows

'we got on well and talked about Tai Chi' Martin He, visiting George who is nearly 90.

'Scrubditch Care Farm was an eye-opener, and a lot of fun!' Harry Ellis

Charlotte Jones and Tristan Stevens are planning to continue visiting Watermoor House in the summer holidays, and it is planned that much of this volunteering will continue in the Autumn term. ■

International Women's Day at Rendcomb

A new initiative for our girls, Oxfam's International Women's Day was marked by pink and blue bunting, decorated specially for the day – just how many tubes of fabric paint can one student use? – balloons galore and a host of special female guests arriving for lunch. Locally based women came from a variety of industries and backgrounds: medicine; web design; business; PR; armed forces; hospitality; journalism; management and sales; fashion and interior design, to cite a few. So many of the guests asked to come again next year and an added bonus, an outcome of the day, was that contacts were made and retained; some girls set up work experience with guests; BBC Radio Gloucester has featured us as a school of the week and been very supportive of Charlotte Jones' singing career! We were lucky to have *Cotswold Life* send along their female photographer too, so we had a lovely feature in the April issue.

Our Guests:

Cathy Ball

Cathy trained and worked in hotel management before opening the spa at Calcot Manor nine years ago. She now has responsibility for the delightful spa at Barnsley House.

Claire Carter

Claire applied for a two-month work placement at BBC Radio Gloucestershire while studying Broadcast Journalism at the University's Pittville Campus. She has now spent almost six years there and is not only one of the voices of the weekday Breakfast show with Mark Cummings but also helps to present her own Breakfast show on Saturday.

Tanya De Leersnyder

Tanya moved to the UK from South Africa nearly five years ago having started up Kalya Aromatherapy in 2008. In June last year, Tanya became a co-director of Feel Good Factor Wellbeing Ltd in Stonehouse and continues to work on expanding Kalya nationally and into Europe.

Lexi Durnell

Lexi studied locally at the RAC for a business degree and a Masters in Business Management. She opened her first shop in 2005 selling her own handbags, which she designed and made, later up-sizing to the current 'Lexi loves' shop in Cirencester in 2008.

Harriet Elwes

Harriet set up Foodworks Cookery School in 2010 on the Colesbourne Estate in a purpose built and designed contemporary space. Foodworks offers a wide variety of courses tailored for all needs – from beginners to experienced cooks – including 'Aga Cooking', 'Bread Making', 'Fine Chocolates & Truffles' and 'Healthy Eating'.

Nell Gifford

Co-founder and executive producer of Giffords Circus, Nell's life and dream – either side of her Oxford University degree in English Literature – has been the circus. She has worked on Circus Flora in the USA,

Santus Circus, Chinese State Circus, Bobby Roberts Super Circus and Circus Roncalli. Nell has written two books, *Josser* (about the secret life of a circus girl) and a children's biography on the inventor of the circus, Philip Astley.

Prue Hornby

Prue ran her own Management and Sales training company for some years. After selling the company, she worked as HR Director and as a Management Consultant specialising in Organisational Behaviour. Prue has served Rendcomb College as a Governor since 1998.

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Victoria Knowles-Lacks

Victoria is a real lover of countryside pursuits, particularly shooting. From Worcestershire, she studied at London College of Fashion, before taking two years out to travel around Australia. Victoria recently set up Ladies-shooting.com and the 'The Shotgun & Chelsea Bun Club' which gives more girls the chance to try their hand at shooting.

Jackie Llewelyn-Bowen

Jackie runs 'LB Ltd' in Cirencester along with her husband, designer and presenter Laurence. Their business involves work in Television, Radio and product licensing. Jackie has, in the last year, designed her own charming range of table and kitchen linen. Over the last 17 years, the Llewelyn-Bowens have worked with many different charities, including being ambassadors for the aid agency, Care International. Jackie and Laurence visited the cyclone-devastated South West of Bangladesh in February 2008 to see first hand the work of the charity and bring it to the attention of the British media.

Kerri Martin

Kerri has an English degree from the University of Oxford and a teaching qualification from Cambridge. She has taught in a variety of schools, most recently at a theatre school, at Eton College and at Heathfield School, Ascot where she was Head of English. At Eton, Kerri also worked for Admissions, interviewing boys for places, and for the Old Etonian Association editing and writing their publications.

Dr. Alison Nichol

Alison is a GP who has been working for the past 12 years in a busy Cirencester practice. When not at surgery, her time is kept busy looking after her two energetic sons who attend Rendcomb College Juniors.

Sabrina Pace-Humphreys

Sabrina launched her Gloucestershire based, PR agency, Trailblazer PR, eight years ago. Sabrina has worked in the field of marketing and PR for the past 15 years and in that time has managed campaigns for celebrities and nationally recognised brands.

Carrie Rossi

Squadron Leader Carrie Rossi is a serving officer in the Royal Air Force. She has been in the RAF for 19 years, having been awarded a scholarship by the Royal Air Force when studying for her A levels. She specialises in facilities management, financial advice, project management, welfare and Human Resources, as well as recruitment and general business management.

The day raised £461.87. To break that down: £135 can train five teachers in Mali who in turn teach over 250 girls and provide a whole generation with skills to work their way out of poverty; £230 can change the life of a woman and future generations in Vietnam by providing a business loan. ■

My Rendcomb: Excerpts from a Cynical Schoolboy's Diary

In the Lent term, pupils were invited to enter a competition. The title of the competition was 'My Rendcomb' and we were looking for interesting copy to be included on the new website. We received good entries from all age groups and in all styles of writing. The winner was 3rd Former Sam Tushingham. Here is Sam's winning entry.

July 2011

Tuesday 26th - Gramps died suddenly today, everyone very sad.

Friday 29th - OMG! Gramps left us all his money. Still sad ... but can't help thinking about a new telly and stuff.

August 2011

Thursday 4th - Loads of chat today about spending the dosh. Dropped a few heavy hints about an iPad 2. Fingers crossed.

Wednesday 10th - OMG! Mum's gonna spend ALL the dosh on some fancy school. Thinks she's gonna turn me into some posh snob. Yeah right!

Sunday 14th - Caught Mum on Google searching for "Private schools in Gloucestershire". Getting worried now! Can't believe she'd do this to me.

Tuesday 16th - Found leaflet for "Rendcomb College" on the desk, Mum reckons it's one of the best private schools in Gloucestershire. Seriously worried now.

Friday 19th - No more been said about schools, maybe Mum's decided to spend the cash on a face lift instead! Phew.

Thursday 25th - Disaster! Mum says she wants me to look around this posh school of hers. No chance!

Monday 29th - Mum reckons she can bribe me but she's got another thing coming ... well, depends what's on offer... Bugatti Veyron?

Tuesday 30th - Mum's offered me an iPad. Cool. Guess I'll go, but just for a look...and a laugh at all the posh kids in their 'cool' ties.



October 2011

Saturday 8th - Went to open day at this "Rendcomb College" of Mum's, supposedly one of the best private schools in Gloucestershire. Looks more like a palace than a school ... not my scene at all. Mum of course was completely over-the-top. Put her posh voice on ... SO embarrassing!

Sunday 9th - Mum spent all day talking about the school, says I'm finally gonna be a "sophisticated young man". Deluded woman.

Thursday 20th - Mum's started telling me off when I'm eating. She thinks I won't have a chance at "one of the best private schools in Gloucestershire" unless I improve my table manners! From the woman who thinks KFC is a Sunday roast!

Saturday 22nd - Getting really annoyed with Mum now: she keeps correcting me when I'm speaking, reckons I need to improve my "grammar", whatever that is. It's like living with the Queen.

November 2011

Tuesday 15th - Went for a private tour of "Rendcomb College". Blimey those kids were well-behaved. Brainwashed I reckon. Mum was still putting on that phoney posh accent of hers. I just wanted her to SHUT UP!!!

Wednesday 16th - Mum's obsessed ... ill even. Spent all day and evening drooling over the prospectus, she even missed 'The Only Way is Essex' ... must be bad. She did drop a huge bombshell: SATURDAY SCHOOL!!!! ... Went on and on about how it would give me something to do, stop me from getting bored etc. Couldn't get a word in edgeways! When will the penny finally drop? I LIKE being bored.

Thursday 17th - There's no changing Mum's mind now...she's decided to sign me up for the entrance exam! It's SO unfair...it's my future and yet I don't have a say in the matter!

January 2012

Thursday 19th - Entrance exam for Rendcomb today, went OK...still can't believe I'm doing this though. Mum will be gutted if I don't get in...

February 2012

Thursday 2nd - OMG Got in to Rendcomb, no going back now. Mum's spent all day bragging to her mates about how her son's going

to one of the best private schools in Gloucestershire...at least someone's happy. I'm doomed.

July 2012

Thursday 19th - Last day at school today, friends making loads of stupid "posh boy" jokes-well annoying! A bit of jealousy there methinks?

September 2012

Thursday 6th - First day at new school. Went fine, apart from having to wear a ridiculous tie and Mum grinning like a simpleton at pickup. SO embarrassing!

Saturday 15th - Great day: been picked for the rugby "A" team...apparently I'm really good at it! Now Mum's started ringing people up to tell them I'm playing rugby for one of the best private schools in Gloucestershire. When will she learn?

October 2012

Wednesday 17th - Grades today-best I've ever had, I'm obviously not as dumb as I thought I was, even beginning to enjoy lessons now!

November 2012

Friday 16th - Weird how happy I am at school these days... not letting on to Mum though.

December 2012

Thursday 6th - Last day of term today, can't believe how well it's gone, have made great friends and not even thought about pulling a sickie! Hate to say it but I think Mum was right. Talking of whom, I've finally trained her to stay in the car at pickup. She still grins like a loony, but thankfully we've got tinted windows.

For the first time ever I feel excited about my future thanks Gramps, and thanks Rendcomb.

Sam Tushingham, Form 3A



Welcome to the Junior School

Every year holds special memories for while there is a pattern about each year, personalities and events always make it unique and different. Looking back, we will all have our own favourite moment(s) but for me this academic year will mean The Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the London Olympics. These National celebrations provided us with opportunities that will remain vibrant for many, many years. All the Junior School enjoyed a fabulous Jubilee tea in a marvellously decorated marquee and a lovely souvenir mug was presented to every pupil. The Eco-team also planted a Jubilee hedge that will hopefully flourish and act as reminder of this special and historic moment. Three visits from Olympians Laura B (2012), Richard Meade (Gold medallist Munich 1972) and Richard Fisher (1948) helped to build the excitement as did the wonderful experience of being invited to parade around the Olympic Stadium as part of the warm-up programme. If this wasn't enough, as a result of our fundraising on behalf of The National Star College, we were allowed to put a team of into a 4 x100 metre relay race, in only the second competitive race held there! Amazing and life-long memories were created there.

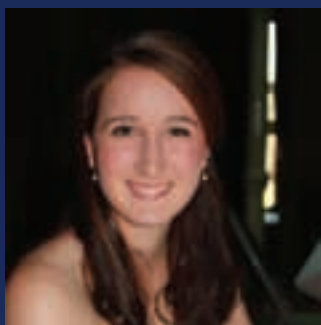
As in any, year so much happens that one cannot recall and mention everything but it would be amiss not to single out *Zimbe!* This musical delight was breathtaking in quality and passion and for all those involved, or lucky enough to watch, it will have a lasting and up-lifting effect. Whatever your highlight, I am sure that the following pages will help to re-live another successful and enjoyable year. I hope this publication will serve as a tremendous record for those here and for future pupils and families as a snapshot of the wonderful experiences that await you.



Martin & Lynne Watson

Staff News

Leavers



Georgina Zacks
(Gap Tutor)

Georgie joined us from Tasmania, Australia for 2011. The majority of her time was spent in Nursery but her duties extended across the Junior School as well as supporting in Godman House as an Assistant Tutor. She flourished throughout the year and it was lovely to see her grow in self-confidence. Her quiet, gentle nature endeared her to the Nursery where the children soon developed a strong affection and bond with her. They also benefitted from her artistic talents which increasingly became apparent.

In a short space of time, Georgie became an established and valued member of our team. We thank her for all her hard work and extend our very best wishes to her as she resume her studies.



Rebecca Perry (Bex)
(Gap Tutor)

Bex spent two years with us, 2010/11 which is quite unusual for a Gap Tutor but as she was so outstanding we had no qualms and benefitted hugely from her extended stay.

Rendcomb College Junior School has been fortunate to acquire the services of very good 'Gappies' but Bex would have to rate at least on a par with the best. Though still a teenager, she arrived with a high degree of maturity, bundles of energy and a determination to get stuck in and enjoy the whole experience.

Over the two years, her influence was felt right across the school, but none more so than within the Games and PE programme where she excelled. Being a Kiwi, Bex loved the outdoors and she naturally played a big role in supporting trips and visits, including two residential stays at Kilve Court with J6. Her passion for adventure also meant that she maximised the holidays and travelled extensively around the UK and Europe.

It was a pleasure to have worked with Bex over the past two years and she enriched Rendcomb College Junior School and made many friends who will remember her with great fondness. Good luck Bex for a happy and successful future and thank you.

Welcome



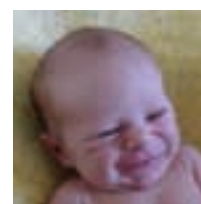
Mrs Val Bartlett

Mrs Val Bartlett joined us in September 2011 as a Teaching Assistant. We were delighted to add Mrs Bartlett to our team for not only does she possess a lovely, smiley disposition but she has considerable experience of working with children being a qualified Early Years' practitioner. Primarily, Val has supported J2 this year but at times her expertise has been utilised in Nursery.

Congratulations to...



Katie Hockey, on the birth of Harriet Rose born on 2nd November 2011.



Laura Potter, on the birth of Francis Stanley James born on the 9th July 2012.

Jubilee

To mark the Queen's Jubilee, the Junior School Parents' Association beautifully decorated the marquee to create a most wonderful venue for our tea party. Mr Naylor and his team laid on a royal banquet and the children had a superb time wearing their red, white and blue. The excitement reached fever pitch when Her Majesty (!) visited for a photo shoot with each class. The event was made even more memorable, for each child was presented with a specially commissioned mug marking the Jubilee and the London 2012 Olympics. Mr McLaughlin's help in securing these was much appreciated. The whole afternoon was truly remarkable and everyone left uplifted and looking forward to the official weekend celebrations.



The winner of the Jubilee cookery competition was Grace Tushingam. Her Gloucester Old Spot Porky Puffs and Lavender and Honey Flapjacks were served to the whole school during the week before the Diamond Jubilee celebrations. These tasty suggestions will also be submitted to the national competition and stand a chance of being eaten at Buckingham Palace! Thank you to Mark Robbins for judging the competition and agreeing to cook the recipes as a celebratory lunch.





J3 and J4 had an afternoon of red, white and blue to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Everyone took part in making bunting, flags and crowns and designed a Jubilee Garden and also helped create a celebratory mosaic. A royal time was had by all.



Olympics

On 19th June, the Otters celebrated their Olympic Day in the sunshine! Everyone in the Otters, both staff and pupils had a wonderful time including the Olympics into our learning. All the Otters dressed up as athletes and rotated round a number of different activities which included testing many different Olympic sports, such as Javelin, Hurdles, Long Jump, Basketball and Tennis, making Olympic medals cut from the wood at forest school, producing a great display of a runner carrying the Olympic torch, creating an Olympic dance and finally baking and icing their own Olympic themed fairy cakes and biscuits. The whole day ran fantastically smoothly and everyone, both pupils and staff had an incredible day.



Olympian Visit

The pupils were very excited when World number 2 and British number 1 dressage rider Laura Bechtolsheimer agreed to come and talk to them about her preparations for the London Olympic Games this summer.

Last year, Laura and her horse Mistral Horjis (Alf to his friends) were part of the British dressage team that won the gold medal at the European Championships and the pair took the individual bronze as well.

During her talk, Laura explained about how she looks after Alf and just how much he likes big competitions. She also told the children about how proud she is to have the chance of representing team GB at Greenwich.

All the pupils agreed that Laura's visit was fantastic, some even got to wear her medals and everyone said they would be cheering for her this summer. She of course went on to win an Olympic gold medal in the team dressage and a bronze medal in the individual dressage event. Some staff and pupils from Rendcomb went to see her gold post box in Ampney St Peter the next day. The gold paint was still wet!



Gold Challenge

On Sunday, 1st April, Rendcomb College Junior School was thrilled to participate in the first pre-Olympic and Paralympic track event held at the Olympic Stadium owing to their fantastic support of the Olympic Gold Challenge and fund-raising on behalf of their nominated charity, The National Star College, Ullenwood, Cheltenham.

In front of an audience of 20 000 people, 8 pupils and 2 staff, along with representatives of the National Star College, joined the opening parade and experienced the thrill of entering this wonderful venue. Equally exciting, a team of four, 3 pupils and one teacher ran a 4 x 100m relay race against other schools and charitable organisations.

Mr Watson said '2012 is such a special year and this event will provide lasting memories for everyone'.

One of our pupils, Harry Marsden, year 4, summed it up perfectly: 'I will always remember warming up the track for Bolt and Mo Farah!'

On Wednesday 1st August Mr and Mrs Watson were honoured to attend a presentation at Team GB House, overlooking the Olympic Park in London, to mark our amazing support of The Gold Challenge and fundraising on behalf of The National Star College.

London 2012 provided the perfect opportunity to encourage children to participate even more in sport and ideally try new ones. It was so pleasing to see so many participate and it was a delight to award so many Gold Certificates last term. On the fundraising front, we received fantastic support and the total of nearly £5000 was a superb achievement, with the auction of sporting memorabilia accounting for £2000 of this exceptional total.

The presentation ceremony saw Rendcomb College Junior School as one of just two schools present and it was a great joy to be awarded with a Gold Medal as a top fundraiser by Olympic high-jumper Dalton Grant, British record holder with 2.37m, and Noel Thatcher MBE, 6 times paralympian and holder of 5 Gold medals! Such recognition was wonderful and it was made even more special owing to the venue. Team GB House is the HQ for team GB, providing a base for athletes and their families to relax and celebrate in the team's success. The atmosphere was electric and the Gold Medal won in the time trial by Bradley Wiggins, during our visit, made for an even more significant visit.



Face Britain

Pupils in J2-J6 drew self-portraits that were submitted to Face Britain (for The Prince's Foundation for Children and the Arts). Over 200,000 young people from across the country entered their portraits to form a record-breaking art display on the front of Buckingham Palace. The portraits were also used on the Big Screens across the country during the Jubilee and the Olympics. A final piece of History will be made as all portraits and names of the participants will be kept in a special record in the British Library to recognise the Diamond Jubilee celebrations. Well done everyone for making History!

Eco Team

Once again the Eco Team had a busy year promoting and helping to educate other members of the school and their parents in a range of Eco friendly initiatives. Much of the credit of their outstanding work must go to their Eco Prefect, Charlie Pugh, and to Lynne Watson. Perhaps the highlight was when the Eco Team met outside the Woodland Classroom on Tuesday 8th May to plant a new hedge to be called 'The Jubilee Hedge'. The various saplings of holly, hazel and wild rose were supplied by The Woodland Trust and the pupils enjoyed planting them with the help of Mr Cairns and his team. After the wet weather we have had, the ground in places was gooey clay which some pupils loved! We hope that as the hedge matures it will provide another rich habitat in the woodland area.







It has been a busy and exciting year in nursery and despite the weather, we have still managed to make the most of the outdoors. We have had fun learning about the seasons, under the sea and feelings.



Nursery



We had fun dressing up for World Book Day. We love performing and really enjoyed taking part in the Nativity and the spring concert 'The Chocolate Shop'.



We love playing in nursery especially with our friends.





We enjoyed our trips to Butterfly World and Cotswold Farm Park. We got to feed and stroke lots of different animals which was great fun.



We have enjoyed joining in with the 2012 celebrations. We recreated the Olympic torch relay and also enjoyed a Jubilee tea party with the Queen. We even made ourselves into stamps.

We love being outside and getting muddy. We have been into Forest School and have also been for walks around the grounds. We even went out looking for tracks in the snow.





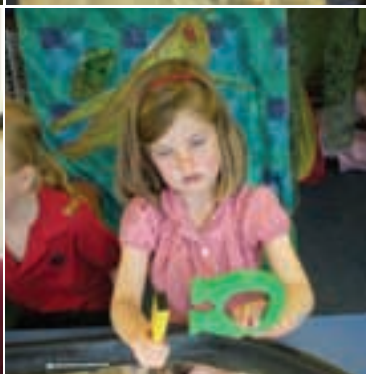
Autumn

We all arrived at school in September ready to learn. We started with the topic, 'All about me.' We had a fantastic visit from Sister Louise who bandaged us up and taught us all about our bodies. We made lots of friends and had a fantastic visit from Will's tortoise, Hatty. We also started to learn our sounds and numbers. What a wonderful start to the year!

Winter

In the winter, we found lots of ice and snow in Forest School. Our topic was 'On the move'; we learned all about transport and space travel. We all really enjoyed visiting the moon in 'Apollo 11!' We also had some super visits from the police and fire engine. The highlight for many of us was a visit from Mrs Major's dog, Radley. At Christmas we all took part in our lovely nativity, 'The Bossy King.' We also loved playing in Father Christmas' sleigh.

A Year in Reception





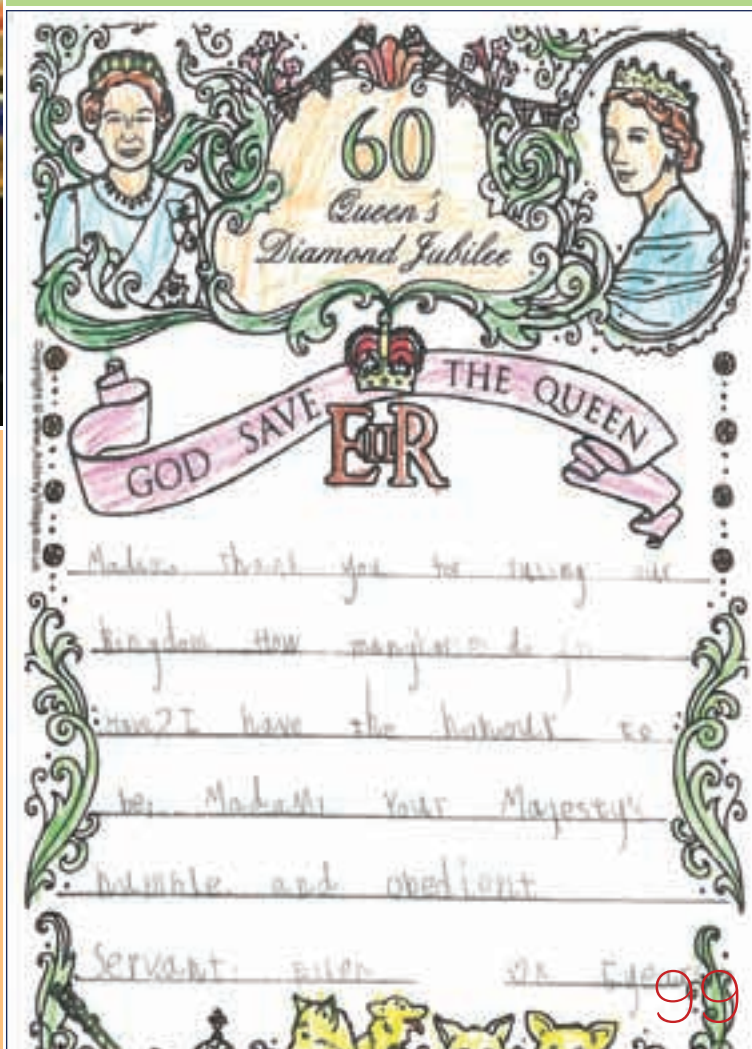
Spring

In the spring, we enjoyed some lovely weather. We had an interesting trip to Butterfly World and loved seeing all of the beautiful butterflies and other animals too! We celebrated our 100th day at school with a yummy cake. We began learning about 'Minibeasts' and we were very lucky that Ellen brought us some tadpoles into school. We all loved watching these tadpoles grow their legs and released them into our school pond. At this point in the year, all the children were getting very clever and were producing some super work!



Summer

In the summer, we had a brilliant visit to Cotswold Farm Park; it was lovely to see how much all the children had matured. We began learning all about the Queen and celebrated her Diamond Jubilee with a big tea party. We also painted some wonderful pictures of the Queen either young or a little bit older! We even wrote letters to the Queen! After half term we all began to get very excited about the Olympics. The highlight of the summer was the Otters' Olympic day. We enjoyed playing lots of sport, dancing, making cakes and producing a wonderful Olympic display. The children have all worked very hard throughout their year in Reception and can now all read, write and add numbers. What a lovely group of children they are. We all hope the weather is better for our summer holidays!



J1



Once again, J1 has been a roaring success this year, with 'dinosaurs' being the most popular topic.

Our journey back in time allowed the children to discover a world of the most fascinating animals ever to have lived on earth.



The children have learnt through a variety of topics this year including, Ourselves, Light and Dark, Dinosaurs and Fossils, Save our planet, Under the Sea, and The Olympics.



Forest School

J1 have had a very fun time learning outside at Forest School. They have enjoyed building dens, making clay nests, wooden discs and toasting marshmallows and crumpets on a real fire.





The children have enjoyed many trips out of school but the highlight of the year was our trip to Bristol Aquarium in May. We saw many different types of creatures and learnt many new facts as part of our 'under the sea' topic. The children got to see an Octopus and imagine they were swimming with seahorses. They also walked underneath leopard sharks and were all very excited to be able to feed the turtles.



We have done so much this year; we have hardly stopped. We have had trips away and guests have come in and the whole year has been a fantastically long and windy learning journey.

Back in March, the J2s had their first ever Katie Morag Day. Katie Morag is a fictional character created by Mairi Hedderwick, who lives on the Isle of Struay. Throughout the unit of work, we linked it in to many different areas of our learning including Geography, Science, Art and Literacy amongst others. On the day itself, we had a huge amount of fun dressing up and doing many different activities that linked in nicely to our study of Katie Morag. The children divided into groups and rotated round a number of stations including dance with Mrs Liebenberg, cooking shortbread with Mrs Smith and painting her home island with Mr Layton.

We have done so much from going back in time with Florence Nightingale to getting involved and excited about London 2012. Just have a look for yourself!





Rendcomb College Junior Parents' Association Report



The RCJPA has had an exceptional year this year both in terms of the social events that have been organised for pupils, parents and staff and the tremendous support for our two nominated charities.

The children have enjoyed a Funky Monkey Disco, a Street Dance Workshop and the annual Christmas Party.

For parents and staff we had a Portrait and Plonk evening with an auction of wonderful art donated by local artists including Darren Baker.

We have sold over 150 Rendcomb Water bottles since their introduction in January this year; over 100 boxes were collected for Operation Christmas Child and we made the most of the Queen's Jubilee with our own fabulous tea party.

And with this being Olympic year, the children have had the opportunity to take part in many different sports organised by the School whilst the parents had the opportunity of bidding in a silent auction for some wonderful sporting memorabilia donated by some of the country's top sporting stars.

The year was rounded off nicely with our annual Summer Fete.



Juniors' Music

It has been a great pleasure to have Miss Pamela Crisp working with us since September: for our October concert, she produced for J6 a most unusual and entertaining take on the different periods of Western musical history. In connection with their work on the Second World War, J5 gave us an delightful version of *Blue Skies*. Grace Tushingham and Henry Holloway played oboe and bassoon respectively; there were piano solos from children in all years and at the end everyone sang a nonsense country yokel song.

In December, we had our customary Christmas Carol Service, with beautiful singing and exceptional readings in the candlelit church. Mr John Wright was the Organist.

A similar variety of musical items filled the February concert, with the Orchestra giving us Beethoven's *Ode to Joy*; the choir warmed us up with *Bring Me Sunshine*; and Edwin Ward's flying fingers played part of the *Rondo alla Turca* by Mozart. Miss Crisp's work with instruments was well-received, although some of it had to be changed at the last minute because of snow.

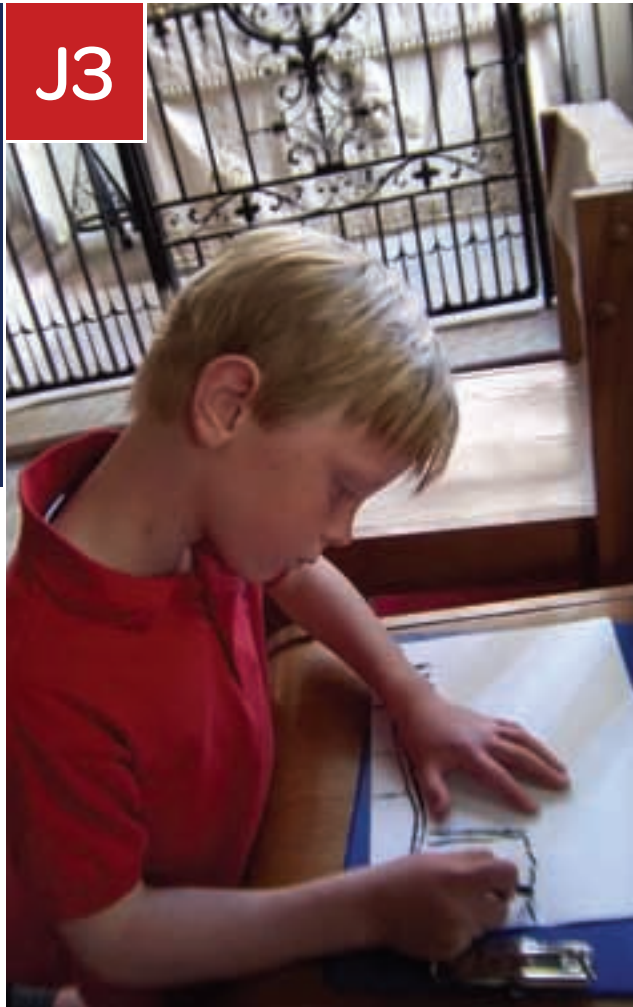
March saw a thrilling innovation, the vision of Mr Franks, the new Director of Music in the Senior School. *Zimbe!* captured the imagination of the Junior School children who took part, along with the Senior School Choir, The Oriel Singers and an excellent instrumental ensemble including the piece's composer, Alexander L'Estrange, who played the keyboard. The younger children were complimented upon their fine contribution, which was sung from memory.

The enduring popularity of J. M. Barrie's story of *Peter Pan* has resulted in a delightful stage version with nine songs in various styles. The principals performed with true commitment; there were some fascinating dance routines and J3 and J4 acted as a chorus, clad in pirate costumes. I was fortunate once more to have the assistance of Mr Coldrick on percussion, with Mrs Auster playing saxophones and her son Howard playing double bass. Mrs Brealy directed with her wonted passion, and the whole production was received enthusiastically. It was a most fitting end to the term.

I would like to extend my warmest thanks to all my colleagues for their help and, of course, all the children who make such a varied contribution to musical life at Rendcomb.

Mr Philip Colls





Chedworth Roman Villa

Year 3 set off to Chedworth Roman Villa. They enjoyed being Roman slaves working in the apothecary.

Here are some of the pupil's comments:

Rosie: "I hated being a slave because I don't like working!"

Johnny: "I enjoyed being a slave because I like being told what to do!"

Natalie: "I would not have liked to have lived in Roman times because you had to work hard."

Luca: "I really enjoyed dressing up as a Roman."

Mitchell: "I enjoyed making a herb bag and it smelt like curry."

Lucas: "I enjoyed walking in the footsteps of the Romans who had lived 2000 years ago."



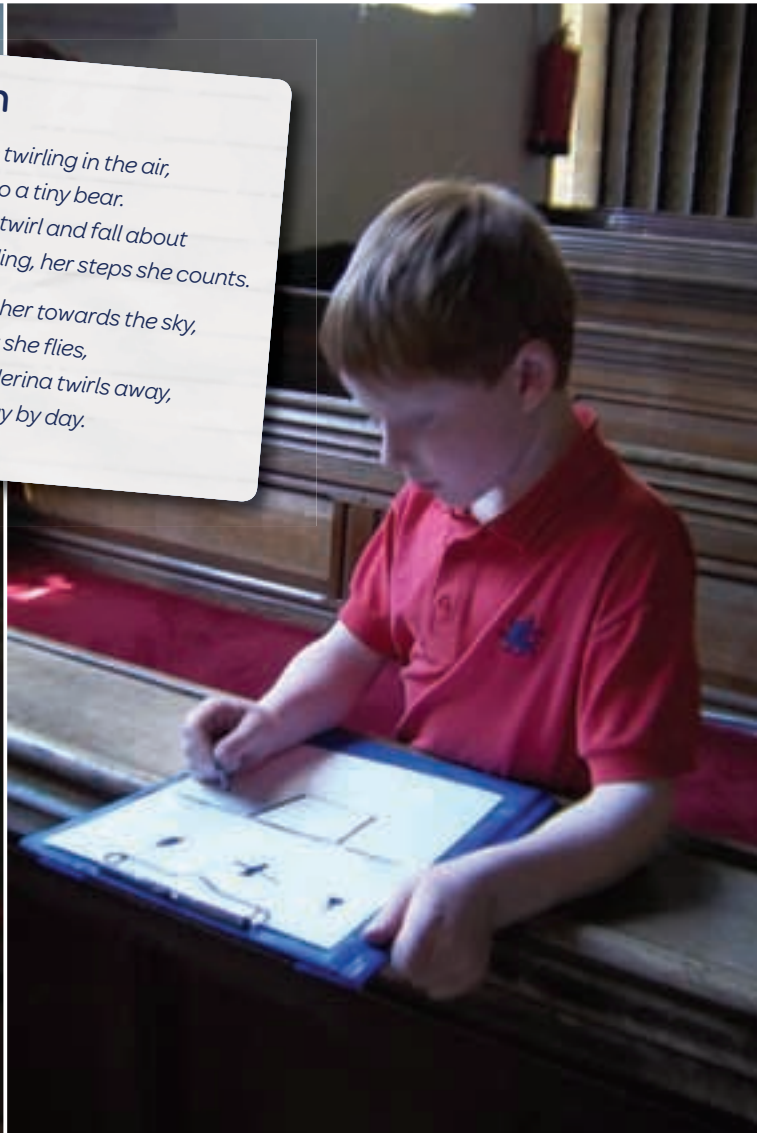


Autumn

*The leaves are twirling in the air,
As they fall onto a tiny bear.
They twist and twirl and fall about
A ballerina twirling, her steps she counts.*

*The wind blows her towards the sky,
Towards the sky she flies,
The delicate ballerina twirls away,
Disappearing day by day.*

Natalie Williamson



A Riddle

*Waking you up in the morning,
Something to do with dawning,
Coming up at the beginning of day,
When it's gone you lay.
It's extremely hot,
It's way bigger than a dot.
What am I?*

The Sun

John Ascough

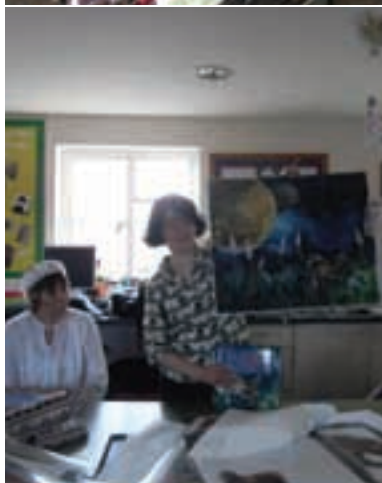
Winter Robin

*Robin dance, robin sing
While the chapel bells ring.
Little robin fly so high,
Soaring up, you reach the sky.
Little robin, you are so sweet,
With your tiny little feet.*

Amina Chambers



Here, J4 are having fun testing their homemade parachutes. They designed them to make good use of the friction force caused by air resistance. We tested them by dropping them off the steps leading to the woodland classroom. The best parachute was the one that took the longest time to reach the ground. The winning parachute designers were Rebecca Allen J4A and Isabel Wateridge J4B.



J4 were extremely fortunate to have a visit from the author and illustrator, Helen Ward. She brought with her countless exquisite pieces of art work which she happily allowed the children to handle and examine closely. It was a truly inspiring afternoon. The children were very grateful to Mrs Scase for arranging the visit.

Ernest Cook Trust

J4's annual trip to the Ernest Cook Trust proved as successful as ever. A beautiful sunny day enhanced the already magnificent setting as we discovered all sorts of fascinating facts about the habitats of plants and creatures. During the mini-beast hunt Freddie Haynes and Edwin Ward were fortunate enough to find toads. The highlight was pond dipping in a pond which was teeming with tadpoles and Ned Hanbury even caught a smooth-backed newt.



A Grand Day Out

Is it really possible to travel into outer space, go on a journey through the human digestive system, survive a tornado, launch a rocket and much, much more, all in one day? Yes it is, as J4 discovered on their trip to 'At Bristol'. The children attended two amazing workshops, visited the planetarium and still managed to try out countless hands-on Science activities all in 5 hours! Some children even created their own Wallace and Gromit- inspired animation. Alex Hendrick said the planetarium was 'awesome'; Lucy Thomas really enjoyed the television studio and Finn Dawson said it was the best school trip ever. A Grand Day Out was had by all!





World Book Day

On Thursday 1st March it was World Book Day. I dressed up as Tom Sawyer and Mrs Auster dressed up as War Horse. Mrs Breare dressed up as Cruella De Ville from One Hundred and One Dalmations.

All the classes did their class poems and J5 yellow group won the class poem, but I don't think that they should have won!

Then, the people who read individual poems performed to Mr Watson and Miss Wann and then it was break.

After break, we went in to The Dulverton and sat down where we tried to watch an internet clip of an author speaking about World Book Day. Unfortunately, we could not watch it because it would not load! Then Mr A came and saved the day with a very interesting story book, then we tried to load the clip again and again it failed and Mr A saved the day again! Then Mr Watson and Miss Wann had to make the difficult decision of who would win the poetry contest; they took a while but eventually they named the winner who was Rory Hughes, that is me!

I took a while to get up because I was so surprised that I had won.

I was so surprised because my Year was amazingly good at their poems and I think that everybody deserved to win because they were so good.

It was a great day because it was fun to see everybody dressed up and so joyful and I was so pleased to have won the competition.

When I came home and when I told my parents the news, they were so excited about me winning the competition.

Rory Hughes

J4 History Trip

The J4's went off to on their annual trip to discover what life was like as a Tudor Monk and the goings on at Gloucester Cathedral. The group were met by Mrs Laws who gave all the children a little back ground to when and why the Cathedral was built and why it was never pulled down. All the children were keen to get into their habits and learn a lot more about the Benedictine Monks. The children were led into the Cathedral and re-enacted several events the monks performed whilst living there including singing in Latin in the choir stalls. After lunch, the children were invited to experience some writing with a quill, play nine man Morris, brass rubbing and guessing which herbs were which. A good day was had by all- including the teachers.

Kitty: I really enjoyed looking at the wonderful cathedral, and finding out about all the kings and queens who visited the cathedral and the chance to do some brass rubbing was excellent.
Isabel Wateridge: My favourite part of the day was seeing all the saints outside the entrance to the cathedral and the beautiful stained glass window in the chapel.

Finn Dawson: I enjoyed the trip because there was lots to learn, lots to do, also a very nice lady teaching us but most of all the dressing up as a monk was fab.

Winning the Chess Challenge

Winning the chess challenge was great. I never thought I'd get to the final, let alone win. Early on in the challenge, I was beaten and having done fairly well last year I thought winning this year was already over.

When it came to the final my Mum told me to not expect to win and be a gracious loser. Early on in the final game, my opponent (Charlie Pugh) had more points. Just as I was giving up hope Mrs. Haas gave us one more minute, in that time I set him up, and with 20 seconds left it was check-mate. Charlie played really well and didn't have a huffy; He was a great sportsman. Thanks Charlie!

When I got home, my Mum didn't believe me so she had to double check with school the next day. So if your playing chess don't give up hope things can change very quickly.

Finn Dawson





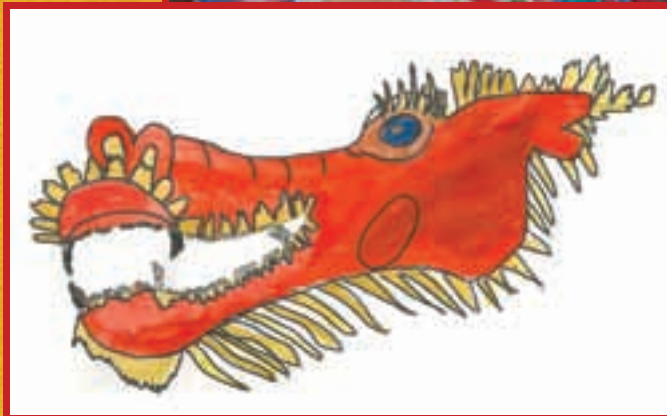
Lauren Booth, J6



Lucas Booth, J3



Freddie Haynes, J4



Joshua Carr, J5



Nathan Roberts, J5

Art Club





Air raid shelter in Cirencester

This trip was a history trip about WW2. When we went to the air raid shelter in Cirencester we were split into two halves. I was in the first half, J5W. We saw all the everyday objects that you would have found in a WW2 house, for example food and toys. Then, we saw a display of weapons from the home guard. During the second half, J5W went into the air raid shelter to have a look around because it was decorated with artefacts from the war. It didn't look like an air raid shelter actually would have looked like because it would have been empty. It would have felt bigger to fit all the patients and medical staff from the hospital.

Charlie Wade

J5 water walk

Mr Cairns offered to take us round Rendcomb on the water walk. As we were going round the school, we saw some unusual objects such as old pipes, a well and a place called Paradise. Later on that day, Mr Cairns took us down to the River Churn. As we were walking down all of the sheep ran away. When we got down to the river Mr Cairns told us that the otters had come back because there was some otters' droppings. Two by two J5 went in the river with wellies on and saw the droppings. After that, J5 went down to a miniature water fall and saw it falling.

Feeling tired but happy, we returned to school and took our wellies off and went back to class.

Bailey Harris

Our Greek Projects

At the beginning of the Lent Term we were told that our task in History was to put together a project on Ancient Greece to be handed in on the last day.

To start our project, we were given a list of topics some we would be doing in class and some we could do on our own. At school, we collated the work we had learnt then at home each of us chose some subjects that interested us. I chose sports, shopping, warfare and I even made a Greek dish called Tzatziki with my Mum. We have a family friend who has written many books and has lectured all about Ancient Greek Pots; she gave me some terrific leaflets, pictures and postcards that I used to illustrate my project. I researched my topics using the internet, books, friends and my teachers.

When you are putting your project together you must remember to make it colourful and interesting so that all sections stand out. I put all my work in order using a contents page. I used a bright coloured folder and did as many illustrations as I could. I felt very proud about my project when I had finished it especially when Mrs Watson gave me a high mark.

Emily Musgrave



Food Waste Assembly

There is a lot of food waste at Rendcomb. We know this because the J5's did a survey about it. For one week, we took it in turns to see how much and what food was being wasted on the plates.

Certain types of food were wasted more than others. For example carbohydrates such as rice and noodles. The senior pupils were worst at wasting food. One complaint was that chefs put big portions of food on the plates or food was put on their plates even though they did not ask for it. To stop this problem, pupils need to be more clear about what they would like for example saying only 2 potatoes please. To make pupils aware of the problem J5 did an assembly on food waste.

Thomas Haynes



Clevedon

J5 went on a coastal trip. One of the places we went was Clevedon. When we got there we went and stood by a wall, which we later found out was a sea defence. Next we went up a hill and near the top we stopped because of a place called 'Poets' Walk'. It was called poets' Walk because poets got their inspiration from here. After that we went to a church at the top of the hill. There, we were told that a famous poet in the Victorian times had been buried there. Clevedon is also well known for its Victorian pier, but recently there have been reportings of GHOSTS on the pier.

Imogen Kent



Myself

She is a bookworm
Open arms
The queen of drama
A mad hatter
The blender of emotions
Sings like a bird in the morning
Animal lover
Gemma Harvey



Portishead

Rendcomb year 5 (which I am part of) visited the coast as a field trip for Geography. The places we visited were Western Super Mare, Clevedon and Portishead.

When we arrived at Portishead we were interested to find that there was no beach but rocks leading down into the sea. We couldn't see out to sea very far as there was mist hanging over the water. We saw a big cargo ship passing by heading west out to sea. Mr Watson told us that lots of big oil ships pass by so they can deliver oil to huge companies which make their fortune out of oil.

There were many small shops in Portishead but it isn't a typical seaside town. We saw a marina which had lots of small pleasure and fishing boats in it surrounding the Marina there was lots of new flats which must have had a nice view over the Bristol Channel. Mr Watson explained that over the last 15 years they had been building these flats and over the last 2 years or so they had been added too.

There is a big lake close to the seashore which attracts many types of birds. Mrs. Haas pointed out some of them and we saw a coot, pigeons, moorhens, ducks, swans, seagulls and doves. There was a man playing with a radio controlled boat. I liked Portishead but my favourite place was Weston where Mr. Wastson bought us all an ice cream!!

Harry Hale



Weston Super Mare

J5 went to Weston-super-Mare on a coast trip. It was a sandy coastline, which made a good place eat lunch. We could just see the sparkling grey sea (a strange day, with sun streaming through the dark clouds) and the air smelt of seaweed. After some 'tasty' sandwiches, the teachers had organised a sand design competition. We got into our houses and chose weather we wanted to do the Queen's Jubilee or the Olympics. Everyone chose the Olympics and in the end Griffin won!!!! At the end of the day we walked over to the ice cream shop and all got an ice cream! They were scrumptious! We said goodbye to Weston and began the long journey back to school. Thank you Mrs Watson, Mrs Haas, Mr Watson and Mrs Brealy for taking us on the trip.

Czeska Sztuka

Warwick Castle

On Tuesday 19th June, J6 visited the great medieval castle at Warwick as part of our Castle topic this term. With Rafael eager to put his maths skills to use, we climbed the 530 steps up to the top of the tower, where we had a great look-out through the arrow loops and battlements over the gatehouses, bridges and inner and outer walls. Throughout the day, we viewed the castle from many different aspects, deciding which would be the best side of the castle to attack from. We then ventured into the deep, dark depths of the dungeon where Miss Hayden had her head cut off in the doctor's surgery, Nadia was put on trial in the courtroom and J6 were all put in the stocks. I think it is fair to say that the whole of Warwick heard our screams escape from the sinister witch's cavern. Having said that, we had a memorable day which Harvey summed up well on the way home, saying, "That was a great school trip!"



My Old Thoughts

*When I was seven, I looked into heaven
And thought: how could the sun be a star?
Stars are far, twinkly and bright
And you can only see them at night!*

*Now I'm eleven I look into heaven
And I know the sun is a star.
Although it doesn't twinkle at night,
Seeing a star is the same at night.*

Max McKeown

J6 French

In the summer term, J6 have been studying Morocco in their French lessons. They have seen how French is spoken alongside Arabic and have discovered what it is like to be a child growing up in a mountain village. Mr & Mrs Evans generously lent us some fascinating artefacts ranging from a fez, oil lamp, tribal accessories and belly dancing outfit! Through these J6 have gained an appreciation of a completely different culture and a beautiful country.

Madame Barker

My Fear of the Dark

*When it was dark and late at night,
Bedtime was something that gave me a fright!
Out of the window was a giant grey owl
And the neighbour's dog with a threatening howl.
Followed by its grizzly bark
When I was two, I was scared of the dark.
I had a calming lullaby,
But it would not stop the tears I cry!*

*Now I am eight years older
And I feel much bolder.
I faced my fear head on
And now my fear has finally gone!*

Maria Tatton



Kilve Court 2012

In February, J6 made their annual pilgrimage to Kilve Court on the Somerset border. This is a residential centre administered and run by Somerset LEA; suffice to say that standards and safety are high.

The children took part in abseiling, archery, high ropes, shooting, grass sledging and mountain biking sessions as well as a beach walk and the first night obligatory night walk. Suitably enthused the children also competed for the tidiest room prize, a Connect Four challenge and the now legendary Kilve Court Quiz. Mrs Brealy won the shooting competition.

All of the children were brimming with pride and enthusiasm about their adventures and accomplishments, even those who managed to fall off of their mountain bikes.

This residential trip was a great success and many stories will be told which will pass into Urban Myth over time. Many thanks to Miss Wann and Mrs Brealy for helping me to run the trip as well as for the enthusiasm and fantastic behaviour that the children exhibited throughout.

Mr Arnold

J6 Invertebrate Study

In outdoor week, J6 visited the River Churn, whilst there they conducted an invertebrate study. The method was simple. Two children assisted by an adult waded into the river, put a net on the river bed and kicked up the bed in front of it allowing the river current to wash the contents of the bed into the net.

On doing this, the children then emptied their nets into a tray full of water and allowed the water to settle.

J6 then attempted to identify what was in their trays using the keys and magnifying glasses provided.

In no particular order, the invertebrates found were: hair worms, leeches, pond snails, cased caddis fly larvae, fresh water shrimp, fresh water hoglouse, swimming mayfly nymphs, burrowing mayfly nymphs, beetle larvae, damselfly nymphs, demoiselle, dragonfly nymphs, caseless caddis fly larvae, dragonfly nymphs, and a fish which was not an invertebrate but a vertebrate.

J6 were astounded of how many live specimens we found and is indicative that the River Churn seems to have a very healthy ecosystem.

We may have even seen a trout jumping, that location is a well kept secret!

Mr Arnold





Meeting my German Friends

Dienstag den 15 Mai

Before I met my German friends I felt nervous, but very excited. I really wanted to know how they spoke and how much English they knew. When I met them I found out that they were called Victoria and I can't remember the other one's name. They were both 15. I managed to say my name and my age in German. There were absolutely amazing at speaking English, I was very surprised! One of my favourite parts of the experience was when we played Ente, Ente, Gans, (duck, duck, goose). We were also given packets of Haribos which were delicious! I really, really enjoyed this experience and I think I would like to go to Germany to see what people do in Germany and to see how different it is from England.

Grace Tushingham

My expectations of meeting my German friend were very excited and really nervous but I practised what I would say a lot and when it got to the day speaking in German was actually really easy!

Harvey Drennen

I was nervous before I met the German students but also excited because I really like Germans and Germany. I managed to say a lot about myself and when I am old enough I definitely want to do the exchange.

Max McKeown

I thought the whole experience was a brilliant idea and I hope this opportunity will be passed on to future generations. I would love to go to Germany and expand my vocabulary.

Charlie Pugh

It was a really fun thing to meet people from Germany and even more fun having my sister's German exchange partner to stay. I would love to go to Germany because I have never been before and my sister says it's great. Also, I love HARIBO!

Morgan Seatter-Messer

J6 Practise their German

The third form recently hosted 17 Germans aged 14-15 from Bad Neuenahr-Ahrweiler taking part in the exchange. As J6 have been learning German since January the Junior & Senior School set up a meeting to give the Juniors a fantastic opportunity to practise their German and find out about life in Germany. Earlier in the day the visiting Germans had been treated to guided tours of the Junior School by some of J6. Both the accompanying teachers and students were very impressed by the politeness and willingness of their guides to say a few impromptu words in German.

In the afternoon, Mr Watson welcomed the German group to our school then all the pupils split up into small groups. The J6 pupils were very brave and despite the fact that they were talking to much older students (with amazing English) they all managed to introduce themselves and talk a little about their family and hobbies.

After the introductions both groups formed a huge circle and played the popular game Duck, Duck, Goose in German (Ente, Ente, Gans). The Germans were quick but no match for the light footed Ferreira brothers who ran like lightning! The afternoon ended with a little present brought especially from Germany for the J6s – Haribo sweets, which are different from the ones sold in England.

Madame Barker



Prizes

The following prizes were awarded in Final Assembly:-

Boys' Cross Country Cup	-	Oliver Jones
Girls' Cross Country Cup	-	Emily Musgrave
The Meborn-Hubbard Girls' Victor Ludorum	-	Emily Musgrave
The Henniker-Gotley Boys' Victor Ludorum	-	Rafael Torregrosa-Jones and Milo Wills
Reeves Cup for Improved Reading	-	Chloe Freeman
Roberts Family Cup (Otters Effort)	-	Mahony Knight
Carden Cup for Music	-	Nadia Williamson and Philip Harrison Josey
Dufosse Art Cup	-	Philip Harrison Josey and Morgan Seatter- Messer
Shackel Cup for Drama	-	Jude Martin
Shark Cup for Most Promising U9 Sports person	-	Finn Dawson
Osborne Cup for Girls' Sport	-	Emily Sharman
Palmer Cup for Boys' Sport	-	Oliver Jones
Phelps Effort Cup	-	Matthew Ferreira
Arkle Cup for All Round Improvement	-	Percy Vincent
Trim Happy Cup	-	Daniel McLaughlin
The Kindness Cup	-	Lauren Booth
Potter Cup for Overall Contribution	-	Grace Tushingham



Academic and Effort Prizes

J3L	Academic Effort	-	Amina Chambers
		-	Soffie Rigby
J3H	Academic Effort	-	John Ascough
		-	Rosie Parkes
J4A	Academic Effort	-	Carmen Lee
		-	Rebecca Allen
J4B	Academic Effort	-	Lucy Thomas
		-	Freya Angus
J5H	Academic Effort	-	Harvey Cole
		-	Joshua Carr
J5W	Academic Effort	-	Milo Wills
		-	William Nichol
J6A	Academic Effort	-	Henry Holloway
		-	Emily Sharman
J6W	Academic Effort	-	Philip Harrison Josey
		-	Grace Tushingham

PETE

"To live will be an



PETER PAN

A POWERFULLY BIG ADVENTURE

Drama

Peter Pan

This year's challenging production was *Peter Pan*, a musical play by David Barrett, based on Sir J.M. Barrie's 1904 play about a boy who refused to grow up. It is always an enormous team effort to put on a show of this size and it was a truly fitting end to another amazing year in the Junior School with fantastically strong and solid performances from all the pupils.

The show starts in the Darling's nursery, in Bloomsbury, London. John (Max McKeown) and Michael Darling (Ollie Jones) are having a pillow fight, pretending to be swashbuckling pirates and generally annoying their older sister, Wendy Moira Angela Darling (Grace Tushingham). Mrs Darling (Emily Sharman) is elegantly playing the piano, whilst Mr Darling (Henry Holloway) is struggling to get his bow-tie tied before a night out. Liza, the maid, (Lauren Booth) complete with a great east-end accent is instructed to read the children a bedtime story but is side tracked by the memory of seeing a child recently 'jump out' of the Nursery window. She then shows them the 'shadow' which she caught a drawer. Liza reads their bedtime story and one by one the children drift off to sleep.

But the children become the heroes of an even greater story, when Peter Pan (Morgan Seatter-Messer) flies into their nursery with his ever-so glittery, fairy friend, Tinkerbell (Nadia Williamson). Peter is eventually reunited with his shadow (Philip Harrison-Josey) culminating in an entertaining 'shadow dance' to Fat Boy Slim's 'Weapon of Choice.' Peter Pan then entices the Darling children, with the help of some fairy magic to fly through the window, across the London rooftops through a galaxy of stars to the lush jungles of Neverland. The 'flying scene' was truly magical and a delight to watch. Who needs expensive wires and harnesses when you have; white boxes, a smoke machine and a fantastic sound and lighting, provided, as ever by Andy Webb and Will Owen.

Wendy and her brothers join Peter Pan, Tinkerbell in Neverland and meet the Lost Boys; (Charlie Roberts, Philip Harrison Josey, Michael Ferreira, Matthew Ferreira, Charlie Pugh and Harvey Drennen) All the Lost Boys enjoyed creating and maintaining their individual characters. Anyone would have thought that Twin parts were written especially for Michael and Matthew Ferreria!

The feisty Tiger Lily (Maria Tutton) and her Native American Piccaninny tribe (Henry Holloway, William Evans, Harvey Cole and the J5 girls) executed a dramatic warpath dance before Tiger Lily was kidnapped by one of the pesky pirates, Starkey (Rafael Torregrosa-Jones).

The staging came into its own by cleverly creating 2 levels, above and below ground. It also gave the Lost Boys a place to hide from the despicable pirates.

The inevitable showdown with all the blood-thirsty pirates masterfully led by the ever-scheming Captain James Hook (Jude Martin) did not disappoint; who can forget the breath-taking 'Pirates of the Caribbean' sword fights? Funnily enough everyone always wanted to rehearse that part of the show! I know I was humming the tune for days afterwards.

Hook's henchmen, Starkey and Smee (Daniel McLaughlin) often faced the wrath of Hook as they were so easily confused. Peter Pan rescues Tiger Lily by

cunningly pretending to be the disembodied voice of Hook.

The realisation that Peter Pan actually quite liked thimbles/kisses from Wendy at Marooner's Rock proved to be a very touching moment between Grace and Morgan, promptly followed by the hilarious scene with Max in a boat, HMS Hook (which had a mind of its own) ad-libbing away as he rowed along, certainly entertained the audiences.

The scene on board the Jolly Roger was very exciting, involving the whole cast, culminating in lots of pirates falling overboard. Hook was just as intent from escaping the ever-present tick-tocking crocodile, played by Mr Watson, (what a 'snappy' dresser) as he was on defeating Peter Pan. There was always great chemistry between Jude and Morgan as the two arch rivals. Unfortunately for Hook, he finally met his match with Peter Pan and ended up as a mere snack for the Crocodile.

Every speaking part had a understudy and I am thankful to all the understudies who throughout the whole process could be relied upon to step up to the mark when required; including Andrew Gallop, who had to play the part of Moonshine on the first night's performance - what an experience for him.

I am very grateful to the amazing band: Mr Colls, the Director of Music on keyboards, Mr Coldrick on percussion, Mrs Auster on saxophone and Howard Auster on double bass who provided fantastic live music during the performances. It makes such a difference and really brings the whole show to life. Miss Crisp, the Assistant Director of Music did a wonderful job in preparing the J5 and J6 pupils musically, as did Mr Colls with the spectacular J3 and J4 pirate chorus posse provided so much enthusiasm on stage throughout the whole show.

Mrs Scase excelled herself again with her stunning costumes. It amazes me how she can recycle and transform costumes into works of art, thank you so much! The J5 girls also looked absolutely gorgeous as mermaids in costumes made by Mrs Sztuka, again many thanks.

I am indebted to everyone who helped make my vision a reality, in particular to Mrs Haas, my Assistant Director, who kept me sane and to all the staff who gave of their time to support the show - I couldn't have done it without you.

Mrs Amanda Brealy



The Bossy King 2011

The Otters had to be on their best behaviour for their Nativity, *The Bossy King*! The story was all about a very bossy king who loved telling everyone what to do. He believed HE was the most important king in the land, until he saw baby Jesus and realised that the tiny baby was the most important king. The children looked fantastic in their make-up and costumes. They all sang really beautifully and the narrators told the story very clearly. Everyone had a great time performing it to the parents! Well done to the Otters on a fantastic Nativity, and a special well done to Edward Nichol, The Bossy King!

Mr Layton

The Otters' Easter Show: The Chocolate Shop

The Otters performed their spring time concert play - *The Chocolate Shop* at the end of the Lent term. The whole performance was a great success and we all had a wonderful time producing it. All of the children contributed fantastic performances, but a special mention has to go out to the star Chocolate maker, Jenima Martin. The Otters' staff are hugely grateful to Mr Colls for all of his help with the music, and to Mrs Smith for directing the play, it simply couldn't have been done without them.

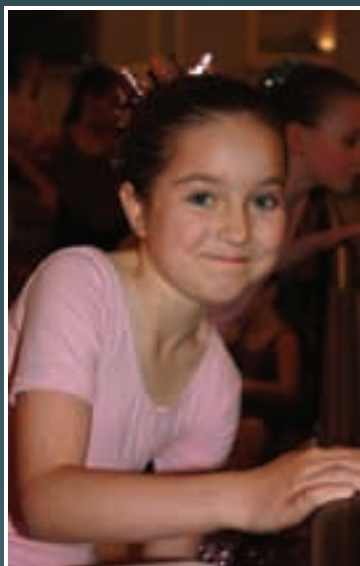
Mr Layton



Dance 2012

Dance is offered all throughout the Junior School. Children took part in their Royal Academy of Dancing graded ballet examinations and a 100% pass rate was achieved. All children that took part in the Cheltenham Festival of Performing Arts did very well. Other that examinations and festivals some children had the opportunity to perform group dance pieces at Assemblies in different dance forms which included ballet, character and modern dance.

Mrs Liebenberg



Junior Sport

Cross Country

The season began with the Winter Warmer; this is the ninth year that this race has been run. It is purely voluntary and a record number of fifty-four children signed up for it. The course is about a mile, dependent on how close the runners take the corners. It is not particularly easy and makes up most of our cross-country tournament course. The winner of this year's race was Oliver Jones in a time of 8:35:14 which was a new course record. The first U11 girl in was Emily Musgrave, in a time of 8:57:00, (5th); the first U9 boy was Edwin Ward (7th) in a time of 9:27:39, and first U9 girl was Isabel Wateridge (26th) in a time of 10:48:86.

In January, a combined Junior and Senior School cross-country team travelled to St Francis to take part in a tournament. From the Seniors, Grace Knapp and Robert Sharman came first and second respectively. The U11's also had good results. The girls raced missing one team member, but Isabel Wateridge from Year Four stepped in to race at the last moment. Although she was racing as an U9 in an U11 field she still raced well. Other notable performances were Oliver Jones in the U11 boys' race, who finished in fourth place. Overall, Rendcomb U11s came in 3rd place.



Later in Lent, we hosted a cross-country tournament at Rendcomb. A good turnout of schools ensured a very competitive afternoon's racing. The weather was kind and many parents turned out to watch and help out. The most notable performance of the afternoon was achieved by Emily Musgrave who was second in the girls' race and Oliver Jones who was 4th in the U11 race. Combined placings counted towards the team event and Rendcomb A was 2nd overall.

In March, we competed at the Hatherop cross-country relays. The U9 boys (Raife Hackett, Nicky Musgrave, Joss Breare) raced well in their race and finished in a credible 5th place. All ran a year younger than the other teams. The two U11 teams (Boys: Tom Breare, Milo Wills, Oliver Jones; Girls: Mollie Tice; Emily Musgrave) had storming races. All worked exceptionally hard and deserved their final places in the competition: 2nd for boys and 1st for the girls.

Mr J Arnold



Rounders

The girls gelled well as a team, encouraging and cheering each other on. At the end of the first half, Rendcomb led 4-3. The girls stayed focused, fielding well and were captained confidently by Lucy Thomas. It was an extremely close game and all the girls worked hard. The final score was 8-8 to Hatherop.

Of the three major games, this was definitely the favoured sport for the U11 girls. Spirit and determination shone through and as the season progressed, so their momentum increased and their tactical superiority impressed. The season got off to a bang with a nail biting (5-5) draw with Berkhamstead. A narrow defeat to King's Gloucester ensued but proved to be the only glitch in an otherwise flawless season. Convincing wins then followed over Rosehill Westonbirt (13-6) and lastly Pinewood (13-7).

Emily Sharman bowled throughout with poise and accuracy and Grace Tushingham captained the side from 4th Base. Excellent contributions from a string of Year 5 girls also complimented the team in key positions and can only bode well for next year. Well done to all who helped make this such a successful season, it is just a shame the rain prevented us from playing more matches! Colours were awarded to Emily Sharman.

Football

The highlight of the U8 season was Raife (our Captain) scoring a hat-trick against Berkhamstead within the first five minutes of the game. We came up against a strong side, in our match against St Edwards, but the boys tried their best. All of the boys worked hard for each other and played with pride and passion.

The U9 team played their first match away at St Edward's, captained by Finn Dawson. Unfortunately, St Edward's was far too strong and in spite of valiant efforts from the team, the boys received a tough footballing lesson. Against Berkhamstead, both A and B teams were fielding a mixture of 8s and 9s. The As conceded some early goals but Edwin pulled one back. Unfortunately, Berkhamstead were too strong despite Rory Hughes' fine saves. The B team grounded out a draw, although they did hit the post when taking a penalty! Sound familiar? Another defeat at Hatherop ended the season though the boys should be proud of the positive way that they played the game against strong opposition.

2012 proved to be our best ever season with the U11A and U10A & B teams remaining unbeaten. The U10s developed into a fine squad and the depth of talent and enthusiasm augurs well for next year. Crucially, there is a good spine to the side. In goal William Nichol was reliable, Thomas Haynes and Thomas Breare were strong defensively, Milo Wills creative in midfield, while Joshua Carr was clinical upfront. Everyone gave valuable support but special mention goes to

Michael Crofts who was the U10 player of the year for he improved significantly throughout the season.

The U11s were an experienced side and they gelled to make a formidable team. At times, our play was superb and our passing sublime. Oliver Jones, Captain, controlled the midfield, ably supported by the Ferreira twins and they allowed the pace and finishing prowess of Morgan, Daniel and Rafael to flourish. Some amazing goals were scored and frequently opposition defences were under siege! Any team is only as good as its defence and here Henry Holloway, Charlie Pugh and Harvey Drennen in goal were totally reliable and strong.

There were many highlights to this wonderful season but most notably the dominant performance of the U10's in defeating Pinewood 6-0 (A's) and 4-0 (B's) and the 7-2 victory by the U11A's against a very useful Hatherop side!

Colours were awarded to Harvey Drennen, Michael Ferreira, Matthew Ferreira, Henry Holloway, Oliver Jones (Captain), Daniel McLaughlin, Charlie Pugh, Morgan Seatter-Messer, Rafael Torregrosa-Jones.

Girls' Hockey

From the outset, the U9 girls demonstrated tremendous enthusiasm to learn and participate in what for many was a new sport. In practice, they worked hard at learning the skills and gradually came to terms with the general tactics and match-play needed to play a team sport.

Unfortunately, the first two matches saw us pitched against teams which were far more experienced; most of the opposition girls were linked to local Hockey Clubs. Despite suffering heavy defeats, the girls maintained their positive approach, continued to work hard and good progress resulted. By the end of the season, the team was really starting to gel and our confidence visibly increased. It was particularly good to

see more of the girls motivated to join our after school club and even join local clubs.

With a Year Six group containing just five girls, this was inevitably going to be a year of future team building for the U11 team. Emily Sharman took on the captaincy role and used all her experience from last year to lead by example on the field. Lessons were learnt in some tough early matches but significant progress was made along the way. Emerging talents in Year five, Emily Musgrave and Mollie Tice, were soon making their presence known at U11 level. By the second half of term, Rendcomb were fighting their corner well and their efforts were duly rewarded with two excellent wins over Richard Pates (2-0) and Silverhill (1-0)

and a draw against a strong team from Rosehill Westonbirt (1-1).

Looking ahead to next year, one can only look forward in anticipation, to a more experienced and enthusiastic group of Year 5 girls who are champing at the bit to get back on the hockey field!

Many congratulations to Emily Musgrave who plays for Cirencester Hockey Club. Her U10 team won the County Cup before moving on to represent Gloucestershire in the West of England Regional Championships at Millfield School. Cirencester won the tournament, beating eight counties and were crowned West of England Champions!

Colours were awarded to Emily Sharman.

Rugby

The J3 boys travelled to Hatherop Castle to represent Rendcomb in their annual tag tournament. Rendcomb were drawn in a tough group. Rendcomb played six matches with many excellent tries being scored amongst the squad notably: Raife, Nicky, Mitchell, John and Joss. Throughout the afternoon, Rendcomb gained two wins, three draws and only suffered one defeat, sadly not good enough to go through to the final stage. All the boys played very well and played some wonderful rugby.

Later in the season, Rendcomb's U9 rugby team played away at Rosehill, Westonbirt. The boys dominated the game from the off and by half time were 4-2 up. In the second half, we out-played the opposition and won comfortably with an eventual score of 7-4 to Rendcomb.

Rendcomb hosted its first U9 match this season. The boys played incredibly well and the scores were even at the end of the first half. The second half was hard fought and both teams displayed some fantastic running rugby. However, Rendcomb was too strong and won the match 4-3.

Our last game was against St Edward's. Rendcomb dominated for the first half and were in front 4-2 by half time. We continued to play well and in the second half we showed what we were really capable of: we passed and tagged well and moved the ball out wide to good effect. The final score was 7-4 to Rendcomb.

This season, the U11s were very fortunate to have a large group of talent from which to select, led ably by our Captain, Morgan Seatter-Messer.

Games are won and lost in the forward battle and generally we excelled here. Henry Holloway's move from the back division to the engine room was crucial. Fast, intelligent and brave he was instrumental in our success and the recruitment of Jude Martin provided him with the perfect foil. Coupled with the strength of Percy Vincent, we often dominated possession and provided a good platform from which to attack. The backs all posed threats to the opposition and it was lovely to see everyone running with freedom, enjoyment and commitment. Frequently, it was the awesome pace of Rafael Torregrosa-Jones that undid even the sternest defence but all the boys made significant contributions and progressed throughout the season. The reliable boot of Oliver Jones meant that most tries secured us 7 points.

It was good to record strong victories against Berkhamstead, Hatherop, Pinewood and King's Gloucester amongst others but the highlight was the 33-0 victory against St Edward's! At times, the standard of our play was outstanding and the level of support was a joy to watch. Arguably the finest U11 Rendcomb performance ever! Having emerged "Invicta"

U8 Rugby

Rendcomb College Junior School Under 8s Rugby team played against Berkhamstead school Under 8s in November. This was the Under 8s first big rugby match at home against another school.

We started off well with some outstanding tries by many members of the team. The score at the end of the first half was 5-4 to Rendcomb.

After some juicy oranges and a big team talk at half time, we improved our playing but Berkhamstead caught up with the tries and the score was 6-6 at one stage.

During a fast moving second half, the scores were very close and both sides were level at 9-9 towards the end of the match. To be fair, both teams played very well and were equally matched. There was some excellent tagging by all players. However, victory was ours as Joss scored our 10th try towards the end of the second half. The final score was 10-9 to Rendcomb.

I was very proud of our team – they all played so well and if we keep this up we should become a first class rugby team. On behalf of the team, may I say a big thank you to Mr Lawrence for coaching us and for refereeing the match? He coached us very well!

during the normal fixture list, we accepted the invitation to close our campaign against a touring team from Hereford Cathedral School. It proved to be a super, end to end match which afforded us many opportunities to win. Unfortunately, we were not as clinical as usual and we lost 14-21. Though sad to finish with a defeat, it didn't diminish from an excellent season's rugby. Well done boys you should be very proud of all you achieved. It was great fun!

The U11B played rugby against Pinewood at home at the start of the season. All of the team played well and by half time the score was 5-5. Pinewood scored the opening try of the second half but Rendcomb battled back and scored two tries and one conversion was successfully kicked. The final score was 17-10 to Rendcomb. Rendcomb U11Bs also played St Edward's at home. It was a hard fought match and the boys had to fight for all the points that they scored. The final score was 19-15 to Rendcomb. This was followed up by a comprehensive 31-14 victory over Berkhamstead in October to bring the season to a rousing finale.

Colours were awarded to Henry Holloway, Jude Martin, Morgan Seatter-Messer (Captain)

Mr Lawrence and Mr Watson

Netball

The U9A and U9B Netball teams played their first match of the season against Richard Pates. The A team was captained by Carmen Lee and the B team was captained by Delilah Vincent, who led their teams confidently. The final score for the A Team was 8-0 to Richard Pates. For the B team, Freya Angus shot accurately and scored 2 goals with the final score 8-2 to Richard Pates.

The U9A team played their second game of the season against King's Glos. The girls really stepped up their game, gelling as a team, thinking more about marking their players and taking their time before passing the ball. Both teams battled very hard and it was a very close game, captained well by Isabel Wateridge. At the end of the match, the final score was 7-5 to King's Glos.

This was a tough season of netball for the U11A team against some strong sides. With many Year 5 girls making up the team, Rendcomb not only lacked experience but also physical presence against some tall opponents. Of our Year 6 girls, Lauren Booth captained the side and Emily Sharman and Grace Tushingham shared the shooting honours. As the season progressed, margins narrowed and progress was made. With particularly close matches against Richard Pates and Rosehill, Westonbirt the girls built on their skills and kept their heads held high. Finally, their efforts were rewarded with a convincing 9-5 win over Silverhill in their final match of the season.

The U11B team played Silverhill. It was a very close and tense match with the whole team working really hard. Both teams battled hard but as our confidence grew we were able to maintain possession and with some fantastic shots by Czeska Sztuka the final score was 4-3 to Rendcomb.

Cricket

The U11 season was badly disrupted by 'the great British weather' with only three matches surviving. Rendcomb this year was captained by Matthew Ferreria who took his responsibilities on and off the field very seriously. He led by example with his batting and his spin bowling, taking some crucial wickets. He was well supported by his brother Michael who scored some super runs with his highest score of 41 not out and by some fine bowling by Oliver Jones who was unlucky not to take a hat trick in consecutive games. The fielding in all of the matches was of a high standard with Henry Holloway taking the catch of the season. Morgan Seatter-Messer's wicket-keeping should not be forgotten, taking some sharp catches and stumpings too.

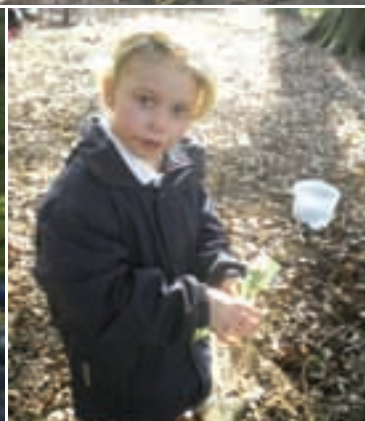
The J5s who played showed considerable promise for next season, notably, William Nichol and Thomas Breare. These boys trained and played with great enthusiasm, skill and good understanding of the game and they proved to be a formidable unit. An excellent season but far too short. If it had not been for the poor weather, it would have been the best ever since the Junior School opened its doors. Victories over: Hatherop Castle, Prior Park and Kings Glos. Colours were awarded to: Matthew Ferreira (Captain), Michael Ferreira, Oliver Jones.



Sports Days

Undeterred by the bad weather conditions – rain and lots of it, the annual Otters' sports day simply moved venue and went inside to the sports hall. As the children poured in with great excitement and anticipation their parents dripped in slowly for the 2pm start. There were many close races and finishes culminating in many children receiving place stickers. The final race was a closely-run relay race with the blue team winning the event. The highlight of the day was the adults 'spud and spoon' race. Both heats were very competitive, some suggested a stewards inquiry about some of the 'grown-ups' using their thumb to keep the spud on the spoon – surely not? All the children received a medal and certificate and were delighted to be given a traditional ice cream as they left the hall to bright sunshine and white fluffy clouds. Another well-supported and organised event, here's to a bright and sunny 2013. Well done everybody!

A break in the rain eventually allowed the rest of the Juniors to hold the annual celebration of Athletics and as usual, the pupils rose to the challenge and performed with tremendous skill and enthusiasm. For the first time the events were based around an Inter-House competition and this added extra spice to all the races. There were many remarkable performances and special mention must go to Mitchell Bankes, Milo Wills, Rafael T-Jones, Finn Dawson, Emily Sharman and Emily Musgrave who emerged as the most successful athletes on the day. It was lovely to see such talent on show and incredible levels of commitment and effort. Though the three Houses fought hard Dunwoody proved victorious winning our first House competition.



Forest School

One of the Forest School sayings is 'its not the wrong weather it's the wrong type of clothes'. This year we certainly have had plenty of the 'wrong type of weather'! However, come rain or shine and the right clothes, mainly waterproofs, the children have had another amazing year.

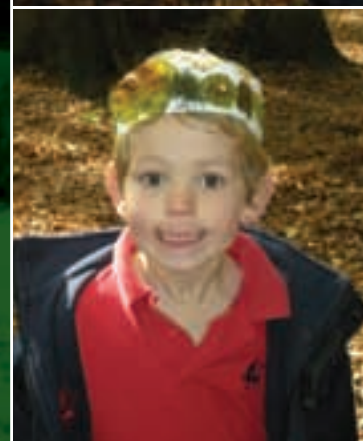
The Michaelmas term brought blackberry picking, Autumn leaf art and nest building to name but a few. The Lent term included making successful bird feeders, tracking animals in both the snow and the mud and learning about how animals survived the winter. The Summer term's activities were inspired by the Jubilee and the Olympics and of course there was the essential shelter building activities to provide extra cover from the occasional down pour.

One of the highlights (or lowlights of those responsible for the washing!!) of this year has to be the MUD, from mud slides to mud pies and lots in between I can categorically say that even those that didn't relish the mud at first have embraced it to the full!

This year also saw the return of the Forest School working party - i.e. a group of enthusiastic volunteers ventured up into the woods for a morning's hard labour! The original bird hide and shelters were given a make over, stakes were made and wooden disks cut. A large shelter was also expertly constructed, complete with wooden seating and a willow 'wall'. Thank you to everyone involved for your support and hard work - the children love it!

The final addition was a new Forest School sign made by Harry Brownless and his family, which now has pride of place at the entrance to our much loved and well used Forest School area.

Catherine Breare



Special Days

Knex Challenge

J5 spent an interesting afternoon puzzling over a Knex challenge. They had to design a vehicle which could transport Olympians and Paralympians across London. The afternoon was extremely successful, resulting in an array of fascinating vehicles which all fulfilled the requirements of the challenge. However, this year's winning team was Joshua Carr and Milo Wills who went forward to the Gloucestershire final in April, having proved themselves to be true Knexperts!



Sport Relief

Once again the Junior school were fully committed to supporting Sport Relief. With sweatbands being adored and costumes at the ready they were ready for the Friday challenge. A course had been set up across the golf course and around the junior playground by Miss Wann and Mr Lawrence. Who had sprinkled amongst this 1 mile course a few challenges to complete before carrying off on their run. All the children were keen to take on these challenges, and after two circuits their run was over. The total amount of money raised was over £327.00

Offchurch Bury 2-day event

On 26 and the 27, I went to Offchurch to do a two day event to represent Rendcomb College on my pony Cobweb.

On the first day it was dressage and showjumping. The dressage test was HN1 riding club test and in that I got the score 30. In the showjumping we stopped once.

On Sunday was the roads and tracks where we got 0 time faults the phase 1st roads and tracks which is 3km in 15 minutes, 0.8 in the steeplechase, 0 in the 2nd roads and tracks which is 4 km in 27 minutes to cool them down. Then the 10 minute box where you give your horse a rest and check his heart rate. Then it's the best part cross country which is a long and tiring phase of XC jumps.

Mollie Tice

Mollie competed at the Offchurch Bury 2 Day event on Cobweb, representing Rendcomb College. She scored 30 in the dressage, had one stop in the show jumping and completed a long a tiring Xcountry course.



World Maths Day

On World Maths Day, the children spent the morning completing challenges, speed mental arithmetic games and solving problems. They all worked really well in mixed age groups and earned points for their houses. John Ascough single-handedly achieved 908 correct answers in the on-line games, contributing to a school total of 21,673. The winning House was Dunwoody.

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