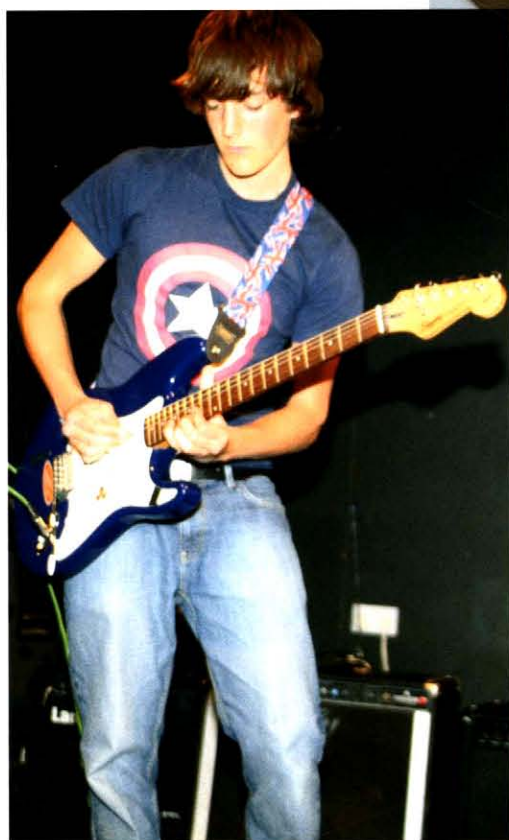
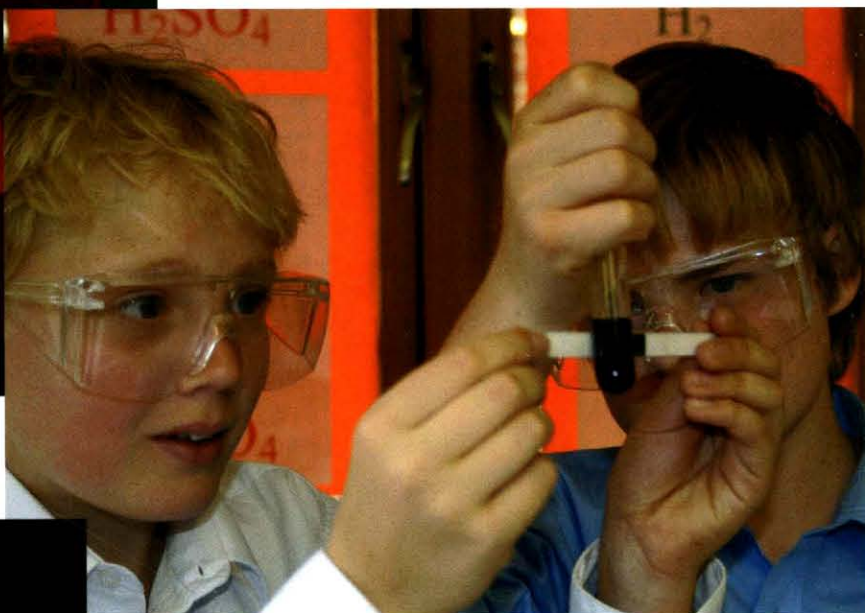


THE COURT

2006 - 2007





The Court 2006 - 2007

Edited and designed by Michael Edwards

Proof-reading Lesley Lowndes

Photography from:

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Michael Edwards

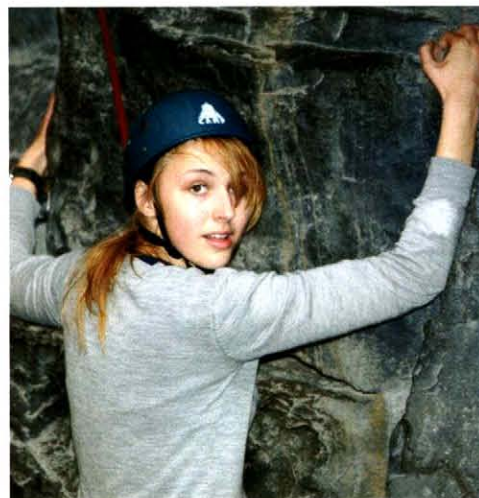
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Owl Ties and Brooches

Just a handful of Upper Sixth pupils have the honour of wearing the Owl Tie or Owl Brooch. Quite simply the ties are given for outstanding, all round contribution to the College. "These ties are not just given out because you are in Year 13 or are a Prefect. They are awarded because you have earned them," said Shane O'Brien, Deputy Headmaster Elect.

William Milton has led by example, being at the forefront of the CCF Army Section, earning his Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award, showing superb leadership on expeditions.

Helen Green wears her Owl Brooch for her outstanding example as Deputy Head of College. She has applied herself to her studies, sung in the choir, performed on stage, been Head of CCF, gained her Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award and been a committed member of a fast improving girls' rowing quad.

Lu Duo Guo has been an outstanding prefect. He is always proactive and positive, having the ability to get things done. Lu Duo is an impressive young man who has been superb in his boarding house, particularly showing concern and support for younger boys.

Joe Colman shows the diversity of skills recognised by the Owl Tie. In his time at Shiplake he has made an outstanding contribution to the arts and music, has been a successful Public Speaker and an excellent Head Chapel Warden.



Ryan Weare has set a fine example as Head of College. He led the way with an unusual form of spiritual leadership.

The River Thames in April was considerably colder than the River Jordan. Yet Head of College, Ryan Weare, decided to be baptised in the River Thames.

"I haven't been baptised and I decided to opt for the traditional method of total immersion in the river," said Ryan. Fellow Upper Sixth Former, Lucy Andrews, decided also to follow in the tradition of John the Baptist. The congregation were relieved to learn that they did not have to enter in the river as in the full John the Baptist tradition.

"The Baptism Service started on the river bank then Ryan and Lucy walked into the river up to waist height," explained Head Chapel Warden, Joe Colman.

"Henry Mitchell, a fellow Chapel Warden, and I took an arm each. We immersed them totally on the words "In the name of the Father," and then a second time on "The Son" and then on "The Holy Ghost" for the third and final dunking."

Headmaster's Review

Progress on all fronts

Eleven months ago the A level and GCSE results came out and we were of course delighted and relieved that our Cambridge-bound duo of Konstantin Bosch and Simon Kirk gained the top grades they needed for their places. We were thrilled too that Daniel Lighter also achieved his potential with four A Grades at A2 level. Our current Year 13 pupils are not far behind them with Ryan Gisborne-Weare, Lydia Hannon and Helen Green all achieving top grades at AS level last year.

At GCSE there were a number of excellent performances. Phil McGowan topped the list with 5 As and 3 A*s, and Alex Wycherley, Chris Webb, Toby Raper, Sean Horwood all did very well. I believe the academic profile of the school has been raised over the past three years and boys and girls are working harder and achieving more than ever before. I have set new targets for the departments to achieve this year and I am confident that they will do so. That said, much of the impetus for the improvement in the academic work ethos has come from within, and Heads of Department, through departmental development plans have come up with ways of ensuring that the vast majority of pupils will gain their potential grades. Such are the new breed of teachers who not only have an empathy with their pupils but understand the ways their minds work.

In the January AS modules, Lizzie Orpwood scored the perfect 100% in her Biology paper which emulated the feat of Lydia Hannon and Helen Green the year before. Edward Bailey, Year 11, started his hunt for the perfect GCSE scores with an A* in English and Jack Hyde is similarly placed having gained an A at that time.

The emphasis on teaching and learning which was introduced last year has begun to have an impact. Dr Purser has put into place some new initiatives which will filter through during the next couple of years.

Teachers have to manipulate their teaching to ensure that the learning experience for the pupils is the best possible. The cross-curricular idea of building a First World War trench has been a wonderful example of the type of exciting, innovative teaching that I want to bring to Shiplake.

Another new project which Mr Matt Barrett and I developed this year was that of potential target grades. Most independent schools use the Middle Years' Information System (MidYis) to provide a baseline for value added measures. We intend to use this information, together with teachers' professional judgement, to provide target grades on which each piece of work a student undertakes is judged.

The Art and Design Technology work on display at the Speech Day Exhibition is a testament to the hard work undertaken by new Heads of Department Hema Gillings and Emma Arnold. The quality of the jazz played also demonstrates how much has been achieved by Jonathan Ling in his first year as Director of Music. Miss Catherine Saker continues to amaze her audiences with her wonderful theatre. Next term's school play is likely to be a Sixties musical – A Slice of Saturday Night. Miss Saker has already scared me with what she intends to do with the Tithe Barn and has given me the lyrics so that I can spend the summer censoring them!

Miss Saker would be the first to acknowledge, if she were here, the debt of gratitude which she owes Mrs Jean Harper. Mrs Harper made all of the costumes for Arabian Nights, dealt with the costuming for "To Be" - helped out with costuming for the House Drama plays.....and also did all of the Morris Men Costumes for the Year 10 Arts Festival piece.



I am ever thankful to the Reverend Robert Prance for his spiritual leadership of the College and this year is no exception. He was ably supported by the Head Chapel Warden, Joe Colman. Rounders at 6:00 am at Stonor, baptisms in the River Thames, early morning swimming in the sea at Swanage - all in the pursuit of Christian knowledge. I can assure you that this does not happen at every school.

The CCF at the school has been given new life this year under Lt Grant Lawson. The Biennial Inspection was a great success and who will forget the visit of the gigantic Chinook helicopter which landed on our main field in March.

This year, Thomas Franks took over the catering at Shiplake with a new slogan "Eat To Win". I am in no doubt that it is not just me who has noticed a huge improvement both in quality and quantity of food at Shiplake.

Headmaster's Review

It seems a long time ago now, but on 14 September last year, the whole school was involved in a Sponsored Walk in aid of the Kikunduku Schools which we support in Kenya. Some boys and staff chose to run the distance which was showing off just a bit too much, but all who completed the walk should be very proud of themselves.

Sport remains a central core of much of what we do at the College and this year has been no exception. The 1st XV were not strong this year but were very well led, until his injury, by William Ewart. The U16 XV proved to be the team of the season and with some among their number having already been blooded in the 1st XV, the new Director of Sport, Mr Richard Curtis is looking for a change of fortune next year. A tour to South Africa this August should help, though the mothers of the boys going, as well as the Headmaster, will be hoping that those big South African bullies allow our boys to come home unscathed. The U14 XV got better and better and Mr Keane will be eager to know from his home in New Zealand that they have made further progress next year.

Girls' sport goes from strength to strength and this year we were able to put out two netball teams on one occasion and a new best record of wins was achieved. Next year there will be enough girls to form a girls' only hockey team but from the little research I have done it would seem that the girls would prefer to play hockey with the boys and they were given a great lead by Lydia Hannon this year.

The boys' Hockey Club again competed well and the U15 team under the direction of Mr Mannix improved considerably and Mr Gould, I hope, can look forward to a strong 1st XI next year. The boys' Squash Team also came to the fore this year and won some notable victories including back to back wins against Bradfield.

The 1st Cricket XI showed early promise with a routing of Pangbourne in which Graham Braithwaite scored an unbeaten 151 and, in losing just three matches, proved to be one of the top teams for some years. Graham Braithwaite's leadership of both the Hockey XI and the Cricket XI showed that he has matured into a good tactician, and when this is added to his inherent combative skills, he is a fearsome competitor.

Rowing at Shiplake this year has been phenomenal. Much has been written and said about the College's Boat Club being placed 3rd in the schools' medal table at the National Schools' Regatta, but words and images on this occasion could not substitute for the thrill and outrageous pride of all connected with Shiplake who were running alongside the three gold medal winning crews as they crossed the finishing line. It is a real tribute to the coaching staff and to the commitment and determination of all the rowers that after a term when few crews were able to get on the river, and most had blisters on feet and backsides from running and ergo machines, they were able to turn this around to such an extent.

I would like to pass on an old Celtic blessing to those leaving Shiplake:

May you have:
Walls for the wind
And a roof for the rain,
And drinks bedside the fire.
Laughter to cheer you
And those you love near you,
And all that your heart may desire.

A G S Davies



Celebrations at the Girls' Sports Dinner

Prizes

Year 9 & 10 Prizes

Year 9 Effort Prizes

Year 9 Attainment Prizes

Year 10 Effort Prizes

Year 10 Attainments Prizes

Winner

Edward Bowers
Auberi Chen
Oliver Fogden
Tony Baylis
Toby Bownass
Jamie MacLeod
Freddie Wilcox

Deacon Brown
Nick Harper
Thomas Imlay
Deacon Brown
James Gifford
Thomas Imlay
Steven Powell
Robert Skinner

GCSE Prizes

Art & Design
Design & Technology
Drama
English
French
Geography
History
Information & Communication Technology
Mathematics
Science (Double award)
Music
Physical Education
Religious Education
Spanish

Freddie Marriott
Toby Frossell
Freddie Greaves
Jack Hyde
Jack Hyde & Anthony Kay
Brandon Tropper
Alistair McArthur
Alex Meerman
Nicholas Bithrey
Nicholas Bithrey
William Quayle
Jack Broome & Adam Davies
Alex Wallis
Jack Wilcox

GCSE Results Prizes (2006)

Christopher Webb
Alexander Wycherley
Toby Raper

Governors' Prizes

Art & Design
Spiers Cup (Music)
Biology
Physical Education
Bleackley Modern Languages
Business Studies
Chemistry
Design & Technology
Geography
History
Information & Communication Technology
Media Studies
Margaret Wells-Furby Science Prize (Year 12)
Mathematics
Physics
Theatre Studies

Oliver Loudon
Oliver Loudon
Lydia Hannon
Lydia Hannon
Lu Duo Guo
Robert Jackson
Helen Green
Johnny Mair
Ben Farmar
Christopher Webb
Gerard Mongan
Gerard Mongan
Lizi Orpwood
Mark Mitchell
Mark Mitchell
Tom Morgan-Harris

Prizes

A Level Results Prizes (2006)

Konstantin Bosch
Simon Kirk
Daniel Lighter

SPECIAL AWARDS

Ascelpian Prize

For a pupil who has made an outstanding contribution to the Visual Arts

Jack Narewski

J W Whittington Cup

For the CCF Cadet of the year

Ben Waldron & William Milton

Larkin Cup (Singing)

For a pupil who has made the most significant contribution to singing

James Morrison

Rupert Mackay Prize

For a pupil who has made the most significant contribution to the Christian life of the College

Joseph Colman

Salmon Cup

For a pupil who has made an outstanding contribution to Performing Arts

Joseph Colman

Eaton Prize

For the two most improved readers in Year 9

Samuel Evans
Michael Syropoulo

Service to the Community

Outstanding contribution to the local community award

Simon Mullins

Trotter Trophy

International Sportsman

William Satch

Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award

Helen Green
William Milton

SENIOR COMMON ROOM STAFF PRIZES

Edinburgh Prize

For the Non-School prefect who has contributed most to College life

Joseph Colman

Matthew Bevin Cup

For the most industrious Year 11 pupil

Alex Meerman

Caston Memorial Prize

For the pupil who has shown notable determination and tenacity during the course of his or her College career

Rupert Pusey

HEADMASTER'S PRIZES

Headmaster's Quaich

Outstanding contribution to the sporting life of the College

Graham Braithwaite
Lydia Hannon
William Satch

Alexander Everett Prizes

Joseph Colman, Jaime Diaz Faes
Lu Duo Guo, Lydia Hannon
Robert Jackson, William Milton
Simon Moss, Sam Willsher

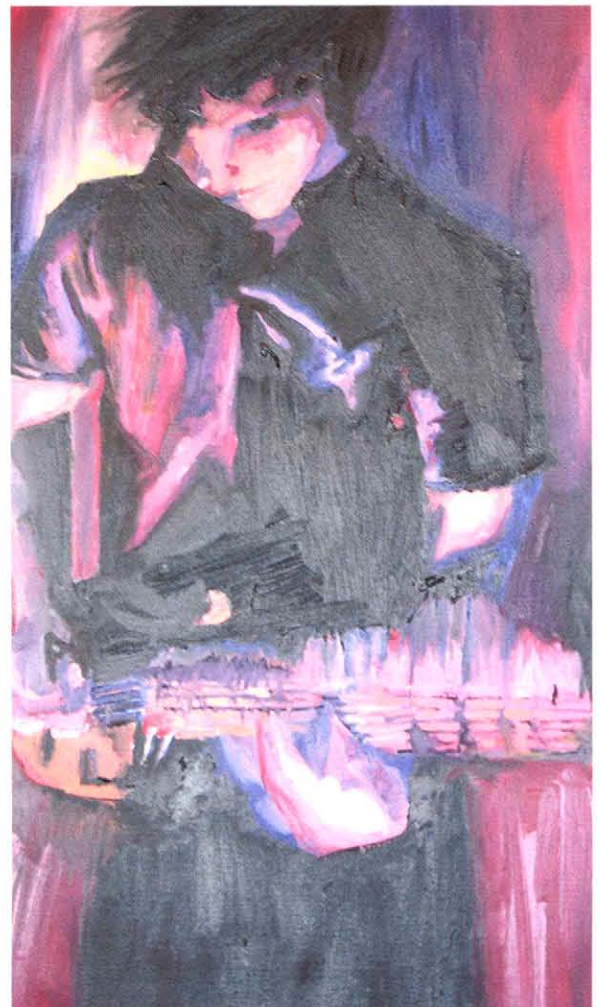
Deputy Head of College

Helen Green

Head of College

Ryan Gisborne-Weare

Art





The musical year

On the evening of Sunday 9 October evening a merry band of musicians took to the stage for the first concert of the new academic year. A newly formed College Choir sang three *a cappella* numbers: two from Africa and one from Sweden. Singing this style of music is never easy and I was very proud of the singers, who launched into the songs with plenty of courage and conviction.

Solo items were heard from our three new Year 9 music scholars: Oliver Fogden (bassoon and piano); Freddie Wilcox (clarinet) and James Cowing (alto saxophone). James also played in an arrangement of *Cantaloupe Island* by Herbie Hancock, with Jack Mercer (bass guitar), William Quayle (drums) and Jonny Potts (keyboard).

Laura Cotton and Jonny Potts, both studying AS music, teamed up to sing the duet *A Whole New World* by Alan Menken, sensitively accompanied by Year 11 GCSE students Dan Tookman (drums) and William Quayle (djembe). Jonny Potts also played a duet with me at the piano. More singing was heard from James Morrison, now studying music at A2 level and specialising in performance. He entertained us with two contrasting pieces: *Can You Feel The Love Tonight?* by Elton John and *Master Of The House* by Claude Michel-Schönberg.

Apart from the excellent performers my thanks must go to the people behind the scenes who helped to make the evening run so smoothly: Olly Loudon, who, as well as producing a sensitive performance of *Sign* by Eric Clapton on acoustic guitar, monitored the recording of the recital; Lachlan Dellar, our Music Gap Student for 2006, who produced posters, chased pupils for rehearsals, and performed *Nocturno* by Franz Strauss on his tenor horn, receiving much adulation post-concert for his full tone and ultimate musicianship; and finally, Mr Brian Foakes, who accompanied our music scholars at the piano and set up the PA system and recording equipment.

The Christmas Concert was held somewhat prematurely on 26 November. We managed to avoid too much carol singing, saving some audience participation for the very end of the evening. Highlights included a refined vocal quartet singing *White Christmas* and Rupert Pusey joining Robert Prance to perform *The Gendarmes Duet* by Flanders and Swann. A newly formed adult community choir, the Shiplake Singers (rehearsing every Monday evening in the Music School between 8.00p.m. and 9.15p.m) combined with the College Choir to perform Clapton's *Tears in Heaven* and a new song called *Believe*. The evening was rounded off with a winter punch and mince pies, getting us in the mood for the season of goodwill and carol singing still to come.



The annual carol service at St Mary's in Henley was an all-too-soon reality for members of the choir. I was pleased to see the choir expand to about 40 in number and rehearsals were intense for a couple of weeks. Choir-only items included *Mid-Winter* by Bob Chilcott, *Christmas Night, Away in a Manger* and *All my heart this night rejoices*. Chloe O'Connor and Jessica Edwards shared the terrifying job of singing the *Once in Royal* solo and they supported each other very well, making sure that their voices carried to the front of the church. After intensive rehearsals with the Headmaster and me, the College stood to sing *Good King Wenceslas* with solo moments from the 1st XV Rugby Squad and the girls, both groups excelling themselves with ten out of ten for bravery. The Shiplake Singers joined us for the service itself, taking choir numbers to new heights and causing problems with space in the choir stalls.

The music calendar looked very busy as we returned for the Spring Term with a GCSE/A Level Recital, House Singing Competition and Spring Concert on the cards. At the first event, six GCSE and three A level students performed music for their performance portfolios. For James Morrison, studying A2 Music and specialising in performance, this meant preparing 20 minutes of material and performing it without a break. He excelled himself, delivering an entertaining medley of songs from Cole Porter, Leonard Bernstein and others.

As half term loomed ever nearer, musical activity in the houses increased and music staff found themselves spending several evenings in one or other Houses helping groups get their songs together for the House Singing Competition. Each house had to prepare one song chosen by me (*Consider Yourself* from *Oliver!*), to be sung by the whole house. They were then free to perform an 'own choice' which could be with or without accompaniment. The warmth of Welsh, the energy of Everett and the suppleness of Skipwith were not enough to displace Burr House, who came out top, due largely to immaculate presentation and some fine part singing with home-grown lyrics and choreography. The one and only Orchard came second, much to the dismay of their Housemaster! Congratulations to all Houses for singing their way through a challenging and enjoyable afternoon in the Sports Hall, many boys and girls performing with excellent conviction in an activity somewhat out of their 'comfort zone'. A huge thank you must also go to Mrs Johnson who was an excellent and entirely accurate adjudicator (in my opinion). This was a great way to round off the first half of a busy term.

On Sunday 11 March, Shiplake's finest gathered in the Great Hall once again for the Spring Concert. Despite one or two items missing, due to illness, this was a big concert (breaking my golden rule of a one hour time limit by about 40 minutes) which displayed much of the musical talent evident throughout the college. Of course, we don't have favourites in the music department, so it would be impossible to single people out, but well done to everyone who was brave enough to play or sing a solo and also to those who committed to rehearsals and then a performance with the College Band, Wind Ensemble, Jazz Quintet or College Choir throughout the term. Many people performing in these groups lead very busy lives in other areas of college life as well, and they are to be particularly congratulated. Dedicating the final choir item *You Raise Me Up* to the England Rugby Team clearly did not have the desired effect on them the following weekend. Particular thanks must go to Mr Brian Foakes for directing the Wind Ensemble, and to our new GAP student, Mr Bryn Criddle, who displayed much skill in his role as pianist/director of the newly formed Jazz Ensemble as well as in his solo piano role performing Gershwin's Prelude No 2.

My particular thanks go to our dedicated team of visiting instrumental teaching staff who, this year, were supplemented by the arrival of a new violin teacher, Mike Jones. Mike has done much teaching work with Berkshire "Maestros" and is an experienced soloist and orchestral leader. My hope is that, in line with developments to the singing and choirs at Shiplake, the demand for instrumental tuition will continue to rise in the year ahead.



I was very fortunate to have the assistance of Lachlan Dellar, our Australian GAP student for my first term, and he helped me hugely with the administrative running of the department as well as demonstrating an impressive ability on the tenor horn in concerts. Just as Lachlan left I was reassured by the arrival of Bryn Criddle who has made huge strides with the Jazz Ensemble in his first two terms. With an insatiable appetite for Jazz, Bryn has impressed everyone with his piano skills, easy going demeanour and team spirit. Such qualities are vital in a busy music department.

Finally, much of our success this year would not have been possible without the continuing support of Paul Wisby, teaching Music Technology as well as Guitar to a large number of students. Paul was largely responsible for organising the Battle of the Bands as well as the visit of the Institute of Contemporary Music Performance just before half term in the Summer Term, which caught the imaginations of many pupils.

It is my wish that we continue to improve the quality (rather than the quantity) of rock music within the college, encouraging pupils to form bands as well as attend workshops and masterclasses from visiting performers. In a music department within a small school environment, we are not hoping to raise a symphony orchestra, but we are hoping and planning to provide pupils with the opportunity to experience a wide range of musical styles which will enable them to make more informed choices with open minds as they move on into the world at large.

JG Ling

The Greatest Novel Ever?

Year 9 had to listen carefully and make their minds up when the English Department gave pupils the task of deciding on the greatest novel ever.

Lowri Cook passionately led the way, advocating Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*. "This 17 year old unmarried mother, living in Italy with the poets Byron and her future husband Percy Shelley, thought she was just writing a ghost story. In fact she was writing one of the most powerful novels ever completed."

Lord of the Flies gave Peter Gould the chance to encourage choral participation as he delivered his five minute pitch. For Adam Hurst, Tolkein's astoundingly detailed fantasy world meant that *Lord of the Rings* could be the only winner. Chris Alcock had originally heard *The Hitchhikers' Guide to the Galaxy* on the radio and was still entranced by the book.

When Luke Foster, who organised the day, told pupils that the average London citizen is caught on CCTV over 300 times a day the fear of Big Brother's Surveillance Society struck a chord. "Even if you take a hammer to your networked computer every key stroke that you've ever made can be traced, every phone call you make is recorded, every text message you send can be recalled. 1984 is a protest against that kind of world. It is encouraging you to stand up and to say this is not the world I want to live in."



Emphatic victory for Orwell's 1984

Teachers were invited to submit their best and worst novel. Mr Foster clearly didn't enjoy Dostoevsky's *Crime and Punishment*

"I'm sure some would feel this to be literary blasphemy but I've tried to read it so many times and each time was worse than the last. Overwrought, overwritten and melodramatic. I'm sure its great fun to read if you're huddled by a fire in the bleak open spaces of Mother Russia with nothing better to do than read 300 pages of guilt ridden agonising – but we aren't and it isn't."



Identity

'Who the hell do you think you are?!'
The teacher roared
To the boy who was doodling
On the notice board.

The boy jumped with shock and surprise
At the sudden approach of his demise.

With burning eyes the teacher snarled
But the boy remained quite calm
And on his face a smile curled
As bystanders stared in alarm...

'I sir, am 75% water
With sulphur, salt and Iron,
Lime, Nitrates, Phosphorous, Zinc,
Silicon, Calcium and Carbon.

Ammonia, Selenium, Sodium, Magnesium,
Vanadanium and some extras too,
And that is what, I think, should make up
Both me and you.

We're mammals, Homo sapiens
'Humans' to be precise.
Apart from some minor details we're equal.
I hope that will suffice.

And one day sir,
When life begins to fade,
I hope you will concur
We will biodegrade.

And when that takes place,
Don't feel it's over at last,
For we will continue to feed another race,
One of bacteria and grass.'

The boy is in detention now,
With a lot of work to do,
But come on, we have to be fair,
I think he was right don't you?

James Gifford



Years 10 & 11 investigated the theme of Identity for National Poetry Day

The Martini Model

Mark and Ruth Cotton have been developing a stable platform for 8 years now. "230 PCs, 19 servers, 80 software packages, 476 Network Users and 260 groups of users. We've come a long way since the days of Windows 98 and just a handful of e-mail users," Ruth Cotton said as she continued the training session. The Martini model - any time, any place, any where is a key theme - with users having high expectations of their ability to access information and software.

"Connectivity, where everything talks to everything, is another key goal. And of course we all want integration where every device and software package works seamlessly," said Ruth.

Sometimes it is a case of one step forward and two steps back. Champagne spilling on to a lap-top during end of term celebrations, pupils forgetting their password over the holidays, and users expecting more and more memory space can all hinder the onward march of progress.

A growing reputation is encouraging schools to seek advice from the Shiplake College ICT services. "We can share Research and Development Costs. It is not a case of schools having to re-invent the wheel every time they take on a new piece of software. Currently Shiplake College is ahead in its progress towards using Sharepoint as a Virtual Learning Environment but I'm sure that Shiplake will be able to benefit from the experience of some of our other schools too," said Mark Cotton.

£20,000 Grant

The College has been awarded a grant of £20,000 from the Worshipful Company of Stationers and Newspaper

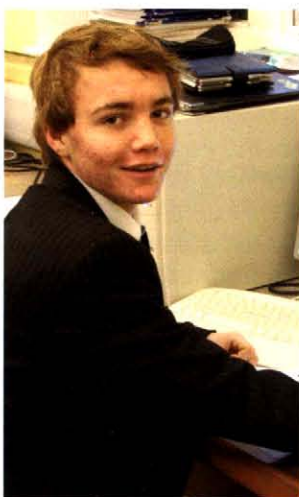
Makers to provide printing, publishing and graphical work at Shiplake College. The grant has enabled the College to set up a Stationers' room and equip it with 18 pupil PCs, a teacher PC connected to a data projector, networked A4/A3 scanner, mono and colour laser printers and digital cameras for use by the pupils.

John Turner, the 63rd pupil to arrive at the school back in 1959, and a College Governor since the late 1970s, welcomed representatives from the Stationers with words of gratitude and the reflection, "Communication has come a long way since I sat at my desk back in the sixties. In those days we had a scratchy quill as sharp as a poisoned Amazonian blow dart."

Kevin Dewey, Chairman of the Stationers' Trustees commented, "This was one of the best presented proposals requesting funding that we've received from a school."

Originally established by Mary Tudor in 1557 the Stationers' ran their own school until 1980. Funds from the sale of the school are now used to promote design and printing skills in schools throughout the United Kingdom.

Over lunch Shiplake pupils explained to the three representatives from the Stationers how they had been using a variety of software, Adobe Photoshop in Art, Sketchup, a 3D design package in DT and Microsoft's Digital Image Suite and Publisher for combining text and images in Media Studies.



Smaller carbon footprints

Turning off ICT systems overnight saves electricity and reduces the College's CO2 emissions. In the past PCs were left on in order for system and software updates to take place overnight. Today most of the College's PCs are modern enough to power on and off by remote command and ICT Services have developed software and procedures to fully utilise this capability.

System updates and software installation run unattended at start-up time and are all managed and controlled centrally using Microsoft technologies. Depending on where the system is, machines are switched off between 9pm and 6am. If any teachers are burning the midnight oil there is the option to cancel the shutdown.

In total it is estimated that financial savings on electricity should be in excess of £6,000 per annum and the estimated CO2 footprint savings per year should be more than 44,500 kg.

Thinking about thinking

Throughout the year teachers have been working hard to apply the ideas presented before the start of term. Bernadette McLean, Principal of the Helen Arkell Centre, posed some interesting ideas when she took the entire academic staff for a morning's training.

"Which description best fits your brain?" she asked. "My brain is like a huge hotel with millions of rooms. Each room is full of things I've learned." Or do you agree with the pupil who said, "I always get in a muddle when I've got a hard problem to solve. My brain is like a pan of spaghetti."

Bernadette challenged assumptions that there is a limit to what a pupil can achieve. "Anything is possible" was her mantra, and she asserted that self-esteem is learned not inherited. Through careful neuro-linguistic programming pupils can grow in confidence and achievement. "Your spelling was a little weak but it was an impressive piece of writing," builds esteem while "That was an impressive piece of creative writing but weak spelling reduced the mark," belittles the achievement.

The session encouraged teachers to think about feedback and ensure that it was prompt and helpful. Pupils should be encouraged to believe that the only mistakes are those from which we do not learn. "There is no such thing as failure, only feedback," said Bernadette McLean who believes in "feedforward" rather than "feedback".

"Language is a window on the mind," wrote Noam Chomsky and it was the key to the practical advice on running question and answer sessions. Teachers should announce that they are going to ask a question rather than pounce on a student and expect an immediate answer. Pupils need time to think. Careful wording and re-phrasing gives students the chance to unravel the issues. Short, sharp sentences work effectively. Soap operas are successful partly because the average sentence length is between 6 – 8 words.

There were plenty of tips on designing worksheets too. Put key words in a box at the beginning. Use clear simple headings. Make presentation interesting. Break up text with pictures and diagrams. Use double spacing and leave white space.

So much depends on the teacher. "A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops," wrote Henry Adams.

Questions to encourage creative thinking

How would the world change if money grew on trees?
What would the world be like if we all looked the same?
How do we decide what is beautiful?



Finton O'Regan sets staff a creative thinking problem.

Who got the polo today?

"Behaviour is learned, behaviour can be changed and behaviour can be taught. That's the good news," Finton O'Regan, educationalist, author and former Headmaster told Shiplake teachers when he took a pre-term training session.

"Much depends on knowing the mood of the pupils, your mood and the mood of others. Mood management is vital if you are to avoid Bad Day Syndrome" said Mr O'Regan. "One of the problems is that some children don't do boredom and they don't do hesitation. We know how to be bored and we know to think before we speak but that isn't the case for some children. But they do have to take ownership of their own behaviour. They might not make good choices but they should not have excuses."

"Rewards are frequently more successful than sanctions and often who gives the reward is more significant than the reward itself. At the end of a training session the Manchester United players stand by their Bentleys and Ferraris asking who got the polo that day. Every day Sir Alex Ferguson gives a polo to the player who he judges to have shown the best attitude in training that day."

"There has been a lot of concern in the press recently about the role of parents. The Archbishop of Canterbury has preached on Parent Deficit and there is a superb story of a father asking his son about his poor report. When the boy agrees that it is disappointing the father asserts that he will get the teachers to do better next time."

Inspiration for the arthritic

The Sixth Form Society was pleased to host Jim Shekhdar, who gave an entertaining and inspiring talk on his epic solo journey across the Pacific Ocean from South America to Australia in 2001.

Mr Shekhdar, no spring chicken, embarked with an arthritic hip and bags of optimism for what he thought would be a seven month voyage but actually took nine. Along the way he encountered flying fish, a towel-stealing tuna (which landed on his boat and he threw back out of pity but it took the towel in which he had wrapped it) and sharks.

Managing to survive boredom, hallucination and a premonition of his daughter's car-crash (which fortunately never happened) he got within a hundred yards of shore when his boat capsized and he was famously filmed wading ashore, greeting his wife and daughter and looking like Robinson Crusoe.

Sadly, his chance of a lifetime's free beer was wrecked when he was handed a tinnie by a well-wisher, thinking it was from his sponsor and so the wrong beer was plastered all over the papers. The moment was lost and he still buys his own beers! Jim's next expedition starts in November this year and he will row solo around the Arctic circle. We wish him well.

The last of the great explorers?

Benedict Allen, author, explorer, TV presenter, filmmaker and public speaker, is best known for his arduous expeditions to remote corners of the globe, journeys generally achieved without any "backup" and by immersing himself alone in indigenous communities.

Shiplake was very fortunate to have him come to speak at the Sixth Form Society. To a packed OVR, Benedict regaled us with tales of his life-threatening journey across the Baring Straits, where on one evening he lost his dogs and almost died overnight.

His previous adventures include journeying to the mouth of the Amazon where he was nearly murdered by goldminers and, having escaped on foot, only survived the jungle by eating his dog. During six months in New Guinea he lived with the Crocodile People and was initiated to become a man as strong as a crocodile, which involved beatings and scarrings. Other adventurers include crossing Mongolia by camel, crossing the Namib desert and living with the Aborigines in the Gibson desert for six months.

Benedict describes himself as a scientist, ecologist and explorer – perhaps the last in the great tradition of Livingstone, Burton, Mallory and Thesiger and the evening's talk was hugely entertaining.

Media frenzy on the River Bank

It started with an e-mail to BBC South on a soggy Monday asking if they would like to film rowers on the flooded rugby pitches. They thought we were joking but a photo showed otherwise. BBC South decided it was old news and put it on their website.



BBC Newsround were the first to pick up the story closely followed by the *Henley Standard*, *Meridian TV* and a number of photographic agencies.

By early afternoon Wednesday there was a crowd of photographers, in wellies, taking photos of rowers performing in front of the rugby posts.

For *Newsround* presenter Gavin rowing was a new experience. As he disappeared towards the horizon, unable to turn, veteran cameraman Dave sadly shook his head, "It wasn't like that when I worked with John Noakes on *Blue Peter*." Eventually Mr Foster successfully taught Gavin how to turn and he rowed back in to complete his report for the BBC.

The Sun, with a series of awful puns, decided to run a flooding photo alongside a "before" photo that we supplied. Consequently Mr Johnson and Labrador Horace made it into The Sun running across dry playing fields back in the sunny days of September.





Year 9 in the trenches on their visit to the Battlefields

Excavating No Man's Land

Year 9 were treated to an enthralling lecture by Andrew Robertshaw of the National Army Museum. Mr Robertshaw, a former teacher, also coordinates a group called No Man's Land which conducts archaeological projects on the Western Front. It was in this role that the BBC commissioned his group to search for the dug-out so famously described by Wilfrid Owen in a letter to his mother early in 1917. This described the horrors of sentry duty out in No Man's Land, and which formed the setting for the war poem, 'The Sentry'.

89 years after Owen's letter, Mr Robertshaw's team started their research, using written records, aerial photographs, maps and regimental histories before even starting the digging. When they thought they had a likely spot, the digging began and very soon they found evidence of front line trenches and dug-outs. But, as they continued to dig deeper, they realised that they had not found Wilfrid Owen's British Army dug-out, but part of the German front-line. And then they found the remains of a body. It was a headless soldier who they managed to identify as a German soldier and by using the remains of his equipment and his identity disc, along with personal possessions, they made the remarkable discovery that he was Jacob Hones from near Stuttgart, aged 36 with 6

children, the last born at Christmas 1914. Jacob was killed by a French bullet in the summer of 1915, before the British moved onto the Somme.

The next step was to find Jacob's relatives, which they did, including his son, and to hold a memorial service in Stuttgart, which was much appreciated by the family. This brought to an end not the search for Wilfrid Owen's dug-out but the astonishing discovery and identification of just one of the 900,000 British, German and French unidentified soldiers still lying in the former battlefields. Part excavation, part detection and part mystery, Mr Robertshaw took us through this discovery with slides and OHPs to the conclusion which had us all gripped to the very end.

In decline since 1480

The Sixth Form Society was delighted to host Lord Norwich who spoke on Art and Architecture in Venice. Lord Norwich, who is the son of the politician and ambassador Duff Cooper, has a long and distinguished track record as a historian, art history expert, writer and broadcaster and Chairman of the Venice in Peril Fund.

His talk was a fascinating cultural journey through the history of Venice, the buildings and artists, and illustrated with dozens of excellent slides. Byzantine, Latin and Renaissance Venice came to life, as did the artwork of Bellini, Titian and Canaletto. Lord Norwich concluded that Venice reached its peak in around 1480 and, apart from a tourist boom brought about by the Grand Tour of the eighteenth century, has been in decline ever since. The very beauty of the city has since proved to be its undoing, with 25 million tourists a year now visiting – and damaging – the city.

The Wild Waste Show



Gemma Smith, from the Northmoor Trust, surprised Year 9 pupils with some startling environmental facts when she helped to launch Shiplake's recycling scheme. Landfill sites from Roman times are still releasing methane into the atmosphere. Today we are producing far more rubbish, with just one local landfill site, near Oxford, measuring 90 metres deep and 34 football pitches wide. Pupils were shocked to hear that 64% of school waste is recyclable.

One activity had pupils piecing together the jigsaw pieces of the effects of global warming. In the Antarctic a glacier is retreating by 200 metres a year, there is flooding in Bangladesh, over 1,000 people died in Paris from a recent heatwave and closer to home Oxfordshire had to spend £10m on repairing melting roads last year.

Alex Hunt, Housemaster, says, "We now have recycling boxes in every classroom and we are ready to start collecting paper, cardboard, tin cans and aluminium cans. Soon a bottle bank, for any colour of glass, will be delivered too."

Visitors

Black Rod visits for Founder's Day

"Joining the army was actually my second career choice, after engineering," Lieutenant General, Sir Michael Willcocks, Black Rod, told his



Founder's Day congregation. "My Headmaster's final report, paraphrasing Sir Winston Churchill, gave an indication of my lack of practical abilities. 'Give him a job and he will finish the tools,' was his final verdict on my schooldays."

"If you take education as what remains after you've forgotten everything you've been taught, then education is the greatest gift that one can give and receive. It opens your eyes to possibilities. I thoroughly agree with your Founder's vision that Shiplake should be a school that caters for everyone and where everyone should be happy."

His career with the Royal Green Jackets took him to some precarious and remote locations. "Sleeping under the stars on a jeep expedition across the Sahara it struck me that, as individuals, we are very unimportant in the grand scheme of things."

When his helicopter was shot down in Borneo over inhospitable enemy territory he thought he was going to die.

A helicopter without an engine glides like a brick. It is amazing how calm you are when you believe that you are about to die. My only thought was, "What a waste. I haven't achieved anything yet."

"I hope you are prepared to take this advice from a man who wears black silk tights for a living."

Commanding British forces in Bosnia, he had a meeting with a Serb Army Commander who was later tried as a War Criminal. "Deciding that it was time to leave the meeting on my terms. I thumped my fist on the table and slammed the door shut behind me as I stormed out - into a stationery cupboard. A sense of humour is vital at times."

"Another important piece of advice is not to confuse the importance of what you do with your own importance. In life one comes across far too many people who are full of their own self-importance."

A wife worth five cows

"It concerns me that people do not know what they are for. All over the world people are scrambling about to find a purpose. Ours is a broken world," said Mike Pilavachi of Soul Survivor when he addressed the school.



On a visit to Umhlanga Rocks, near Durban, Mike befriended a group of Street Children. All eleven had lost their parents and grandparents to AIDS. They were homeless.

"They had no hope. They didn't know who they were. If people think that they have no value then they think they will fail."

When Mike returned he learnt that the youngest, eleven year old Simpewe, had been murdered. Since then Soul Survivor have worked to provide the boys with a home and with hope.

Mike was intrigued to learn of Indonesian villagers who had laughed when a man had paid five cows for his wife. Cows are the currency with which to purchase wives in Indonesia but for five cows you would normally expect Miss Indonesia. When the husband was told that people were laughing he replied,

"As my wife thinks that she is worth five cows she walks with her head held high."

Because she thinks she is worth that much there is something more beautiful about her."

"So often people try to give themselves worth by mistakenly seeking power, status and money when they would be better with the inner peace of knowing that they are worth something as human beings."

Comforting the disturbed, disturbing the comfortable

"As teachers we are all exercising our own priesthood, caring for children," Robert Prance told St Piran's teachers when they visited Shiplake as part of their day's training.

"In Sally Trench's book 'Bury me in my Boots' she writes of comforting the disturbed and disturbing the comfortable. I see that as a key part of my role as a school Chaplain. There are children who are struggling to come to terms with problems in their home life who need support. Yet there are others who are self-centred who benefit from learning to have a conscience for the community and who gain from learning that they can be of service to others."

"When I was ordained I was told by my Bishop that I should not look to impress him with a full diary. What mattered to him was how much time I had for other people."

"Having the ability to look as if you have nothing to do is a precious gift and when a boy or girl asks to talk to you it is important not to tell them to come back later when you are not as busy."

"Such is the pace of life nowadays that often we do not have time for people. More working days are lost to stress than any other single cause. We need to find time to talk to people to slow them down, to calm them down and to find time to pause and breathe."

"Often a pupil will come and ask if he or she can talk confidentially but in 90% of cases that isn't actually what they want. They want me to help them find a way whereby they can share their problem with somebody else, usually off-the-record."

"Ultimately the Chaplain is like that illegitimate cricket fielding position, long-stop behind the wicket-keeper."

"He is there when all else has failed. I love being a Chaplain here. We have a wonderful Parish Church, fitting everyone in may be difficult but it is intimate and cosy. With the community's flow of birth, baptism, marriage and funerals our pupils cannot but feel that it is a real church."

The stamp of a civilised society

"It smells like Harvest Festival," said Robert Prance as he welcomed Shiplake College pupils to a church filled with non-perishable food and toiletries. "It is the stamp of a civilised society that it is generous of spirit," said Robert Prance as he thanked the College for the goods given for Harvest Festival.

The Reverend Charles Mitchell-Innes, Conduct of Eton College, gave a memorable Harvest Festival Address. "Sitting in a darkened room marking Common Entrance Religious Studies scripts I came across one remarkable sentence on the creation. 'On the sixth day God created man to destroy it all and the owls to watch.' There are times when it seems like that as we watch rain forests destroyed, polar ice-caps melting and the guzzling of our natural resources."

He warned of the dangers of ego-centricity and possessiveness. The individual who has an outgoing frame of mind is more fulfilled. We should encourage generosity following Jesus' suggestion.

"It is easy to think that we cannot make any difference when confronted with world hunger. Yet you can make a difference. Giving to a small group of hungry people will not solve the world's food problem but it will help some very needy people."

Later in the day one minibus load of boys took another minibus crammed full with produce to the Drop-In Centre at Reading where 61 lunches had been served to the poor and destitute yesterday.



Any resemblance between the Bursar and St Nicholas is purely co-incidental.

Robert Prance

The College celebrated the Chaplain's 60th birthday with a hymn written by Lindsay McDonald

There's a Chaplain we've all heard of and his name is Robert Prance.

You'd mistake him for an actor if you saw him at a glance.

He's a friend to all and sundry and he will your life enhance.

His name is Robert Prance.

Glory, glory hallelujah,

Robert Prance is really cool – yeah!

Glory, glory hallelujah,

His name is Robert Prance.

You will rarely hear him whining, though he does enjoy his wine.

He will never slate a pupil, even if the brat's a swine.

He gives so much to our College, 'cause his soul is so divine.

His name is Robert Prance.

Have you ever met a person so devoted in your life?

He has many finer qualities and such a lovely wife.

He will take you out to eat amid your worries and your strife.

His name is Robert Prance.

When you think you've had enough of everything that life can bring,

Robert says a word or two that really takes you home to think.

He is much more than a Chaplain: "How are you? Come share a drink!"

His name is Robert Prance.

Now we've reached the final verse and there is so much more to say.

In the words of our great hero "Let us kneel and let us pray".

Let us raise a glass to Robert on this very special day.

His name is Robert Prance.

Preparing for Ordination

Luke Foster leaves Shiplake this summer to prepare for ordination and Claire Alcock, the Orchard Housemaster's wife, begins her course too.

"I had been brought up as a Christian by my parents and my school but there comes a time when you have to think for yourself. Twelve years ago, a week before my GCSEs, I found myself having 7 hours of surgery and the surgeon thought that I might not make it. At 16, having faced the reality of dying and then moving from my school to another country, I started questioning what life was about. It was great to find Jesus and know that even in hard times he was with me and that I had the great certainty of going to Heaven," Luke Foster told the congregation.

Luke leaves Shiplake this Summer to begin the process of ordination. Claire Alcock, wife of Orchard Housemaster Chris, also begins that long journey. During an interview, led by Joe Colman, Head Chapel Warden, they spoke of their road towards Ordination.

Claire explained how the Church has rigorous procedures in place to help potential Ordinands arrive at their decisions. Six references are required and a home visit. "It really is a community process, talking to people to see if you are right for the job and also to see if you have the support of your family. In the early stages I talked a lot with my vicar and had meeting with the Church's Vocations Advisor."

Luke said, "I didn't start out with a career plan that had becoming a vicar as a major objective. It is something that has grown and developed through the years. Taking the Alpha Club has helped me to understand that I love teaching people about Jesus. Talking to my friends has been a big help, they know me well and have reassured me that I am taking the right decision. There are things I will miss. I love teaching and I love teaching at Shiplake. There is a real sense of community here. All the teachers get on very well and there is a great deal of support. I think that sometimes vicars can live a lonely life. So if in a few years time you are strolling past a Church with a sign identifying The Reverend Luke Foster as the local vicar please drop in and have a chat," said Luke.

"I'm excited by my new direction. I've been a teacher, then a Mum looking after small children, now I'm ready for something else. I'm really looking forward to the studying but there is some anxiety as I'm entering uncharted waters," said Claire.



Chapel

Lindsay McDonald's farewell sermon included this contemporary parody of the Desiderata, the Christian exemplar for life that begins:

Go placidly amid the noise and haste and remember what peace there may be in silence. As far as possible without surrender be on good terms with all persons. Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others; even the dull and ignorant; they too have their story. Avoid loud and aggressive persons ...

Lindsay's egocentric version focused on some modern day failings.

CONSIDERATA

Wherever you go, make a lot of noise and you will always be noticed. Avoid being friendly with people or they will take advantage of you. Make sure everyone knows your opinion and keep away from dull people as they will bore your socks off. Mix with loud people as they are seen as confident and people will associate you with your confident friends. There are plenty of people worse off than you and anyone who's better off than you will no doubt come to earth with a bang soon. Get out of life what you can by putting in as little effort as possible.

A job is necessary to earn money, but don't be stupid enough to do more than you have to. In business affairs, make sure you do unto others before they do unto you, because there is no such thing as real virtue. Do not be yourself, or others will see your weaknesses. And do not be taken in by "love" - the only useful kind of love is if you love yourself. If you cannot love yourself then who else will love you?

Getting old is an unavoidable hazard, but botox and facelifts can help convince others that you are younger than you are. Always imagine that the very worst thing can happen and then when the second worst thing happens you will be less traumatised. Stay out late and party and you will always be happy. The more you party, the stronger you get. What doesn't kill you will make you stronger.

Never forget that the universe owes you a favour, even though most of the time it seems that it does nothing but drop excrement from on high. There is no such thing as God or we would all be materially rich. The world is a dump. Get out there and prove yourself. Live your worst nightmares and laugh. Be careful. Strive to be wealthy.

East meets West in the kitchen

East meets west was the theme when the Cookery Club convened with a basket of local produce on a mission to produce a Japanese classic. Assuming that a Japanese chef has his mainstays of garlic, ginger, chillis, fish and oyster sauce how would he create a stir-fry fusion sensation from chicken, leeks, carrots, broccoli and a traditional Bramley cooking apple?



The aspiring chefs crushed their garlic and ground their ginger as they created their sauce. Meanwhile one group had to travel further afield for the ingredients for the accompanying traffic-light grilled kebabs skewering red, yellow and green peppers alongside tomatoes. The result was a tasty salt-free, sugar-free oriental treat created for considerably less than £1.50 per head thanks to the use of fresh British produce.

Yet it isn't education without evaluation. As the chefs deliberated and digested they discussed ways of developing the dish. Roasted vegetables, glazed with teriyaki sauce, and topped with sesame seeds proved a popular suggestion.

Throughout the year the Club has produced dishes inspired by world cuisine but one of the favourites was a humble British creation of bangers, mash and onion gravy.

Home grown flavour

"It is good to know where our food comes from," said a Year 10 pupil as he raked the soil on Shiplake's new organic vegetable garden. Thomas Frank's Senior Chef Ian has brought his passion for gardening to work with him. The College already had a Herb Garden growing rosemary, thyme and parsley. Now the chefs are looking to inspire some green-fingered pupils to help them cultivate onions, garlic, leeks and potatoes for the daily menu.

"Fresh food means everything to our whole company," said Frank Bothwell, Managing Director of Thomas Franks. The orchard sloping down towards the River Thames is just minutes away from the kitchen's chopping board.

It is an innovative and imaginative initiative bringing the five-a-day approach to life and giving the pupils a real sense of seasonality and engaging them in the creation of their food.

"The soil has never been worked and is free of pesticides. By creating natural barriers we can protect the plants. For example, carrot fly can't jump above 25 centimetres so it won't be too difficult to keep them out. It will be great to use my own organic vegetables in my cooking for the school menus," says Ian explaining his organic approach.



Leadership Course



Year 12

Leadership

Day

*Photos by
AJ Foakes*



Arts Festival

Morris Dancers were the first act on stage for the inaugural Festival of Arts. GCSE drama students performed their version of *The Musicians of Bremen* successfully employing humourously choreographed group mime. Then the musicians took over with Upper Sixth Leavers playing their farewells to the audience.

A wind quartet provided a Mozart Minuet before the Jazz ensemble changed the mood with funk-filled *Chameleon*. Leaver James Morrison sung on his own and then with his duet partner Imogen as they finished very appropriately with *Time to Say Goodbye*. It was also goodbye from Dominic Fairhead as he and his clarinet took to the stage just hours after completing his last A Level Music examination.

Solo vocalist Laura Cotton changed the mood yet again with *Part of your world* from Disney's *Little Mermaid*. Then there was laid-back close harmony from Joe Colman, Ollie Louden, Henry Mitchell and Jack Narewski as they sang *Knockin' on Heaven's Door* and Pink Floyd's *Wish You Were Here*.

The stage filled as the College Choir sang *Danny Boy*, Year 12 sang *Fields of Gold* and finally Year 13 Leavers took to the stage for a raucous rendition of the ultimate good-times anthem, *Hey Jude*. Then the audience moved onto the opening of the Art Exhibition showing much of the work produced for GCSE/AS and A2.



Drama

The Barn at Shiplake College was magically transformed by the Mad Dogs Theatre Company into an exotic Bedouin Tent. Floating tea lights, white muslin and live music transported the audience into the world of 'alf lay la wa layla' or The Arabian Nights. All the ingredients of a fantastic show were here and the set provided the youthful actors with a dynamic space to relate the stories of Shahrayar and Sherazade to the audience who sat 'in the round.'

How fortunate for the young people that they have Catherine Saker as a director, with an eye for the spectacular and splendid and yet these stories were told in the simplest way with theatrical wit and humour, using the ensemble cast as set and characters. The simple white costumes made by Mrs Harper perfectly complemented this production.

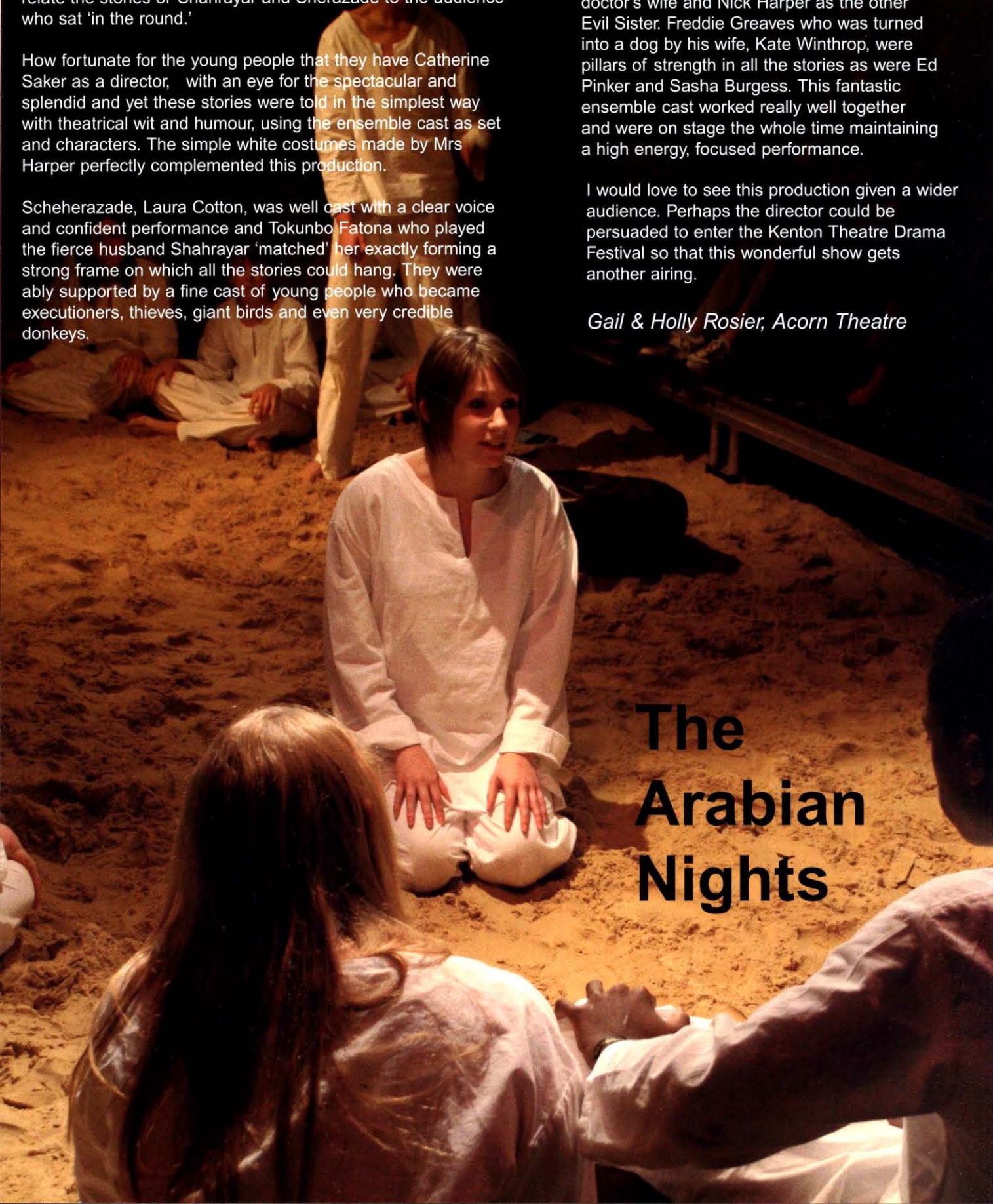
Scheherazade, Laura Cotton, was well cast with a clear voice and confident performance and Tokunbo Fatona who played the fierce husband Shahrayar 'matched' her exactly forming a strong frame on which all the stories could hang. They were ably supported by a fine cast of young people who became executioners, thieves, giant birds and even very credible donkeys.

In fact, the "Best and Most Focused Donkey Award" must go to James Gifford who played this part as well as many others with incredible comic timing and dramatic commitment. Other enjoyable and humorous performances came from Joe Coleman as the doctor's wife and Nick Harper as the other Evil Sister. Freddie Greaves who was turned into a dog by his wife, Kate Winthrop, were pillars of strength in all the stories as were Ed Pinker and Sasha Burgess. This fantastic ensemble cast worked really well together and were on stage the whole time maintaining a high energy, focused performance.

I would love to see this production given a wider audience. Perhaps the director could be persuaded to enter the Kenton Theatre Drama Festival so that this wonderful show gets another airing.

Gail & Holly Rosier, Acorn Theatre

The Arabian Nights



Drama

To be and not to be

I had an evening at the theatre that was in every sense extraordinary. The play was at once, entertaining, moving and stimulating; the subject matter was intriguing, the performances distinctive and bold and the mise-en-scene starkly atmospheric.

Rare qualities in any piece of contemporary theatre but more so in this context, because *To Be and Not to Be* was essentially a school play. That is not to say that it was exceptionally good "for a school play", it was simply exceptional.

Freddie Durant-Pritchard, Tom Morgan-Harris and Max Manlay are drama seniors at Shiplake College and with Henry Johnson make up The Mad Dogs Theatre Company. The piece subtitled *A Little Show about Death, Dying and Peter Pan* is the culmination of 8 months work towards their AS examinations.



Now, I took A level drama and I remember my final piece with a shudder. It was a jumbled mess of self-righteous nonsense about *Thatcher's Britain*. I have a dreadful feeling we may have come out in Doctor Martin boots and done interpretive dance to *A Town Called Malice* by the Jam. It was all a bit ... well, A Level drama. What this company has managed

to produce under the guidance of Catherine Saker is in a different league.

Andrew Birkin is a film maker and screen writer and the world's foremost expert on JM Barrie and Peter Pan. His television film *The Lost Boys* was screened in 1979 and it was during the making of this film that he met Bee Gilbert with whom he had a son, Anno, who was to become Andrew's own "Lost Boy". Anno, a brilliant poet and songwriter died in a car crash shortly before his 21st birthday in 2001, along with 3 members of his band *Kicks Joy Darkness*.

The Mad Dogs Theatre Company corresponded with Birkin throughout the devising process and was given unprecedented access to video footage, photographs and letters that were woven into the fabric of the piece. Both Andrew and Bee were present on the evening. I saw the play at Shiplake and one couldn't help but wonder how they were feeling when, for example the on-stage action gave way to film of Anno as a child on a visit to Chateau Lafite and Andrew's voice behind the camera suggested they might buy a bottle for the 21st birthday, that we, the audience, knew he would never reach.



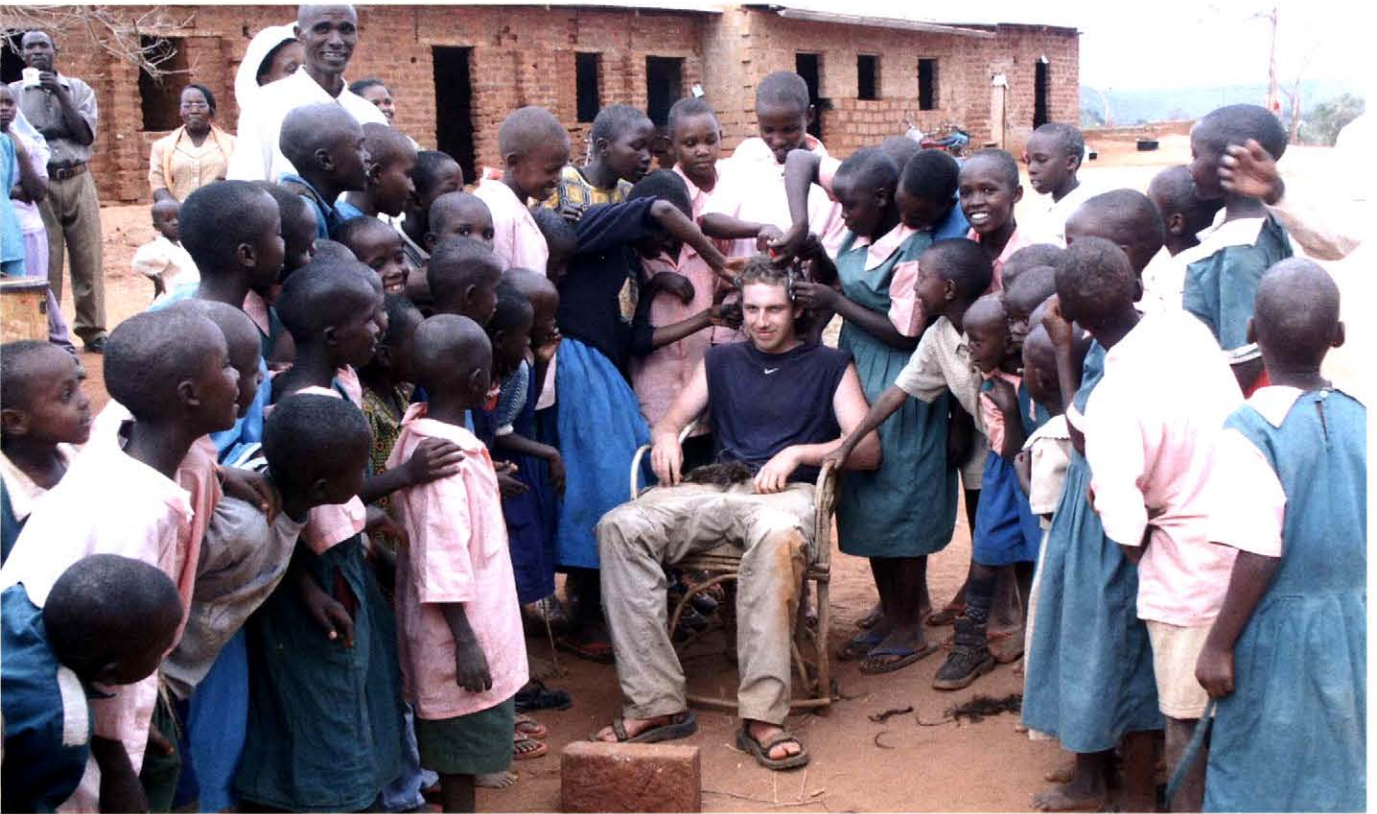
Andrew told me before the show that he was not a particularly private person but nonetheless, the material, handled clumsily, could have been devastating. Instead, it was rather beautiful and the pure energy of the playful section that followed was infectious and life affirming. It is testament to the committed nature of all the performances that when young Henry Johnson invited to join him in calling "Save us Peter", we all called out without hesitation as if our lives depended on it.

The quality of some lives does depend on extraordinary evenings like this one. After the show a collection was taken for a project called Anno's Africa (under the umbrella of the Charity S.A.F.E – Sponsored Arts for Education) which gives Kenya's street children and A.I.D.S. Orphans a chance to explore their creative potential through arts workshops in deprived areas.

I urge you to do three things. Look at the website Anno.co.uk, donate money to Anno's Africa and try to see the next production at Shiplake College, because on the strength of this evening, whatever the style, it is bound to be as stimulating and entertaining an evening of theatre as you will see anywhere.

Simon Hedger - Actor

Kenya Expedition



When Gerry Mongan decided that it was time for a hair-cut during the 2006 Kenya Expedition the children of Kikunduku village thought it was a spectator sport.

Strasbourg



French Immersion

At the start of the February half-term holiday 39 Shiplake pupils headed for Strasbourg, *Capitale de l'Europe par excellence*. After a ferry crossing and a long coach journey, the pupils were met by their French host families and taken home for a French supper.

The next day we walked to Germany and spent thirty minutes there before boarding the coach and returning across the border to head for the Schoenenbourg Fortress on the Maginot line. After lunch in Soultz, we returned to Strasbourg to visit the magnificent monstrosity of Gothic architecture which is the cathedral and to have an hour's shopping time. The pupils returned to their host families in the evening and spent the whole of Sunday with the host families speaking French and exploring the local area.

Monday took us up a mountain to the Château du Haut Koenigsbourg. We had lunch in Ribeauvillé and made a short visit to the beautiful village of Riquewihr, an oasis of peace in Alsace, unspoilt by the ravages of war in the past and still retaining almost all of its original 16th-century architecture.

The afternoon was spent in Colmar, a beautiful town surrounded by canals and waterways and known as La Petite Venise (little Venice).

On the last day, after going through airport-style security, we had a guided tour of the Council of Europe and visited its assembly room. The afternoon took us to Cronembourg to visit the home of the famous Kronembourg brewery, where older pupils (and staff) got to sample the goods and younger pupils enjoyed a panache (shandy).

A really worthwhile trip and pupils will have gained so much culturally as well a linguistically. Total immersion in a French family is by far the best way to improve one's language.

LS McDonald

Iceland

We all got to the airport and we were very excited it was 9.00am. We flew to Iceland and when we arrived it was very cold in then we travelled on our truck bus with huge wheels. Then we drove to the dome where we watched the sunset it was very cold and windy.

We then drove to the youth hostel where we had supper and went swimming in heated pools. It was so much fun it was outside. We went to sleep excited about the next day.

We woke up at 7.30am we had a bizarre breakfast of cold meats. We travelled to the power station in thick snow and on the way we stopped and had a snowball fight which was very good fun! The power station had a strong smell of sulphur which smelt like rotten eggs. Then we visited a waterfall which was amazing and then we visited hot springs which shot water into the air which was spectacular and still the weather was cold.

On Friday we visited breathtaking waterfalls which you were able to walk behind this was exciting, then we went to a beach where the sand was black and the sea was at rage this experience was great and the weather was still very cold! We went to stay at another youth hostel which was good and we chilled and had a good supper. We went to sleep with the luxury of a TV. There was no snow, rain or any clouds it was sunny (this never normally happens) and we went to the beach again and saw a huge stormy sea with destructive waves this was quite scary. Then we visited a wishing well which was in the middle of two plates this was quite a site because there was 100's coins in the well which was in the middle of two plates.

This was quite a site because there were hundreds of coins in the well. Then we travelled back to the original youth hostel and we went to an excellent burger restaurant and then we returned to the youth hostel.

We left the youth hostel in the morning and travelled to the blue lagoon the best tourist attraction in Iceland this place is hot pools with natural skincare products that sell worldwide. We spent most of the morning there and our last visit was to a bridge between two plate boundaries where you can be in Europe and America just with going over a bridge. Then we returned to the airport to catch a flight home.

No
Snow
in
Iceland



Biennial Inspection crowns an excellent year

A soggy and damp start to the day involved last minute shoe polishing, shirt ironing and drill practice in preparation for the House Drill and Turnout Competition and the March Past for Colonel P Longmore. As the heavens opened the competition was relocated to the sports hall, necessitating some quick thinking on the part of the House Senior NCOs as they changed their drill orders. A closely matched competition, judged by Deputy Headmaster Charles Johnson, resulted in a narrow victory for Everett House. The sky began to clear and the decision was made to go ahead with the Inspection and March Past on the College main field. Ably led by CSM Coxswain Helen Green and the Section NCOs the Contingent presented themselves well and impressed onlookers as they marched past the Inspecting Officer, staff and parents.

Colonel Longmore spent time speaking to many cadets and was impressed by both their enthusiasm for the Corps and their self discipline in rapidly deteriorating conditions.

After lunch the afternoon programme began which formed the basis of the CCF Competition Shield. This House competition involved many skills which demonstrated the training achievements of the Contingent. House NCOs were entirely responsible for the organisation of their teams.

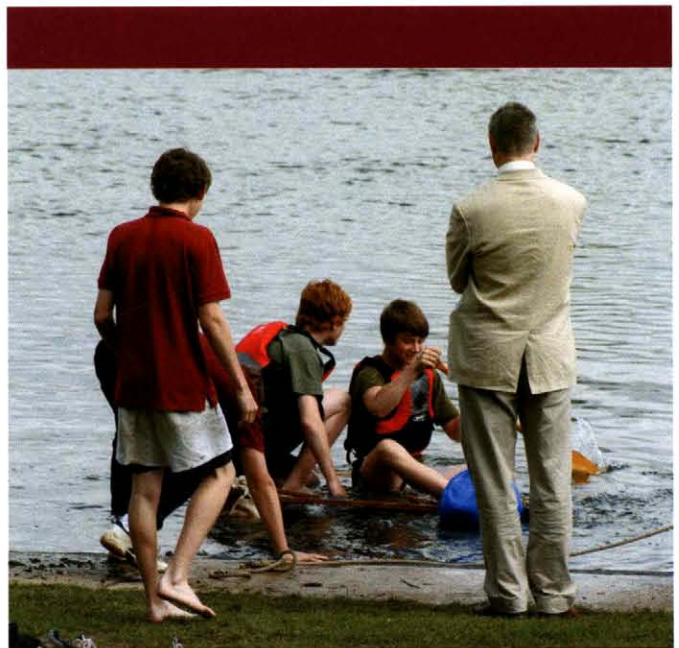
The competitions provide the opportunity for cadets to develop powers of leadership by promoting qualities of responsibility, self-reliance, resourcefulness and perseverance. The competition was not 'staged managed' for observers – easy to impress but serving little purpose. No preparation was allowed other than routine training over the year, therefore teams needed to be alert. Ten different activities were on display running concurrently and included military, adventurous training and outdoor pursuit skills.

The day finished with an arduous 'log race' and a final parade. In his closing address Colonel Longmore congratulated the cadets on their enthusiasm, skills and obvious enjoyment of the day.

He emphasised the opportunities the CCF gives for developing discipline, leadership and life skills and extolled them to make the most of the opportunities available. His final act was to present the Anstruther Cup for Drill and Turnout to Everett House and the Competition Shield, again a very closely fought competition, to Burr House.

Lt Cdr GS Lawson

Contingent Commander Shiplake College CCF





Chinooks are used primarily for trooping and for load carrying (both internal and underslung) and can carry up to 54 troops or 10 tonnes of freight. The cabin is large enough to accommodate two Land Rovers, while the three underslung load hooks allow a huge flexibility in the type and number of loads that can be carried. Secondary roles include Search and Rescue and Casualty Evacuation (a total of 24 stretchers can be carried).

The crew consists of either two pilots, or a pilot and navigator, and two Air Loadmasters. The aircraft can be armed with two M-134 six-barrelled Miniguns and an M-60 machine gun.

The Chinook is a very capable and versatile support helicopter and has been involved in most of the recent UK Operations such as the Falklands Conflict, Northern Ireland, the Gulf War, peace-keeping in The Balkans, evacuation of Sierra Leone and operations in Afghanistan and Iraq (Operation Telic). The aircrew and supporting groundcrew are trained to operate in a range of conditions from living under canvas in field sites to embarking upon aircraft carriers.

The visit was not only a great opportunity for the cadets at Shiplake College, but also an opportunity for the crew to practise the skill of flying low level. The UK is divided into 18 Low Flying Areas (LFAs), these allow aircrew to fly down to a minimum height above ground level of 250ft. Shiplake College is located near area LFA 1b, Chinooks are usually seen, and heard, flying around the South of England countryside both day and night.

Lt Cdr GS Lawson

Contingent Commander Shiplake College CCF

A Chinook flies in

The RAF operates the largest fleet of Chinook support helicopters after the US Army. The Chinook Wing, which forms the heavy-lift element of the Joint Helicopter Command, is based at RAF Odiham in Hampshire. Odiham supports three operational squadrons, No 7 Squadron, No 18 Squadron and No 27 Squadron, and the Operational Conversion Flight (OCF).

Flight Lieutenant Jace Davenhill RAF and his aircrew brought a Chinook from No 27 squadron to the College main field. He and his crew then escorted members of the CCF Corps, local school children, staff and their families around the aircraft. They described the features and roles of this impressive piece of aeronautical engineering.

The Spring Field Day

The Royal Navy Section undertook initiative tests and sea survival instruction before taking to the berths for the night on HMS Bristol at Portsmouth. Plan A, for the Navy Section's Field Day, was a morning of sailing but the Harbour Master's decision on worsening weather put Plan B into operation and the cadets took to the water in two powerboats and a rigid hull inflatable.

Man overboard drills and helming the powerboats provided good preparation for next term's powerboat courses. In the afternoon there were some highly competitive swimming and life saving competitions followed by a chance to improve diving skills.

RAF cadets began with some video film from 18 (Bomber) Squadron's recent tour of Afghanistan when they visited RAF Odiham. A visit to a workshop full of helicopters, the mapping section and a chance to learn how to use survival equipment were next on the agenda followed by lunch.

Afternoon highlights included a virtual shooting range with a variety of scenarios and a visit to the Padre who talked about his job and the lives of service men and women, both on the station and abroad.

CCF Camp

On Saturday 30 June 2Lt AJ Foakes and I left Shiplake College with 14 boys, 2 minibuses, 16 rifles and a variety of strange and interesting equipment. Our destination Longmoor Camp in Surrey, run by Cadet Training Teams from all over the country. It offers school contingents an invaluable opportunity to come to a regular Army training base and benefit from the vast range of skills and experience they offer.

Training started on Sunday at 0700 after a hearty breakfast. The boys spent the morning on the DCCT (disarmed close combat trainer) range firing at CGI battle simulations then being familiarised with the formidable Longmoor obstacle course finishing on the indoor rifle ranges. In the afternoon we moved to an outdoor range with pop-up targets and finished the day with a clay pigeon shoot. The boys shot well and were particularly skillful when it came to the clay pigeon shoot impressing the directing staff.

On the second day we were on the survival skills package. This consisted of a series of well planes, interactive stands through which the boys could learn about camp craft and building shelters, obstacle crossing, foraging, making a fire, hunting and trapping, making tools, cooking, water purification and much more. The day culminated in a competition in which each group had to build a shelter from scratch, make and start a fire and filter and boil enough puddle water to make a cup of tea (civilised to the last!) I was hugely proud to hear at the OCs meeting that evening that the Shiplake Contingent were deemed to have won the competition for that day and were commended for their team work.

On Tuesday training started with the real rude awakening of a 2 mile 'yomp' with weapons and webbing to the field craft stand. Such a run and in army boots too is somewhat of a shock to the system but we all arrived together complete with kit and only a little huff and puff. The day was split into two with lessons and than a real run through with blank firing. In the morning the boys learned about linear ambushes and in the afternoon launched an extensive platoon attack. Both activities were excellently run with the directing staff conveying the importance of planning, discipline and organisation. Many of them having very recently been in active service abroad, they were quick to point out the reasons the British Army uses such strategies and also the potential seriousness of the consequences. The boys experienced the adrenaline of being in such a situation and got a feel for the physical and emotional demands of such assaults.

On the final day of training we were fortunate enough to be on the personal development package. This meant a sleepy coach trip to Hawley Lake, training ground, or should I say water, of the Royal Engineers. In the morning the cadets took part in an orienteering competition.

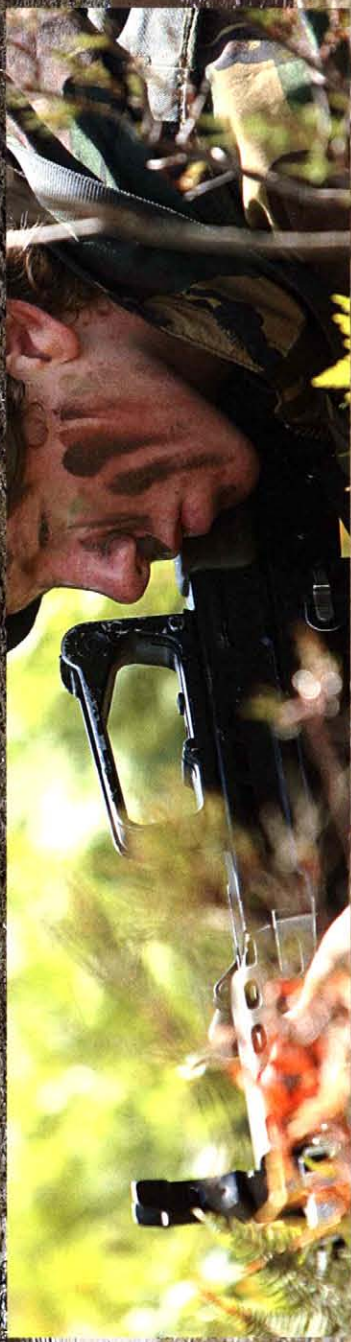
In the afternoon they took to the the water in kayaks, Canadian canoes and something called a cata-canoes. We all slipped into very cold, rather wet, wet suits and proceeded to splash and race on the lake. The highlight was possibly the slide down which one hurled oneself in a kayak - terrifying I can tell you - and as I learnt, important that you shut your mouth on entry! At the end of the afternoon teams of Shiplake boys and Oratory boys raced each other across the lake in cata-canoes with Shiplake the worthy victors with a display of teamwork reminiscent of National Schools' regatta!

Thursday was competition day; a march, a shoot, followed by an assault course race, tough stuff when you know that the march was actually a 3 mile run with rifles and webbing followed by a grouping shoot on the barrack range. At 0800 the Shiplake College march and shoot team lined up to be inspected. Every little piece of kit and uniform had to be just so and a week of Mrs Foakes' persistent boot cleaning instruction certainly paid off! The boys set off at a flying pace with our support bus following complete with the rest of the contingent shouting their support. Led by Luke Garner every member of the team pushed themselves to their limits and beyond in the first sunshine of the week and over rough terrain each making sure the others could keep going. They arrived at the range in excellent time. Once they had carried out the shoot they then came straight into a briefing for the assault course. Having had a short rest the team approached the assault course with similar vigour and competitive strength as the rest of us urged them on. Mrs Foakes and I were thrilled with such an excellent performance, and the contingent eagerly awaited the results that lunch time. In the presentation we learnt that the boys had come 3rd out of 11 teams in the march and 8th out of 11 in the shoot putting them in 4th place overall. In the Assault course they came a very respectable 4th (by 1 second) out of 16 teams. Always setting themselves the highest standards they boys were briefly disappointed until it was pointed out that all the other schools had come with year 11, 12 and 13 NCOs and had strength and experience in their favour so top 5 finishes were excellent.

On Thursday evening in celebration of such a fantastic and successful week Mrs Foakes and I took the boys to the cinema followed by mammoth pizza eating in Guildford. We were all able to sit back and reflect on the week and its experiences and great was the laughter as we remembered the slight fear and trepidation with which we had arrived almost a week earlier. Mrs Foakes and I would both like to commend all the boys both for their behaviour and their achievements which in no small way contributed to making it our best camp in a combined experience of 10! Well done lads!

Lt E Arnold

CCF Camp



Photos by AJ Foakes

The Trench

Trench warfare

Ollie Williams, Radio Berkshire journalist told the story of his night in the trench on the Radio Berkshire website.

I thought they might not be serious. I thought maybe I'd be able to turn up, take a look at the trench, take some photos then run off before the night set in.

But when I reached Shiplake College to find teachers Chris Bridgeman and Jon Cooksey in combats, wielding guns and throwing 'my' sleeping bag at me, I knew there'd be no escape. Not, of course, that the many millions of soldiers who lived out their lives in World War One trenches had any choice either and the life-sized WWI trench at Shiplake is designed to give today's teenagers an idea of the conditions their counterparts had to endure nearly a hundred years ago.



Social experiment

"It's remarkably accurate," says Jon Cooksey, a military historian by trade who teaches at Shiplake two days a week.

"We studied photos of German and British trenches, then Chris built it to the exact same dimensions."

Jon is clearly in his element and, alongside Chris, soon had his troops working to a sentry duty rota, responding to rank, and making the officers (ie adults) tea. He believes the trench is a fascinating social experiment, and that today's youngsters are surprisingly similar to their World War One forebears. As an example, once the darkness encroaches on games of cards, some of the 13 and 14 year olds in the trench begin to sing.

"They just started spontaneously," says Jon. "It passes time because there's nothing else to do, it's a group activity."

"That's exactly what they would have done in a World War One trench."

The evening begins quietly as the troops settle in but, just before 11pm, the trench is rattled by a series of explosions. The boys immediately reach for their guns, although some naively try to aim at the smoke above them, rather than facing out of the trench at the enemy in the darkness.

It turns out that enemy is the Headmaster, equipped with a box of fireworks. Happily, all survive the bombardment, although the Head admits to having grave fears should a school inspection team turn up.

Trench foot

Back in the trench the soldiers eventually settle down at gone 1.00 am, as the sentries change for the third time. But soon the rain starts to come down - and it's this that made trench life truly unbearable in the great wars of the last century.

By 4.00 am, the trench is awash in a foot and a half of water, and ladders designed to go 'over the top' are employed practically as rafts. After all, no one wants to develop trench foot in Shiplake, of all places. 5.00 am rolls in and the bedraggled, damp Year 9s are beating a hasty retreat to the school, a shower, some warmth and some clean clothes.

It looks unlikely they'll be back for a second consecutive night, let alone months of campaigning on the Continent!

Ollie Williams, Radio Berkshire

Duke of Edinburgh Award

Record numbers

46 students and 10 Staff members enjoyed some of the best Welsh weather seen in years over Easter during the Duke of Edinburgh Award Pre-Expedition. While the weather was fantastic during the day night time temperatures dropped to well below freezing, highlighting the warmth of the school sleeping bags and the benefit of body heat from tent mates.

The Gold groups were put through their paces by the CTT Army Instructors and were all lucky enough to summit Southern Wales highest peak Pen y Fan.

The Silver group had to make do with the teaching Staff helping them navigate through the countryside and all groups made huge progress as the days went on. The fine weather made taking bearings and orientating maps much easier and no group ever strayed too far from the intended route.

There was a good atmosphere around the campsite and not too many grumbles about Army rations even after two days straight of the vegetarian option for many. The group spent the last day at the climbing centre which is normally a highlight of the trip but many were so exhausted from the past few days of walking and nights of restless sleep that the bus could not arrive soon enough to take them home for a well deserved rest.

In June the Silver group descended on the Paimpont Forest in Brittany. Map reading was very rusty and all groups ended up walking much further than they should have. This extra walking did little to dampen the spirits and the boys and the Staff had a very enjoyable four days away.

With such large numbers this year things have only been able to happen because of the huge support of so many members of Staff. I would like to publicly thank them all for their efforts. Special mention must be given to Mr Grant Lawson. Without his experience and commitment it would have been impossible to have so many students working towards their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award. His support has been invaluable.

I am sure the Award will go from strength to strength as more students are willing to take up the challenge. I finish by reminding current participants and those wishing to start next year that the Award is only so well respected in the wider community because of the effort you have to put in to gain it.

J D Keane



It's a game of two halves

The cliché, "It's a game of two halves" is a more than apt description of this season's 1st XV. Essentially we only saw the true potential of the side in either the first or the second half in any one match throughout the term. The first halves against Merchant Taylors', Milton Abbey, Henley College, Reed's and most notably Bloxham, and the second halves against Reading Blue Coat, Pangbourne and Claire's Court. Essentially the first team could have quite easily secured a more-than-credible record had they stuck to the game plan from the very first whistle to the very last with only local rivals Oratory being too strong to handle this year. The lack of control at the breakdown accounted for many a chance in the strike zone being squandered and many an opportunity (with consequent turnover ball) for the opposition.

Having said all of this, the team made incredible progress over the course of the term to produce some superb handling rugby between the 22s, backs and forwards inter-linking to superb effect on many an occasion. The real strength of the side was in the pack and many of Shiplake's opponents looked to move the ball well away from this area to gain ground. However, when the ball remained close to the set piece or

ensuing breakdown, the 1st XV posed serious questions of the opposition defence; often doing enough to batter teams into submission. The real weaknesses were in ball retention and decision-making in the crucial areas of the field. All too frequently possession was frittered away when a little more application would have ended in much higher rewards.

Although injured for much of the season Will Ewart captained the side well from the sidelines, motivating his tired players when things were not always going to plan.

On the field, Ben Farmar took up the lead role and inspired the team from the front; being strong in both attack and defence.

W. Milton
T. Morgan-Harris
J. Mercer
G. Whittingham
R. Weare
R. Gascoigne
M. Bull
H. Jolliffe
R. Pusey
J. Pinto
J. Diaz-Faes
M. Witting
B. Farmar
P. Weiss
W. Ewart
O. Loudon
R. Jackson
J. Weaver
P. Webb

Jaime Diaz-Faes carried the ball strongly from the base of the scrum and led his forwards in true Hispanic style with his basketball skills coming to the fore. Fulfilling a similar role in the back line and on the flank dependent upon the injury list, John Pinto was also in outstanding form throughout the season. Both were awarded the title "Player of the Season" (the jury coming up with a split decision) and deservedly so. For his passionate pre-match speeches and dynamism up front, Ralph Gascoigne received the honour of "Players' Player of the Season".

For those who leave this year the wins over Milton Abbey and the Old Vikings will live long in your memories and we all hope you go on to enjoy your rugby wherever it may take you in the future. For those returning, lots of lessons hopefully learnt in preparation for the next chapter down in South Africa.

RB Curtis

Return of the prodigal sons

The season started well with an entertaining, very competitive game away at Reading Blue Coat. It was clear that choosing a team each week from a large, competitive squad was not going to be easy.

As the season progressed losing players to the 1st XV and through injuries necessitated frequent team changes. However the value of squad training was clear as several players slotted into unfamiliar positions and roles and the team continued to play in a good spirit.

The fact that so many players returned to rugby this season exemplified the positive atmosphere within the squad and it was clear that the 2nd XV were enjoying their rugby. At one point this season, the 2nd XV fielded 31 players in a tournament game against Henley College.



Outstanding season for 16As

The best performance was a resounding victory over Bearwood, but close competitive games against Reading School, Merchant Taylors' and Milton Abbey were my highlights of the season. I enjoyed coaching the squad this season and my only regret is that I could not give every player the game time they wanted. I would like to thank the captain Simon Moss, who led from the front and the rest of the squad for all their efforts during training and good sportsmanship on the pitch.

The forwards this year were excellent and secured valuable first and second phase ball. Although not the biggest pack, they competed for the ball and their rucking improved dramatically as the season progressed. The backline faced a constantly changing line up, but showed tenacity and strong and positive lines of running. 'Second Team Player of the Year' went deservedly to Simon Moss who exemplified the team's spirit and attitude, he played in every game last season and only missed one match this year. Jo Colman picked up the award for most improved player and Chris Webb won the Captain's Most Promising Player Award and I look forward to seeing him compete for a place in the 1st XV next season. If you judged the season by wins we did not perform well, but we competed to the end and never gave up in any game.

GS Lawson

Squad: I. Aleksandrovich, S. Arthur, R. Berry, M. Bull, J. Colman, C. Deakin, B. Donald, L. Downey, F. Fontannaz, G. Goddard, O. Gordon, L. Duo Guo, J. Hicklin, F. Hunting, T. Kemp, M. Lee, H. Levison, M. Laurenson, J. Lynch, M. Manlay, J. McDowell, S. Moss, A. Norton, M. Pullen, T. Raper, P. Salmon, O. Venn, J. Uprichard, H. Ventura, M. Vurnoz, J. Walker, I. Waters, R. Weare, C. Webb, P. Webb, N. Williams, S. Willsher

Although the season was cut short by two cancelled games at the end of term, the 16A squad have been highly successful. It has been a pleasure to coach them, not just because of the potential of individual players and the team as a whole but due to their commitment and discipline. Adam Middleton (Players' Player of the Year) has captained the team superbly, leading from the front at Number 8 on the field, reading and controlling the game, working tirelessly, being dominant at lineout, making decisions, man-managing some challenging personalities and completing the menial task of looking after the shirts! Thanks also go to fellow coach Andy Jones who has passed on his in-depth knowledge, particularly to the forwards who have improved massively under his direction and has explained and set up some superb drills

The most pleasing wins of the season were against Reading School (24–5) and Pangbourne (24–0) as the opposition were of good quality but Shiplake were organised and clinical. Although the score would suggest that the win was straightforward (57–10), Milton Abbey was another highlight, as after a last minute move to the Riverside pitches the side produced some fantastic rugby, scoring numerous team tries.

The two losses were against a strong Oratory outfit who were the better team on the day and a close-fought encounter with a depleted squad against Bloxham, which may have been the time not to play such attractive rugby in the final quarter after establishing a lead – another superb performance overall though.

Tom Syms was the leading try scorer aided by his electrifying pace from fullback. Brandon Tropper and

Jeremy Pattie were the other members of the back three, with the latter in particular having a fine season. Jack Broome expressed his athletic ability, skills and physicality at both centre and scrum-half, enjoying a superb season recognised also by the 1st XV coach! Anthony Kay and Freddie Marriott also played in the centres with Marriott fully deserving his Player of the Season award as not only a consistent performer to the highest level but also his willingness to listen and improve through training. The decision makers at 9 and 10 of Charlie Brooker and Jack Hyde kept the opposition guessing with his passing, kicking and half-break options.

A. Middleton
T. Syms
B. Tropper
J. Pattie
J. Broome
A. Kay
F. Marriott
C. Brooker
J. Hyde
J. Albon
H. Williams
S. Burgess
A. Tang
C. Yearley
J. Sethill
W. Quayle
J. Finlay
T. Laurenson
M. Giesen
T. Frossell
A. Green



Rugby

The technique of the front row trio of Jamie Albon, Harry Williams and Sasha Burgess improved greatly. Williams always secured his own scrum ball, stole many against the head and was accurate with his lineout throwing. Jamie Albon had a superb season both in contact situations and his work rate in the loose. Alvin Tang and Charlie Yearley worked hard in the 'engine room' of the scrum. Tang did much of the unseen work in ruck and maul and Yearley often caused damage in the opposition defence with his runs in open play. James Sethill (Most Improved Player) had a superb season, with improvements from training and increased work rate to add to his 'bone-crunching' tackling. Other back-row appearances were made by the impressively improved William Quayle, Jack Finlay and Tom Laurenson. Max Giesen, Toby Frossell and Alex Green also showed the ability to play at this level.

AD Dix

Team of the season?

The U16Bs trained hard to justify their claim to be Shiplake's team of the season. We certainly had a fantastic win to loss ratio, losing only once all season. We got off to a slow start in the first game of the season versus Wellington College, down by ten points at half-time before making an impressive comeback to win comfortably. In the return fixture there was no slow start and we stormed to a 68 - 10 win, convincing evidence of the team's progress since the start of the season, and making a mockery of the Wellington coach's assertion that they were the more skillful team but we were fitter! The team's early five-game unbeaten run included dominant victories over Pangbourne, Cokethorpe and Merchant Taylors'. Defence was a key contributory factor with just 50 points conceded all term (we scored 190 points). The team's success was centred around a fearless desire in both attack and defence, with each team member refusing to let his fellow team-mates down.

Strong running from the base of the scrum from Sampson reduced many defences to tears, notably Wellington, who had no answer to his power, while Frossell, Al Green and Laurenson joined him in the loose to make big yardage every carry.

A. Green
J. Green
H. Shone
B. Kelly
J. Reza
A. Galloway
T. Frossell
R. McKellar
D. Robinson
C. Sampson
E. Pinker
T. Laurenson
W. Nathan
J. Perkins
C. Collins
A. Harvey
A. Winslade,
M. Giesen
W. Nicholas
S. Howe
C. Smart
S. Mongan

The front row of Shone, Green and Reza performed well in the scrum, providing a solid platform for attack and turning over plenty of opposition ball, with Frossell and Sampson jumping well to further take opposition line-out ball. Chris Collins, from fly-half, was the team's top try scorer, but also provided deft service to those outside him.

Max Giesen made many penetrating runs with his blistering pace – far too quick for all the opposition backs he encountered and he was well supported by J Green, Winslade, Nicholas and Howe who missed less than five tackles between them all season and powered remorselessly into their opposite men with glee! Pangbourne gave away several penalties as they attempted to stop our free-running backs but strong

refereeing from Mr Brown and a calm discipline saw the team run in four unanswered tries and chalk up the season's most satisfying victory.

Unfortunately we were robbed of an unbeaten season at Bloxham due to a chronic spate of injuries – six of the first choice pack either in the A team or unavailable. This does not diminish from my pleasure at coaching this group of boys who put their bodies on the line time and time again, and fought the will to stop running during the last ten minutes of every game. Green, Frossell, Laurenson, Giesen and Howe all represented the A team and emerged with huge credit from these games. It is my hope that more of the squad will emulate this group and go on to represent the College at the highest level over the next few years.

TPJ Caston



Enjoyable season for the U15As

This season has been a most enjoyable one from a coach's point of view. The team have been a delight to teach and have been keen and eager to learn. Mr Unsworth and myself had great fun throughout the season and the boys responded well to all the work that they were put through. At present they are fairly small and lack the pace and size of many of the teams that we faced but their skill levels are developing well. Over the next few years they will find that they are competitive against sides that are currently beating them quite easily - sizes even out and skill levels and attitude become far more important in the game. This side has remained positive throughout the year and I hope they continue in the same manner next year – if they do they should see success in the future.

From the results point of view this year was not a great success. We won two of our 11 games, drew another one and lost the other 8. The wins came against Bearwood (0 - 12) and Milton Abbey (15 - 24). The latter of these was a hard fought contest that went down to the wire. This one game demonstrated the teams ability to play some good rugby and their determination to win close games.

The draw came at Merchant Taylors' School and although we were not able to get over the try-line we were much the better team. Encouraging results were gained against Reading School, Cokethorpe, Claire's Court, Bloxham and Reeds School.

In none of these games were we beaten by more than 18 points and on many occasions the tries scored against us were break-away tries by big, fast burly boys!

Our organised game plan, excellent defence and committed tackling made it very difficult for the opposition for long periods of the game.

Two big defeats were suffered at the hands of the Oratory and Pangbourne but our spirit in the latter of these games was fantastic. Scoring against a side that was one of the best that I have seen for some time at this age group was a real achievement and some much bigger schools failed in this respect against Pangbourne this year.

Sam Holloway was a magnificent captain who led from the front. He is an instinctive flanker and those around him can learn from his lead. James Black was a super addition to the team and worked very well in the backs, either at fly-half or centre. Alex Baker was never far behind Sam in the back-row and these three players stood out from the pack and were awarded their full colours.

BDP Pavey

15Cs improve their defence

Our first game of the season was against a very strong team from Merchant Taylors' and despite playing well in patches we lost this game. However, after some very encouraging training, particularly on our defence, I was confident that the team was ready for their next game against Pangbourne College.

As soon as this game started it was obvious the team had significantly improved as they were really attacking Pangbourne. Although our defence was excellently organised by Simon Lane and Oliver Gould, Pangbourne scored a couple of tries against the run of play.

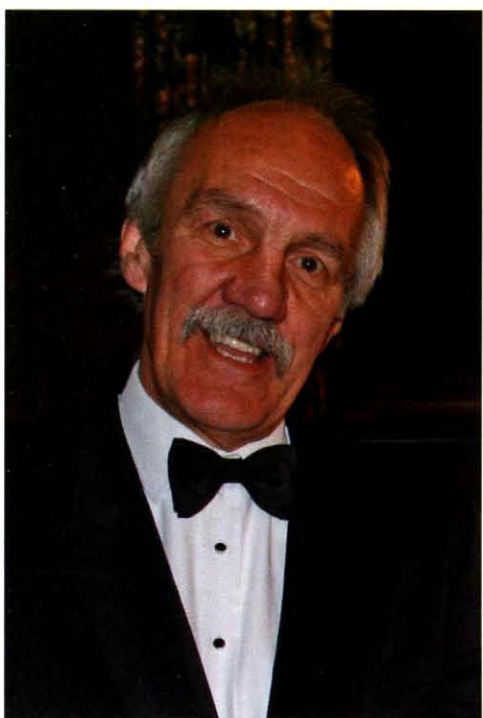
The second half was a different story with Oliver Schofield making some excellent breaks and even managing to break the line. However, in his over exuberant celebrations he scored a try on the wrong line and it was disallowed. To make up for this mistake he scored a try towards the end of the game but unfortunately Pangbourne did just sneak the win.

This was our last game of the season but I was very pleased to see many of the players making great contributions to the B Team and also in the House Rugby. Special mention must go to Harry Wilson and James Curry for always motivating the team and to Mufaddal Ebrahim and Simon Lane for being the outstanding players of the season.

TE Crisford

Squad: M Bywater, J Crawford, J Curry, M de Courcy Wheeler, M Ebrahim, T Holmes, J Kneifati, H Lewis, J Marshall, N McAlister, R McCafferty, R, Murphy, S Neale, C Young, H, Wilson, D Brown, A Barker, O Gould, E Harris, S Lane, O Schofield, F Versen.

Sports Dinner



Nigel Starmer-Smith, rugby commentator and journalist, was the Master of Ceremonies for the College's Sportsman's and Sportswoman's Dinner. Over one hundred guests enjoyed the company of many Olympic oarsman and oarswoman. The audience enjoyed former England Rugby Union Captain Roger Uttley's memories on the benefits of touring, particularly when it is a Lions tour alongside rugby legends such as Willie-John McBride.

Shiplake College's gold medal Olympians Shane O'Brien, Deputy Headmaster elect at the College, and Simon Dennis MBE, currently Master-in-Charge of Shiplake's Boat Club, were joined by Guin and Miriam Batten, Rowley Douglas and Alex Partridge.

A highly successful auction raised funds for the future development of sport at the College. There was some ferocious bidding for the evening's star prize, dinner with Lawrence Dallaglio, Josh Lewsey, Joe Worsley and Alex King at Gordon Ramsey's Maze restaurant in London.

The Perfect Coaching Job?

Anyone looking for a fulfilling coaching job in 2007 should quickly get their application in for the U16B team next year. As assistant coach to the Under 15B's in 2007 I can thoroughly recommend this job to any aspiring coach.

The season began in magnificent style racking up 50 points at home against The Oratory, followed by another impressive victory at Bearwood School. It was, however, all a bit too good to be true when in the third game of the season against Merchant Taylor's a 50 metre Majeed try in extra, extra time sent the team and it's hard core supporters into a state of euphoria. Countless acts of improving team play and general heroics were becoming more and more the norm. Team mates were playing for each other.

The pressure of having an unbeaten season on the horizon was a little daunting. It was inevitable that the bubble would need to burst. Unfortunately this happened at Pangbourne with a 10-20 loss. The team looked lacklustre, mainly from the pressure of expectation of sponsors and fans. However, with this monkey off their back, chief coach Ollie 'the motivator' Venn really got down to business keeping team spirit high and improving skills and teamwork. The team continued the season with great results against Magdalen and Bloxham and a classic 'see-saw' fixture against Cokethorpe which would have matched any Barbarian game in living memory.

The commitment of regular forwards Galligan, Garner, Luscombe, Schofield, Bassett, Purton, Ductor-Peters, Levell and Shakeshaft took a 'never say die' attitude with them where ever they went whilst the slick backline combination of Whittingham, Roets, Foster, Imlay, Watkins-Murphy and Downey were the match of any team they met. Pinto was a more than reliable and often exciting fullback whilst speedster Majeed proved a key figure as a more than potent runner and try scorer. Mbangson and Ebrahim were outstanding considering they were only learning the game. Others who must be mentioned who appeared for the team are Drysdale, Harris, Gould, Wilson, Robertson-McIsaac and Lane who all gave 100% when they were needed.

The boys and myself, all owe a huge debt to the coaching of Ollie Venn. Ollie took a real interest in these boys and his ability to communicate, motivate, empathise with and teach skills to the team, were outstanding. Ollie got his just reward when 'Venn's Vikings' took apart 'Crisford's Cavaliers' in our mid season 'test match'. I will expect to see Ollie commanding a large fee on the coaching circuit in a few years time – thanks Ollie, from all involved.

Squad: A. Galligan, L. Garner, J. Luscombe, O. Schofield, O. Bassett, J. Purton, J. Ductor-Peters, S. Levell, J. Shakeshaft, A. Majeed, T. Whittingham, R. Roets, J. Foster, T. Imlay, O. Watkins-Murphy, B. Downey, B. Pinto, C. Mbangson, M. Ebrahim, C. Drysdale, E. Harris, O. Gould, H. Wilson, F. Robertson-McIsaac, S. Lane

SJ O'Brien

14A's talented backs

A talented group of backs made the most of the forwards' hard labours. Throughout the season Mills, O'Connor, Paisecki-Jarvis and Humphreys provided the grunt-up front backed by King, McCleod and Duthoit. Flanker Syropuolu always worked hard and Dobree-Carey was outstanding in the back row. Vizard, plagued by injury, was a potent threat from Number 8, when available.

Joe Southwell, captaining from scrum-half, and new to the position, had a creative eye for the gaps and provided high-quality possession for Richardson, Elliott Quelch and Roels. From full-back James Woods ran the ball back at pace, creating many opportunities for top try-scorer James Cowing and mid-season signing Sam Quelch.

Although there were several victories throughout the season one of the most memorable wins came versus Magdalen College School in the Oxfordshire Cup. In atrocious conditions the pack demonstrated pick-and-drive at its best. Then in near perfect conditions the backs displayed their running and handling skills selecting great running lines to demolish touring visitors Framlingham College.

These boys have real potential and I am sure we will see them develop in to a very strong side over the next few years. I hope they continue to enjoy their rugby and work hard on all aspects of the game next season.

A huge thank you must go to Mrs Jo Southwell for her work throughout the season. She added expertise on SAQ drills, enthusiasm and the Motherly touch when required.

Squad: J Southwell, H. Richardson, J. Woods, J. Cowing, S. Quelch, E. Quelch, A. Roels, H. Mills, R. O'Connor, B. Piasecki-Jarvis, A. Humphreys, H. King, J. MacLeod, T. Duthoit, O. Vizard, J. Dobree-Carey, M. Syropuolu, J. Ferguson

14Bs learning fast

With a number of the squad new, or relatively new, to the game coaching was always going to be a key element in the squad's success. It is a testimony to the patience and rugby knowledge of Risto Gronmark that the squad went on to record more wins than loses. Such was the improvement during the season it will not be surprising if several boys end up as regular A team players next year.

Captain Freddie Wilcox contributed to the excellent team spirit and Christian Andreou, learning the game from scratch, set a superb example with many exhilarating forays into opposition territory. Fellow forward Ed Allen also had a good season. Richard Armstrong made some huge tackles from the base of the scrum and Sam Evans ran the ball-back with verve and enthusiasm from full-back. This team looks set to go from strength to strength next year and I hope they continue to enjoy the game. Mr Gronmark will be looking across from the 14's training pitch next year to make sure you are not slacking!

Squad: F. Wilcox, C. Andreou, E. Allen, S. Evans, A. Stubbings, P. Brazier, J. Jenkins, O. Fogden, T. Bownas, A. Chen, R. Armstrong, C. Sparks, R. Coppock, T. Woodford, E. Johnson, C. Moffatt, J. Warren, C. Troup

JD Keane



Rugby

Training with the Barbarians



Tyrone Howe, Ireland and British Lions winger, was one of four Barbarians, the world's most prestigious rugby club, who coached the Shiplake College U14s squad at RAF Benson. Fellow Ireland centre Johnny Bell joined Newbury's Andy Dalglish and South African Chris Malherbe as they gave thirty-two Shiplake boys some tips on passing, movement and off-loading.

The Barbarians were at Benson to prepare for their annual Remembrance fixture versus a Combined Services XV played at Newbury. Before the coaching from the professionals the RAF Benson players warmed up the Shiplake squad with some active physical training.

The RAF Benson players are no strangers to Rugby success having won the RAF Rugby Cup for the last four seasons. With players frequently having to serve overseas, their scrum-half had just returned from 10 weeks in Iraq, the station needs plenty of cover for every playing position.

The Shiplake boys shared the limelight with the Barbarians stars as BBC Radio and BBC Television recorded and filmed ready for features on their news shows. "Best day of my life," said one boy as he climbed back on the minibus, clutching his Barbarians shirt and souvenirs presented by the RAF, but for Tyrone Howe, after the game, it was back to work as an Ulster Unionist politician.

U14C Rugby

I wander down to the riverside
Near where the fourteen C's do train
And mark in every face I meet
Looks of pleasure, looks of pain.

In every drill by every player,
In every ruck, scrum or maul
In every game, in every pass
The skills improve with every call.

How the Howarth's crunching tackles,
Nadal and Shin's shimmying run
And Captain Reeves rallying cry
Come from the Land of the Rising Sun

But most on that green sward I hear
How much they love to play,
Try the scissors, switch and swerve,
Grasp the ball, and seize the day.

(After *London* by William Blake)

Player of the season:
Chris Troup

Most improved players:
Nadal Sarkybatyev, Shin Hashimoto

C E Alcock

Squad: G. Reeves, T. Morgan, G. Twydell,
G. Howarth, N. Hartley, A. Roberts, H. Coaker,
C. Troup, N. Sarkybayev, J. Sneller, J. Jacobs,
S. Hashimoto, G. Chi, A. Greff, E. Johnson,
J. Warren



Hockey

Improvements for firsts

Little did we realise it at the time, but the first half of our first match set the trend for the season. At Pangbourne, in the words of their coach, at half-time we should have been winning 'by six goals to three' instead of which we were losing 3 – 1. We played really well and created a good number of excellent chances but frustratingly we didn't manage to score. We lost that first match 3 – 1, and lost to Lord Wandsworth College also because we didn't take our scoring opportunities.

An injury to the highly talented Adam Davies and a series of injuries in the actual matches to Ian Waters, when playing at right back, were further sources of frustration. A good win at Milton Abbey and a fine performance against Reading Blue Coat restored confidence, but the team was struggling with playing well for sustained periods of time. Toby Raper in goal made plenty of fine saves, but still we conceded too many goals. Kimi Jubert and Graham Braithwaite brought experience to the defence but they both lacked vital composure at key moments.

Jack Broome and Joe Weaver worked tirelessly in the midfield, as well as the fast-improving Mike Pullen, and they were highly effective, although even their commitment was not enough to prevent a big defeat by an excellent team from Sir William Borlase. Sam Imlay and Tom Syms improved on the wings as the season unfolded and they should be able to provide crucial penetration in the opponents' half next season.

In the key fixtures against Stowe and Bloxham our weaknesses were exposed and we suffered disappointing defeats in both games. Up front Max Witting created space to good effect, Pip Jones started to learn the craft required of a striker and Sylvester Buzzard started the season well but then rather faded away.

The team did enjoy an emphatic win against Windsor Boys, when they played some exceptionally good hockey with slightly less pressure on the ball. All players enjoyed the season, and all players will have learned about themselves and how a team becomes a proper team. My thanks go to Mr Hurst for his coaching expertise, and to Dr Snellgrove, 2nd XI coach, for we used twenty different players in the 1st XI this season.

Squad: T.Raper, G.Braithwaite, K.Jubert, I.Waters, A.Davies, J.Broome, J.Weaver, M.Pullen, S.Imlay, T.Syms, P.Jones, M.Witting, S.Buzzard.

PCJ Gould



Slow starts for seconds

In our opening game against Pangbourne, we got off to a slow start and found ourselves down 1 - 0 within the first ten minutes. We gradually got ourselves back into the game and began to compete on level terms when Pangbourne scored a second from a breakaway and we were staring at 2 - 0 down at half-time. After a good discussion during the break, the side gained in confidence during the second half and were soon pressing into the Pangbourne 25 yard area due to some solid defending by skipper Will Ewart, some imaginative distribution from Sam Miller-Smith and some fine running on the wing by Matt Laurenson. This pressure eventually led to a penalty flick which Pip Jones expertly slotted into the top left corner. 2 - 1 with 15 minutes to go! Shiplake continued to press and were rewarded with a short corner. Up steps Pip Jones again and with a well-worked routine, involving a smart push out from Ben Farmar, the ball slammed into the back board. The end result was a thoroughly deserved 2 - 2 draw and this gave the side a really good foundation on which to build during the season.

We got off to a very poor start again against Lord Wandsworth with the team not able to gel. This allowed the opposition to snatch two goals quite early on. As with the match against Pangbourne, we gradually began to find our feet and started to make inroads into their D. We were eventually rewarded with two goals of our own thanks to the enterprise of Pip Jones and Max Witting. In the second half we looked a completely different side. Mike Pullen took control of the midfield, Chris Collins tackled and distributed well and the defenders Simon Moss, Nick Bithrey and Will Ewart were all very dependable. It was 3 - 3 with 15 minutes to go when we got the winner and Max Witting got his hattrick. Overall we were the better side and thoroughly deserved our win.

Hockey

After a long journey down to Milton Abbey, Shiplake soon got into their stride and after some sustained pressure Harry Williams scored from a penalty corner. We let them back in soon afterwards however and it was 1-1 after 15 minutes. From that point on, we never looked back.

The silky skills of Jack Emerson on the left wing left their defenders mesmerised and the tenacity of Harry Williams allowed him to notch up his first hattrick. Albert Harvey also chipped in with a clever reverse stick chip over the keeper to make it 4 -1 at half time. The second half was goalless but valuable contributions were made in defence by Simon Moss, Will Ewart and Nick Bithrey. Overall it was an excellent team performance and a well deserved victory.



In the game against Reading Blue Coat, Shiplake had sustained pressure throughout most of the first half and we were virtually camped in the opponent's D. However, we just couldn't get the ball into the goal. Eventually the breakthrough came when Albert Harvey squeezed it in from close range followed by a similar goal from Harry Williams. 2-0 at half time. In the second half we played some very good open, free-flowing hockey with some good movement between Ben Farmar, Matt Laurenson, Chris Collins and Sam Miller-Smith. All this led to a reverse stick top corner rocket from Matt Laurenson, a bullet drilled in from the top of the D by Sam Miller-Smith and a second goal from Albert Harvey making it a well deserved 5 - 0 victory.

Our next game against Windsor Boys was not one of our most memorable performances. We played down to the level of the opposition. We spent most of the time in their half but we held on to the ball too long and lost it too often around the top of their D. We had five penalty corners but could not convert any of them and so we were held to a 0 - 0 draw but a moral victory for the opposition.

At Stowe the first 15 minutes were quite evenly matched until they scored, which seemed to give them renewed energy. However we fought back and managed to bring it back level thanks to a close range shot from Albert Harvey. The goal, however, didn't seem to do the same for us as we still looked a bit lacklustre. We were punished for this as Stowe scored again making it 1-2 at half time. The second half was then dominated by the opposition who began to pass the ball around with ease and won many of the 50/50 balls. We did have our moments though with a few short corners but we failed to convert them. Meanwhile Stowe scored twice more even though Will Bellamy put up a brave defence and stopped many attacks on his goal. The game started almost an hour late so maybe we had peaked too soon!

We were caught cold after a long coach journey to Bloxham and found ourselves 2-0 down after 15 minutes. Bloxham were fast and bright, we were sluggish and dull. Gradually we started coming to life and winning more 50:50 challenges. We were rewarded with a good deflected goal from a short corner by Antony Kay. Bloxham began to look rattled by this and this led to another Shiplake goal from Sylvester Buzzard just before half time to make it all square. Not long into the second half Jack Emerson, who had been brilliant out on the left wing, slotted home a third to give us a 3-2 lead with twenty minutes to play. Bloxham came back at us hard in the last quarter and inevitably they got the equaliser near the end. Overall it was a fair result and a great game of hockey to watch. All credit to the 2nds for fighting back well after such a disastrous start.

At Mill Hill in the first half we had all the play but kept getting bogged down at the top of their D and just couldn't get the ball near their goal. We paid the price for this as they scored on a single breakaway. 1 - 0 down at half time. This gave Mill Hill more confidence and they started to move the ball around much better than in the first half. We couldn't manage to raise our game and found ourselves 4-0 down with 15 mins to play. A late reverse stick lob by Chris Collins made the scoreline more respectable but it was too late to launch a recovery.

Overall, it was one of our most successful seasons having lost only two matches and thanks go to all the squad for making it such an enjoyable term.

Squad: W.Ewart (Capt), S.Moss, N.Bithrey, S. Miller-Smith, B.Farmar, M. Pullen, P.Jones, A. Harvey, H.Williams, M. Laurenson, J. Emerson, W.Bellamy, S. Buzzard, M. Witting, C. Collins, A. Kay

R C Snellgrove

Hockey

Squad: C. Thomas, B. Downey, J. Foster, R. Skinner, C. Payne, T. Imlay, J. Black, N. Harper, J. Luscombe, F. Roberts

O. Watkins - Murphy, R. Handelaar



The 15 A team had a very impressive start to the season with a well fought game against a tough Pangbourne side. After going behind through by a careless goal, Shiplake regrouped and, from then on, were in charge. Our counter attacks were at great speed and the final score was a fair 1-1. The highlight of the first half of the season was beating Lord Wandsworth 4-1, where previously last year we had lost 3-1. Shiplake's midfield (Callum Thomas and James Black) and defence worked well together, quickly turning defence into attack and we also produced our most accurate performance on goal all season.

Fresh from half term, the boys were in an all 'attack' attitude against a tame Reading Blue Coat side scoring seven goals and conceding only one. Cesco Roberts showed a great 'eye' for the goal scoring prolifically. Rob Skinner and Chris Payne were very solid at the back and, with the help of some great play from Tom Imlay in the middle of the back three, stopped almost every attack.

After this point in the season we came up against some harder opposition and against Windsor Boys we took an early lead, but failed to settle in and consolidate and we struggled to get any rhythm, conceding two goals before the half time. By the end of the match, which we lost 3 - 1, our players were certainly not happy with the way they had played.

We played some of our best hockey against a strong Stowe side and it was a great match. Seldom have we dominated so much of the play against any Stowe side over the years. Lots of goal scoring chances were created due to some very flowing and open play from our team with Callum Thomas and James Luscombe, in particular, showing enormous skill and flair. Sadly our goal scoring chances were not put away, and a late winner from Stowe, much against the run of play, was a great shame!

We finished the season against Leighton Park, which is always an enjoyable fixture. The final score was 11-0 and it was good to see so many of the team get on the score sheet, including a very popular first goal for Nick Harper who has worked tirelessly on the left wing for us all season. Our top goal scorer Cesco Roberts also added further to his goal tally!

The Bloxham game was a tough encounter, as we thought it would be, with the opposition having several county players. Our attack just didn't get into gear at the end of a long hard season, whilst Bloxham on home territory were playing well and taking their chances. We eventually lost 3-0 but the score line did not really reflect the players' effort and control during the game.

Overall this season's results and the standard of play were a huge improvement on last year, and the teamwork and commitment from all the players made it a real 'team' effort and the season a very successful and enjoyable one.

Callum Thomas

Turn round for U15Bs

After failing to win a game in 2006 as U14Bs, the U15Bs achieved a highly successful season. Their first fixture against Pangbourne College highlighted the depth of the side, when they produced a very encouraging 6-0 win. After two further games, the side remained undefeated, however slips in concentration resulted in unlucky losses.

Despite bad weather causing the cancellation of several fixtures, the season finished on a high with a really solid performance which reflected the increase in skill and discipline amongst the players.

Harrison Lewis took away the Coaches' Player award after having an outstanding season, whilst Tom Whittingham was a worthy recipient of Team Player. Oliver Gould was widely voted by his peers as Players' Player.

Shiplake hockey looks promising for 2008, as the team, with its considerable talent and potential, move into the senior squads.

Squad: J Gifford, B Mitchum, H Wilson, J Curry, T Whittingham, O Gould, S McCoud, S Neale, H Lewis, J Shakeshaft, E Harris, W Pinto, R Roets, S Wheeler

Coaches: Bryn Criddle [AUS] and Gary Goodman [GB]

B Criddle

Congratulations to the U14Bs

Although not the most successful of seasons in terms of results, this support squad fulfilled its purpose to the full this term. Several players who started out in the B team in January ended up playing integral roles in the A team by the term's end – James Sneller, Freddie Wilcox and Ed Sykes to name but three.

With regard to the rest of the squad their prize came in the shape of a narrow defeat to an unbeaten Bloxham side in the last game of the season. All the industry and endeavours of the whole term culminated in this one performance which saw Shiplake push the opposition right up to the very last whistle.

With continued application to the necessary skills and a commitment to increase fitness levels, I have no doubt that a great many of these boys will go on to play a high standard of team hockey at the senior end of the school.

Congratulations to all involved; in particular, Nadal Sarkytbayev whose improvement over such a short space of time earned him both Player of the Season and Most Improved Player too.

Well done!

R B Curtis

Squad: S. Hashimoto, Q. Lalani, P. Brazier, H. Coaker, J. Cowing, C. Sparks, J. Ferguson, N. Hartley, A. Humphreys, T. Morgan, B. Piasecki-Jarvis, N. Sarkytbayev, J. Warren, H. King, C. Moffatt

U14As: Leading by example

From the very first game against Pangbourne James Wood as captain led by example. He showed drive, energy and focus in midfield, commitment in defence and determination in attack. The defensive line up of Ed Bowers, Richard Armstrong, George Reeves and David Hawes stayed strong throughout the season and they were excellent at absorbing long periods of pressure during games. James Sneller showed occasional flashes of brilliance and both Jordon Jacobs and Ed Sykes gave an athletic aspect to the midfield line up. Joe Southwell and Freddie Wilcox worked hard up front and Harvey Richardson deserves a special mention for taking on the difficult position of left wing having never played hockey before.

If a hockey side could be judged by progress, rather than results, this has been a good season. Despite not winning a game this season, all of the boys in the team deserve high praise as they have listened, watched, implemented and improved in all areas of the game. I believe they have much potential as developing hockey players.

Squad: J Wood (Capt.), R. Armstrong, E. Bowers, J. Dobree-Carey, D. Hawes, G. Reeves, H. Richardson, E. Sykes, J. Sneller, J. Southwell, F. Wilcox

AJ Foakes

Hockey

Hot Hockey

On Friday 13th of December 2006 a team of 13 Hockey players left for Barbados in the early hours, looking forward to the sun, sea and hockey awaiting them.

On the first day we were dragged off the beach for a training session on the only Astro on the island which as we discovered was water based but without the water which forced many players to adapt their techniques. Our first game was unfortunately cancelled due to their being no key to turn the astro lights on. Our first game against All Stars turned out to be a difficult game as in the first half Shiplake lost 6-0. The squad was shocked at the level of competition and were still developing as a team. However in the second half we were much stronger and thanks to some very good defending we won 1-0 due to a last minute goal from Adam Davies. On day 3 the squad had a day off from hockey. We spent this on a luxury Tiarni cruise round the island where we swam with turtles and enjoyed the sun.

The following day Shiplake had a late match against Empire who we knew were a very talented team who toured the Caribbean. We always knew this match would be difficult and although the team put in a gutsy performance in which a lot of good points emerged Shiplake lost 5 - 2, Joe Weaver and Tom Syms scored. Will Ewart's eccentricity and unorthodox technique is also worth a mention.

On the 7th day Shiplake played Combermere school which was well known for producing hockey players. The whole team played well and linked together well. Shiplake won 4-0. The defence: Ian Waters, Ollie Gordon and Simon Moss who were kept busy by a lot of short corners held strong. The goal scorers were Charlie Brooker, Joe Weaver (2) and Simon Moss. That evening the team went to St Lawrence and enjoyed an evening of local entertainment and food which was well deserved.



Our final full day was spent relaxing on the beach and taking part in water sports. Our last night started with a presentation of awards in which Ian Waters, Joe Weaver and Ollie Gordon won awards. Will Ewart also won the "Entertainer of the Tour" prize.

We then spent the night at Harbour Lights enjoyed thoroughly by the whole party. It was a great way to end a very successful trip enjoyed by all including the staff I believe.

Toby Raper



*A fund-raising
quiz evening
made a
significant
contribution
to the success
of the tour.*

Superb leadership from Braithwaite

The statistics represent a successful season. With only three Year 13s in the side this was a relatively young squad ably captained by Graham Braithwaite (Player of the Season and Blazer Badge) whose leadership and tactical skills grew as the season progressed, as did his management of some challenging personalities.



The captain himself started the season superbly, retiring on 155 not out after bludgeoning the Pangbourne attack to all parts. Just as pleasing was the well paced and mature approach of Max Witting's 93 not out. Shiplake scored 282 off their 35 overs and Pangbourne were restricted to 244 all out. A wet wicket, poor fielding and perhaps some complacency meant the return fixture was not as successful later in the season! Defeats to the strong bowling attacks of Magdalen and Bloxham followed, even though Magdalen was particularly disappointing as they were let off the hook having been 86-7 (Jacob Reza 3-20, Harry Williams 2-24).

Williams started to show his class as a left arm swing bowler, taking 3-29 against Blue Coat. Toby Raper (43), Braithwaite (80) and Pip Webb (35 no) made reasonably light work of chasing the 194 required; Shiplake winning by 7 wickets. Claire's Court were also beaten reasonably convincingly, with Williams, Reza and Webb being the main wicket takers. During the run chase Downey and Hyde showed that they had ability with the bat but were perhaps outshone by a delightful 41 runs from Jack Broome (Most Improved Player), who certainly took his chance to impress the coaches and state a claim to be in the top order – hopefully other senior players will follow this example next year!

Henley College set a challenging total of 203-4 off their 30 overs but Raper (75 no) and Webb (103) both batted superbly to ensure victory with 4 overs to spare. These two players were really starting to show that they were quality all-round cricketers. Victory against Reading School followed.

Although losing the three 20:20 games, Shiplake were more than competitive and could have won any of the matches against Stowe, Abingdon and Dauntsey's in the 20s competition. Best individual performances of the day were 48 and 40 from Webb, 38 from Braithwaite and 4-23 from Raper.

Against the SOA men's team Broome (59) was the pick of the Shiplake batsman with valuable contributions from Braithwaite, Webb and Imlay as the home side declared on 195-7. Williams continued his excellent form with the ball with two fine spells of bowling with final figures of 4-35. All results were possible in the closing overs making for an exciting 'timed' game but the final result was a draw.

The last two victories of the season were against the Oratory and the staff. The Oratory posted a total of 168-5 off 30 overs. Braithwaite and Reza took two wickets each but perhaps the best spell was the superbly controlled spin of Raper who bowled 6 overs for only 13 runs, taking one wicket. The top three Shiplake batsman all scored well, Raper (35), Braithwaite (41) and Webb (51) with Witting remaining not out and scoring the winning runs. Broome scored 41 not out against the staff as the boys set a competitive total of 180-7. ADD, TPJC and BDPP showed the boys how not to communicate at the crease but this led to an exciting finish with the staff 4 runs short of the required total.

The final completed match of the season was against the visiting South African tourists of Clifton College when miserable weather allowed only a 20's match to be played. The visitors got off to a flyer but were then pegged back by Reza (3-23) and Handelaar (2-9) and scored 118-6. Webb (27) and Raper (34no) produced a fine partnership, with the later batting particularly well, showing the visitors how to pace an innings, regularly scoring 7 or 8 an over playing 'proper cricket'. Unfortunately, the slippery surface and poor preparation of incoming batsman, allowed Shiplake to be far too generous with their hosting, losing by 2 runs.

Overall then a very enjoyable and successful season by a talented group who perhaps know that other opportunities may have slipped by which will hopefully make those that play next year all the more difficult to beat. I would like to thank the ground staff, catering, parents and those who have been a massive help 'behind the scenes' and particularly Mr. Caston who expertly performed far more than his fair share of coaching and match managing duties.

Squad: T. Raper (V. Capt.)**, G. Braithwaite (Capt.)***, P. Webb*, M. Witting (Wkt.)**, J. Broome*, H. Williams*, S. Imlay*, L. Downey*, J. Reza, B. Farmar**, J. Hyde, G. Whittingham

*** Blazer Badge ** Full Colours * Half Colours

AD Dix

2nd XI Cricket

The match against Magdalen College was a 30 over game. Magdalen batted first and we restricted them well in the first twenty overs to about 5 runs per over, thanks to some tight bowling by Sam Miller-Smith and Max Vuarnoz. However they had only lost two wickets. Our last ten overs were quite ragged and we let them get away from us. They ended up with 197 for three after their 30 overs. In reply we got off to a steady start but lost a couple of wickets after 5 overs. A good partnership developed between Sam Miller-Smith (43) and Hugo Jolliffe (26) but we were always a long way behind the run rate. In the end we were 132 all out after 26 overs so we gave a creditable performance against strong opponents.

At Bloxham, we batted first on a very poor track and quickly began to lose wickets. At one point we were 36 for 6. However a good rearguard action from Wilcox, Galloway and Smart enabled us to creep up to 72 all out. Only Jolliffe (16) and Wilcox (11) managed to reach double figures! Extras were top scorer with 23. In reply Bloxham managed to overhaul our score in 12 overs. Moral of the tale: Defend the good balls, take quick singles and put pressure on the fielding side.

Having lost the toss against Reading Blue Coat, we were put into bat and soon began to lose wickets. At one stage we were 36 for 5. A sensible innings from Sasha Burgess (38) however, allowed us to scramble out of the hole and, together with useful support from Joe Weaver (14), we managed to end up with 114 all out. Our bowlers Sam Miller-Smith, Max Manlay, Max Vuarnoz and Nick Bithrey got off to a good start and we had them at 65 for 5 off 18 overs. However we let them off the hook with some erratic deliveries in the second spell, giving them 39 extras in total! Inevitably they overhauled our score after losing just one more wicket and with 5 overs to spare.

The match against Henley College was a twenty over game played at Harpsden on a rain-affected wicket. Henley batted first and were held in a vice-like grip by the deadly accuracy of Bithrey (5 overs, 4 maidens, 2 wickets for 1 run) and Miller-Smith (5 overs, 3 maidens, 2 wickets for 3 runs). Vuarnoz and Whittingham then kept the pressure up by capturing 2 wickets each to have them all out for 23 runs. Jolliffe and Burgess steered us to victory with the help of Whittingham to register our first win of the season.

Our final game was against Windsor Boys. We won the toss and batted. Faced with some tight bowling Burgess and Jolliffe struggled to get the ball off the square and we were about 20 off 8 overs. Whittingham decided to take the plunge and hit out and ended up with 29 accompanied by Weaver who hit a quick, if unorthodox, 21.

The tail did not wag and the last 4 batsman were out for 1 run! We ended up with 98 all out with 2 overs left. In reply Windsor knocked them off in 12 overs with the loss of two wickets. It was a mixed Windsor team with 5 or 6 1st XI players!

Squad: G. Whittingham (Capt), S. Moss, H. Jolliffe, J. Colman, N. Bithrey, M. Manlay, G. Mongan, S. Miller-Smith, O. Venn, M. Vuarnoz, A. Galloway, J. Wilcox, S. Burgess, C. Smart, J. Weaver, R. Berry, A. Green

RC Snellgrove

The Phoenix

Phoenix-like, the Under 15 A team rose from the ashes of last season to record an impressive winning season (played 13, won 8). The team showed great potential last season but failed to clinch that all-important win. May 2007 was, then, something of a landmark for the team recording their first win. Not only was it their first win at Shiplake, it was also in the first match of the season and even more significantly against the "old enemy", Pangbourne College (we actually beat them again at the end of the season, bowling them all-out for 39!). What a great start and it certainly gave them confidence for future matches. There was a particularly "purple patch" in the middle of the season when they were unbeaten for six matches!

In a season when six batsman scored over one hundred runs each, when three individuals scored half centuries, when the fielding was sharp and the atmosphere amongst the side was always positive and supportive, it is hardly surprising they did so well.

The arrival of James Black in the side gave the team a great boost and he certainly delivered with over two hundred runs, some very economical bowling and some superb fielding, including one or two match-winning catches. He was very ably supported by Ryan Handelaar (a marvellous half century against Bloxham and sixteen wickets for the season) who proved to be the most economical of our four front-line bowlers. James Luscombe and Oliver Gould completed the main bowling attack and both also delivered with the bat, Oliver scoring a solid 62 against Licensed Victuallers' School.

Oliver Watkins-Murphy and Chris Payne also scored over one hundred runs apiece this season and could often be relied upon to get us out of some awkward situations. It was great to see Oliver given the opportunity to bowl his wrist spin and Chris' blistering fifty against Reading School ultimately clinched victory for us in that match.

Cricket



Other major contributions were made by the two wicketkeepers, Tom Whittingham and Harry Wilson. Both served us well behind the stumps and particular praise should go to Harry who ended the season as regular keeper, allowing Tom to concentrate on his captaincy. Tom Imlay bowled extremely well and on numerous occasions bamboozled batsman with his swing and skidding off cutters. Asher Majeed contributed some very valuable runs with his hard hitting and Robert Roets led the team's fielding with some very fine ground fielding and throwing. We were pleased that Javier Ductor- Peters, Ben Mitchum and James Curry were also able to fit easily into the team when they joined us from the B team.

In short, it was a magnificent season, punctuated by some fine individual performances and an excellent spirit amongst the side. I wish them luck as they progress through into senior cricket and I am sure that we will see some of them playing at the highest level next season.

Squad: T. Whittingham (Capt), B. Downey, J. Black, R. Handelaar, J. Luscombe, O. Gould, C. Payne O. Watkins-Murphy, T. Imlay, H. Wilson, A. Majeed, R. Roets, J. Ductor-Peters, B. Mitchum, J. Curry

N J Brown



“Contribution. Contribution. Contribution!”

This has been the key phrase used by Coach Mr Curtis for the U14 team this season and, in the three key areas of batting, bowling and fielding, all members of the squad have shown great determination to improve and thereby make that positive input to the games they have played in.

James Wood has captained well and led by example; at the crease he has made several good scores, notably 50 in an Oxon U14 Cup game and he has also bowled a few useful overs in tight games. Peter Brazier has worked on his batting and he shows promise as an opener. James Cowing has an excellent eye and hit 20 runs off 6 balls in the match versus The Oratory.

There is quite some talent in the bowling line up. James Dobree-Carey bowls fast and with bounce and Harvey Richardson has such a good left arm swing that he has delivered practically unplayable deliveries in every match. Charlie Sparks and Alex Stubbings bowl reliable medium pace and Sam Quelch, a convert from rowing half way through the season, bowls with good aggression. Richard Armstrong offered up a teasing spin option as well as being a solid opening bat.

The fielding has probably been the biggest area of improvement with good catches being taken by Alex “Humpo” Humphreys and all members of the team attacking the ball in the field and supporting the bowler. True cricketers always feel that the season is inevitably too short and whilst there is always room for improvement in any side there have certainly been good foundations laid this year.

Squad: J. Wood (Captain), R. Armstrong, E. Bowers, P. Brazier, J. Dobree-Carey, A. Humphreys, C. Moffat, T. Morgan, S. Quelch, H. Richardson, C. Sparks, A. Stubbings, F. Wilcox

A.J Foakes

U14B Cricket

"The Hypochondriacs" might have seemed a better name for the U14Bs when an hour before the first game a sickness bug made the off-games list so long that five boys who had never played cricket before had to be drafted in to make up the eleven. Credit to all three captains Henry King, Charlie Sparks and Bertie Piasecki-Jarvis, who frequently gave 7 or 8 players a bowl, and kept everyone involved and interested.

"We take to the pitch as a team and we leave as a team," said coach Chris Ellison as he instilled the basics of batting, bowling and fielding. The squad made progress in the nets but struggled under pressure out in the middle.

"You can always find a new way of getting yourself out," is an old cricket saying and the batsman proved the adage to be true, often after they had done the hard work of seeing off the best of the bowling. Discipline and patience need to be the key words for next season.

There was a collective sigh of disappointment when the squad learnt that they had played their last game of the season but it was encouraging to see Charlie Sparks, Bertie Piasecki-Jarvis and Charlie Moffat challenging for A Team places at the tail end of the season.

Squad: C. Sparks, H. King, B. Piasecki-Jarvis, C. Moffat, J. Warren, E. Sykes, O. Fogden, N. Hartley, A. Greff, S. Hashimoto, D. Hawes, A. Carroll, E. Johnson, Q. Lalani, H. Coaker, N. Sarkytbayev

M Edwards



The College 1st XI tennis team enjoyed the perfect season winning all of their fixtures. Their final challenge was a match versus Clifton College, from Durban, South Africa but the squad finished the season with a superb 9 - 0 victory.

The Baldry Trophy



Welsh	58 points
Orchard	49 points
Everett	44 points
Burr	28 points
Skipwith	26 points



Netball

A promising netball season

After last year's successful season, the Shiplake Netball Club were looking forward to the start of the 2007 spring term.

During last term we played in a few warm up matches against Reading University and d'Overbroek's College, and although we lost to Reading which was a much older, and experienced side, we were able to gain a very convincing win against d'Overbroek's which boded well for the forthcoming matches.

During this term the netball team have played seven matches, winning four of them, and considering there is only a total of 17 girls in the 6th form I feel that this is a very good achievement.



Our re-matches against Reading and d'Overbroek's this term shows how well we all gelled together as a team, because after gruelling matches, Shiplake managed to beat these sides which showed how much we had improved within the space of a few months.

The following match against Cranford House showed the emergence of Shiplakes' first ever 2nd netball team, and although they lost their match, I'm sure that with the addition of many more girls next year, we will be able to put forward two very strong teams for future games. The first team won this match with ease, resulting in the end scores between some 10 goals apart.

We all knew that our match against Pangbourne was going to be very tough, but due to some superb play by Shiplake's attacking players and some excellent interceptions from our defensive players, we were able to keep up with them and only lost this game by the matter of a couple of goals.

Our final matches of the season were most certainly going to be our toughest as we were playing Leighton Park and Reading Blue Coats in a mini tournament hosted by Leighton Park.

We firstly played Leightons Park's B team and managed a narrow victory, but unfortunately lost to both Leighton Park and Blue Coats' first teams, but again, considering the number of girls in both these schools I do not feel disheartened by these results as I feel that they were good experience matches which showed us the standard that we need to aspire to for the future.

This years' team consisted of Lydia Hannon, Lucy Andrews, Lizzie Orpwood, Millie Richmond, Laura Cotton, Britney Lea and Jessica Edwards.

A special mention goes to our coach Nikki who has now coached us for two seasons and has put up with all of us complaining about the cold weather and any form of fitness training!! So a big thank you to her for all of the hard work she has put in for us over the past two years. Also a thank you to all of the volunteers who have driven us to and from games as without them we wouldn't have been able to play!

I would like to thank all the girls who played for us this term as I feel that we had an enjoyable season, and I wish the lower sixth girls the best of luck for next year.

Lydia Hannon



Rowing

The most successful season ever

It has been the most successful season for Shiplake College Boat Club in its 48 year history – what a perfect time to be a rower or a coach at the club. And the good news is that with success at the lower age groups, a healthy input of new young rowers and a Girls squad off the ground, it is only going to get better in the next few years.

The coaches this season have been superb and they have fully deserved all their successes. Unfortunately we are losing the laid-back efficiency of Jeremy Keane; the high impact of Matt Barrett; the entertainment of Luke Foster; and the exacting standards of Seb Tjornelund. Fortunately we have held on to everyone else, especially our ever reliable and skillful boatman, Austen Dorey.

The rain never seemed to be far away this season with a staggering ten races that we had entered being cancelled. The flooding also kept us off the river and in the gym. Was this the secret of our success? For the boys' sake, I hope not.

Someone who benefited from lots of training was Will Satch, who spent most of the year training with the elite athletes at Leander Club. Will had a great season and despite a bit of bad luck at Henley Royal Regatta, followed in Charlie Jenkins' footsteps of last year and raced at the European junior championships, the Coupe de la Jeunesse.

Shiplake College Boat Club Supporters Association has once again provided a huge amount of support and continues to find the energy to raise money, cook food and most importantly provide an excellent atmosphere and hospitality.

Gold at the National Schools' Regatta

The Spring Term was a very frustrating time for all the Year 9 boys who had chosen rowing as their major sport. The bad weather prevented us from being on the water and instead much of their time was spent on the ergo machines and running up hills. Throughout this difficult time Mr Crisford was impressed with the boys' attitude and he is sure that this extra fitness training was a crucial ingredient to their success in the summer.

The first race of the season was at the Schools Head of the River at Dorney Lake. They were all very anxious about how they would perform with such limited water time but they raced very well and finished a creditable 13th beating many crews who had been on the water much more than them. This was just what the boys needed after what had been a difficult start to their rowing careers. It also confirmed to the coaches that these boys had great potential if they could get them out on the river and do some really hard training.

A quickly arranged training camp was organised for the Easter Holiday and Mr Crisford was delighted that all the boys selected to attend this camp were keen to train during their holidays. This camp was very important and every boy on the camp made great developments in their technique and fitness. The final time trial on the last day of the camp suggested that the crew were rowing at least 20 seconds quicker over 2000m than they were at the start of the camp.

Their first outing of the season was at Hammersmith Regatta and the boys raced in Quads against some strong opposition particularly from Emmanuel School. This regatta was an excellent experience for the Shiplake Crews as racing on the Tideway is very different to rowing on our home stretch. The A quad made the final but lost to Emmanuel A.



Some hard training followed this before the coaches were in a position to select an A and B Octuple. They then decided to take the A Octuple to Wallingford Regatta but this was not a successful day as unfortunately the crew did not heed the golden rule of rowing and they all let go of their oars and fell in. This was a very public and embarrassing lesson for all involved and frustrating after all their efforts in training.

Rowing

After this incident the boys decided the only way they could recover their damaged pride was to start winning and show the rest of the J14 Crews how good they could be if they stayed afloat! This recovery started at Bedford Regatta where the A Crew lost in the final to St Paul's after beating Bedford School, Winchester College and Radley. Although the boys were very disappointed, Mr Crisford was relieved that they had regained their confidence and they were showing a very determined attitude.

The following weekend they were in action at Thames Ditton Regatta and once again the A Octuple beat a number of good crews before losing to Reading Blue Coat in the final. It was also the first race that the B Octuple attended and they performed admirably in their first regatta.

Then it was up the motorway for the one race that really counts - National Schools. They were drawn in a first round heat that looked very possible and Mr Crisford was excited to see the crew lead this race from the start to the finish with the quickest time out of the three heats. The semi final was always going to be a much harder task and the crew needed to raise their game and the coaches were very relieved that they finished in third place after a great last push from Radley nearly pulled them back into fourth.

A Octuple: O. Vizard, J. MacLeod, A. Roels, E. Allen, S. Evans, C. Andreau, E. Quelch, T. Bownass, C. Troup

The plan in the final was to go as hard as they could after 200m and this is exactly what they did and Mr Keane could hardly believe it when they had nearly a length on the rest of the field. They continued to dominate this race and crossed the line half a length up to become National Champions!

This is an outstanding achievement and something that hopefully they will always remember. The coaches were incredibly proud of their performance and it was a privilege to be able to watch them race as hard as they did and to see how much it meant to the crew after the race.

The B Octuple should also have a mention as they raced well in what will be Mr Keane's last crew at National Schools. Everyone in the crew gave it everything but unfortunately it was not quite enough to get out of the first round. The coaches hope many of these boys continue to work hard as many of them have the potential to be pushing for seats in the A Crew.

Mr Crisford is already looking forward to next season but as all the crews found out in the last regattas of the season, everyone will now want to beat them. An even more determined and focussed approach to training will be needed next season if they are to stay ahead of the field.

B Octuple: R. Coppock, T. Du Thoit, R. O'Connor, A. Roberts, G. Twydell, G. Howarth, A. Chen, H. Mills, J. Southwel



NSR Gold for the J15s

At the start of the season twenty eight Year 10s, three coaches and a jack russell gathered by the river to begin an intense spring of training. The river, however, had other ideas and the floods that spread right across the riverside fields forced us back up the hill for some intensive land training. As a result the J15s began their season not on the river, but in the sports hall and the rugby pitches. Mr. Barrett instituted a strict regime of land training and alongside the traditional grind of running and ergos were some rather more unorthodox exercises like Rowga, FourforFourFour and, of course, the Weirstick game. The exact details of these are to be kept a secret to keep the competition from cracking our winning formula! The crews did venture on to the river periodically and the As began well with a win at a friendly race in Pangbourne and their performance at the School's Head of the River showed that there was much potential in the squad.

For the crews to really make progress some serious sunshine and time on the water was needed and so, during the Easter Holidays, Emma Arnold accompanied a contingent of J15s on the Shiplake Rowing Camp in France. The hard work and excellent effort in France provided an invaluable foundation as the summer term began. Races at Hammersmith and Thames Ditton in the first half of term showed that there was real quality throughout the squad as the As made it to the finals and the Bs beat a strong Hampton side on their own stretch of water.

These achievements proved merely to be the prelude to the high point of the season at the National Schools Regatta. On this two kilometre stretch of water in Nottingham all the rowing schools in the country come together to see who is the best. The J15 squad rose to this challenge and, in an inspiring final, the A crew showed that they had the power and character to be the best. From the start they took the race by the scruff of the neck and held on to the lead to emerge, seven and a half minutes later, as champions. The whole squad could be proud of their achievements that day as the Bs were unlucky not to progress when they posted the fastest non-qualifying time of the tournament.

The J15 squad can look back on an excellent season. The trophies taken home by some this season were, in many ways, actually won by all, as the whole group worked hard together to push each other and to help each other reach beyond what they could achieve alone. No doubt all are looking forward to a well earned rest this summer ... and then their return as J16s next spring.

Squad: B. McPhee, C. Drysdale, R. Wright, S. Holloway, L. Garner, C. Emerson, A. Baker, M. Bywater, R. Murphy, B. Brassey, B. Hornsby, F. Verson, R. Skinner, S. Powell, S. Levell, O. Schofield, O. Bassett, F. Robertson McIsaac

And NSR Gold for the J16s too

Potential, potential, potential – a poisoned chalice for any team. The season started with a lot of land training and it quickly became clear who was going to be in the As. James Goddard and Alex Winslade showed they were fierce competitors, who punched above their weight. Sean Bowden, the Oxford University coach, believes an eight is built around positions 5, 6 and 7 and he would have been more than happy with McKellar, Middleton and Marriott filling these seats in the J16 eight. McKellar and Middleton had their own private party all season in a coxless pair that simply worked from the first time they got into it. Success at the Junior Inter-Regional Regatta gave them a silver medal and this was repeated at Thames Valley Park and a successful National Championships in July.

The B crew had a difficult season as the A crew rapidly improved ahead of them but full credit must go to Freddie Hunting, Michael Holiasmenos, Jeremy Pattie, Sam Howe and Will Nicholas for showing real determination and getting through to the semi-finals at the National Schools Regatta. This grit will serve them well next year.

Summer term saw the arrival of more potential with James Briggs and on the back of an edifying training camp in Temple-sur-Lot the crew was starting to show some promise. With quiet resolve Toby Frossell had made the difficult 3-seat his own. Was the squad's potential going to start showing through in time for the National Schools Regatta? National Schools turned out to be a dream weekend. A steady and fast row in the semi-final gave way to a blistering race in the final. No one else could keep with the hard pace they set and the crew made the last 500 metres look easy, thanks to five months of training.

There were other victories along the way. Jamie Albon gave a huge amount of power to a four including McKellar, Middleton and Marriott that won at both Thames Ditton and Thames Valley Park Regatta. James Green's coxing was fundamental to all these victories, perfectly balancing aggression with clear thinking.

The good news is that this crew will be a strong, if young, first squad next year. The bad news for them is that before those races at Nottingham in May and even at Henley in July, there are tens of thousands of kilometres to be rowed and tons of weights to be lifted. But hopefully they are starting to understand rowing is about the journey not the arrival.

A Crew: J. Green, J. Goddard, R. McKellar, A. Middleton, F. Marriott, B. Tropper, J. Briggs, T. Frossell, J. Albon, A. Winslade.

B Crew: F. Hunting, T. Laurensen, J. Pattie, M. Holiasmenos, F. Greaves, D. Robinson, W. Nicholas, A. MacArthur, S. Howe.

Rowing



"Rowing is horribly hard, and I know, that for me, it will only get harder, but it is the best thing I have ever done."

To stand on a podium in another country wearing a gold medal whilst our National Anthem is playing is priceless."

Will Satch - Shiplake College Captain of Boats, Leander and Great Britain U18.



Rowing

First crew at Henley Women's Regatta

This year has seen a major increase in the amount of girls rowing at Shiplake. For the majority of the autumn term we had eight girls rowing, but with the introduction of the dreaded "training programme!" that number was soon to be reduced to just four elite athletes.

But those four have managed to survive an entire year, and what a year it has been. From those original sixteen girls there was a competitive crew for National Schools, battling through a tough selection regime, and training programme including weights, cross-country runs, river outings and of course the favourite ergo sessions.

It has not been an easy experience; there has been many a-time when it was all going to end in tears. Especially during those cold winter months, when race after race was cancelled. But there was a light at the end of the tunnel. After scraping together a reasonable crew for the Sculler's Head, the girls got to compete in their first ever race. This race was to be the turning point for the quad, who had now got a taste of competitive rowing. This was followed by a highly productive Easter rowing camp, which allowed the girls to come on enough to race at the main event in the schools rowing calendar, The National Schools' Regatta.

There may not have been any gold medals or pots, but this year has not been about results for girls' rowing. It's been about getting girls down to the river, into boats, racing and enjoying the experience.

This year has actually proven to be the most successful year for girls rowing in the history of Shiplake College Boat Club. The last week of term saw two girls race at the prestigious Henley Women's Regatta in a double scull. The double had a competitive race against a very experienced crew, which had won a bronze medal at Nationals'. They unfortunately lost by 3 lengths, but the girls did themselves proud and enjoyed the experience. It was also the first ever Henley Women's entry for Shiplake.

Lizzie Orpwood was the only girl in the squad to never of rowed before, but she picked up the technique very quickly and became a very competent stroke of the quad during the regatta season. Katherine Hope and Lorelei Bere have consistently produced the best ergo scores this year, and with a little rowing experience before coming to Shiplake, have been real assets to the crew. Helen Green has been the one who has quietly got on with everything that has been set to do, never complaining about the work. Without Helen's quiet determination and hard work the girls' quad would certainly not have been the same.

Squad: L. Orpwood, K. Hope, L. Bere, H. Green

3,000 kms on the ergo

Once again Shiplake's First Eight enjoyed a marvellous season's rowing.

They didn't win many races because there haven't been many races to win. They have been successful in other ways though, they have ergoed...collectively, the boys have done over 3,000 kilometres on the ergo.

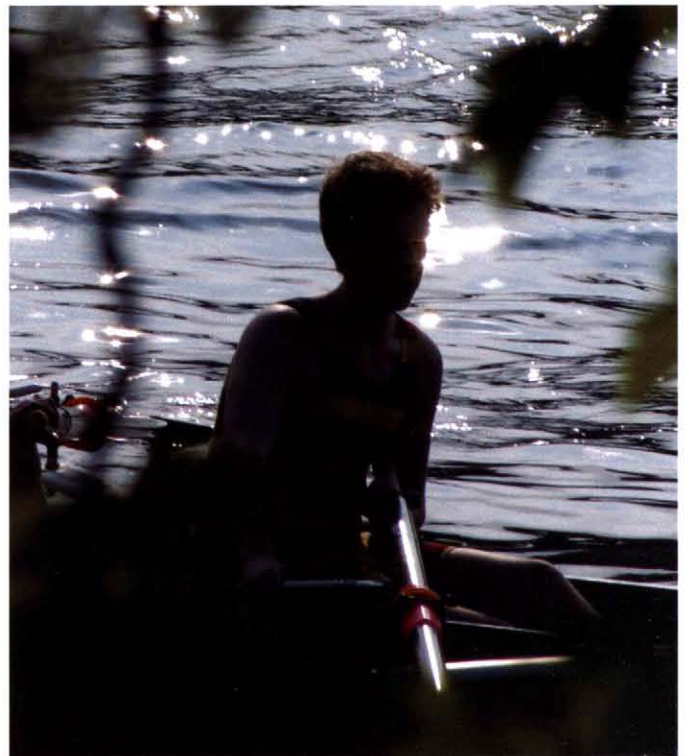
The season really started on our French Training Camp. The sun shone daily and conditions were perfect. They rowed and rowed all day long - even Mr. Dennis was moved to get into a pair with a new partner.

The step up from J16 to Senior can be a tough one. Happily, the training programme manages this transition smoothly. The coaches tried to keep an eight going this year, but it was too hard with a squad of nine or ten. They raced the eight at National Schools Regatta, but could not qualify. They have suffered with injury, and our squad became so depleted they even put a girl in the boat for Wallingford.

The School entry for Henley Royal Regatta was the quad of Jack Harvard Taylor, Jack Thompson, James Hanson and Charlie Ingham Clark. These boys have sculled together for 4 years. They enjoy tremendous crew cohesion, tenacity, commitment and dedication which served them well as they qualified for the Fawley Cup. They put up a superb fight on Thursday and lost by less than a length in an impressive race.

Squad: A. Furse, C. Ingham Clark, G. Goddard, J. Harvard Taylor, J. Thompson, J. Hanson, J. Holmes, R. Pusey, T. Morgan Harris, W. Milton, W. Satch

S. Dennis



Charles Johnson

The Duke of York's Royal Military School undoubtedly have chosen the right man as their next Headmaster. Reliability, decisiveness and clarity of vision are all hallmarks of the Johnsonian style of management. "Firm but fair," Shiplake's pupils would add. Five years ago Charles left Stowe as Senior Housemaster and arrived at Shiplake. Appearance, manners and application have improved as Charles has worked ceaselessly to raise standards. Now he heads for Dover to apply the Johnson formula.

"Horace, come here," bellowed at something approaching 150 decibels, were amongst the first words that Gregg Davies heard when he arrived at Shiplake. The future Headmaster was relieved to learn that Horace was "a chocolate" Labrador and not an unfortunate pupil. Precise distinctions and accuracy of expression were all part of the rigorous academic approach that helped to boost history department expectations and results. Lessons, like committee meetings, were driven through, with everything finished with a minute to spare.

"Taking a Saturday evening detention is certainly preferable to being subjected to The X Factor at home," Charles commented many a time. As a Deputy Head he worked long, long hours. Early morning he put his cadre of litter monitors through their paces, all part of the training for taking on responsibilities as a Prefect. Then in the evenings he would take boys and girls to a distant dance, even if he and the Headmaster could not always agree on pronunciation. Sometimes it was a case of, "You say ceilidh and I say Kylie."

After an upbringing as a child in Barbados and Kenya, with the pink of empire all but faded from the world map, Charles found modern British customs both comic and infuriating. Anyone who ever witnessed Johnson as a wonderfully politically incorrect Master of Ceremonies for a General Knowledge quiz, "Here's one for the left-footers," will remember it forever.

Yet the sheer disbelief in his voice as he provided the commentary for a charity fashion show was probably his greatest moment. How could anyone take clothes so seriously? Or be so easily impressed by mere brand names?

Teachers would argue that the gift of a full week's holiday at the end of May is the man's greatest legacy to Shiplake but much of a Deputy Head's achievement is submerged, like an iceberg. There have been numerous policies written to the satisfaction of both school inspectors and social service inspectors. Training has been provided for the staff, calendars have been created and checked, while duty rosters have been negotiated patiently. Then there are the sensitive areas where, fortunately, no-one will ever know how many crises have been averted and how many pupils are now enjoying their schooldays thanks to Charles' meticulous detective work and sensitivity.

Charles Johnson contributed to every area of school life, his shoes shining from dawn to dusk and beyond. In Chapel he led the singing and was very clear on the hymns he liked, "We won't be having that happy-clappy nonsense in my school's hymn-book," he would announce with a mischievous grin, if a hymn proved a little too contemporary for his liking. He founded the Babbage Society, an opportunity for the brightest minds in the school to be stretched by visiting speakers, quizzes and visits.

And of course he and Horace (and Hobbes prior to that – all Johnson dogs begin with H) ran thousands of miles along the Thames, taking a cohort of boys with them every afternoon. Some boys owed their health and their careers, especially if they flew through Service fitness tests, to this muddy ritual.

The Johnsons will be missed. Vanessa judged the music competitions while Henry and Millie contributed to productions of Animal Farm and even the AS Drama production. Boarding schools thrive on such family commitment and the Duke of York's School is gaining a Headmaster who not only has vision but also leads from the front.



Charles Johnson
and
Horace
as featured in
"The Sun"
newspaper

Lindsay McDonald

To be appointed as Head of Modern Languages at Tonbridge School, managing a department of seventeen teachers and several



languages, is an outstanding achievement but Lindsay McDonald has mixed feelings, "I've made so many good friends at Shiplake and had many good times. It will be hard to leave."

Since becoming Head of Modern Languages at Shiplake, eight years ago, Lindsay has taken the department onto new heights. Academic added value results demonstrated how well he and his department were performing yet it was not always an easy department. There were debates on whether German or Spanish should be the department's second language. Part-timers were required to fill gaps in the time-table and to be settled in quickly. Home-stay trips to Strasbourg improved the accents and developed pupils' confidence but triggered a mountain of paperwork and risk-assessments.

Resident in Burr House, Lindsay has sensitively guided cohort after cohort of Year 9s through those first tricky days at senior school, setting a record for longevity for a Year 9 tutor. Eight years is a record likely to stand forever. His tutoring skills were very much appreciated by his Sixth Form tutees. Loyally he would watch them play their major sports even though he was not a great sports fan himself.

A half-blue in Ballroom Dancing from Oxford was immediately seized upon and Lindsay took on the unenviable role of organising the boys' Ballroom Dancing. He encouraged the boys to pay a little more attention to their foxtrot and a little less to their aftershave.

As school Young Enterprise Link Teacher Lindsay's groups became increasingly successful. The class of 2006 led the way with a 100% examination pass rate and a clutch of distinctions.

Those who have seen Lindsay's comic colloquial translations of Molière's plays, with a seasoning of local Shiplake satire, may wonder if there may yet come a time when BBC's Sunday evening costume comedy is a McDonald production. When he took the College production of *The Skinflint* to the Edinburgh fringe festival it received flattering reviews.

For those who have not worked in the Modern Languages Department, Lindsay's brief spell as President of the Senior Common Room has demonstrated that he has the drive, efficiency, humour and tact to make a superb head of department at Tonbridge.

Luke Foster

Some of you may be fortunate to have Luke Foster as your parish priest in the future. After five years teaching English at Shiplake Luke is leaving to study in London to prepare for ordination. Perhaps in future years Shiplake OVs will hope that Luke decides to serve, for their children, as a school Chaplain.

Luke arrived to train as an NQT and he leaves as second-in-command of the English department, a very popular and successful teacher. At GCSE he has excited and stretched the top sets whilst patiently supporting those who are weaker and has proved to be a passionate and stimulating teacher of A Level English.



Throughout it has been clear that Luke's vocation has been the Church. Entertaining and challenging sermons have been admired by pupils and teachers alike, Thursday evening Alpha Cubs have been very well attended and during school holidays Luke has helped with the Lymington Christian holidays and revision courses, often taking a group of Shiplake pupils along with him.

On the river Luke has worked hard, in all weathers, to enthuse and inspire his crews, while on dry land he has delighted the Sixth Form whenever he made an appearance at Friday afternoon football. Somehow the long-legs can evade tackle after tackle as he progresses down the right-wing.

Luke has exceptionally well-developed senses of community and duty. Both Everett Housemasters and Year 9 tutees have appreciated his calm and patient support over the last six years. Pupils and colleagues look forward to welcoming him back to Shiplake as visiting preacher in future years.

Leavers

Jeremy Keane



Jeremy arrived from New Zealand five years ago to help out with some rugby coaching, just for a term, but he soon made himself indispensable. He is Shiplake's Ray Mears, the survival expert, guiding Year 9 safely to *The Island* for their induction adventure, then leading Duke of Edinburgh expedition groups through to their Gold Awards. He is Shiplake's answer to Tom Cruise in "Cocktail," teetotal, but happily running "Jerry's Bar" for the staff. With his tempting specials and refurbished bar he has given staff a place to congregate and recharge their batteries.

Jeremy came to coach Rugby and that is where the man from Wanganui made his greatest impact, imparting All Blacks know-how to many junior rugby players. On the rare occasions when he had the opportunity to play, rather than coach, he demonstrated that he was Shiplake's Richie McCaw too. As a complete all-rounder, he coached hockey in his early Shiplake days, before moving down to the river. Jeremy was also a useful cricketer. Bowlers occasionally questioned his ability to cling on to a half-chance with the gloves but when it came to clubbing sixes over mid-wicket or demolishing an English cricket tea, Jeremy remained supreme.

Moving into the College House assistant flat Jeremy became a rock of support for Shane O'Brien as the Kiwi duo tried to persuade bed-bound teenagers to bring some tidiness and discipline to their lives. During the 2003 Rugby World "Kiwi Korner" provided a sanctuary for any overseas colleagues unable to cope with overwhelming English jingoism.

Jeremy is a jack-of-all trades and he taught biology, geography and sports studies, always willing to help out with field trips be it to Kenya, for the College expedition, or for Iceland for the geography department

Jeremy has decided that it is time to end the European adventure and to settle down to those basics of being near the family, having a home and a pension. "Shiplake just won't be the same without him," said one (female) colleague, rather tearfully. Nor will "Senior", Jerry's Dad, have to visit the College website daily to check on the progress of his son's facial hair.

Marie Moore

She arrived as Miss Hermel, single but engaged. Two years on she departs as Mrs Moore, married and a mother. Marie, a native French speaker, arrived to teach French and play a significant role in the College's Personal, Social and Health Education programme.

Marie's French lessons were always well prepared and she helped a number of pupils to make progress with their linguistic studies, even though they were reluctant speakers. It is a tribute to Marie's own language skills, that she was able to tackle some very delicate issues in her PSHE lessons. Her Year 10 pupils gained considerable benefits from topics which could have caused either laughter or embarrassment.



Marie immediately fitted into Shiplake's ethos of care. Within weeks of arriving at the College she organised a huge coffee morning as a part of MacMillan's nationwide initiative, raising a large sum for the charity. She also took it upon herself to be the unofficial representative for a large number of new teachers, arranging events to help them settle into the College.

When Marie arrived she endured the daily commute from St Albans but a move to Amersham did not significantly reduce her daily mileage. Now, as a busy mother, she is looking for a teaching position much closer to home.

Leavers

Matt Barrett

Not only has Matt been an inspirational teacher in his own classroom he has been a great team member too, working hard to develop geography resources and ideas. His teaching skills have proved useful beyond his own classroom. On a number of occasions he has been invited to contribute to training sessions for other teachers. With his timing, sense of humour and love of Geography he is a natural teacher and there is no doubt that he will make a superb Head of Geography at Waddesdon School near Aylesbury.

Matt made it something of a tradition that he gave an address in Chapel around Holocaust Remembrance day. His words on the horrors of the holocaust and the evils of racial prejudice will probably remain with listeners for the rest of their lives. Meticulous research and thoughtful presentation made a powerful impact.



With his own experience of boarding school, at St Edward's, Oxford, Matt had the experience to serve as a popular and sensitive tutor. As a former cox, his diminutive stature, tending to give away his position in the boat. Matt, almost hidden by layer after layer of thermals in deepest winter, spent many a fruitful hour on the Thames for the boat-club and at regattas throughout the country. When he turned out for the staff cricket and soccer teams he proved that he was a talented all-rounder.

There were times when teachers, having to undertake yet another risk assessment on their proposed school visit, failed to appreciate Matt's pioneering work as Shiplake's first Educational Visits Co-ordinator, but he completed much sterling work. Shiplake educational visits are now much more thoroughly prepared than they were three years ago.

Catharine Davison

It was Shiplake's loss that Catharine was never available to work full-time in the Art Department. But paradoxically it was Shiplake's gain too. Pupils gained immense benefits from having a practising artist on hand. Catharine was forever between exhibitions, collaborating with artists and galleries.



Many of her pupils were inspired by her approach to work. The Irish accent hinted that she loved to paint and draw coastal and elemental scenes from the Celtic fringes. Wild weather in remote places was appreciated by Laphroaig distilleries and she had a long-standing relationship with the whisky producer as their artist.

Catharine drove her pupils forward, encouraging them to have a creative but industrious approach to their work. They could observe but not stand and stare vacantly. Her enthusiasm was infectious as she explained to visitors to exhibitions just how her protégées, work had developed.

The Upper Sixth also appreciated having Catharine as a visiting tutor in College House as she was always willing to share her ideas and give her opinions. Once again Catharine has been lured away by the Celtic fringes and this time she is heading north to Edinburgh. There is no doubt that she will be inspired by the city and so will those who view the art that she produces.

Leavers

Clare Harris

"Clare has been kind, practical, funny and when needs be firm," said Charly Lowndes, Burr Housemaster, when he said farewell to Clare Harris after nearly 17 years of service.

"Some of our boys come from a long way and they have been dependent on Clare to mend a hole in their shirt or find a spare jacket. Beyond that there is a deeper sense of the emotional support too. At times Clare has taken on some of the duties of a mother too," continued Charly.

From her room in Burr, Clare has dispensed wisdom, kindness, practical support and toasties to countless Burr boys. She has worked for Andrew Smail, Andrew Cheadle and finally Charly Lowndes being utterly loyal to each of them and doing the small things that mean so much in a boarding house. Clare has always been able to rise to any challenge whether it be a flooded Burr bathroom or a visiting cricketing team requiring an assortment of whites for eleven players.

"I never thought I'd be a matron," Clare said, "It was really my friendship with Judy Smail that brought me to Shiplake and into the job. I would like to thank all the staff for their friendship over the years and for their generous gift. I'm going to put the cheque towards the cost of the parachute jump that I made. The proceeds are going towards the charity for research into recovering sight."

"Coach" Garstin

Dr Mike Garstin, often spotted at a distance due to his predilection for a collection of vibrant ties, had a fleeting but highly effective two year stay at Shiplake. With his Irish background and teaching experience in Canada he always had a fund of stories on hand. Mike enjoyed life in the Senior Common Room and was a great socialiser.



Pupils enjoyed their Chemistry lessons. Mike's warm personality and vast classroom experience, he himself learnt a lot from teaching the IB previously, made his Chemistry laboratory an exciting but calm and ordered place in which to learn and discover the subject. Similarly as a tutor Everett House benefited from his vast experience as a schoolmaster.

Brentwood School, in Essex, is keen to benefit from his bank of experience and Mike becomes their Faculty Head of Science from September 2007. He will be taking on managerial responsibility for biology, chemistry and physics, in charge of a total of 25 teachers and laboratory technicians.

Mike, who set a fine example to the boys with his high personal fitness levels, loved his time on the Shiplake Squash Courts. When he arrived a few boys played some recreational squash. Within two years he had turned them into a five capable of recording some epic victories over schools much larger than Shiplake. Enthusiastic coaching and regular matches versus the staff produced competitive and tenacious players who played the game in the same sporting spirit as "Coach Garstin".

Ann Lazur

For nine years Ann Lazur has been the voice of Shiplake College. The provider of answers for thousands of tentative enquiries, Ann has been the caring, patient and utterly professional one woman Shiplake call-centre. She has been the gatekeeper to Headmasters, protecting them from a legion of whiteboard salesmen and irate teachers who need a few hours to calm down.



Ann arrived at Shiplake with vast business experience and a desire to learn how Shiplake worked. Soon she was the expert reassuring parents that Shiplake was the right school for their son or daughter and gently explaining to others that Shiplake probably wasn't the school for them.

Ann's role as registrar grew and grew. At Open Mornings parents gravitated towards her and she joined the Shiplake College Road Show taking her wise understanding of what parents need to know out to Prep School evenings.

Meanwhile Ann became the senior figure in office administration, managing vital mailings and overseeing the College database between making coffee for an ever growing number of prospective parents visiting the College. As Ann departs for a quieter life away from ringing telephones, an avalanche of e-mails and visitors arriving an hour early or two hours late we all know that she will be a hard act to follow.

New teachers

Michelle Taft is looking forward to returning to a boarding environment when she becomes Head of English (to allow Mrs Lowri Cook to fulfil a wider role as Senior Teacher). Having spent three years reading English at Oxford, a further year taking a PGCE and two at St Edwards, Oxford, she is also looking forward to returning to Oxfordshire. Michelle is currently second in the Merchant Taylor's English department and is also busy as an assistant examiner for the OCR Board. Michelle hopes to also become involved with D of E and dance at Shiplake.

Dan Swan is making the very short journey from Reading School, where he gained seven years experience as a boarding tutor, to become Head of Physical Education at Shiplake. As a PE graduate of Brunel University, Dan enjoys playing cricket and rugby, and has been lead coach of the Berkshire U15 rugby squad for the last five years. Dan also teaches English.

Carin Erasmus joins us from Ryde High School on the Isle of Wight to teach Chemistry. Carin is widely travelled having also taught in North Carolina and South Africa, gaining experience of boarding at the Daniel Pienaar Technical High School. Her hobbies include hiking, travel and reading.

Richard Starr begins his teaching career at Shiplake in the Modern Languages department having graduated from Bradford University with a degree in French and Spanish. For his work placement Richard spent six months teaching at the Air France Language School at Charles de Gaulle Airport, Paris.

Simon Cane-Hardy joins the History department and will also play a key role in the College cricket club having been employed as a cricket professional by a prep school and having represented Sussex U21s. Simon has a history degree from Cardiff and a PGCE from Sussex University. Simon enjoys kayaking, rock climbing and trekking.

Suzanne Andrew, renews her teaching partnership with Hema Gillings, as she leaves the Licensed Victuallers' School to join Shiplake's Art Department. Suzanne has been a resident tutor at LVS and has used her creative skills to assist with choreography and costume design for musical and theatrical productions.

Sarah Stanbridge joins our Geography Department straight from completing her PGCE at Bristol University after gaining wide experience of the working world as a transport manager in Chamonix, a Personal Assistant and a Studio Manager. As an experienced rower Sarah will be an asset to the boat club and she also enjoys hockey, netball, climbing and snow boarding.

Joanne Hart joins the Physics Department as a part-time Physics teacher returning to teaching after a having gap for children. She lives at The Oratory School, Woodcote, where her husband teaches. Joanne gained her degree from Bristol University and her teaching qualification from Oxford Brookes. Her hobbies include swimming, karate, film and hand-crafts.

Simon Hedger is joining our Drama department as a part time teacher. He has enormous experience in the practical acting world as well as production management expertise. He is currently working at the Henley Festival in charge of all the 'Club Marquee' productions.

Deborah Clark, married with three children, joins the Modern Languages Department as a part-time French teacher. She lives in Henley and is leaving the Trinity School. Away from the classroom Deborah enjoys theatre, tap-dancing, wildlife and sports.

Anne White, who lives in Caversham and is married with 3 sons, joins the Learning Support Department to provide administrative support and work as a Teaching Assistant. Anne was educated at Taunton School and has extensive experience as an Administrator in a variety of organisations. Whilst working at Highdown School she gained a Higher Level Teaching Assistant qualification.





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