

# Trips

## Barcelona Art Trip

A group of thirty boys from Year 9 to Sixth Form took a trip to Spain during the first week of half-term. Only moments after arrival, the group were diligently soaking up all the sounds, smells, sights and culture of the centre of Barcelona's Gothic Quarter. They got to work immediately and each boy was soon filling his sketchbook with amazing artwork. Their itinerary included visits to the Picasso Museum, The Museum of Modern Catalan Art and The MEAM Art Exhibition. The highlight for many was visiting Montserrat which provided the boys much artistic opportunity.



## Spanish Exchange

This October half-term fifteen sixth formers, accompanied by Mr Sykes and Mr Haldane, travelled to Granada in Andalucia for a few days. They stayed with local families to improve their Spanish and enhance their understanding of the culture. Every morning they attended a language school and trips included La Alhambra, the abandoned citadel of the last Arab leader of Granada, Boabdil and the beautiful beach of Nerja. One of the highlights was the outdoor Flamenco lesson they received after their walk along the 'Ruta de Lorca'.



## European Seminar

During October half-term six Lower sixth boys and two year elevens, accompanied by Mr Donaghey, travelled to Todtmoos, Germany. The boys took part in a number of lessons in a variety of foreign language seminars alongside their German, Romanian and French counterparts. During the days they discussed the topics of 'Young people in Europe', the 'European Union' and important issues affecting us as a continent. On the third day there was a memorable trip to the neighbouring city of Freiburg. The eight students climbed the 265 steps of the gothic Cathedral before venturing round the city centre trying some local Bratwurst. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the trip and would like to thank Mr Donaghey for not only organising and supervising throughout, but also for making it such an enjoyable experience.

# Prep and Pre-Prep

## Dublin Rugby Tour

After a rather inauspicious start to the rugby calendar, boys and staff alike were hoping that this, the third Dublin Rugby Tour, would prove to be the catalyst for a more dynamic second half of the season. After daily training sessions and two fixtures the improvement seen by the staff (and the parents who supported us so brilliantly) was obvious. Tour awards went to Imran Kermalli (6CL), 'A team player of the tour', Jamanvir Kumar (6CG), 'most improved A team player', Zamaan Duhia (6FQ), 'B team player of the tour' and Arjun Parmar (6CG), 'most improved B team player'.



## Harvest Assembly

The Reverend Jan Goodair came from the Main School to the Pre-Prep in October, to hold a Harvest Assembly. Treats kindly donated by the Kingfishers' parents were distributed by the boys to local elderly residents who were all very surprised and delighted. The remaining treats will be sent to the Watford New Hope Trust.



## Chess at Pre-Prep

Pre-Prep boys are becoming increasingly interested in board games. Chess is a firm favourite, being played both inside and out, with boys teaching each other the rules. This will enable the boys to fully participate in the active Chess Club when they transfer up to the Prep.



## Hockey Tour

Over the October half-term seventeen boys under the supervision of Mr Argyle and Mr Cooper, flew to Barcelona to play in a three match tour against some of Spain's most prestigious clubs. They stayed in the Barcelona university campus, which was conveniently located for matches and training sessions. Their first game was against Club de Terrassa, who set out a team of talented youngsters, but they overcame a shock early goal to win comfortably, with Ben Lockwood scoring the pick of the goals. The next game against Illuro was more end-to-end, but again they triumphed. They were unfortunately beaten in their final game against Egara.



# Sport

## Football

HABS 1st XI were drawn with a tough away tie in the 1st round of the Boodles ISFA Cup earlier this term, and travelled down to face a highly rated Ardingly College side. HABS took the lead thanks to a stunning 30-yard volley by Jordan Nathan (U6S1), but Ardingly drew level midway through the first half. Just before half-time, Daniel Rose (U6R1) headed home an excellent cross by Captain Ned Birss (U6C2) to restore the lead, and despite being under pressure throughout the second half HABS held on for the victory. The second round match was also a tough task against King's School, Chester. Early in the second half the 1st XI found themselves 2-0 down. A cross shot from Jonny May (L6H2) reduced the deficit but HABS were unable to find the equaliser as time ran out. The squad now look forward to a pre-season tour to Greece in January before the regular season and LB Cup fixtures next term.



## Golf

HABS Golfers made a winning start in both major competitions this year. The HMC 6-man team were comfortable 3-0 victors against Merchant Taylors' at Sandy Lodge G.C. before coming unstuck against Harrow School at Hadley Wood G.C. The ISGA 3-man team are aiming to reach the National finals for the third year in a row (to be held at Royal St. Georges Golf Club in Kent) and began with an easy 3-0 win against Aldenham 'B' at Bushey Hall G.C. The team are now due to face Aldenham 'A' at Hadley Wood G.C. before the end of term.



## Swimming

HABS have continued last year's success by making a positive start to the term in the pool. This is reflected in their strong position in the Herts League after two Galas. They currently stand at first place in junior and intermediate level, and second place at senior level. There has been notable success for the junior medley relay team too, who have been ranked 3rd in their division, and 21st in the country as a whole. The squad contains a mixture of experienced seniors and upcoming talent, and with consistently dominating performances, we can expect great things this year.

## Water polo

The water polo season has once again been a successful one. The U18 team, which consists of many players in lower year groups, fought through the national league all the way up to the final. Here, they came across a very tough Manchester Grammar School, where they were unfortunately beaten. They ended as runners up - still a fantastic achievement. The depth in the water polo team is also seen with the U14 team's achievements. They, for the first time in the history of HABS, won the U14 national league with an unbeaten record. The future of the water polo at HABS is looking very bright.

## Cross Country

HABS Cross Country dominated the recent Watford and District Schools' Championships held at the Royal Masonic School, Rickmansworth. From the 6 teams entered, they won 4 trophies: Years 7, 8, 9 and 10; with individual titles for Jamie Harper (7M), Adam Shiret (8R) and Max Marmor (10H1). Ashvin Kuri (9M2) ran hard for a silver medal, while William Withyman (10C2) and Jay Kaposi (10S1) completed an inimitable HABS 1-2-3 in the year 10 age group with their silver and bronze medals. A 3rd place for the Year 11 team and valiant runs from the Sixth Formers concluded proceedings. Pupils, staff and supporters clearly all enjoyed the sometimes wet and windy experience, and the lads are now encouraged to use this momentum to train hard towards the Goater Cup, our home fixture, in January 2013.



## Cricket

This summer saw the wettest cricket season in living memory, but, despite all the problems caused by the weather, the school Cricket Club maintained its successful record, winning 67 of the 100 games that were completed. Congratulations go to the U14 side which won the Hertfordshire Schools Cup Competition and will now represent the county in the national rounds of the prestigious Lord's Taverners Competition in 2013.



During the recent October half-term break, the 1st XI squad enjoyed a tough and challenging tour to Sri Lanka. Playing against some of the best school cricketers in the world, our boys acquitted themselves well, improving with every game, and, despite defeat, will have learnt much from the experience. Many thanks must go to Dan Kerry and Doug Yeabsley for organising the tour.

## Rugby

At the time of writing, the rugby club has played 110 matches and recorded 63 wins - a good return on a challenging circuit. The U15 A team reached round 5 of the National Daily Mail Cup before coming up agonisingly short against St Pauls. In fact, the whole of the U15 rugby group require special mention. From the A team to the C team, the boys have totally immersed themselves in the sport and their commitment and no little skill has resulted in a staggering season. The 1st XV has battled against injury for much of the term but has still managed to be competitive against all opposition. The U14 and U16 squads have been the most improved groups this season. The boys have grown in physical stature and they have begun to fully appreciate the demands of the game. The U12 squads have shown much potential for the future with their blend of aggressive and fast flowing rugby. Thanks to all the coaches of the teams and the tireless ground staff for their efforts in making this rugby season so enjoyable.

## The Haberdashers' Aske's Boys' School





# Events

## Israeli Ambassador's Visit to HABS

The Israeli Ambassador, His Excellency Daniel Taub, visited the school in November. The event, which was organised by the HABS Jewish Society, was an opportunity for Ambassador Taub to visit the school in an official capacity, having attended as a pupil between 1969 and 1980 (Russells). During a speech at lunchtime, His Excellency reminisced briefly about his time at HABS and his military service as a combat medic in the Israeli Defence Force. Ambassador Taub is an expert in international law, specialising in counter-terrorism. He talked at length about his involvement in the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, helping negotiate many of the agreements reached between the two sides. He went on to serve as the principal deputy legal advisor of Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and of Israel's missions to the United Nations in New York and Geneva.



## Henderson's Festive Fun Run

Santa turned out in force this year to join the Festive Fun Run of Henderson House on behalf of Third Hope Africa, raising funds for a vocational school for ex-child soldiers. Having already raised a staggering £8,000 for this charity last year, the whole of Henderson House staggered/ran around the muddy perimeter of the school. It was not long before some were slipping over but they all regained a footing and finished the run in aid of those whom Third Hope will provide with an education. The team at the charity are greatly encouraged by their energetic enthusiasm and support.



## Visual Music Extravaganza

November saw the first Visual Music Extravaganza where the Art and Music Departments combined to provide an evening of aural and visual excellence. Ten students, drawn from the Upper and Lower Sixth, took a blank canvas and, with careful brush strokes, mixing palette and using a variety of colours, began to paint. Of course, in the two hours none of the paintings were completely finished, but it was interesting to see how the images developed over time. We clearly have some accomplished artists in our midst. At the same time twenty four musicians in Year 10 and above provided some wonderful individual musical performances and displayed the wealth of musical talent in the school. All boys performed to a high standard, but particular mention should be made of Leland Hui's (U6M1) rendition of Liszt's second Hungarian Rhapsody.

## Economists visit Credit Suisse

During half-term lower sixth economists were invited to visit Credit Suisse. Employees of Credit Suisse from different sectors of the bank spoke about their careers, the importance of internships and qualifications and the nature of their working day. Students were also given a tour of the Equities trading floor and Fixed Income floor. Questions focused on leverage finance, the workings of trades and sales, and more generally on how each team is grouped and formed to become experts in US or European issues. Not bad for students who are just six weeks into their adventures in Economics! We are very grateful to Mr Marc Pereira-Mendoza, (OH and Governor), Mr Vekaria (parent) and Mr Elliot Waxman (OH) for this fantastic opportunity.



# Music and Drama

## Autumn Music

This first musical event on this year's calendar was an introduction to the magnificent new organ. Mr Muhley provided us with a whistle stop tour through the ages and shared with us a snippet of his vast repertoire of music.



We then had our fabulous Autumn Concert which was once again a sell-out; notable highlights included the Percussion Ensemble under the direction of Jon Ormston, the larger than life Guitar Orchestra, the impressive Symphony Orchestra and The Big Band. Our Junior Concert was again another impressive display of talent, this time from some of our younger players. This featured performances from the Saxophone Ensemble, the Guitar Ensemble and an impressive violin solo from Fai Li (8S). Coming up we look forward to the Prep School's Words and Music concert and our annual Carol Concert at St Albans Cathedral.

## Doctor Faustus

The end of term saw Christopher Marlowe's most famous tragi-comedy "Doctor Faustus" performed for four nights in the Bourne Hall. Involving almost 50 boys and girls from the Middle and Senior School, audiences were by turns terrified by the spectral appearances of devils and demons rising and disappearing through the depths of the stage, and left almost helpless with laughter by the antics of the wicked Doctor as he caused mayhem in the palace of the Pope. Kurrin Pooni (L6J2) was a most chilling Mephistophilis with his cold staring blank eyes who provided an excellent foil for Harry Sammon's (L6M2) masterful Doctor Faustus, the latter's final anguished cries as he was dragged back through his collapsing study in the arms of seemingly hundreds of Satanic furies into a smoke and fire-filled hell, will long remain in the memory. All in all, a tremendous hit once again for Haberdashers' Drama department.



## Moving on from HABS

With the Class of 2012 settling into life after school, the External Relations Department spoke to one recent leaver about moving on from HABS.



Ben Peacock (Russells, 2012) left HABS for Robinson College, Cambridge, to study Geography. Whilst excited about moving on to University, Ben has spared a few thoughts about his school days. 'When you leave a place where you have grown up and made so many friends, you don't want to simply forget about it forever.' This is exactly how the HABS Community can help.

This autumn, 'Habsonline' (www.habsonline.org.uk), the school's online community was re-launched. Ben sees this as a useful tool in helping him stay in touch with friends and the school. 'The best thing about HabsOnline and the associated e-mails from the school is that they foster the sense of Old Haberdashers being welcome to return and visit. Despite the joys of university life and moving on in the world, it is good to know that I'll still occasionally be able to watch the cricket that I was so involved in during my time here and to see the old faces.'

Whilst keen to stay in touch with his school roots, Ben also appreciates how HABS has set him up for an exciting future. 'The work hard-play hard attitude I developed at HABS has so far enabled me to really enjoy my start to university. The relative independence that HABS gives to its students in learning, through experience, in how to balance a full work, social and extracurricular life has been invaluable and I look forward to meeting further exciting challenges as I move further into the adult world.'

'I fully intend to maintain links with our dynamic HABS Community in the future.'

## Staying in touch is easy

There are many ways to stay in touch with HABS. To receive invitations to events and relevant news, do make sure that we have your correct contact details. You can make updates by registering at www.habsonline.org.uk.

You can also follow us on Twitter @habsboys and become our friend on Facebook - 'The Official Haberdashers' Aske's Boys' School' or through LinkedIn.



## HabsOnline

Sign on to our upgraded HabsOnline Community for exciting career networking opportunities, reunions, photos, events and much more! Go to www.habsonline.org.uk and enter your name, date of birth and leaving year to get started.



## Calling all 1970s leavers!

HABS would like to welcome all those who left during the 1970s to a reunion event on Wednesday 13th March 2013. This will be a great opportunity to meet up with old friends and teachers, revisit some favourite sites around the school and rekindle your memories of HABS.

Old Haberdashers are invited to join us for a varied programme designed to accommodate those with a little more time to visit and those who might only like to pop in. Tours of the school at work will be on offer from 3pm with an opportunity to hear some of the school's top musicians. There will be a dinner in the early evening followed by a drinks reception hosted by the Headmaster, Peter Hamilton.

Invitations will be sent out to all leavers from the 1970s in the New Year with further details. We are keen to track down Old Haberdashers that we have lost touch with. If you can help us, please do let us know.

Photos featured: Opening of the Music School in 1975, 'Much Ado About Nothing' May 1972, Sculpture Class 1976.



# The HABS Community

## HABS Foundation Annual Appeal 2012

Patron: Michael J Cook

'It is a pleasure for me to write on behalf of the School to encourage you to remain actively involved in our vibrant HABS Community.

As you know, I retired from full-time teaching at HABS in July 2010, having joined the school as an English teacher in 1973. Amongst my many inspiring memories over those forty years, I have been consistently impressed by the warmth and goodwill that generations of Old Boys feel for each other and for the school that gave them such a wonderful start in life.

Throughout my lengthy career at HABS I have been continually aware that the school has remained a meritocracy in which boys value each other's personal, academic and extracurricular accomplishments. To ensure that this ethos survives at HABS, we should aim to ensure that any boy who could thrive at our school can do so regardless of their circumstances.

While the school provides a limited amount of bursarial support, I would like us to do more. I would urge you to consider how you might support the HABS Foundation in the future.'

Dr Peter Spence, Director of External Relations, would be happy to discuss ways in which you can support the HABS Foundation should you choose to do so. (spence\_p@habsboys.org.uk, 020 8266 1700)

# Awards and Achievements

## Russells House Charity

Team Russells welcomed Mrs Gilbert back to school to give her a cheque for over £5000. The money will be used by the charity Grief Encounter to help children who have been bereaved.



## Chess Success

Having easily won a recent event at Eton, HABS travelled to Somerset in confident mood for the prestigious Millfield international. Twelve boys ranging from Year 8 to Year 13 played consistently good chess throughout the two days of competition, achieving a winning score that was a record for the twenty seven year history of the event. In addition eight boys won board prizes - a fantastic performance that augurs well for the rest of the season.



## Kidzcare Tanzania

October saw another successful mufti day in aid of Kidzcare Tanzania. In addition, at lunchtime, boys of all years were invited to a teacher comedy show, 'Stand up to Child Poverty'. Hosted by a bow-tie-clad Mr Metcalfe, the first guest was Dr Pyburn, who brought his unique brand of 'practical' and observational comedy. This was followed by the highly anticipated Mr Wheeler, whose ramblings on the subject of Victorian literature brought much amusement to teachers and students alike. Mr Metcalfe then concluded the proceeding with a few of his own puns producing a great deal of laughter. Overall the day was a great success with a total of £1507.76 being raised for Kidzcare Tanzania.



## Top linguists receive certificates

The latest cohort of Year 11 boys to have completed our post-GCSE extension courses in French, German and Spanish received their certificates this week. The courses - accredited by the Institute of Linguists - gave the top set linguists the opportunity to tackle some demanding content (for example literature, film study, the society of the country) and exposed them to a register of language not usually encountered until the Sixth Form. Despite the challenging nature of the course and the demands of their other GCSE subjects, a record thirty one boys achieved a Distinction, the top grade. Our congratulations to Andrew Djab (L6S1), Ramana Carthigesan (L6S1), Canishk Naik (L6R1), Kush Purohit (L6C2), Harsh Prasad (L6H2), Robert Ley (L6H1), Loic Desplanques (L6R2) and Nikhil Banerjee (L6J1), pictured here with their certificates.



## Geographers win Worldwide Quiz trophy

Haberdasher Geographers are once again the proud owners of the prestigious Geographical Association Worldwide Quiz trophy. Competing in a tough and hotly contested competition of Geographical knowledge and skills against a number of leading local schools, the winning team of Boaz Halberstam (10H2), Nikhilesh Chakraborty (10J2) and James Cleaver (10M2) clinched their victory convincingly in the last round of rapid fire questions against the clock. Haberdashers' were the very first winners of this coveted trophy when the Quiz was initiated by the Geographical Association in 1985.

