

Trips

Biarritz Rugby Development Tour 2011

The U14 Rugby Tour to Biarritz enjoyed splendid weather and a bonanza of watching, playing and training for rugby in beautiful South West France. Matches against St Jean de Luz, Bayonne Lycee and a Soustons-Cap Breton selection were played with great spirit, with the boys winning two out of three matches. Activities at the beach, on the lake and in the High Ropes Course kept everyone busy. The team dinner in Biarritz was a fine occasion amongst the famous shirts on display in the Bon Coin.



HABS RN CCF Expedition

As September slipped seamlessly into October, the combined forces of the HABS CCF took advantage of some unseasonable warmth for their annual expedition to Ampthill Common. This was a most excellent camp where the cadets performed faultlessly. At a time when the wet-blanket of apathy dampens out so many opportunities for young people, it is excellent to note that at HABS in general, and in the HABS CCF in particular, the torch of adventurous training still shines brightly.



Year 9 Field Day

The Year 9's Autumn Term Field Day was based at Phasels Wood Scout Camp Site. The day proved to be a great success with staff and boys alike; the weather helped make it a pleasure to be out in the countryside.

All activities tested hand eye coordination and common sense. Behaviour was impeccable by both boys and teachers!



History Trip to Poland

During the October half-term, twenty eight students from HABS flew to south-eastern Poland. Based in Lublin and Cracow, they studied the impact of the twentieth century totalitarian regimes of Nazism and Communism on the culturally, ethnically and religiously diverse regions of Polish Galicia and the Volhyna. The boys' encounter with a reviving Jewish community in Cracow was a particular highlight. However, the long term imprint of the Holocaust is all too evident. In view of this and in order to gain a better understanding of the destruction wrought by the Nazis, our trip took us to Auschwitz-Birkenau, Belzec and Majdanek; visits which will leave lasting memories with each member of the group.



Venice Art Trip

During the first week of the October half-term the Art department took a party of twenty nine budding artists to the wonderful and magical city of Venice. With sketchbooks and cameras at the ready the party experienced an abundance of artwork at the various galleries in Venice including: The Doge's Palace, The Peggy Guggenheim Collection, The Ca' Pesaro, The Palazzo Grassi and The Biennale Art Exhibition. The trip was an outstanding success with all the students producing a range of marvellous sketchbooks. Many of these images will be used as starting points for their GCSE and A Level coursework.



Prep and Pre-Prep

The Sunday Times Prep School of the Year

HABS Prep has been awarded the prestigious title of Sunday Times Preparatory School of the Year 2011. Not only is HABS the only boys' prep school ever to have won this prize, only HABS and the City of London Girls' have won it twice. Peter Hamilton, Headmaster, commented, 'To have been awarded this title once is remarkable; to have received it twice is truly outstanding.'



Prep Rugby

Following their very successful rugby tour to Dublin during the first week of half term, the Under 11 A and B teams have returned to their domestic fixtures in fine form. The boys enjoyed convincing wins over The Catholic University school, 45-0 for the A team and 50-5 for the B team. Since being on tour they have scored over 200 points between them, without conceding a single try in their fixtures against Northwood Prep and Belmont. In the A team, special mention must go to Romeo Box Fahy (6CG), Sam Warner (6MJ) and Josh Edwards (6NB) who have developed into excellent running backs, whilst the tenacity of forwards such as Freddy Nash (6NB) has helped to secure some good possession for the team to work with. The Under 11's are on course for one of their most successful seasons for many years.



Friday Fame

The prep school has enjoyed two mornings of 'Friday Fame' so far this term. During these fun sessions, select boys are given the opportunity to showcase their individual and collective talents to the rest of the school. Alongside this, a short video of them talking about themselves and introducing their pieces, made by the talented Niall Halsall, is shown on a big screen.



Pre-Prep Donkin Cup Race

It was a delight to see the Pre-prep boys over at the Prep School in October for the annual Donkin Cup Cross Country Run. First place went to Max Nissim (ZAF) with an impressive time of 3.25 and Ashwin Kalairajah (ZHP) came in a close second. Well done to all the boys for their efforts!



Prep Art

This year the Prep school hopes to repeat their success from last winter when they swept the board at the NSPCC Craft Fair and Art Exhibition in Allum Hall. Discussing the new theme 'Happy Families' the boys were excited to realize that this was not just confined to human families but could also include such diverse ideas ranging from animals to chess pieces.

Meanwhile, Prep Senior Art Club and members of Art Workshops for Musicians are making a special banner to celebrate 50 Years of Haberdashers' at Elstree. All the clubs and sports at HABS will be represented as well as the beautiful surroundings.



Sport

Cross Country

HABS Cross Country squad have had an outstanding start to the season. The Watford and District championships were once again held at Royal Masonic School in Rickmansworth and the event got off to a great start with Adam Shiret (7R) taking Bronze in the year 7 race. Shortly after that, the outstanding year 9 team dominated their race with a crushing display of distance running. Dylan Kaye (9M2), Max Marmor (9H1) and Jay Kaposi (9S1) attacked from the start and were soon clear of the field. They stayed there until Jay was caught by a lone runner just within sight of the finish, giving them 1st, 2nd and 4th respectively. Backed up by their team mates they did of course win the team title as well.

In the senior race HABS took 2nd place in the team classification with a strong performance headed by Ed Curtis (11S2).



Cricket

The 2011 Cricket Season ended in fine style. The 1st XI enjoyed another highly successful Devon Tour, defeating Exeter School, Devon Dumplings and Devon U16s, and finished with thirteen victories overall. Congratulations must also go to the U14 and U13 squads, both of whom triumphed in the Hertfordshire Schools Cup Competitions, defeating Hitchin and Dame Alice Owen Schools in their respective finals. The U14s will now represent Hertfordshire in the national stages of the prestigious Lord's Taverners Competition next year. Captain elect Nishanth Selvarajah (U6M2) was in excellent form for Middlesex Academy and U19 sides during the summer, while Ashley Sivarajah (U6J2) performed with distinction for the U17s. Tom Colverd (11C1) achieved the notable feat of scoring two centuries for Hertfordshire U15s.



Golf

HABS Golfers have made a winning start in both major competitions this season.

The three man ISGA team travelled to Thorndon Park Golf Club in Essex on Tuesday 27th September for an ISGA round 1 tie against Brentwood School B team, with HABS looking to defend their regional title won at The Grove last season.

HABS number 1 for the day, Aidan Kovenklioglu (10J2), secured a comfortable 3&2 win in the opening match before brother Harry (U6J2) went down by the same score in the second match. Amar Vaghela (L6C2) duly secured victory with a 4&3 success in the final match.

In the opening HMC Foursomes match against Haileybury at Porters Park, lead pair William Aldred (11S2) and Ed Curtis (11S2) were a hole up coming into the final holes, but a loss at the 18th hole saw the match slip from their grasp. With Aidan Kovenklioglu and debutant Jack Myers (10S2) already sitting in the clubhouse with a comfortable 5&4 win in the bag, all hopes rested on match 3, and when Amar Vaghela and Yash Patel (11S2) both hit approaches to the 18th green it was clear their match was already concluded, with HABS the victors by 3&1. HABS can now look forward to a trip to face Berkhamsted in the next round.



Rugby

The Senior Rugby squad has enjoyed an excellent season recording seven victories from ten matches.

The season started magnificently with a convincing victory over local foes Queen Elizabeth's Boys School, Barnet. Ben Kohler (L6R1) and Robert Lynch (L6S1) controlled the game and the forwards smashed the QEB pack into submission long before the end of the game. The high point of the season to date was the victory over St Albans School, the first time in twenty seasons. The game ebbed and flowed as both teams fought for supremacy and in the end the HABS forwards produced a lineout drive of rare quality and carried the ball from the 22' over the try line. St Albans attempted a match winning drop goal with the final play of the game, however, luckily for HABS the ball sailed wide over a jubilant Mr Hamilton who was on guard at the posts. A famous win!

In the Middlesex cup the team recorded a solid win over Mill Hill to set up a final against the Rugby powerhouse that is St Benedict's, Ealing (rated the world's best Rugby School in 2008). The final was very much a game of two halves. The first half belonged to the St Benedict's backs who punished any mistake with skill, flair and precision. However, the HABS forwards began to gain dominance in the set piece and as such won the second half 10 points to 6 with an excellent try from 'captain fantastic' Lewis Stock (U6R1). The final score, 30-15 was a fair reflection of the game and the boys left the field having earned the respect of the St Benedict's team. Overall, an outstanding rugby season with a remarkable group of young men who have put the rugby club back on the map.



Keenleyside in World Cup Hockey Victory

Andrew Keenleyside, Head of Art, has recently returned from Singapore where he was part of the England Masters Hockey team who emerged victorious in the IHMA Masters tournament.



Football

For the first time ever, HABS took part in the Boodles ISFA Cup this term, the premier Cup competition for Independent Schools' Football. With a bye in the first round, the campaign eventually kicked off at home to Bedford Modern School early in October. The 1-1 score at full time led to the penalty shoot-out, and it was HABS goalkeeper Shiraj Shah (U6C2) who emerged as the hero, saving three goals before netting the winner himself to send HABS through to the third round. In the third round the visitors, Eton College, took the lead after 17 minutes and a harsh penalty against Anthony Tang (U6H2) soon afterwards doubled their lead. HABS halved the deficit on the stroke of half-time after Efe Uwaifo (L6R1) was upended, with Charlie Rubin (U6S2) sending the Eton 'keeper the wrong way from the spot. Experience told in the second half, with HABS defence being found wanting on three occasions as Eton eventually ran out deserved winners, although the 5-1 scoreline did not tell the full story.



Water polo

The water polo season has started in excellent fashion for all the teams at HABS. The under 19s and under 16s have qualified for the 2nd Round of the ESSA nationals and are working hard in preparation for the next round. The under 16s are performing well and the under 19s, under Tom Dean's (U6M1) captaincy thrashed the competition at Eton to go through in fine style. They are certainly favourites to take the title in Walsall next year.

In the Junior teams the year 7's have started well with many boys playing club polo and have shown plenty of talent in the pool. The under 14s and 13s recorded resounding victories over QEB and will come together to form a strong under 14 team. The goal is for all three age groups to qualify for the ESSA finals. Get training!

The Haberdashers' Aske's Boys' School The Sunday Times Prep School of the Year 2011



SKYLIGHT
AUTUMN 2011

Events

Remembrance Day Parade

On Friday 11th November all HABS Combined Cadet Force personnel paraded for their annual act of Remembrance. Against the backdrop of an overcast sky, Major Saddington and SSI MacPherson led the parade which placed particular emphasis on Old Haberdashers lost whilst in military service.

As our Headmaster and visiting guests placed a wreath on our war memorial, one could not help but reflect deeply both on the fragility of life and the ultimate sacrifice made by so many Old Boys whilst serving their country. It was comforting though to note that, for as long as the CCF endures, HABS will always remember them.

DT Private View

The Design Technology Department held its Private View this week, inviting parents, boys and staff to view the GCSE projects from last summer's examination cohort.

There was a tremendous turn out and the occasion was made particularly special by the fact that our guest speaker, Alex Schey (OH), brought along the electric powered car that he designed and built whilst at Imperial College and then drove it down the length of the Trans-American Highway from Alaska down to the tip of South America.

Alex gave a fascinating talk of his adventure and then gave a demonstration of the car's awesome performance outside of Aldenham House!



Monmouth Enterprise Initiative

Last month nine members of the lower sixth travelled to Haberdashers' Hall, for a lavish dinner to mark the beginning of the Monmouth Enterprise Initiative. The dinner provided an opportunity for the boys to meet important members of the profession and was attended by representatives from the other schools of the Haberdashers' Company. Sponsored this year by the Worshipful Company of Information Technologists, the initiative saw the boys taking part in a day of work experience. This allowed the boys to experience not only the IT industry, but also the atmosphere of working in the City, with companies such as Ernst and Young. The initiative was a truly memorable occasion, and offered the boys an invaluable experience of the City.

Drama and Music

Senior Play - "The Death of Chatterton"

This year's Senior production saw the world premiere of a new play written especially for the boys at HABS. Beginning in the gallery of Tate Britain at midnight, the two main protagonists of the play, a Californian student and an ageing curator, Sir Hugh, (played with extraordinary accomplishment by Justin Hornsby-Cowan and James Colenutt respectively) superbly set the scene for an evening of surprises, comic twists and academic sleuthing as Henry Wallis' famous painting, Chatterton, was brought to life in a most magical way. Noah Levy played the eponymous hero with splendid aplomb and produced almost the perfect image of Chatterton himself lying deathly and green on his day bed in a lonely garret in Holborn. For those who witnessed the opening night it really felt like we might have been present at a moment of dramatic history.

House Drama Competition

Earlier this term the Drama Studio was packed to capacity for the House Drama Competition. James Colenutt (U6M1), Faail Patel (U6M1), Rufus McAlister (11M2) and Tom Dean (U6M1) won the overall performance prize for Meadows and Justin Hornsby-Cowan (U6H2), Toby Cohen (10H2), Ross Malloy (U6H2), Glenn Edwards (L6H2) and Edward Nutting (11H2) were awarded second place for Hendersons.

Toby Cohen was awarded the best Middle School performance prize with Alex Levine (11J2) in second place and the best Senior School performance prize went to Justin Hornsby-Cowan and Richard Breistlin was awarded second place (U6C2). Congratulations must also go to Noah Levy (L6J2) who won an award for best director and Harry Kingdon (10S2) for his outstanding contribution to an improvised piece.



Autumn Music

It has been a busy term once again in the Music School. The Bourne Hall was packed to capacity on 11th October for the 50th Anniversary Autumn Concert, giving over 400 performers a chance to showcase their talents, and the whole of year 7 their first taste of music performance at HABS. For the Grand Finale, the audience joined the pupils in a rousing rendition of 'Jerusalem'. The Junior Concert, last month, provided an excellent opportunity for the younger boys to perform to an audience and demonstrate the wealth of talent they possess. This year's Carol Service took place on 8th December, when the magnificent voices of the school choir filled St Albans' Abbey and the organ sparkled, heralding the start of Christmas at HABS.



Shaun Lyon competition success

Shaun Lyon, HABS piano teacher, has been awarded the runner's up prize in the inaugural Times Christmas Carol Competition. Shaun's winning carol 'It's Almost Christmas Day' may be the highlight of HABS Carol Service 2012!



The HABS Community

50th Anniversary of HABS at Elstree Celebrations

The celebrations were launched in October 2011 with a Founder's Dinner at the Haberdashers' Company Hall in London. This enjoyable evening brought together many of those that have been instrumental over the last 50 years in making the school the success it is today. The toast to the Founder was given by Lord Brittan of Spennithorne (Strouts, 1956). Margaret Taylor, widow of the former Headmaster Dr T. W Taylor responsible for the move to Elstree, was guest of honour.

A short reception before the 50th Anniversary Autumn Concert recognised the 50th Anniversary of the Opening Ceremony and former staff and guests of the Headmaster marked the occasion with a cake and bubbly.

The school also welcomed back over 150 Old Haberdashers and former staff for the 50th Anniversary Reunion. The afternoon was a wonderful occasion with many guests enjoying the opportunity to catch up with old friends, chat with former teachers, meet the staff at the school and enjoy the talents and hospitality of the current boys.

The opening concert proved most popular with one guest commenting 'We never had a Big Band Jazz Group in our day and they were absolutely superb'. Tours of the school were led by senior boys with many guests visiting a lesson or two to chat with the boys and get a feel for what the school has become. The day finished with a final assembly and rousing rendition of 'Jerusalem' on which a guest commented, 'it brought a frisson of excitement to hear this sung in my old assembly hall and I admit it brought a tear to my eye'.



50th Anniversary Commemorative items are now available including a tie, cufflink set and HABS School and Premium Selection wines. For more information, visit the School website and look for the rosette!

50th Anniversary Annual Appeal In this celebratory year, Mrs Margaret Taylor is the Patron of our Annual Appeal. Launched this Autumn, the Appeal invites parents, Old Boys, former parents and former staff to contribute to the HABS Foundation and support the school through philanthropy.



Calling Old Haberdashers!

Reunions: Old Boys of the school are an important part of the HABS community and the school will be organising events to give Old Haberdashers the chance to catch up, exchange stories and network amongst old friends. To make sure you receive an invitation, please keep your contact details up to date with us by emailing externalrelations@habsboys.org.uk or by writing to External Relations, Haberdashers' Aske's Boys' School, Butterfly Lane, Elstree, Hertfordshire, WD6 3AF with any updates.

HABS on Facebook: For an easy way to stay in touch with HABS, join our Facebook page called 'The Official Haberdashers' Aske's Boys' School'. Here you will find snippets of news documenting the latest successes of HABS boys, articles about Old Haberdashers and notable incidents, activities and events happening around the school. www.facebook.com/habsboys

Old Haberdashers' News

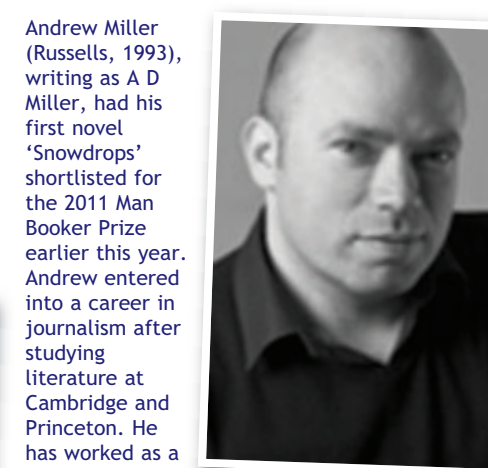
Leslie Marcus (1949) and his brother Dr Anthony Marcus (1946) reconnected with the HABS Community after responding to our 'Lost Alumni' advertisements. Les recalls an interesting Chemistry lesson from 1947 involving jelly and Anthony sent us a picture from one of his Biology classes. Recently Dr Anthony Marcus received the Life Fellowship of the American Psychiatric Association.



The 2012 Olympic Games will see three members of the HABS Community as Table Officials for the Water Polo Event. Greg Schey (Meadows, 2008), Chris Charles (Hendersons, 2005) and Trevor Hyde (Former Maths teacher) will be officiating during the tournament. Greg and Chris developed their training as officials for the sport through Mr Hyde's SCS Water Polo Sessions and whilst at HABS, went on to officiate at National and International levels.



At the time of the move in 1961, John Webb (Meadows, 1964) remembers a television crew filming at HABS for a piece for the evening regional news. 50 years on, a television crew again visited HABS but this time to film for a French programme '50 mn inside' for TF1. The clip can be viewed on The Official Haberdashers' Aske's Boys' School Facebook page.



Awards and Achievements

DOE Silver Award Expedition

Sixteen Lower 6th boys completed their Duke of Edinburgh Award under the glorious Indian Summer at the end of September. The qualifying expedition took the boys up to the Chiltern Hills, navigating through some of England's most beautiful countryside, and camping just outside the Prime Minister's residence at Chequers. On Saturday 1st October all the boys marched along the Grand Union canal to their destination at Berkhamsted with smiles (and some sore feet), having done themselves and the school proud.



Cadets win Fusiliers competition

On Sunday 9th October, a team of eight Army cadets, under the leadership of RSM Luke Iloft (U6H2), won the Annual Fusiliers Competition, held at Frimley Park, Cadet Training Centre. Last year, a team led by Under Officer Max Jenkins (OH) was placed second and Max received the award for the competition's outstanding cadet, but after some excellent individual performances, and a hard fought log race, this year's team went one further and triumphed over stiff competition to secure the winner's trophy for the first time in our history.



Cheadle Hume MUN Conference

The Autumn Term has seen continued successes in Model United Nations. At both the Cheadle Hulme and Royal Russell School conferences, HABS boys won 'Best Delegation' awards for their efforts in General Assembly and committees. Over half the delegates we sent to the conferences won an award, including some first timers! As the clock ticks down to HABSMUN 2012 in March, this could be one of the most successful MUN years for quite some time!



Debating Success

The debating squad has made a successful start to the year in winning the first competition on the calendar. Last month, a team comprised of Jack Lewy (11M2) and Kevan Bhate (11S1) won the Haberdashers' Young Parliamentarians' Debating Competition hosted at the Girls' school, in the process beating strong St Pauls Girls' and UCS teams. This achievement was followed by the success of William Thong (U6S1) and Jacob Rabinowitz (L6S2) in winning the first round of the Cambridge Schools' Debating Competition, held at QE Boys' School on Tuesday 8th November, to progress to the second round to be held early next year.



Charity Matters - KidzCare Tanzania

After last year's impressive achievement of raising over £15,000 for our school charity, the Charity Matters Committee set about finding new and imaginative ideas to inspire the students to beat last year's magnificent sum. This started with a full school Mufti Day where boys donated as much as they could to come in wearing the colours of the KidzCare Tanzania Schools.

The major event of the term has been the 'Habs v. Hadrian' challenge. A group of Year 11 boys - Rory Cartmell (11J1), Edward Curtis (11S2), Rufus McAlister (11M2), Benedict Lewry (11J1) and Cian O'Riordan (11R2) walked the full 85 mile length of Hadrian's Wall during the first week of half-term. They were sponsored by family, friends and fellow students, and the money raised will be a huge contribution to the KidzCare charity. With two more terms of fundraising still ahead of us, hopefully the school can give even more to help KidzCare Tanzania in its work of caring for and educating vulnerable children. Thank you to everyone who has contributed.



Chess medal for Ravi in Brazil

Ravi Haria (8M) competed in the Under 12 Open section of the World Youth Chess Championship, in Caldas Novas, Brazil, between 17th to 27th November. Ravi scored 7/9 in an extremely tough competition. He came joint 3rd and was awarded a medal for sixth place on tie break. The top score in his section was 7.5/9. Finishing among the top six, was a great achievement and Ravi was honoured to represent England and HABS at this event.

