



The Haberdashers' Aske's Boys' School

SKYLIGHT

SPRING 2013



Events

David Lammy visits HABS

The Rt. Hon. David Lammy, FRSA, MP for Tottenham and Minister for Higher Education 2007-2010 visited HABS in February to give a talk on 'Out of The Ashes: Britain after the Riots.' Mr Lammy spoke to the Politics Society about the social and economic problems which he thinks Britain faces today. He highlighted that he felt that 'a grand theft auto' culture towards violence was forming in the UK which was worsened by the fact that many current politicians are perceived as out of touch with the ordinary people. He believed that a government that looked more towards uniting the country such as Miliband's 'One Nation' Labour Party, was needed to help fight the problems in the UK at the moment. Furthermore, he also argued that the sense of community was in decline and that economic liberalism was harming the poorest in the UK. Mr Lammy went on to answer some thought-provoking questions asked by students.



Life Drawing Study Day

In February the Art Department ran their inaugural 'Life Drawing Study Day'. This was a one day workshop for all boys currently studying GCSE/AS and A Level from Years 10 through to 13. It was held in three sessions each one being run by a different member of the Art staff, in the Old Refectory.



Dragons' Apprentice

In January a group of six Year 12s hosted a dinner for sixty-five guests at the Indian Orchid in North Finchley. The six young men, known collectively as "Team Avengers", were led by Rohan Mandamula (L6R1) and included Canishk Naik (L6R1), Max Wilding (L6R2), Dan Daniel (L6R2), Arun Mehta (L6R1) and Xiaochan Zhang (L6R2). The Avengers have been competing in the Dragons' Apprentice, a community initiative from the Centre for Voluntary Service (CVS) St Albans and District. The competition provided the Avengers with an initial £100 and challenged them to convert this sum into as much as possible - £1000 being the target. Every penny the Avengers raised went to a charity named Home-Start. A cheque for £1,328 was presented by the Avengers on 1st February to Victoria, who received it on behalf of Home-Start.



BRIT nominee plays at HABS

In February the HABS Jewish Society held its annual Purim lunch party. The event raised more than £270 for the Jewish charity Kisharon, which provides support to people with learning difficulties and their families, and was attended by more than 160 HABS boys and girls. There was a surprise guest performance from Jewish singer and 2013 BRIT nominee Alex Clare, whose single 'Too Close' reached number 4 in the UK charts and topped charts across the rest of Europe and the USA.



Music and Drama

Spring Music

The year started with The Strings concert which featured music from our Philomusica and Symphony String Orchestra, as well as numerous solos and quartets. This was a spectacular event and showcased the infamous HABS Big Band. Other contributors include performances from the Wind Sinfonia, Concert band and Jazz band. After the half term break there was a keyboard concert featuring solos and duets from a range of students. Then we had our Annual Spring Choral and Orchestral concert. This included Mozart's Requiem performed by our Symphony orchestra, Choir and extra special soloists. The Grieg piano concerto was also performed by three of our very own HABS boys, James Herring (U6M1), Ollie Wheeler (L6M2) and Leland Hui (U6M1), supported by the Symphony Orchestra. This really was an unforgettable event.



Upcoming Drama

This year's Junior School Play is a fast moving and exotic adaptation of Shakespeare's "A Comedy Of Errors". Directed by professional director and OH, Danny Fisher, performances will be in the Drama Studio at 7.30pm on the 21st- 23rd May. Hot on its heels will be this year's Middle School Play which is a dramatization of Salman Rushdie's magical and wonderfully inventive comic tale "Haroun & The Sea Of Stories" at 7.30pm on the 2nd - 4th July. Further details about how to obtain tickets will follow!

Shaun Lyon

HABS piano teacher Shaun Lyon has won the First Observer/ Anthony Burgess Prize with his "An Unlikely Arena: New Music at the Last Night of the Proms". The judges found it to be vivid, witty and articulate. Kamila Shamsie, one of the judges, praised the work as "an intelligent and lively piece of writing, which is well informed about its subject. The author shows the push, pull and bite of the best cultural journalism."



The HABS Community

Law Gathering at Slaughter and May

Nearly one hundred people gathered at the headquarters of Slaughter and May on a January evening to participate in our school's first Law Gathering, at the kind invitation of executive partner Graham White (Hendersons, 1973).

Present were a number of 6th Form and Year 11 boys with an interest in pursuing law as a career, 'young' old boys either studying law or considering doing so upon the completion of their degrees, and a large number of practising lawyers (Old Boys and parents).

The evening began with Graham White's observations about future trends in law, after which guests went to various tables where mentors and friends waited to offer career advice. After half an hour of 'table-hopping', the career guidance part of the evening drew to a close with a short discussion by Laurence Rabinowitz QC (parent) about the high regard and international status accorded to the British legal system in general, and with some reflections on recent lawsuits involving prominent eastern Europeans. A drinks reception followed, allowing much career networking and fond reflections of Habs.

We would like to offer this opportunity for other professions and career fields. If you feel you can offer us a relevant London venue for such an event for a gathering of those in the Medical, Engineering or Finance fields, Dr Peter Spence would be delighted to hear from you.



The Parents' Social Committee Supper Quiz

Richard Carlowe (Russells, 1984) kindly acted as Quizmaster for the Parents' Social Committee Supper Quiz on 9th February 2013. Pictured here with Mrs Urban from the Committee, Richard led the field of 20 teams through over 9 rounds of quiz questions and a Bingo game. The winning team was made up of current and former staff, led by Mr MacIntosh of the PE department. The funds raised will go toward supporting the next International Cricket Tour and the boys due to benefit from the event were there to help out on the night.



Class of 2008 - Five Year Reunion

Thursday 13th June 2013
7:30 - 9:30pm at HABS

Come back to HABS and catch up with old friends and teachers and share your experiences of the last 5 years. Headmaster Peter Hamilton invites you to an evening drinks reception in the grounds of the School. Further information will be sent to you soon so please make sure your contact details and those of your friends are up to date on Habsonline.



1970s Reunion

Following the success of the 1960s decade reunion in 2011, HABS hosted a similar event for all those Old Haberdashers that left the school between 1970 and 1979. Around sixty OH returned to meet up with old friends, reminisce and look through some of the archived photos and memorabilia. The Class of 1977 was particularly well represented, and more Joblings OH attended from the decade as a whole than any other house. Current pupils took our guests on a tour of the school giving them an opportunity to revisit some of their old haunts around the Elstree site and see the changes that have taken place. A drinks reception was held in the evening after a 'school dinner' in the Bates Hall and we were joined by further guests unable to attend during the day. The Old Haberdashers were also able to catch up with some of their teachers including Mr Broderick, Mr Flashman, Mr Hayler, Mr Morrish and Mr Yeabsley.

We will be looking to host a reunion event for all those who moved on from HABS between 1980 and 1989 next year so do make sure that we have your contact details to ensure you get an invitation. Log on to www.habsonline.org.uk to check and update your information.

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.

Share your news on HabsOnline!

As our online community is becoming increasingly popular, why not post significant events in your life (graduation, awards, engagements, weddings, et al) to share with your old school friends.

To do this, simply log on to www.habsonline.org.uk and then select Community and then Announcement!

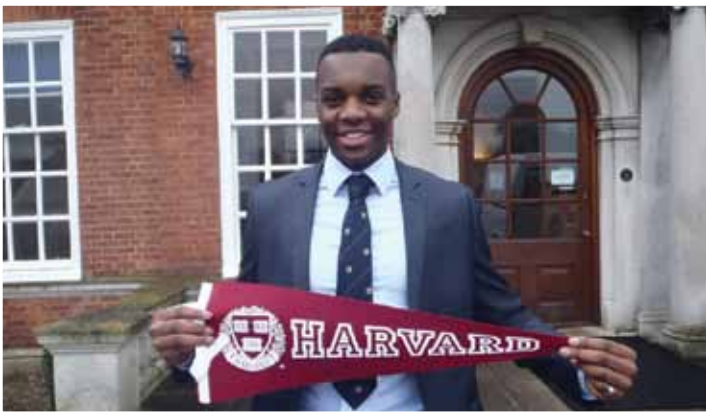


Awards and Achievements



London Youth Games 2013

Amaan Lakhani (8R) qualified for the London Youth Games 2013 playing cricket for Harrow Borough. Amaan was selected from a group of 60 boys to form a team for the competition. They have now reached the finals and will be playing at Lords on 3rd March 2013. Amaan took 4 wickets in the semi-final and was pivotal in their victory. Amaan also plays for Eastcote U13A and Hertfordshire Area.



Efe secures place at Harvard

Efe Uwaifo (U6R1) will be the first HABS boy ever to go to Harvard. For Efe, currently the National Under 20 Long Jump Champion and previously the National Under 17 Triple Jump Champion, the year-round sports facilities and competition available at Harvard made it particularly attractive. Efe was offered an unconditional place as an Economics Major in October and will be going to Harvard this September, benefiting from the university's generous financial aid programme.

Harris wins County Cricket Batting award

Ian Harris (10R2) received the Herts County Cricket Association Under 14 Batting award (2012 season) at the recent HCCA AGM. The picture shows Ian collecting the award from Mark Illott.



Economics Success

When the London School of Economics announced its annual Policy Challenge essay competition, Anand Patel (L6M1) responded with an investigation into the question of 'Is it Time to get Serious About Taxing the Rich?' His answer impressed the judges enormously and secured for Anand the First Prize. Anand has now been invited to present his essay at an LSE conference that has in the past hosted such prestigious guests as the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Director of the IFS. It will also be included in the LSE's own magazine, 'Rationale'.

Public Speaking Success

In January, the Year 11 Public Speaking Team comprising of Marcus Rapacioli (11J1) in the Chair, Harry Kingdon (11S2) as Questioner and Chris Combemale (11J2) as Speaker convincingly won the Hertfordshire title against strong competition on the controversial topic 'All Forms of Religion are Harmful'. The team gave an outstanding performance which we hope will be replicated in the South East England round of the competition at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge on 9th March.



Shooting

Ben Lockwood (U6M2) has reached the final of the BSSRA Association Cup - Individual National Cup. In round two he came 7th in the country with an average of 96.7 which will earn him a national medal and a place in the final. If he continues to shoot at this level he will get a place in the England A team.

Dash-to-HABS

At the end of the autumn term, 15 boys from Year 11 set out to achieve the common goal of completing an event that would raise as much money as possible for our school charity KidzCare Tanzania. They undertook this challenge on a plethora of transport methods, including kick-scooters, shopping trolleys and blindfolded walking. Each from their own starting point, ranging from Wimbledon Tennis Court to Highgate Cemetery, they started the monumental challenges that they had set themselves: to arrive back at school unscathed in time to celebrate with pizzas at Dr Craig's house. It was a challenging but successful day and the boys hope to have raised a good amount of money which will all be put to very good use in Tanzania.



Trips

Football Tour to Greece

The Football tour to Greece returned home on 8th January having secured three impressive wins against strong opposition. Based at Sportcamp Loutraki, the 16 man squad played their first match against A.O. Loutraki, securing a 1-0 victory. The following day saw training drills put into practice in the evening kick-off against A.O. Corinth, with HABS running out comfortable 5-1 victors. Match 3 saw the team pitted against an Olympiakos Academy Under 17 side, and after visiting the Olympic stadium in Athens and the Olympiakos stadium in nearby Piraeus, HABS proceeded to outclass their opponents in every department.



America Trip

During half term, a group of twenty-eight sixth-form History and Politics students undertook a six-day trip to Washington DC and New York. In Washington the group were able to see many of the famous sites of the United States' capital. An undoubted highlight was the Lincoln Memorial where Dr Martin Luther King Jr. gave his legendary "I have a Dream" speech. The group moved on to Gettysburg, site of the most bloody battle of the US Civil War. The final leg of the trip was New York City, with the group staying in the heart of Manhattan just a short walk from Times Square.

Year 9 Language Day

A group of ten year 9 boys travelled to Cambridge to take part in a languages day along with pupils from some Haberdashers' partner schools. The event was held at Sidney Sussex College and the pupils enjoyed a varied programme of talks from staff and students about university life and studying languages as well as a master class on European film from a university professor. The day also included a tour of the college in the sunshine, a splendid lunch in the college hall and a tour of two other colleges lead by two Old Haberdashers now studying languages at Cambridge. A thought-provoking and enjoyable time was had by all.



Year 4 Trip

Year 4 visited St Albans Cathedral where they learnt how to write like a monk. They also dressed up as pilgrims from the 11th century.

Senior School Ski Trip

The Ski Trip is always a highlight of the school year and this term's trip to Tignes was no exception. The combination of good snow, fantastic weather and an expansive resort set up a brilliant week of skiing. Many thanks must go to all the staff, who through their good humour and dubious skiing ability, made the trip.



Prep and Pre-Prep

Pre-Prep first steps in surgery careers

The boys in 1VP of the Pre-Prep school were given a fascinating talk by transplant surgeon, Mr Jeremy Crane, father of Daniel Margo-Crane (1VP). The boys discovered where various organs in the body were located and impressed Mr Crane with their knowledge and enthusiasm!



Willow Dome

The Prep School boys helped to construct a dome made out of willow, which will eventually serve as an outdoor learning area. They also learnt about how wood from different types of trees can be used in a variety of ways, especially in arts and crafts! This Willow Dome has been constructed as a living memorial to the late Simon Boyes, former Second Master. The site is deliberately placed between the schools to reflect Simon's contribution to both Prep and Main School.



Pre-Prep artist wins signed football

Jay Maden (2AF) entered an art competition and managed to win a signed football by Chelsea football player, David Luiz.



Sport

Cross-Country

HABS cross-country suffered from many cancellations due to the snow, but this failed to cool the enthusiasm of the team. Training across snow covered pitches, or up Elstree Hill, the athletes battled the elements to improve their fitness. Despite the inclement weather, two competitions were held - the IAPS Regional Championships and the Herts Schools' Championships. In the former, the U13s qualified for the next round, while the U11s wait to hear results from other matches. In the latter, Jamie Harper (7M) was the stand out performer, comfortably winning the pre-Junior race. Strong runs from the remaining pre-Juniors, Juniors and Inters also saw the remaining HABS runners well-placed in the top quality fields. Bring on the summer athletics season!



Football

With the majority of the side playing their second season of 1st XI Football, there is considerable optimism for this season. The weather has disrupted the LB Cup fixtures, but a win against Berkhamsted should secure qualification from the group. Good wins over St Edmunds and Bedford mean the side can be confident going in to the second half of term. Ned Birss (U6C2) has led the side by example, and is finding the net on a regular basis, while Rob Lynch (U6S1), Jordan Nathan (U6S1) and Marc Rister (U6S2) have formed the backbone of a successful side. The strength in depth of the squad has meant a similar start by the 2nd XI, while the 3rd XI have struggled to find consistency due to injuries and snow bound pitches. The U16 sides have again flourished in the two fixtures played so far, both with 100% winning records. More success will undoubtedly follow after half-term.



Hockey

Hockey this year has been exceptionally busy. The strength of the club continues to grow as evidenced by a genuine 3rd XI and also new fixtures for the U13C and D teams as well as hockey introduced for the first time at year 7. The youngest teams (U12 and U13's) have been playing some impressive hockey. The 1st XI progressed to the East Regional Knockouts for the third year in a row and the U16A's were knocked out at the semi-final stage through an unfortunate own goal. The U14's found the beginning of the season tough going but a 5-5 draw with Dr Challoners has seen a confidence return to the squad and they backed up this win with a 4-1 victory over Haileybury. This year also sees the introduction of the first ever Friday night game with both the 1st XI and 2nd XI competing in the Kukri Cup with Merchant Taylors.



Swimming

HABS has had a most productive season so far, with the possibility of winning the local league across the age-groups still a target. The policy of squad rotation has been effective, and there is an edge that teams from the past have lacked. With the refrain 'every swim's a win', HABS have enthusiastically taken to the water and on several occasions we have seen our competitive athletes swimming above their age-group and performing excellently. With the Chung brothers providing a youthful spark, the Intermediate team recording consistent victories and the tactical genius of captain Adrian Schindler (U6C1), there is still all to swim for in this last term. It is small wonder that opposition schools are left repeating our mantra: 'HABS put the 'winning' in 'swimming''. If the level of commitment and prowess displayed so far this year is shown in the last few galas, there is every reason to be proud of our efforts and achievements, and of the tremendous base we have to work from next year.

ISGA Golfers progress to Regional final

HABS progressed into the regional final for a third successive year with a hard-fought success over Aldenham School at Hadley Wood. Will Aldred (L6S2) began well, winning the opening two holes, but was pegged back by the turn, only finally securing the match by winning holes 16 and 17. Aidan Kovenklioglu (11J2) found himself 4 down midway through the front 9, but fought his way back, and a valuable birdie 3 on the 16th gave him the lead for the first time as he held on to take the crucial second and winning point. Amar Vaghela (U6C2) took his match all the way to the 18th green but came up just short in a defeat by one hole. HABS now face St Albans in the regional final, with the winners set to travel to Royal St Georges Golf Club in April for the National finals.

Athletics

Three Habs athletes competed in major events on the Athletics calendar recently. Efe Uwaifo (U6R1) triple jumped to another age group title at the U20 National Indoor Championships in Birmingham's National Indoor Arena whilst Jamie Harper (7M) and Adam Shiret (8R) braved the cold and snow at the National Cross Country Championships in Sunderland.

Jamie Harper and Adam Shiret both representing Shaftesbury Barnet Harriers negotiated the snow-covered course of just over 3000 meters to help their club secure 3rd team spot in the Cross Country championships. Jamie's run was absolutely outstanding as he finished in 7th place individually. Adam Shiret continues to improve and in finishing 56th in a time of 12.35 he was the 4th scorer for the successful Shaftesbury team.



Water-Polo

This term has seen the success of HABS water-polo continue with aplomb. Both the U16 and U18 sides have qualified for the National Finals, the U15's have qualified for the finals of the Schools League with an 100% record, and the juniors are making great strides. The U14 have the national semi-finals approaching and if they qualify this will be a HABS first in having all three age groups into the finals. Next term the U14's will start their campaign for the Schools League title as we chase yet more silverware for HABS aquatics!

