



The Haberdashers' Aske's Boys' School

# SKYLIGHT

SUMMER 2013





# Trips

## Munich Exchange

The exchange, now celebrating its 30th anniversary, was an incredible experience full of excitement, kindness and friendship. Twenty-nine Middle School Germanists were given a warm welcome by their host families. They had a guided tour of the city centre, spent a day at their partner's school, visited the beautiful town of Salzburg, toured the impressive Allianz arena, home of the European football champions, and admired one of King Ludwig's castles, situated on an island on a beautiful lake. The boys interacted well with their exchange partners and made the most of the cultural opportunities offered to them as well as improving their language skills. Equally important, their conduct throughout the trip was impeccable. We are looking forward to welcoming the Munich party when they make their return visit, and hope that we can extend the same warm hospitality to our guests during their stay here.



## Valencia Trip

During the Easter holidays, a group of eighteen Year ten Spanish students, led by Mr Sykes and Ms Von Truchsess, undertook a six-day trip to Valencia. Each day, from 9:30 until 1:30 they had intensive lessons where they practised their Spanish speaking and learnt new tenses. In the afternoons, they went on various trips around the city. They were shown the cathedral and the tower in the city centre, visited 'El Museo Taurino' where they found out about the history of bullfighting in Valencia and watched a fantastic dolphin show at Oceanogràfic. They also went to see 'El Museo Fallero' where they kept all the spectacular and interesting Fallas, figurines that are saved from the fire during the festival, ranging back 80 years.



## Classics Trip

April 2nd - 6th saw this year's Classics Trip kick off, an excursion that would take the 20-strong group of boys to York, Chester and Newcastle, visiting famous sites like Hadrian's Wall and the Roman ruins at the historic town of Vindolanda on their way. Some highlights were visiting the Jorvik Viking Centre and the Roman Army Museum and museum at Vindolanda.

For the thrill seekers in the group, Alton Towers and York Dungeons were definitive highlights. The group even more readily awaits next year's tour, which will take our budding Classicists to Italy, visiting Pompeii and Herculaneum. Details of this much-anticipated trip are coming your way soon! *Hic est optime!*



## Year 7 History Trip

Fifty-one Year 7 boys went off to France in June to see the sites associated with one of their main History topics, the Hundred Years War. The boys saw many interesting places, including the battlefields at Crecy and Agincourt, the magnificent chateau at Rambures and the incredible "Underground City" at Naours. The guides were full of fascinating information making the history come alive for the boys. Of course, it was the chance to be away together that they enjoyed most, closely followed by Blackadder, singing on the coach and, of course, the chance to buy dangerous medieval weapons.



# Prep and Pre-Prep

## Roald Dahl

In May, Year 1 boys went on a visit to the Roald Dahl Children's Gallery in Aylesbury. The boys gained a better understanding of an author's life and how he wrote his stories. They took part in 2 action packed workshops and even made their own BFG dream bottles.



## Visit by Lord Pannick

Lord Pannick visited the boys in 1NP to give them a flavour of life as a member of the House of Lords. Lord Pannick showed the boys various pictures of his work including the State Opening of Parliament by the Queen. The boys were eager to discuss with Lord Pannick all the different traditions of the House of Lords and thoroughly enjoyed his enlightening talk.



## Year 4 Windsor Castle Trip

The first place the Year 4's visited at Windsor Castle was the beautiful St George's chapel. From there they went to Queen Mary's dolls' house. Later in the day they looked around the King's Chamber and the buildings surrounding it and finally the moat room where the boys were told about the history of the castle, previous attacks and how it was defended.





# Sport

## Athletics

For the third time in the last four years both the U14 and U16 athletics teams have secured a place in the National Final of the ESAA Track and Field Cup due to take place at the Gateshead International stadium later on June 29th. In a competition that attracts entries from all areas of the country, both teams qualified through the County round and then through a very tough Regional final held at Lea Valley on June 17th.

Further success occurred at the Watford & District Athletics championships on Wednesday 26th June with HABS Boys winning a record number of Gold medals - 17 in total. In an outstanding performance by all athletes, both the Year 8 and Year 10 teams won their respective age groups convincingly, with the Year 7 squad coming a very close second (by one point) and the Year 9 team gaining third. As a result the HABS teams gained the overall trophy for first place to regain the shield they lost last year!



## 1st XI win LB Cup in shoot-out drama

HABS Football squad won the LB Cup early in May in a dramatic penalty shoot-out at Underhill Stadium, Barnet.



## Golfers win ISGA National title

HABS ISGA Gold team travelled to Kent in April for the ISGA National Championship finals to be held over the links at Princes Gold Club and Royal St Georges Gold Club. It was a great team effort from William Aldred (L6S2), Aidan Kovenklioglu (11J2) and Amar Vaghela (U6C2) and they finished with a team total of 301, 2 strokes clear of the field. Congratulations to William who finished in third place in the individual competition.



## Water Polo

On May 11th the U14 water polo team played in the national finals, in Walsall. Their first game was against King Edward School. This was going to be a tough game as they had previously played them and had lost 4-1. After a closely contested game, they managed to come out with a 4-4 draw. After only a one match rest the team played Trinity College but unfortunately they lost that game 8-2. KES then beat Trinity meaning that they were in the 5th and 6th playoff. After playing well they got the win that we wanted with a 6-2 victory. The team has trained very hard this season and thoroughly deserve their place as 5th best team in the country.

## HABS win Herts County Doubles Championships

HABS are currently U14 and U18 champions after some inspiring tennis earlier this term. At senior level, Joe Gold (U6H2) and Ed Curtis (L6S2) overcame an excellent St Albans pair in the final in a thrilling 7-5 victory. At U14 level, first pair James O'Brien (9R) and Vishaal Patel (9S) faced our second pair Adam Vaughan (9H) and Josh Sassoon (9C) in the final and it couldn't have been closer with James and Vishaal just shading it 7-6. The U15 team have qualified for the semi-finals of the Aegon County Schools Team Tennis competition. Captain Aaron Goldberg (10C2) has teamed up successfully with Year 9 students Adam Vaughan, James O'Brien and Vishaal Patel. In the Year 7 Doubles tournament at HABS, Freddy Nash (7M) and Sam Warner (7C) beat pairs from Aldenham and St Albans then overcame a strong challenge from Jack Miller (7C) and Ben Schwarzmann (7R) in another all HABS final.



## Cricket

A young, inexperienced 1st XI has struggled to find its best form consistently and results to date have been largely disappointing. However, in the last game before the half term break the team did manage to record a fifth successive victory against St Albans. Captain Tom Colverd (L6C1) has led from the front, scoring 353 runs at an average of 44.1 while seamers Ishaan Patel (L6J2) and Khalil Osman (U6R2), with 10 and 12 wickets respectively, are currently the leading bowlers. Off-spinner Charlie Mack (10J1), in his first season at this level, has bowled consistently well and all-rounder Will Wright (L6R1) has also featured strongly, notably when becoming the first HABS batsman since 1969 to score a century against the MCC! Results for other senior sides have also been mixed, as has availability, but, on a positive note, Ben Kohler's (U6R1) century for the 2nd XI against QE Barnet was well deserved. Other players worthy of mention are batsman Jordan Urban (9H2) (394 runs at an average of 78.8) and bowler Rahil Sharma (9H1) (22 wickets), who have both been in good form for the U14A's. At the junior end, the U13A and U12A sides have made promising starts while our B and C teams at all levels have again demonstrated the strength in depth of HABS cricket.



Cricket Club Results 2013

| Team     | P   | W  | D | L  | A/C |
|----------|-----|----|---|----|-----|
| 1st XI   | 9   | 3  | 1 | 5  | 2   |
| A XI     | 1   | 1  | 0 | 0  | 0   |
| 2nd XI   | 8   | 4  | 0 | 4  | 0   |
| 3rd XI   | 6   | 3  | 0 | 3  | 4   |
| 4th XI   | 2   | 0  | 0 | 2  | 0   |
| 5th XI   | 1   | 1  | 0 | 0  | 0   |
| U15A     | 11  | 5  | 0 | 6  | 2   |
| U15B     | 8   | 5  | 0 | 3  | 1   |
| U15C     | 4   | 3  | 0 | 1  | 0   |
| U14A     | 9   | 4  | 1 | 4  | 2   |
| U14B     | 6   | 4  | 0 | 2  | 2   |
| U14C     | 3   | 3  | 0 | 0  | 0   |
| U13A     | 9   | 8  | 0 | 1  | 1   |
| U13B     | 6   | 5  | 0 | 1  | 0   |
| U13C     | 4   | 3  | 0 | 1  | 0   |
| U13Tour  | 3   | 3  | 0 | 0  | 0   |
| U13/U12  | 0   | 0  | 0 | 0  | 0   |
| U12A     | 8   | 7  | 0 | 1  | 1   |
| U12B     | 4   | 3  | 0 | 1  | 1   |
| U12C     | 4   | 4  | 0 | 0  | 0   |
| Staff XI | 1   | 1  | 0 | 0  | 0   |
| Totals   | 107 | 70 | 2 | 35 | 16  |

# Events

## Parent Workshop

In May, thirteen brave Year 7 parents volunteered to spend the morning in the Design and Technology workshops making a practical project. The initiative, which the DT department staff organised, was aimed at providing parents with an opportunity to experience the challenges and technical processes that their boys face when tackling their own Design and Technology projects within their DT classes. As well as providing a hands-on experience using a number of different machines the parents were able to learn a variety of Computer Aided Design and Computer Aided manufacturing techniques. By the end of the morning each parent had completed their ultra-modern photo stand.



## HABS Art Show

In May, the HABS Art department held the Private View for the GCSE and A Level Art Show - On display was the wide range of Art work from forty budding young artists. Each student had their own individual exhibition show-casing their Art course work and final the examination piece, featuring a rich variety of media; including drawing, painting, prints, mixed media and ceramics. The special guest was the acclaimed portrait painter Nicola Green (who produced a series of paintings and prints featuring Barack Obama in an exhibition titled 'In Seven Days' at the Walker Gallery). She spoke with real passion about the importance of Art and also about the very impressive Art work produced by the students, she then presented a number of prizes. The highlight of the show is probably the marvellous work by Timothy Duschenes (U6J1) who has produced some stunning images.



## Year 7 Family History projects

A large group of guests joined the History Department in May to see a display of Year 7 Family History Projects. Earlier in the year, the boys from all six Houses interviewed a family member about an event they had witnessed or an historical experience they had lived through. The boys then used those interviews to produce engaging displays about a piece of their own Family History. One parent said "I really enjoyed looking at and reading the superb projects. There were memories from almost every part of the globe".



## Visit by local MP James Clappison

The Politics Society welcomed James Clappison, local MP for Hertsmere, to HABS in April. He offered an insight into his life as an MP and the stresses of the job. Pupils asked him challenging questions on Europe, the economy and the voting system and he seemed delighted to see such enthusiasm for politics at HABS. The event was a great success and the Politics Society look forward to welcoming more speakers and politicians to talk at HABS.



# Music and Drama

## Summer Music

A highlight of this term was the Summer concert which took place at the start of May. The weather stayed bright and we enjoyed a variety of musical talent from across all year groups. Highlights of the evening included performances from the Big Band featuring a stunning vocal solo by Ellie Bignall from the Girls school. Another fantastic performance was from the Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Mr Muhley who performed Chabrier's España and Ballet music from 'Rosamunde' by Schubert. Another musical event this term was the Guitar and Percussion concert. This was a very entertaining concert and included the magnificent Guitar Orchestra and impressive Senior Percussion Ensemble. To conclude the summer term we had our annual HABS Young Musician of the Year. 'Noah Max (9H2) was crowned 'HABS Young Musician' and Bruce Parris (9M2) was awarded the audience prize. The inaugural House Music Shield went to Hendersons.



## Drama

Nearly thirty Junior boys helped to create the exotic and fast-moving spectacle that was "The Comedy of Errors" under the professional direction of Old Haberdasher, Danny Fisher. The sight of two sets of identical twins dashing from one end of the Drama Studio to another, their fezzes flying, was hilariously realised! In the penultimate week of term, the Middle School presented a dramatization of Salman Rushdie's "Haroun and The Sea of Stories". A splendid cast worked tirelessly over the preceding weeks to ensure this was a slick and highly imaginative ensemble production with everyone involved onstage for most of the performance, effortlessly recreating the fantastical locations and events of these magical tales for its audience. Much congratulation must go to Dawn Morris-Wolffe and Tom Eyre-Maunsell for their tireless direction. Meanwhile, alongside initial preparations for the Senior House Drama competition, auditions have also taken place this term for the next Senior Play which is to be George Farquhar's rip-roaring farce "The Recruiting Officer".





# The HABS Community

## Class of 2008, 5 Year Reunion

Thursday 13th June saw the first of our 5 Year Reunions take place. Over 50 Old Haberdashers that left the school in 2008 came back to HABS to catch up, reminisce and meet some of their teachers. The event had a lovely atmosphere with many of the guests really pleased to see old friends and share their stories from their university days and the last few years. Dr Spence hosted the evening and introduced the former School Captain, Alex Petrides, who gave a short speech to the group. Some of the guests had submitted some of their fondest memories of HABS ahead of the event and these were displayed on the evening, giving many opportunities to remember particular lessons, incidents, trips and activities, often with great hilarity. The evening was finished off with a few brave souls trying out the Headmaster's Chair on stage in the Bourne Hall. Many thanks go to Alex Petrides and Duncan Jenkins for helping to promote the event on Facebook. Photographs from the Reunion are available on [habsonline.org.uk](http://habsonline.org.uk)

During the next academic year we will be hosting another 5 Year Reunion, this time for the Class of 2009. Keep a look out for further details and do make sure we have your up to date contact details, particularly your email addresses.



## Calling all HABS Leavers from the 1980s!

Following the success of our 60s and 70s Reunions, we will be hosting the third in our series of decade reunions for those that left the school in the summer of 1980 through to the summer of 1989 during the next academic year. Please do keep us up to date with your contact details so that we can invite you to these types of event and please do spread the word amongst your old HABS friends and brothers.



## Involving the parents of Year 8 in the HABS Community

This year, HABS has welcomed the parents of our Year 8 boys to events offering them both informative sessions and social gatherings. Mrs Bardou, Head of Junior School, and Mrs Lyons, Director of Personalised Learning, hosted a 'Study Skills' evening offering advice to parents on how they can support their son's studies at home to make the best of their HABS education. Subject specialist teachers were on hand to explain the specific strategies and skills required in their discipline and an outline of the exam system was also given. Many parents found this beneficial and an excellent opportunity to find out more about how HABS boys are expected to study both in school and at home.

Mrs Bardou, aided by the Housemasters and their teams, has also hosted a series of 'Summer Parents' Teas' where the parents of Year 8 boys were invited to come for tea and a chat. This provided a friendly opportunity for parents to catch up with each other and the staff of their respective Houses in a relaxed environment, appreciating all that their sons had achieved to date and looking to the future.



## 'The Aske Report' - newsletter of The HABS Foundation

The Aske Report 2013, the newsletter of the HABS Foundation which has raised approximately £4.5 million in gifts and pledges over the past five years has been sent to every member of the school community. Nearly all the funds given and pledged are directed to the provision of Foundation Scholarships, which offer not only fee remission but also subsidise lunches, coaches, uniforms, etc., so that no recipient will feel disadvantaged. These funds will be exhausted over time as recipients progress through the school. These and other uses of the gifts received over the past year are detailed in the Aske Report. All gifts go to the ends specified by the donors, supported by a strict 'Code of Ethics' endorsed by the Trustees.



## Stay in touch with HABS

Online Community - [www.habsonline.org.uk](http://www.habsonline.org.uk)

Facebook - The Official Haberdashers' Aske's Boys' School

Twitter - @habsboys

LinkedIn - Haberdashers' Aske's Alumni



# Awards and Achievements

## Junior Schools' Challenge

Junior Schools' Challenge team won the national final competition in June. This is a national general knowledge competition based on the format of University Challenge, open to boys in Years 7 and 8. After beating Aldwickbury School, Dr Challenor's, the Dragon School, Oxford and Boston Grammar School, Lincolnshire in earlier rounds, the boys progressed to the national finals. They beat Carre's Grammar Lincolnshire, in the Quarter finals, Torquay Grammar in the Semis and the Perse School, Cambridge in the final. This was a truly outstanding achievement, particularly as it is the first time that they have entered the competition at Junior level, and given that all four boys are in Year 7, whereas the competition is open to Years 7 and 8.



## More swimming success for Cheng twins

Felix (7C) and Thomas Cheng (7H) competed in the London Regional swimming championships at Crystal Palace over the first 2 weekends in June. They won a total of 6 Golds, 1 Silver and 2 Bronze. Thomas became Regional champion in 200m backstroke. Felix is Regional champion in 100m butterfly, 200m butterfly, 200m freestyle, 200m and 400m Individual Medley, also breaking the regional records of 100m butterfly, 200m butterfly and 200m Individual Medley. Counting all events, Felix was 1st and Thomas 4th overall at the Regional level. Thomas has now qualified for 6 events and Felix 8 events for the ASA National Age Group Swimming Championships which will take place in Sheffield during the last week of July, competing against the best swimmers in the country.



## Informatics Olympiad representative

Congratulations to Saravanan Sathyanandha (U6C2) who is the first boy from HABS to represent Great Britain at the International Olympiad in Informatics. Saravanan is one of the top four finalists selected to travel to the 2013 International Olympiad, hosted by Australia in Brisbane from the 6-13th July. The British Informatics competition, hosted at Trinity College, Cambridge and sponsored by Microsoft Studios, is open to all students in full-time pre-university education in mainland Britain. He now has the possibility of helping the British team win a medal and will enjoy VIP treatment; getting to socialise with the contestants from over eighty different countries who take part.

## Poetry Recitation

Some two hundred and fifty boys memorized poems and recited them in class at the end of last term as part of the early stages of this year's Poetry Recitation Competition. Of those who then progressed to the Heats stage, just twelve boys were selected for the Final, which took place in Aldenham House on Monday 29th April. This year's judge, the Revd. Dr. Malcolm Guite, is an Old Haberdasher whose love of poetry owes something to the likes of Messrs. Fitch and Hanbridge, who, as his English teachers here at Elstree, nurtured in him an appreciation which has since borne fruit in his own published collections of poetry such as *Sounding the Seasons* (2012), his work as a singer-songwriter, and in his academic publishing, such as his chapter in the *Cambridge Companion to C.S. Lewis*, writing on Lewis's poetic output. The eventual winners were Sameer Aiyar-Majeed (7M), Jack Ronayne (8C) and Bilal Hasna (9C1).



## Judo Bronze for Goodkind in Holland

Max Goodkind (7M) went to Holland in June with the England team and represented his country for the first time since joining the squad. The competition is one of Europe's most prestigious events, with the very best judoka travelling from far and wide to take part. Max performed brilliantly and defeated Russian, Israeli, French, Dutch and Belgian boys to take a bronze medal in his category. It was a particularly tough event (hence the war wounds on his face!) and is his biggest achievement to date. The School are extremely proud of his progress and wish him every success in the future!



## Efe Uwaifo

Efe Uwaifo (U6R1) won the UK Athletics U20 championships at Bedford in June and in doing so jumped a new personal best in the Triple Jump and a European Junior Qualifying mark of 15.55m. This ranks him 6th in Europe heading to the European Junior championships which will be held in Rieti later this summer. Efe is in his final year at HABS, he currently heads the UK Junior ranking list and has an impressive number of national titles to his name, winning his first back in 2009 as an U15 in the English Schools Triple Jump. He has been the school's most successful athlete in recent years and we will wish him well as he relocates to Harvard in September to continue his studies. Efe said "As my HABS career comes to an end, I'd just like to say thank you to the school, I definitely would not be here without its help. HABS has really nurtured my love for sport and some of my best sporting memories include those ESAA Track and Field Cup rounds. I hope the school continues to inspire others as it has me".

