

MCS NEWS

MICHAELMAS TERM 2012



In the LIMELIGHT



THE END OF TRINITY TERM SAW AN EXTRAORDINARY AND VARIED DISPLAY OF TALENTS WITH THE FOURTH ANNUAL MCS ARTS FESTIVAL.

Drama abounded. *Aeneid: The Journey* took centre stage as MCS's first appearance at the Oxford Playhouse in an adaptation by RSC Associate Joanne Pearce. 'This was an epic journey indeed... well acted, and staged with often gobsmacking flair and imagination,' said *The Oxford Times*. Pinter's *Party Time* was performed at the Burton Taylor Studio and then at the Edinburgh Fringe to sell-out audiences. The entire Junior School – along with some staff and Senior School pupils – wowed audiences with *Oliver!* Others explored the theme of love in *Love in Five Acts* and in Alfred de Musset's *On ne Badine pas avec l'Amour* (performed in French).

Speakers included Lord Robert Winston, Lady Antonia Fraser, Gyles Brandreth, Ed Smith and Anne Fine. There was an exhibition of art works by current and former pupils as well as 'MCS Filmmakers' at the Ultimate Picture Palace. Musicians opened the festival at the Sheldonian Theatre, performing with Sir John Lubbock and the Orchestra of St John.

The Festival culminated in style with the Lashings World XI playing the MCS 1st XI and a Select XI, captained by Head of Cricket John Crawley. The Lashings line-up included Gordon Greenidge, Mohammad Akram, Wasim Jaffer and – of course – MCS's own Phil DeFreitas amongst many others. 'It was a terrific day' said the voice of the BBC's *Test Match Special*, Henry Blofeld, who commented on the games with Lashings player Henry Olonga. In all, the event raised more than £11,000 for local charity Helen & Douglas House.





EXAM RESULTS

2012 saw yet another set of outstanding A-Level and GCSE results. 85.8% of A-Levels were A*-A grades, 35.6% A*s. 32 pupils won Oxbridge places and over 93% of pupils gained places at Russell Group universities. More than 87% of pupils made their first choice of university. At GCSE 92.9% of the year group attained A* or A grades, with almost half of the year group gaining 8 A*s or more.



JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee was marked in style with a tree-planting ceremony, barbecue, games and races on School Field, as well as a cake competition, which resulted in some splendid creations.



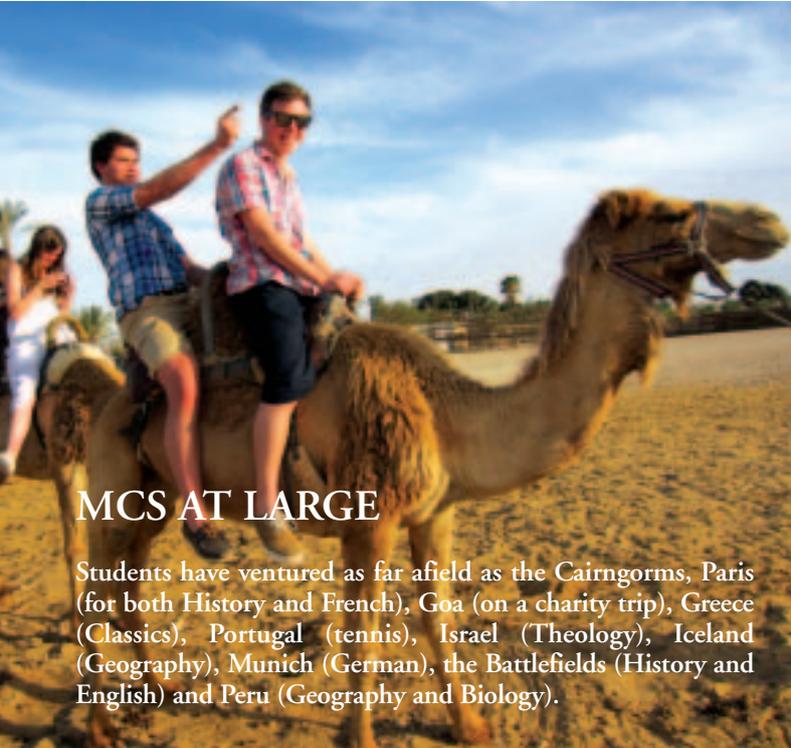
ROWAN MEETS ROWAN: Archbishop of Canterbury visits MCS

Dr Rowan Williams visited the school in January, speaking impromptu at Chapel on the reading for the day. He was then interviewed by his namesake, Second Former Rowan Williams, discussing a variety of issues, from family opinions on messy hair to women bishops.



PUSHING THE BOAT OUT

MCS sailors celebrated yet another outstanding season on the water. The first VI won the South East Regional, the Midlands and the Southern Regional Team Racing Championships. The second VI, snapping at their heels, came second in the South East and Midlands competitions and third in the Southern. The team followed this by taking first, second and joint third places at the Itchenor Schools National Fleet Racing Championships, making MCS National champions. Success followed them to the Schools National Team Racing Championships at the end of term where the 1st VI retained their status as national champions, and the 2nd VI took second place. The team celebrated their successes of 2011 in style in Hilary term with a dinner aboard HMS *Warrior*.



MCS AT LARGE

Students have ventured as far afield as the Cairngorms, Paris (for both History and French), Goa (on a charity trip), Greece (Classics), Portugal (tennis), Israel (Theology), Iceland (Geography), Munich (German), the Battlefields (History and English) and Peru (Geography and Biology).



TREADING THE BOARDS

The MCS Drama Academy performed *Our School by the River* in the Burton Taylor Studio at the start of Hilary term. MCS/OP Associate Director Ellen Harvard directed a cast ranging from Lower Fourth to Upper Sixth in a production of Pirandello's *Six Characters in Search of an Author*. And a talented group of Sixth Form students, again in the Burton Taylor Studio, explored Ibsen's darkest work, *Ghosts*, with costumes provided by the Royal National Theatre and an evocative sound design of discordant jazz music.

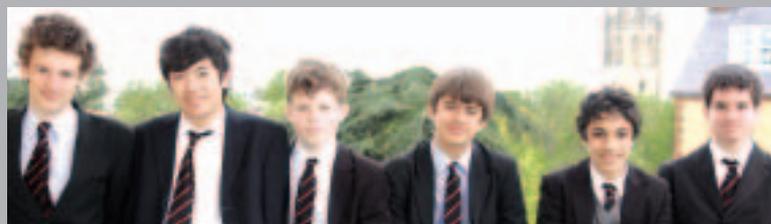


WORLD PREMIÈRE

The Hilary term Sheldonian Concert contained a broad repertoire. The Second Form gave the world première of an inspirational commission by Alexander L'Estrange – a setting of Roger McGough's *The Fight of the Year* – with huge panache and enthusiasm. This contemporary work was in a programme that included Handel's *Messiah*, Gounod's *Petite Symphonie* and Beethoven's *Fifth Symphony*.

MATHEMATICAL CHALLENGES

MCS teams competed in the final of the Maths UK Trust National Challenge (coming 4th out of 1,500 entries) and in the Oxfordshire Further Maths Support Programme Year 10 Competition (which they won). 17 pupils qualified for the Intermediate Maths Olympiad, with medals going to Filipp Lavrantiev, Stephen Jones, Alex Gunasekera, Oskar Williams, Michael Cui and Freddie Illingworth.



UP & RUNNING

Building works have finished to the new Sports Extension. The Geography Department has three new classrooms and our Maintenance Team has a workshop! The most exciting addition has been the multi-function room – The Studio – which provides seating for up to 200 and with its sprung floor can be used for a wide range of activities from dance to table tennis and fencing.



SMASHING PLAY

MCS reached the Regional Finals of the National Schools Championships as U14 Oxfordshire Badminton Champions. The team consisted of Yiran Ji, Jack Bancroft, Oscar Tait and Charlie Shan.





FROM THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

2012 has been an exciting year so far in the Development Office. We've been delighted with the number of OWs who have attended events, such as the OW Dinner at St John's College in March, and the professional networking dinners for lawyers and medics at Magdalen College.

In August, we were pleased to welcome Annika Sweeney to the office as our new Development Officer. Nikki joins us from an international school in Spain and brings a wealth of office and school experience to us.

At the time of writing, our Annual Fund Telethon is nearing completion. Over a year in the planning, this two-week campaign has seen 14 recent leavers telephoning around 2000 current parents and Old Waynfletes, to invite them to support the school's bursary fund and other development projects. If you have received a call, I do hope you enjoyed the experience. Thank you in advance for your support.

As always, please do get in touch with your news, and let us know if you happen to be in Oxford. You can be sure of a warm welcome back at MCS.

Best wishes,
SALIMA VIRJI – HEAD OF DEVELOPMENT



DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Telethon



The 2012 Telethon callers by the original MCS building from 1480

September 2012 has seen the launch of an exciting new venture for MCS. In order to help increase the funds available for bursaries and school development projects, the school has begun an Annual Fund, which has been launched with a two-week telephone fundraising campaign. 14 OWs from the Classes of 2012, 2011 and 2010 have set up camp across the bridge at Magdalen College, and have been enjoying conversations with current parents, and with OWs from around the world.

At the time of printing, and with three days of calling still to go, our intrepid 'Team Telethon' has helped raise over £138,000 for the new Annual Fund. To all our supporters, a heartfelt thank you. We look forward to reporting the final total on the website and in the next newsletter.

Commemoration Day

Thank you to all of you who braved the appalling weather and turned out to fly the flag for the Old Waynfletes on Commemoration Day in July. Despite the monsoon conditions, the OW tent was bustling with activity all afternoon (the free champagne might have helped).



The Archives Roadshow, featuring a special exhibition about former Master Bob Stanier, seemed to touch a chord with many OWs. Put Saturday 6th July 2013 in your diary now – we're keeping our fingers crossed for a sunny day.

OW University Links

Choosing your university and degree course is not always an easy decision. To help our sixth formers make the most informed choices possible, we are asking recent leavers whether they would be willing to offer advice to current sixth formers – the sort of information you won't necessarily find in a prospectus. Over 60 young OWs have already offered help – thank you!

If you left MCS within the last five years and are keen to help, please go to www.mcsoxford.org/universityinfo

Leave a Legacy

Once you have made provision for family and other loved ones in your will, please consider leaving a legacy to MCS. Legacies have always been an important part of the distinguished tradition of benefaction which has underpinned the school's success. All bequests will go towards ensuring that MCS can continue to offer the very best in education to future generations of pupils. Please contact Brett in the Development Office for a confidential discussion (bdegaynesford@mcsoxford.org; 01865 253499).

OW NEWS

Rugby



Former Head of School Sam Bourke (2011) captained an OW side to second place in the 16th Cronk-Cunis National U21 Festival for XV's of Schools' Old Boys.

This is the UK's biggest one-day adult 15-a-side rugby festival, with 800 players in 75 games of 30 minutes each. This was the first time an OW side had participated.

In the semi-finals, the OWs defeated defending champions Peter Symonds College. The final drew the OWs against Tonbridge. The Old Waynfletes fought hard against what was a very imposing opposition. According to the competition's official press release, "first-time entrants Magdalen College School, Oxford...performed magnificently to reach the final." Alan Cooper and Bill Morris, President of the OW Club, were there to support.

Lashings World XI



OWs turned out in force to take on the Lashings World XI, playing for John Crawley's Select XI on the Sunday after Commemoration. A rematch is promised next summer and we will publish the date in the Hilary Newsletter.



News, Notes and Networking

Enclosed with this newsletter is the News, Notes and Networking update form for submissions for the 2013 edition of *The Bridge*, the magazine for Old Waynfletes and friends of MCS. Please return it to the Development Office as soon as you can.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Charles Gmelin - Britain's First Olympian



As Olympic fever gripped the nation this summer, MCS was in the unique position of boasting the very first British Olympic athlete and medallist as an alumnus.

Born in 1872 in Krishnagar, Bengal, India, Charles Gmelin joined Magdalen College School in September 1887.

Charles was an excellent sportsman and captained the MCS cricket side. He also played for Oxfordshire at football, being a regular at Oxford City FC. There are records of him rowing and playing hockey for the school, but it was on the athletic field that he gained his greatest successes. He was best over the sprint distances, but in 1889 he won both the Mile and the Ladies' Plate - the school Victor Ludorum. In 1890 the Lily reported of Charles: "He ran the Open 100yds in 10 4/5 seconds, a performance that, given his age, was exceptionally brilliant."

He won a scholarship to Keble College, Oxford, to read Modern History. In 1896 a call went out to universities that competitors were needed for a new athletic competition devised by Pierre de Coubertin, recreating the legendary Olympic Games. It was on 6th April 1896 that Charles Gmelin found himself in Athens at the start line of the 100 metres. It was the first heat of the first event of the Modern Olympics, and lining up with the Old Waynflete were four others. Finishing third meant he would not progress to the final. However, he had become Britain's first Olympic athlete.

Disappointed, he immediately entered the 400 metres, finishing second in the heats and qualifying for the final. The two Americans, Burke and Jamieson, proved too quick for Charles, but he beat the German, Fritz Hofmann, to finish in third place and is officially recognised as Britain's first Olympic medal winner. Sadly he had nothing to show for it; in these Olympics silver medals were given to winners and bronze medals to those in second place - gold medals being thought too ostentatious.

Charles went on to take Holy Orders and teach, becoming the Headmaster of Freshfields School in Oxford whose pupils were mainly from overseas. He married Hester Royds, but they did not have children. He died on October 12th 1950, aged 78, in Cowley Road Hospital.

Save the Date

VETERAN OLD WAYNFLETES' LUNCH
12 NOON, SATURDAY 1ST DECEMBER

MAGDALEN COLLEGE
SCHOOL DINING ROOM

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICES
6PM & 8PM, TUESDAY 11TH DECEMBER

MAGDALEN
COLLEGE CHAPEL

OW CHRISTMAS DRINKS
DECEMBER, DATE & TIME TBC

ANGEL & GREYHOUND,
ST CLEMENTS



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@OldWaynfletes for the latest
OW and Development news.

DEVELOPMENT OFFICE CONTACT INFORMATION

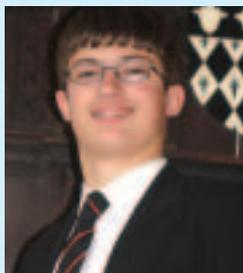
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In Full Flow

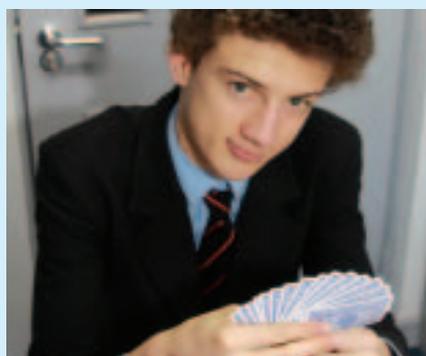
Edmund Garnett, Barney Shekleton and Sam Deans took part in the National Finals of the ESU Public Speaking Competition. All three boys emerged as overall winners in a competition involving 360 schools. Edmund won the individual Best Speaker prize, earning a place in the 2013 International Public Speaking championships.



In the Past

Adam Rebick took part in the national final of the Great History Debate as well as entering the Vellacott Essay Prize, for which he received one of five Highly Commended accolades.

In Spades



Alongside his Maths achievements (first in the country in the Year 11 Maths Olympiad), Freddie Illingworth played Bridge for the national U20 team at the World Youth Team Championships in Tai Cang City, China, as well as tournaments in Amsterdam, Dublin and Utrecht.

In the Finals

Fifth Form band 'Lest we Forget' (Jack Henry Norris, Jamie McIntyre, Harry Lingard-Bright and Fergus Taylor) battled their way through to the finals of the national 'Live and Unsigned' competition at the O2 in London, playing on stage there in July.



In the Groove

An MCS jazz group (James Graham, Gail Tasker, Theo Dale and Jake Stern) took part in the Jazz Factor competition – part of Oxford's Jazz Festival. They narrowly missed a prize for best band, but Jake Stern was awarded the prize for best instrumentalist.



In the Saddle

Tom Gould and his pony 'Brandy' gained first place in the Dressage Grade V event at the RDA Southern Regional Show in May. They went on to win the RDA National Junior Grade V Dressage title in the National Championship in July as well as second place in the Senior (Adults) competition.

Extra-curricular achievements have been widespread. Amongst them are...

In Uniform



Congratulations to Dominic Bourke and Daniel Hamill who have both been awarded prestigious Sixth Form Army scholarships. Only 100 are awarded nationally each year.



In the Running

William Sweetenham won the Junior Oxford Town and Gown race held in May.

In Harmony

Several MCS chamber groups entered the South East Schools' Chamber Competition, and the quartet of Stefan Lacny, Kate Apley, Dominic Henry and Aparna Clarke were selected to perform in the Final Concert at St John's Smith Square.



In Sync

Lucy Harry rowed for Wales in the Home Countries International Regatta, both in a pair (coming 4th) and in the eight (finishing 3rd) – the best performance by the Welsh girls' team yet.



MAGDALEN COLLEGE SCHOOL
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