Contents

04 Foreword
05 Staff List
06 Reaching Out
08 Farewells
11 New Staff & New Arrivals
12 Speech Day
14 Prize Winners
15 U6 Achievements & Appointments
16 Known Leavers' Destinations
17 Prior Celebrates A Level Results
18 Class of 2014
20 Religious Life
22 Pioneers and Pilgrims
24 A Double Cause in Romania
27 Academic Life
30 F3 Salts' Chemistry Festival
31 Royal Society Partnership Grant
32 Dance Showcase
34 Lourdes
36 Opportunities Abound
39 Model United Nations
40 Debating
42 All the Colours of the World
44 Operation Wallacea
46 Ralph Allen Memorial Lecture Series
48 Charities Week
49 The Development Office
50 Artwork
54 Art Dept Films
56 Design & Technology
60 Bugsy Malone Baines Musical
62 Boarding Life
64 Skern Lodge
66 The White Devil
68 Ghosts
70 Women at War
72 Crazy For You
74 Noye's Fludde
76 Midsomer Norton Charity Concert
77 The 2014 Grand Leavers' Concert
78 Band Night
79 House Music
80 Choral Society Concert
81 Big Band Party On
82 Masterclass Series
84 Worcester Cathedral
85 Mid-Somerset Festival Successes
86 Age Shall Not Weary Them
88 Saturday Active
89 Library News
90 Duke of Edinburgh
92 Combined Cadet Force
94 Bormio Ski Trip
96 New York
98 Equestrian Highlights
99 Sports Day
102 Rugby
104 Girls' Hockey
106 Netball
108 Boys' Hockey
110 Cricket
112 Girls' Tennis
113 Boys' Tennis
114 Golf at Prior Park
115 Fisher Road Relay

Acknowledgements

Editor: Joanna Kearney
Graphic Design: Lindsey Orr
Cover photo: Stephen Shepherd
General photography: Stephen Shepherd, Carole Laverick,
Simon Howe, Sean Dorey and
Sixth Form photographers, Joanna
Kearney, Lindsey Orr, Sarah Warren
Art and DT photography: David Wood, Kim Underwood, Kate
Bond, Dan Moore, Lindsey Orr

Prior Park College Educational Trust

President: His Eminence Cardinal
C Murphy-O'Connor STL, PhL
Patrons: The Rt Rev D R Lang, Bishop
of Clifton BA
Miss J Bisgood CBE
Mr C J B Davy CB
Mr D R Hayes
Sister J Livesey CJ, MA
Mr F J F Lyons KSG
Sir Cameron Mackintosh
The Rt Hon the Lord Patten
of Barnes CHE PC
The Rev Monsignor Canon RJ
Twomey VF

Governors:

Commodore C B York FCMI, Royal Navy,
(Chair of Governors)
Mr A Bury MBA, BSc (Hons)
Mr S Eliot MA (Cantab)
Mrs N Freeman BA (Hons), MA, PGCE
Mr A H King
Mrs A Lloyd MA (Ed), CertEd, LGSM
Dr F D Lyons BA, CTA (Fellow)
Father W Moulding PhB, BSc, MTh, OSM
Mr P S J O'Donogue MA, FCA
Mrs P Pearson BA (Hons), PGCE
Rear Admiral N J Baby OBE, MSc
Mrs M Rae MSc, PH, Dip Ed, FPFP, FRPH
Ms A Shepherd MBE, BA Hons
Mr J Shinkwin MA (Oxon), PGCE
Mr P Vaughan-Powler BA Hons
Mr J Webster BA, BArch, MCD, RIBA, MRTPI

Clerk to the Governors:

Mr A McNiff LLB, FCA

Printed on FSC certified paper, using
fully sustainable, vegetable-oil-based
inks, power from 100% renewable
resources and waterless printing
technology. Print production systems
registered to ISO 14001, ISO 9001,
EMAS standards and over 97% of
waste is recycled.
Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature. Mortals look on the outward appearance but the Lord looks on the Heart.

1 Samuel
Staff List

Headmaster
Mr J Murphy-O’Connor MA (Oxon)

Deputy Headmaster
Mr D G Clarke BSc

Academic Deputy Head
Mr T J Simons BSc, BA

Assistant Head Teaching & Learning
Ms S C Forsawh BSc

Assistant Head Co-Curricular
Ms L K Blake BSc

Director of Communications
Mrs J Kearney BA

Chaplain
Rev’d Father Malcolm Smeaton BSc

Foundation Business Director
Mr A McNiff LR, FCA

Common Room

Mr M Blackley MA (Oxon)
Ms L Blake BA (Swansea)
Mrs K Bond BSc (Loughborough)
Mr M Bond BSc (Bath & Royal Marines)
Mr J Bonny BA (Wolverhampton)
Mr S Burt BSc (Reading)
Mrs C Byron BSc (Cardiff)
Mr S Capon BEd (Exeter)
Mr K Chard BSc (Leeds)
Mr D Clarke BSc (Bradford)
Mr E Clements BA, MSc (Staffs, London)
Mrs L Collison BA, MSc (Staffs, London)
Miss A Colquhoun MA (Oxford)
Mrs W Cornish BEd AMEA (Bristol)
Ms H Cox BA Dip, BSA (Birmingham)
Miss C Cummins MA (Oxon)
Miss A Davidson BSc, MSc (Bath)
Miss L Dawson BSc (Sheffield)
Mrs J Devine BA (Leeds, HNCM)
Mr S Dorey BSc (Bath)
Ms C Duque Medina BA, MA (Spain)
Mrs J Eatwell BSc (Bath)
Mrs J Farrant MA (Cambridge)
Mr R Fisher MA (Oxon)
Mrs C Ford BA, Dip CG (Hull & Reading)
Mrs S Forsawh BSc (Brunel)
Mrs R Fox BA, MPhil (Birmingham)
Mr R Francis BA (Bath)
Dr M French MSci, PhD (Bristol)
Mr J Fry BA (Bristol)

Mrs E Garside BA (Exeter)
Mrs C Giles BA, MA (Bath)
Mrs H Goodman BA (Newcastle)
Mr A Haines BA (Wales)
Mr A Hall BSc (Exeter)
Miss P Haynes BSc (Swansea)
Mrs S Hearne MA (Oxon)
Ms A Heighway MA (Hoochampton)
Miss C Hughes BA, MA (Exeter)
Mrs J Jones BSc (Belfast)

Ms L Justine (Resanon)
Mrs E Kneechtli BSc, MSc (Bristol)
Mr M Knights (Royal Marines)
Mr D Langley BA (Manchester)
Mr D Lee BA (London)
Mrs A Mallon MA (Edinburgh)
Mr D Maxwell BA (London)
Miss V McConaghy BA, MA, PhD (Hull)
Mrs M McManus BSc (Bradford)
Mrs K Parker BSc (Wales)
Mrs S Peacock BSc (Hull)
Miss T Penfold BA (Loughborough)
Mr J Penrose BA (Bath)
Mrs C Pepler BA (Reading)
Mrs H Prynne MA (Oxon)
Mrs L Redman BA (Loughborough)
Dr K Rix BA, MSc, MPhil, (London)
Dr C Roberts BA, PhD (Harrow, Bath)
Mr R Robertson MA, MSc (Cambridge)
Mr D Sackett BA (Bath)
Mrs C Saunders-Prouse BA, MA (Bath)
Mr B Scott BA (Bath)
Mr V Shannon BSc (London)
Miss H Sheepy BA (UEA)
Mr T Simon BSc, BA (Birmingham)
Mrs L Smith BA, MA (Lancaster)
Dr G Smith BA, PhD (Leeds & OU)
Mrs A Spelman BA, BSc (Birmingham)
Mr P Stroud BA, BSc, UCL, Surrey

Mrs K Trot BSc (Bristol)
Dr R Trot BSc, PhD (Newcastle, Reading)
Ms N Thomas BA, (Exeter)
Mrs P Vowles BA, MA (Leeds, Canterbury)
Mrs E West BA, MA (Bath)
Miss M Whatmough BA (Nottingham)
Miss C Williams BA, MSc (Surrey)
Mr D Wood BA, MA (Edinburgh)
Miss L Young BSc, MSc (Cardiff)

French Assistant
Science, Head of IT
Rugby Coach, Roche Housemaster
Director of Drama
Philosophy
Modern Languages, Fielding
Housen mistress
Head of Theology
Geography
Head of English
Biology, Science, ITT Co-ordinator
Mathematics
Design & Technology
Drama
Head of Design & Technology
French, Spanish
Classics
Chemistry, Science
German
Director of Music
Music, Music Technology
English, Baines Housemistress
Art, Photography
Physics, Burton Housemaster
History
Academic Deputy Head,
Mathematics
Librarian
Chemistry, Clifford Housemaster
English
Head of English as an Additional Language
Biology, Games
Head of Science, Head of Biology,
O, C Army Section CCF
Learning Development Programme
Modern Languages
Art, DT, LDP
French, Russian
Head of Girls’ Games, Sports Studies
Head of Art
Mathematics, Head of Sixth Form
(Pastoral)

Medical Centre

Dr Imogen Batterham MBBS
MRCGP, DRCOG
School Medical Officer

Mrs Frances Whittington RGN
Resident Medical Sister

Ms Susan Josiah RGN
Medical Sister
REACHING OUT

Mr Michael King

The new Chair of Governors, Michael King, describes one of his hopes for the Prior Foundation in the coming years.

What is the purpose of the schools within The Prior Foundation? Preparation for life? Certainly not for exam grades or particular universities, though these are necessary milestones for entry into certain careers. I believe that we want school leavers to be rounded people with values rather than dogma, and a desire to use their talents in whatever way to make the world a better place. Leavers this year were greatly inspired by Camilla Batmangelidjh of Kids Company who asked them to do just that.

We will happily be opening the Sports Centre in the coming academic year and there are movements in the Arts provision and eventually the Sixth Form, following the Space Audit. However, although there are undoubtedly improvements to be made in the facilities of all our schools, my main goal will be the creation of a serious bursary fund, partly from surplus income and partly through fundraising, to help us widen the access to the Foundation’s schools. We must reach out into the wider community and welcome people into our community who would not otherwise know us.

There are convincing reasons why we must do this. First, our values: As a Catholic foundation we want to ensure our offer is available to as many who would benefit as possible, whether or not parents can pay full fees - a theme returned to by Camilla Batmangelidjh when she challenged all of us, particularly the pupils, to think of children who live in homes where there is little encouragement to work, nowhere to sleep and even danger from their own parents.

Second, self-preservation: Many friends of mine who may have educated their own children in independent schools do not have in their own families’ offspring who will necessarily be able to fund the next generation through independent schools without serious help, possibly from grandparents. We all know of schools which have been closing in the recent economic cycle. Our alumni are our first and natural future parents - I sense that many will need substantial help if they wish their children to enjoy what they experienced at our schools.

Third – charity or not? Debate on whether independent schools are genuinely charitable has not gone away – many people have their own definition of charity and often private schools are not included unless they are ostensibly free. The Labour Party is consulting on the charity sector and doubtless the definition of charity will be revisited, irrespective of whether they want to have a go at independent education.

Our three schools will develop to respond to the constant changes in education and in the needs of society and this will require careful planning and funding, but our core Christian values will remain at the heart of the Prior Foundation.
Farewells

Michael King

The incoming Chair of Governors, Mr Michael King, farewells the outgoing Chair, Commodore Chris York RN.

Quiet, gentle and self-effacing are all adjectives one could attach to Chris’s name, but he has a backbone of steel and he has been a tower of strength in the development of the Foundation after the departure of Sister Jane Livesey, His naval training and experience as Captain of the Naval Base at Rosyth and Commodore, Naval Ship Acceptance in Bath, then his work as CEO for the Apostleship of the Sea doubtless prepared him well for the job. I know he works very hard for his local Deanery. He also chaired the committee which approved the name of the Navy’s latest aircraft carrier, HMS Queen Elizabeth – not perhaps the hardest job he has undertaken!

Not long after taking over from Jane Livesey, we did have a little local difficulty in the Foundation’s administration and I was personally impressed by Chris’s quiet resolve to deal with the problem as quickly as possible and, as a consequence, to put in place some necessary changes in the Foundation’s leadership team.

As the Headmaster alluded to at this year’s Prize Giving, Chris has been much given to acronyms. Indeed, he can take credit for the following: Involvement in enhancing TPF (The Prior Foundation); Creating the PLT (Prior Leadership Team); Appointing Head at TPS (that’s Andrew Harvey); Appointing the FBD (Foundation Business Director).

As if it wasn’t enough to have paid an enormous sum to Prior in school fees for his children, his contributions on the Governing Board, including insisting on the need for laying out strategies and policies for the Foundation and for our schools, are endless and he will be long remembered here with affection. I thank his wife Sue so much for lending him to us and I thank Chris for all he has done.

Denis Clarke

Steve Capon is a consummate schoolmaster and he demonstrated this throughout eleven fruitful years at Prior Park College in a range of roles. He offered calm experience, a measured approach to every situation, plus commitment and unstinting industry as Director of Sport, Head of Physical Education, Assistant Housemaster and classroom Teacher. His ability to give simple and direct answers to apparently complex problems illustrated his honesty and dependability, but also his shrewd insight and grasp of both situations and human dynamics. Steve was a great unifying force in the school, listening carefully to pupils and staff, and always acting to secure their welfare and progress. His humility, quiet good sense and gentle humour underpin a deep professionalism instilled at St Luke’s, Exeter and developed through a dedicated career at four schools.

A gifted sportsman, notably in rugby and cricket, Steve exuded a love of all sports and a wish to give opportunities to all, reforming the PE curriculum to augment the range of sports experienced by pupils. Steve wanted every child to achieve what they could, giving chances for those who could excel and those who could find a level to enjoy. He was also committed to co-educational parity, working very hard in the Department to ensure that all boys and girls were attracted to a dimension of sport, with the Annual Sports Dinner reflecting his view that sport should mark the contribution of all Upper Sixth in a co-educational setting celebrating all levels of ability. He worked hard to expand PE staffing and to weld the team into a harmonious group that served the pupils at Prior Park College and also offered outreach opportunities to local schools. In addition, he contributed to the long planning process for the sports centre and is delighted to see it come to fruition, albeit as he heads overseas for a further challenge.

Pastoral work was a major concern for Steve and it is no surprise that his next post is as a Housemaster. He gained huge experience in this realm when at Prior, augmenting his Head of Year experience from the Ridings School with roles in Raines House, Roche House and Allen House (where he became Assistant Housemaster). He enjoyed the company of the students and took a keen interest in them and their families, helping to create a sense of community and care. His innate kindness was evident to the pupils, who also appreciated his sense of order and quiet control of all situations. He was a massively reassuring presence to both pupils and his colleagues, with a readiness to listen and capacity to offer wise advice. He gave a stability and sense of perspective that proved great strengths to any House team.

Steve’s zest for life was clear in all that he did and even saw him competing in the charity singing competition Staff in Your Eyes and featuring in the Choral Society Concert – an event Steve cites as a highlight of his time at Prior, but which also illustrates the willingness to take opportunities and to engage with new experiences that he conveyed to the pupils. His excellent rugby refereeing was brought to a halt by the cumulative impact of ankle injuries, but his fairness as an official was noted by all and typified his wider approach. His final forays on to the cricket field at Prior in June 2014 saw rich tributes for his contribution, not least in the rapid acceptance of all invitations to play in the SJ Capon XI versus the Prior Park Alumni, and a reminder of his prowess as a player and a leader.

We wish Steve, Louise and Evan all good fortune as they go to launch a boarding house in a new school in Malaysia, knowing that Steve has all the qualities to be a fine Housemaster and that he has amassed a huge fund of experience yet remains receptive to new insights.

Mr Jan Bonney

Jan Bonney has only been here a year, but I would like to thank him for his all
efforts and hard work. Jan came from a professional rugby background with Saracens and, before that, London Irish. This was clearly evident from the start and I really enjoyed working with him in the rugby season where he had an effortless manner with all ages and abilities, combined with a real, in-depth knowledge of the game.

In the PE Department, Jan used his wide sporting knowledge to inspire pupils in many sports, including basketball and tennis, where he led the very successful boys’ teams through the Summer Term.

In other areas of the school, Jan was a valued tutor in Burton House and a lively member of the Common Room. We wish him all the best for the future.

MR EAMONN CLEMENTS

Jon Fry

Quiet, to the point, economical with his words and very nice when you get to know him, Eamonn is something of an enigma, but having worked with him closely for six years I would like to reveal something of the man behind the mask. In every way Eamonn has been an unsung superhero of Prior Park College – a rugby referee, a cricket umpire, a boarding house tutor, a teacher of economics and business studies, a head of department, a social network guru, an examiner, a publican, a father, husband and, in the students eyes, a Prior legend. In many ways the epitome of an independent school teacher, Eamonn is multi-skilled and totally committed to the students, while he goes about his business without any fuss or noise.

Eamonn is undoubtedly a man of hidden depths and the still waters run very deep. When Eamonn says something you know it is going to be worth saying.

Before arriving at Prior, Eamonn had been a head of department in three South American countries, Head of Sixth Form in Sri Lanka, an overseas volunteer in Africa, an entrepreneur, a radio DJ, and apparently, although this has not been fully verified, a Mexican wrestler.

From my research, I discovered that Eamonn has worked in some of the most unstable hotspots around the world – Sri Lanka, Columbia, Mexico, Argentina, Kenya and Luton. It is perhaps no coincidence that these places have enjoyed a period of great economic and political stability whilst Eamonn was in residence. Coincidence? I’m not so sure!

Eamonn is in fact known as the bullet man (el hombre bala)! Not because of his physical resemblance to a bullet, nor because of his love for South American dance music, but because, like a bullet, he has travelled great distances to be deeply embedded in the life of Prior and has definitely left a mark.

We offer Eamonn our sincere thanks for everything he has done for the college and the students, and we hope that he, Elsa, Franklin and Wilfred will be really happy in their new venture.

MR JAMES GRAHAM-BROWN

David Longley

James Graham-Brown joined Prior in 2010 to introduce the LAMDA scripted monologue and duologue awards. After three successful years, he offered to take over from Mrs Sarah Peacock when she announced she would be taking maternity leave. I was personally delighted and surprised. Delighted because I have known Jim for fifteen years and the idea of this charming and gifted man becoming a more full time part of the department was wonderful; but surprised as these were meant to be happy retirement years for Jim. But you see, that’s the thing about the creative types. They always want to be creating. And so it was that within a year of working full-time within the department, Jim wrote and directed two plays, produced three more, and assisted in the delivery of a full dramatic curriculum. On top of all this, he helped with audition pieces, was a Baines House tutor and was a warm and much valued part of the Prior community.

I’m delighted to say that it is not so much ‘goodbye’ as ‘au revoir’, as Jim will be writing another new play, this time a melodrama, especially for the students of this school in the next academic year. Possibly this vale could have been two words long – cheers mate!

MISS ANNA HEIGHWAY

David Longley

Anna Heighway joined Prior Park in September 2013 as maternity cover for the Head of Dance, Rhian Fox. Anna immediately impressed with her professionalism and her dedication to her subject, a dedication that saw her offer many additional classes and rehearsals as various practical exams loomed. The Dance Showcase in March demonstrated just how generous she had been with both her time and talent.

She has been a lively and engaging member of the department and has also worked as a tutor within Baines House, where she has been a hit with pupils and staff. We would like to thank Anna for her application and hard work this year and wish her all the very best for the future.

MISS CHRISTINE HUGHES

Katharine McGowan

Chris joined the English department two years ago and has contributed in lots of different ways to the school; for example, running creative writing classes as well as board games club for the activities programme. Sadly, the latter activity proved quite a bit more popular than the former – obviously our students would rather become expert at Monopoly than write the next great English novel – but perhaps that’s for the best given the current economic climate. Anyway, both were expertly run by Chris.

Her dry sense of humour and brilliant subject knowledge have made her popular with students; she is a great teacher. We will miss her in the English department, partly for that great sense
Farewells

Tula Penfold was a pupil at Prior Park and returned to the staff initially as a part-time teacher of Design Technology, rising to become Head of IT and then Head of the DT Department, playing a very full and effective role as a hardworking and committed teacher. A graduate of Loughborough University, she returned to the area to teach in Bristol before being recruited to join an expanding DT Department.

Her particular expertise was in resistant materials, supported by a strong interest in information technology, and she helped students craft a range of interesting projects at both GCSE, AS and A2 Levels. Her style was very direct and enthusiastic, challenging pupils to take a new view of a project and to seek new perspectives rather than settling for safe options. She coordinated IT teaching in the lower school for a time, having worked well with two experienced heads of DT, took on the role of Head of DT herself for two years, before deciding that she needed a less time-consuming role and wanted to explore other paths away from Prior Park.

Tula was an effective member of staff, notably as a Tutor or in outward bound education. She was a stalwart Tutor in Fielding House (her House when a pupil!) for many years and offered the pupils clarity and care. Meanwhile, she returned to the area to teach in Bristol before being recruited to join an expanding DT Department.

She leaves here for the calmer spiritual environs of Bristol Cathedral, where she’s going to work as an Education Officer; she will also continue to work at undergraduate level. Tula Penfold was a pupil at Prior Park and has made a significant impact. She has extended their knowledge and curiosity from the students so that they have extended their knowledge and skills beyond the syllabus.

Kathryn has been instrumental in gaining a grant from the Royal Society of Chemistry, which you can read about further in this magazine.

Kathryn is a plain speaker with a sharp wit, a spade is most definitely called a spade, and her acute observations and witticism will be remembered affectionately by colleagues.

Kathryn has also been a valuable tutor in Fielding House. Over the course of the year she developed a really warm relationship with her tutor group and she will undoubtedly be remembered with great affection by them. The students have flourished under her care and have been well supported in every aspect of school life.

Kathryn leaves us to follow a new path in industry and we wish her every success. In her short time at Prior, Kathryn has earned the respect and friendship of many people and she will be fondly remembered.

Brendan Clarke

Tula Penfold was a pupil at Prior Park and returned to the staff initially as a part-time teacher of Design Technology, rising to become Head of IT and then Head of the DT Department, playing a very full and effective role as a hardworking and committed teacher. A graduate of Loughborough University, she returned to the area to teach in Bristol before being recruited to join an expanding DT Department.

Her particular expertise was in resistant materials, supported by a strong interest in information technology, and she helped students craft a range of interesting projects at both GCSE, AS and A2 Levels. Her style was very direct and enthusiastic, challenging pupils to take a new view of a project and to seek new perspectives rather than settling for safe options. She coordinated IT teaching in the lower school for a time, having worked well with two experienced heads of DT, took on the role of Head of DT herself for two years, before deciding that she needed a less time-consuming role and wanted to explore other paths away from Prior Park.

Tula was an effective member of staff, notably as a Tutor or in outward bound education. She was a stalwart Tutor in Fielding House (her House when a pupil!) for many years and offered the pupils clarity and care. Meanwhile, she moved from netball coaching to committing herself to a role in the CCF section and then assumed a leading role in Duke of Edinburgh’s Award, coordinating expeditions that gave opportunities to many pupils and ensuring that all were well-trained to meet the challenges of British terrain.

She also played a thoughtful role in coordinating staff events and generating a sense of welcome for all staff, whilst her ability to ensure an orderly lunch queue was legendary!

At all times Tula showed an enthusiasm and determination to do the best that was possible. She was friendly and supportive of pupils and colleagues, offering opportunities and seeking to foster involvement. We wish her well in her new enterprise.

Hannah has been an exceptional colleague in the History Department and will she be sorely missed. We wish her the best of luck in her new role as teacher of History and Politics at St Teresa’s School, Surrey.

It was a year of milestones for PE Teacher and Head of Boys’ Games, Mr Alan Hall as he celebrated his 60th birthday and 38 years as a staff member at Prior Park. In that time Mr Hall has served as Housemaster, Head of Boys’ Games, PE Teacher and Hockey Coach extraordinaire.

During the course of the year, Mr Hall announced that he would retire from teaching at the end of the year, but will continue to coach hockey.

Hannah’s expertise in American History has been invaluable to the Upper 6 in particular and has pushed them to work at undergraduate level.

Hannah has also made a lasting impression in her role as Resident Tutor in St Mary’s House. She has worked incredibly hard to provide the very best pastoral care for the girls and they adore her as a result.

Hannah has been an exceptional colleague in the History Department and will she be sorely missed. We wish her the best of luck in her new role as teacher of History and Politics at St Teresa’s School, Surrey.

It was a year of milestones for PE Teacher and Head of Boys’ Games, Mr Alan Hall as he celebrated his 60th birthday and 38 years as a staff member at Prior Park. In that time Mr Hall has served as Housemaster, Head of Boys’ Games, PE Teacher and Hockey Coach extraordinaire.

During the course of the year, Mr Hall announced that he would retire from teaching at the end of the year, but will continue to coach hockey.

Hannah’s expertise in American History has been invaluable to the Upper 6 in particular and has pushed them to work at undergraduate level.

Hannah has also made a lasting impression in her role as Resident Tutor in St Mary’s House. She has worked incredibly hard to provide the very best pastoral care for the girls and they adore her as a result.

Hannah has been an exceptional colleague in the History Department and will she be sorely missed. We wish her the best of luck in her new role as teacher of History and Politics at St Teresa’s School, Surrey.
Welcome To New Staff

RHODRI ANDERSON BMedSci (Birmingham) – CHEMISTRY
Rhodri Anderson joins the Chemistry Department. Rhodri’s last position was at Clayesmore and he is particularly interested in Outdoor Education.

KATE ASHBY BSc, MA (Bristol) – PHYSICS
Kate Ashby joins the Physics Department. Kate comes to us from Abbeywood School, Bristol. She will be an addition to the department because numbers taking the subject have increased, especially at A Level.

DOMINIC DEVINE BSc (Edinburgh) – HISTORY
Dominic Devine will teach History as a result of increasing numbers. Dominic worked here two years ago and will be known to many. He is, of course, married to Jo Devine, Housemistress of St Mary’s.

ROBERT FALKNER BSc (Nottingham) – HEAD OF DESIGN TECHNOLOGY
Robert Falkner has been appointed Head of Design Technology. Robert’s most recent position was Head of Department at St Augustine’s, Trowbridge. He is a Product Design and Resistant Materials expert. He has represented England in rugby at three different levels including U20.

RHYS GWILLIAM BA (Cardiff) – DIRECTOR OF SPORT
Rhys Gwilliam comes to Prior from Dean Close as Director of Sport. Rhys is a Welsh Hockey International. While at Dean Close, he helped 15 teams through to the Nationals in hockey. He has been Head Coach of 1st XV Rugby, Hockey (boys and girls) and Cricket.

KATE ASHBY BSc, MA (Bristol) – PHYSICS
Kate Ashby joins the Physics Department. Kate comes to us from Abbeywood School, Bristol. She will be an addition to the department because numbers taking the subject have increased, especially at A Level.

MARIA HUNTLEY BA (Bath) – ENGLISH
Maria Huntley comes from Abbeywood School in Bristol to join our English Department.

PAUL HULL – HEAD OF RUGBY
Paul Hull joins us from Dean Close as Head of Rugby. Paul is an England Rugby International and he has coached the England Saxons and London Irish. He is a RFU Level 5 coach.

SAMANTHA LANE BSc (Bath) – HEAD OF ECONOMICS & BUSINESS STUDIES
Samantha Lane moves from Tormead School, Guildford where she was Head of Economics and Business Studies to take on the equivalent role here at Prior Park.

CEILIDH MAPES BA, MEd (Cambridge & Virginia) – CLASSICS
Ceilidh Mapes will offer maternity cover from October for Sarah Hearn in the Classics Department. Ceilidh is a young, Cambridge Classicist who moves to us from Virginia, USA. She offers both Latin and Greek.

VICTORIA BRANDWOOD MusB Hons (Manchester) – MUSIC
This is Victoria Brandwood’s first teaching appointment, having graduated with a degree in Music from the University of Manchester.

Congratulations

Fred William Fox
Eloise Caitlin Francis
Wilfred Errol Lee-Clements

New Arrivals

History teacher, Ms Lindsay Dawson, was married to Matt Bryant on Thursday 7 August 2014. We offer them both our congratulations.
Speech Day 2014

This year's Speech Day was another suitably celebratory occasion. The day began in the Chapel with staff, leavers and their families attending Mass. Monsignor Vincent Harvey from the Portsmouth Diocese was the celebrant, with Father Malcolm Smeaton and Father Bill McLoughlin con-celebrating. In his homily, Monsignor Harvey encouraged the leavers to use their talents and make a place for themselves in the world – and to remember to hold fast to their faith and thereby rely on God as their guide and saviour. The Senior Chapel Choir led the singing, with the congregation raising the volume for the hymns Jerusalem and Shine, Jesus Shine.

After refreshments in the gym, the Prize Giving was opened in the Marquee by outgoing Chair of Governors, Commodore Chris York. Commodore York’s years of devoted service to Prior Park College were acknowledge by the Headmaster, and flowers were presented by the incoming Heads of School to the Commodore and Mrs York.

The Headmaster’s speech extolled the underdog (see Foreword), before offering congratulations and thanks to staff and students, and the extraordinary array of achievements, both in the classroom and out, that set apart the 2013-14 academic year. Prizes were presented by Deputy Headmaster Mr Denis Clarke, Academic Deputy Head Mr Tom Simons, Director of Sport Mr Steve Capon and Director of Drama Mr David Langley.

Guest Speaker, Ms Camila Batmanghelidjh’s reputation for powerful speaking and vibrant dress was fully realised. She spoke of her privileged upbringing in Iran, where even as a child she questioned the divide between rich and poor. This constant questioning and thirst for justice led her to found Kids’ Company which cares for vulnerable children and young people in London. Ms Batmanghelidjh challenged the Prior community to help bridge the divide between privilege and poverty in England, and to do their part to support those helpless children and youth who have devastating hurdles to overcome in their lives.
## Prize Winners 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prize</th>
<th>Winners</th>
<th>Prize</th>
<th>Winners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The A Level Prize</td>
<td>Lauren Boyer, Sophie Protheroe</td>
<td>The Brother Miller Prize</td>
<td>Abigail Sargeant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The SFP Salver for Boys</td>
<td>Alexander Butt, Liam Delaney</td>
<td>The Mary Burnham Award</td>
<td>James Roper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rose Bowl for Girls</td>
<td>James Roper</td>
<td>The Pat McMahon Cup</td>
<td>Lonneke Kertzman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Mary Burnham Award</td>
<td>Harriet Gillingham</td>
<td>The Concerto Cup</td>
<td>Crystal Pang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The SFP Salver for Boys</td>
<td>Rosie McNiff</td>
<td>Williamson Cup for String Performance</td>
<td>Elisabeth Daniels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rose Bowl for Girls</td>
<td></td>
<td>Rotary Club (Alkmairn) Cup</td>
<td>Eden Carroll</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Mary Burnham Award</td>
<td></td>
<td>for Progress in Music</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Pat McMahon Cup</td>
<td></td>
<td>Prior Park Association</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rose Bowl for Girls</td>
<td></td>
<td>for Outstanding Contribution to Music</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Mary Burnham Award</td>
<td></td>
<td>Rotary Club (Ball) for Progress in Music</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Concerto Cup</td>
<td></td>
<td>Stuart Cup for Brass</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Williamson Cup for String Performance</td>
<td></td>
<td>The O'Donovan Cup for Outstanding Contribution to the Theatre</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rose Bowl for Girls</td>
<td></td>
<td>The Wells Salver for Performance in Musical Theatre</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Mary Burnham Award</td>
<td></td>
<td>The Sketch Book Awards</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Pat McMahon Cup</td>
<td></td>
<td>The 35mm Photography Award</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rose Bowl for Girls</td>
<td></td>
<td>The Mostyn Thomas Cup for Boys' Sport</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Mary Burnham Award</td>
<td></td>
<td>The Patrick Tobin Cup for Girls' Sport</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The SFP Salver for Boys</td>
<td></td>
<td>The Madden Cup</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rose Bowl for Girls</td>
<td></td>
<td>The Harris Cup</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Mary Burnham Award</td>
<td></td>
<td>The Prior Park Cup for Girls' Hockey</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The SFP Salver for Boys</td>
<td></td>
<td>The Beagood Platter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rose Bowl for Girls</td>
<td></td>
<td>The James Guest Memorial Cup for the CCF</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Mary Burnham Award</td>
<td></td>
<td>The Best Recruit Trophy for CCF</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The SFP Salver for Boys</td>
<td>Matthew Mortimer</td>
<td>The ES BVM Award</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rose Bowl for Girls</td>
<td></td>
<td>The Pane Gladwin Cup</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Mary Burnham Award</td>
<td></td>
<td>The Peter McClure Prize</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The SFP Salver for Boys</td>
<td></td>
<td>The Debating Trophy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rose Bowl for Girls</td>
<td></td>
<td>The Tetrahedron Cup</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Mary Burnham Award</td>
<td></td>
<td>The Damian Timms Tennis Award</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The SFP Salver for Boys</td>
<td>Hector McCormick</td>
<td>Upper Sixth Subject Prizes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rose Bowl for Girls</td>
<td></td>
<td>Art</td>
<td>Anna Haskins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Mary Burnham Award</td>
<td></td>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>Tessa Coombe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The SFP Salver for Boys</td>
<td></td>
<td>Business Studies</td>
<td>Esther Haskins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rose Bowl for Girls</td>
<td></td>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>Toby Heaton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Mary Burnham Award</td>
<td></td>
<td>Classical Civilisation</td>
<td>Joseph Murphy-O’Connor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The SFP Salver for Boys</td>
<td>Nicholas Park</td>
<td>Design Technology - Product Design</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rose Bowl for Girls</td>
<td></td>
<td>Design Technology - Textiles</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Mary Burnham Award</td>
<td></td>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>Toby Heaton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The SFP Salver for Boys</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Toby Heaton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rose Bowl for Girls</td>
<td></td>
<td>English as an Additional Language</td>
<td>Toby Heaton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Mary Burnham Award</td>
<td></td>
<td>French</td>
<td>Toby Heaton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The SFP Salver for Boys</td>
<td>Geography</td>
<td>Geography</td>
<td>Toby Heaton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rose Bowl for Girls</td>
<td></td>
<td>German</td>
<td>Toby Heaton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Mary Burnham Award</td>
<td></td>
<td>History</td>
<td>Toby Heaton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The SFP Salver for Boys</td>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>Learning Development</td>
<td>Toby Heaton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rose Bowl for Girls</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Toby Heaton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Mary Burnham Award</td>
<td></td>
<td>Further Mathematics</td>
<td>Toby Heaton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The SFP Salver for Boys</td>
<td>Music</td>
<td>Music Technology</td>
<td>Toby Heaton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rose Bowl for Girls</td>
<td></td>
<td>PE and Sport Studies</td>
<td>Toby Heaton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Mary Burnham Award</td>
<td></td>
<td>Philosophy</td>
<td>Toby Heaton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The SFP Salver for Boys</td>
<td>Music</td>
<td>Photography</td>
<td>Toby Heaton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rose Bowl for Girls</td>
<td></td>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>Toby Heaton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Mary Burnham Award</td>
<td></td>
<td>Spanish</td>
<td>Toby Heaton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The SFP Salver for Boys</td>
<td>Theatre Studies</td>
<td>Theatre Studies</td>
<td>Toby Heaton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rose Bowl for Girls</td>
<td></td>
<td>Theology</td>
<td>Toby Heaton</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Headmaster's Awards – Prior Park Alumni Medals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Headmaster's Awards – Prior Park Alumni Medals</th>
<th>Winners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joss Bennett</td>
<td>Jennifer Dinwoodie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Gallegos</td>
<td>George Hunter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jae Woo Kim</td>
<td>Sophie Ward</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Headmaster's Upper Sixth Academic Prizes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Headmaster's Upper Sixth Academic Prizes</th>
<th>Winners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joss Bennett</td>
<td>Eleanor Gallegos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia Hunt</td>
<td>Verity Hunt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martin Lui</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Headmaster's Lower Sixth Academic Prizes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Headmaster's Lower Sixth Academic Prizes</th>
<th>Winners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liam Delaney</td>
<td>Rose James</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samuel Jones</td>
<td>Rebecca Unsworth-White</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Upper Fifth ‘Carpe Diem’ Cup for Outstanding Academic Achievement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Upper Fifth ‘Carpe Diem’ Cup for Outstanding Academic Achievement</th>
<th>Winners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Charlotte Robinson</td>
<td>Alex Tometzki</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Headmaster’s Upper Fifth Academic Prizes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Headmaster’s Upper Fifth Academic Prizes</th>
<th>Winners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Christopher Bunting</td>
<td>Sascha Chapman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia Fulton</td>
<td>William Kieser</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Headmaster’s Lower Fifth Academic Prizes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Headmaster’s Lower Fifth Academic Prizes</th>
<th>Winners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Caroline Ingram</td>
<td>Jonathan Mallet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zara Neil</td>
<td>Rosalie Wright</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Headmaster’s Form Four Academic Prizes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Headmaster’s Form Four Academic Prizes</th>
<th>Winners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Henry Carr</td>
<td>Benjamin Mattick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grace Fry</td>
<td>William Kieser</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bhiannon Harris</td>
<td>Edmund Mortimer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Headmaster’s Form Three Academic Prizes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Headmaster’s Form Three Academic Prizes</th>
<th>Winners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jack Bather</td>
<td>Eleanor Carney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ella McCurry</td>
<td>Della Rose</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Headmaster’s Lower Three Academic Prizes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Headmaster’s Lower Three Academic Prizes</th>
<th>Winners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jack Beeching</td>
<td>Angharad Harris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlie Mullin</td>
<td>Florence Robertson</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Headmaster’s Awards – Prior Park Alumni Medals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Headmaster's Awards – Prior Park Alumni Medals</th>
<th>Winners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joss Bennett</td>
<td>Jennifer Dinwoodie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Gallegos</td>
<td>George Hunter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jae Woo Kim</td>
<td>Sophie Ward</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Headmaster’s Upper Sixth Academic Prizes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Headmaster's Upper Sixth Academic Prizes</th>
<th>Winners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joss Bennett</td>
<td>Eleanor Gallegos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia Hunt</td>
<td>Verity Hunt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martin Lui</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Headmaster’s Lower Sixth Academic Prizes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Headmaster’s Lower Sixth Academic Prizes</th>
<th>Winners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liam Delaney</td>
<td>Rose James</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samuel Jones</td>
<td>Rebecca Unsworth-White</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Upper Fifth ‘Carpe Diem’ Cup for Outstanding Academic Achievement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Upper Fifth ‘Carpe Diem’ Cup for Outstanding Academic Achievement</th>
<th>Winners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Charlotte Robinson</td>
<td>Alex Tometzki</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Headmaster’s Upper Fifth Academic Prizes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Headmaster’s Upper Fifth Academic Prizes</th>
<th>Winners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Christopher Bunting</td>
<td>Sascha Chapman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia Fulton</td>
<td>William Kieser</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Headmaster’s Lower Fifth Academic Prizes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Headmaster’s Lower Fifth Academic Prizes</th>
<th>Winners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Caroline Ingram</td>
<td>Jonathan Mallet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zara Neil</td>
<td>Rosalie Wright</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Headmaster’s Form Four Academic Prizes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Headmaster’s Form Four Academic Prizes</th>
<th>Winners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Henry Carr</td>
<td>Benjamin Mattick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grace Fry</td>
<td>William Kieser</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bhiannon Harris</td>
<td>Edmund Mortimer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Headmaster’s Form Three Academic Prizes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Headmaster’s Form Three Academic Prizes</th>
<th>Winners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jack Bather</td>
<td>Eleanor Carney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ella McCurry</td>
<td>Della Rose</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Headmaster’s Lower Three Academic Prizes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Headmaster’s Lower Three Academic Prizes</th>
<th>Winners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jack Beeching</td>
<td>Angharad Harris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlie Mullin</td>
<td>Florence Robertson</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Headmaster’s Awards – Prior Park Alumni Medals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Headmaster's Awards – Prior Park Alumni Medals</th>
<th>Winners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joss Bennett</td>
<td>Jennifer Dinwoodie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Gallegos</td>
<td>George Hunter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jae Woo Kim</td>
<td>Sophie Ward</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
U6 Achievements & Appointments

Heads of School

Joss Bennett          Jennifer Dinwoodie

Deputy Heads of School

Harriet Gallegos      George Hunter
Sophie Ward           Jae Woo Kim

Heads of House

Allen                 William Cole
Arundell              Harriet Gillingham
Baines                Harriet Garner
                      Joseph Parker
Burton                Billy Mackean
Clifford              Joseph Knight
English               Anna Haskins
Fielding              Elizabeth Willis
Roche                 Eden Carroll
St Mary’s             Patsie Christie

Sports Captains

Boys’ Rugby           Huw Parks
Girls’ Hockey         Eleanor Gallegos
                      Harriet Gallegos
Boys’ Hockey          Luke Tapsfield
Netball               Mollie Roberts
Girls’ Tennis         Harriet Freeman
Boys’ Tennis          Harley Waterman
Cricket               Luke Tapsfield

Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award

James Smith (2013 Leaver)

Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award

Alexander Berresford
Megan Buxton (2013 Leaver)
Liam Delaney (L6)
Cordelia Roberts (L6)
Holly Simpson (L6)

Prior Park Association Awards for Travel

Jennifer Dinwoodie

U6 Music Examination Successes

Jennie Dinwoodie  Alto Saxophone  8  Distinction
Peter Dorey        Clarinet       8  Merit
Rosie McNiff       Viola          8  Distinction
Rosie McNiff       Piano          7  Distinction
Eleanor Gallegos   Alto Saxophone 8  Distinction
Oliver Liu         Guitar         8  Distinction
Oliver Liu         Singing       8  Merit
Matthew Mortimer   Piano         7  Pass
Chloe Root         Singing       8  Distinction

General Service Colours

Mr James Murphy-O’Connor

General Service Colours have been awarded at Prior Park for over a decade now. They are awarded to members of the Upper Sixth who have been exemplary role models and contributors to the school over many years.

The successful recipients need to be outward looking, confident and capable. They need to have made an important contribution to the community of the College, even if it is in a quiet and reserved way. They need to be enthusiastic, friendly, positive and presentable. In short, they need to have made a difference.

I think that the traits listed above apply to the successful recipients of the General Service Colours this year. The recipients are:

Chloe Christie  Peter Dorey
Eleanor Gallegos Verity Hunt
Lonneke Kertzman Agnes Lau
Anya Matthews  Abbi Mornement
Huw Parks      James Roper
James Sackett  

THE PHOENIX 15
Known Leavers’ Destinations 2014

Aman Agarwal
Lilian Ager
Lauren Bailey
Joss Bennett
Alexander Bouchaud
Holly Bullard
Eden Carroll
Maisey Carter
Lacy Chapman
Chloe Christie
Patsie Christie
Alexander Clark
Edward Clifford
William Cole
David Coltan
Tessa Coombe
Angélica d’Alhoja
Oliver Deane
Adam Dearing
Jenny Dinwoodie
Peter Dorey
Andrada Dumitrascu
Molly Fleet
Bobin Francis
Harriet Freeman
Eleanor Gallegos
Harriet Gallegos
Harriet Garner
Harriet Gillingham
Malik Godunov
Nicholas Gracie
Georgy Gurtskaya
Christian Hart
Anna Haskins
Esther Haskins
Tobias Heaton
Lucia Heseltine
Harry Hetherington
Verity Hunt
George Hunter
Ehimenon-Sarah Inegbedion
Lonneke Kertzman
Jae Woo Kim
Joseph Knight
Agnes Lau
Oliver Liu
Martin Lui
Billy Mackean
Any Matthews
Benjamin Mattick
Hector McCormick
Rosie McNiff
Abigail Mornement
Thomas Morrison
Matthew Mortimer
Joseph Murphy-O’Connor
Larissa Obolensky
Crystal Pang
Nicholas Park
Joe Parker
Huw Parks
Sophie Pidal
Emily Bedpath
Mollie Roberts
Chloe Root
James Roper
James Sackett
Bernice Tang
Luke Tapsfield
Theo Teja
Louis Thompson
Masha Thorpe
Lucy Timms
Vasily Titov
Maria Torres-Massouras
Sophie Ward
Harley Waterman
Elizabeth Willis
Lydia Winthrop
Paddy Zhang

Dartmouth College USA
Cambridge
Westminster
Manchester
Applying 2015
Bangor
Applying 2015
St Georges
Cardiff
Birmingham
Birmingham
Applying 2015
Reading
Reading
Royal Holloway
Employment
Bath
Applying 2015
Manchester
Exeter
Newcastle
Newcastle
Birmingham
Applying 2015
Birmingham
Cambridge
Royal Holloway
Surrey
SOAS
Surrey
Swansea
Exeter
Bath
Applying 2015
Imperial College
University of South Wales
Swansea
St Georges
Oxford
Manchester
St Andrews
Plymouth
Cardiff Met
Bath
Applying 2015
Imperial College
Cardiff
York
Exeter
Gap year
Southampton
Exeter
Applying 2015
Edinburgh
Warwick
Cambridge
Cardiff
Gap year
Applying 2015
Newcastle
Applying 2015
Applying 2015
Bridge Farm Primary School
City of Bristol College
Birmingham City
Applyling 2015
Swansea
Sussex
Applying 2015
Cardiff
UCL
Pearson College
Plymouth
Gap year
Leeds
Manchester Metropolitan
Leicester

Human, Social and Political Sciences
Business Information Systems
Social Anthropology
Marine Biology/Oceanography
Biomedical Science
Biomedical Sciences (Anatomy)
Geography
Classical Literature & Civilisation
Politics
Biological Sciences
Anthropology
Economics
Beche Business Account Manager
Natural Sciences
Life Sciences with a Foundation year
English & French
Chinese Studies and Business Management
Medicine
Natural Sciences
Theology
Economics
Business Economics
History of Art/Archaeology
Business Management
Geography
Flexible honours with UK work experience
Business Administration
Medicine
Television & Film Set Design
Physics including Foundation Year
Medicine
History
Medicine
Arabic, French & German
Medicine
Sport Management
Biomedical Sciences
Chemistry
Ancient History
Physics
Law
Music
Biological Sciences
Classics
History
Education with English and Drama
Accounting & Finance
Computer Science with Foundation Year
Philosophy
Biochemistry
Psychology
Teaching Assistant apprenticeship
Fashion Design
Economics
Anthropology
Religious Studies/Spanish
History
Business Management with Global Industries
History
Chemistry
Fine Art
Maths with Economics
Staff and students celebrated another year of brilliant A Level results, achieving a 100% pass rate, with 78% of the top A*-B grades, and one in every two entries achieving grade A or better.

Once again, the majority of students achieved entry to their first choice university.

No less than fifteen departments celebrated impressive results, with 50% of grades being an A or above – Art, Biology, Classical Civilisation, Chemistry, Dance, English, French, Maths and Further Maths, German, Geography, History, Latin, Music, Spanish and Theology.

Prior Park celebrates the abilities and achievements of each individual student, recognising the hard work put in by each to meet their own expectations and targets.

30% of Prior Park’s 2014 cohort gained straight A to A* grades, and all candidates who had received Oxbridge offers earned the grades required to take up their place.

Achievements were recognised across the entire year group, with students who joined at Sixth Form level, as well as our EAL and LDP students, also producing strong results.

Headmaster, James Murphy-O’Connor, was delighted with the results, commenting: “I am overjoyed for our students. These results have come about as a result of hard work combined with brilliant teaching and incredibly strong pastoral support. Whilst as a school we emphasise and celebrate all aspects of education, we nonetheless acknowledge the vital importance of good academic results. These students now head on into the world with our sincere gratitude and very best wishes.”
As the cricket and tennis whites reappear and the Speech Day tent starts to take shape, a period of reflection begins on the year we leave behind. But for the Upper Sixth these final few weeks also bring a realisation that this really is it – the end of our career at Prior – and so our reflection carries with it a deeper sense of affection for what has been an outstanding final year at this beautiful school.

Despite the academic pressures of A Levels and UCAS, it’s safe to say that as a year group we have thrown ourselves into every aspect of Prior life. Music has been at the heart of this, with the tradition that is House Music kicking it all off. We had some extraordinary solos and hilarious house songs provided by all the houses; Fielding took us back to the 60’s and Roche provided a ‘boisterous’ rendition of an ABBA classic, but it was Mrs Byron and her English House girls who once again stole the show and emerged victorious. Other musical highlights this year have included the performance in the Chapel of Noye’s Fludde to mark Britten’s 100th Anniversary, the Choral Society rendition of Haydn’s Nelson Mass, the Senior Chapel Choir defending our title as Mid-Somerset Festival champions, and the final culmination of all our musical efforts in the Grand Leavers’ Concert, with so much more in between. Thanks must go to Mr Robertson for his unbounded enthusiasm and devotion to music at the school, without whom none of this would have been possible.

The Drama Department has been equally as busy with a huge number of performances. From the harrowing production of Ibsen’s Ghosts starring Harriet Garner, Billy Mackean and Maisie Carter, or the bleak and corrupt world of Webster’s White Devil starring Hector McCormick, to the comedy gold of this year’s senior musical with a cast led by Eden Carroll who drove us Crazy For You - the new and (slightly) more comfy theatre seats have been put to good use. We were also lucky enough to witness the A Level Dance and Drama Showcases, with some mesmerising choreography and frankly terrifying devised pieces to demonstrate the enormous creative talent and hard work put into these subjects this year.

Thanks to Lonneke Kertzman and her charities team, 2013-14 also saw the revival of Charities Week, which returned in full force to raise a staggering £1,460 for the various House Charities on top of a day dedicated to raising money for the Philippines Appeal. Highlights included watching the Roche boys sacrifice their masculinity to have their legs waxed, Mr Blakely chairing a stimulating University Challenge, the Burton and St Mary’s Upper Sixth selling themselves as ‘Slaves for a Day’ and the Clifford House Car Wash. Of course, no Lent Term could be complete without the Fisher Road Relay, which saw Harry Palmer taking to the track for the first time and smashing the school record with a hugely impressive run.

It has been a very special year for sport with success across all the sports and teams. The Girls’ 1st Hockey Team completed their third unbeaten season challenge, the Burton and St Mary’s Upper Sixth winning themselves as ‘Slaves for a Day’ and the Clifford House Car Wash. Of course, no Lent Term could be complete without the Fisher Road Relay, which saw Harry Palmer taking to the track for the first time and smashing the school record with a hugely impressive run.

Life in the Sixth Form has been as energetic as always with an inspiring and enlightening General Studies and assembly programme as well as a whole host of social events, from the eight plate challenge of Jimmy Spices Restaurant, or the flirtatious speed dating social in the Michaelmas Term, to the fiercely fought Fancy Dress competition and dazzling Gatsby Prom in the Lent Term. Miss Cummins and Ms Young certainly have filled our Sixth Form years with fun and laughter, and for that we are all so grateful.

Prior has given us all so much more than we could possibly have imagined. We can speak on behalf of our whole year when we say that we have made many lifelong friends, and that Prior will always remain at the heart of who we are. As we enjoy the most wonderful final week of celebrations with our parents, without whom none of this would ever have happened, we remember the joy of not only our final year, but all those before it, and wish everyone who has been a part of our time here a loving thank you and farewell.
Life at Prior certainly hasn’t been confined to within the walls itself, and this year we have had the opportunity to represent Prior all around the world, whether that be as a volunteer in Lourdes, a tourist in New York City, an exchange student in Nantes, Berlin and Malaga, a hockey player in Jersey or a volunteer in Romania.
By having a simple menu for lunch, the school community has been able to raise money for Cafod which directly benefits a number of projects that the charity supports in many different countries.
Some of the special moments in the religious life of Prior Park are to be found during the whole school Masses, which we celebrate at the start of each term. The opening school Mass of the year, with the whole community gathered, welcomed new and returning students and staff. This year Miss Cummins explained different parts of the Mass, beginning with the Liturgy of the Word and how God can speak to us today through the readings we hear during Mass. In the Lent Term, the focus was on the Liturgy of the Eucharist and how Jesus becomes present in our midst through the consecration of bread and wine.

In the Michaelmas Term we had our annual L3 retreat at the Marist convent in Nympsfield, Gloucestershire, during which we considered the approaching season of Advent, making Christingles and singing the Twelve days of Christmas (more or less tunefully?) to explore the theme of preparation for Christ’s nativity. Some of our U5 students also came on retreat where we discussed various aspects of faith and doubt, and challenges that young people face today in living out the gospel. The Michaelmas Term was brought to a close with the Advent Carol Service, another special moment in our year. With an atmospheric, candlelit chapel, and a rich variety of carols, we listened to some of our talented soloists, such as James Roper, singing Three Kings by Peter Cornelius. It is not surprising that each year many of our past students and their families return to attend the evening service.

We also marked the two Cafod family fast days, this year on 4 October, the feast day of St Francis of Assisi, with the second one during Lent. By having a simple menu for lunch, the school community has been able to raise money for Cafod which directly benefits a number of projects that the charity supports in many different countries. In October we also had a Holy Hour in the chapel, which included a moving talk from a Spanish businessman who had changed his life after a visit to the Marian shrine of Medjugorje in Bosnia. There was also a Mass at All Hallows on 14 November for the Beatified Martyrs of the Clifton Diocese, presided over by Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O’Connor who then confirmed our candidates in the evening in the chapel at Prior Park.

We have had house Masses in the Michaelmas Term, the one for Baines in commemoration of St Andrew, their patron. Then in the Lent Term, Fr Malcolm celebrated Mass with each year group. The L5 retreat took place in February at the Bernardine Cistercian convent in Stroud, where the sisters are always very welcoming. As it was 11 February, the feast day of Our Lady of Lourdes, the group reflected on themes of service, healing, prayer, pilgrimage and the nature of faith. The final week of term saw our annual Reconciliation services for the whole school, one for each year group, providing an important opportunity for reflection and confession. We finished the Lent Term with a service mindful of the events of Holy Week.

Our Sunday Masses continued throughout the year, with Fr Malcolm celebrating some significant Feast days in the Summer Term, such as Pentecost, where the students decorated the pillars in the chapel with red tissue paper as a reminder of the tongues of fire, and Corpus Christi which included the annual Blessed Sacrament procession and blessing of Bath from the Mansion steps. The whole school had a short liturgy on the last Thursday of term involving exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and offering of prayers of thanksgiving for the school year and blessings for the future, particularly for our leavers.
The opportunity to spend five days in the Holy Land, following in the footsteps of Jesus, was one that was seized upon by four members of staff and nine students in what was the first Prior Park trip of its kind. Proud to be pioneers as well as pilgrims, we set off very early on the Monday after Speech Day and landed in a sweltering Tel Aviv. We were aware of the increased tension between Israelis and Palestinians that had flared in the week before our departure, but following British Foreign Office advice, we set forth none-the-less, full of anticipation and expectation.

Heading by air-conditioned minibus two hours north to Tiberias, on the banks of the Sea of Galilee, we booked into our hotel and devoured our first Middle Eastern meal – a delicious pot pourri of lamb, chicken, hummus, salads and pitta bread.

Slowly adjusting to the heat and the bright sunlight, our second day was spent in Cana in Galilee where Jesus changed the water to wine, and then on to Nazareth and Mount Tabor, the sight of the transfiguration.

Day 3 and we set sail on the Sea of Galilee in a huge wooden vessel complete with an engine noise appropriate to its size. In such a beautiful, tranquil setting, our tour leader extraordinaire, Ms Charlotte Cummins, read the mood of the pilgrims and asked for the engine to be switched off. In the silence that enveloped us, we envisaged the tranquillity of the lake being whipped up into a frenzied storm and the disciples fearing for their lives, while Jesus calmed the storm and walked on the water.

From the lake, we headed to the mountain – Mount Beatitudes. This special place where Jesus revealed himself as a new messiah, with a message of love, forgiveness and peace – “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called Sons of God” – appeared to us as an oasis of beauty in the desert. With lush gardens, water fountains and an overall sense of serenity, we each found a quiet place in which to reflect and take in the significance of what happened there in Jesus’ ministry. Before boarding our minibus, we were moved to get the guitar and flute out and sing, very appropriately, Be Still for the Presence of the Lord.

Day 3 set the rhythm for the whole pilgrimage as we went on to visit one amazing site after another, including the town of Capernaum and the Dead Sea, where we floated on our backs, tried to avoid getting the exceedingly salty water in our eyes and caked ourselves in the famously soothing mud.

Day 4 and we headed to the jewel in the crown – Jerusalem. With Ms Cummins once again leading the way with her vast theological knowledge and her ability to unravel the theory and reveal the personal implications, we walked the Way of the Cross, down the Via Dolorosa. While we retraced the steps of Jesus wherever we went as pilgrims, it was perhaps here, where Jesus carried his cross and went to his death, that we felt the full impact of our pilgrimage. The journey finished at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, which enshrines the place where Jesus died and the tomb where he was buried before he rose from the dead – a faith-enhancing and truly humbling experience. We went on to follow the Psalm Sunday route from the Mount of Olives to the Garden of Gethsemane.

Of course, the beauty of Jerusalem and its significance to Muslim, Jew and Christian alike are blighted by the palpable tension that sees security clearance required to visit many sites, including the Wailing (or Western) Wall. Once through security, the three
boys within our group headed to the male-only side of the wall, picking up skullcaps (kippah) on their way as a mark of respect. After praying at the wall, we were reunited as a group and walked away, quietly mindful of our fortune in having been at this most holy of sites for the Jewish people.

This mood of quiet mindfulness continued as we approached the Holocaust Memorial Museum. We knew that what awaited us inside would exhaust our emotional reserves, and yet we also knew the visit to be an essential one. The events of history may well make us despair, but learning from them must surely bring hope. It was in this spirit that we moved silently from exhibit to exhibit, and prayed for the souls of the millions of victims.

By now very comfortably accommodated in Manger Square Hotel in the Palestinian town of Bethlehem, we spent much of Day 5 enjoying Jesus’ first home. The Church of the Nativity which houses the traditional manger of Jesus birth was a particular highlight, and we were lucky enough to celebrate Mass right next to the manger.

One of our last visits was to an orphanage in Bethlehem, run by the Sisters of St Vincent de Paul. The plight of these vulnerable Palestinian children who, while so well cared for in the orphanage, face such uncertain futures, touched each of us. However, for one glorious hour we managed to forget such sadness, and play and laugh with the children. It was fitting to bring the guitar out again as we prepared to farewell them, and Shine Jesus Shine, along with an up-tempo version of Peace is Flowing Like a River, perhaps best expressed what was in our hearts.

On our day of departure we enjoyed more singing, more laughter and more tears – all adding up to a truly memorable trip. We owe our deepest thanks to Ms Cummins, whose passion for the region and its people, and whose dedication to making the pilgrimage the wonderful experience it was, were so much appreciated by us all.

Images, left to right: Exploring Jerusalem, St Helen Coptic Church in Jerusalem, visiting an orphanage in Bethlehem, sailing on the Sea of Galilee.

“The events of history may well make us despair, but learning from them must surely bring hope.”
A Double Cause in Romania

Our memories are unforgettable, our willingness to help others is infinitely expanded and our minds have broadened from this unique trip.
Prior Park College’s support of the charity, People Against Poverty, was further strengthened this year as two trips to Romania were undertaken – one in October 2013 and one in July 2014. The charity aims to provide medical treatment and improve the living conditions of people in the most deprived areas of the world.

The group who travelled in October and were led by Mrs Marian Mudie, built a house for a family in need which was the highest spec building produced yet by a Prior group and was, incredibly, built in record time.

Ms Laura Young led the July group who helped to build a micro farm for a village community. The group helped to fundraise the money for People against Poverty, to contribute towards the community project. The plot of land, which this project will be situated on, will contain crops, an animal shelter and a house for an administrative family to reside in.

A huge credit is due to the charity - People against Poverty - as well as Mrs Mudie, Ms Young, John Williams, our project leader, and all those who supported us in raising the money; you are the reason we were able to experience this life-changing opportunity. We will be eternally grateful to have had the chance to witness the hard struggle against poverty, to have been given the power to improve even one life and to be able to show true appreciation of what is ours. Our memories are unforgettable, our willingness to help others is infinitely expanded and our minds have broadened from this unique trip.
Surely the most fundamental purpose of any school is to challenge our pupils intellectually and inspire them to become successful learners. We prepare our pupils for a life of learning and self-understanding and therefore it is essential that we place equal importance upon examined and non-examined disciplines. This ambition remains at the very heart of our mission, and long may it remain as the winds of change gather force in the educational establishment.

There is certainly a school of thought that suggests that efforts to stretch and challenge our brightest and most gifted pupils are being hampered by political interference in the examination system. Undoubtedly the lack of any real clarity from the exam boards as regards changes does not inspire confidence that there is a steady hand at the tiller in the Department for Education. Our pupils, like every pupil in the country, deserve an examination system which is fair and transparent, with the requirements carefully explained and changes planned and communicated well in advance. Not too much ask you might think, but as we look forward to the next round of changes, the examination system still remains the play thing of a political elite.

This is not to suggest that we should be luddite and there is always a tendency to take cover in the reactionary approach and the less than inspiring battle cry, ‘If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it!’. Those of you who know me, will not be surprised that I welcome change, but not for change’s sake. The ‘modular’ system of examinations has in my view done little to advance the education of young people in the last decade, and the return to linear testing with synoptic assessments can only enhance pupils’ abilities to synthesise their knowledge and recognise with greater clarity the links in their educational experience. There is a clear need to re-evaluate our approach to education at a national level. In an ever more global society, it is our duty as educators to be open to positive changes that support the education of young people to become confident and well-rounded citizens. What we must question, however, is the need for radical change carried out in such haste, where profound decisions are seemingly being made on the basis of dogma, rather than proper evidence. Only by taking sufficient time to evaluate and consult on fundamental changes will we ensure that the curriculum that results is fit for purpose. Sadly I sense that in the zeal to up the ante on assessment criteria, we may well be in danger of sacrificing the core purpose of education. Out will go creativity, challenge, character building, adventure, musical appreciation and performance, and spirituality, in favour of more easily measured tests of knowledge.

Education, like the health service has always been something of a political football. One can only dream of the day when a bold and enlightened administration in Whitehall will hand education over to those who understand it and can make ‘long term’ statesmen like decisions for the good of our young people, rather than ‘short term’ decisions born out of political expediency. Of course, I do not question the honourable intentions of the politicians but, as we know, the road to hell is paved with good intentions! As governments change, left gives way to right, and so the pendulum swings. I am mindful to think of Sir Thomas More’s plea to his soon to be son-in-law Will Roper in *A Man for all Seasons*: “Now, listen, Will. Two years ago you were a passionate churchman. Now you’re a passionate Lutheran. We must just pray that when your head’s finished turning, your face is to the front again.’ And so it will be I hope with education. We must hope that when the winds of change abate we have a system worthy of the talents and aspirations of our young people.

Against the backdrop of impending change at the national level, Prior Park has continued to make changes of its own to the Core and Co-curriculum. In Form Four this year we introduced an element of choice, allowing pupils, even at this early stage to play to their strengths, whilst continuing to enjoy a broad curriculum in preparation for GCSE and A Level. From September the optional subjects will now include subjects as diverse as Latin and Classics as well as Art, Drama, Music and Design Technology.
At A Level, we have introduced Psychology, to complement the wide range of subjects already available to pupils at this level. Mrs Spelman, will be heading up the Psychology team supported by Mrs Bird.

At all levels the school curriculum remains under review with further changes and enhancements in the pipeline for September 2015 in preparation for the new GCSE and A Level courses. In this respect our independence is of particular importance, and allows us to design courses that are bespoke and support our pupils’ needs more individually. As always, views of parents remains a key ingredient to the Prior Park experience and we are always seeking to ensure that communication with parents is both precise and clear. It has been this ambition that has driven recent enhancements to the school wide reporting and academic monitoring systems. From September 2014 we will be upgrading our reporting system via Schoolbase Online. Reports will now contain more detail in the form of grades that may be tracked. These will complement the formal written feedback to parents as well as support the annual parent-teacher meetings that remain an important cornerstone of the partnership between the school and parents. Further details of the new reporting and tracking system will be published in the autumn.

On Speech Day, we had the privilege of celebrating the success and achievements of our pupils over the course of the year, and it has been a year of considerable academic success.

Summer 2013 saw another record performance for Prior Park A Level candidates, with 1 in every 2 passes being at A grade or better. Almost a quarter of candidates at Prior Park secured at least 3 A2 passes at top grades A or A* and of those 4 students gained 4 or more passes at the top A* grade. Top performers for 2013 included Sophie Protheroe, Abigail Sargeant and Lauren Boyer who between them secured no less than 15 passes at AS and A2 levels of which 10 passes were at the highest A* grade. For their efforts they were awarded the A Level Prize for 2013.

It is worth reflecting that success at A Level is hard won, and headline statistics rarely give a true flavour of the industry and dedication of the pupils as they have studied and prepared over the course. We ask our pupils to seek to understand and take responsibility for their own learning process and we teach them to aspire to be the best they can be, to strive for understanding and improvement. And nowhere can this philosophy be seen better than in the Sixth Form. As teachers and educators, it is hard to adequately convey our pride and admiration for these young people who have come so far, and for whom an examination result seems a hardly adequate
reward for the challenge that is A Level and Sixth Form education. Perhaps the most fitting reward is that their qualities are recognized beyond the walls of school and home. It is no surprise, or accident, that the vast majority of our leavers gain places at their first choice universities, and indeed become graduates of the country’s top universities.

At GCSE, 2013 was again one of our strongest years for results with over 4 in every 5 passes at B grade or better, and over 50% of all passes being at the highest A or A* level. There were many superb performances at the top with 13 of our candidates gaining 5 or more A* grades. Particular congratulations went to Liam Delany and Alexander Butt who both secure 11 passes all at A*. They were honoured for their success on Speech Day with the Bother Miller Prize for GCSE.

Every year, the Headmaster and I conduct a formal review of all the academic departments, and this is always a positive experience. At this meeting the Head of Department will review the year in passing, and also take a moment to look forward. I am unceasingly amazed by the wealth of talent that is highlighted and the keen sense of duty and care of the teaching staff in promoting their subjects and supporting the talents of the pupils.

I have selected just a few examples to highlight some of the opportunities and achievements over the year and these can be read on our website, at this link: www.priorparkcollege.com/college-news.asp?id=1861.

As well as encouraging our pupils to take responsibility for their learning we also ask for the support of our parents. A great deal of importance is placed upon the professional development of our teachers and they are engaged in discussion on educational issues and developments in teaching and learning. This synergy lies at the heart of the Prior Park Learning Community, which we believe ensures a unique collaboration between all parties involved in the learning process.

These are exciting if not turbulent times for education, but as we look back on the past year, and at the many achievements of the boys and girls of the College, we can only be inspired by the opportunities that lie ahead.
In May 2014, four Year 8 chemistry enthusiasts accompanied Dr Rix to the University of Bath in order to take part in the annual Salters’ Festival of Chemistry. Delilah Rose, Maisie Honey, Sam Snow and Tom Pugh were competing against various teams at this prestigious schools’ science event. The team got stuck into each of the challenges they were set, including a forensic science experiment.

Everyone was delighted when our College team were awarded first place, with our friends from the Prep School finishing in second position. This event really helped to bring science to life for these students and both teams did a fantastic job of representing the Foundation.
The ‘plastic age’ has revolutionised our lives to the extent that it would be difficult to imagine a world without them. However, their manufacture is not sustainable, consuming 8% of the world’s petrochemical reserves annually. Additionally, plastics have a significant environmental impact as most are non-degradable, generating excessive waste. These concerns have challenged chemists to develop renewable plastics from sustainable resources.

This year the College was awarded a Royal Society Partnership Grant to carry out an exciting scientific research project with Dr Buchard, from the Department of Chemistry at the University of Bath. The project involves Lower 3 pupils and Year 6 pupils from The Paragon synthesising renewable polymers and studying their degradation under different aqueous conditions. The prestigious award provided £2,148 to purchase state-of-the-art equipment to facilitate this project. The students will gain skills in polymer chemistry, chemical analysis methods and scientific communication, as well as developing an appreciation of the work of researchers in this area to stimulate their interest in the chemical sciences and sustainability.

Dr Buchard has expertise in sustainable polymer chemistry and will work closely with the students by visiting the school, assisting in the lab, providing demonstrations and arranging visits to the University research facilities.

The project began in the Lent Term and will continue in the Michaelmas Term, with the opportunity for additional Lower 3 and Form 3 students to get involved.
With the full complement of GCSE, AS and A2 Level Dance students involved, this year’s showcase celebrated the creativity and style of Prior Park’s Dance students. It was testament to the talents and sheer hard work of the students that the audience enjoyed a wide range of engaging and original choreographic pieces. The A2 dancers presented professional repertoire with focus and precision, the AS students shone in a captivating duet, and the GCSE students performed outstandingly in a series of group pieces based on professional works. Thanks go to the many dancers performing in another’s piece, to Iestyn Griffiths for his technical prowess, and to Dance teacher Anna Heighway for her expertise and commitment.
Lourdes
If you have never been to Lourdes, it’s difficult to appreciate what a special place it is. The difference in the atmosphere between the busy day and the quiet night was astounding and we were able to spend equal amounts of time socialising and working.

The first half of the week was spent hotel rolling, where we were assigned to pilgrims and helped them to get around the town and visit the domain. This was an amazing opportunity to meet and get to know some truly inspiring people – a few pilgrims had even been involved in the second world war and to hear these stories first hand was incredible.

On changeover day we were moved to the accueil (hospital). This was a very humbling experience, with all the people so interesting and unbelievably grateful for everything we did for them. Many people needed help all the time; we were all thrown out of our comfort zone and asked to do everything from serving breakfast to showering and bathing disabled pilgrims.

Kirsty (Rae) and I took the opportunity to be bathed in the springs. After queuing for over two hours we were allowed in and were hustled into small rooms. The process was slow but completely worth the wait.

Overall the seven of us from Prior had an unforgettable week and hope to return next year!
Opportunities Abound – The MFL Department Abroad

In February 2014, the Lower Sixth and Upper Sixth Spanish students went on an unforgettable exchange to our partner school, St George’s, in Malaga. We were quickly enchanted by the charming way of life that our malagueño friends were living, and we really got stuck in to the easy-going lifestyle, the tapas and the rich culture which this fantastic and very Spanish city provided so readily.

Most days we went to lessons at the school, but we were also given specialised classes in Picasso’s art, short films (yay, Spanish Film Club!), and a generic introduction to the history and culture of Spain. The students study in both English and Spanish and were all very welcoming, and the teachers were extremely helpful.

Our experiences throughout the trip were immensely positive – we watched Malaga CF play some entertaining football at the Estadio Rosaleda; explored Malaga; visited the shops; went paintballing; lay on the beach; and ate some of the best food going. We also went to the Gibralfaro Castle, explored the Picasso Museum and the Contemporary Museum of Political Art – all these activities played a part in what was a superb exchange week.

In April 2014 we travelled to Nantes where our lovely families were very excited to meet us and we were quickly whisked away to our various homes and presented with copious amounts of food including several cheeses and pâtés for Tom Biggar!
We were quickly enchanted by the charming way of life that our malagueño friends were living, and we really got stuck in to the easy-going lifestyle, the tapas and the rich culture which this fantastic and very Spanish city provided so readily.

The next day we visited our work placements which were all scattered around the city with a very diverse range of environments – from a children’s primary school to a crêperie, and from hotels to clothes shops. The wide range of placements meant that each day we each had different yet equally entertaining stories to tell about what had happened, whilst also learning a huge range of different skills.

Albeit working hard each day, we were all given sufficient time to explore the beautiful city of Nantes, with its incredible history and buildings built in “la belle époque” (the beautiful era). One thing that we all certainly remember is the wonderful ice creams that were bought (and eaten!) each day.

The skills that we learned in Nantes were not purely linguistic. As with any work experience placement, we also learned key skills of the work place; such as customer service, team work, working under pressure and, overall, independence!

BOURG ST MAURICE

Max Lowrie & Ed Mortimer (LS)

This year, Years 9 and 10 took part in the French exchange with a school from Bourg St Maurice. When we arrived, we visited the ski hire shop and hired our skis and after that we went to
the school. Once introduced to our French exchange partners, we went back to their houses and spent the night with them and their families.

The next day we arrived back in the school where we met up with our English friends; we had a lot of news to share! That morning we went skiing with Prior and four moniteurs (instructors). We divided up into four groups of shared abilities and had a real blast! We skied in Les Arcs and had a yummy picnic lunch provided by the French school.

For the next two days we were in the hands of our exchanges. Some people went bowling, some went shooting, but we all went skiing! Some of the families took us out to a posh restaurant.

The remainder of the trip was divided between skiing, picnics, toboggan runs (amazing fun!), bowling and language classes. We eventually waved goodbye with many tears and set off on our long journey home, only to welcome thirty-seven French students in June to stay with us in Bath. It was great to see them again and many of us will stay in touch forever.

One of the highlights of the trip had to be the Tropical Island Resort. The waterslides, the crazy golf, the restaurants – there’s something brilliant for everyone.

Overall, it was also interesting to see the similarities between the English and German cultures, of which there were many.

All our exchange families were very friendly, welcoming and kind. The German Exchange was great fun, a brilliant experience and a good way to improve language skills.

BERLIN

Matthew Wainwright (L5) & Finlay Dove (F4)

Our trip to Berlin was packed with exciting opportunities from which we were able to absorb the rich and diverse culture of Germany’s capital. We learnt a lot about Germany’s troubled past, through the many museums and galleries that are situated in the city. A few of our favourite attractions were; the Reichstag, the TV Tower (the tallest free standing structure in Europe) and the Bundestag. We used the efficient public transport to travel around the city to visit the museums, as well as to see Berlin’s street art and the interesting landscape and architecture of the city itself. Our group was given many opportunities to improve our language skills by talking to our exchange partners and their families and attending the nearby school.
Model United Nations

Model United Nations (known as MUN) provides students with an exciting opportunity to learn about the challenges facing the world today. Participants must then seek to reflect accurately the view of their assigned country in a series of debates on international issues.

George Hunter (U6)

Our students attended another fascinating MUN summit this year, giving them an opportunity to present and debate on international issues, as they represent the view of their assigned nation.

The scenario* was: ‘Oil rigs, gas fields, airports, logging camps, nuclear power stations: all have been attacked and disabled by a well known organisation. Countries are grinding to a halt and the peoples of the world are swiftly descending into panic. To make matters worse this organisation and its fellow conspirators, the Canadians, have assassinated Barack Obama, François Hollande, Vladimir Putin, Xi Jinping and a posh British fellow, to slow down the global response.’

And so began another MUN crisis brief, followed by frenzy in the hall as the sarcastically named ‘movers and shakers’ like me tried to get their resolutions through to deal with the problem. This is ostensibly the prime reason for MUN, to encourage complete strangers to take on the role of a nation’s delegate in the UN and then work together to secure global peace, free trade or a bigger slice of the cake for their own country. To a large extent, this aim has been accomplished in every conference I’ve attended, even though individuals may be more fixated on the glory of simply passing a resolution whilst others make a concerted effort for such prestigious awards as ‘Best Looking Delegate’.

For those serious about getting their ideas to the table, it really isn’t enough to have a solution that works since some delegates, including me, perversely take greater pleasure in sinking another delegate’s resolution than actually passing one of their own. To combat such spoilsports, it becomes necessary to build alliances, if only to co-submit your resolution and make it seem less flimsy.

There are generally three ways to gain allies: back-scratching, strong-arming and ‘persuasion’. The back-scratch is the bread and butter of MUN (I’ll sign yours if you’ll sign mine), but only goes so far as there is a limit on the number of other resolutions you can sign. Coercion is also a useful tool if you are an important country like the USA, but can seem nigh on impossible if you’re representing a country like Chad, as I did, which makes the whole alliance-building much more challenging and enjoyable. At that point it becomes necessary to make a good speech or two attacking another person’s resolution to make others ‘respect’ (read this as ‘fear’) you and so listen to what you have to say about your own ideas. Finally, there are the murkier and less precise arts of ‘persuasion’: I would say this involves school friendships, workable resolutions and other methods I won’t go into—suffice to say, Sino-Japanese relations were a little too warm after one conference.

Once involved in it, MUN isn’t really about the issue you are discussing at all; the true aim of any conference is to improve the skills of those taking part in it, be it more imagination in crafting solutions to problems, improved oratorical skills, critical analysis of formally worded documents or simply a step forward in such mysterious sounding concepts as ‘people skills’. Needless to say, there is a huge amount of entertainment to be had in taking part in an MUN conference, if only to watch yet another North Korean rant or the evolution of the Russo-Chadian moon colonisation program.

All that remains is to thank everyone who enabled me to take part in such incredible events over the past two years, and I’m sure I speak for everyone who attended a conference: Mrs Collison, Ms Dawson and Ms Sheehy have all been inspirational and informative about MUN, and extremely generous with their time taking Prior Park delegates all around the South-West. Thank you.

*All scenarios are fictional and do not reflect the actual views of organisations or countries.
I have to take my hat off to every student who participated in this year’s competition. It takes courage and real nerve to stand up, argue and defend a motion in front of both your peers and staff. The tiered, cauldron like Round Room makes a great stage for the event and, once again, we had some fittingly theatrical performances from our students.

The 2014 contest has been one of the very best, with all the Houses putting forward strong teams. Judging was rarely easy as all Houses, whilst having very contrasting styles, made intelligent, well constructed and often subtle arguments. We had some terrific contests, such as Roche vs Clifford in a debate about Scottish Independence and a superb semi-final between the outstanding Fielding team vs Allen, who were arguing about whether human existence or the universe has meaning. I and my fellow judges, Dr McGowran and Mrs Eatwell, really enjoy coming up with each Motion. Watching the reaction of the teams at the coin toss, when they discover which side of the argument they have to make, is also good fun... especially when it goes against their natural instincts.

This year’s final came down to a battle between two fantastic teams with very different styles - the fearlessly idiosyncratic Clifford House; Joe Parker, Liam Delaney and Alex Tometzki, competing against Allen House; George Hunter, Joseph Murphy-O’Connor and James Smith. The formidable Allen House team just came out on top in a closely fought debate about whether our study of history unhelpfully prejudices our attitudes of today. This gives Allen House an incredible record of four victories in the last five competitions, and it’s a real testament to the House for the way debating has been valued and nurtured over several years.

In 2014 we decided to introduce a new award to students who have made an outstanding contribution to the competition over a number of years. We have dubbed these awards The Wilmotts, after our former colleague Dr Rob Wilmott, who was an energetic and enthusiastic coordinator of our school debating during his time here. It was my great pleasure to see Wilmott Medals presented to Matthew Mortimer, Lily Ager, George Hunter and Joseph Murphy-O’Connor.
A MEXICAN WAVE AT PRIOR
José Pablo Payra, Enrique Saavedra, Alfonso Villalva Heredia, Iker Yrigoyen de Luisa (F4 & L5)

We have been delighted to welcome four Mexican students into our community this year and it has been fascinating to see how they have contributed to school life and embraced their new culture. We are sorry to be saying goodbye to Enrique and Iker as they return to continue their studies in Mexico, but we are delighted that José and Alfonso have chosen to stay.

Between them, the boys have offered some very interesting insights into how to make the most of the new opportunities that come your way when starting a new school in a new country.

How did you feel when you first arrived at Prior Park? Enrique: I didn’t know anyone when I first got here but I’m not the kind of person who gets nervous about that sort of thing. José: I was pretty excited because it’s a completely new experience. I was looking forward to what I was going to be doing whilst I was here, like meeting new friends and all the other things that go hand in hand with being in a new country.

So what lessons have you learned that you are going to take home with you? Iker: Obviously the English is the biggest part of what I’ve improved on. I have made many friends whilst I’ve been here, friends for life. I’m very keen to carry on rugby when I go back to

I think it has been life changing. It’s been a different experience, a different culture, a different setting in which I have developed many skills.
Mexico because it’s not a big thing back there at the moment and it’s one of my favourite parts of life at Prior. Alfonso: If I could describe Prior in one word it would be “welcoming”. I can take this lesson back to Mexico with me - how to be as welcoming to foreigners as Prior has been to me. I think it has been life changing. It’s been a different experience, a different culture, a different setting in which I have developed many skills.

If you could offer some advice to an international student who is joining Prior, what would it be? Alfonso: I would say; Do not expect anything, just go with whatever is happening because your expectations might not be the reality. Iker: I would recommend not being nervous because everyone here is so welcoming.

What is a memory of Prior that you will treasure? Iker: Going on the bus with the rugby team on our way to a match against Wellington. The camaraderie was something that I had never experienced before, being so close with a team. Alfonso: I think my favourite experience was playing rugby up on Monument Field when it started raining. In Mexico, if it starts raining then you immediately all go back indoors. Here, it started raining and we carried on playing and everyone got really muddy and it was great fun. Enrique: I don’t have a particular favourite memory but I’ve really enjoyed boarding. This is because I have been constantly surrounded by people, always had loads to do, and there are all kinds of sports facilities available. José: I would agree with Enrique. I think there are going to be lasting memories that are going to be made and kept, especially during boarding time. You are in close contact with your friends all the time and so you make situations which you can enjoy and can look back on in the future.

CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS

The College celebrated the Year of the Horse in style, with various events taking place throughout the day. Morning Assembly marked this special event with members of our Chinese community teaching the rest of us the meaning behind Chinese New Year and its importance, and even giving a demonstration of Tai Chi.

The day’s food was similarly themed, with Chinese snacks on sale at break time, and the Catering Department offering our students a Chinese-themed lunch.

Probably the biggest highlight of the day was an incredible Lion Dance, put on by a Chinese Dance Troupe from Bristol University. It was a true spectacle and everyone was transfixed by the amazing costumes and acrobatic moves.

STUDENTS UPSTANDING AT INTERNATIONAL STUDENT VOICE COMPETITION

Three of our international students represented Prior at November’s International Student Voice competition. This is an annual competition, which comprises entrants from five local independent schools.

Prior was represented in the Junior competition by José Pablo Payro, who kicked off the competition’s proceedings with a controversial but hugely compelling defence of footballers’ high salaries. This speech earned José a thoroughly deserved second place in the Junior Competition.

Our senior orators on the night were Chloe Chan, who discussed what life was like in Hong Kong before it became a British colony, and Cynthia Zhang. Cynthia did brilliantly to win the Senior Competition with a fascinating examination of the differences between studying Dance in the UK compared with China. Her cross-cultural topic clearly resonated with the international audience, and everybody was charmed by her performance, which even incorporated a few dance moves!
After a physically and mentally challenging day in this water wonderland, a two-hour voyage back to harbour gave time to relax, share experiences and, for some, to shower in the frequent afternoon thunderstorms.

Back at the Colony Hotel, supper introduced our students to the delights of Caribbean cuisine – from fried banana to black bean rice, followed by succulent fruits such as mango and watermelon. After supper, students then engaged in a series of Caribbean Reef ecology lectures, which gave clear meaning to the work they carried out in the day.

Despite the reservations of a few about their ability to cope with the demands of scuba diving, by the end of a very rewarding and challenging week all students were PADI qualified, with many looking more at home in the water than on land.

The second week of the expedition brought the science phase, where our students got to rub shoulders with experts in their field from Cuban, Canadian and American Universities. The programme comprised a series of lectures and plenty of fieldwork. This included traditional seine net fishing over sea grass beds, followed by fish dissections to assess species diversity, age structure and diet. We enjoyed voyages into extensive mangrove swamps to monitor manatees using Side Scan Sonar. On a two-night voyage on the motor vessel the Felipe Poey, students learnt about shark tagging, surveying coral reef using stereo underwater video techniques, and computer analysis to determine fish diversity and age structure. In the evening students slept above deck, on the Felipe Poey, to be entertained by amazing lightning storms or by the peaceful tranquillity of a clear night glistening with far-off stars.

On de-gas days, as nitrogen in the blood was given time to escape from the body, by day students relaxed by...
After a physically and mentally challenging day in this water wonderland, a two-hour voyage back to harbour gave time to relax, share experiences and for some, to shower in the frequent afternoon thunderstorms.

the pool, while during the warm evening were taken offshore on the Coco-Club to experience the delights of salsa dancing and limbo.

Our final farewell to Cuba ended in Havana. This was like walking back in time – many of our students had their photographs taken next to the classic American cars that dominated the Cuban avenues and boulevards.

During our tour we learnt about the turbulent history of the country, starting with the early days of Spanish and British rule through to the glory days of the 1950’s when Cuba became the playground for wealthy Americans and a Mafia stronghold.

Monuments were visited that celebrated independence and paid tribute to the people that fought for Cuban independence, including Jose Marti, Fidel Castro and Che Guevara. We witnessed the widespread dereliction in the city due to the energy crisis that lead to the ‘Special Period’, and the start of Cuba’s resurrection with the help of UNESCO money to bring iconic buildings back to their former glory.

Without exception the expedition surpassed all our expectations: we learnt and experienced so many new things, revelled in the friendships made with our instructors, teachers, fellow school parties and, last but certainly not least, our Cuban hosts. It was a very different world from our own and an experience that will last in our memories for a very long time to come.
Ralph Allen speakers - Sophie Andrews and Brian Keenan.
Ralph Allen Memorial Lecture Series

As the Ralph Allen Memorial Lecture Series continues into its fourth year, we have been delighted to welcome and be inspired by hostage survivor, Brian Keenan, and former Chair of The Samaritans, Sophie Andrews.

Brian Keenan CBE joined us in the Michaelmas Term and spoke about his life growing up in sectarian-divided Belfast. He also gave us an insight into the war-ravaged Middle East where he served as a journalist in The Lebanon. He alluded to his four years as a hostage as ‘my holidays’ and it was clear to see that this appalling experience haunts him still. Since his release he has returned to the written word and he entertained us with extracts from his many books. Usually, and perhaps not surprisingly, he writes about his visits to the great, wide, open spaces of the world. He has been to Alaska as well as the Steppe lands of the East. As a philosopher and thinker, Brian shared his desire to make sense of the human condition and it was a privilege to have him here at Prior Park. Brian lives in the same village in Mayo as me so I look forward to seeing more of him over the years to come!

Sophie Andrews joined us in the Lent term. Many of you will know her as the Chair of The Samaritans. Sophie owes her life to The Samaritans because they managed to talk her through her lowest point as a suicidal teenager and she feels a debt of gratitude to them. Sophie explained her story to the audience and it was disturbing and fascinating in equal measure. She is clearly a woman of remarkable strength and she was able to describe a childhood which was nearly ruined by abuse and manipulation. Her story of survival and redemption was truly inspiring and humbling and her current work clearly has a huge impact on modern society. It was important to hear her story and I suspect that she will be back in the future to continue the relationship that was thankfully forged that night.

Next year’s speakers include Jack Sutcliffe, a former student of mine, who is the youngest person to have climbed Everest, Dr Richard Buckley, the historian responsible for discovering the remains of Richard III in a car park in Leicester, and Colin Parry, who lost his young son to an IRA bomb. We are also hoping to welcome Johnny Johnson, the last remaining ‘Dambuster’.
Each year students at Prior Park College rise to the challenge of doing their bit to serve others and make a difference to charities locally, nationally and internationally. What’s more, they certainly have fun along the way!

Each of our nine Houses chooses a charity, and this year support was given to a wide range including Second Sight, who are working to eradicate cataract blindness in India, Friends of The Children of Orissa, providing education to some of the most vulnerable children, Asthma UK, Peggy Dodd Centre in Bath supporting those with memory loss, Motor Neurone Disease Association, and Macmillan Cancer Support.

Of course there are also times when a disaster requires an immediate charitable response. In November 2013 Typhoon Haiyan devastated large swathes of the Philippines and Prior responded. We raised over £3,300 through leg waxing, a 24 hour static cycle, cake sale, raffle and a map of coins designed to educate and inform about the scale of the disaster.

Students are also keen to practise what they preach and help in a more practical way by volunteering regularly for Bath’s soup run, building houses in Romania, and undertaking conservation research in Cuba through Operation Wallacea.

Each year our fundraising culminates in Charities’ Week and in March Prior Park College was buzzing. Each House came up with innovative ways to raise money for their chosen charities.

Monday saw St Mary’s and Burton in charge of fundraising, the two Houses joined forces to offer the ‘Slave for a Day’ service. In addition, buskers lined the drive to provide musical entertainment to parents as they arrived to collect their children, Chinese snacks were sold during break time, and the ‘Josh-o-gram’ took place, which saw one of our U5 Burton students being raffled off to serenade a chosen target.

Tuesday was equally exciting, with students having the opportunity to pay to ‘Sponge the Teacher’ – a popular activity. The afternoon saw a fun-filled, inter-house version of ‘University Challenge’, where teams competed in intellectual battle against their peers to try and reach the final, where they faced a tough team of teachers. Several keen Clifford boys also decked themselves out in some rather eye-catching gear to offer their car washing services to parents.

Arundell and Roche Houses were in charge of the fun on Wednesday, starting with Headmaster Mr Murphy-O’Connor and Head of Baines House Mrs Saunders-Prouse being sponsored to wear inflatable sumo outfits for the day, providing everyone with great entertainment. At lunchtime, the portico was jam-packed with rugby enthusiasts, as staff and students queued up to undertake a rugby challenge to kick a ball from the portico. Baines House also got into the Charity Week spirit, organising a fantastic fashion show, with a student from each house modelling an outfit made solely from recyclable materials. Great imagination went into each of the creations and the whole show was superb fun. Finally, the ‘Baines House Bake-Off’ saw students entering their cakes to be judged. They were subsequently sold on to hungry customers!

Thursday, the final day of Charities’ Week, had English and Allen at the helm. ‘Pie a Student’ took place over lunch - the poor student volunteers could barely see for whipped cream, it was hugely entertaining and raised a great deal. Allen House boys also took part in a sponsored leg wax at break time. One student even volunteered to shave off all his hair for the cause.

The atmosphere throughout the week was electric, with students and staff throwing themselves into each activity, creating a fantastic sense of community as they strove to raise as much as possible for their charitable causes.

At the end of the academic year Prior Park College raised nearly £10,000 for all of these worthy causes. We look forward to equal success next year.
Now entering our third year it has been a busy time for the Development Office. We are delighted to have been successful in receiving a significant grant from The Country Houses Foundation representing approximately 50% of the overall cost of the restoration of the magnificent portico steps at the rear of the Mansion. These steps command fine views down the valley to the formal gardens beyond, which are now owned by the National Trust and include the world renowned Palladian Bridge. We have introduced a series of tours this year to widen access to Prior for the benefit of the community – all are welcome to join on a future date.

The construction of our brand new state-of-the-art Sports Centre began in earnest in February 2014, with the turf being cut by Prior ambassador Lewis Moody MBE. Thanks to the fine weather, work has continued almost uninterrupted and the project looks set to be completed on time in the spring of 2015. Thanks to some clever technology by way of a time-lapse camera, you don’t have to miss any of the progress. Take a look at the Prior Park College YouTube channel for regular updates www.youtube.com/watch?v=J42lElI-CWY

We have continued to focus our attention on raising funds for bursarial support for those students deserving of a Prior education who would otherwise not have the chance to access one. We also recognise the changing circumstances of our current students and their families and the moral obligation we have to support them through their studies. It is with the greatest of thanks that I recognise those donors who have supported us and continue to do so in both these areas. Excitingly, this September sees a milestone for Prior. With thanks to a local charitable trust, we welcome three students into the Sixth Form, each the recipient of a 100% bursary for their academic fees. We welcome them into our community and hope that they make the very most of their time here.

We continue to focus our efforts on enhancing the beautiful Our Lady of the Snows Chapel at Prior Park. The project, to improve sound, lighting and general aesthetics, will cost over £100,000 and fundraising is well under way. The Chapel is a focal point for the whole school, held dear by many, and we are confident of achieving the funds needed to complete this project. If you would like more detailed plans or are in a position to help then please contact me in the Development Office.

We have continued to strengthen relationships with the wider Prior community overseas. Two further visits have been made to Gibraltar in the last twelve months, including one with Old Boy Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O’Connor last October. We look forward to welcoming the next generation of Gibraltarians to Prior this September.

This year, I have also had the privilege of visiting our special supporters, those that have pledged a legacy, the greatest and most personal gift of all. This has been a humbling moment and I have thoroughly enjoyed the stories and tales of old, as well as being able to share stories about the Prior of today. I thank them one and all.

Away from College we have also been busy – The Paragon, our junior school, has secured £30,000 towards the building of a new music school. Work commenced during the summer holidays.

So, as development moves forward, I look forward to another busy twelve months ahead and all that might bring. For further information on our work and ways that you can help please contact me on the details below.

Melanie Ball, Director of Development 
Email: mball@thepriorfoundation.com
www.thepriorfoundation.com/development
Artwork

01

02

03

04

05

06

07
01. Angelica d’Aljo (U6)  
02. Harriet Lord (L6)  
03. Constantine Corney (U5)  
04. Vsevolod Yurchenko (L6)  
05. Seb Parker (U5)  
06. Alex Couling (U5)  
07. Anna Haskins (U6)  
08. Phoebe Baker (L6)  
09. Angelica d’Aljo (U6)  
10. Edmond Haines (U5)  
11. Callum Eaton (L6)  
12. Hugo Hagger (U5)  
13. Lucia-Rose Durham (L6)  
14. Chloe Chan (U5)  
15. Anna Haskins (U6)  
16. Hector McCormick (U6)
Artwork
01. Izzy Forster-Bennet (L6)
02. Helena Fothergil (L6)
03. Ollie Taylor (U5)
04. Howie Philips (U5)
05. Harriet Gillingham (U6)
06. Charlie Sturgess (U5)
07. Anna Haskins (U6)
08. Phoebe Baker (L6)
09. Anna Haskins (U6)
10. Charlie Sturgess (U5)
11. Howie Philips (U5)
12. Theo Rhodes (U5)
Art Dept Films

Puppet Show
Lydia Winthorpe (U6)

Bedtime for Princess
Teuta Martinovic (L6)

Cross Over
Hector McCormick (U6)

Wall Decoration
Lydia Winthorpe (U6)

Aluminium Flower
Millie Fender (U5)
Scan the QR Codes, or follow the link to our YouTube Channel to watch these film pieces – www.youtube.com - Priorparkcollege

Train Creation
Millie Fender (U5)

Creation
Lydia Winthorpe (U6)

Sins of the Father
Hector McCormick (U6)

Metamorphosis
Abigail Sergeant (U6)
Design & Technology
01. Constantine Corney (U5)
02. Jessie Roper (U5)
03. Valeriya Stobetskaya (U5)
04. Amy Young (U5)
05. Mansion Hall Exhibition
06. Ryan Tribe (U5)
07. Jemima South (U5)
08. William Braithwaite (U5)
09. Mansion Hall Exhibition
10. James Huntingdon (U5)
11. Cordelia Roberts (U5)
12. Tim Constable-Maxwell (U5)
13. Lucinda Tucker (U5)
14. Harry Threlfall (U5)
Design & Technology

01

02

03

04

05

06
01. Poppy Luck (U5)
02. Seb Parker (U5)
03. Theo Rhodes (U5)
04. Hyung Mo Chun (U5)
05. Lily Womesly (U5)
06. Megan Ryder (U5)
07. Natalie Acheson (U5)
08. Edward Sampson (U5)
09. Edmund Hames (U5)
10. Jessie Roper (U5)
11. Cordelia Roberts (U5)
12. Imogen Moore (U5)
From the moment that the lights dimmed and the small band of nine played the overture, the audience could tell that this was to be a fantastic show.
In the last week of the school year, students from Baines House could be seen hurrying from their house to the theatre, clad in their stylish 1920's costumes, excited to be on stage for their production of Bugsy Malone.

Set in 1929 prohibition-era New York, the play tells the story of Bugsy Malone (aka Thomas Pollock) as he tries to impress the new girl in town, Blousey Brown (played by Poppy Askham). Bugsy helps out the top gang leader Fat Sam (Cameron Wight) to keep the 'Speakeasy' from being taken over by Fat Sam's rival, Dandy Dan (Hamish Page) and his gang, in the hope that he can earn enough money to buy tickets for him to take Blousey to Hollywood.

The auditions took place at the end of the Lent Term, leaving the Easter holidays for line learning before the start of the gruelling four weeks of rehearsals (even on Saturdays!). Despite all of the after-school and lunchtime rehearsal sessions limbs flying whilst learning the Bad Guys dance or being ticked off for not learning our lines, we said “sure, Boss” and got on with it.

From the moment that the lights dimmed and the small band of nine played the overture, the audience could tell that this was to be a fantastic show. The (‘Salmon’) Tallulah girls looked great, and Fat Sam’s gang was hilarious with their slightly-too-big pinstriped suits. The L3 ‘Down and Outs’ sang their song brilliantly, and ‘Babyface’ (Archie Dutton) was “The star of Prior Park College”. Toby Wilson’s heartfelt solo as Fizzy will still be stuck in my head ‘Tomorrow’, and who could forget the fantastic Bugsy and Blousey, who sang and acted so well.

However, those who most need to be thanked are the tech team led by Iestyn Griffiths, and the stage hands, the front of house team, Mr Robertson for the brilliant musical direction, and our wonderful housemistress Mrs Saunders-Prouse for putting on and directing the show!

I really enjoyed taking part in Bugsy Malone. It was a fantastic experience (of the stage) for everyone involved, and I hope everyone who came to see the show enjoyed it as much as I did!
Boarding Life
In the weeks leading up to Skern Lodge I don’t think there was one member of Lower 3 who wasn’t excited about the trip. For some of us it was our first residential trip, but for others it was the second or third: nobody quite knew what to expect. We had a few meetings to discuss any questions we had but the activities remained a secret until we arrived.

In one of the meetings at school we were told to write down the name of one person who we would like in our room. Room sizes varied from three to six people sharing a room. We didn’t spend much time in our rooms – we were so busy with all the activities that all we did in our rooms was sleep and wash!

We were separated into six groups for the activities. The activities were rafting, abseiling, climbing, high ropes, tunneling, surfing, rib riding, assault course, crabbing, Skern Lodge Pool Olympics, camping and a disco. There were three activities a day, morning, afternoon and evening, with breaks for lunch and before and after the evening activity. As you can tell we were always massively tired out at the end of the day and fell asleep the minute our heads hit the pillow! Some of my personal favourite activities were surfing and abseiling, which previously terrified me but I conquered my fear at Skern.

Each morning we had a full cooked breakfast including sausage, eggs and bacon, breakfast cereals, fruit and yogurts. These were always delicious and we were never short! For lunch we had a choice of sandwiches, which ranged from coronation chicken to good old ham and cheese. For supper we were offered a cooked vegetarian and meat option, with pudding and it was always delicious.

In this unique environment we really got to know each others’ personalities a lot better. There was something for everyone there whether you liked heights, water or both! The teamwork and skills we learnt whilst we were there will surely never be forgotten throughout our time at Prior and beyond. Speaking for everyone it was a hugely enjoyable trip that helped us achieve so many new things and bring us together as a year group.
The White Devil

This is not an easy play, you can't hang up your brain with your coat and hat when you come into a play like this... Would a group of student performers be able to translate this text into an accessible and relevant piece of theatre?

REVIEW

Mr Dave Langley

Before going any further, I feel I must make a confession. The White Devil, by the Jacobean playwright John Webster, is most definitely on my top five list of greatest ever plays. Therefore, as I sit down to enjoy this production, which took place in January in the Julian Slade Theatre, I was already in a pretty positive state of mind. There was also a certain amount of trepidation expressed by others before the first night. This is not an easy play, you can't hang up your brain with your coat and hat when you come into a play like this.

The language is sophisticated and sharp, the humour dark and jagged, the almost Machiavellian directness of so many of the central figures deeply disturbing yet horribly contemporary. Above all, it is a complex and mature piece of theatre. Oh ye of little faith!

The production was notable for the number of relatively inexperienced performers who had decided they wanted to have a go at this acting thing, and for one was hugely impressed by both their focus and their talent. Maisie Carter and Verity Hunt, as Isabella and Cornelia, gave a moral centre to this most amoral of plays. The evil Monticelso, a corrupt and corrupting figure, was played with great flair and a slight twinkle in his eye by Joe Parker. Changing the gender of a character is always fraught with problems but, in this production, the decision to make Marcello Marcella and give the part to the extremely talented Georgie Fellows was a wonderfully liberating move. It added a really interesting dimension to the relationship between Marcella and her brother Flamineo. I mentioned earlier performers who were trying out the part Flamineo was one such who impressed me greatly with his depiction of Francisco, the Duke of Florence. His clear and concise characterisation always looked for the naturalistic in the performance rather than playing up to the audience, making this a most impressive debut. Emily Redpath impressed as the loyal Zanche. Will Cole and Spike Clarkson were very strong stage presence and this was also conceived. Iestyn Griffiths never fails to impress but this time I felt he really elevated the production to another level through his subtle use of lighting, shade and shadow to ensure the audience was never entirely certain as to the morality of any of the characters.

Hector McCormick, as Flamineo was outstanding. The danger with this character is that he can too easily be played as a caricature, but Hector resisted the temptation and instead the scheming and manipulative central figure was also a figure of pain and pity. Jenny Dimwood's Vittoria was precisely drawn and executed, with a great sense of dramatic impact. George Butler had the difficult part of Brachiano, both hero and villain, but he held his own on stage with many more experienced actors around him. This production was notable for the number of relatively inexperienced performers who had decided they wanted to have a go at this acting thing, and for one was hugely impressed by both their focus and their talent. Maisie Carter and Verity Hunt, as Isabella and Cornelia, gave a moral centre to this most amoral of plays. The evil Monticelso, a corrupt and corrupting figure, was played with great flair and a slight twinkle in his eye by Joe Parker. Changing the gender of a character is always fraught with problems but, in this production, the decision to make Marcello Marcella and give the part to the extremely talented Georgie Fellows was a wonderfully liberating move. It added a really interesting dimension to the relationship between Marcella and her brother Flamineo. I mentioned earlier performers who were trying out the part Flamineo was one such who impressed me greatly with his depiction of Francisco, the Duke of Florence. His clear and concise characterisation always looked for the naturalistic in the performance rather than playing up to the audience, making this a most impressive debut. Emily Redpath impressed as the loyal Zanche. Will Cole and Spike Clarkson were very strong stage presence and this was also conceived. Iestyn Griffiths never fails to impress but this time I felt he really elevated the production to another level through his subtle use of lighting, shade and shadow to ensure the audience was never entirely certain as to the morality of any of the characters.

Whether or not you can hang up your brain with your coat and hat when you come into a play like this, the starkness required to carry and promote the outstanding performance offered by this young cast. Forcibly placed against the dark and jagged, the almost Machiavellian directness of so many of the central figures deeply disturbing yet horribly contemporary. Above all, it is a complex and mature piece of theatre. Oh ye of little faith!

Before going any further, I feel I must make a confession. The White Devil, by the Jacobean playwright John Webster, is most definitely on my top five list of greatest ever plays. Therefore, as I sit down to enjoy this production, which took place in January in the Julian Slade Theatre, I was already in a pretty positive state of mind. There was also a certain amount of trepidation expressed by others before the first night. This is not an easy play, you can't hang up your brain with your coat and hat when you come into a play like this... Would a group of student performers be able to translate this text into an accessible and relevant piece of theatre?
The production featured an impressive and very experienced cast who had obviously formed into an extremely supportive ensemble.
Ghosts

REVIEW

Dr Katharine McGowran

Dave Langley’s production of Ghosts continued the Ibsen ‘season’ at Prior Park College, following on from a very successful A Doll’s House three years ago. The production featured an impressive and very experienced cast who had obviously formed into an extremely supportive ensemble. The late addition of Spike Clarkson, who heroically stepped in as Pastor Manders with only weeks to go to opening night, was clearly something all had taken in their stride; and there was a palpable sense of a group working together to deliver an extremely powerful and moving version of a fantastic play.

The use of the John Wood Chapel was just one of a number of factors which made this such a special evening. With a few well-judged additions, including a stunning painting conceived (and brilliantly executed) to look like an aged Billy Mackean (Osvald), it felt as if we were within the confines of the bourgeois home of Mrs Alving. The portrait loomed over proceedings, reminding us of the consequences of the past and the question of inheritance. The intimacy of the setting enabled the cast to work in a very naturalistic way, bringing all the nuances of expression and gesture out in their performances. We were all voyeurs for the night, suffering the extreme tensions of a house at breaking point: the relationship between parents and children; servants and masters; ‘saints’ and ‘sinners’ was constantly being challenged and negotiated. The difficult subject matter with the play was enhanced by the supreme respectability of the drawing-room setting, the contrast between the visual signifiers of orthodox middle class life and the shocking secrets which emerge forming the crucial tension at the heart of the play. This all made for some incredibly powerful scenes, beautifully judged by the play’s versatile and knowledgeable director.

Hector McCormick (Jacob Engstrand) had created a very convincing voice and repertoire of gestures, which he used to brilliant effect. The dynamic between him and his stage daughter, Regine (the wonderful Maisie Carter) was expertly sustained; the fault lines in their relationship always visible under the surface. Spike Clarkson was able to suggest the emotional indifference of Pastor Manders, which made the scenes between him and the anguished Mrs Alving (Harriet Garner), as he sacrifices everything to maintain respectability, all the more powerful. Harriet Garner gave an amazing performance; her ability to convey the complexity of Mrs Alving’s character, and the crumbling of her hard-won social identity as secrets are revealed, was truly impressive. Billy Mackean was, as always, superb; this role as Osvald, perhaps more than any other I have seen him play, showcased his subtlety as a performer. But this was a production with so many great scenes: some particularly stayed with me. Regina’s final conversation with Mrs Alving and Osvald was stunning, with Maisie Carter showing an understanding of the character and her choices which belied her years. The final scene between Osvald and Mrs Alving, which was much more expressionist in tone, was just breath-taking; it suggested the ways in which Ibsen’s play reaches towards modernity (both socially and artistically); when the lights went up there were more than a few tearstained faces.

This is a play which raises more questions than it answers, and this production left these echoing round the John Wood Chapel.
In this year, the centenary of the beginning of The Great War, it was fitting to host a play about the awful experiences of 1914-1918.

However, this was a production with a difference for two reasons. Firstly, the play was actually written by James Graham-Brown, a member of our own Drama Department. He based the play on recollections of stories passed on to him by his grandmother about her experiences in the War. Secondly, and as a result, it was a play which offered a different perspective – the experience of those whose voice is often missing from the mighty tomes of history written about the War: the voice of women who were also affected. With echoes of Vera Brittain, the experiences of wives, mothers and girlfriends were heard and given equal measure. Indeed, James Graham-Brown’s play also took up the challenge of those women, many of whom were in the Suffragette Movement, who were opposed to the War. Whether they opposed it or supported it, women from all classes and standing were affected.

The cast, which included Teuta Marti-novic, Aysha Taylor and Isabelle McKenty amongst many other girls, was superb. They all conveyed the hopes and desires of the women involved – as well as the inevitable heartbreak and insecurity. Whilst the majority of the cast was female, it was very well supported by three boys, who played the varying experiences of soldiers on the Western Front. They were Abe Unwin, Ollie Small and Charlie Sturgess – all of whom impressed in their roles.

There will be many opportunities to commemorate The Great War over the next four years, as we record the various anniversaries of key battles and dates. However, Women at War struck me as a bold and innovative attempt to approach some familiar themes from a different perspective – for this, I thank the director and the cast for a thoroughly convincing, informative and thought-provoking evening in the Julian Slade Theatre.
Crazy For You

Mrs Liz Parker

When Colette Byron and Dave Sackett announced that this year’s musical was to be Crazy for You, I must admit that the majority of staff and possibly none of the students had ever heard of it. They both insisted that it was hilarious, that it had great songs and that they had a fabulous cast. They were absolutely right! The audience was grinning from ear to ear from start to finish.

The music and lyrics were written in the 1930’s by George and Ira Gershwin, and in 1992 the musical was constructed around the songs. Contrived yes, but it works!

I won’t waste too much space telling you the plot, about a New York banker, Bobby Child, who only wants to sing and dance and who finds himself in Deadrock, Nevada with the girl, Polly Baker, as well as the theatre of his dreams. Eventually everybody is brought together to live happily ever after.

The song and dance numbers throughout the show were fabulous – the first appearance of the gorgeous Follies Girls in their amazing costumes coming down the stairs onto the stage for the opening number, Can’t be Bothered Now, was fabulous, Slap that Bass and I Got Rhythm were both brilliant numbers, and the way they built from a simple rhythm or a simple tune into a full blown joyous celebration of dance was fantastic. The choreography was hugely effective and Colette’s ability to enthuse the cast, many of whom would never have believed they could dance, was clear for all to see.

There were many fabulous roles in Crazy for You and some standout performances from an incredible cast. The three cowboys, played by Josh Greacen, James Roper and Alistair Addley, each had their own character and the boys had great comic timing and the ability to produce a fabulous close harmony sound. It was a wonderful moment when the sleazy, villainous hotel owner Lank Hawkins was seduced by the self-important city girl, Irene Roth, and both Alex Butt and Maria Torres were utterly convincing as two opposites destined to be together! Kitty Cameron was superb as Bobby’s domineering mother and eventually she also found love with Polly’s father Everett, played in the most incredibly natural way by Pete Dorey. The arrival in Deadrock of a very English couple, The Fodors, played by George Clayton and Maisie Moon, was quite a surprise but it added yet another funny and highly entertaining dimension, as well as another great chorus number, Stiff Upper Lip.

Alex Tometzki made his stage debut as Bela Zangler, the Hungarian impresario who, in the first act, is cold, dry and extremely funny, and in the second act is drunk, hungover and absolutely hilarious. His performance was tremendous and I hope that we will see more of him in the future.

A highlight of the show was the scene when Zangler meets Bobby (who is impersonating Zangler), both of whom are drunk and both of whom think they are looking in a mirror as they make exactly the same gestures. An enormous amount of work must have gone into that one particular scene alone, but the outcome was terrific.

The audience were delighted by the chorus of cowboys, who were fabulously funny and their light scene was absolutely classic. Throughout the show the Follies entertained us with their dancing, singing and oh-so-many costume changes, and they were brilliantly led by Ellie Knights. Ellie played the part of Tess the choreographer, who was also the disinterested object of Zangler’s affection (of course they end up together in the end!) and Chloe Root played Patsie, the often confused, rather dim and extremely funny lead dancer.

Of course, no musical can be without its leading man and leading lady and I
would like to pay special tribute to two of the most stunning performances I have ever seen.

The casting of Harriet Garner as Polly Baker, I suspect, was inevitable. Her performance was stunning and so professional. She completely made the part her own and brought to it a gentle, yet feisty, personality with an utterly believable relationship with anyone who was on stage with her. And her singing, well that’s another thing altogether. Harriet has her own unique style and a truly beautiful voice and every number she sang was sensational. But it was her emotional interpretation of Someone to Watch Over Me that everyone was talking about long after the show had finished.

From the minute Eden Carroll walked on stage as Bobby Child it was impossible not to love him. His dashing good looks, his incredible voice and his ability to tap dance were a totally winning combination. Eden gave an incredibly professional and polished performance and did not seem at all phased by the fact that he was on stage pretty much all of the time, had numerous songs and was morphing from Bobby to Zangler and back again at a rate of knots! This was a truly astonishing performance.

The orchestra, under the excellent direction of Dave Sackett, were superb as always. It never ceases to amaze me that our musicians can produce such a professional sound.

Colette Byron and Dave Sackett are a formidable team and with the outstanding cast they were working with, Crazy For You was an absolute triumph.
REVIEW

Dr Katharine McGowan

Benjamin Britten wrote the opera *Noye's Fludde* in 1957 and he based it on an early Fifteenth Century mystery play from the Chester Mystery Cycle. Britten loved writing music for children and he wrote *Noye's Fludde* primarily for amateurs and for children to perform. He requested that it would always be performed in a church or a large hall, never a theatre, so our beautiful Prior Park Chapel was the perfect place. It was also a very happy coincidence that the performance dates coincided with the 100th anniversary of Britten's birth, the 22 November 1913.

Of course we all know the story of Noah's Ark and it has been told and retold throughout the centuries, but in *Noye's Fludde* the real emotion of the situation Noye (Noah) found himself in is revealed.

Dave Sackett had the desire to produce this opera for a long time and, when it finally came to fruition, his superb vision, his technical expertise and his ability to get so much out of the young performers gave way to an extraordinary musical experience.

One of the many great things about *Noye's Fludde* is the participation of the congregation, which made us all feel very much a part of the story - the opera opened with us all singing *Lord Jesus Think On Me* as Noye entered. Eden Carroll's portrayal of the central character was really quite beautiful, not least because of his wonderful voice. He managed to convey Noye's utter devotion to God but also his deep fear about what God was asking of him. Although we didn’t catch the merest glimpse of him, or hear a note from his wonderful singing voice, James Roper’s spoken voice of God was perfect and extremely powerful.

Once Noye had agreed to build the ark he called upon his family to help him. It was lovely to see so many younger pupils playing the parts of his sons and their wives. The ark literally seemed to be built on the altar in front of our very eyes and then the animals came down the aisle two by two, which was a moment I had been looking forward to particularly. The Paragon children were superb and the animal masks they had made were brilliant!

One fly in the ointment for Noye was Mrs Noye, a very difficult woman who really didn’t want to go along with Noye’s plans. Instead, she preferred to drink and mock Noye with her friends, The Gossips, and my goodness did they appear to gossip! Maria Torres was fantastic as Mrs Noye and she brought such strength to a character that wasn’t particularly likeable!

The way the storm built was very exciting and the fear expressed by all on board was tangible with the rendition of *Eternal Father, Strong to Save* sung very much from the heart.

As the storm subsided after forty days Noye sent out two ravens and then two doves, which were beautifully danced by Sam Quick, Harry Smith, Lulu Tucker and Molly Fleet and superbly choreographed by Anna Heighway.

One of the many great things about *Noye's Fludde* is the participation of the congregation, which made us all feel very much a part of the story - the opera opened with us all singing *Lord Jesus Think On Me* as Noye entered. Eden Carroll's portrayal of the central character was really quite beautiful, not least because of his wonderful voice. He managed to convey Noye's utter devotion to God but also his deep fear about what God was asking of him. Although we didn’t catch the merest glimpse of him, or hear a note from his wonderful singing voice, James Roper’s spoken voice of God was perfect and extremely powerful.

Once Noye had agreed to build the ark he called upon his family to help him. It was lovely to see so many younger pupils playing the parts of his sons and their wives. The ark literally seemed to be built on the altar in front of our very eyes and then the animals came down the aisle two by two, which was a moment I had been looking forward to particularly. The Paragon children were superb and the animal masks they had made were brilliant!

One fly in the ointment for Noye was Mrs Noye, a very difficult woman who really didn’t want to go along with Noye’s plans. Instead, she preferred to drink and mock Noye with her friends, The Gossips, and my goodness did they appear to gossip! Maria Torres was fantastic as Mrs Noye and she brought such strength to a character that wasn’t particularly likeable!

Throughout the opera the orchestration evoked exactly what was happening in the story, the rain, the storm, which was incredibly powerful, and the calm, which came as a great relief! The variety of instruments played, including hand bells which I had never seen played before, was amazing and a testament to the calibre of our musicians.

The opera ended as it began, with the congregation joining in with *The Spacious Firmament* as the cast left the altar and Noye received his final blessing.

For those of us who were lucky enough to see it, Dave Sackett’s spectacular production of *Noye's Fludde* will be forever etched in our memory.
Midsomer Norton Charity Concert

All proceeds from ticket sales went directly to Christian Aid and everyone was delighted to discover that no less than £600 had been raised on the night.
As the final hectic week of the summer drew to a close, the annual feast of the Grand Leavers’ Concert arrived. Anxious glances at the skies proved unjustified; a calm, beautiful July evening saw another memorable landmark in the College’s musical life – and 2014 brought a bumper harvest of soloistic talent.

Many of this year’s solos were accompanied once again by the Prior Park Philharmonic, a professional orchestra expertly assembled and led by our own violin teacher Jamie Hughes. Harriet Garner made a luminous start with the Rhapsody from Finzi’s Dies Natalis, and Maria Torres gave a memorable Song to the Moon by Dvořák. The College’s magnificent Fazioli grand piano, carefully transported to the Chapel, then accompanied some soloists: Schumann was beautifully performed by clarinetist Peter Dorey (Fantasy Piece No3) and soprano Chloe Root (Widmung) and Fauré by Harriet Gallegos (Fantasie). Wonderfully contrasting woodwind duos came from the flutes of Patsie Christie and Harriet Gallegos (Quantz), and the alto saxes of Eleanor Gallegos and Jenny Dinwoodie (Rodney Bennett and Khatchaturian). James Sackett’s resounding performance of the Rimsky-Korsakov Trombone Concerto concluded the first half.

A special time in itself, the interval found parents, friends, and leavers past and future comparing notes on the music and musical plans for the future, over a glass of the Caterer’s new summer punch or a glass of Prosecco.

Ollie Liu’s electric guitar launched the second half in spectacular style with full orchestral backing for Lotus Feet by Steve Vai, expertly orchestrated by Jess Norton. Rosie McNiff’s rich viola rose impressively above the full orchestra in Bruch’s Romance and James Roper’s For Behold – The People that Walked in Darkness from Messiah, had all his fine, authoritative presence. Eden Carroll, the final soloist, gave us a rare moment of Shostakovich in a sublime and serene mood with his slow movement from the Second Piano Concerto.

The final number, Billy Joel’s The Longest Time, sung a cappella by a chorus of 2014 leavers that included Verity Hunt and Tom Morrison, showed just what musical strength and depth there was in this year’s Upper Sixth. As always, the excellence of the ‘Grand Leavers’ was tinged with a sense of valediction, but in the gathering darkness of the side-aisles were Grand Leavers of the future, inspired by the present, planning great things for the future.
Band Night 2013
This year’s House Music was, once again, a keenly fought competition. With performances ranging from some spine-tingling classical pieces, right to the other end of the scale with a heartfelt rendition of ‘Teenage Dirtbag’ (Wheatus) by Burton House and ‘Tribute’ (Tenacious D) by Allen House, there was something to keep everyone entertained and spirits soaring.

The winners were:
Solo – Lizzie Daniels (violin)
Group – Burton House (Gambling Man)
House Song – Roche House (Does Your Mother Know)
Overall Cup – English House
May traditionally brings the great Prior Park Choral Society Concert, and this year the programme was particularly exciting and innovative, combining three memorable works: two established classics (one choral and one orchestral), and one brand new, from a Prior Park College composer.

The concert began with the College Orchestra under David Sackett in the first movement of Schubert’s *Unfinished Symphony*. This stirring piece never fails to impress audiences and the Prior performance was specially memorable for the warmth and conviction of the string playing (including the famous cello second subject) and the unanimity and excellent tuning of the very exposed woodwind sections.

There followed the world premiere of the full orchestral version of *The Moonlit Ocean*, for solo piano with orchestra, composed and performed by Alexander Butt (L6). This piece started life as an AS piano composition, in which form it also carried off this year’s Senior Composition Prize at the Mid-Somerset Festival; the composer then adapted and orchestrated it for this concert. With impressionist echoes of Debussy and Rachmaninoff, it was clear to the delighted audience why it had so impressed the judges.

The eighty voices of Choral Society then joined the professional orchestra to present the major choral work of the evening: Haydn’s *Nelson Mass*. From the very first stormy bars of this work, the expert timpani of George Rebello (L5) and Finlay Dove (F4) were instantly in evidence, alongside the committed and stirring energy of the chorus.

This Mass demanded all the expertise of our own Prior Park chorus and soloists, the imposing Chris Sheldrake (bass), authoritative Prior singing teacher Paul Badley (tenor), and mellifluous countertenor Stephen Harvey. But the star role of this Mass has to be the immensely difficult soprano solo, for which we were all delighted to welcome back Emily Bradley, a former Prior student, now a graduate of the Royal Scottish Academy. Emily’s performance was in every way equal to the formidable demands of Haydn’s writing, a balance of power, agility and beautiful sound.

Once again, the Choral Society put together a musical and emotional experience that was so much more than the sum of its parts; so it is that Prior Park’s young performers continue to be inspired, both in face-to-face encounters with the great and demanding works of our heritage, as well as in creating new works for audiences of the future.
After many years of fine service, the Big Band bade farewell to three lead players; Eleanor Gallegos (First Alto), Jenny Dinwoodie (First Tenor) and James Sackett (First Trombone) leave after many years in the band. But a group of young talented jazz musicians are waiting in the wings, so the future looks rosy for Prior Park’s Big Band.

The Band has played several gigs throughout the year, with highlights including the annual Jazz in the Gym and a return to the Sixth Form Prom. But the pinnacle of the year came with the Band playing on the bandstand in Parade Gardens as part of the opening of the Bath International Music Festival.

On a glorious Friday evening in mid-May, the band took to the stand amidst a large crowd of expectant music lovers. What followed was a great opportunity not only to show off the talents of the Big Band, but a chance for us to play our favourite pieces, including American Patrol, Hawaii Five-0, Skyfall (featuring guest singer Harriet Garner) and, of course, The Incredibles.

So, as the sun set on Soul Bossa Nova and the band left the stage, another eventful year ended. And with next year’s new line up and 2015 marking the 21st birthday of the Prior Park Big Band, I feel a party coming on...
The Prior Park Masterclass Series continued this year with two highly contrasting and fascinating sessions covering both singers and instrumentalists.

BEN PARRY
STIMMUNG MASTERCLASS

On 4 February, we welcomed back Ben Parry, Musical Director of the National Youth Choir of Great Britain, to lead a study day on Stockhausen’s notorious vocal piece Stimmung. (Ben had been to the College two years earlier to adjudicate the House Music Competition.) This was an opportunity for students and teachers to learn more from Ben (as a singer who has performed the piece himself) about the work, as well as to include some enjoyable practical sessions on extended vocal techniques and composition ideas. As Stimmung is an A Level set work, the day also attracted students and teachers from outside Prior Park.

One of the visiting teachers summed it up in an email to Roland Robertson following the event:

‘...a huge thank you for such a great day yesterday. Ben Parry’s study day on Stimmung was most illuminating, and very enjoyable indeed. We all learned a lot, and the boys were really fired up by it all. I am sure this is going to make a big difference to how they view this A Level topic – I hope it will inspire some very insightful essays. Thanks so much for inviting us and for your great hospitality throughout the day, which was very much appreciated. Do please thank Ben too for a really excellent day – it was so good to meet him and to share his great enthusiasm for the music. He really is a fabulous communicator and teacher – what a great guy!’

Upper 5 tenor Spike Clarkson, a member of the National Youth Choir already, was one of those who attended the day. Spike is looking forward to working with Ben Parry again in the NYC’s landmark performance of the Britten War Requiem at the Royal Albert Hall in November.

SASHA CALIN
AUDITION MASTERCLASS

On 11 February, we welcomed Sasha Calin, principal oboe of the Salzburg Mozarteum, to Prior Park. The authentic performance group Bath Baroque collaborated with Prior Park to stage a free, high-level, one-day workshop on audition training for musicians. Sasha has twenty years experience of auditions for conservatoires and orchestras, and she brought her own workshop material to help young musicians achieve their potential when auditioning. The techniques involved are used by professional musicians auditioning for leading orchestras.

The training involved both mental practice (psychological and physical preparation, and how to cope with nerves) and musical preparation for an audition – risk-taking versus safety, and identifying what’s being asked for.

A dozen Prior musicians, from Form 4 up to Upper 6, prepared and performed audition pieces, and though Sasha works at the highest level amongst Europe’s top professionals, she managed to put all our musicians totally at their ease. With charm and kindness she gave all our students real insights and confidence-building strategies to help them deal with the challenges that face every performing musician, from Prior Park Lower 3 right up to the Salzburg Mozarteum.
MASTERCLASS SERIES

THE PHOENIX

83
In June, the forty-five strong Prior Park Senior Chapel Choir were privileged to sing Choral Evensong in the magnificent and historic setting of Worcester Cathedral.

This trip follows on from our UK choir performances in St Paul’s Cathedral, Gloucester and Salisbury as well as our Masses in Westminster Cathedral.

They took some of the greatest church music to sing, ranging from Responses by William Byrd (d.1623) to three twentieth Century masterpieces, the Evening Canticles for King’s College, Cambridge by Herbert Howells, and the Hymn to the Virgin composed by Benjamin Britten whilst still a teenager. Before the service the choir had a short tour of the cathedral, including its original monastic buildings and the memorials to famous local Catholic, Edward Elgar.

For the performance of Britten’s piece, a semichorus of senior soloists stood to sing between the tombs of King John and Prince Arthur (first husband of Catharine of Aragon), who both lie buried in the Quire at Worcester.

The midsummer evening sun blazed into the nave, illuminating the choir as they processed out after the service. Afterwards, the Precentor of Worcester was kind enough to tell the choir that among their many visiting choirs, ours was ‘out of the top drawer’; the Cathedral Organist was also delighted to attend the service.
Prior Park College was strongly represented at this year’s Mid-Somerset Festival, winning many classes and being recognised by judges for their highly technical playing.

Prior Park was a dominant presence in the Chamber Music category
Chamber Music Yr 13 and Under - won by Prior Park Saxophone Quartet
Instruments Ensemble Yr 11 and Under - won for the fifth year running by Prior Park African Drums who for the first time included Paragon African Drummers too
Chamber Music Yr 11 and Under - Wind Quintet came second
Instruments Ensemble Yr 13 and Under - won by Brass Ensemble

Our Senior Chapel Choir continues to lead the way in this category
Choirs Sacred Music - won by the Senior Chapel Choir
Prior musicians dominated the new festival composition classes
Piano Composition - won by Alex Butt and awarded Outstanding
Instrumental Composition - won by Joshua Greacen

We enjoyed a continued strong presence in solo singing from Folk and Popular to Classical, ages 12 to 19
Oratorio 16-19 Yrs - won by Alistair Addley
Art Song 16-17 Yrs - Alistair Addley came second
Show Song 16-17 Yrs - Alistair Addley came third
Song from Operetta Musical or Film 15 Yrs - won by Max Gall
Jazz and Pop Songs - Joshua Greacen came second
Unaccompanied Folk Song - won by Angharad Harris
Art Song 12 Yrs - Angharad Harris came third
Madrigal Class - Schola Cantorum came second
Choirs 14 Yrs and Under - Junior Choir came third
Concerto for String Instruments - Lizzie Daniels awarded third place and graded Outstanding
Concerto for Brass, Woodwind and Recorder - won by Finlay Dove and awarded Outstanding. Finlay was then asked to compete in the Concerto Final
Cello Advanced Repertoire - Sebrina Lambert-Rose awarded Distinction
You would be forgiven for thinking that after seven years of the Battlefields trip, I had seen and done it all. It is true that the trip now follows a well-established itinerary but the quest to find, and pay our respects to, the relatives of the pupils ensures that every trip is different and offers the opportunity to visit lesser known, smaller cemeteries. This year’s group was particularly lucky to be able to visit Ypres and the Somme during the Centenary, a detail that seemed to make our tour all the more poignant and was certainly very special for me.

Our journey began on a rather soggy Sunday morning in July but the sense of excitement was tangible. After several hours of travel the students were given their first sense of what the trip would be all about with a stop at Wulvergham – Lindhoek Road Military Cemetery on the outskirts of Ypres. Here we found Private J Blagbrough, who died on 2 April 1918, the Great Uncle to Elizabeth Rigby. It is always a special moment to find a relative, and for me, it is the smaller cemeteries often tucked behind a housing estate or deep in the countryside, so unobtrusive to be almost forgotten, that really resonate. The pupils were similarly struck and I was really impressed by their focus during that evening’s History lesson. Indeed they were so interested that the all-important daily quiz was only won following a rather difficult tie break question – how to spell Passchendaele!

We spent the next day exploring the Ypres Salient. Beginning at the Menin Gate we were fortunate to find the relations of several pupils, including Lance Corporal Edwards, who is related to Jonathan Mallet and died on 31 July 1917. With 54 000 names on the Menin Gate memorial, it can be easy to lose sight of the individual and as such the ability for the students to make a tangible link made the visit even more poignant.

We went on to the In Flanders Field Museum which provided the opportunity for students to develop a chronology of the First World War, and the experience of Ypres in particular. From here we made a brief stop at Potizje Chateau Wood Cemetery to visit a relative of James Willson before proceeding to the Sanctuary Wood Museum. This site is known for its system of tunnels, which, though perhaps not the most authentic of the tour, gave the students an excellent idea of the shape and layout of trenches. We continued our tour at the Passchendaele Museum which was a personal highlight for me due to its recent renovation and the addition of a superb outdoor trench experience.

Visits to the largest Commonwealth Cemetery in the world at Tyne Cot and a German Cemetery at Langemark in the afternoon brought a sense of the scale of loss to the students. The contrast between the space and light at Tyne Cot and the sombre mass graves at Langemark also encouraged questions about the winners and losers of war. Our final stop of the day was the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate. This was the busiest I have ever attended and was incredibly moving. Prior to the ceremony, a band of bagpipes played whilst a choir and orchestra could be heard as the wreaths were laid. Four of our students took part in the service and, with so many having found their own relations during the trip, it was truly very special.

The next day we travelled to the Somme, stopping at the Notre Dame de Lorette Cemetery en route. This is the largest French Military Cemetery in the world and holds 20,000 graves of identified soldiers from the First World War, with a further 20,000 soldiers commemorated in mass graves. It was here that many of the students were finally able to comprehend the numbers they had heard about at each site, and the scale of loss began to hit home. From here we went on to the Newfoundland Memorial Park. The Park preserves the section of the Somme around which the Newfoundlanders fought and allowed the students to walk in their footsteps. Our fantastic guide expertly narrated the events of the first day of the Battle of
the Somme as they unfolded; guiding us through the support trenches and over the top into no man’s land. Being able to see the landscape as it was and, in particular, the size and volume of shell holes, made this visit a highlight for the pupils, sparking their imagination. Having gained a sense of chronology of 1 July we went on to explore other areas of the front line, including the very spot where the infamous Sheffield and Accrington Pals began and so quickly ended their fight, as well as exploring the trenches from which the 36th Ulster division fought valiantly in their attempt to take Thiepval. Our visit to the Somme ended at the enormous Thiepval Memorial. It really is impossible to convey the size of this 140 foot structure which commemorates over 72,000 soldiers missing from the Somme between 1915 and 1918. It is situated in a beautiful spot and provided a chance for some quiet reflection after a busy day.

Our final day came all too quickly and was spent in Arras where a major offensive began on 9 April 1917. Our first visit was Wellington Quarry, a guided tour in the underground tunnels in which 20,000 troops sheltered prior to the Battle of Arras. The display of artefacts, original artwork on the walls and the use of video all created a real sense of atmosphere and allowed the pupils to get an altogether different experience of the day to day experience of war. From here we made a final stop at Viny Ridge before beginning our journey home.

So, whilst I have visited Ypres and the Somme many times before I remain as enthused and moved as ever by the Battlefields trip. Seeing each site through the fresh eyes of the L5 brought new details to my attention and the reactions of my colleagues Miss Hannah Sheehy and Dr Graham Smith reminded me of the raw emotion that I felt on my first trip. With the Centenary now underway, it seems more important than ever that we all, history students or not, make this pilgrimage and remember the sacrifice of those who gave their lives for us.
Saturday Active

Ms Louise Blake

Saturday Active is now established in its fifth year, with an expanding list of courses available for all ages, most of which are free of charge. This year we added a Guitar Group, Slo-Mo Video Club and Combined Cadet Force for Form 4, which has been very popular. A number of Form 4 students have even headed off to Cornwall for the annual CCF Summer Camp! Numbers have continued to increase with the Paragon pupils enjoying Tennis, Swimming, Archery and African Drumming!

Additions for next year’s programme include a Spanish Dance class, a new Street Dance class with a teacher who was actually in the film StreetDance 3D, Kayaking, Computer Programming with Python, as well as the popular courses that we continue to offer, such as Leith Cookery. Why not come and join us?

TENNIS LEADERS

Mrs Lori Redman

A number of College students have made a valuable contribution to our Saturday Active Tennis Programme, inspiring the young boys and girls who come up to the College from The Paragon Junior School on Saturday mornings. This year our tennis programme offered students the opportunity to take the LTA Tennis Leaders Award which is the first step onto the coaching ladder and has been taken by several F4 and L5 students. This course will be on offer again next year for students in F4 and L5 and we will also be offering the LTA Level 1 Coaching Award for students to progress on to in the Sixth Form.
BOOK WEEK AND AUTHOR EVENTS

Ms Lucy Smith

To celebrate World Book Day 2014, Prior Park students donated their favourite children’s books to local Bath charity, EarthChild. Based in India, EarthChild supports over 17,000 Tibetan refugee children by providing them with an education and a safe environment to learn about their Tibetan heritage. They offer sanctuary to children who spend days making an often treacherous journey from Tibet to India in the hope of finding an education and a better life.

Students from all years participated, and together we raised a total of 385 books: a fantastic result for a very worthy cause. To further support the charity, three teachers from Prior Park flew out to India over the Easter holidays to provide teaching support in one of the refugee schools, and fortuitously they were present when the children received our donated books. The Tibetan children value books enormously, and Dr Rix who visited at Easter recalled a touching instance of one child kissing the book that they were given. We hoped that our donations would make a big difference, but it was humbling to realise the full extent of it.

To further celebrate World Book Day, teachers and support staff also proudly wore badges showing their favourite books. With a chocolate bunny up for grabs, students spent an engaging afternoon guessing their teachers’ favourite reads and creating a buzz with their enthusiasm for reading. Competition was fierce, but Libby Willis, in Upper Sixth Fielding, was crowned the lucky winner, matching all teachers with their favourite novels, poems and plays.

THE CENTURION BOOK AWARD & THE CARNEGIE AWARD

Ms Lucy Smith

Once again, keen readers from Lower 3 to Form 4 took part in the Bath schools Centurion Book Award this year. We read from a broad selection, including *Dodger* by Terry Pratchett, *Soldier Dog* by Sam Angus, *Dead Romantic* by CJ Skuse, *Gods and Warriors* by Michelle Paver and *Gangsta Granny* by David Walliams. It was a tough call but David Walliams was a clear winner with our readers as well as the other participating reading groups. The award ceremony is scheduled for September 2014, and we will be keeping our fingers crossed that Mr Walliams himself makes an appearance!

2014 also saw our reading group take on the challenging Carnegie Book Award, which features titles voted for by a panel of Librarians and endorsed by CILIP (the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals). Out of eight great titles, the controversial *Bunker Diary* by Kevin Brooks was chosen, which proved to be an all-round favourite within the group. To celebrate their fantastic achievement and dedication to broadening their reading horizons, the Carnegie group were treated to a live stream of the awards ceremony in the Library complete with popcorn and crisps. We were also very lucky to attend an illustration workshop with Ms West and Laura Little, a lecturer in publishing from Bath Spa University in the Art department.

2014 also saw our reading group take on the challenging Carnegie Book Award, which features titles voted for by a panel of Librarians and endorsed by CILIP (the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals). Out of eight great titles, the controversial *Bunker Diary* by Kevin Brooks was chosen, which proved to be an all-round favourite within the group. To celebrate their fantastic achievement and dedication to broadening their reading horizons, the Carnegie group were treated to a live stream of the awards ceremony in the Library complete with popcorn and crisps. We were also very lucky to attend an illustration workshop with Ms West and Laura Little, a lecturer in publishing from Bath Spa University in the Art department.

89

THE PHOENIX
This year, forty-four students have undertaken the Bronze Award and nineteen students the Gold. The eight Bronze groups, ably assisted by staff and Upper Sixth students, visited the Marlborough Downs for their expeditions, researching the wonders of Avebury and Barbury Castle, and battling cows, chickens and hay fever along the way! We were lucky with the weather even if it was rather hot at times. All groups returned in one piece with some heartfelt presentations and wonderful videos to convey what they had all enjoyed about Duke of Edinburgh. Ms Blake is delighted to see that the majority of the Bronze students have completed the Skills, Volunteering and Physical Recreation sections of the Award and will soon receive their certificates and badges.

The Gold group, led by Mr Dorey, visited the Brecon Beacons for their practice expedition and Dartmoor for their assessed.

THE GOLD AWARD EXPEDITION

Mr Sean Dorey

The day after Speech Day, sixteen intrepid members of Lower Sixth set off for Dartmoor to attempt their Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award expedition. The Moor was in a fairly benign mood this year with little rain and only occasional strong winds. All participants acquitted themselves admirably and completed their planned routes with great aplomb. The staff were really impressed with the mature attitude with which they approached the challenges presented to them over the week and the excellent teamwork they displayed. Congratulations to the students and many thanks to the staff who helped to run this year’s expedition.

“Out Duke of Edinburgh expedition was an unforgettable experience. To be totally responsible for ourselves whilst working in a team is something which truly builds your confidence and develops so many life skills. Wild camping on Dartmoor is a truly unusual experience and one which I am unlikely ever to forget! I really enjoyed the expedition and am very proud of what we achieved. Many thanks to Mr Dorey, Miss McConaghie, Miss Haynes and Mr and Mrs Devine for all their help preparing us for the expedition and supervising our time on the Moor.” Holly Simpson.
COMBINED CADET FORCE

Major Jenkins

Commodore G Little, CBE, ADC, Commanding Officer of HMND Devonport arrived on Thursday 1 May 2014. He was greeted by the college Chair of Governors, Headmaster and Contingent Commander for our Biennial Inspection. Post welcoming and pleasantries 2Lt Bond presented the guard of honour and contingent staff for inspection – all cadets received acclamation for their standard of appearance and confidence.

The inspecting officer retreated for a formal luncheon, accompanied by representatives from both Army and Navy Cadet sponsor Headquarters. Shortly after the Inspecting Officer, accompanied by the Headmaster, was given the opportunity to view a select number of activities hosted by contingent staff and cadets. The standard of delivery and presentation was exceptional, the depth of knowledge and enthusiasm from all was clearly evident. On completion of the inspection college cadets received high acclaim for performance and a notable commendation for continued selfless commitment from our contingent staff.

Throughout the year some of the cadets received notable funding support from the Army Cadet Force Association supporting cadets on college adventures to both Romania and Cuba. We will continue to apply for such assistance on request to help our cadets achieve such dreams. China is a likely destination next year.

On completion of the inspection college cadets received high acclaim for performance and a notable commendation for continued selfless commitment from our contingent staff.

As a contingent our ability to deliver a wide spectrum of activities continues. We welcome 2Lt Garside to the Army Section. Her previous experience as an Officer Cadet at a University Officers Training Corps in Exeter serves us well. 2Lt Haynes has completed a First Aid Instructors course to enable the contingent to deliver National Governing Body recognised courses to cadets. Congratulations also to SLt Saunders Prouse whom completed Initial Officer Training at Portsmouth, whilst SLt McConaghie continues to pursue sailing qualifications.

Under the guidance of Lt Dorey our naval section has continued to flourish seeing many cadets attend courses across the country; HSE First Aid Courses, Royal Yacht Association power boating, yacht sailing, competent crew for cadets and both junior and senior leadership courses at HMS Collingwood. We await news of flying experience at Royal Naval Air Station (RNAS) Yeovilton and BSAC Ocean Diver opportunities.

This year 2Lt Bond made significant changes to the delivery of the army section program, incorporating more activities suggested by cadets whilst still completing the wider syllabus. These included more shooting at the Easter Camp, incorporating a mixture of live firing, blank firing exercises and adventurous activities. There is also an additional opportunity to attend a central summer camp - this year, cadets attended a challenging seven day camp at RAF St Mawgan.

The contingent continues to make other challenging pursuits available such as, but not limited to, parachuting, paragliding and coastal traversing.

As a contingent our ability to deliver a wide spectrum of activities continues. We welcome 2Lt Garside to the Army Section. Her previous experience as an Officer Cadet at a University Officers Training Corps in Exeter serves us well. 2Lt Haynes has completed a First Aid Instructors course to enable the contingent to deliver National Governing Body recognised courses to cadets. Congratulations also to SLt Saunders Prouse whom completed Initial Officer Training at Portsmouth, whilst SLt McConaghie continues to pursue sailing qualifications.

Semper Fidelis.
Post welcoming and pleasantries 2Lt Bond presented the guard of honour and contingent staff for inspection – all cadets received acclamation for their standard of appearance and confidence.
On 14 December 2013, thirty-eight students and four staff members left for the annual ski trip, this time to the beautiful resort of Bormio in Italy. Bormio is an ancient spa town with a medieval centre and it has played host to World Cup downhill and slalom runs. We stayed in the superb Hotel Nevada, situated adjacent to the main gondola out of town. The group enjoyed fabulous conditions, blue skies and sunshine and excellently maintained slopes. All students thoroughly enjoyed the excellent instruction from the Anzi Ski School and made great progress on the slopes. In the evenings, a varied entertainment programme included a treasure hunt, a quiz, ice skating, a disco and the customary “Prior’s Got Talent” show. This year’s winners were Lower 5 students James Dorey and Will Maxwell, singing a medley of songs from the past thirty years!
Everyone met at 6.00am on Thursday 12 December, a bit bleary eyed from a very busy term at College, yet excited about the prospect of what was to come.

Friday 13 December. We filled our bellies with pancakes, bacon, syrup, eggs, hash browns and coffee from the local Metro Diner. We then made our way downtown to the Financial District and the 9/11 Tribute Centre, where we heard stories of the families affected by the terrorist attacks of 2001. As dusk descended, we visited the Statue of Liberty. The timing of our ride on the Staten Island Ferry was fortuitous, allowing us to look back at the sunset through the Manhattan skyline. Next, we took the subway uptown; everyone was amazed by the sensory overload that is Times Square. The evening was spent enjoying the gymnastic expertise of Pippin the Musical.

Saturday 14 December. Huge snowflakes were falling as the group walked through the sculptures that framed the High Line walk. We warmed up in the bohemian setting of the Chelsea markets, where the Oreo Cookie was first invented. Our stay was all too brief as we headed to the Lincoln Centre for the afternoon performance of Verdi’s short, comic opera Falstaff.

Sunday 15 December. The day started with an early morning gospel service at the Bethel Assembly, providing us with one of the warmest welcomes we received and giving us all an experience of alternative worship. We had to leave promptly to attend Mass downtown at St Patrick’s Cathedral on Fifth Avenue. Our lunch was held at the BB King’s Restaurant, where we were treated to a performance from the Harlem Gospel Choir. Many students joined them on stage (including some students who were “volunteered”) but all of them were great sports. Our second visit to the Lincoln Centre was the absolute highlight for many (including the boys!) as we went to see the ballet. We saw George Balanchine’s production of The Nutcracker, accompanied by Tchaikovskys instantly recognisable score.

Monday 16 December. We arrived at Grand Central Terminal early so as to eat our breakfast in this remarkable building - the Whispering Wall was a
We walked through a snow-covered Central Park in bright sunshine, on to our final activity which was ice skating. I think everyone took a moment to appreciate the special setting we were in.

Tuesday 17 December. This was an options day, with marketing talks available to half of our group at the Yankees Stadium, whilst the other half completed art visits to the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) and the Museum of Arts and Design (MAD).

Wednesday 18 December. Our final day in New York - we walked through a snow-covered Central Park in bright sunshine, on to our final activity which was ice skating. I think everyone took a moment to appreciate the special setting we were in.
Zara Neill (L5) and her trusty steed Owen competed in the Eventing O’Nu18 event, comprising Dressage, Show Jumping and Cross Country at the prestigious Nunney Horse Trials in Frome in June. Zara found herself competing against international riders, such was the calibre of the competition on the day. Nevertheless, she came away as the champion of her class, having achieved a score of 29 in the Dressage, and a Double Clear in the Show Jumping and Cross Country, with a 0.4 time penalty. These results averaged out to a final score of 29.4, making Zara the champion in a class of almost forty competitors.

Zara and Owen are no strangers to success since they began training together three years. They have put in some phenomenal performances over the last year alone, including finishing 18th in the British National Pony Trials.

This year, my horse Cavvy and I have done a great deal of equestrian activity, not only the competitions but training and preparation for the competitions. Luckily I have had international event rider Nick Guntlett training us. Sometimes the other members of the team come to my house and train as well. Cavvy has really improved in all aspects of eventing – the dressage, showjumping and the Cross Country. We are making a good team and have now got 60 British Eventing foundation points and three regional qualifications for the grass roots at Badminton Horse Trials in 2014.

Finding time for horses around school and homework can be quite tough, but I enjoy it so it’s all worth it. I am very lucky to have a family and a mum who rides as well, so when I can’t ride because of school or other sport that I am involved in, Mum will ride Cavvy for me. I have had the opportunity to share my GoPro head cam video with all my peers in English House to show them what it really feels like to jump around a cross country course and the view on top of the horse. Mrs Byron thinks that I am mad as it looks very scary!

All of my spare time is spent cleaning, riding and preparing my horses. I have mounted games competitions most weekends all over the UK when I am either riding for my Pony Club (Wylde Valley), or riding for my County. I was recently asked to ride in the World Individuals where I was against 34 of the top mounted games riders (Y14a) in the world and I was riding for the South of England. I am hoping to be considered for the England team for Pony Club and MGA which is why I have to practise every day. I have three games ponies – Dusty is a white pony I have recently outgrown and is now for sale; another is called Bunny who is extremely fast and a bit quirky. I am spending lots of time building her confidence to stop her bolting at sudden noises. The third one is called Falan who is quite fast and has been in the Horse of the Year Show many times.
Sports Day
Rugby

Mr. Jan Bonney

Rugby at the College has gone through a number of changes this year; there have been some lows but also some great highs. It has been fantastic that throughout the school there are a number of players within the Representative Pathway from U13 to U18, linked with the County, South West Division and Bath Academy.

This season we have played 106 fixtures, involving over 220 students.

Baines

U13A Played 9 Won 5 Lost 4
U13B Played 10 Won 2 Drawn 1 Lost 7
U13C Played 6 Won 2 Lost 4
U13D Played 2 Won 1 Lost 1

Baines have had a fantastic season and shown great potential for the future. The teams have played an expansive style and shown a determined defensive quality, which has typified their spirit. All of the teams have had some great performances, although a special mention must go to the Super Cs, with great victories against All Hallow’s and Monkton Prep.

U14

14A Played 12 Won 10 Drawn 1 Lost 1
14B Played 9 Won 4 Lost 5

The U14s have been the most successful year group at the College this season, with some outstanding performances and some very powerful players. Each week the team seems to be improving and gelling as a unit, which will pay dividends for the college in the future. The A Team has lost only one game this season – huge congratulations go to them for this achievement.

U15

15A Played 9 Won 3 Lost 6
15B Played 8 Won 2 Lost 6

This year’s L5 group had a difficult year as U14s. They have proved that, through hard work and a good team
Within this squad there are some very talented individuals who have led by example, and this was reflected in some great performances and wins, especially against Kingswood earlier in the season.

**U16**

16A Played 11 Won 5 Drawn 1 Lost 5  
16B Played 7 Won 3 Lost 4

The U16s are a strong year group, which meant that a number of these players have stepped up to 1st XV rugby. Even with the loss of a number of these key individuals, the U16s have still managed to put in some great performances, including some outstanding victories against Colston’s, Downside, Monkton and KES.

**SENIORS**

1st XV Played 12 Won 4 Lost 8  
2nd XV Played 10 Won 5 Lost 5

At Senior level, the mighty 2nd XV has battled and played some great rugby, with lots of movement of players between the 1st and 2nd Team squads. They have put in some great performances, the highlights of which were wins against Colston’s, Downside, Monkton and KES.

This year’s 1st XV were a young side and had a tough year playing some very strong opposition. It is a credit to them that they have continued to work hard and improve each week, showing that they have masses of potential. The College was fortunate enough to be able to play at the Rec again this year against a very powerful Sherborne side. This was a fantastic occasion and a great advert for the College with a big crowd and superb support.

The boys started the season with a great victory over Colston’s, also finishing strongly with wins over Downside, Monkton and KES.

Thank you to all the players, coaches, referees and staff who have helped out with rugby this season.

**RUGBY 7’S**

After Christmas, the Senior 7’s entered Wycliffe, Colston’s, South West and The National Schools’ Sevens tournaments with mixed results. Injuries and unavailability made consistency on the field a problem, but also allowed a number of opportunities for younger players.

Excellent results against Bromsgrove School (previous season’s winners) in the Quarter Finals of Colston’s and a draw against Millfield at the South West proved real highlights to the season.

The National Schools’ Sevens proved a difficult day with very tough opposition, which consisted of Marlborough and Cranleigh School. As always, the tournament proved a great advert for rugby and a fantastic experience for all those involved.

I have no doubt that the future is very bright, with the majority of players being available for next year, and a number of highly talented players coming through to push for places.
Girls’ Hockey 2013

GIRLS’ HOCKEY

Ms Cathy Williams

We have had the privilege of enjoying much of the best girls’ hockey ever seen at Prior this term. The 1st’s have performed at an unprecedented standard throughout the season and have enjoyed excellent improvement, results, achievements and genuine praise from all who have seen them play and train. It has been our most successful year ever in the National Schools’ Tournaments, with the U16 squad reaching the semi-finals of the Avon County Tournament and the U13, U14 & U18 squads all qualifying through Avon and on to the West of England Regional Tournament – a fantastic treble and no mean feat for a school of our size.

BAINES

Baines had over 30 fixtures this term and every girl has played in at least 4 matches. Enormous progress has been made, much enjoyment has been had and there is exciting potential to explore in the future. Thank you to the girls as well as Mrs Forshaw, Miss Davidson, Mrs Redman and Mr Hall. Mrs Redman’s 13A’s had a much more successful season than in recent years – and the most bling in their team photo! The shield and gold medals from our tournament at the start of the season as well as their Avon County silver medals.

JUNIORS

The delightfully enthusiastic 14B squad brightened Mrs Redman’s and my Monday afternoons and Wednesday mornings throughout the term with their crazy Ribena berry enthusiasm, energy and positivity not to mention thirst for skill development and rapid improvement every session. Competition for places was heartbreakingly tough but the squad were incredibly supportive of each other. Mr Sackett particularly enjoyed their 3-0 wins at Queen’s Taunton and over KES as well as seeing the ongoing skill development and optimistically dynamic style of attacking hockey.

The 14A’s have had their fair share of highs and lows this season with 4 wins and 3 losses, 12 goals scored and 11 conceded. They have had good, even and challenging games and have gone from strength to strength. They started the season with a win against KES and, despite some tough training sessions and matches, have responded well and made masses of progress. Their highlight was the West of England tournament, where they qualified through their pool to the quarter-finals but lost a close game to the eventual winners Millfield who go on to Nationals. They have played some dynamic and skilful hockey and what has impressed Miss Davidson most is their overwhelming amount of enthusiasm and desire to improve.

Mr Blaikely’s U15B’s kept a clean sheet in eight glorious games and were undefeated until one fateful Saturday when they conceded their first and only goal of the season having scored 11. They deserve praise for their improvement, their camaraderie, their never-say-die attitude, but most of all for their sheer endeavour and desire to do anything for their team-mates.

Mrs Trott’s U15A’s are an enthusiastic band of intelligent athletes who can play some great, fast paced and creative hockey. They won 5 of their 8 matches and did well in 1 of their 2 tournaments. However, a few poor decisions cost them dearly and a higher level of focus and concentration will stand them in good stead with the senior squads next year. Nine of the L5’s were part of the U16 squad at the West of England Finals and, although they played better and better throughout the day, didn’t quite qualify for the Regionals.

SENIORS

58 of our U15 and Sixth Form girls have played for the senior teams this year and, although this is a smaller squad than in recent years, their enthusiasm, loyalty and ambition have been
inspiring. Mr Burt, Mrs Redman and Miss Davidson have trained, coached and umpired the 3rd and 4th squad through some tough games. However, the girls have worked hard on their fitness, conditioning, skills and gameplay, always looking for new ways to improve and develop their game and giving their all in matches, despite some heavy losses.

The 2nd’s had two main defining characteristics this season – they made loads of progress and had masses of fun! They trained, played and warmed up with a growing sense of energy, positivity and camaraderie. No matter how cold, wet or exhausted they have been, they have chivvied each other along with girls from all three year groups being welcomed and valued. The technical progress made as individuals has been really impressive as well. Their tactical awareness and playing style as a team has developed out of all recognition. Their pre-season losses to stronger, older, wiser and fitter club ladies, and then again to younger, quicker school players, showed that there was a lot of room for improvement. However a 3-0 win over KES was followed by draws with strong Dean Close and Kingswood sides, and some good skill development and playing patterns emerged. We then enjoyed a winning streak over Dauntsey’s, Bristol Grammar School and Colstons. An excellent game against Queen’s Taunton ended 1 all, before a disappointing loss at Bryanston showed us that core skills, positional discipline, decision making and communication matter a lot! The season ended with some great attacking hockey to beat Wells’s Cathedral 5-0 and a tough battle with a strong, skilful and pacey Sherborne to a very gratifying 2-1 win.

What an outstanding season this was for the 1st XI! The Sherborne Tournament and the Avon Cup were won in September and early October and a clean sweep of the Bath schools deserves recognition (particularly the 6-0 victory over a strong Kingswood team).

We reached the quarter-finals of the West Championship and, on another day, might well have gone much further, but that was not to be.

We beat Dean Close and Queen’s Taunton (last year’s national champions at U18 and U16 respectively) – these were tight matches but the girls maintained an attacking style throughout which impressed all who saw them.

We are grateful to the parents who were so supportive and vocal wherever we went; Mr Burt and Mr Fry who generously offered their time and expertise to umpire on several occasions; the L6 boys who joined the training sessions and helped develop the girls’ intensity, pace and skill level. Finally, we thank Mr Hall whose wisdom, experience, knowledge and care continued to give the girls all the skills and confidence to perform and achieve as they have.

Photo above: The highly successful 1st XI Team with coach Alan Hall.
This term Prior Park have had 15 different teams who have played a grand total of 85 matches, and scored a whopping 126 goals! Thankfully with the kinder weather we didn’t experience the same amount of frost bite, but instead this was replaced by torrential rain, often combined with strong winds. I have been bowled over by the enthusiasm the girls have shown this term and the progress that has been made and I think they are a credit to themselves and the college.

**BAINES**

The mighty Baines unfortunately, more that any of the other teams, were hit by having fixtures cancelled due to wind and rain. However, when they did get playing they cannot be faulted for their endeavour, commitment and determination against stiff opposition. The U13A’s had really encouraging performances in the KES tournament and wins against Clifton Prep and All Hallows. The U13B’s had a win against Clifton Prep while the C’s, D’s and E’s have really improved as the term progressed. Across all five of the Baines teams there has been a bundle of enthusiasm and energy and, a desire to learn and improve. They have been an absolute delight to work with. Well done Baines!

**JUNIOR**

Mrs Forsshaw U14A’s have been a superb team always working hard, with enthusiasm and focus. Even in the toughest fixtures they never gave up. The have shown, in all their games, evidence that they have continually developed their skills, and demonstrated versatility and commitment, to the team, shown by many of them playing in a variety of different positions. Their most emphatic wins were against Downside, Monkton and Dauntseys.

Mrs Hearn’s U14B’s have been great. The have been flexible regarding team changes, they have kept smiling, despite some grim weather, and fought really hard (especially in their wins against KES and Kingswood!). They have been hugely supportive of each other and fully committed to every match – Mrs Hearn says they’ve been fab and a delight to work with.

The mighty U14C’s played a few touch matches against KES and Bryanston and were a joy to work with for Mr Bond and myself. Some of the girls in this squad only played netball for the first time in January, so it was very impressive to see them representing the college this term.

Mrs Trotts U15A’s have had a very positive season with a stable ten in the squad. Improvement has been at a steady pace with the key being their movement and linking as a team. They play with pace and accuracy and are especially good in the circle. Their most impressive wins were against BGS and Dauntseys.

Mr Penrose and Mrs Garside’s U15 ‘killer’ Bs have had a spectacular season where they have shown excellent progress in their individual skills and as a team, culminating in some very strong performances against tough oppositions – this includes beating KES by 10 goals! Having started as a collection of different individuals, they have now gelled as a group, proving to be quite a formidable force! Well done to the U15’s.

**SENIOR**

Mrs Saunders-Prouse and Miss Dawsons fabulous 4ths have made some huge improvements throughout the season. They have had some tough fixtures but have fought with commitment and enthusiasm.

Mrs Byrons 3rds have had a very successful season winning 8 of their 10 games having impressive wins over KES, Bryanston and Royal High. With aggression in defence, athleticism in the centre court and incredible accuracy from the shooters, they have a winning combination.

Mrs Redmans 2nd’s squad has been full of fun and have worked really hard on court for each other. All of the girls have shown a great understanding of a variety of positions, to perform well for the team.

Having played 12 matches, winning 7 and losing 5. It is significant that the wins have been comfortable with the highlight being 36-3 against Bryanston, whilst the losses have been close, such as 22-24 against BGS.

The First Team have a professional yet fun loving approach to their Netball and to sport in general. I can honestly say these are some of the most committed, determined and talented players you could wish to have on your team and I feel really privileged to be able to work with them. I’m particularly proud of their grit, determination and skill level, when put under pressure.

The squad narrowly missed going through to regional finals this year, but went on to have a positive and rewarding season. They had many impressive wins – including a 27-12 against Daunty’s and some closer victory’s such as a 23-22 against RHS. They were narrowly defeated by KES this year (who went on to National Finals) 33-30, and this was an impressive battle of skill to watch!
One win, to be mentioned, is the annual battle when the girls whooped the boys 19-3 in just 24 minutes of play which was really quite impressive!

I'd really like to thank Mollie Roberts and Harriet Freeman for being superb captains this year. They are outstanding role models on the court, but also off the court. They have maintained a superb balance of being professional yet fun. Really well done to all the 1st team squad this season.

Thank you for the hard work and dedication of all staff who have helped with Netball this term, especially for all the times where you have gone above and beyond what is expected.
In terms of results the U13 Teams had mixed seasons. We fielded C, D, E and F Teams to allow everyone, who wanted the chance to represent the College. The U13A squad played well to finish third in the Avon Cup, but overall there is some way to go.

The boys in F3 and L3 were enthusiastic and keen to learn, and a good deal of technical progress did happen. However, the groups tended to lack a degree of concentration and a competitive spirit. They need to be aware that whoever said winning is not important probably lost!

JUNIOR

F4 was a very successful year group. The U14B XI won 6 of its 9 matches, beating Queen’s Taunton 7-0 and Clifton College 9-0.

The U14A squad played 10 full matches, winning 8 and losing just 2; in the process they scored 30 goals and conceded just 7. Notable wins were achieved over Queen’s Taunton and Monkton (both 4-1) and KES (7-0).

The squad also achieved second place in the Avon Cup. From there, they won through the Prelims to reach the West Finals, where they narrowly missed out by losing by a single goal to both of the eventual finalists Dean Close and Sherborne.

It is a major achievement for a school of our size to reach the last eight in the West, and the players and Mr Fry should be very proud of their achievements.

The U15 teams, though not as successful in terms of results, played with great spirit and, at times, with a great deal of quality. I selected two L5 boys for the 1st XI and this had an impact on the year group teams. I am so pleased to report that, after a shaky start, both A and B XIs developed in terms of character and style of play and good results followed.

Wins for the B XI over Clifton by 7-0 and Queen’s Taunton by 8-2 were impressive, and the A team achieved a 50% win record.

The U16 squad does not play regularly together, but we entered a group in the
Half
William Braithwaite
James Burwell
Tom Dabell
Siddant Gurung (re-awarded)
Kieran Kelly
Will Lawton
Harry Parson
Milo Young

Full
Tom Bradshaw
Alex Lord
Callum Smith
Luke Tapsfield (re-awarded)
Olly Williamson

Avon Cup. Our team won the tournament; then qualified through the Regional Prelims to the last eight of the West. Here, Mr Bond and his players missed out on reaching the last four by just one goal – such slim margins!

The 3rds and 4ths played 10 matches between them, winning 4 and drawing 2. They did well against generally older oppositions. There is a lot of potential here and playing at a greater intensity next year will help the players' development.

SENIOR
After a shaky start, the 2nd XI won their last 7 matches in a row and played some outstanding hockey. I am sure that they would have given several 1st Teams a close match! Victories over Wells by 9-0, Kingswood 5-4 and Bristol Grammar 3-1 were just three of the highlights of the season.

And so to the 1st XI – what a great season they have had! Second at both the Avon Cup and the Beechen Cliff 7s; third in the Bristol and Bath Schools League; the team played 11 matches, winning 7, drawing 3 and losing just 1. They scored 47 goals and conceded just 9. Statistics, however, only tell part of the story when you consider the youth of the team – five U16s; seven L6 and Luke Tapsfield! And it is Luke who should be given much of the credit (along with Mr Knights’ motivational talks) for this year’s success. Luke’s calm, assured play and his outstanding leadership skills were there for all to see. The 7-0 victory at Clifton College will live long in the memory, but there were too many highlights to list them all here!
Mr Malcolm Bond

I’ve always been a strong believer in the phrase “some you win some you learn”. And this phrase has never been more true than this cricket season. As a school we have played 41 matches with 26 of those fixtures ending in a win, tie or draw. Therefore, we have produced a pleasing 63% no loss result in our fixtures this year. I would like to thank all the students and staff who have helped achieve this.

The Baines sides have performed pleasingly with all four of the teams winning at least one of their fixtures. Special mention must go to Will South as the leading run scorer and wicket taker. Will has been fantastically supported by Tom Smith, Henry Gibbons, Greg Harden and Joe Healey. For me, the highlight of the season was the win against Queen Elizabeth Hospital School on a windy Wednesday afternoon, when we did a smash and grab commando raid on them and won by 30 runs. Well played there boys!

Mr Francis and Mr Clements took the lead with the U14s this year and they proved to be a good year group who produced strong wins over Beechen Cliff and KEs to name but a few.

Edmond Mortimer, Luc Teobold, Justin Avenall and Dylan Bunn have put in fantastic performances throughout the year and I look forward to seeing them all perform next season when they will all be in contention for the first team.
U15

As a year group the U15s have been the most successful squads, winning over half their matches and always by strong margins. The highlight for me was seeing the 15A Team beat a well-coached Clayesmore side by 9 wickets. The strength of the L5 year group was made clear to me by the end of the season as we have had five of the boys represent the First XI – Alex Carruthers, James Burwell, Joe Haws, Max Gall and Oliver Dempsey-Parr. I’m sure this year group will continue to produce boys who will represent the school at First XI and I’m excited about the coming years. With the coaching and advice the boys have had on hand from Mr Knights and Mr Shannon, it’s no surprise that this has been a great year group.

2ND XI

The 2nd XI was coached and supported by Dr Smith and Mr Bonny who have both enjoyed working with this group of students. James Sackett and Alex Clarke have led this team with enthusiasm and a smile on their faces. I would like to thank them for this and hope that they and their team mates continue to enjoy cricket for many years to come. Well done boys.

FIRST XI

As I said at the beginning “some you win some you learn”. The season started off on a rainy Easter Sunday afternoon away to Hinton Charterhouse. We battled hard but couldn’t quite get over the line and secure a win. Then came Kingswood, Beechen Cliff, Monkton Combe, Kingswood again and Wycliffe College. On every occasion we pushed them close but still couldn’t quite produce a win. Next came King Edward School and on a sunny, Saturday afternoon the game was always going to be close. With the final few overs approaching fast, all three results were looking possible. The boys were all sitting on the boundary refusing to move as their superstitious tendencies started kicking in. I can tell you, it was tense; it was tenseer than an irate grammar teacher. But then in a moment of brilliance James Burwell cut their opening bowler for a boundary and we had our first win. The team had learnt to win and they were not about to forget. The wins started to roll in with victories against Wells Cathedral and the 40 Club, along with a strong performance against the MCC. So as the season draws to a close I can truly say, some we have lost and some we have won. However, most importantly we have all learnt and, therefore, it has been very worthwhile.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Capon for all the support and coaching he has given to both the students and staff at Prior Park over the past eleven years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Colours</th>
<th>Half</th>
<th>Full</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nicolas Lees</td>
<td>Matthew Mortimer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ben Mattick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Luke Tapsfield (re-awarded)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

THE PHOENIX
Girls’ Tennis

GIRLS’ TENNIS

Mrs Lori Redman

Despite the variability of the weather, this was one of the best seasons and years for tennis at Prior. More students than ever have been involved in pre-season squad training, private group, individual lessons and Saturday Active.

There have been more opportunities throughout the year through training, competition and recreational tennis, whether for fun or for that competitive desire to pit yourself against the best!

This term saw the girls play in over 54 matches. Thanks to all the Prior Park staff and coaches co-ordinated by Sara Scolo, who have given their time to support tennis this year. In particular, special thanks go to Mr Capon for his support in taking tennis forward at the College over the last three years.

U13 GIRLS

Every girl in Baines has represented the College in both tennis and rounders in competitive school matches with a real sense of fun and enthusiasm. However, it is the tennis that has truly blossomed this year!

The hard work and determination the girls showed during training and in lessons helped them to rapidly develop their game. Under the enthusiastic guidance of Miss Williams, the girls managed a fantastic 75% win rate for the A Team and 67% win rate for the B Team. They should be mightily proud!

The girls competed in both friendly matches and the LTA National Schools AEGON League Competition this year. The league proved to be very challenging and a good opportunity for the players to compete at a higher level through both singles and doubles matches. Whilst they may not have won as many matches as they would have liked to, it is notable that the team’s wins have been by a significant margin, such as the 8-1 victory against King’s Bruton. Meanwhile, the losses, such as that to Dauntsey’s at 4-5, have been very close. Thanks go to Georgie Howes for her reliable captaincy.

U14 GIRLS

Miss Davidson was continually impressed by the U14 girls who were totally committed and enthusiastic in all training, lessons and matches. The U14A and B Teams won 50% of their matches, the highlight of their season being an 8-1 win over King’s Bruton School. Significantly, some of the U14s’ best tennis was played in their 4-5 loss to Dauntsey’s in an incredibly close and competitively fought match which took Dauntsey’s to the last set.

U15 GIRLS

Miss Williams and I had the pleasure of working with the U15s this season in training, lessons and matches. They were incredibly hard working young sportswomen and have matured massively in terms of their ability to learn new technical skills, games tactics and to be unafraid to apply new concepts in competitive matches.

The girls competed in both friendly matches and the LTA National Schools AEGON League Competition this year. The league proved to be very challenging and a good opportunity for the players to compete at a higher level through both singles and doubles matches. Whilst they may not have won as many matches as they would have liked to, it is notable that the team’s wins have been by a significant margin, such as the 8-1 victory against King’s Bruton. Meanwhile, the losses, such as that to Dauntsey’s at 4-5, have been very close. Thanks go to Georgie Howes for her reliable captaincy.

SENIOR

An enormous well done to all of the senior girls for their commitment to tennis this summer which was, once again, immense during a period of time when they were under the stress and workload of public exams.

The 3rd and 4th Teams were committed to tennis with a very positive attitude towards participating, whatever the weather and wherever the matches. Georgia Fullton and Emma Lyons were the Lent Term’s hard court stalwarts, enjoying their coaching through driving rain and hail. Holly Simpson and Connie Bedman were this season’s American Doubles ‘Queens of the Court’ during some of our matches!

The U5 girls should be very proud of the impact that they had on senior girls’ tennis. Eliza Matthews, Charlotte Robinson, Amy Young and Jenni Pitchford-Peschi were consistent 2nd Team players. Two of our wonderful U6 sporting role models, Lucia Hestle-tine and Jenny Dinwoodie, led by example in the 2nd Team. Lucia captured the 2nd’s with great compo-sure and modesty. Both girls also made a 1st Team appearance in the first’s final match – a very convincing win against Clifton College.

Prior Park’s 1st team results were the best for many years with a 67% win rate – a reflection of the hard work put in by all of our senior girls throughout training sessions. The effort and commitment in the squad has pushed players to higher performance levels. In the 1st Team, Hannah Rokkas and Gabriella Chapman forged a strong partnership, making many opposition 1st pair players work very hard and even beating a few. Hannah and Gabriella showed great maturity to step effortlessly into 1st Team tennis. I look forward to working with both students again next year.

Esther and Anna Haskins were a significant force. Their timing of the interception volley, choice of shot, along with their matter of fact communication on court have been most enjoyable to watch and provided spectators with some fantastic sporting moments. Harriet Freeman and Mollie Roberts transferred a strong friendship outside of sport into a solid, fun partnership on the tennis court. They were both the most dynamic and athletic of sportswomen throughout the term and Harriet was a wonderfully organised and reliable 1st Team Captain.

Our Senior Girls were all a pleasure to spend time with through tennis and an absolute credit to themselves and Prior Park College.

Half
Gabriella Chapman
Hannah Rokkas

Full
Harriet Freeman
Mollie Roberts
Esther Haskins
Anna Haskins

Colours

Half

Full
The boys played in a fantastic 37 competitive tennis matches this year. Barry Scollo, the Bath University Tennis Academy Director, and his coaching team have once again led the summer term Monday activity Boys’ Tennis training session superbly this year. The technical and tactical knowledge and understanding of competitive play among the boys has hit a new high, especially that of our senior students.

**U13 BOYS**

Our U13 Boys were incredibly committed. Their numbers at the Monday training session grew on a weekly basis. The U13 Squad were a wonderfully enthusiastic bunch and over 20 boys played in both friendly and AEGON league matches.

Whilst their endeavour did not result in as many wins as I know they may have hoped for, many of the U13’s matches were very close and the high-light of the term was a strong ‘A’ team 8-1 victory against Kingswood School. Particular mention must go to Toby Gerrish for his excellent captancy and leadership on the court. Toby won over 70% of his own matches this summer and, he also played up in our U14 Boys’ team on a few occasions. I am really looking forward to working with all of the boys’ next year.

**U14 & U15 BOYS**

The U14 and U15 Boys were managed by Mr Bonney and supported by Mr Penrose, both of whom I would like to thank for their commitment. These squads are made up of the most committed, talented and young men who can entertain all who coach and support them, in training and matches, with their and positive attitude to the game.

In the U15 Boys’ team, Milo Young and Cosmo Woods certainly entertained us with their unique, fascinating and unconventional style of tennis, along with their 70’s fashion head bands which confused many opposition players into submission! They never gave up and got the ball back by any means possible! Oliver Dempsey-Parr led by example on the court and all of the boys performed with skill and power which they refined as the season progressed.

The U15A boys played 9, won 6 and only lost 3 matches! Excellent wins were achieved against Kingswood and King’s Bruton schools.

The U14 Boys were equally successful - they played 6, won 4 and lost 2 matches. For the U14’s, their wins were by a significant margin and their losses were incredibly close.

This year the U14/15 Boys were entered into the AEGON National School Competition. In all of the matches the Prior boys played with real flare and a competitive zeal which was an absolute pleasure to watch. Several matches were extremely close and came down to incredibly tense shoot out sets in which our players demonstrated great composure and strength of character to come through as winners. Ultimately though, Prior did not go through as Avon Champions this year due to their only loss in the league, against Gordano School.

It is worth noting that this squad was made up of U14 boys, Dylan Bunn, Jack Bunn, Finlay Eaton, Tomos Reeman and Henry Carr, who will be a year older, wiser and stronger in the same competition next year!

**SENIOR**

I would like to thank Mr Blaikley for his passionate commitment to the Senior Boys’ Tennis teams. The boys enjoyed a hugely impressive season. Both the 1sts and 2nds won all but one of their matches, the nemesis being an incredibly strong Monkton team boasting several academy players. The senior boys played with style, flair, energy, and great humour. It is rare that at a school level, staff, coaches and spectators can just sit back and marvel at the quality of athleticism and skill that you watch.

Special mention must be made of Jack and Dylan Bunn who made their first team debuts this term. However, significant praise must go to Aman Argawal, Harley Waterman and Liam Delaney. They were tremendous role models and played the most elegant and brutally efficient tennis you could imagine. The boys played as a team, and the depth of quality throughout the two sixes was as strong as we have ever seen at Prior Park College. This year’s second VI would have given most first VI’s a run for their money!

We will miss the calibre and quality of those leaving - Aman, Harley, Robin, Ed, Laurenz, Ollie, Charlie, Jae Wo - but the boys leave tennis at Prior Park in good shape. Aman goes on to take up a tennis scholarship in the USA at the Ivy League University of Dartmouth and we would like to wish him and all of our leavers a wonderful future and continued enjoyment from tennis.
This year we have seen the introduction of golf to the wider sporting programme. A small group of students train after school on a Thursday at Bath Golf Club and during 2013-14 we entered a team into the Somerset Schools Golf Championship at Farringdon Golf Club. We were delighted when our three youngest players won the team event, beating Millfield. In 2014-15 we have teams entered into the Independent Schools’ Golf Association (ISGA) at Buckinghamshire and we are in a knockout competition with Magdalen College School in the next few months.

For the first year the Prior Park Alumni (PPA) Golf Day in August enjoyed competing against four of our current golfers, with Toby Gerrish playing off 12 handicap and gaining second place in the medal competition.

The future is set fair for golf with Olly Williamson also playing off 12 and Tom Smith playing off 13! Now we need some girls to join the team!
Mr Tom Maxwell

The final day of the Lent Term once again saw the eagerly anticipated Fisher Road Relay. This annual race around the school drive in teams of four is one of the key moments in Prior Park’s inter-house competitions.

This year brought some very competitive running from all areas of the school. In Baines House, the students swept along the road with enthusiasm. Rice won the House race as well as coming away with one of the fastest team times within the whole school.

The girls’ inter-house teams were joined for the first time this year by Arundell, who ran with St Mary’s. Their invincible Upper Sixth team of Chloe Christie, Jenny Dinwoodie and Harriet and Eleanor Gallegos was, once again, the fastest girls’ team, and the combined House took the overall honours, although it was Tessa Coombe in Fielding who achieved the fastest individual time of 4:23.

The boys’ teams also put a great deal of effort into the race, exemplified by Harry Palmer (Lower Sixth Burton) who set a new school record of 3:23, a tremendous achievement. Close to this came Conlan Macdonald with a finishing time of 3:25, and other notable performances from Ryan Tribe and Max Granger, finishing in 3:33, Alex Lord in 3:35, and Liam Delaney, Callum Smith and Kieran Kelly in 3:37.

Despite the effort from the boys across all four houses, there has to be a winner, which in 2014 was Allen House.

Congratulations to all the competitors and thanks to all the vocal spectators who made it such an enjoyable end to the term.