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Aldenham Today

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A MESSAGE FROM THE HEADMASTER

This latest summer issue of *Aldenham Today* will give you a good feel of much of the timetabled and extracurricular activities at Aldenham since February, where you can read about the many individual success stories and achievements celebrated by the Aldenham community.

The GCSE results in the summer were some of the best ever with most of the 86 students gaining high grades in abundance: over 37% of all the 850 examinations taken were graded at either A or A*; 48% of the pupils received four or more A*/A grades. This is particularly pleasing at a time when national data is demonstrating a downturn in GCSE results across the country. Amongst the top performers were **Phoebe Altman** (8A*;1A); **Eleni Christoforou** (5A*;2A); **Matthew Gillespie** (6A*;3A); **Anthony Jacovides** (5A*;6A); **Max Kraitt** (6A*;3A); **Shiv Menon** (7A*;4A); **Jay Nathvani** (4A*;3A); **Eleanor Rees** (8A*;2A); **Jacob Saunders Holland** (5A*;3A). We congratulate all our pupils and look forward to seeing them progress to great things as they move on to their Sixth Form studies.

I am delighted that as a result of very good A Level results 94% of the 83 students were given immediate offers by their first or second choice of universities. These included some top performers: **Sam Aron** (A*A*A) who will go to York to read Biochemistry; **Joy Cardell** (A*A*A) who has a place at UCL to study Archaeology and Anthropology; **Tom Findlay** (A*A*AA) who has been offered a place to read Aeronautical Engineering at Imperial; **Beth Goodman** (AAA) who will go to Nottingham to study English; **Luke Hadji-Kyriacou** (A*AA) who will go to St Andrews for a degree in Computer Science; and **Josh King** (A*AAA) who will take up a place at Mansfield College, Oxford, to read Materials Science. It is especially pleasing that so many of our students are looking forward to next steps which will suit them so well, including our top golfer, **Oliver Baker**, who will go on a golf scholarship to Point University in Georgia, **Tom Scott** who will relish his Art course at Reading University, and **Matthew Prett** who will be undergoing Officer Training at Sandhurst.

Substantial investment over the summer break has meant that pupils have returned to greatly enhanced facilities in two of our boarding Houses as well as extensive building refurbishments across the School site.

I would like to thank parents for their support of our wish to widen the horizons of our pupils through our exceptional programme of trips and visits which have included Geographers to Iceland, our History and Politics students to Washington DC, our Classics and Drama students to Greece, the trip to Cern for our Physicists, the trips to Wales and other remote areas for CCF and DofE expeditions, and of course our annual opportunity for a group of Year 12 students to work with the charity *Ripple Africa* in Malawi.

I thank everyone for their continued involvement and look forward to the successes of another school year.

James Fowler



The Headmaster with Head Girl **Nicola Butchart** and Head Boy **Stephen McMahon**

MALAWI 2016

This year 18 students and four staff members went on the annual trip to Malawi to assist with the UK based charity, *Ripple Africa*, set up by former Aldenhamian Geoff Furber and his wife Liz. Previous participants have described this trip as a 'life changing' experience.

Pupils aged 16 to 18 took part in a range of activities to support *Ripple* and learn about development work, international inequality and Malawian culture. The activities undertaken included teaching in both primary and secondary schools, spending time in the homes of local students as well as undertaking more physical tasks.

Pupils also had time to enjoy the local scenery from walking in mountains, swimming in a lake and observing a range of local wildlife while on a safari in Zambia.



Jordann Gasper feeling the weight that a local 12 year old girl carries every day



Making peanut butter



Interacting with the locals



George Hudson, Cindy Zhu, Rahul Thakerar and Tommy Reeve on the way to their next task

ART



Senior prize winning entry

The entries for this year's Letchmore Trust competition on the theme 'From the Air' were outstanding and demonstrated the variety of skills and use of media by our students. Congratulations to **Isis Rhodes** who won the Junior Prize, **Alexa Neufeld-Archer** the Intermediate Prize and **Sophie Boggis-Rolfe** who gained the Senior Prize plus a year's subscription as a Young Friend of the Royal Academy of Art. Thanks to the Chairman of the Letchmore Trust, Mr James James-Crook (OA) and fellow Trustee Hugh Schermuly (OA) who were the judges. The winning entries were on display at the vibrant and busy Art Exhibition at the end of term.



Congratulations to **Abigail Smuts**, Year 11 Art student, who received the Painter-Stainers School Art prize at the prestigious Painters' Hall in London.

LANGUAGES

FRENCH



The annual trip to France which complements the studies of pupils working towards their GCSEs in French saw a group of 19 Aldenham pupils from Year 10 head off to La Rochelle. In this calm coastal resort the group were able to practise some conversational French as they browsed in shops and the local market as well as enjoying the local historical sites.

GERMAN

The German trip to Munich was the second recent trip to the Bavarian capital for Year 10 students to experience the stunning ambience of the city, travel on the efficient transport system and immerse themselves fully both linguistically and culturally.



SPANISH

A group of Year 10 students packed a lot into their trip to Seville where they experienced all the main highlights of a fascinating region of Spain; sampling the local cuisine; learning the basic Flamenco dance steps; a guided tour of the football stadium; a visit to the cathedral and a visit to the tomb of Christopher Columbus; a tour of the Maestranza bullring along with a visit to the Flamenco museum. A visit to Granada and Cordoba rounded off a packed trip, blessed with some spring sunshine.



BIOLOGY

Year 12 and 13 students spent time in the rural setting of Orielton in the Welsh countryside exploring the 100 acre woodland surrounding the Orielton estate. Time was spent on ecological sampling techniques on the sand dunes at Freshwater West and on the rocky shore of Sawdern Point.



The days were long and the Welsh weather was challenging with sunshine, rain, bitter northerly winds and hail all in the course of one day. However, the students persevered to collect their results and at one point, with the tide rapidly moving up the shore, even put their hands in the very cold seawater in order to identify all of the organisms within their quadrats.

DRAMA

This year's House Drama competition, based around the theme of 'Infamous People', produced some fantastic performances from every House, showcasing the brilliant talents within the Senior School. The adjudicator, actor and writer Joe Eyre, had a tough choice when deliberating the winners in each category and it was easy to see why.



Paul's House with their impressive physical ensemble piece revolving around the lives of *The Kray Twins* won Best Production and Sarah Dean's performance as Charlie Kray was outstanding, earning her Best Performer

Kennedy's House were the runners up for Best Show, with poignant performances by **Tega Ogufere** and **Joe Gasper** striking a chord with audience members. A special mention was also given to **Kewve Ogufere** for his thought-provoking direction of this piece which effectively considered the many rumours behind the infamous *Dick Turpin*. One of the biggest successes of the night was Beevor's with their piece on *Al Capone*, receiving the Best Director award for **Louis Slater**. Louis' depiction of Capone was also awarded runner up for Best Performer, with the adjudicator commenting on the powerful and intimidating presence he held.



"The Martineau's production of *Peter Pan* was a truly magical event, as the talented students from Years 7 and 8 transported us effortlessly to Neverland for the evening" according to Year 10 student **Jolie Sharpe**.

"The brilliant young actors portrayed the famous story of *Peter Pan* with infectious enthusiasm during their two-night run in the School Theatre. **Viola Alishah** as Wendy Darling gave a mature and confident performance, engaging the audience from the outset. Her friendship with Peter Pan played by **Michael Duggan** was touching, whilst **Zia Brown** gave an assured and intimidating performance as Captain Hook, complemented by the excellent comic timing of **James Gillespie** as Smee."



PHYSICS

The CERN trip was an excellent opportunity to see the sights and sounds of Geneva before exploring into the heart of the Large Hadron Collider – the most advanced piece of technology on the planet and the home of cutting edge Particle Physics. The trip managed to squeeze a lot into the two days including a Lake Cruise, a visit to the History of Science Museum and a tour of the UN as well as the tour of CERN itself.

DRAMA FESTIVAL WINS



Ethan and **Clem Hayes** won silver and bronze in the Shakespeare class at the Watford Festival

Aldenham pupils were thrilled to win all the trophies that they competed for in the finale concert at the Watford Speech and Drama Festival, one of the largest festivals of its kind in Europe: **Viola Alishah** and **Muskaan Iqbal** for Junior Duo Acting; **Ethan Hayes** for Mime; **Will Judge** and

Azaan Iqbal for Senior Duo Acting and **Azaan** for Senior Solo Acting. To top it all Azaan also got the top award, the Navapurka Senior Shield, for the most outstanding performance of the whole Festival for his performance of *Frankenstein's Creature* – a first for an Aldenham student.

Following success at the North London Festival Group competition, the Year 11 pupils also managed to come away with all the major awards in the solo competitions at the North London Festival Group competition. Special mention goes to **Zackary Agama** who won two poetry recital classes as well as two trophies for his recital and original work including the adjudicator's overall award for exceptional talent in poetry.

Congratulations to **Ethan Hayes** who won his classical acting section as well as two further awards including the overall Senior Drama Shield of the Festival and a theatre token, and also to **Emma Gillespie** who won her modern acting section against tough competition.

VISITATION DAY 2016

Even the intermittent showers on Visitation Day didn't dampen spirits as over 1,200 parents, governors, staff and students were able to enjoy a busy programme to celebrate the school year.



Following the morning chapel service everyone assembled in the Sports Hall for the prize giving where the Chairman of Governors, Mr Trevor Barton (OA), focused on the foundations of an Aldenham education and aspirations for the future – Spirit, Ethos, Identity. The Headmaster Mr James Fowler spoke about the harmonious diversity within the School which attracts students and staff from 52 countries around the world. He highlighted the six Aldenham Attributes: **ASPIRATION; CO-OPERATION; COURAGE; CURIOSITY; INDEPENDENCE; RESPECT** which describe the School's vision for the personal development of our pupils. The Guest of Honour Mr Miles Jenner, Master of the Worshipful Company of Brewers, focused on the value of a good education and how no knowledge is ever wasted.



Everyone came together for picnic lunches on Top Field to enjoy the afternoon activities in between short bursts of showers, and watch the 1st XI cricketers who were narrowly beaten by an OA team. The hectic day was rounded off by Live music, various drama sketches from winning entries at the recent Watford Festival, a Photography Exhibition, Psychology Display and an exceptional Art Exhibition, followed by Afternoon Tea on Shilling Green.

JUNIOR SKI TRIP



Jemima Wax described the junior ski trip to Wagrain in Austria during the Easter holidays as “An experience I will never forget. The skiing element of the holiday was exhilarating, because I didn’t just get a chance to enjoy the time with my friends, but also got to improve my technique and challenge myself... I am very proud for skiing a black run for the first time, something I never thought I’d be able to do.”

HISTORY DEPARTMENT RECEIVES AWARD

Congratulations to our History department which has been given a *Good Schools Guide* Award for the Best Performance by Boys taking History at an English Independent School. Aldenham was presented with the award for out-performing all other English schools in its category. These awards give recognition to individual teachers and departments where teaching is at its very best.

CCF



An action-packed and eventful four days at the Cadet Centre for Adventurous Training in Capel Curig in Wales kept the Cadets busy as they experienced MTB cycling in the picturesque Gwydyr Forest honing their off-road riding skills, a mountain hike navigating their way over high ground using map and compass, an exercise on mountain rescue and lots of team-building challenges.

They visited the inside of a disused slate mine near Penmachno on the last day where they were able to try out underground rafting, climbing, abseiling and a waterfall climb, getting used to the helmet, torch and climbing gear. After these exciting experiences, a tired group of happy cadets piled into the mini-buses for a sleepy journey home.



At the Army Section’s summer field trip to Pirbright the cadets met the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards and were treated to a close-up of the Foxhound vehicle, as well as hands-on experience with the regiment’s weaponry

DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

The Aldenham Annual Fund, launched in November 2015 raised over £55,000; an amazing result and we are extremely grateful to everyone that contributed. We have been able to buy new resources including a 3D image projector for the Science Department, a flight simulator for CCF and a Polygraph (lie detector) for Psychology. Several bursaries have also been provided along with one major award to a student joining the Sixth Form.



Students see scientific images in three dimensions



OAs paid their respects at the graveside of Bevan John Nolan (McGill’s House 1911-13) during their tour of the WWI Battlefields



Over 100 Old Aldenhamians returned to Aldenham for OA Day and a Beever’s reunion on Sunday 8th June 2016

THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR VISITS ALDENHAM



Aldenham was honoured to host the US Ambassador to the UK, Matthew Barzun, for a Les Philosophes talk in a thought-provoking session covering everything from the US-UK special relationship to US gun control laws and of course the hot topic of the 2016 US Presidential Election.

VISITING AUTHOR MELVIN BURGESS



Another welcome visitor was the Carnegie Medal and Guardian Prize winning author Melvin Burgess who entertained pupils with readings from his book 'Junk'.

DANCE 2016



Always a popular annual event the Dance Show included contemporary, Jazz, tap, street and musical theatre. Performances ranged from large group dances to solos. 58 girls and boys from Years 7 – 13 took part and although the majority only dance in school the overall standard was very high. Some pupils were dancing on stage for the very first time, a great experience for them.

HRH PRINCE CHARLES MEETS ALDENHAM STUDENTS



Head Boy **Subhan Iqbal** and Head Girl **Sarah Dean** proved to be excellent ambassadors for the School when they attended a Reception to mark the election of the Prince of Wales as a liveryman of the Brewers' Company and spent time with the Prince.

MUSIC SPRING CONCERT



The Spring Concert was both ambitious and hugely entertaining, a fitting final concert for Mr Wyatt before his retirement. The Brass Group opened the evening with the *Overture from The Royal Fireworks Music* by Handel. This was followed by the *William Tell* overture played faultlessly by the Sinfonia led by **Abigail James** on Violin with **Michael Forsyth** on Cello. **Sarah Dean** and **William Marriott** both excelled in playing challenging pieces on the Flute and French Horn respectively. **Louis Slater** and **Tom Findlay**, on vocals

and guitar, sang a fantastic rendition of *House of the Rising Sun*. **Max Weil** and former pupil, April Koyejo led the choir and the orchestra in an outstanding programme of *Carmina Burana*.

The evening finished with audience participation in a Last Night of the Proms experience. A well-deserved standing ovation was given to all those involved, and especially Mr Wyatt, from an appreciative audience which included Mr Wyatt's 90 year old mother!



Eight talented Aldenham musicians from across the age range gave superb performances at St James' The Apostle Church in Bushey as part of the Summer Recitals Series to raise money for Church charities. **Alex Freeborn** (piano) and **William Kerley** (baritone) represented Year 8 with music by Franz Liszt and Leonard Cohen.

Toby Freeman, a stunning electric guitarist, played a piece displaying

masterly control in a technically tricky and experimental musical style. **Georgia Lowe**, **Natasha Livingstone** and **Max Weil** all sang superbly with a range of composers from Adele to Puccini and Vaughan Williams. **Abigail James** performed the slow movement of Bruch's violin concerto beautifully, and **Sarah Dean** concluded the concert with the first movement of Francis Poulenc's Sonata for flute and piano.



A wide variety of music was enjoyed by a large audience of parents and staff at the Informal Concert held in the Chapel

PAULL'S MUSIC NIGHT



Paull's House entertained parents, staff and students at the Boarders' Supper entitled 'A Night at the Movies' with each musical performance coming from a film – from *Shawshank Redemption* to *Harry Potter* to *The Fault in Our Stars*. The programme of events was varied with dramatic readings, instrumental solos and solo and group singing. The end of the evening was saved for Mr Wyatt, as the girls sang him a special version of *Thank you for the Music*. He will be sorely missed by everyone in the School and the girls were keen to show him their gratitude for his support, kindness and enthusiasm over the years.

ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS DEPARTMENT

A busy year for the Economics and Business department has seen five offsite visits, two Business Society meetings, the Aldenham School EU referendum campaign, the Business Challenge, the launching of two new specifications and a new website

EROS RUN

The fastest pupil at this year's Eros to Eros run was **Harvey Dodd** from Year 9 in a superb 2:03:31. The two Paull's finishers, also from Year 9 – **Jemima Wax** and **Millie Rees** - were hot on Dodd's heels with an outstanding display of commitment in wet conditions. Former Prep School Head Paul Cheetham stormed home to victory again, leaving him undefeated so far this decade. Over £730 was raised for Phab Kids, a brilliant achievement for all concerned.



Father-and-son team Scott and Edward Fraser ran the race together

BECK MUSIC COMPETITION

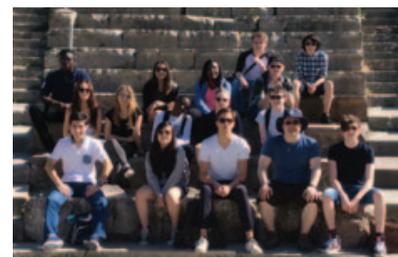
Mr Keith Beniston, the guest adjudicator of the Beck Competition, had a difficult task deciding a winner in each of the categories due to a high standard of performance across the board. They were **Zia Brown** in the Preliminary section; **Shelina Devendrarajah** in the Intermediate category; **Nasiya Narrandes** from Year 8 who won the Higher category for a very moving *Minuet & Trio Op.22* by Beethoven on the Piano.

The joint winners of the Advanced category and of the Beck Cup were **Sarah Dean** for her expressive *Sonata for Flute movement 1 & 2* and **Abigail James** for her very fluent delivery of the *Second Movement of Bruch G Minor concerto* on the Violin.



CLASSICAL GREECE TRIP

Year 11 and 12 pupils had the opportunity to improve their Classical studies and their



understanding of Ancient Greek Religion and Drama during an enjoyable trip to Greece over half term.

CROSS COUNTRY



436 students took part in the annual House Cross Country competition this year with **Dillon Chana** and **Lily Zentner** winning the Martineau's race. At Junior level it was **Miles McLeod** for the second year in a row and **Amelia Rees**. The standard of the senior race continues to rise and this year the boys' race was won by **Joseph Masri** beating **Daichi Sadakane** in the last 100m. The Girls' senior race was won by an outstanding run from **Nanna Andersen**, followed by **Reshmi Patel** in second place and **Marie Richfield** third. Congratulations to all who ran in such good spirits.

SPORT FOOTBALL

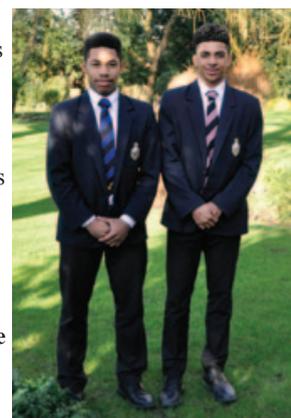
1st X1 - The 2015-16 season saw the 1st X1 play over 20 fixtures in the Elgin league, ISFA Boodles Cup and Herts County Cup. Their best run came in the Herts County Cup where they lost in the 1/4 final to Dame Alice Owen's School. **Sam Woolley** was named Player of the Season whilst **Tomo Hashiba-Charlton** was the Top Scorer for the second consecutive year.

It was an amazing season for the U12 and U13 sides who lost only one game between them. The U13s retained their County Cup trophy beating Kings Langley in the final 3-1. However, it was heartbreak for the team in the semi-final of the ISFA cup where they lost in the last minute to Whitgift. The U12s also won the Herts County Cup playing some incredible football to beat Dame Alice Owen's 5-1 in the final.

The U15 side rounded off a hat-trick of County Cup wins for Aldenham when they beat Verulam School 3-2

in the final in late March.

In the ISFA Cup the boys lost to eventual finalists Brentwood on penalties having dominated the whole game. Two players from this successful team were chosen for the England U15 squad; **Xavier Amaechi** (Arsenal) and **Zico Asare** (Fulham). The U14s also had a successful season winning nine of their 14 fixtures. **Lewis Smith** won their player of the season award.



Xavier Amaechi and Zico Asare are the first Aldenham players to be picked to play for England

AN ALDENHAM HAT-TRICK FOR COUNTY FOOTBALLERS



The U15 team joined the U12 and U13s County Cup winners to celebrate winning one of the most extraordinary trophies in football: the Wix Shield which has been competed for every year since 1901. For most schools these three wins would be a great achievement, but for a small school like Aldenham it is most definitely a remarkable feat for the boys and all those staff who have coached them to success. It has been an amazing season for Aldenham School football.

NETBALL



It was a great afternoon's competition with lots of fun for everyone at the Aldenham Netball Tournament where the Aldenham player of the match for the A team was **Abigail Maughan**, and **Elise Dixon-Lawrence** for the B team.

A fantastic turnout at the inaugural Netball Tournament later in the term raised funds for sports kit for the players who will be travelling to Marbella in October. Well done to everyone who took part, especially the winners: Muskaan's Musketeers, winners of the junior tournament – **Muskaan Iqbal**, **Abi Maughan**, **Daisy Fraser**, **Benita Omofade**, **Daniel Oyegoke**, **Rayon Atkinson**, **Zia Brown** and **Zak Brown**.

GOLF

The Aldenham golf team of **Oliver Baker**, **Arran Kanth** and **Josh Walker** travelled to St Andrews to face the top 20 area winners to decide the National champion of the ISGA Match Play championships, having earlier won the Area competition. 135 Independent schools enter this annual competition making it the largest Independent Schools' Golf competition in the UK. Aldenham were placed 9th, an excellent top 10 finish. In the individual order of merit Arran was placed 10th, Oliver 27th and Josh 43rd. This was an outstanding result for Arran who, at 15, was one of the youngest in the field which included England U18 players.



HANDBALL

An Aldenham U15 Boys' Handball team beat Rickmansworth School 4-0 in the Watford District Handball Tournament to qualify for the county finals. A remarkable achievement considering the boys had only played this sport for a short time in their GCSE PE lessons.



RECORD BREAKING SPORTS DAY



The Martineau's Girls' events on Sports Day were dominated by one very impressive athlete, **Milly Gall**, who won the 300m, High Jump and Long Jump events breaking Sports Day records in all three. She also anchored the Pollard team to a relay victory and picked up the Victrix Ludorum for the second consecutive year. Another notable performance came from **Zia Brown** who broke her own Javelin record.



In the Martineau's Boys' event **Dillon Chana** picked up the Victor Ludorum for his wins in the 800m and Discus as well as being part of the relay victory. **William Kerley** broke the Javelin record for this age group.

In the Junior Girls' event **Debbie Okeowo** picked up the Victrix Ludorum for her two wins and Sports Day records in the Triple Jump and 300m. Other notable winning performances came from **Milly Rees** (1500m), **Sasha Macdonald** (800m), **Holly Labbett** (Hurdles) and **Rachel Crawley** (Javelin) who all broke Sports Day records.





Toni Ademuwagun picked up the Victor Ludorum in the Middle Boys' event for his wins in the Triple Jump, High Jump and 200m. Toni also broke Sports Day records in the High and Triple Jump and went on to win the coveted Hugh Kelly Memorial Cup.

Kennedy's won the relay for the Senior Boys with **Tobias Berberich** anchoring them home for his third gold medal of the day to pick up the Victor Ludorum. Tobias also won the 100m and 200m races. Another notable was **Timi Adeyanju** who broke the Hurdles record to become the first person to hold Sports Day records at all age groups in one event.



The Junior Boys' event saw some outstanding individual displays. Two Sports Day records were broken by **Tomilade Fajana** (Long Jump) and **Rory McGeary** (800m). Tomilade went on to win the 300m, High Jump and Long Jump to pick up the Victor Ludorum. Another notable performance was from **Theo Vickeridge**, the 100m and 200m winner.

Fiona McQuire won the Victrix Ludorum in the Senior Girls' event for her two wins in the Discus and High Jump where she broke the Sports Day record. There was also another record broken at this age group by **Milly Brown** in the Hurdles.

GREAT SEASON FOR ATHLETICS WINS



Year 8 students **Zak Brown**, **Milly Gall** and **Daniel Oyegoke** performed well in the County Combined Events Championships at Stevenage Athletics Track against Hertfordshire's finest athletes competing with sportspersons one year older than themselves in the Hurdles, Long Jump, High Jump, Shot and 800m in very difficult conditions due to the heat.

The top athlete Milly, a year younger than the majority of the competitors, was the winner of the whole competition. It was an incredible achievement as she also broke four school records for her age group throughout the day.



At the Senior District Athletics Championships at Woodside Stadium **Fiona McQuire** successfully defended her Discus title and also went on to break the District record with a throw over 32m. **Toni Ademuwagun** won the High Jump with an impressive jump of 1.81m. **Zacky Agama** won the 100m and then lost out on becoming a double champion in the Triple Jump by just 1cm. In what has been our most successful year so far our boys were placed 3rd overall out of the 14 schools in the competition and the combined boys and girls were 7th even though no Year 7 or Year 9 Aldenham girls were in the event.



Lily Zentner came 7th in the National Final of the Gymnastics Compulsory Grade 1 competition in June. She has worked very hard to achieve this, so many congratulations Lily.

CRICKET



Congratulations to the U15 Cricket team who won the Hertfordshire County Cup in a tight final against Bishop's Stortford High School.

In what has been a very rain affected season teams from across all the ages still managed to play 75 fixtures, winning 70% of them. The U14As won 10 of their 12 fixtures whilst the U15 cricket team won the Hertfordshire County Cup beating Bishop Stortford High School in the final. This team have done extremely

well and as a year group completed the unique double of County Cups in both Football and Cricket. The U13 and U12 teams were also unbeaten in the County Cup reaching the quarter-finals, before being forced to forfeit due to incomplete games because of the poor weather.



Lewis Hollett notched up his 100th cap for the Aldenham School 1st XI. As captain of the Hockey and Cricket 1st XI Lewis has played in the 1st XI Football side too. We thank him for his contribution to Aldenham School sport and hope that he will continue to play club sport for a long time to come

Congratulations to **Lee Tyrrell** who was awarded the prestigious Cricket Society's Wetherell Award for the leading all-rounder in schools' Cricket. Lee is now playing Cricket full time at Worcestershire in pursuit of his dream career and we wish him all the very best.

TENNIS

Both the U15 and the U13 teams were runners up in their groups in the Hertfordshire County Schools' League. The U15s held their own in the B Division and had a number of close matches finishing in the middle of their group. Pupils are taking advantage of the improved surface on the Tennis courts.

PREPARATORY SCHOOL

PREP MATTERS

Experiences outside the classroom are always essential to the breadth of learning which epitomises an Aldenham Prep education.



Year 6 were challenged to cross the Solent and find the confidence to dangle from high ropes, power round the track on quad bikes and paddle their kayaks in the direction they wanted them to go. All huge learning curves, as was building strong friendships away from school for a whole week!

Year 3 had their first experience of a residential trip, all the way to Button Field. It presented challenges of its own, with the wind making it incredibly difficult to light the barbecue and keep it lit, followed by a similar issue as the smoke filled their eyes when trying to toast marshmallows over the camp fire. Eventually the wind won as everyone

retired indoors to sleep. Great fun was topped off by a huge cooked breakfast for many, before the senior boarders were even awake.



Year 5 set off to Kew Gardens where they enjoyed the experience of being in the glasshouses and out in the grounds and, following in the footsteps of Charles Darwin, gained great insight into how plants have adapted to suit their environment



Year 2 also benefited from all that Clay Lane has to offer; enabling the children to find out about caddis fly larvae, water boatmen and leeches, to name but a few

Year 3 and 4 travelled to the French Institute immersing themselves in activities, language, food and a film. Pizza Express in Pinner was the exciting destination for Year 1 as they all became chefs and made their own pizzas.

Legoland welcomed Years 1-6 and 30 adults for the last outing of the year. The Star Wars exhibition was stunning, the dragon rollercoaster roared and the Desert Chase went ever so high. The 'soak' zone did indeed soak anyone silly enough to sit in it at lunchtime and funnily enough ice lollies in the rain aren't so bad!

Thank you to ASPA Prep for the commemorative coins which each child received on the special birthday celebration for Her Majesty the Queen when they enjoyed a Royal picnic and a Royal themed Summer Fair.

The ASPA Experience Explorabox took Reception and Year 1 'to the seaside' as they explored themes and topics from their recent studies. The Perform Theatre Group provided workshops to Foundation Stage and Pre-Prep enabling the children to further develop their skills and talents. Years R-5 then had a surprise bonus with the M & M Theatre group performing *Oliver Twist*.



Lots of hard work by every performer along with stunning acting, singing and dancing ensured that the Year 5 and 6s production of the *Pirates of the Curry Bean* was stunning

The production of *Pirates and Mermaids* displayed the many talents of Year 3 and 4 pupils. Giving these year groups the opportunity to perform independently of the older children was a huge success and gave them an invaluable insight to the productions ahead of them.

Aldenhams Prep School pupils also celebrated receiving three Drama Shields by winning all the junior group sections of the Watford Festival as well as two Drama trophies for Acting and Mime.



Where can you be enclosed in a bubble, watch a film in 3D, project your own rocket, become a white blood cell or use forensic science to solve a crime, all in one week? At Aldenhams the pupils were immersed in Science for 'Science Week' with workshops from the Science Museum, GlaxoSmithKline and a 'forensic scientist' to name but a few of the absorbing experiences the children had. Years 3-6 experienced a senior school science lesson in one of the labs, all full of awe and wonder

There was just enough sunshine to lift the spirits at the annual ASPA Summer Fair. Through the generosity of all who attended the Fair and some very substantial donations £9,100 was raised; a magnificent amount!

The Music Evening was another triumph when both instrumentalists and the choir gave some accomplished performances to the delight of the packed audience.

PREP SPORT

Congratulations to the U13 Go-karting Champion **Daniel Guinchard** in Year 5 who cruised past drivers some of whom were four years his senior and kept his cool when delivering an impromptu TV interview.

The netball players have strongly improved their play this season; well done to all the girls for their hard work and team playing. Congratulations also to the winning athletics team who excelled at the inter school competition on Button Field beating four schools to come first. Teamwork and moral support again played a big feature in the win.



The Year 2 pupils finished the Lent term with some fiercely contested Unihoc games against Quainton Hall School. Just the one goal scored in 6 games, but four balls had to be replaced due to breakages! Year 5 and 6 boys won two out of three of their hard ball cricket games and came so very close to winning the BCPS tournament held at Merchant Taylors' School. **Rahil Patel** also played for the U12 and U13 teams in County Cup competitions.

Year 3 and 4 boys did very well in a Tag Rugby competition winning two out of three games played. The 600 metre relay competition on Cooke's Field proved to be another success with spectators and runners alike. Aldenhams managed 2nd place in the A event by only a matter of inches after a great effort from **Shinnosuke Hashiba-Charlton** trying to hang on to the lead that had been largely established by **Nathan Kabel**. The B team went one better by winning their event, with a strong first leg from **Isabella Yeabsley** blowing away the opposition. Aldenhams pupils broke nine records and won both the Boys' and Girls' competitions at the Inter-Schools' Athletics event on Button Field. The record breakers were: **Nathan Kabel** (U11 200m, 400m and High

Jump), **Isabella Yeabsley** (U9 400m and 50m Relay), **Emily Rotenberg** (U11 200m), **Noor Hussain** (U9 Rounders Ball), **Fayo Ashiru** (U9 50m), **Taylor Johnson** (U9 High Jump), **Ayomide Olomolehin**, **Tara Bottin** and **Lexi Yeabsley** (50m Relay).

Isabella Yeabsley and **Dillan Attygalle** were selected to represent the Watford and District Swimming Team and also progressed well in club swimming throughout the year. Congratulations also to **Nathan Kabel** who won the London Area Prep Schools Athletics Championships 200 meter sprint event, and advanced to the National finals event in Birmingham.



It was to be a day for Champions on Sports Day as Champion House won both the Pre Prep and Prep inter house competitions. In the Prep competition it was also a day when eight records were broken with three going to **Nathan Kabel** (50m, 200m and 400m).

GIRLS

U11 girls were busy practicing their Rounders skills. They went onto beat Alpha Prep and won one game against Radlett Prep and lost one.



FOUNDATION STAGE

Children in the Foundation Stage continue to be as busy as ever.



The array of costumes for the increasingly popular World Book Day were as imaginative as ever; from *Three Blind Mice* to *Incey Wincey Spider* the creativity and thought provided some impressive outfits.

New this year was the introduction of 'Shelfies'; it was lovely to see the children proudly showing their bookshelves at home.

Sports Kit was the order of the day for Sport Relief, with children and staff taking part in various sporting activities to raise money for this cause.



Dads' Day took a twist this year when all dads were invited to join the children for a session in the woods. The chill in the air didn't affect the warm and happy atmosphere as dads rose to the tasks including making stick men, den building and bug hunting! With a Thank You gift of a specially decorated framed picture of the morning the event was a huge success.



Our Mothers' Day Tea continues to be a highlight in the summer calendar. Following the entertainment of songs and poems, everyone enjoyed refreshments in the classrooms.



Easter celebrations included the ever-popular Easter Hat Parade. The children proudly marched through the Senior School to rounds of applause and cheers of delight. Mr Fowler was presented with his Easter gift and congratulated all the children on their wonderful hats.



Sports Day was a very Royal occasion with races themed to celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday. Amongst the events were hobby horse races and royal crown relays.



The children also enjoyed visits from 'Perform' where Peter Pan took them on an adventure to Neverland and 'Explorabox' where they enjoyed being insect super heroes and fishing in the sea!

A very special trip to Whipsnade was one of the last events of the term where the children saw the new arrival of a baby elephant as well as other animals and finished the day with a train ride around the park.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 15 October**
- **OPEN MORNING** (10.00am-12.30pm)
- 20 October**
- House Music Competition
- 17 November**
- Sixth Form Information Evening
- 18 November**
- OA Dinner at Aldenham
- 13 December**
- Carol Service in St Albans Cathedral
- 1-3 February**
- Senior School Play: *Coram Boy*

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