



Aldenham Today

ISSUE 43 SUMMER 2017

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEADMASTER

There is a lot to celebrate at Aldenham, not least the change of one of our Houses from a Boys' to a Girls' day House: Riding's House, part of the original School House when the School was founded in 1597, will welcome around 50 girls in September. This development is a response to the growing number of girls at Aldenham. You can keep abreast of this and other news in this issue of *Aldenham Today*, which includes some of the individual success stories and achievements celebrated by the Aldenham community.

Our students achieved most impressive GCSE grades: 51% of the 94 students gained at least 4 or more A*/A grades or equivalent and 22% gained 9 or more A*/A grades. The introduction of the new harder Maths qualification was a challenge which our staff and pupils coped with extremely well with a 97% pass rate at level 4 or above. Amongst these students were some exceptional performers: **Misha Behr 9 A***; **Alexandra Caine 7A*/3A**; **Stan Campbell 10A*/2A**; **James Crawley 7A*/5A**; **Michael Li 7A*/3A**; **Abbasali Merali 11A*/1A**; **Jonah Miller 9A/1A**; **Rebekka Pedrithes 7 A*/4A**; **Harshil Vachhani 8A*/3A**.

The A Level achievements of Aldenham pupils were the highest in recent years. **Over 28% of all the grades were at either A* or A grade and over 48% were at A*, A or B grades.** The top performers were **Owen Caine (A*A*A*A)** who will go to Warwick to read Chemistry; **Philip Chen (A*A*AA)** who has a place to read Physics at Imperial; **Joseph Masri (A*A*B)** who will study History at Warwick and Head Boy **Stephen McMahon (AAA)** who will be reading Politics at Exeter. In all, 22% of the 73 students gained more than 2 A grades this year.

We have again been delighted by the range and diversity of the opportunities that pupils can enjoy. We have seen trips to study Physics at Cern; Computing in Silicon Valley, French in La Rochelle, Spanish in Seville, Art in Berlin, Classics in Rome, as well as sports tours to Spain for football and netball, Barbados for cricket, skiing trips to the US and Europe, Drama students at the Edinburgh Fringe and of course our annual opportunity for a group of Year 12 students to work with the charity *Ripple Africa* in Malawi.

Substantial investment over the summer break, including extensive refurbishment of day Houses, the replacement of the 90 year old lead electric cables across the main school site, complete overhaul of the drainage system and multiple other upgrades across the site, has meant that pupils have once again returned to greatly enhanced facilities.

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

James Fowler



Head Girl **Phoebe Altman** and Head Boy **Ted Richardson-Wells** can expect a busy, exciting year.

MALAWI 2017

Many of the 100+ Aldenham volunteers who have helped at the charity *Ripple Africa* over the past eight years have said that it is one of the highlights of their time at Aldenham. Founded by OA Geoff Furber and his wife Liz, *Ripple Africa* is involved in a number of environmental, construction, conservation and educational projects. For all their dedication since setting up the charity in 2003 Geoff and Liz were recently awarded the Prime Minister's *Points of Light Award*.



This summer 15 students raised over £1,000 each prior to departure to continue the work of this fantastic charity.

During their stay they were involved in a wide range of activities, from visiting the fish conservation project to teaching lessons to classes of 60 in a secondary school, digging the foundations for a new set of classrooms and creating resources for the large class sizes. They were also welcomed into the local community as they attended a church service, were visited by local choirs and played a football match against men from the village which they won! One of the most insightful mornings was spent with a local family, where pupils visited the home of a secondary school pupil and helped them with their morning chores before walking to school. Aldenham students also participated in lessons



before sitting two Malawian exams. Another highlight for the girls was a talk given to a group of women to promote feminine hygiene products. This is a new project for *Ripple Africa* and one that the students were keen to continue to support.



After working hard for the charity for 12 days the students enjoyed a few days of rest and relaxation before returning to the UK. This took the form of a three day safari at South Luangwa National Park where they were lucky enough to see lions, hyena and even a leopard eating an impala.



Abi Smuts, Phoebe Altman and Marco Nicholas held an art auction as part of ASPA's Quiz Night to raise money for *Ripple Africa*.

DRAMA

A talented cast of Martineau's students took to the stage with a colourful, contemporary and creative journey to *Wonderland*, directed and designed by Georgee Burn, supported by Year 12 students **Zacky Agama**, **Archie Hudson-Rawlings**, **Toni Ademuwagun**, **Tega Ogufere** and **Adam Nasir**. **Clem McQuoid** played the curious Alice perfectly as she followed the White Rabbit, **Josh Conway-Brown**, into the toy box. **Amelia Osband**'s characterisation and voice for the Duchess and her partnership with French Cook **Jamie Crosby** made an enjoyable scene.



The powerful and sassy King and Queen of Hearts were played brilliantly by **Ola Okeowo** and **Chyna-Skye Campbell**.

At the famous Mad Hatter's Tea Party the iconic characters of the Mad Hatter, March Hare and Dormouse saw **Oliver Newland** and **Toby Brown**'s comical timing and **Ellie McNeill**'s portrayal of the sleepy dormouse complement this moment of the play.



WATFORD FESTIVAL WINS



Although it was a small group of senior school pupils who entered the Watford Drama Festival this year they still managed to bring back 6 gold, 4 silver and 5 bronze medals!

At the Finale Winners Concert, Overall Acting and Mime trophies were awarded to **Azaan Iqbal**, **Ethan Hayes** and **Gilbert Mosdal**. This followed great success at the Junior Finale in the afternoon where two Aldenham Year 5 pupils won the overall Winners Shield for best junior performance of the whole Drama Festival.

NORTH LONDON FESTIVAL

Azaan Iqbal, Ethan Hayes, Viola Alishah and Muskaan Iqbal demonstrated their many talents at the North London Festival, with resounding success. Azaan won everything that he entered and received the highest mark of the drama section as well as the Classical Acting Shield for his *Hamlet*. He was also invited to a concert later in the month to perform his modern piece for which he received honours. Viola and Muskaan performed brilliantly and came second in the Duologue. Ethan won Prose Reading, Shakespeare and gained third place in Acting. He was also given a £150 bursary for most promising talent. All very exciting! Congratulations to everyone, and to Miss Scott who took them to the Festival.



LUNACY AT THE EDINBURGH FRINGE

Zackary Agama, Adam Nasir and Archie Hudson Rawlings took inspiration from the Rosenhan experiment, to create a fascinating piece of fast paced, physical drama set in Broadmoor, which they took to the Edinburgh Fringe. With help from the Aldenham Annual Fund, which paid for their performance space, two shows were arranged towards the end of the 70th anniversary of the Edinburgh Fringe - described as the 'world's greatest platform for creative freedom'.

The intimate Olive Studio was ideal for this powerful production and the boys' enthusiasm for their work drew capacity crowds on both afternoons. The feedback from the audiences was fantastic, with lots of laughs to lighten the dark side of the experiment and its outcomes. It was certainly an "overwhelming" experience and one which will last a lifetime.

LANGUAGES



A group of Year 10 linguists enjoyed the opportunity to practise their French, experience some French culture and explore the pretty port of La Rochelle during their trip in May. A visit to the Futuroscope Theme Park, with its virtual rollercoasters, was considered by some to be one of the highlights of the trip.



On a packed trip Spanish Year 10 students took in all the main highlights of the fascinating city of Seville. A busy schedule included a guided tour of the football stadium - a particular highlight for many of the boys in the group - a visit to the Cathedral in Seville to see the famous Giralda Bell Tower and the tomb of Christopher Columbus, followed by a trip to El Alcazar, The Moorish Palace in Seville, and the Flamenco museum.

BIOLOGY

It was a very busy weekend for the 14 A Level Biology students who were investigating ecology at Juniper Hall in Surrey where they looked at freshwater invertebrates next to a beautiful stream in glorious sunshine. There was an opportunity to explore coppiced woodlands and see an excellent example of succession on the Mickleham Downs. The skills students practised are a vital component of the practical aspect of the course, and all enjoyed spending time out in the field being proper biologists.



ALDENHAM GIRL HELPS BRITISH TEAM WIN THE NATIONS CUP



Year 12 student **Jodie Hall McAteer** was part of the winning Junior British Show Jumping Team at the Junior Nations Cup at the Dutch Youngster Festival in the Netherlands. The team got the British campaign off to a great start when they took victory in their respective Nations Cup. Each horse and rider combination proved to be pivotal in securing GB's win as they delivered clear rounds.

Having previously achieved remarkable success in show jumping on smaller horses, team trailblazer Jodie set a great standard when she delivered a superb double clear on board Coquin De Coquerie Z, an 8 year old bay stallion.



VISITATION DAY 2017

More than 1,200 guests, parents, students and staff enjoyed a wonderful celebration of the whole school with a full programme of activities and displays at our annual prize giving. Thankfully the temperature had dropped from the scorching weather earlier in the week, making it more comfortable for visitors to enjoy our beautiful campus.



The usual Chapel service was followed by the distribution of prizes where the Chairman of Governors, Mr Trevor Barton OA, welcomed the guests, highlighted the enduring strengths of the Foundation and outlined plans for the next phase of development.



Head Boy **Stephen McMahon** and Head Girl **Nicola Butchart** thanked the Guest of Honour Mr Peter Furness-Smith, Master of the Worshipful Company of Brewers, for distributing the prizes. They each spoke passionately about their time at the School and the many friendships they had made. The formalities over, there was still plenty of time for leisurely picnics on Top Field around the Cricket pavilion whilst watching the 1st XI cricketers win against an OA side.

Many visitors took the opportunity to see the various displays including the Art and Photography exhibitions. Some also got to preview the wonderful Drama performance which went to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in August.



The busy day was rounded off with the usual highly charged Tug of War, which was won by Beevor's (Junior Cup) and McGill's (Senior Cup).

MASTERCLASSES AT ALDENHAM

Year 5 pupils from St Martin's Prep School in Mill Hill enjoyed a busy day at Aldenham for masterclasses in English and Science. This followed three Science Masterclasses earlier in the year for Year 6 boys and girls from Courtlands Primary School, St Hilda's Prep and Aldenham Prep.



SKI TRIPS

42 students and staff, travelled to Formigal in Spain for the Junior Ski Trip which **Jemima Wax** described as a “great experience” which she would definitely love to do again. “It was touching to see the sense of teamwork that being on the slopes formed, everyone was looking out for each other, always checking that no one was left behind, or stopping to help if someone had fallen” she said. **Jolie Sharp** added: “the trip was not just about the skiing, as you were really able to interact with people from the school that you may not have spoken to and become closer with those that you knew already.”



The Senior Ski Trip saw 30 students and 5 staff in Killington, Vermont, where the conditions were “amazing”. The students skied a wide range of terrain over the course of their five days of lessons, with the advanced and upper intermediate groups skiing every black and double black diamond run on the mountain. Students were also lucky to enjoy some off-piste skiing through the trees with guidance from their instructors. Before returning home the group headed back to New York where they enjoyed Cirque du Soleil on Broadway, dinner in Times Square, an educational and moving trip to the 9/11 Memorial Museum (especially for students who met with and spoke to a survivor about his experiences) and views of the city from Battery Park and the High Line. Overall, a fantastic trip!



DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S SCHEME IS THRIVING

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award continues to be popular with our students; 49 boys and girls are currently working towards their Bronze, Silver and Gold awards. Last year we had a completion rate of 66%, putting us in 4th place nationwide with independent schools.



Three former Aldenham pupils Tom Morbey, Matthew Prett and Matthew Morgan were presented with their Gold Duke of Edinburgh's awards at St James' Palace. The memorable visit with Prince Philip the Duke of Edinburgh, and the author Bill Bryson was the culmination of 18 months of hard work and dedication. Prince Philip showed great interest in all the young people, asking Tom Morbey about his Residential week volunteering with the National Trust.



Congratulations to Eleanor Hosford, Oli Beyrich, Vicky Garson and Ceri Godfrey who also received their Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Awards. Pictured here with the news and sports presenter Ore Oduba (centre) and (2nd from right) Lorraine Paine, DoFE Coordinator at Aldenham.

ALDENHAM HISTORY & DEVELOPMENT

Thanks to donations to the Aldenham Annual Fund a selection of material from the School archive is now available to be shared throughout the Aldenham community and with the general public who have an interest in the School. The digital archive can be accessed through a new dedicated website. Magazines from the war years and some from each decade have been professionally digitised, together with registers, event programmes, photograph albums and other memorabilia.



Paull's House 1948 – Archive Photo

The names of Kenneth Flatt (McGill's 1933-36) and Paul Spencer (Paull's 1943-47) have been added to the list of benefactors acknowledged each year at the thanksgiving service on Visitation Day, in recognition of generous gifts left to the School when they died. Richard Platt himself left orders in his will for the establishment of the School, and now the President of the OA Society, James James-Crook (McGill's 1968-72) has pledged a gift to Aldenham School in his will. Commitments of this sort provide the School with a secure bursaries fund and we are very grateful for this type of generous support.



Over 100 Old Aldenhamians from Paull's House gathered for a reunion on OA Day

PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION

The House Public Speaking competition saw different approaches to *The Aldenham Attributes*. Everyone was impressed with the exceptional quality of the speeches and with the courage, cooperation, aspiration and respect demonstrated by the competitors towards their peers and the competition in general. It was clear from everyone's approach that the topic inspired a range of personal and emotional reactions. Each speaker delivered their speech with flair and confidence, answering the questions with consideration and clarity.



After careful deliberation, the judges awarded first place to **Max Weil** and **Tom Yardley** from McGill's House.

MUSIC



SPRING CONCERT

The end of the Lent Term is traditionally when our musician leavers have the opportunity to display their talents for the final time on the large scale stage, and the four students this year certainly showed what we will be missing when they move on to pastures new. **Reshmi Patel** (trumpet) and **Abigail James** (violin) gave faultless virtuoso performances in the first movements of their respective concertos with Sinfonia.

Between the two concertos Paull's House choir gave their farewell performance at a large scale concert with two modern classics: *True Colors* and *What a Wonderful World*. **Georgia Lowe** was their soloist in Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Tell me on a Sunday*, her powerful voice expressing perfectly the emotions in this poignant song. The brass ensemble's magnificent bold sound reverberated around the Chapel with music from Wagner and Europe's *Final Countdown*.

The concert concluded with Faure's Requiem, a large scale choral piece with orchestra and organ. **Joel Amoa** took the baritone solos with solid assurance and **Sophie Katsiavriades'** sweet clear-toned soprano voice in the *Pie Jesu* had the audience's full rapt attention.

PAULL'S HOUSE SUMMER CONCERT

The Paull's House Summer Concert displayed a wide range of talent, with many girls performing solo and group acts from a number of well-known musicals, as well as several very entertaining dramatic pieces. The Paull's Choir was in top form, performing a 15-minute long extravaganza from *Les Miserables* as well as their own very special version of *Our House*, dedicated to Paull's. This was the last time the girls would perform as one House, but we look forward to many more events in future between Paull's and Riding's!

BECK MUSIC COMPETITION



There was a most impressive display of talent at the Beck Music Competition making it a difficult decision for the adjudicator to decide on a winner from each group. Huge congratulations to all the participants and the winners: **Harry Hosier Beeson** (piano) Preliminary; **James Stevenson** (clarinet) and **Rio Kagalwala** (voice) Intermediate; **Reshmi Patel** (piano) Higher; **Toby Freeman** (guitar) Advanced and winner of the Beck Cup.

DANCE SHOW

Another spectacular Dance Show delighted full houses at each performance with tap, ballet, contemporary, street, musical theatre and commercial styles.

60 girls and boys from Years 7-13 performed in the show demonstrating a very high standard for school-only trained dancers. Some excellent dances were also choreographed by pupils.



ART



The Art Exhibition delighted visitors at the end of term.



Congratulations to **Leo Bailey**, Year 11 Art student, who received the Painter-Stainers School Art Prize at the prestigious Painters' Hall in London earlier this year.



Paintings by the winners of the annual Letchmore Trust Competition were greatly admired. In a strong field the three winners, judged by the Chairman of the Letchmore Trust Mr Hugh Schermuly, and Mr James James-Crook the President of the OA Society, were **James Shrimpton** who won the Junior Prize, **Javier Dalpat** the Intermediate Prize and **Elliot Roberts** who gained the Senior Prize.

LOCAL MP PAYS A VISIT TO ALDENHAM



Hertsmere MP, Oliver Dowden, took time out from his busy election schedule in May to visit Aldenham where he spoke to a number of GCSE and A Level History & Politics students. He was given a tough grilling on a range of issues including North Korea, Brexit, working with two Prime Ministers, his voting when party and personal beliefs differ. This was followed by lunch with the Heads of all three Foundation Schools and the Chairman of Governors, Mr Trevor Barton. He then popped into Aldenham Prep School where the electorate of 2025, in the form of their School Council and that of St Hilda's School, engaged him in discussion.

LES PHILOSOPHES

Members of Les Philosophes were treated to a fascinating talk by Professor Hugh Montgomery. A true polymath, Professor Montgomery focused on health, population and climate change and its implications for the future. He promised to pull no punches as he challenged many media led perceptions. However the students were inspired to rise to the challenge of what they can do to resolve the global problems they have inherited from previous generations.



RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS



An inspiring talk was given by Year 7 and 8 students on their involvement in 'Random Acts of Kindness Week'.

YEAR 5 GIRL'S ACTIVITY DAY



Some of the 73 Year 5 girls make their way to the School Theatre to watch the Dance Show - just one of the activities enjoyed during their Activity Day.

PI DAY



Our third annual Pi Day saw Years 6 and 7 working together through a series of challenges, using only circular objects to measure straight distances. Healthy competition and accuracy were the order of the day as they used the wondrous properties of π to help them.

PHAB WEEKEND

Staff and students hosted the first Phab residential weekend at Aldenham. 26 staff and Sixth Formers spent an action packed time with 11 young people with special needs. Activities included a petting zoo of exotic animals, a music session run by Electric Umbrella, a visit to Aldenham Country Park, as well as art, drama, science and sports sessions.

At times a challenging weekend, but all our students excelled in enabling our guests to have a terrific time. They handled all situations with maturity and forged great bonds with their guests whose parents were hugely grateful to Aldenham students for allowing them to have some important and rare time to themselves. We look forward to repeating this amazing and genuinely life-changing experience again.





EROS RUN

At the annual run on the last day of term from Eros in Piccadilly to our own miniature replica of old boy Alfred Gilbert's Eros, **Harvey Dodd** was the fastest pupil home for the second year. Hot on his heels were **James Kennedy** and **Edward Fraser**. Former Prep School Head Paul Cheetham stormed home to win again, leaving him undefeated so far this decade.



CROSS COUNTRY

439 students took part in the annual House Cross Country competition this year with **Tojumi Ladipo** and **Lily Zentner** winning the Martineau's race. At Junior level it was **James Kennedy** and **Amelia Rees** winning this for the second year in a row. The standard of the senior race continues to rise and this year the boys' race was won by **Myles Mcleod** with **Murrey Slater** coming second. The girls' senior race was won by **Hana Hashiba-Charlton**, followed by **Sasha Macdonald** in second place and **Debbie Okeowo** third. Congratulations to all who ran in such good spirits.

CHARITY RUNS / FUNDRAISING

Many of our pupils have pushed themselves outside their comfort zone this year, including the large numbers who have taken part in the Park Runs to raise money for the *Teenage Cancer Trust*.

169 people completed a 5 km run twice around the reservoir at Aldenham Country Park raising £2,500+ for the Teenage Cancer



Trust, with over 90 of the runners from the Aldenham community. **Archie Hudson-Rawlings** in Year 12 was the inspiration for so many people attending. His friend James Stone is undergoing chemotherapy and it was in his honour that the event was held.

Hopefully this will challenge more people to get involved with the Park Run events, a national organisation with over 400 different venues across the UK and the world; each Saturday morning at 9.00am members of the public can take part in a free 5km run. It is a great community event and over 1 million runners take part weekly.



TOUGH MUDDER

15 Aldenham staff took part in a 'Tough Mudder' raising more money for the Teenage Cancer Trust. The 'Aldenham Attributes' team survived the course of 11 miles in very muddy conditions, scaling 20 obstacles along the way.



Another 5K charity run saw the 40+ runners raise over £250 in aid of Rays of Sunshine which helps to grant wishes to terminally ill children.

SPORT

Some of our very high level sportswomen and men have achieved amazing feats this year: **Dillon Chana** who won a fistful of medals at the Counties Swimming Championships; our two footballers, **Xavier Amaechi** and **Zico Asare**, who played together in the same Under 16 England team which defeated Brazil in Rio this year; show jumper **Jodie Hall McAteer** who not only won events at the Horse of the Year show, but also led the British team to win the European Nations Cup; and the three top athletes whose performances at local level led them to success at the National Championships this summer: **Toni Ademuwegun**, **Milly Gall**, and **Tom Wright**.

NETBALL

The Aldenham Charity Netball Tournament attracted lots of support. Nine teams took part this time, including boys and girls from Years 9-13, staff, parents and siblings. Monies raised went to *Ripple Africa* and the *Teenage Cancer Trust*. The enthusiastic supporters got behind their favourites and the final was fought out between 'Leg Ends' and 'Sasha's Team' - **Sasha Macdonald**, **Charlotte Yeabsley**, **Lauryn Edwell**, **Emma Conway**, **Megan Yeabsley**, **Jolie Sharpe** and **Georgie Yeabsley**.



ROUNDERS

The Rounders season was one of success – success with the British weather enabling the majority of our matches to be played; success in the number of girls playing and of course, success with results. Every girl in Years 7, 8, 9 & 10 represented the School. The U14A team won all but one of their matches. The Martineau's girls won or drew several of their games, most notably the U13A victory over St. Augustine's Priory where they came from behind to win. Martineau's girls also played cricket against Belmont which was a great afternoon in the sunshine! It was fantastic to see so many girls playing this year, something to build on for the future.

KORFBALL CHAMPION

Fifteen year old **Luca Buttinger** helped the Under 17 Great Britain team win a bronze medal at the Korfbal World Cup in Holland. Luca is no newcomer to this popular sport for men and women which originated in Holland. He had previously represented his country at Under 15 when they also they came third in their group.



SWIMMING SUCCESS

Dillon Chana and **John Telenski** were selected to represent the Watford & District team at the Inter District Swimming Championships in Hemel Hempstead. In the Intermediate Boys' category and in front of an enthusiastic full house Dillon won Silver in the 100m Individual Medley and Bronze in the 50m Freestyle. In the Senior Boys' category John stepped up to claim Bronze in the 50m Breaststroke.

Dillon later went on to gain 6 gold and 2 silver medals at the Counties competition. His ASA rankings for 14 year old boys in the UK place him 3rd (200m backstroke), 8th (100m backstroke), 2nd (50m backstroke), 6th (50m butterfly), 10th (100m butterfly), 18th (200IM) and 12th (400IM). To achieve anywhere near the top 3 nationally is an amazing achievement and shows real dedication. Very well done Dillon.

SPORTS DAY

With a plethora of outstanding athletes on show and favourable weather conditions, this year's Sports Day was guaranteed to be a happy event.



The Martineau's Girls' event was dominated by one very impressive athlete, **Alina Cofie**, who won the 100m, Hurdles and High Jump, breaking records in two of them. Alina also anchored her team to a relay victory and for her efforts picked up the Victrix Ludorum and the coveted Hugh Kelly Memorial Cup

for outstanding athlete of the day. Another notable performance in this group came from **Lily Zentner** who won the 300m and the 1500m.

Both **Noah Booth** and **Ozzie Ufuah**'s standout performances helped Neale win the Martineau's Boys' event but **Ola Okeowo** picked up the Victor Ludorum for winning the 100m, 200m (new record) and the Triple Jump as well as being part of the relay victory.

In the Junior Girls' event **Milly Gall** picked up her 3rd Victrix Ludorum in as many years for her four wins and four Sports Day records in the Long Jump, Hurdles, 300m and Relay. Other notable winning performances came from **Eliza Blayne** (200m), **Winnie Sakala** (Shot) and **Femi Dada** (High Jump) who all set new Sports Day records.

The Victor Ludorum in the Junior Boys' category was awarded to **Daniel Oyegoke** who broke the Long Jump and 300m records.



Mr Williams, Senior School Principal, checks the measurement of the School High Jump record.



The Middle Boys' event saw more impressive performances with nearly every event being won by an outstanding athlete: **Tom Wright** picked up the Victor Ludorum for setting new records in the Long Jump and High Jump and winning the Hurdles.



The Senior Girls' event saw **Debbie Okeowo** win the Victrix Ludorum for her four wins in the 100m, 200m, Triple Jump and relay, breaking Sports Day records in all three of her individual events.

For the Senior Boys' **Zacky Agama** anchored home the McGill's relay team for his third gold medal of the day. However, he was to lose out to **Toni Ademuwagun** who picked up the Victor Ludorum for his wins in the 200m, Long Jump and High Jump where he broke the Sports Day record. Another notable was **Timi Adeyanju** who broke his own Hurdles record and leaves the school having never lost a Hurdles race at Sports Day. He holds all four age group records.

A SEASON OF ATHLETICS WINS



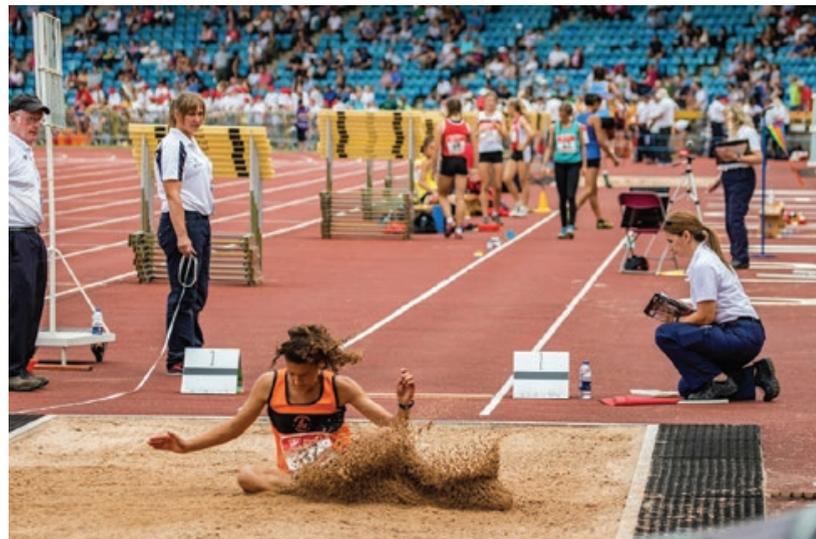
At the District Athletics Championships Aldenham finished 5th competing against a number of much larger schools. Individual winners included **Milly Gall** (Hurdles & Long Jump) plus Trophy for Best Individual performance of the day, **Alina Cofie** (High Jump & 100m), **Ola Okeowo** (Triple Jump), **Redvers Gardner** (High Jump), **Marcus Ribeiro Dias** (800m), **Daniel Oyegoke** (300m) and **Theo Vickeridge** (200m).

We had a number of winners and top 3 positions in the Senior District Athletics Championships including **Tom Wright** (High Jump) and **Toni Ademuwagun** (Triple Jump) - pictured right, and **Leo Li** (100m & Long Jump) and **Debbie Okeowo** (200m).



ATHLETIC NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITORS

More success at the end of the season: It is a great honour for any athlete to be selected to represent their county at the English Schools' Championships and for one school to have no fewer than three athletes in the team is indeed a great achievement. **Milly Gall**, **Toni Ademuwagun** and **Tom Wright** had already won their individual events at the County Schools' Championships.



Milly, 14, won the Long Jump so gaining the title of English Schools Champion. Her jump also places her 1st in the UK rankings for her age group. Many congratulations Milly. 16 year old Toni was placed 5th in the U20 High Jump competition, Tom, also 16, came 7th in a strong field of U17 High Jump boys and is currently ranked 11th in the UK for his age group.

CRICKET



The U12 County Cup winners

It has been an excellent season with the majority of the 70 fixtures being won by Aldenham. The U12As finished off a brilliant season by winning the County Cup; **Jamie Crosby** took a hat trick off the last three balls! They will now go through to the national competition next year.

Notable victories for the 1st XI have included John Lyon, Watford Grammar, UCS and the John Dewes invitational team. This is a promising side well led by **Daniel Murphy** and **Hemanshu Hirani**, the leading run-scorer. It includes several young players who certainly look promising for the future: **Sam Harvey** (Year 10) and **Umer Zeeshan Lohya** (Year 11). **Lewis Smith** in the U15 side has been excellent with the bat, top-scoring with 95 against Westminster. He has been supported well by his teammates, especially **Tomilade Fajana**.



Viren Patel in the U14As is one to watch – he currently plays for Middlesex and is a talented left arm fast bowler and top-order batsman. He has been well supported by **Aadam Ali**, although the entire team has shown significant improvement this season.

The Martineau's First XI were led well by **Tom Francis** and **Jacob Seimon**. **Rahil Patel** has top-scored in this team, with a high score of 106. **Alex Brooks** is another talented cricketer.



In the U14B match against Haileybury, **Shané Gillani** took 4 wickets for 7 runs including a remarkable hat trick, a rare achievement in cricket.



The Aldenham Prep School Cricket Festival saw 8 schools taking part with The Beacon School the winners. The standard of cricket was excellent and it was a wonderful sight to see 4 cricket matches being played in glorious sunshine at the same time. It was certainly a positive day for cricket at Aldenham.

TOUR TO BARBADOS

24 senior and junior cricketers went on tour to Barbados at the end of the year, an excellent opportunity to experience the cricketing culture of the Caribbean and one that everyone will remember for years to come. The tour got off to a winning start with the U15s' convincing win against Wesley Junior School, the star players being **Qamraan Trevelyn** and **Sam Harvey** who had a partnership of over 100. Our leading all-rounder and Middlesex player **Viren Patel** dislocated a finger taking an excellent catch in the second match, which contributed to their later fortunes. The leading run scorer was **Sam Harvey** and **Ethan Hayes** the lead wicket taker on the tour – well done boys.

The U18s won all but one of their matches, where they witnessed an almighty batting display from the current West Indies U16 captain. **Hemanshu Hirani** captained the side with great skill and determination, backed up by a number of match winning performances from **Daniel Murphy**, **Rabin Selliah** and **George Hudson** who scored his first fifty for the 1st XI in his last match for the School and was voted most valuable player. The man of the tour was **Sammy Gaeton** who provided everyone with great humour and was a genuine friend to the other 23 boys – whatever their age.



The Barbados team were in training when the group visited the famous Kensington Oval. **Umer Zeeshan Lohya** was thrilled to be asked to join their fielding practice.



There was also time for some relaxation including an island safari, snorkelling along a coral reef, feeding turtles in the wild and chilling out on the amazing secluded beaches.



PREP MATTERS



Year 6 enjoyed a week in France after exceedingly hard work in their 11+ entrance exams, with the vast majority gaining places to the schools of their first choice. Following their results the 22 children in Year 6 were offered 42 places at senior schools. Ten children are transferring to Aldenham Senior School. Three are moving to Haberdashers' Aske's Boys' School and two to Haberdashers' Aske's School for Girls. Children will be starting Year 7 in St Helen's, Yavneh College, St Alban's Girls, Northwood College, Haileybury and St Alban's Boys. 86% of pupils have gained places at their first choice school. Five children have been offered six scholarships between them. This is a stunning set of results, congratulations to the children on their hard work.

Learning experiences outside the classroom are an integral part of Aldenham Prep School.



Year 2 had a very successful visit to Clay Lane and won the coveted Green and Gold Award for only using recyclable packaging in their lunchboxes.

Year 1's trip to the Chiltern Open Air Museum gave them a real flavour of life at various points in history. Year 3 enjoyed the outdoors with their overnight camp on Button Field and Year 4 enjoyed a day at the British Library. Year 5's trip to the Science Museum gave them a detailed insight into Space and they were excellent ambassadors for the School. Year 6 had an amazing time on the coast in Dorset taking part in a variety of outdoor activities.



There were many special days in school too. The lobby was transformed into an Ancient Egyptian market when Year 3 were busy making, acting and submitting their handiwork to the gods for approval.

Japan Week culminated in a stunning art exhibition to display the week's creative work from some of our very talented artists. Humanities Week saw each class taking a continent and learning about its culture, history and geography. The week began with history for all in the shape of dinosaurs, which also intriguingly gave the older children a chance to compare 'fake' news to 'fake' fossils. The children enjoyed everything English for English Day; glorious singing of traditional songs, country dancing and cricket were set off against making cucumber sandwiches, finding out about St George and investigating favourite English authors.



Samba rhythms filled the air when all the children had the opportunity to experience the very infectious beat of samba drums large and small.

As our Masterclasses drew to a close much has been gained over the course of the year by every child. Stretch and challenge has been provided in many curriculum and non-curriculum areas and each child has benefitted from the stimulating enrichment activities.



Year 4 led the cast of *Shakespeare Rocks!*, receiving a standing ovation for their final performance. The confidence of the children as performers and their obvious enjoyment was inspiring.



This was followed by the Years 5-6 production of *Strictly Not Grease* which was superb and unique. ‘West End quality’ and ‘I can’t believe they’re only Prep school age’ were two of the comments made by the hugely appreciative audiences. Congratulations to the extremely talented and very hard working cast and to the production team, backstage staff and front of house volunteers.



At the Watford Festival Finale concert we were delighted to come away with two trophies; **Sophia Antoniou** for Mime and **Isabella Yeabsley** and **Tom Grigg** for Duologue Acting. Each year a shield is awarded to the overall best performance of the Festival

representing well over 600 junior performances and this year it was given to Tom and Isabella. Congratulations also to our Choir who were awarded a Distinction in their class at St Albans Girls’ School. The Drama and Music Studio truly needs its own trophy cabinet!

Our Music Concert was a triumph with soloists, ensembles and choirs performing with feeling and expression. Congratulations to every performer. The retiring collection of over £700 went to support the Grenfell Tower residents.





As a school we supported *WaterAid* and our Eco-Water Day got across the message of just how important water is to the world. All the children took part in 'Walk a Mile with a Difference' and carried buckets containing water to try and understand a little of what it must be like to have to carry water every day.

Button Field was transformed into a wonderful traditional British Summer Fair and then back into a sporting arena all within the space of 24 hours. The ASPA International Fair was a brilliant community event which raised around £7,500. Congratulations to all the prize winners on Visitation Day and to those awarded sports prizes and their Colours. Congratulations also to next year's Head Boy **Oscar Turner** and Head Girl **Chloe Sockalinghum**.

We are in awe of teaching assistant and midday supervisor Mrs Shah who donated a kidney to a life-long friend after months of preparation, tests and assessments. The operation went well and both ladies are recuperating as expected.

PREP SPORT

The Inter Schools 600m Relay event on Cooke's Field proved successful for Aldenham with the boys' and girls' teams winning their respective events. Fastest girl and boy on the day were **Isabella Yeabsley** (2.12) and **Joseph Hime** (2.03).

The girls managed second place with the boys finishing fourth at the Junior Prep Inter School Swimming Gala. **Lexi Yeabsley** was most impressive on the day. **Shinnosuke Hashiba-Charlton**, **Hannah Cushion** and **Isabella Yeabsley** took part in the District Swimming Trials where Isabella was selected to represent the Watford & District team and medalled twice in the Inter District Gala against strong opposition.



The girls and boys were also in winning form, triumphing at the Buckingham College Inter Schools Athletics competition on Button Field. In between the showers, the boys have managed to squeeze in a number of games of cricket at both Junior and Senior Prep level. **Harry Edler**, **Joseph Hime** and **Anil Settupalli** impressed with the hard ball, while **Mustafa Husain Shah** is a promising prospect.



Sports Day was completed with the rain ignored. A couple of records were broken on the day, although these were limited due to the conditions on a grass track. **Noor Hussain** claimed the Rounders ball throw with a 28m effort. **Joseph Hime** secured the Long Jump record with a leap of 3.97m.

All the girls from years 3-6 have taken part in at least one Rounders fixture this term. The Junior girls won all their games. The Senior girls were unbeaten and finished the season with a fantastic win over Alpha Prep. Our fielding was especially strong with great catches and overall play by **Noor Hussain**, **Samantha Myers** and **Mia Werter**.

FOUNDATION STAGE



The Reception classroom was made into a crime scene when the children discovered that their porridge had been stolen. Thanks to their top detective skills including carrying out interviews, hunting down clues and examining the evidence, it soon became clear that Mr Wolf was to blame. A full letter of apology and a promise to never do such a thing again was gratefully received.



A Safety topic week included a visit from two local police officers and a Road Safety Workshop. The children learned a lot about staying safe and they were surprised at how loud the siren was!



It was 'Ahoy Me Hearty!' for Dads' Day which was a Pirate session in the woods. Treasure Hunts, Walking the Plank and making Pirate Hooks were among the many activities. A pirate themed photo booth meant that everyone left with a framed photograph as a memento of the day.



Sports Day returned to the pirate theme; Golden Goblets, Hiding Treasure, Parrot Races and a Shark Relay. The children enjoyed every minute as did the cheering crowd.

Story time reached a new level of excitement with the introduction of 'Mystery Readers' as none of the children knew who was arriving to read the story. A special gasp of delight was always heard from the child whose relative had come to surprise their class.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

7 October

- OPEN MORNING

(10.00am-12.30pm)

19 October

– House Music Competition

16 November

– Sixth Form Information Evening

25 November

– OA Dinner at Aldenham

12 December

– Carol Service at St Albans Cathedral

6-8 December

- Senior School Play

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