



CITY OF LONDON
SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

CITY LIFE

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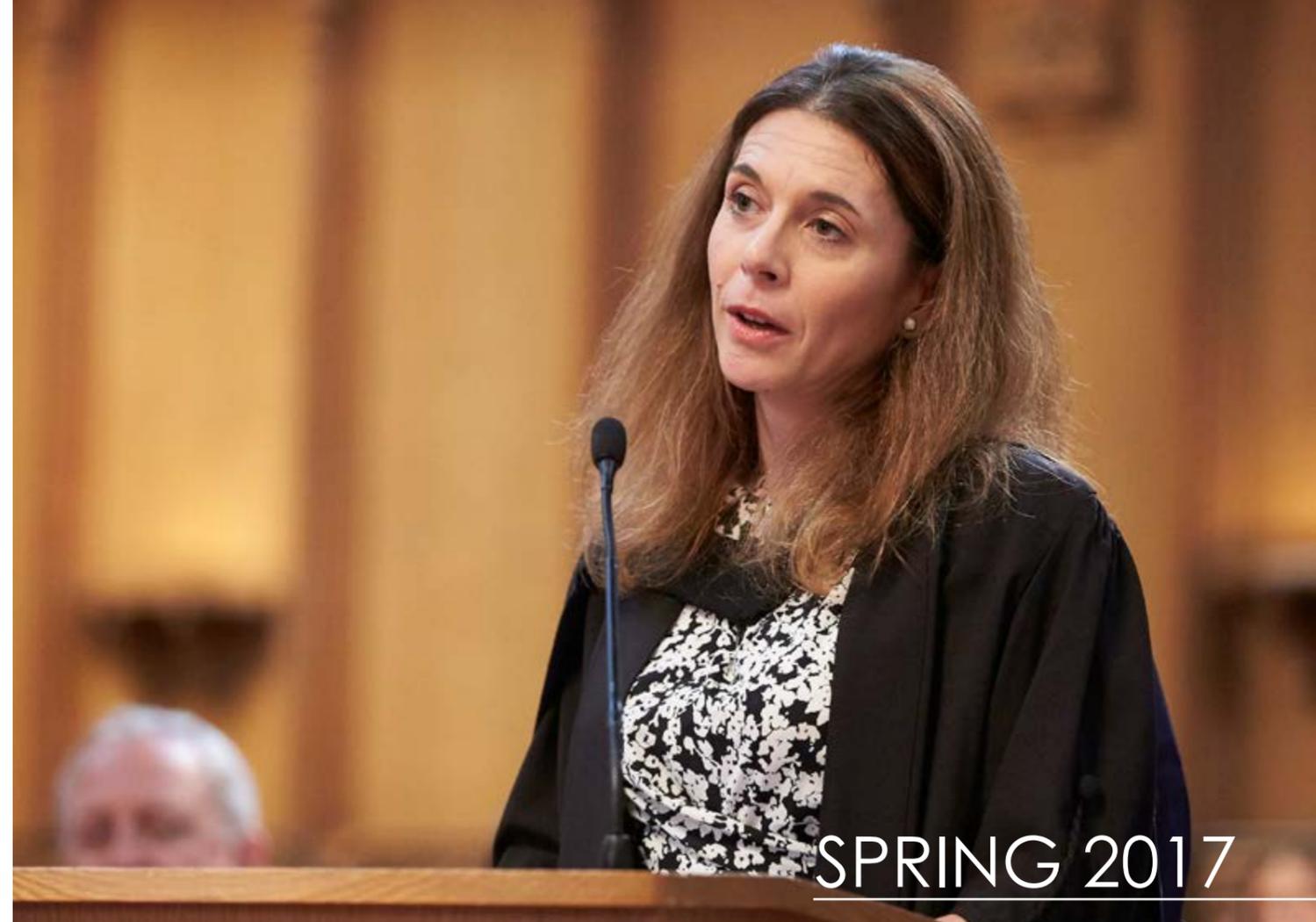
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SPRING 2017

The academic year 2015-2016 started with the first phase of our refurbishment program completed on time and, I hope you will agree with me, to great effect. A,B and D corridors look brighter, roomier and lighter than ever before, and panels on the staircases have made a significant difference not just to the feel of the circulation spaces, but also to the noise levels at changeover times. We are now looking forward to carrying on next summer with our planned works, which will include a number of the classrooms.

Last term we said an emotional and heartfelt goodbye to Professor Schmidt after 40 years of dedicated service at the school. I know many of you joined us in thanking him for all his hard work with so many girls at the school. We wish him a long, happy and healthy retirement. This term, we will also be saying good by to Miss Rogers, our Head of Prep after 6 years at the school. In her time at CLSG, Miss Rogers has transformed the prep department with her energy, vision and her good humour. We wish her the very best in her new role as Head of The Cavendish school.

This has been another very busy term at CLSG. The breadth and variety of activities is reflected in the pages that follow. We have had two excellent Sixth Form conferences, on the Bosnian conflict and the relevance of Classics, as well as being

visited by both the President of Malta and the Mayor of London Sadiq Kahn. All of these events were entirely organised by Sixth Form students, whose initiative and ability to make things happen continues to impress us. The scholars concert was a great occasion to celebrate the talent of our young musicians and the Year 8 Photo Day showed us once more how highly creative our pupils can be.

You will see in the trips sections that City girls have travelled far and wide, from Sri Lanka to Switzerland and we also celebrated our first International day of the Girl and hosted for the first time a robotics competition at school. Finally, our wide ranging sporting successes are a testament to the dedication of the PE department and the willingness of the girls to always try their best. We are delighted that the school has now been included in the top 100 independent sports schools in the country: a real accolade to the staff and the girls.

I hope you enjoy this edition of City Life and I wish you a restful holiday.

E. Hamp

Mrs Enda Harrop, Headmistress



Visit from award winning author Teri Terry



German Exchange



Sing and Swing Concert



World Book Day



Voss Ski Trip



HAPPY RETIREMENT, PROFESSOR SCHMIDT

PROFESSOR GERHARD SCHMIDT, HEAD OF STRINGS
JOINED CLSG IN 1977

Dear Gerhard,

I have known you since 1981 when you were the first person to make me feel welcome at school. How I remember the warmth and generosity of your welcome.

You have always been a superb teacher and so many girls have prospered under your instruction. Your patience and humour, sometimes in the most trying circumstances, were remarkable. You were always able to stretch and challenge your pupils of all abilities and were so imaginative in tailoring your approach to each individual girl.

The orchestra flourished under your direction and there were many highlights, particularly with the Leavers' Concerts. All those Concertos: Bruch, Tchaikovsky and Sibelius Violin, Elgar Cello, Grieg, Ravel and Shostakovich Piano to name just a few.

You often would regale the department with stories about the days when you were a member of the Vienna boys' choir, I remember especially the ones about the bird and animal noises, complete with very realistic sound effects, which you all used to communicate with each other after lights out.

Everyone at City of London School for Girls has been very privileged to work with you in the Music Department. The school will miss your superb musicianship, your absolute love of conducting and passion for performance and your almost childlike enthusiasm for every task that you undertake. Your warmth, generosity, openness, sincerity and above all your friendship to everyone will always be remembered by everyone that you came across.

We all wish you a long and happy retirement.

Maggie Donnelly
Director of Music, 1981-2015



FAREWELL, MISS ROGERS

Miss Rogers joined CLSG in September 2010, but where does one start with 'The Woman in Black'? The stage version provides a number of interesting parallels: supernatural powers – she appears to know what you're about to say even before you do; sometimes scary – when the red mist descends, be afraid, be very afraid; the ability to bilocate – how on Earth can she be in her office and then, suddenly, in the blink of an eye, appear in the classroom?

Enough from the dark side, let's move into the blond light. If you're standing in the right place, at the right time of day with the sun streaming through, the apparition of a halo surrounds her. It underlines the old adage that one has to be a saint to teach these days. What about school trips? For some staff, they're arduous, bordering on the cruel, but not for Miss Rogers. She's up at the crack of dawn to the sound of the bugle, mustering the girls and sorting out issues from the night before. Even as a victim of child-initiated biological warfare on a recent residential, she managed to direct operations from her deathbed via semaphore and telepathy.

It is to assemblies that one must turn for an insight into the true Miss Rogers; assemblies they're not, more revelations. It's like listening to Mother Teresa, Ghandi and Dr Mary Beard all rolled into one but with a touch of Cilla for good measure. In these days of the latest wellbeing fads, all one needs is to visit Prep assemblies and follow the path to enlightenment. What everyone will miss is Miss Rogers's humour, common sense and joie de vivre; she has it in buckets. Even with the occasional contretemps, there's no brooding nor grudge just a kind-hearted word, a twinkle in the eye and "let's get on with it" accompanied by a big smile: very refreshing!

As the school bids farewell to Miss Rogers and wishes her all the very best in her new posting as Headmistress of The Cavendish School in Camden, we know that she has left us in good shape and all is well; we thank her.

Laura Hall, Deputy Head of Prep

“ I cannot put into words how much Miss Rogers has taught me. I will miss her weekly study skills lessons and her aspirations for us all to become space doctors!

Sophia Wilder Jacobs, U2

Miss Rogers always makes me laugh when I'm feeling dull, she makes my day when things are going wrong. She helps me when I'm confused and I don't know what to do. She keeps me safe and takes care of me. She is very kind and cheers me up. She is the best headmistress possible and she helps people achieve their goals.

Amaya Malhotra, L1

I will miss Miss Rogers as she is always 'womaning up' and never wants anyone to be upset. In assemblies she always entertains us with funny things. She always follows the three Rs and has a trick up her sleeve in lessons. We will miss you Miss Rogers!

Rafaela O'Callaghan, L2

BEHIND THE SCENES: MEET OUR STAFF

ROS SMITH PA TO THE HEADMISTRESS

WHAT'S THE BEST PART OF YOUR JOB?
The location, the staff and the girls!

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN AT CITY FOR?
15 years.

WHAT DOES A TYPICAL DAY LOOK LIKE FOR YOU?
There are no typical days, but that's why I enjoy my job so much.

IF YOU COULD HAVE ANOTHER JOB IN THE SCHOOL FOR A DAY, WHAT WOULD IT BE AND WHY?
It's too difficult to choose, but possibly a day when I could call into lessons in different departments to see how it all works

WHAT IS YOUR MOST MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE/STORY FROM CITY?

Some of the performances (Oh what a Lovely War! , Antigone, Into the Woods...(to name but a few) and Art Exhibitions and Gym and Dance Displays have been sensational. The quality of the girls' work never fails to astound me.

VICKY PYKE PA TO THE BURSAR

WHAT'S THE BEST PART OF YOUR JOB?
I would have to say my colleagues ☺

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN AT CITY FOR?
Eight years.

WHAT DOES A TYPICAL DAY LOOK LIKE FOR YOU?
There honestly isn't a typical day, each day brings something completely different.

IT MUST BE TOUGH ORGANISING EVERYTHING THAT YOU DO. WHAT TRICKS DO YOU HAVE TO KEEP THINGS RUNNING SMOOTHLY?
Lots of lists and diary management.

IF YOU HAD TO DESCRIBE YOURSELF IN ONE WORD, WHAT WOULD IT BE?
Patient.

IF YOU COULD BE AN ANIMAL, WHICH WOULD YOU BE?

A dalmatian because they're fun, scatty and ditz, a bit like me really!



Clockwise from left: Ros Smith, Vicky Pyke, Kerry Dignan

KERRY DIGNAN DEPUTY HEADS' SECRETARY

WHAT'S THE BEST PART OF YOUR JOB?
Working with supportive colleagues who work hard as team to make the school the place it is.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN AT CITY FOR?
Nearly eight years. From 2007 to 2010 and then again from January 2013!

WHAT DOES A TYPICAL DAY LOOK LIKE FOR YOU?
There is no such thing as a typical day in B10!

IF YOU COULD HAVE ANOTHER JOB IN THE SCHOOL FOR A DAY, WHAT WOULD IT BE AND WHY?

It would have to be one of the Science Technicians so I could see the exciting experiments they set up.

ARE YOU THE TRUE POWER BEHIND THE THRONE?
No, but I work hard assisting the true powers...

STRICTLY OR X FACTOR?
100% Strictly Come Dancing. The best show on TV.

THE FIRST RULE OF BREAD CLUB...

Flour, water and salt. At the hands of a baker, these three simple ingredients can undergo an amazing transformation into a chewy, crunchy, caramelised crusty loaf of sourdough bread. When I first tried to make a loaf of sourdough, following a one day course I took at a local bakery, the results were less than satisfying. And yet I was left with a desire to immediately have another go and do better. And so began an addiction. A search for the perfect loaf.

The process of baking sourdough is part science, part craft. It's like one huge chemistry investigation, with a thousand variables to control or tinker with. Microscopic adjustments to temperatures, times and flour types can have an unbelievable impact on the final product. Looking after a sourdough culture, so that it is in peak condition when it's time to make bread, requires meticulous attention to detail and strict schedules. The obsessive part of my personality found this an irresistible challenge. When I wasn't baking sourdough, I was thinking about it.

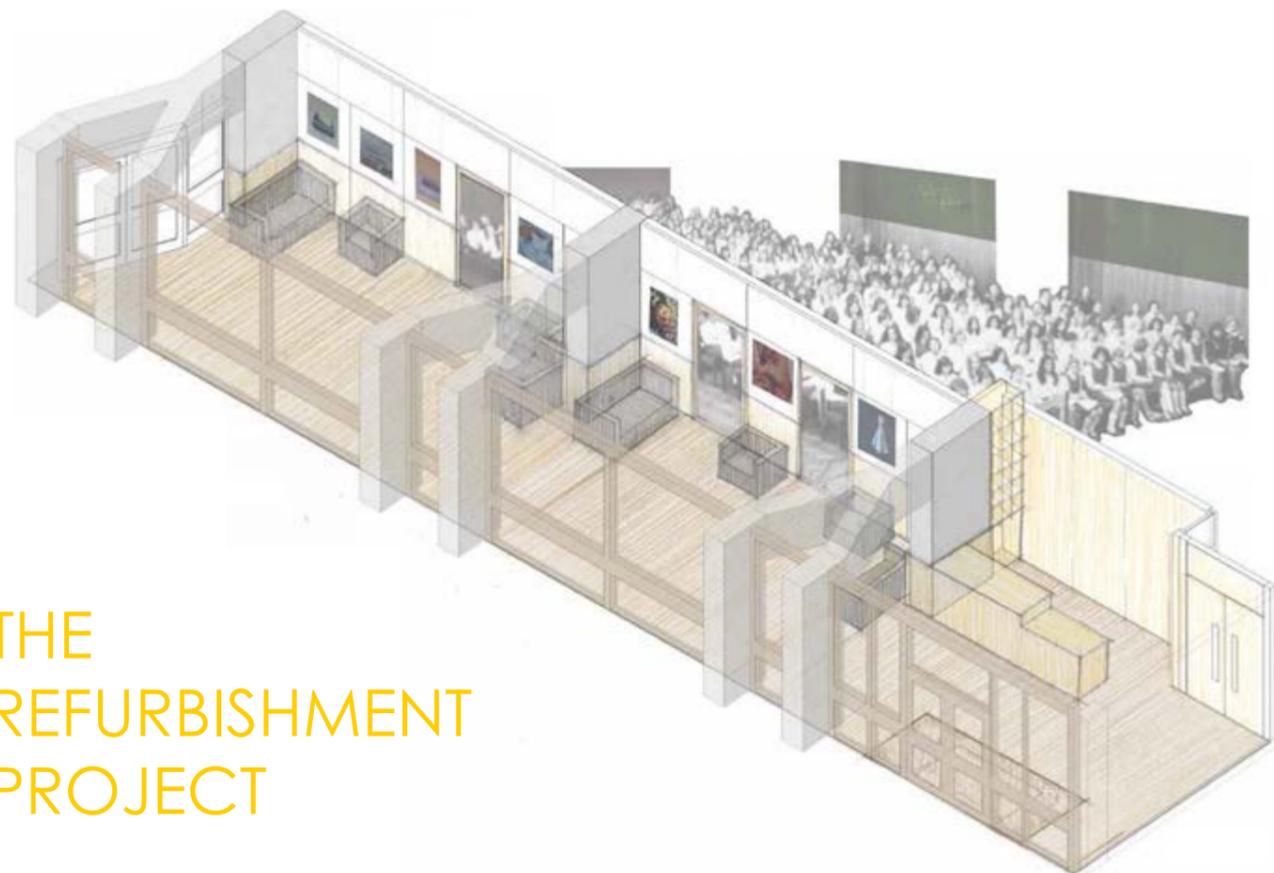
In 2014, after 6 years of being Head of Science, I decided that I was going to take a career break and try something new. So I said goodbye to my colleagues and students and went to the USA, where I spent 4 months travelling across the country learning and working in some of the most interesting

artisan bakeries. The bakers were using ancient techniques and simple, high quality ingredients to make their bread. When I returned to the UK, I set up Bread Club: a micro-bakery, making bread to deliver direct to subscribers. I start mixing about 20kg of dough on a Thursday evening. On Friday afternoon I leave school at lunchtime and head back to start the process of turning the dough into bread. I get up at about 6am on Saturday, baking around 40 loaves of bread, along with some croissant and other pastries in my small scale baker's oven. The bread is then packaged and delivered by bike direct to members of 'the club' – just in time for breakfast!

In October, I was lucky enough to have some of my bread shortlisted for the finals of the World Bread Awards, a national competition involving some of the UK's best artisan bakeries. Both of the loaves I entered were awarded Gold Awards! On top of that, my 'Seeded Levain' was runner-up in the sourdough category. I was hugely proud of my success in this competition and really grateful to the staff and students at City for all their support and encouragement. Getting my bread to the judges at 10am on a Wednesday morning, wouldn't have been possible without the support of Mrs Harrop and my colleagues in the Chemistry department.

Tim Aldridge, Chemistry Teacher





THE REFURBISHMENT PROJECT

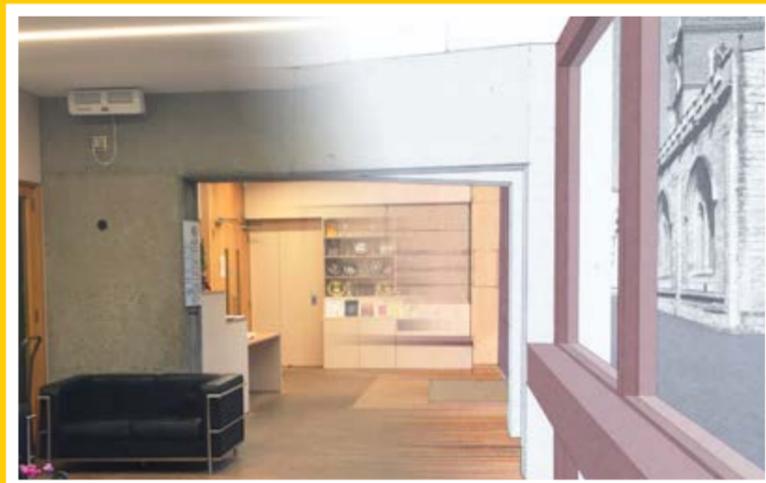
Last summer work started on a major refurbishment of the main school building. The brief for the architects was to come up with a design that remained sympathetic to the original 1950s design of the school but that increased the light throughout the building.

Over the summer holidays a new reception area was created, simplifying and decluttering the space. No more free standing bins and display cases. In addition, window views across to the lake were introduced to return to some of the original sightlines across the Barbican lake without compromising on sound proofing for the summer exams.

The corridors on A, B and D floors were fitted with new LED lighting, ceilings and floor. In addition to a coat of paint, the woodwork was restored and repolished and new panels were fitted to the side and top of the concrete stairs to improve sound dampening in the corridors.

In your travels around the school you will see what an improvement it has been, if you contrast the new corridors with Floor C which has the old flooring and lighting. This summer will see Floors G and C refurbished, along with the classrooms on Floor B.

Alan Bubbear, Bursar



MAKING CONTENT COME ALIVE: GOOGLE EXPEDITIONS

Students from a range of year groups were fortunate to be amongst the first in London to participate in the Google Expeditions Pioneer Programme.

The purpose of this new programme is to focus on using Virtual Reality (VR), by bringing the real world closer to more people in the form of a virtual field trip using the 'Expeditions' app. The app gives users the ability to travel to places they otherwise might not have the opportunity to reach, including the Great Barrier Reef, Antarctica and the Great Wall of China.

The experience ignited some keen interest from both our students and staff. Our teaching team participated in a training session designed to support them on how best to lead their students through an 'Expedition', and the expected student experience and learning outcomes.

They are now considering how best to use the technology across all year groups and subjects. This may include the utilisation of the Google Cardboard viewfinders (a head mount that uses the built-in screen and sensors of a smart phone), to magically transport their students to a range of places on Earth - and even beyond!

Rachel Brincat, eLearning Co-ordinator

PREP REPORT:

A man called Andrew from Google came to our school to run a workshop about Google Expeditions. He handed us these specially designed Google Expedition binoculars. When we looked through them we could see a 360° view of different landscapes according to what Andrew put on his i-Pad!

We are learning about habitats in science and Mrs Hall explained to us that we would be finding out about some different habitats around the world. At first we looked at the Earth from space. It was really cool, because when we turned around we saw it as if we were actually there. We thought that we really were inside a space rocket.

We looked at the Great Barrier Reef from space. And then... we actually went in it! We saw barracudas, potato cods, divers and even a shark! After that we went to Borneo in Asia and found camouflaged animals such as a dead leaf mantis. It was an exciting lesson and we learnt lots about the Borneo rainforest and the Great Barrier Reef.

Matilda Zanollo, Lucinda Stevens, Lexi Matthews and Raiza Wali, Upper 1

YEAR 8 MACE 'BUILDING FUTURES' PROJECT

In the Autumn term, Sixteen Year 8 students were selected to take part in a twelve week 'Building Futures' project run by construction company MACE, which is currently working on a site in the Moorgate area. Over the weeks, the girls got to meet people in different careers, such as architects and engineers, as they worked together to design a model of a cafe. At the end of the project, the group gave their final presentations at MACE Headquarters to an audience of members of the MACE management team and other specialists within the company. They did an absolutely fantastic job and all were awarded a bronze Crest Award for their efforts.

Student Valentina Nicolosi said: "The MACE project was a great opportunity for Year 8 students to get a better understanding of a working environment and learn new, useful skills which are crucial for working in a successful company like MACE in the future. We had the opportunity to design and plan the construction of a community cafe in the Moorgate area. We had to take sustainability, costs, space, and many other factors into consideration as well as working well in a group and being organised. One of my favourite sessions was when we visited a MACE construction site where we learnt all about the building aspect of working in the construction industry. We then had the chance to present our pitch to a group of MACE's managers. Overall, this



was an amazing experience that also really made me consider working in the construction industry as a possible option for the future."

Niamh Balroop added: "The MACE project was a very enjoyable course which showed us the different aspects of the construction industry, and how staff collaborate to achieve the end result. It was very useful for teamwork skills, and was helpful for learning about the different job choices in construction"

Rachel Robertson, Assistant Head of Lower School

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL



11th October is International Day of the Girl, an initiative started by the UN to promote the rights of girls across the globe. It aims to celebrate global citizenship, bridge the gap between girls and boys across the world and to promote girls' education and leadership.

Several events took place at CLSG over the week to create awareness and celebrate internationalism. We had a whole-school assembly with Amy Ashlee from Plan International who told us about their work and gave us a much clearer idea as to why this day is so important, as girls still suffer inequality, violence and lack of education in many parts of the world. It was particularly interesting to hear about their 'Girls Takeover' initiative, whereby for one day many girls were able to take over the role of a female leader in their country, for example, the vice-president of Paraguay and a chief of police in Uganda.

Year 7 completed their first Challenge morning, bringing their version of the United Nations to City, researching 16 countries and representing them in a UN conference. All of Year 7 proved that they could work together as true global citizens.

Our dining room was decorated in flags of the world and we enjoyed an international menu with traditional dishes from no less than 10 different countries. Both students and staff shared their linguistic skills and taught taster lessons in 12 different languages: Italian, Welsh, Swahili, Brazilian

Portuguese, Basque, Sign Language, Korean, Tamil, Japanese, Turkish, Maori and Hebrew. Some even treated us to traditional food from their country, which was enjoyed by all.

To gain greater knowledge about the challenges girls face across the world and how leadership can be promoted amongst girls, PSHCE was dedicated to International Day of the Girl, with a quiz on well-known influential women to raise money for Street Child, and a group of Year 9 and 10 students attended a talk with author of 'How to Make a Girl', Caitlin Moran.

Prep all came to school in international dress, with outfits from countries including India, America and France. Lower Two pupil Holly Brady said: "International Day of the Girl was started to try and make more people understand that girls in some countries aren't given fair rights. It was also to raise awareness of how girls should have equal rights and be treated as fairly as boys. Think about all those amazing women who have gone far: Margaret Thatcher, Queen Elizabeth and Theresa May are just a few examples."



ROBOTICS COMPETITION AWARD WINNERS



In preparation for the competition, the CLSG teams worked together to design, build and program a robot, using VEX IQ, that could quickly and efficiently solve specific obstacles and challenges that come with playing the game, Crossover. The girls were rewarded for their hard work, winning the Design Award and Judges Award.

Team CLSGR, consisting of Year 8 student Anne and Year 9 students Artemis, Shakthi and Mimi, were presented with the Design Award, after receiving top marks in all categories on their design and engineering process. Visiting judge Noel Sharkey, Professor of Artificial Intelligence and Robotics & Public Engagement at the University of Sheffield, was particularly impressed with the team's design process and decision making.

Team KMNS, consisting of Year 7 students Safiyya, Kobika, Nishka, and Marina, was presented with the Judges Award for their enthusiasm, teamwork and dedication throughout the event. Both teams have secured places at the National competition at the Big Bang Fair on 15th March.

In January we hosted the regional heat of the 2016-2017 VEX IQ Robotics Crossover Challenge, featuring 22 teams of competitors from schools across London. The VEX IQ Challenge, endorsed by the Robotics Education and Competition Foundation, is an engineering and programming challenge for students aged 12 to 18, encouraging teamwork, problem solving and leadership.

A PRESIDENTIAL VISIT

We were honoured to welcome the President of Malta, Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, to the school on 10th November. A champion of women and human rights, President Preca spoke to girls about her life and work, and about women in politics and high office. The girls asked some interesting questions about the EU, the new US president and about Malta's record as a state championing the rights of LGBTQ+ people.



CONFERENCE: DID THE WEST FAIL BOSNIA?



'Did the West Fail Bosnia: Intervention, Justice and the 1992-95 War' was a conference I organised on October 16th, involving three prominent speakers who tackled the question from various angles.

Allan Little, a BBC correspondent, began the event with a journalistic recounting of events that set the context for further discussion. Baroness Arminka Helic, a foreign policy expert, then spoke about the West's role in Bosnia, drawing comparisons with conflicts today, followed by Professor James Gow of King's College London's reflections on the post war justice and war crimes proceedings.

There was a fantastic exhibition of photographs of the Siege of Sarajevo by award winning photographer Paul Lowe, who also chaired a Q&A session. The event was attended by sixth form and university students from all over London, as well as parents and others interested in the Bosnian conflict.

After a year of emailing and organising, it was brilliant to see everything come together on the night for a really interesting and stimulating conference

Eileen Maguire, Year 13

AN EVENING WITH WILL SELF

On 21st September, CLSG's German 6th Form classes set off for the Condé Nast College of Design and Fashion to hear novelist, critic and journalist Will Self reveal his own interpretation of Franz Kafka's *Die Verwandlung* (Metamorphosis).

The story itself is most bizarre: a man wakes up one morning to find he has turned into an insect-like creature. The reader somehow instantly accepts this notion, and follows the protagonist's struggle. But the City girls were not expecting what was to come. Will Self walked into the hall without a word, and lay on the floor. He proceeded to act out the significant opening line: "When Gregor Samsa woke up one morning from unsettling dreams he found himself transformed into a monstrous vermin."

Self then explained the role of perspective and highlighted the numerous interpretations of the story. What we found particularly interesting was when he pointed out that Kafka avoids the use of idioms and metaphors, because they hinder us from engaging with the immediacy of our condition.

Self then proceeded to offer his own interpretation: the concept of Kafka Time. Time, according to Self, is the integral theme of the story. Self argues that Kafka is suggesting that Samsa, a representative of humanity, has dared to step outside industrial time and his subsequent transformation, coupled



with the lack of empathy from his family, is the consequence. Now outside industrial time, the reality of his condition is made clear, namely that life is ultimately meaningless.

Self was exceptionally absorbing; the audience was captivated by his thought-provoking interpretation and descriptions. The talk, organised by How To Academy, has allowed us to gain an insight into this seminal piece of German literature, which we will be studying later in the course. We are now open to alternative ideas regarding the symbolic meaning of Samsa's sudden transformation. We would really like to thank the German Department and Mrs Bullard for taking us on such a fascinating and useful trip.

Caroline Hug and Cosi Ballance, Year 13

'MORANIFESTO': CAITLIN MORAN AT THE SOUTHBANK CENTRE

We thoroughly enjoyed listening to Caitlin Moran talk, she was an inspirational speaker. Although the talk was serious, she was very witty and added a twist of comedy to the topic of feminism and teenage girls.

At one point, two girls joined Caitlin on stage. They were also confident role models who were passionate about being girls and told us about their experiences and successes. Caitlin and the girls read extracts from her new book 'Moranifesto', which made us want to read more. We really liked our afternoon at the Southbank Centre and can't wait until next year's Day of the Girl.

Izzy, Rhianna & Sienna, 9G



MAYOR OF LONDON SADIQ KHAN



It was fantastic to have the Mayor of London Sadiq Khan visit us on 30th November, giving a talk to Years 11 to 13. Having campaigned for him since summer 2015 it was great to be able to invite him to City and both students and staff were incredibly excited.

He spoke about a variety of issues including making London safer, the environment and feminism, and his plans to increase the representation of women in top positions at City Hall. He also talked about some of the barriers that limit political engagement among particular groups, highlighting his determination to ensure that everyone feels included and able to participate in the democratic process.

The Mayor went on to mention some of the issues faced by young people in London, asking the audience for their views. From crime to the media, this led to a varied and interesting discussion.

He then took part in a Q&A session, answering some specific questions about London, as well as broader ones concerning the Labour Party and global shifts in politics. It was incredibly inspiring to see his passion for the city and determination to protect its rich and unique diversity. A massive thank you to Ms Lockyear and who helped me to arrange the visit!

Rania Ramli, Year 13

Q&A WITH ACTOR EDDIE REDMAYNE

On 27th of January, a group of Sixth Form students attended a Q&A session with actor Eddie Redmayne at the Guildhall. Eddie was being presented with the Freedom of the City of London by the City of London Corporation.

Year 12 student Arushi Gupta's question was selected as one of the top two of the day, and she was awarded with an autograph from the star. Arushi said: "It was inspirational to listen to Eddie's experiences and an honour to receive advice from such a successful actor"



REFLECTIONS | PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

City's photography competition saw some fantastic entries from both students and staff. Entrants were asked to submit photographs with the theme of 'Reflection'.

Entries covered all aspects of this theme from Alice Leadley's (11G) image of an elephant caught as a reflection in a Jeep mirror on safari to loulitta Karvounis's (9F) cat dreaming in the shade on a hot summer's day.

Freyde Sayers (10C) pointed the camera lens at a mirror to get a 'selfie' of her camera taking the picture. The winners were Lizzie McNeaney (8B) with her classic reflection in a Scottish lake and Crystal Grimshaw (10S) with her urban shot inside an antiques shop where the old mirror reflected the modern shoppers.

Each winner received a photography book.



Crystal Grimshaw's winning entry

PH8TO DAY



All year 8 students were given an A5 art journal at the start of Ph8to Day, held last term. The group took part in a full day of activities run by the art department, celebrating photography.

A curator and a member of the 'Creative Learning' team came across from the Barbican Art Gallery to introduce their new fashion exhibition: 'The Vulgar'. Using images and discussion they explored some of the main themes of the show with the students prior to class visits throughout the day.

In school, students worked with poet and photographer Yemisi Blake, analysing photographs and creating images with mirrors. Kirsty Kilpatrick, a designer maker, brought in bright leather off-cuts, jewellery findings and chains which the girls used to make 'statement necklaces', responding to some exhibits seen at the Barbican art gallery. Small groups of students visited the school darkroom to discover first-hand a 'camera obscura' and learn more about the origins of photography.

In the middle of the day we were pleased to welcome the young fashion photographer Rosaline Shahnavaz, who gave a talk about her work and career. She told the students how she had instigated photography projects with friends at school and kept sketch books and journals, which led her on to art school and becoming a successful photographer.

Rachel Brown, Art Teacher



INTER-HOUSE DRAMA COMPETITION



The CLSG Inter-House Drama Competition took place in October and the usual impressive display of talent and organisational skill was on show. This year's theme was the word 'Flibbertigibbet' and adjudicator (actor and playwright) Brian Abbott was fulsome in his praise when awarding the prizes. Later he wrote:

"I did sincerely mean it when I said that was the most enjoyable afternoon I've spent for a long time. I learned more from the girls, in terms of - what I call ETC: energy, talent, and creativity - than they did from me. There were some design elements I saw that I'm in danger of stealing! I particularly liked the character marked as "Furniture", which was a stroke of genius, and whoever played it saved scene changes and made a real character with gags on top of it (a ukulele playing Tree was a treat too!). I meant to mention them at the end but forgot to do so.

Some of the teachers were in danger of getting mentioned too. "No "category scores" came in under a 70%. Most were 80%, and several were 9 out of 10. There was only 0.5 of a mark between 1st and 2nd!. Bravo to all!

What an impressive array of talent - I truly expect that one of those names will come back to haunt me. One day, someone will say "Didn't you spot ...?" Last time I was with the Royal Shakespeare Company there was a young lad, first time newly out of Drama School. I thought he was very unfunny as Touchstone. His name was David Tennant!"

Stephen Morley, Director of Drama

BEST HOUSE DRAMA

1. St Bride
2. Ward
3. Fleet
4. Tudor

BEST DESIGN
St BrideBEST SCRIPT
WardBEST INDIVIDUAL PERFORMANCE
Anna Pesenti (Ward)

TOTAL POINTS

St Bride	2,500
Ward	2,500
Fleet	1,000
Tudor	500

SENIOR DRAMA PRODUCTION REVIEW: SECOND PERSON NARRATIVE



Second Person Narrative follows the story of 'You' (played by Kate Pesenti) travelling through the parts of life that define her and those around her. 'You' has a fairly realistic life with friends and opportunities which change as she gets older.

When I went to see Second Person Narrative there were a few aspects of the production that stood out to me as being particularly exceptional but in my opinion the most impressive part was the acting. As there were more characters in the play than there were actors or actresses, a lot of the time the cast members had to juggle multiple roles throughout the play and this was done excellently.



Each different character appeared to have their own unique personality which made the play more interesting. The costumes were consistently relevant to the scenes they were worn in and gave the production more clarity, because the different characters could be distinguished by what they were wearing. The costume changes between scenes were incredibly rapid and Kate Pesenti would sometimes have to change costumes onstage in seconds which was incredibly well-rehearsed.

Even though there were costume changes in between almost every scene, there was music playing during that time to entertain and distract the audience, which meant that the production always seemed flowing and uninterrupted. The music choices were made depending on the scene that followed and most of the songs had the word 'girl' or 'woman' in their titles, because Second Person Narrative follows a woman's life.

There were times during Second Person Narrative when the lightning seemed to enhance the production, by adding atmosphere to the scenes. For example, when 'You' was rehearsing her job interview speech and walked into different spotlights, as she revealed different ways of presenting herself. Overall, I think the production was very successful, and held my attention the whole way through. The storyline was one that many people could connect with because it was a realistic representation of someone's life and it made me personally want to get the most out of my life while I still have lots of opportunities. This meant that the production was both more memorable and enjoyable.

Kayla Spurlock, Year 8



The Music Department has had a busy year so far and there have been numerous events where City girls have showcased their musical skills.



Follow @CLSGmusic on Twitter to stay up to date with music news.

WIND & BRASS CONCERT

The concert at St Giles' Church involved several ensembles and an exciting French Horn Solo. Cristina in Year 7 opened the concert with an exhilarating Handel aria on the French horn. The Intermediate Flute Group captured the mood of the Caribbean, playing snappy syncopated rhythms of Kelly's 'Caribbean Suite'. The second piece from the suite, 'Nocturne' exploited the dynamic variety of the group.

It was wonderful to see a full brass section represented in the Brass Group, including trombone, French Horn and trumpets. The group played a trio of contrasting dances that filled the church with a warm sound. An impressive Senior Flute Group performed a perfect rendition of Compliante by Dubois. The girls' ensemble and musicality shone through. The glorious sound of the ensemble, with clear musical intentions and dynamic range, filled the church. The Junior Orchestra's debut for this academic year showed what a talented group of girls they are. Bizet's Farandole was played with great gusto bringing the concert to a rousing ending!

SING & SWING CONCERT

On 9th of February, over 70 students came together to perform at the musical event of the school year. Compères Ruby, Rachel and Meriel opened the evening superbly and introduced the acts with their usual wit and humour.

The Swing Band played with vigour, and the Clarinet Quartet and Synchronicity got the audience moving. Rose Noskwith sang 'Maybe this time' with conviction, followed by a Latin American feel from the Flute Ensemble. Before the Jazz Group got our feet tapping we were treated to some jazzy close harmony singing by Barbershop. Mathilda Whitehead sang brilliantly, and the whole evening ended with a good dose of Swing Band.

The audience loved it and, as they left the school hall, many commented that they were already looking forward to next year's concert.



WOMEN IN CONDUCTING COURSE



On 4th and 5th of March I took part in the Royal Philharmonic Society's Women in Conducting course with 11 other women between the ages of 16 and 24. While I had done a small amount of conducting for rehearsal purposes, my experience of orchestral playing made me curious to find out more about things from the conductor's perspective.

Over the weekend we were coached by Alice Farnham, who conducts orchestras worldwide (she was going to be flying off to Sweden the following week!) and Alma Sheehan, who worked with us on movement and use of the body. Both were fantastic coaches and I learned an incredible amount from them. Despite the lack of females on the conducting podium, Alice believes that the only

things a conductor requires are an understanding of music and an ability to communicate that to the performers, something which is entirely independent of gender.

It was fascinating to talk to the other participants who came from a range of countries, such as Finland, Sweden and Northern Ireland, and hearing about their music studies at notable universities and conservatoires.

The weekend has certainly left me enthused and inspired to try more conducting in the future.

Angela Eichhorst, Year 12

LUNCHTIME CONCERTS

Our series of lunchtime concerts at St Giles' Church continues. Highlights from the Year 11 soloists concert included Lara Johnson-Perkin's marimba playing and Leili Farzan playing a movement from Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto. All girls were confident and prepared well, and the audience enjoyed the variety and maturity of the playing.

Thank you to all the girls and music staff for their tireless music-making and dedication. We have many more events to look forward to in the summer term.

We look forward to seeing you at concert soon.

Steven Berryman, Director of Music



VOLUNTEERING IN SRI LANKA

On 14th of October, 18 city girls on a mission jettied off from Heathrow Airport to Colombo, the capital of Sri Lanka, to embark on an inspiring two weeks of volunteering. We were sucked into Sri Lankan culture almost immediately after we left the airport, getting stuck in traffic due to a Buddhist parade happening along the side of the road, complete with flame dancers and a costumed elephant that of course we had to jump off the coach to get a closer look at.

Our first day in Sri Lanka featured a trip to the stunning Buddhist Peace Pagoda and dodging waves on Jungle beach. Having acclimatised to the heat, we were hugely excited to begin volunteering the next day. I chose to volunteer at Sambaudhaloka pre-school which, although it is only one room, has a register of over 70 children. The children welcomed us with grinning faces and handmade flowers; the supportive teachers handed the lessons entirely over to us. For the duration of our stay, we taught the children about their community leaders, our aim being to have so much fun with them they barely realised how many English words they were learning.

We prepared our lessons every day after lunch, sat outside together in the sunshine illustrating flashcards with English words on, cutting out police badges for the children to colour in or thinking up fun games to play that linked to the job of a 'garbage man'. Their favourite words to learn were ones accompanied by fun sound effects; nothing beats having a crowd of eager children yell 'nee naw nee naw' every time they hear the word fire engine. On top of exposing them to English, we taught them every nursery rhyme



we knew, as well as washing their hands with them every day before lunch to ensure good personal hygiene became second-nature to them all.

Our weekend trip to Kandy was jam-packed full of new experiences. We washed the backs of elephants with coconut husks, held 4-week old turtles in the palms of our hands and put our haggling skills to the test. We spent our afternoons split between a community centre where we taught English to older children and schools in need of some love. Due to a lost bet, Mr Kanwar was forced to supply us all with King Coconuts, providing the necessary refreshment to keep us going through hours of outlining the alphabet and rolling the walls white again.

Bags packed, arts and crafts supplies replaced by spices and 'Chit Chats', we headed home. The teachers' gratitude for our work still inspires me to keep volunteering and the children we taught will always hold a special place in our hearts.

Lola Rose Wood, Year 12

ART & ARCHITECTURE IN BASEL

In September, twenty art students from Years 11, 12 and 13 travelled to Basel to explore and record the city's contemporary art, design and architecture. We stayed in a very stylish youth hostel which overlooked the Rhine and was within walking distance of Museum Jean Tinguely and the Kunstmuseum, with its astounding new building by Christ & Gantenbein.

A fascinating day was spent at the Vitra Campus, which is a fully operational design and production site and has buildings designed by prominent international architects such as Nicholas Grimshaw, Frank O. Gehry, Zaha Hadid, Tadao Ando, Álvaro Siza, Herzog & de Meuron and SANAA.

Our final day was spent at the Renzo Piano designed Foundation Beyeler where we saw Der Blaue Reiter exhibition. Students drew and took photographs throughout the trip and made site-specific works on the banks of the Rhine in the brilliant sunshine.

Jane Curtis, Head of Art



A LEVEL SPANISH TRIP TO SEVILLE

From 9th to 15th February, 15 A Level Spanish students travelled to Seville.

Our Spanish undeniably improved, but the real takeaway of the Seville trip was the cultural adventures. Our enigmatic guide, Aurora, whizzed us through Seville's gems, from the Plaza de España to the Real Alcázar. Every street had a story, often a romantic tragedy. We were fortunate to explore Córdoba which is steeped in religious history. Although the oranges in Seville are too sour to eat, our trip was anything but. A trip to Seville is a must. If only to sample the churros, which are "¡para chuparse los dedos!" The hospitality of the families we stayed with in Seville was incredible. They not only took us into their homes, fed us and made sure we didn't lose ourselves in the twisty Sevillian streets but also tested our ability to hold a conversation in Spanish.

Although occasionally guilty of overfeeding us, our Spanish mother was lovely and the conversations we had with her ranged from Spanish festivals, her catholic upbringing and Sevilla FC, giving us a completely new perspective on Spanish life.

Ischia Middleton and Rosa Lieven-Wright, Year 12



A WALK THROUGH CHINESE HISTORY

On 14 June Ms Garner and Mrs Xiong took us on a trip which put our topic of food and restaurants into practise. The day started off with visit to the V&A Museum, where we were given an hour to look around and answer questions on displays in the China Room. We were all mesmerised by the beauty and intricacy of everything, especially the tapestries. By the end of the hour we all had more knowledge of China and its art, as well as objects dating back thousands of years.

Next, we travelled to China Town for lunch at the Imperial China restaurant. Most of us ordered coke to drink (in Chinese), but some of us went for the more traditional Chinese green tea. Soon after, the food began to arrive. First were several types of dim sum, such as pork steamed buns and spring rolls. The 'starters' were finished off with crispy duck pancakes.

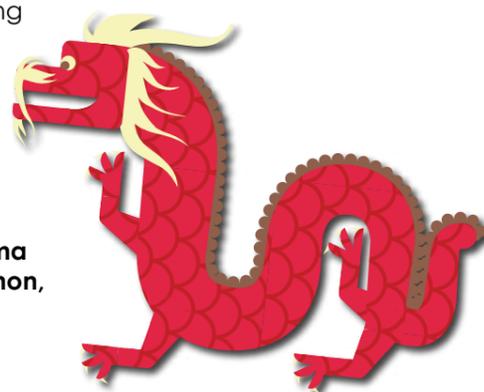
After eating many pieces of dim sum and a lot of pancakes we were all very full, but that was not the end of the meal! We were all surprised when the waiters came out with more food. We held back at first, but in a matter of seconds everyone had

filled their plates with the amazing food: sweet and sour chicken, Ma Po bean curd, crispy octopus, to mention a few. To finish off our lunch we were given egg tarts, a typical Cantonese dessert.

After our meal we visited some of the Chinese supermarkets to find out the names and prices of Chinese food for our trip booklets. Some of us were very happy with our purchases, especially those of us who managed to barter a lower price for some items. The trip was a huge success as we were able to widen our knowledge on Chinese history as well as practise our speaking skills.

It was an amazing experience and we would like to thank Garner lǎoshi and Xiong lǎoshi for taking us.

**Ines Fournis-Lerma
& Minnie McMahon,
Year 10**



LANGUAGE AND CULTURE IN ANTIBES

Towards the end of the summer term, Year 10 French students (currently Year 11) had the amazing opportunity to visit Antibes and the South of France as part of a French trip. Although the thought of meeting our host families was initially daunting, the minute we stepped out of Nice airport with them, we knew that we would feel right at home.

The first night (and every other night, for that matter), my partner and I talked for hours to our host, all the while picking up new French words. A brief walk away from the apartment we were staying in, which was located near the main square, was the language school we would be attending for the next five days. Not only were we able to fully immerse ourselves in the language, but we made a few friends while we were at it (one of whom we're still in contact with today.)

Each afternoon we got the chance to visit a new part of the South of France, like Grasse, Nice and Monaco (more specifically the Fragonard Parfumerie, the Promenade des Anglais and the

Aquarium). Hearing the history of each place we visited really strengthened our understanding of the area. We were quite the euro travellers!

In my opinion - although from what I've heard, everyone agrees with me - it was one of the best school trips I've ever been on, and we were all very sad to say goodbye to our host families and to Antibes - but most of all to the French food and to our guide Simon, also known as Scott Disick.

Thank you Mme. Campos and Mrs Colwell for an amazing trip.

Louisa Carron, Year 11



A SPANISH SCHOLARSHIP



In July 2016 I was lucky enough to be given a scholarship by one of the school governors, Mr Cotgrove, to study at the prestigious Universidad Internacional Menéndez Pelayo in Santander, Spain.

I took part in an immersive two week Spanish course, which involved living on the university campus and attending classes in language, composition and culture, as well as an elective of choice. I opted to study Modern Spanish Literature and found all the classes both challenging and fun. We were taught in small groups by teachers from various international universities, so it felt more like a university style environment and really broadened and refined my knowledge of the Spanish culture and language.

Outside the classroom there were opportunities to explore a bit more of the area. Santander is in the region of Cantabria in northern Spain, near to the Basque country. At the weekend I spent one day on a university organised excursion to visit various sites in Cantabria such as the historic town of Santillana

del Mar and Comillas, the site of Gaudi's 'Capricho'. The following day I caught a bus to Bilbao with some friends I met at the university. We spent hours in the Guggenheim museum and wandered around the old town, stopping for a lunch of 'pinxos' (Basque tapas).

Santander itself is a lovely city that is small enough to walk around and explore on your own. It has beautiful beaches and parks, including the Península de la Magdalena and Palacio de La Magdalena, a beautiful palace which was used by the Spanish royal family as a summer home. There are many bars, restaurants and shops where you can sample some of the local tapas and sit outside until late.

I had an amazing time, learnt a lot and became far more confident speaking Spanish. I also met lots of people from all over the world, some of whom I am still in touch with. It was a fantastic experience and a definite highlight of my summer!

Eileen Maguire, Year 13

PHYSICS TRIP TO CERN

In February, our Sixth Form Physicists visited CERN in Geneva during a three-day trip to the Swiss city. CERN is the European Organisation for Nuclear Research, where physicists and engineers probe the structure of the universe. The organisation is renowned for its studies on fundamental particles and the laws of nature.

The group also visited the United Nations Office at Geneva during the trip, where they were given a tour of the building and grounds.



LORD MAYOR'S CHILDREN'S TEA PARTY



I was so excited! I was going to the Lord Mayor's Tea Party! My heart was jumping for joy! I quickly changed into a pitch black velvet dress, smooth tights and my sparkly golden shoes. My superb mother thoroughly plaited my hair and pinned it up. I grabbed my striking purple coat and then my glorious daddy turned the door handle. "This is the moment!" My heart started to pound as fast as cheetah. I skipped all the way to Mansion House. I was so happy my cheeks started to ache.

When we arrived, my cheerful friends were already there! We stood outside the magnificent building a while, all chattering nervously. Finally, we had permission to go in. A generous man kindly took my coat and my friends and I climbed up the ornate staircase into the main reception. First of all, we shook hands with the Lord Mayor and his family.

After that, we clambered into the Egyptian Hall. There was an entertainer called Stripy Wipey. He was hilarious! He introduced himself and then we played a competitive game where we couldn't stand up or else we would be disqualified. We were asked to whack the massive balloons to the other side of the room. The team with the fewest balloons was the winner.

Then my group skipped off to the drawing room where there was an area called Animal Encounters.

Meanwhile, other groups were somewhere else in the massive building. The men at the Animal Encounters were really friendly. An eagle owl flew around the opulent room; a yellow python spat blood and a laughing Kookaburra peed on a boy. That was very funny!

We hopped off to a Punch and Judy show which was delightfully daft. There was lots of thwacking and audience participation! Suddenly, we were all bursting to go to the toilet. I was disappointed that the toilets weren't gold. Then we sprinted off to have some tea - it was an enormous buffet. I was flabbergasted! I helped myself to two doughnuts, some crispy nuggets, three soft cheese sandwiches, grapes of every colour and some delectable sausages.

We returned to the Egyptian Hall to play some more games. I think I recognised some people from my old school but I wasn't certain. A silly man called Smarty Artie showed me fascinating tricks. I was blown away! Finally our treat arrived. The scrumptious vanilla ice cream was breath-taking! Suddenly, I heard that we were going to do the conga throughout Mansion House.

My experience in Mansion House was EPIC!

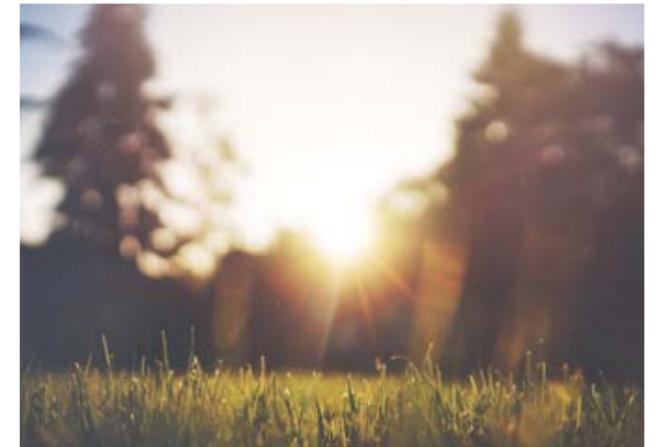
Meadow Watkins, Lower 1

THE DAWN WALK

Hello, my name is Matilda and two years ago I got terribly burnt on my legs on Halloween. On the 9th of October my family held a dawn walk. We woke up at 4.00am and we went to Hyde Park to walk six miles. A few girls in prep took part and so did Miss Rogers and Mrs Hall. We got sweatshirts for the walk and numbers to put on our jumpers.

We walked to raise money for Chelsea and Westminster Hospital. They needed the money to buy special laser machines that are not currently available at the NHS. After my accident I had laser treatment in a building on Harley Street. It was incredibly painful, but massively improved my scars. These machines are almost as expensive as a house and the hospital wanted two! Our aim was to raise £250,000 and I am so happy to report that thanks to everyone's help so far we've raised a gigantic £450,000.

My surgeon, who has enormous ears by the way, is so, so happy. The burns unit at Chelsea and Westminster hospital has 3000 patients a year, and now they have the magical machines to help



them in the future. My friends and I sang Taylor Swift songs while walking and afterwards we all went for croissants and fruit and my parents made speeches and cried. This was slightly embarrassing but I'm happy they're happy.

Thank you so much to Miss Rogers and Mrs Hall, my friends who woke up so ridiculously early, and to everyone who donated.

Matilda Thykier, Upper 2

STRINGS MAINTENANCE CLASS

On 19th September, Miss Luddington held a Strings Maintenance Class after school for Prep girls who play stringed instruments and wanted to know more about how to maintain and tune their instrument.

The session began by learning the names and functions for the different parts of the violin and cello. Then the girls learnt how to tune their instruments, which there are two ways of doing. They learnt that if the instrument isn't too badly out of tune, they can use the adjusters at the base of the instrument and if it's very out of tune, they need to use the pegs at the top of the neck.

Everyone then had a go at tuning their instrument, trying hard to listen out for the 'buzz' (an overtone) that occurs when you have a perfect 5th between each string. This is much harder than it sounds and takes lots of practice to tune your ears into hearing the buzz. After that, we learnt about the parts of the bow and how often it should be re-haired (a job for professionals!)

Miss Luddington then showed a video on how to change a string, showing that it is not as hard as it looks. She then took one of the strings off her violin but realised she didn't have a new one to put on (a

grave error for any string player...) The session was an enjoyable one and all the girls and parents left with new knowledge and greater confidence about how to maintain their instrument.



BRIDEWELL PRINT WORKSHOP



On Monday 13th and Tuesday 14th March, the whole of Prep took part in an exciting trip to the Bridewell Institute to learn about the history of printing.

It was a twenty minute walk there, and on the way we saw the entrance to the theatre where we will be performing our Prep Opera this year! It was a big building, and we walked upstairs into a big hall; almost like a library. We then met our guides, Len, Mick and Barry, who said the hall was a reading room that used to be used by apprentice Fleet Street printers.

Half of the class went downstairs to the workshop, where they would see the old printing machines, and the other class stayed in the reading room, where we would learn more about the history of printing. I stayed with Len first, who told us how today old fashioned printing is replaced by laser printing, and he showed us the metal that used to be used to print books, newspapers and magazines.

We then watched a short video, showing the 'Hot Metal' way of printing. Afterwards we went down to the workshop where Mrs Hall showed us the metal plate for the promotional poster for 'Olivia!', which was being printed on the Victorian presses. Next, we chose a five letter word to have printed. It had to be laid out from left to right and upside down. Some people made mistakes, for example 'geeks' became 'skeeg'. Overall, it was an interesting and fun afternoon and we can't wait for the Prep Opera.

Charlotte Wilson, Upper 2



LOWER TWO TRIP TO THE GROVE, WALES



On Monday 26th September, Lower Two left for their residential trip adventure at The Grove, Wales. The Grove is a beautiful house situated in a small coastal village named Llansteffan. Our coach journey took a whole six hours! But for us it was great fun, chatting and laughing the whole way. We were very excited to cross the bridge over the River Severn that joins England and Wales.

We had lots of fun and got very wet! It seemed to never stop raining, but hot chocolate and the nice warm beds cheered us up immensely. The beach had in store for us numerous beautiful shells and a few rather random objects, including a bikini bra, some toothbrushes and fishing wire.

The tide was usually so far out in the mist and spitting rain that it seemed like it was never there! We were busy mapping and contouring, rock pooling, creating beach art installations and boat building. Our waterproofs certainly got used, but we loved it!

On our last morning, we learnt about the Welsh poet Dylan Thomas and visited places in the village that inspired his poems. We even wrote some poems ourselves and were sad to wave goodbye to Llansteffan as our coach veered down the village road towards London.

Holly Brady, Lower 2



HOUR OF CODE

On 9th December, as part of Computer Science Education Week, Prep took part in 'The Hour of Code', a global movement, reaching over 100 million students in over 180 countries.

The girls learnt about the type of careers and exciting future opportunities that require an understanding of coding in assembly, and used a variety of different coding languages in fun, differentiated tutorials.

TWELFTH NIGHT

In September, everyone in Prep watched an interactive performance of Shakespeare's Twelfth Night, performed by the Young Shakespeare Company.

There were five actors and each of them kept switching between playing different parts. The fun part was that they asked us to participate and help them, as well as play individual parts.

The actors were very friendly and gave us good explanations of the plot, as it was a little confusing with everyone falling in love with the wrong person, a girl dressing up as a boy as well as the added confusion of a set of identical twins.

The characters were played hilariously with different accents and voices for each. They all had different personalities and their own style. Some of them, such as Malvolio and Sir Toby Belch were very comic. We had a fantastic time watching this production of Shakespeare's Twelfth Night.

CITY SOAR INTO SPORTING ELITE



For the first time, CLSG has been named one of the Top 100 Independent Sports Schools by School Sport magazine, putting us in the top 3-10% of the Country's Independent Schools. 19 different sports are considered in the selection process to make the Sports School List, with over 120 competitions considered.

This outstanding achievement has been made possible by the determination and willingness of our students to maximise their potential. With only four girls' schools breaking into the top 30 for the 2016 listings, City's outstanding accolades, including National Representation in Cross Country and Gymnastics, have contributed to a placing at number 72 in the list.

The Gymnastics Calendar comprises three opportunities to qualify for National School Finals. The British Schools Gymnastics Association host the 'Milano trio', the 'Floor and Vault Team Championships' and the 'Acrobatics and Tumbling championships'. All 3 events are held as regional qualifiers, with only the winning school from each region, including Scotland and Northern Ireland qualifying to represent at National Finals.

For the first year ever, City became Regional Champions in both the U13 and U16 Milano trio competition. The scores from three gymnasts competing on floor, vault and a group sequence are combined to give a team total. The U19 team also won the regional qualification of the Floor and Vault championships. As just two of the girls from City were in Year 7 this meant that they could be competing against girls considerably older than them. The final regional qualification for the Acrobatics and Tumbling Championships is still to happen, with the National Finals taking place in Stoke on Trent in May.

City has also flourished for the second year running in Cross Country. For a school with no green space, this is a truly outstanding feat! In the preliminary round, City were the winners of both the Junior and Inter Age categories. This meant that the team moved forward into the regional competition. Here they competed against 14 other schools, with the City Juniors taking another victory and the inter team coming 2nd. From the regional rounds, the top 3 ranked schools are then representatives at the National Finals, with 24 teams competing for the final placings. City finished in an outstanding 5th position in the junior category, with Annie Thomas



finishing 5th individually out of a field of 140 runners. The inter team ended 10th overall. Congratulations to all involved on a very credible performance.

CLSG's fencers enjoyed a very successful season last year. Olivia O'Connell, Elinor Baldwin and Jolie Chen came second at the British Schools Team Championships while Olivia also came second at the Public Schools Championships. 4 girls (Evelyn Richards, Elinor Baldwin, Olivia O'Connell and Amina James) qualified to represent London at the British Youth Championships and Olivia has been selected on the England team to fence in Poland later in March.

**Katie Khosla, PE Teacher
& Olivia Helm, 2nd in PE Department**

FENCING TO VICTORY

Congratulations to Saumiyaah Nimalakumaran (Year 12) and Elinor Baldwin (Year 9), who both won medals at the London Region Youth Fencing Championships this weekend. Saumiyaah took the Silver medal in the U18 Girls Foil while Elinor took the Bronze in the U16s.

These results mean that both girls have qualified to represent London at the British Youth Championship Finals to be held in Sheffield over the May bank holiday weekend. They will be joined by Olivia O'Connell (Year 9) and Charlotte Wilson (Year 6), who both qualified to represent the Southern Region last month.



NETBALL ON TOUR: SPAIN 2016



The first day of our tour of Spain started at Gatwick South Terminal at about 6:30am. Already exhausted, the 29 of us boarded our flight to Barcelona airport. Our hotel was in Salou, about an hour's drive from Barcelona. After settling in, we all spent the sunny afternoon in the hotel pool. This was a really great start to the trip because despite being in different year groups, all of us got to spend time together and enjoy ourselves while bonding as a team.

We woke up early the following day, had a quick breakfast and got ready for our first day of netball training. Along with many other schools, we boarded the coaches to get to the training centre. We spent the morning training with multiple professional coaches where we focused on different skills which really enhanced our playing and cooperation as a team. After lunch we headed to the Olympic training centre where we spent the afternoon working with an ex-England player and did drills, focusing on match play and interceptions.

On the third day we had another early start. After breakfast we travelled to the training centre, ready for a morning of training followed by the afternoon tournament. After spending the morning doing drills followed by a short lunch break the tournament began.

U14s

There were two under 14 teams entered in the tournament. The A team started off well with a win against Francis Holland. They continued to dominate the tournament with wins against Waldon School and City B team. After finishing second against Berkhamsted in their final match, the A team finished 3rd Overall.

The B team played excellently despite a couple of injuries meaning that players had to play out of position. They managed a great win against Waldon School!

U16s

The U16 team's first match was against JAGS U18. It was a bit of a daunting match because it was our first time playing together as a team against much older players. Our next match was a win and we continued to dominate throughout the tournament with our main rivals being JAGS. To our surprise we played in the semi-finals against JAGS U16 A! It was a tough match and we all played very well but in the end they won and went on to play in the finals.

Our coaches continued to motivate and helped us by giving us individual targets. We are really thankful for all the hard work they put in to help us. Once the tournament finished we all returned to the hotel for dinner. The evening activity was a disco which was a great way to end the trip. By the last day of our trip we were definitely sad to be nearing the end, but we still had an afternoon in Barcelona to look forward to. We got to do some sightseeing and visited a large shopping mall right in the centre of the city.

Everyone really enjoyed the last day because we got to see the city and experience Spanish culture. It was the perfect end to an amazing trip. On behalf of all of the team, thank you so much to all the teachers: Miss Thomas, Miss Castell, Miss Khosla and of course Miss Stephens for organising the netball tour. We all really improved our netball and became closer as a team.

Matilda Black and Evie Guénault, Year 10

FOOTBALL FOCUS

Football is really taking off at City. In the last few years the coaches and staff have been working hard to develop the teams and play more competitive matches. With only a small AstroTurf pitch to train on, our players rarely get to experience full sized grass pitches or full sized goals, however, this has not prevented players at City from achieving outstanding results, both inside and outside of school.

This season we are currently unbeaten in weekday competitive matches. In the opening game of the season we thrashed Queen's College, London 13-0 with a flurry of goals coming from Amba Coombe, Bethan Potter and Emily Downey. We also beat rivals Westminster 7-0, with goals again coming from the forward three players.

On Sunday 9th October the Under 18 and Under 15 football teams took part in the Independent Schools Football Association (ISFA) National Tournament, held at the Charterhouse School in Surrey. The Under 18 team were drawn into a tough group. The girls had to play very well to progress through to the knock-out stages.

After losing our first match against ACS Cobham, an International school from Surrey with some fantastic youth players (many of whom play for Premiership teams), we began to play some exceptional football. Two close games followed which gathered us some points.



Our finest game was the final group match against St. Margaret's, which we won 3-0 and gained the crucial three points required to progress to the quarter finals, where we met King Edward's School from Witley. Although we were clearly the better team throughout the quarter final match, holding possession and making the majority of chances, fatigue got the better of us and we ended up losing 1-0 and, with it, our title as ISFA U18 Plate Champions.

The girls played exceptionally well throughout the tournament and never gave up. Considering most players had attended a netball tournament the day before, and Emily Downey had been rowing all weekend, I was so impressed with their energy. It has been a bright start to the year and with more football to be played next term, I am expecting the team to go from strength to strength this season.

Ashley Wright, Senior Team Football Coach

TIN-TIN WINS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS



Congratulations to Year 13 student Tin-Tin Ho, who won three titles at the 2017 English National Table Tennis Championships.

Women's Singles : Gold

Tin-Tin won the Women's Singles against Kelly Sibley, triumphing 4-1 (12-10, 6-11, 12-10, 11-5, 11-4).

U-21 Women's Singles : Gold

Beating Maria Tsaptsinos and earning the 39th National title of her career. The final result was 4-1 (12-10, 9-11, 11-9, 11-9, 11-8).

Women's Doubles : Gold

Tin-Tin and partner Maria Tsaptsinos were determined to hold on to the crown for the third successive year, and won 3-0 (11-6, 11-9, 11-8).

Mixed Doubles : Silver

0-3 (12-10, 14-12, 11-6).



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