



AUTUMN 2018 ISSUE 18

Et Cetera

THE NEWS MAGAZINE OF HOLLAND PARK SCHOOL

Contents

PAGE 3

MODEL MAKING
Life in a Norman Town

PAGE 4 and 5

ALUMNI 1958
The Michaelmas Term

PAGES 6 and 7

CRAFTSMANSHIP
Her Big Chance
Unique since 1758

PAGES 8 and 9

GREAT ACHIEVEMENTS
Food for Worthy Thought
An Inspector (or five) Calls

PAGES 10 and 11

APPLAUSE APPLAUSE
Little Shop of Horrors

PAGES 12 and 13

WITNESSING
Assembling
Berlining
Travelling
Silent Witnessing

PAGES 14 and 15

CHILDREN IN NEED
The Great Dance Off

PAGES 16 to 19

MOMENTS
A Really Big Photograph
Letters....
A Sporting Life
Vivaldi

Cover shot: Holland Park School scarf 1958

HEAD'S INTRODUCTION

I am writing this sitting at the back of the choir's rehearsal room and listening to their early efforts with Vivaldi's *Gloria*, our December choral event; there is a beautiful sunset in view. It is a two hour practice: I do wish I could sing. The commitment of so many students to what might be regarded as 'high culture' is a delight and is something that I hope will offer spiritual enrichment down their adult years. A sense of otherness, something outside of the everyday of the 21st century. Oft time, I am not entirely sure why the school turning sixty is more significant than fifty (which we did not herald) but then, of course, we had not scaled the heights of being twice outstanding, nor had we just sent a record-breaking number of students to Oxford and Cambridge, nor had we been in the top 5% of schools for nearly a decade. The distance between fifty and sixty has been marked by some very substantial achievement. So, school is sixty and we mark that in this edition of *Et Cetera*. Last week we had the pressure and pleasure of hosting a group of Her Majesty's Inspectors (HMI) who came to conduct an inspection. Whilst their judgement – that we remain consistently outstanding in all areas – is welcome and reassuring, it was their words about students which gave me most pleasure and pride. 'Wonderful', 'self-regulating', 'mature', 'reflective'. I am currently, this week, delivering assembly each day and am so appreciative of students' response which goes so far beyond the polite. It is a privilege to have the opportunity to share thoughts. It is matched by many students' work-books. I was in awe of a selection of Catchik Jordan's (Year 10) that I perused – little works of art and if only I could have space to list them all... Rae Tarbox, Freddie Bercow and on, and on, I could go. Then there are the adventurous few students who venture to send me the odd little email at the weekend and tell me what is making them thrive or what their school worries are. Such trust, HMI recognition of our students' maturity was a matter of joy for me. After school sport is thriving and I am briefed that we have been frequent victors in matches. Indeed last week over 80% of students took part in extracurricular activity, not least rehearsals for the school's production. One big family – school – pulling together, sharing, helping out, respecting individuality, speaking with one another, not emailing, growing together with the strength, challenge and frailty of being human. Onwards to 2019 (after a little rest!).



LIFE IN A NORMAN TOWN

In the words of one of our recent inspectors 'I've seen the 'make a Norman house' homework before... but I've never seen anything like this'. Our Year 7 students have been impressing staff and visitors alike with their creative approach to the Norman period, enabling their teachers to plan and execute engaging lessons that have taken them right to the heart of what it meant to live in Norman England. My class constructed an entire village using a range of materials and techniques to represent the wattle and daub, and stone structures they had studied, complete with ploughed and fallow fields! Students spent several lessons reliving a day in the life of a Norman peasant – our thanks to Ms Pugh's (with whom I share a classroom) A level students who stepped over watermills and pasture whilst they recited Keats. Ms Fagan, on the other hand, turned

the creative skills of her classes to Norman castles – with wood, foam-board and even parsley, students filled her classroom with a multitude of motte and bailey castles. Handwritten invitations invited the Leadership Team to an exhibition of these stunning structures, all accurately constructed in the Norman style. Of course such fun led to a serious academic study of Pevensey Castle and its historical environment. Not to be outdone, Mr Farrell whetted the taste buds of his class, and most of the third floor, with his Norman cookery class. Students were treated to a Norman style stew, cooked before their very eyes, demonstrating the meagre, but very tasty, offerings our forebears would have survived upon.

MR ROBERT ORR
DEPUTY HEAD



MICHAELMAS TERM 1958

On Thursday 27th September, the school welcomed (from left to right) David Heath, Beverley Green, Quincey Connell and Mark (of Ealing), all of whom were founding students of the school when it opened in 1958. Met by current members of our Student Leadership Team, Clementine, Milla and Sophie, the four alumni toured the school, visited lessons and listened to the school choir perform a specially curated repertoire in honour of the school's sixtieth birthday. Our visitors reminisced about members of staff, fellow students, shared stories of the 'old' school, and mingled with our vice chair of governors, Mrs Elizabeth Rutherford (who has lived in the immediate area of the school for many years), to swap narratives about how the school has changed and evolved over such a significant period of time. Our visitors were taken by the new building but I'm sure would have preferred to wander the narrow corridors of

the old. Quincey, former head boy of the school in 1965, presented to the students a series of treasures from the school's history. Copies, hitherto unseen by current members of the school, of the first *Alpha* magazines; the original scarf (featured on the front cover) and his head-boy badge. We also received a copy of the magazine published by the school for its 10th anniversary in 1968. The first edition of *Alpha* is now available to view on our website and we look forward to digitising more editions in the future. Mark presented to the school a troop of limited-edition fox lapel badges that he commissioned himself. Over the course of the year we will issue these to students as reward for individual achievements. Pictured on the right of the facing page is Quincey, with an unknown student, on his first day of school in 1958.

MR DAVID CHAPPELL
ACADEMY HEAD





HER BIG CHANCE

Parents often ask us how they can support and assist the school. Whilst many of you do, generously and effectively, few offers come in the form of a monologue. Such was the offer from Ms Saskia Bierman, a long standing parent and successful actress. Best known for playing Alex Wilton in the drama series *Boon* and Dr. Erica Matthews in the ITV television drama series *Peak Practice*, she offered the school a little Alan Bennett, an hour of Bennett to be precise. *Her Big Chance* is a dramatic monologue written in 1987 for television, as part of his *Talking Heads* series for the BBC.

The storyline tells the tale of Lesley, an aspiring actress, who, after a series of unpromising extra roles on television programmes such as *Crossroads*, is offered what she believes to be her big break as the adventurous Travis in a new film for the West German market. Students were captivated as the tale unfolded and Travis realised her big chance was not quite all she had anticipated. Packed with glorious Bennett humour, this was a treat indeed on a cold autumn afternoon, delivered exquisitely, by a truly consummate actress.

MR DAVID CHAPPELL
ACADEMY HEAD



UNIQUE SINCE 1758

The sixtieth anniversary of the school is witnessing a wide range of activities to commemorate this momentous occasion and, as announced in Mr Orr's assembly in October, there will be a permanent memento for all students in the form of a Rye Pottery ceramic mug. The mug is being designed especially for the school and is utilising their 'famous' stripes - fittingly first introduced by Rye potters in the 1950s. Rye Pottery is one of just of a handful of production potteries left in the world that continues to produce everything by hand, using a 17th century decorating technique, known variously as Faience, Majolica or Delft. Run by just three families for over 200 years, the Cole family re-opened Rye Pottery in the beautiful medieval town of Rye after WW2 in 1947. Currently run by the

third generation of Coles – Josh & Tabby – classic style, timeless design and a demand for quality are at the heart of every piece they produce. Our keen historians were treated to an exploration of Rye's heritage as a Cinque Port and learned of the growth of the company since its inception, before being given a first-hand viewing of some of their most popular lines, including the Bayeux Tapestry, in a fascinating presentation led by Mr Orr. The 'editioned' mug will be issued to all students in the new year and will hopefully become a treasured keepsake.

MR DAVID CHAPPELL
ACADEMY HEAD



FOOD FOR WORTHY THOUGHT

Jacqueline Dehbozorgi, Year 13, organised a bake sale to support the *Stand Up For Cancer* appeal. Her family's recent experience with cancer convinced many students that it was time to 'pop on their pinny' and get baking. The students involved did so with the enthusiasm and competitiveness of the *Bake Off* finalists. Their bakes varied from chocolate chip cookies and flapjacks, to some wonderful pink unicorn cakes. Word quickly travelled around the student community and the dining room was soon packed with students keen to eat cake. Over three lunchtimes, sales totalled an amazing £830. What better way to celebrate the diverse cultural mix of Holland Park School than through food. The Sixth Form Student Leadership Team and Miss Garrad organised an International Food Day on 29th November which proved to be another great success. Visitors were given a plate, a fork and opportunity to choose from a fascinating array of international dishes – French crêpes, Japanese

sushi, American pumpkin pie, line caught and battered British fish and chips, pad-Thai, Ugandan mandazi, Italian tiramisu, Pakistani kebabs, Indian curry and Ethiopian injera to name just a few! The students (and many of their parents!) made an amazing mix of over 25 dishes serving just over 100 students and teachers and raising £140.00 for *Médecins Sans Frontières*. The annual visit and talk from Mr Mark Bishop, our local Community Fundraiser, sparked interest amongst a number of Sixth Formers to take part in the Poppy Appeal for the Royal British Legion. Students were inspired by the support the RBL offers veterans including rest bite, rehabilitation, support with debt problems and setting up a new homes. Sixteen volunteers sold poppies in school and around Notting Hill, raising an astonishing total of £885.98.

MS FAYE MULHOLLAND
DEPUTY HEAD

AN INSPECTOR (OR FIVE) CALLS

The trouble with outstanding schools: they are currently exempt from further inspection. Not Holland Park, who (able to avoid the routine rounds of Her Majesty's Inspectorate), invited in a group of five Inspectors to scrutinise, analyse and criticise our work since the time we were last inspected in 2014. Having been judged as outstanding in every category in our last inspection, we have resisted complacency. We were overjoyed, therefore, to hear that such standards have been maintained and that we were once again judged outstanding in every category of the framework. The report opens: "*Holland Park School is a truly outstanding school. It is also a very special place that is held in the highest regard by pupils, parents and staff.*" Amongst the objects of praise were the school's ambition ("*the head and other senior leaders are extremely ambitious and share a common, aspirational vision*"), the "*outstanding progress*" of students, the fact that the curriculum meets students' needs "*exceptionally well*" and teaching that "*inspires*

pupils to succeed". But above all, it was students about whom the inspectors were most effusive and we were delighted that they recognised all that is special about our student community. After all, it is they who are the school's main customers and their performance in the report is the true signature of the school's success. "*All pupils respect and understand the school's strict rules. They recognise the many benefits that come from adhering to the rules of the school ... Pupils are delightful, friendly and respectful. They know that they are fortunate to attend a school like this and make the most of it.*" Clearly happy, content, driven and grateful for their place in the school, being judged as outstanding in every category is no mean feat, but the scale of student-satisfaction, engagement, autonomy and self-regulation is the mark of a school that has set a culture of excellence.

MR NICHOLAS ROBSON
ASSOCIATE HEAD

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS

Menace and madness are ever present in this 1980's romp of romance and ridiculousness, and Ms Amy Chapman's production captured the mood exquisitely. Zany, arresting, unpredictable and boasting a pace that gained ever greater momentum as we were plunged into further depths of absurdity, it was impossible to leave this performance without being moved to laughter, and a little terrified of the dark potential of all plant life. This was another musical triumph from Ms Chapman, who with Mr Simon Dobson and Mr Karl Kramer, have been intensely running and rerunning the musical numbers, until they reached their slickest form, for the past few weeks. Mr Kramer's

work at the piano gave the greatest of gusto to all that was gory and gruesome in the narrative. His improvisations in scene changes, supported by the very talented Boris Chung on percussion, made the production zip along at a joyful and engrossing pace and the orchestra were in very fine form indeed, producing work of polish and near-perfection. But above all Lizaveta Kirkizh's portrayal of Audrey was simply magnificent: her fabulous solo voice transfixing the audience and delivering some of the very finest moments of musical theatre the evening had to offer. Thomas Langridge (Seymour) was also an out and out star, his comic timing, panache and miraculously

malleable facial expressions sending the audience into paroxysms of helpless hilarity. Tibor Kljajic and Alex Perez also offered their characteristic aplomb, whilst Omar Ait El Caid (as Audrey II) revealed a beautifully maturing baritone range, delivered with all the sinister swagger of a rockstar in his prime. A cameo by Jamie Morrison set us all alight in response to his extraordinary physical feats and Joshua Greenslade, Sophie Belonogova, Lula Blair and Rose Mohammed-Zadeh all led the chorus with stunning levels of dancing and musical talent. Visually, it was a striking portrayal of glitz and garbage. The set (executed and designed by Mr Alastair Bishop) was a jungle of junk, whose

foliage, ropes and interwoven fabric progressively enmeshed the stage and engorged the major characters, one by one. It was difficult by the end, sitting in the audience, not also to feel threatened by the pernicious plant-life that persisted in polishing off character after character and this disorienting blend of horror and hilarity was utterly bewitching. This was a production like none other: 'out there' does not even begin to describe extent of the show's eccentricity, idiosyncrasy and singular peculiarity, and in that sense it was a powerful (if humorously harrowing) celebration of all that is odd and unpredictable about human nature and the human creative spirit.

MR NICHOLAS ROBSON
ASSOCIATE HEAD





ASSEMBLING

What do you do with a gift of 96 drawers (from our friend Sally Clarke) that were once in Robert Kime's shop on Campden Street? Turn them into the centrepiece for an assembly was their debut in November. There is something rather unique about our assemblies; we who 'perform' them, try to interest, hold and entertain our audience. It is no mean feat; it has to be said that 240 11-18 year olds are complex. But, they also make an exceptional audience, their openness and warm response encourages us enormously. We all have our own style! Mr Seed (Deputy Head till 2018) was renowned for his cerebral and scientific treatises, Mr Chappell's delivery has one on the edge of one's seat, Mr Robson's intellectual range is breathtaking. Every now again, assembly is a place where something very moving hangs in the air, where we are moved, where we see and feel something bigger than ourselves. As the team's most frequent assembly giver I am occasionally (midst many offerings to provide fun) encouraged by the maturity of students, to offer, in trust, something quite deep and give students a glimpse into that which moves all of our lives.

MR COLIN HALL
DEPUTY HEAD



BERLINING

The 18th October at 5am saw forty eager students depart for the German capital, Berlin, for a whirlwind tour of one of perhaps the most significant European historical cities of the twentieth century. Students encountered artefacts from their Key Stage Three studies, including an original copy of the Treaty of Versailles, at the captivating Deutsches Historisches Museum, before moving on to the two of the hot-points of the Cold War at the Brandenburg Gate and Checkpoint Charlie. The moving Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe prompted thoughtful questions about the Holocaust before students reflected on the book burning of 1933 at Bebelplatz. Students respect for the dead was profoundly mature and very moving. Personal history too, came alive at the Reichstag when all were captivated with the story of one particular student having a connection with the famous fire which aided the Nazi Party to consolidate their power. A city like no other, Berlin offered these budding historians a first-hand insight into the implications and importance of understanding history, and hopefully served to capture the hearts of some future A level students.

MR ROBERT ORR
DEPUTY HEAD



TRAVELLING

And so we went north. Fifteen teachers to Durham Sixth Form Centre and a thirty strong choir. Elegantly hosted by the Head, Ellen Beveridge, and her colleagues, teachers came away with more good ideas to import to Holland Park, and the choir performed beautifully in St. Nicholas Church in the centre of Durham. Northern friends turned out to listen: June and Peter Harris, Norman and Dorothy Ferguson, George and Elizabeth Wilkinson, Cynthia and Julie Connolly, all came to listen; and a surprise in the audience, Brenda Norton, who taught my 11/12 year old self RE and whose late husband, Brian Norton, was my mentor in my very first teaching practice as a student teacher. The choir proceeded to 'sing for their supper' in Pizza Express where they were made very welcome by a warm and responsive staff. ... and three days later we went to sing in St. Paul's Cathedral. As the sun began to set it was visible from the choir stalls in St. Pauls. It was a moment for the world to stop and for us to ponder all that the cathedral has seen - not least its near escape from destruction on December 29th, 1940. The choir performed evensong. With, or without faith, their sound allowed us to contemplate life.

MR COLIN HALL
HEAD



SILENT WITNESSING

Forensic science was certainly not on the Key Stage 4 syllabus last time I looked but that didn't deter Ms Rivers from engaging her young scientists in the collection, preservation and analysis of scientific evidence during the course of a classroom investigation. It appeared, when they entered their lesson earlier this term, that there had been a *Murder Most Foul*. The science laboratory had been cordoned and the whole room wrapped in plastic, leaving our young Ms Marples with a crime to solve. Whilst they may not have been dressed in Margaret Rutherford's iconic tweed, but garments rather more akin to Dr Nikki Alexander's, their efforts to uncover the perpetrator were worthy of Agatha Christie's greatest detective. The very best lessons in school inspire our students and leave a lasting impression. Ms Rivers' lesson is but one example of numerous 'events' experienced by students during the taught week. The Whomping Willow from *Harry Potter* recently emerged in an English lesson; and Joan of Arc was spotted in a Religious Education lesson giving a first hand account of how the uncrowned King Charles VII sent her to the siege of Orléans as part of a relief mission.

MR DAVID CHAPPELL
ACADEMY HEAD



THE GREAT DANCE OFF AND

Ask any student in school and they'll tell you - if you're looking for Mr Hall on an early Sunday evening, you will find him tucked up in front of his television set, glued to Matt Baker and his team, as another edition of *Countryfile* unfolds. We know this because snippets from various episodes weave their way into his assemblies and frequently leave a lump in one's throat. Most latterly we watched twelve year old Josh struggle up the impossible slopes of the Isle of Skye's highest peak. Diagnosed with Niemann-Pick Type C when he was just a few weeks old, Josh has a rare genetic disorder that causes him progressive cognitive decline and dementia-like symptoms. With but a few years life

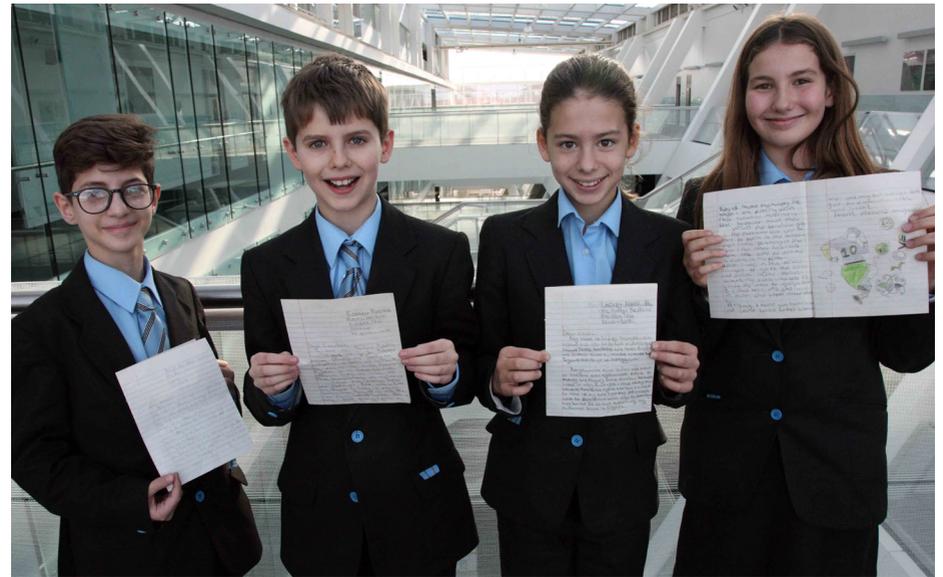
expectancy, students watched Josh completing another page in his extraordinary visual diary, "*This is my memory book because when I get more poorly and I forget stuff, I'll remember it by looking back at my memory book.*" Such exceptional people inspire our students and this young man was no exception. His efforts to raise money for Children in Need, prompted Mr Hall to announce that there would be a 'dance-off' in the following week's assembly so that we could make our own contribution. And so we did; whilst laughter filled the assembly hall, the message was clear and students dug deep into their pockets to give generously to this worthy cause. In total the school raised £1500 which will

OTHER CURIOUS THINGS

contribute to providing grants to projects in the UK which focus on children and young people who are disadvantaged. Our donation formed part of the incredible achievements across the country, resulting in a total this year of £50.5 million. Such strange occurrences in this term's assemblies were not limited to dancing. The year began with Mr Wilson's car parked in the assembly hall for a week - his objective - to return it to showroom condition; no mean feat as it hadn't been washed or cleaned since its purchase in 2015! And seated next to the car, we could see and hear the 'click' of knitting needles as Ms Mulholland learned from scratch how to knit a jumper for a baby. Mr Orr

was painting with oils; Mr Holloway constructed (in the style of 'Mousey' Thompson) a shelf made of wood; Mr Robson was constructing a child's toy from drift wood; and me - well I was faced with the task of making a floral shirt. Why you might rightly ask. Well what better way to kick off our sixtieth celebrations than with a return to past-times; activities that prevailed before people were super-glued to their phones, to screens and social media; a time when skills prevailed. Another great idea for assembly from Mr Hall.....

MR DAVID CHAPPELL
ACADEMY HEAD



A REALLY BIG PHOTOGRAPH

On the day Holland Park School opened its doors to the very first cohort of children in 1958, Horace Tempest was busy packing up his business, ready for its move from Nottingham to St. Ives in Cornwall; and there it still resides today. One of the most successful photographic laboratories in Europe, Tempest took his first school portraits in 1920 and today the company is capable of photographing up to 60,000 people a day, averaging approximately 8.1 million images a year. And so, with this pedigree, we decided that Tempest Photography were the people to take up the challenge of photographing every student and adult that is part of Holland Park today. On Tuesday 9th October the sun was shining gloriously as all 1600 of us amassed on the playground ready to be 'shot'. In groups of about 480, the students climbed on to the staging and offered their best cheesy smiles to a camera that was located some 40m away in the distance. Some two hours later we had all had our moment on the platform and

the photographers declared it a 'wrap'. To the best of our knowledge this is the first time the whole school community has been photographed together and it seemed fitting to do so this year as part of our 60th year celebrations. The image will go into our planned time capsule, to be unearthed and next seen in 2058.

MR DAVID CHAPPELL
ACADEMY HEAD



LETTERS FROM EASTERN AFRICA

Many were astonished to hear of my 'busman's holiday' volunteering as a teacher for CSMF (The Charlie Sumption Memorial Fund) in Kenya over October half term. The charity CSMF has been supporting Mutunyi Primary School since 2007 to commemorate the life of Charlie Sumption (younger brother of the two founders). I took the opportunity to set up a pen-pal exchange between some of our Year 7 students and those at Mutunyi Primary who are able to read and respond to such letters. The Kenyan pupils were fascinated to hear about Holland Park, the school day, the school canteen and the idea of having a pet! Only 4 of the 450 students have an email address and not one has access to a computer or phone at home. CSMF paid for electricity to be installed in 2010 and subsequently, in 2013, 6 desk top computers, internet and most importantly, Issac, the enthusiastic IT teacher, to enable students to learn IT skills. The school's fifteen teachers have limited teacher training, so I took the initiative to run some observations and feedback on the importance of targeted questions to enhance learning. Thanks to many of our Sixth Form students we were able to give 49 prizes to the top 7 students in every form, as an incentive to work hard and aim for the scholarship and sponsorship through secondary education (the second part of CSMF's project). The Mantle

family also donated fifty tubes of toothpaste, so I ran three sessions on the importance of dental hygiene combined with learning to count to 120! Leaving school covered in red dust every day and returning to the headmaster's house where there's no sink to be seen (just garden taps) was certainly a juxtaposition to my luxurious and privileged life as a teacher here at Holland Park. I do hope the pen-pal initiative will broaden the understanding of both our Year 7 students and those at Mutunyi Primary School.

MS HARRIET GARRAD
ASSOCIATE LEADER





LETTERS FROM NORTHERN FRANCE

Les étudiants de la classe 72X ont des nouveaux amis français ! Les étudiants de Holland Park School ont envoyé des lettres à une école parisienne, l'école Belle Vue, totalement en français ! Ils leur ont raconté quels sports ils aiment jouer, une description de leurs meilleurs amis et ce qu'ils aiment faire à Londres. Deux semaines après, nous sommes les destinataires d'une grande enveloppe de lettres avec « La Poste » dessus ! Quelle chance ! Vingt-huit lettres, une pour chaque élève avec une réponse écrite en anglais ! Ah oui, c'est vrai, on apprend le français mais nos correspondants apprennent l'anglais ! Nos deuxième lettres sont déjà au courrier- on attend avec impatience les réponses ! A plus les amis !

MS FLORENCE SHEPPARD, TEACHER OF LANGUAGES

RETURNING

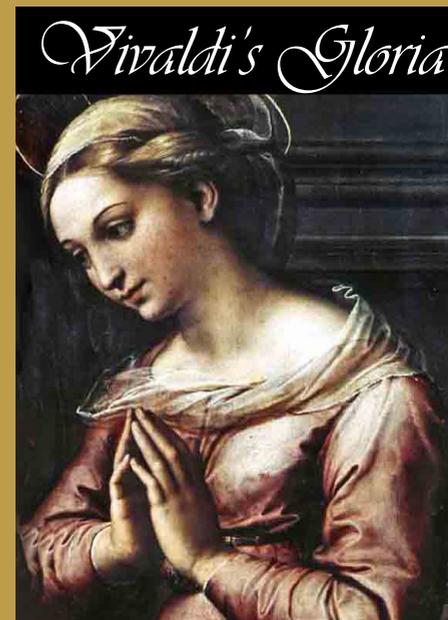
We are well used to departures: such is London staffing. In that context what a pleasure to tell you that Ms Amanda Redfean, Deputy Head, is returning (part-time) after an extended leave of absence. She will be known as Ms Duggal on her return in January 2019. A senior member of staff since 2001, we look forward to embracing again her experience and skill.

A TIME CAPSULE

Students are busy discussing what we should place in our planned time capsule. Scheduled to be buried in Thorpe Lodge gardens toward the latter part of this academic year, we are seeking to reflect life and learning at Holland Park School in 2018. Contributing to our sixtieth year celebrations, we intend the capsule to be opened in 2058, on the school's hundredth birthday.

A SPORTING LIFE

Boasting more hours, more intensity, greater range and greater quality, this has been a year to remember in Holland Park School sport. For the first time in living memory, after school sport has run until 5pm each day, weekend sport has run every single Saturday of the year and it has attracted more students than ever before: table tennis, fencing, ice-skating and rugby, the programme has extended far beyond traditional activities. In-school competition has been extensive. In house football, Seeley and Chappell House clinched first prize. In house basketball, as if to break the deadlock fixed during football, victory was claimed by Chappell House. In the staff charity sporting competitions, the Leadership Team were thrilled to be crowned champions against their closest rivals (the PE Team). In such a tight victory, the poorly coordinated (Mr Robson) and entirely static (Ms Mulholland) were rescued by Mr Wilson's exquisite skills, revealing his secret history as a professional player. In staff netball, it was the vicious and polished Humanities Team that enjoyed a clinical whitewash against all other teams. Outside of school, our fixtures have also been a tremendous success. Sixth Form boys' basketball and under 16 girls' basketball have won each of their matches. In the RBKC netball league, the Year 7, 9 and 10/11 teams are each top of their group, with Year 8 shortly behind the leaders. And, new for 2018-19 is the HPA, the Holland Park Academy, a high performance group of athletes drawn from all year groups in school, who are joined together in their common pursuit of sporting excellence and relentless physical training. In addition to being physically dedicated, they are also a talented literary group who have produced the school's first sporting magazine, the first copy of which is now available on the school's website. As well as sporting updates, it is a powerful digest of sport around the world, about the skills and talents of individual students in school and a revealing exposé of hitherto hidden sporting talents (who knew Ms Davies was a national taekwondo champion?!). Taken together, the contribution of the PE Team has been a tremendous success this term, and that's before we count the hundreds taking part in Duke of Edinburgh!



As I type, the choir are upstairs, rehearsing in the music studio. The door must be open as momentary wafts of *Cum Sancto Spiritu* are seeping through my wall cavities. Led so gloriously by Mr Nicholas Robson, Associate Head and Choirmaster, students are preparing for their fourth major choral performance. Our ultimate weekend of the autumn term will find scores of the school community wrapped up warm in Our Lady of Victories, on Kensington High Street, listening to our wonderful choir (and guests) perform Vivaldi's *Gloria*. The *Gloria* was probably composed in Venice in 1715 for the choir of the Ospedale della Pietà which prided itself on the quality of its music. This is Vivaldi's most famous choral piece and presents the traditional *Gloria* from the Latin Mass in twelve varied sections. Sunny and melodic, it has enjoyed wide acclaim as a joyous piece of music and I have no doubt that our December evening will carry us all to more reflective moments and the promise of rest and celebration. This has been another exceptional year for the school's choir. The new term brings a tour to Florence and an opportunity to sing in and around Renaissance architectural masterpieces.

DAVID CHAPPELL
ACADEMY HEAD

Designed and produced by
HOLLAND PARK SCHOOL



Elias Staff, Year 13 | digital drawing | 2018