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FROM THE HEADMASTER



University entrance has been very much on our minds this term. Gaining places at 'good' universities has always been competitive, but it is undoubtedly becoming harder - or at least less predictable. Not so long ago a string of top grades at GCSE and A Level would be a virtual guarantee of several offers from the more prestigious universities; nowadays it is far from a certainty.

There are two things, however, that should greatly encourage us. The first is that all 141 of the candidates from College this year have received offers. Our success is the result, I am sure, of the care that is taken over the compilation of UCAS forms: personal statements and references are carefully constructed and equally carefully scrutinised. But it is also a consequence of the breadth of education at College: pupils have the opportunity not only to do well academically, but also to develop their wider talents, to grow in self-confidence and to learn independently, all of which are convincing when it comes to making bids for university places.

The second is that, despite what is often said in the press, pupils educated in the independent sector are still winning their fair share - it could be argued even more than our fair share - of places at the more selective universities. The Government is, quite rightly, endeavouring to raise the aspirations of pupils generally, but universities are as keen as ever to admit the best candidates. College pupils are in a very competitive position to win places, something strongly supported by our current experience.

We continue to prize everything pupils are engaged in at College, but one of our principal aims is to give them the opportunity to go on to a good university. It is heartening to know that it continues to be one of our notable strengths.

John Richardson, Headmaster

SUMMER TERM 2010 DATES

Sunday 18th April - Saturday 3rd July
Half-Term: Saturday 29th May - Sunday 6th June

FUTURE OPEN MORNINGS

Junior School 3-13 | Saturday 9 October at 9.30am | 01242 522 697 | roskilly.lucinda@cheltenhamcollege.org
Senior School 13+ & 16+ | Saturday 16 October at 9.30am | 01242 265 680 | registrar@cheltenhamcollege.org

LOOKING FORWARD - DR ALEX PETERKEN



Dr Alex Peterken with his wife Clare and three children: Verity, Dorothea and Thomas

It is a real pleasure to be writing my first contribution to College News about the exciting future we have ahead of us. As the articles featured in this edition make clear, we have a huge amount to be proud of, but no good school can ever afford to stand still. We'll be working extremely hard over the coming months to ensure a smooth transition as Mr Richardson retires and a new College leadership team takes shape.

Joining us will be two highly respected, senior members of staff: Karen Davies, currently a Housemistress at Millfield who will be Deputy Head (Pastoral) and Duncan Byrne, currently Assistant Head at Haberdashers' Aske's who will be Deputy Head (Academic). They will play a huge part in moving us into the next stage of our development and we look forward to welcoming them in September.

Looking forward, our priorities must be to build upon the considerable improvement in academic focus we have seen in recent years to make sure that each pupil is getting the best possible grade they are capable of in every exam they sit. Of course, this goes alongside a superb range of extra-curricular opportunities in sport, drama, activities and music - all of which complement rather than compete with the academic programme which is at the core of what we do as teachers and pupils.

It's a great privilege to be involved in the education of bright and committed teenagers and it's so refreshing to be part of a community which is always looking to better itself and to foster a genuine sense of inquiry about the world we live in; asking questions is such an important feature of being an educated person. Fostering leadership skills is also a crucial part of preparing pupils for the world of work and we'll be launching a new leadership and life skills course for the Lower Sixth next year. It will be based on a successful US programme by the guru Sean Covey and we believe we'll be the first public school in the country to be offering an accredited course under the guidance of Mr Todd.

These are just a few aspects of the future at College that I believe will be very exciting and refreshing. One of the great advantages of being in place at College before taking over as Headmaster is that I am on site and in touch with pupils, parents and staff every day. As always, I am keen to hear the thoughts of those who share a passion for a flourishing Cheltenham College. Please don't hesitate to get in touch: peterken.alex@cheltcoll.gloucs.sch.uk

Dr Alex Peterken, current Deputy Headmaster and Headmaster from September 2010

COLLEGE PUPILS ADD UP THE GOLD!

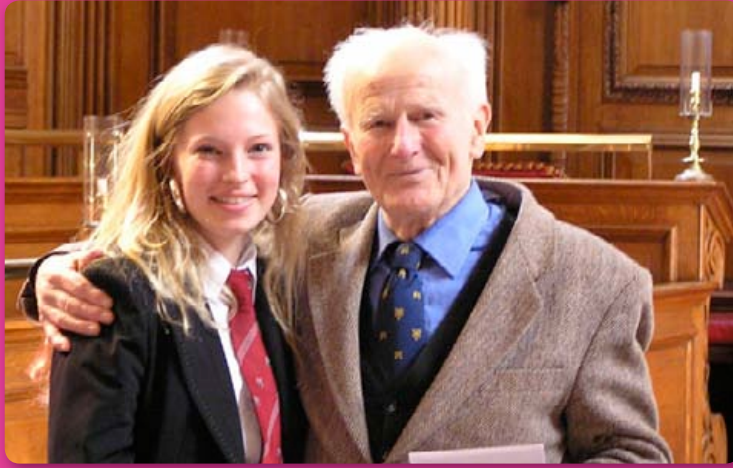
Congratulations to a staggering 62 pupils who received commendations for their performance in the UK Mathematics Trust's Intermediate Maths Challenge Competition, held at Leeds University last term. 7 Gold certificates, 27 Silver and 28 Bronze were awarded! Over 600,000 pupils from 4000 schools took part in the annual competition which is aimed at the top third of UK pupils in 5th form and below. James Baker came top of College with an impressive score of 84.

As a result of their particularly outstanding results, three pupils: James Baker, Anri Takeuchi and Jack Needham have all been invited to take part in the next round; The European Kangaroo where they will compete against the top mathematics pupils from all across Europe. Furthermore, Paul Yoon's performance over the past two years has qualified him to sit the higher level Mathematics Olympiad papers. He is now recognised as one of the top 500 pupils nationally. Well done to all.



Gold certificate winners: Anri Takeuchi, Paul Yoon, Jack Needham, James Baker and Jack Dymoke

A CHORAL MASTER CLASS WITH SIR DAVID WILLCOCKS



Tilly King presents Sir David with a memento of the occasion

and was very complimentary about the choir and our CD recording. His enthusiasm was infectious and he certainly inspired us to continue working on our choral music. A big thank you to Mr Ffinch for organising such an excellent trip.

Lucy Caines, 6th Form

Indeed the Chamber Choir clearly made an impact on Sir David who wrote to Mr Ffinch afterwards, commenting;

"This is to thank you and all members of your Cheltenham College Chamber Choir for their attention yesterday. It was a great pleasure to hear them sing pieces of music with such a sense of style. Their tone was really excellent and their control of pitch unerring. I do hope that some of the singers will eventually end up as choral scholars at one of our leading Colleges."

A fantastic commendation!

COLLEGE PUPILS PRESENT TO THE ROYAL ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING



Giving the presentation were: George Burt, Richard Hine, Guy Pagett and Andrew Spencer

When the organisers of the scheme heard of our apparent success, they asked us to give a talk titled 'Enterprising Engineering for a Greener Future' at the Nottingham Science Festival. Not only were we presenting to the Royal Academy of Engineering and other key companies but also to members of the public. We also had to take questions from the floor in our capacity as an 'experienced' bio-diesel producer!

All in all, it was a fantastic day out - not only did it allow us to hone our public speaking skills, but it also enabled us to give something back to an organisation that has done so much for us. We have also been offered an extension on the lease of our 'fuel pod' following our commitment. However the highlight of the day has to be that we were able to listen and talk to experts in the scientific and business sides of bio-diesel. Watch this space!

Our College Eco Club has evolved from a somewhat obscure Wednesday afternoon activity club into a thriving group of students passionate about helping preserve our world's resources. Indeed our areas of action range from waste paper collection and recycling to making our very own diesel from the waste school kitchen oil...

As you saw in last term's College News, we are one of only 3 UK schools to pilot the production of small-scale bio-diesel machines through a GreenFuels 'FuelPod2'. Not only have we been successful in producing bio-diesel but we have struck a key deal with the Bursar where we sell every litre of diesel that we make back to College for 70 pence. This is then used to power some of the Works Dept vehicles and we simply cannot make enough of the stuff to keep up with demand!



Rich Hine, Lower 6th pupil

REGULAR GIVING: A SNEAK PREVIEW



Last term College welcomed a new Development Operations Manager, Heather Egelton, who is responsible for introducing a regular giving programme to help fund the development of Cheltenham College for the benefit of both current and prospective pupils.

To herald the programme's launch, a new 'Planning Ahead' website has been created under www.cheltenhamcollege.org which not only offers a detailed insight into the new programme but gives every member of the wider College community the opportunity to invest in its future. As the site goes live, we catch up with Heather Egelton to find out more about regular giving.

Q. What is regular giving?

It is a commitment to make a charitable contribution on a regular basis. Regular giving allows us to plan more effectively for the future by providing a development fund that enables us to bring projects to fruition far earlier than might otherwise be possible. The easiest and most efficient way to make a contribution is via a regular monthly/quarterly/annual gift over a period of time, for example 3 years, by direct debit. However gifts may also be made via bank transfer, credit card or cheque payments, or even the gift of stocks or shares.

Q. What are we raising money for?

Funds raised will go into the development of facilities or other aspects of College life detailed in the Development Plan. Gifts can, of course, be allocated to one or more specific projects in the Plan, for example the Scholarships and Bursary Endowment Fund or the refurbishment and extension of the Library. All gifts are greatly appreciated and I'd sincerely like to thank everyone who has already made a donation.

Q. How can I get more information?

Please visit the new website! Go to www.cheltenhamcollege.org and click on 'Planning Ahead'. If you have any further questions or would like any more information, please call Heather on 01242 706812 or email eggelton.heather@cheltcoll.gloucs.sch.uk. There will also be a letter sent out later in the summer term.

SIXTH FORM CHARITY BALL RAISES OVER £1,200



This year's 6th Form charity ball took place on Saturday 13th March, in aid of WellChild. We chose this charity because it helps terminally sick children in the UK – a cause which we all felt was hugely important.

The 'Blue Ball' was held in the Dining Room where we had a delicious dinner, followed by dancing and of course, the traditional College slave auction. This is when we auction off some of the 1st XV rugby players. Anyone can buy them and 'own' them for a day. The 'owner' then has the right to make them do a number of ridiculous things; skip down the isle in Chapel and sing a verse of the hymn alone, for example. This year's auction was fantastic and our slaves managed to raise £1,270, with some individuals being sold for over £150. We're all looking forward to the 'slave day' next term....!

Thank you as always to the Charity Committee; Max Arthur, Max Gardiner, Lucy Caines and Nic Robbins, for being so supportive and helpful. I'd also like to thank Matt Harber and Joss Cheli for all the time and effort they put into helping with events.

Minna Peake, Head of Charities, Upper 6th

2010 GERMAN EXCHANGE



Just before term ended, ten German students from the Rosa Luxembourg Schule in Berlin descended on College, with the return leg of the exchange taking place in the Easter holidays. We caught up with College pupil Sam Birkett just before he headed off to Germany for a whistle-stop diary of the first leg:

"The students arrived in Bristol airport late Thursday night and after experiencing the bemusing event that is College breakfast the following morning, they joined their partners for lessons – impressing us all as they tried to decode the complex language of Shakespeare in English. After lunch the entire group (including the overjoyed British partners!) made their way to the Cheltenham races to experience the Gold Cup. Despite the typically English weather, it was a brilliant experience and we saw some spectacular races.

The whole week was filled with action, including day trips to Bath and Oxford. At the weekend, there were various House activities; for example those who were staying in Boyne had a fantastic day paintballing, a new and unique experience for them, especially with the atmosphere of a boarding house dictating the mood of the day.

Evening entertainment was excellent; first we had the College play 'School for Scandal' a brilliantly performed piece that, despite the language gap, entertained the Germans as well as their British partners. We then enjoyed College's European Cabaret with all its varied forms of talent, perhaps the most surprising being Mr Weir's amazing singing debut! On Tuesday evening, many of us went to College's Jazz concert, with truly spectacular performances from the Big Band, the Sazophone Quartet, the Salon Sisters and of course the infamous JIG.

After all the culture, Tuesday afternoon was spent playing a game of touch rugby – an entertaining way for the Germans to experience British culture. It also became amusingly competitive! The whole week was an amazing experience for both parties so far and the week in the Rosa Luxembourg Schule looks to be just as brilliant."

Sam Birkett, 4th Former

The German Exchange was a great success, educationally, socially and culturally. The history the pupils learnt in Berlin added to the history taught at College, with the pupils gaining a real insight into how Germany picked itself up after the second World War and how Berlin became the centre for the West's struggle against the Soviet Bloc countries that lay behind the Iron Curtain. Some excellent diaries were written in German about the pupils' impression of their trip; these can be read in full in my classroom and will also be posted on the Modern Languages page on the College website.

Mr Patrick Weir, Modern Languages



COLLEGE'S FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONCERT

On 22nd March we held our first International Concert: 'European Cabaret'. The evening was a celebration of continental humour, melancholy and of course, our pupils' hard work in Modern Languages.

After an introduction to wines from various regions, such as France, Spain and Germany, we were treated to Eugène Labiche's 'Les Deux Timides' in full French script and with the audience taking centre stage. Superb performances by Natalia Lungu, Julia Fish, Dimitri Tsitos, Harry Taylor and Jan Haas kept those of us uninitiated to the wonders of the French language engrossed.

The Second Act of the evening presented a variety of sketches, singing, musical flair and more superb wine and cheese. The battle of the sexes featured in two German sketches and we were entertained by Mr Weir singing 'Les Feuilles Mortes' in French and 'Mackie Messer' in German, together with Miles Guerrini. Georgina Bond sang a Spanish version of Hero by Enrique Iglesias, Joseph Duan transported us to romantic Andalucia with his guitar solo and we had many instrumental interludes by Jack Needham and our German exchange students. The evening was a resounding success and all our thanks go to Mlle Wandrille Vaur and Mr Patrick Weir for their hard work.

Dr Georgina Jardim

SPORTING HIGHLIGHTS

Despite the Spring term being so short, College Sport was particularly successful, with many strong performances at National Competitions, as well as inter school fixtures. While it's impossible to detail all our victories, here are some significant highlights:



Left to right: Amelia Scott-Hopkins, Jazz Lopez-Valido, and Maddy Meacher



*Back row left to right: Robert Shepherd (Coach), Ben Ringrose, Rufus Sowerbutts, James Hughes and Alan Deadman (Manager)
Front row left to right: Andrian Montagu, Sebastian Cheli and Jock Jamieson-Black*



Left to right: Charlie Liverton (OC), Alfie Gilbert, Felix Clarke and R.H. Wakely (PRA Secretary)

The Polo club were rewarded for their hard work over the last two terms with an unbeaten season in their school matches and two national titles in the SUPA events. Rishi Ahluwalia, Laurie Thomasson and Peter Bruins were crowned Senior Schools Intermediate Area champions and our girls' A team (Jazz Lopez-Valido, Maddy Meacher and Amelia Scott-Hopkins) went one better to become the Senior Schools Area winners.

This was quickly followed up by the Squash Club, who did tremendously well to retain the U15 national plate title which they won last year. Strong performances from Rufus Sowerbutts, Ben Ringrose, Jock Jamieson-Black and Adrian Montagu sealed a 4-1 win in the semi-final and relatively smooth passage to the final against St Wilfrid's School. Despite Seb Cheli's narrow loss against an outstanding player in the number one slot, the boys capped off the day with another 4-1 win – a very special result.

Not to be outdone, the College Rackets Club showed why it is considered the best in the world at the moment, competing in 3 of the 4 finals at the Doubles Championships held at Queen's Club. Felix Clarke and Alfie Gilbert marked up a 4-0 whitewash against Wellington to win the Professionals' Association Cup for 2nd Pairs, while Alex Duncliffe and Ben Ringrose narrowly lost to Harrow 3-2 in the Peter Gray Cup for U15s. Richard Owen and Chris Stout treated spectators to an epic 2 hour Public Schools Doubles Championship final (lauded as the best final in the recent era), before finally losing 4-3 to Winchester. As a result of these performances and those at the Singles Championships in December, College finished a clear 8 points ahead of Harrow to lift the hugely prestigious Faber Cup – awarded to the best overall Rackets School in the country.

Other sporting highlights include:

Hockey: The Girls 1st XI finished 5th at the National Finals in their 1st appearance while the U16 boys won the County Cup and finished 3rd in the Divisional round. Congratulations to Holly Chipman who has again been selected for the England U18 squad and also represented England with her club, Olton and West Warwicks in the European Super League in Berlin this Easter.

Rugby: The U18 Sevens side reached the knock out stages of the National Schools event at Rosslyn Park while the U16s lifted the County Cup at Bristol Grammar School.

Rowing: Despite being a year young in their category, the Boys' Senior Quad demolished the field at the Wycliffe Head to win by an impressive 13 seconds, with the First Eight and Junior Colts also turning in very respectable performances.

Swimming: Both the Boys' and Girls' squads achieved 9th place in the National Schools finals held at Crystal Palace.

Golf: The College Golf team finished an impressive second in the South West Public Schools tournament held at Burnham and Berrow Gold Club in Somerset, losing narrowly in a sudden-death play off.

Water Polo: The Senior Boys made the semi-finals of the National U18s competition in Manchester.

Equestrian: Pippa Hutton, who competes for the GB Junior Dressage team, won an award for her performance in Saumur, France and at Addington Manor in 2009.

RADA SUCCESS



Congratulations to Toby Fairclough who has won a highly coveted place at RADA to study Stage Management and Costume Design. We catch up with him to talk through his tremendous achievement:

Toby, tell us a bit about your course:

I will be studying Technical Theatre and Stage Management which covers all aspects of technical theatre such as lighting, sound and props – both sourcing and making costumes. The course is two years starting this September.

What was the application process?

You have to apply directly to RADA rather than go through the UCAS system. I sent off my form in early January and heard from RADA about two or three weeks later telling me that I had an interview. The interview was in front of a

panel of three members of staff, including the Director of Technical Teaching. I took along examples of my work at College and was asked to talk through it all, analysing what I would change if I were to make the same garments again.

How many people were you up against?

RADA receives around 250 applications for the course and then holds interviews in the early part of the year. Offers are made from this one interview – I think around 25 pupils gain places.

Where has your love for stage management and technical theatre come from?

I have been interested in the theatre from a young age, and I have also been interested in textiles and making garments for some time. Once I decided that I could do both, I applied to RADA and Bristol Old Vic Theatre School for a costume construction course. Being offered a place at RADA is fantastic and I am really excited about living and studying in London come September.

What is your ideal career?

After RADA I hope to have a career as a costume supervisor or even a costume designer for the West End, Broadway or films.

Toby is the second College pupil in two years to be offered a place at RADA. Daisy Hughes left last year to study acting.

JAMES LAMBERT WINS CREST GOLD PRIZE



James with his design June 09

Just before term ended, 17 year old James Lambert was invited to the National Finals for 'Young Engineer for Britain', held in Manchester. His design, a flat packed Christmas tree, had already won top prize in the South West Finals and now James was up against the finest in the country. He emerged with a 'highly commended' award as well as a CREST Gold prize – a tremendous achievement. Over to him to reflect on his experiences:

"I started the project for my GCSE Design and Technology coursework. I then thought I would enter a local design competition at GE Aviation last summer, which I won. The event organisers recommended that I apply for the 'Young Engineer for Britain' regional rounds which were taking place a couple of weeks later at Bath University. I ended up not only winning a nice trophy but being invited to the Nationals as the South West of England regional winner.

The main aspects of my flat packed Christmas tree design are that it is very space and storage efficient. It is also a very contemporary design that can be incorporated into any number of different houses or flats. It is a quarter of the size of a normal tree with mirrors that give the illusion of it being 360 degrees. One of the criteria of the competition was to have advice from a manufacturer and I was lucky to have a parent from College act as my mentor. He helped me develop the electronics and gave me ideas on how to streamline the manufacturing process for which I am very thankful.

What I enjoyed most from the entire process was talking to many of the 20,000 visitors in Manchester and getting feedback (both good and bad) on my project, which was really beneficial. I now plan to make a few small improvements to my design and then start talking to some manufacturers. Hopefully I can get my tree in shops as soon as possible!"

THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL



This term's College Play ventured into the extravagance of 18th century satirical drama with 'The School for Scandal', directed by the Reverend Nicholas Lowton and produced by Molly Abbott. The production captured Sheridan's comedy of manners with excellent performances; balancing comic caricature with measured characterisation and ensuring clarity of diction throughout to provide an excellent evening's entertainment.

It was full of energy and conveyed not only the wicked spirit of Sheridan's time but also the tremendous abilities of the cast in taking on such an ambitious task with such aplomb. Congratulations to all.

Emma Taylor, Head of Extra-Curricular Drama

PLAYING HOST TO THE SCHOOL ARCHIVISTS' GROUP

Last term Cheltenham College Archives organised and hosted another School Archivists' Group Regional Training Day. 24 archivists attended, from schools as far afield as Brecon, Tiverton and Portsmouth. The morning sessions addressed one of the biggest problems facing school archivists – how to catalogue their collections. Sessions were led on classification systems, cataloguing to the internationally accepted standard, and the relevance and usefulness of retention schedules as part of a whole-school Records Management system. An excellent lunch in the Common Room was followed by tours of College and our Archives Department, before everyone returned for the afternoon sessions. After a talk on digitising school magazines, we finished with an illustrated talk on the care of artefacts, with practical demonstrations showing how to store items of uniform. Storing, recording (and indeed preserving) College artefacts remains incredibly important and we take great pride in our extensive collection that is available for research. For more information, please visit our web pages: www.cheltenhamcollege.org/archives-department



Christine Leighton, College Archivist

SUMMER TERM DIARY DATES

23rd April at 7.30pm: Fashion and Jazz Charity Event

JS Hall. Contact: Di Pagett 07515 910 900 or pagetts@mac.com

26th April at 8pm: Award winning play "Mr Robeson"

Big C. All welcome

1st May at 7.15pm: Rugby Club Charity Dinner Dance

Gloucester Rugby Club, Kingsholm Stadium

Contact: Matt Coley, coley.matt@cheltcoll.gloucs.sch.uk

12th May at 5.30pm: Choral Evensong

College Chapel. All welcome

13th and 14th May at 8pm: Lower College Play

Big Classical. All welcome

26th May at 5.30pm: Choral Evensong

College Chapel. All welcome

29th May at 10am: Speech Day

5th June: Polo Invitation Day

Cirencester Park Polo Club. Contact Rebecca Creed, 01242 265 694 or info@cheltonianassociation.com

16th June at 5.30pm: Choral Evensong

College Chapel. All welcome

20th - 21st June: 24 Hours at College

An action packed event for all registered 2011 13+ pupils

2nd July at 5.30pm: Cheltenham Music Festival Evensong

College Chapel. All welcome

Contact: www.cheltenhamfestivals.com/music

28th July - 8th August: Cheltenham Cricket Festival

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Should you have any comments or suggestions for improvements to this newsletter, please do feel free to contact me. As always, I would like to thank all members of the Common Room and College pupils for their contributions. *Rachel Vicary, Editor*

Cheltenham College, Bath Road, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL53 7LD

01242 265 600 | vicary.rachel@cheltenhamcollege.org | www.cheltenhamcollege.org