

# WHITGIFT LIFE

MICHAELMAS 2019



## Hitting the right notes...

Students' sensational performances at the House Music Competition  
Whitgift Racing car wins 1st place Whitgift launches its first ever History  
Festival Nick Cook visits for World Book Day Chelsea and U17 England  
World Cup winner Callum Hudson-Odoi returns An enchanting performance  
of the *The Jungle Book* and more inside ...

# performing arts

'The inaugural Fourth Form production was sensational'

## Another Country



Julian Mitchell's play *Another Country* was certainly a bold choice for Whitgift's Fourth Form production. Set in a 1930s boarding school, with the narrative addressing substantial topics including homophobia and political reform as well as adolescent mental health and suicide, it was impressive to see the cast of 14-15 year olds take on the challenge so confidently.

The boys mastered the fast-paced and witty script, whilst balancing the sensitivities of each character and representing the contrasting friendships, alliances and rivalries. Particular credit goes to student Kit Connor who, having been involved in

film and theatre acting since a very young age, took on the role of Director. Kit commented following his directing debut, 'It has been such a pleasure to work with such talented actors and has given me even more respect than I already had for teachers and directors working both in school and in the theatre business.'

Director of Drama, Mr Daniel Pirrie praised the whole company, 'The inaugural Fourth Form production was sensational for many reasons: Kit's superb direction was clear, sharp and pulled focus at just the right moments; the two leads (Jon Cheshire and Henry Gillard) inhabited their characters so

truthfully that by the end of the show the audience could not help but feel tremendous sympathy for their respective predicaments; and the other characters were so well-drawn and their relationships so clear that the tension and claustrophobia of the play was quite palpable. But perhaps the most pleasing outcome is the justification of the faith we placed in this talented group of boys to tell such a challenging, compelling story with such class and clarity. I could not be prouder and the future is bright!'

A big thank you to all those who pulled this production together and congratulations to the whole Fourth Form team.

## Lower First Former wins University of Cambridge's 'Make Your Myth' competition

The University of Cambridge held the first ever 'Make Your Myth' competition run by their Classics Faculty at the end of 2018. It was aimed at children aged 7-13 and is a fun and exciting way for students to learn more about Greek/Roman history and mythology through art or creative writing. The task for the competition was to design a myth about Artemis, the Greek goddess of hunting and the moon.

The organisers from the Faculty of Classics at Cambridge commented, "There were 150 wonderful entries to choose from but Ehsan Sagers' entry stood out from the rest. The judges were looking for originality and artistic quality and his piece was marked highly

in both. We all agreed that it was fantastically painted and really is an impressive piece."

Mention should also be made of James Evans and Anish Thayalan, whose creative entries were shortlisted by the Whitgift Classics Department, as well as Rafael Cianfarani, Jimi Ikumawoyi and Thomas Lloyd whose outstanding work was entered in the written category.

Head of Classics, Mr Miles Thompson commented, "It is fantastic to see such amazing enthusiasm and outstanding effort from Whitgift's youngest Classicists in the Lower First. We are thrilled that Ehsan's work has been recognised by the University of Cambridge: he deserves to feel extremely proud."



*'It is fantastic to see such amazing enthusiasm and outstanding effort from Whitgift's youngest Classicists'*

In January 2019, Croydon Council held a ceremony at the Town Hall to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day, marking an international day of remembrance. Children from local schools were invited to enter an essay competition and were given the theme 'Torn from Home', with the winners chosen by the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education. Jake Dennis (Second Form) entered his essay and was thrilled to be awarded a high commendation and invitation to read his essay at the civic event.

The day began with a candle-lighting ceremony in the foyer of Croydon Town Hall, followed by presentations by Riddlesdown Collegiate and Oasis Academy Coulsdon, and a moving talk by Mrs Chantal Uwamahoro, a survivor of the Rwandan genocide. The essay winners were then invited to read their

essays in front of an audience which included the Mayor of Croydon, Councillor Hamida Ali, Councillor Tony Newman and Marilyn Arbisman from the Croydon Synagogue.

Jake commented, "I really enjoyed the experience and being part of a service that commemorates something so important. I also had the opportunity to meet the Mayor and Councillor Hamida Ali."

Whitgift students from the Whitgift String Quartet; Upper Sixth Formers Kryštof Kohout (Violin), Luka Perazic (Violin), Kosta Popovic (Cello) and Fifth Former Uriel Vilchez Meza (Viola), ended the day by playing a rendition of *Schindler's List* by John Williams.



## Whitgift Racing car wins 1st place

Since the start of the academic year, a group of dedicated students have been working hard to develop their Greenpower electric car. The Whitgift Racing team travelled to Goodwood for the annual competition, which challenges students to design and build an electric race car to compete against other schools, colleges and universities.

Competing teams use the same motor and batteries and there are two age levels within the competition. Formula 24 (F24) is for students aged 11-16 and Formula 24+ (F24+) for Sixth Form and university students.

Luca Bower (First Form) did an impressive job as driver of the

first F24 race, especially through adverse circumstances of a red flag delay and finished 23rd. The car was then entered into the F24+ race, unfortunately less change-over time meant a slightly late start, with Ben Boros (Upper Sixth Form) as driver still determined to catch up. However, it was strategically decided to pull out of the race early to let the motor cool before the final F24 race.

The final race started with driver Enzo Moore (First Form) who put in the best lap time of the day, before he changed with second driver Lachlan Seymour (First Form) and Hugo Stremes (Fourth Form) driving the final leg. The Whitgift car progressed its way

into 3rd place and a strong finish saw them overtake other cars to take 1st place.

Deputy Head of First Form, Mr Matthew Taylor summarised, "It was great to see all the boys' hard work and dedication to improving the car pay off, with many of them

giving up significant amounts of their own time."

Upper Sixth Form student, Jack Skinner added, "Working on the Greenpower car has given me further experience in engineering and has really helped me for my future as a designer."



## Alex Ciulin wins Guildhall Lutine Prize 2019

This competition showcases young talent and has been running since 1982. It is Junior Guildhall's equivalent of the senior school's annual Gold Medal competition. Having been successful in the preliminaries, six students progressed to the final round, where they were required to perform a 20-minute solo recital.

With four of the six finalists currently studying at Whitgift, Director of Music, Rosanna



Whitfield was delighted to watch an array of remarkable performances from Lower Sixth Formers, Marian Bozhidarov

(clarinet), Alex Ciulin (cello), Kryštof Kohout (violin) and Kosta Popović (cello).

Warmest congratulations to Alex Ciulin for achieving first prize and to Marian Bozhidarov for achieving second prize. The competition was a great testament to the combined efforts of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, Whitgift and of course, all the talented young musicians who worked so hard to achieve an incredible level of musicianship.

## House Music Competition 2019

In February 2019, the School welcomed back Mr Iain Carnegie as the adjudicator, a Former member of Whitgift staff who now works as an established film and television composer, and is currently Director of Music at Reed's School. The event is one of the few in the School's calendar to be entirely organised by the boys themselves.

Highlights of the evening included Lower Sixth Former Kryštof Kohout's passionate rendition of Eugène Ysaÿe's violin sonata *Obsession*, an arrangement of Major Lazer's *Cold Water* with stunning vocals from Third Former Gibran Ahmed and Fourth Formers Josh Tikare and Archie Shuttleworth (Cross's House), and Matthew Willson (Lower Sixth Form) playing his electric guitar behind his head during his performance of Van Halen's iconic *Eruption* solo as part of the Dodd's House programme.

However, it was Smith's House who claimed victory on the night. Mr Carnegie said that Marian Bozhidarov (Upper Sixth Form) and Daniel Munks' (Fifth Form) clarinet and piano performance of the jazz classic *Misty* was "astonishing" and "one of the best things I've ever heard". Smith's performance of Queen's *Don't Stop Me Now* was hailed as "wonderful", featuring many performers on stage. Upper Sixth Form pupil Max Brown was responsible for the genius arrangement, as well as playing trombone and rapping!

Max Brown stated, "It was fantastic to claim victory, especially in a year where the standard was so high. Mr Carnegie's comments were very enlightening, it was awesome to be given feedback by such a renowned and accomplished musician."



*'The event is one of the few in the School's calendar to be entirely organised by the boys themselves'*

## Whitgift students join the best young translators in Juvenes Translatores

At the end of March 2019, two Whitgift linguists were invited to Europe House in Westminster to attend a special event for their achievements in the Juvenes Translatores contest. Upper Sixth Formers Joshua Nurse and Adrien Chatriot received a special mention. There were just 30 special mention winners of 317 entrants from the UK and both of these students had translated French to English.



The trip was organised by Modern Languages and Senior Housemaster, Mr Benjamin Morris, who was contacted by a Language Officer for the European Commission. Mr Morris and the pupils were given a special tour of the building and attended a presentation on translation work within the EU by Ciara Colgan, Staff Translator with the European Commission based in Luxembourg. They also enjoyed a translation workshop in which the boys tackled a piece about London Cure Smoked Salmon, a UK protected food name product. Finally, they were given an excellent talk by Dr Charlotte Ryland, Lecturer of German from The Queen's College in Oxford. She spoke on literary translation and passed on

a few translated German books to Joshua and Adrien at the end.

Mr Benjamin Morris commented, "It was a wonderful day and I am thankful that we were given the opportunity to go. The competition may not run next year but Dr Ryland is planning on taking it on with the backing of Oxford University and I shall be in touch with her in the near future."

The Juvenes Translatores is held to enable tomorrow's adults to understand languages other than their own. The School also congratulates Lower Sixth Formers Ben Goldby, Gabriele Martoglia and Jacob Murray, who entered and put huge efforts into the contest.



## STEM

Pictures from the Second Form STEM Projects in May 2019, where students worked in small teams to explore and present to staff and peers on a selected STEM topic.

The aim of the project work is to enhance subject knowledge in a fun way, as well as to develop independent research skills, team working and confidence in presenting.



# sport

## Rugby

Whitgift Rugby had a busy season all round with 28 teams, 368 matches and 556 boys enjoying the sport and developing well. Key achievements include the U18 team winning the Schools' Cup and Esher President's Cup, with special mention to Oliver Norris as the 1st XV Captain.

The U15 team made it to the Schools' Cup semi-finals and worked hard to go on to be the SOCS London Oratory School Sevens winners. The U14 team also succeeded in winning the Surrey Schools Sevens, Queen Elizabeth's School Barnet Sevens and the SOCS Reigate Junior Sevens. Also, the U12 achieved the title of SOCS London Oratory Sevens winners.

Whitgift is very proud to have Harry Dugmore representing England U18, as well as Harry Breeze and Ed Dunford representing Wales U18.

Trips this year include the U15s (32 boys) having a pre-season training camp near Montpellier in France and the 1st XV and 2nd XV team (51 boys) touring New Zealand in August.



## Football

2019 has been a successful year on the football pitches, with team and individual awards earned, as well as highest ever participation numbers for a sport that keeps growing at Whitgift. Four pupils won international caps for their respective countries England and Wales, with five further pupils starting the journey of entering the FA Football National Development programmes again with England and Wales. Ten pupils gained County honours with Surrey and the teams were crowned U11 and U12 Surrey Champions. The U13 team was the first side ever to win a National double by winning the ESFA Elite and Investec ISFA titles. Across 20 teams that were fielded, 363 pupils pulled on the Whitgift football shirt and represented

the school with great pride and sportsman-like spirit.

Old Whitgiftian Callum Hudson-Odoi made his senior debut for England v Czech Rep, and after an unfortunate Achilles injury he made time to come and visit the School in May. Since then he has made a strong recovery and the School looks forward to following his further successes.

Two Whitgift students are representing England; Jadan Raymond at U16 level and Xavier Benjamin at U17 level. Jadan played in a prestigious tournament at St George's Park involving Brazil, France and Norway with Xavier playing for the U15s in a friendly v Belgium. James Sweet is representing Wales U16 and Morgan Williams is representing Wales U15.



# performing arts

## Sixth Form production of *The Sneeze*

This year's Sixth Form performance was one of short stories and one-act comedy vaudevilles by Russian playwright Anton Chekov, adapted by Michael Frayn. Considered to be amongst the greatest writers of short fiction in history, Anton also practised as a medical doctor throughout most of his literary career.

English and Drama Teacher, Mr Paul Wilson commented, "Comedy and tragedy both arise out of confusion - it is how this confusion resolves itself that determines whether we laugh or weep."

The production opened with *Drama*, where Upper Sixth Former Jude Willoughby played the role of Pavel, a sarcastic and much too busy script writer, and

Yasmin Irving (Old Palace of John Whitgift School) played the melodramatic role of Murashkna, the dame auditioning her script who meets an unfortunate and shocking denouement. All the performances that followed were equally impressive, especially considering many of the Sixth Form actors had never previously taken on an acting role.

The play that hands itself to the title, *The Sneeze* was a very entertaining story of a Government Clerk, who on a night out with his wife, accidentally sneezes on a General sitting directly in front of him. Upper Sixth Former Archie Day who plays Chervyakov (the sneezer), did an excellent job at depicting the horror that plagues him throughout, as well as Upper Sixth Former Jacob Rose who

played the General Brizzhalov, whose expression during the slow motion replay of the sneeze was highly amusing.

Thanks to all the staff and students who put together a

memorable and entertaining evening. Special thanks to Mr Paul Wilson and Mr Simon Hudson for directing the plays, as well as to the girls from Old Palace of John Whitgift School and Croydon High School.



## On the fringe of awkwardness

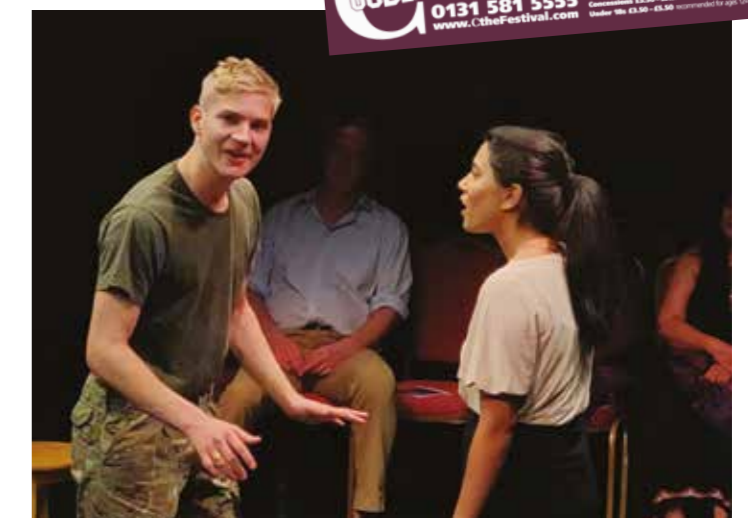
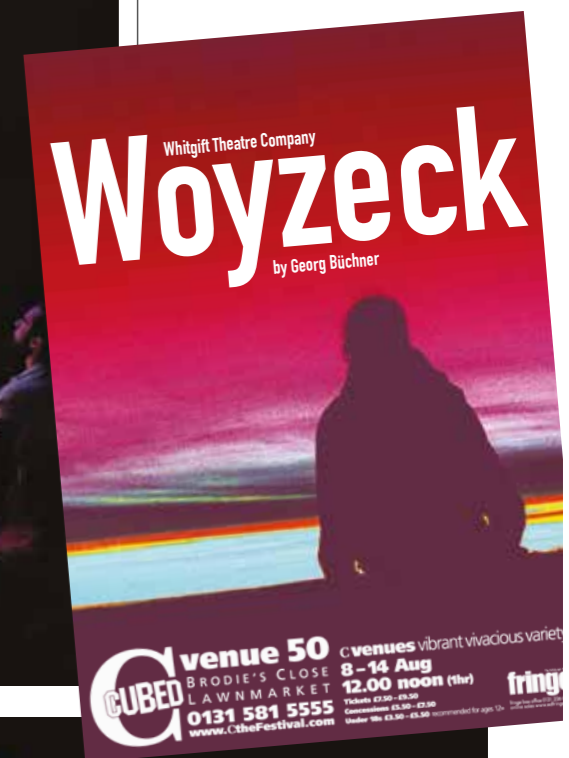
A report by Upper Sixth Former Charlie Barber from the Edinburgh Fringe.

A week before attending the Edinburgh Fringe, the company was informed that the tech rehearsal for our show was to take place from midnight until 4:00am, and there was a great sadness. It was, however, the Fringe's spirit of hotchpotch-entertainment which eventually enlivened every wearied soul as we diffused along the Royal

Mile and arrived at the venue for our first performance at noon on that same day. There was cabaret, stand-up, opera, and improvisation, amongst which we uncertainly trod as a rookie company, awaiting our initiation into the *real* world of theatre; here, we were capable of being subject to the excoriations of reviewers, and on an even footing with the rest of the performing public. Alarmingly, this felt like a premature introduction to adulthood. We were soon put

at ease by a performance that seemed slick and well-rehearsed enough to justify a hint of pride. It was, however, our efforts beyond the stage which proved to be the most alien and the most rewarding: awakening at the crack of 9:30am, we went out into the masses to advertise our show. Standing on a stool, I preached sections of my part in the play (a seedy showman), and made attempts to extemporise garbled cockney patter at any unfortunates who came my

way- slowly perfecting the art of shamelessly making a fool of myself in a public space. This is a vastly underrated skill. Our efforts were remunerated by a steady increase in audience numbers as the week drew on, and by the end of the run our production of *Woyzeck* felt famous. Such a valuable experience I hardly felt I deserved from my old school; I shall nevertheless cherish the memory, and will take the first opportunity to return to the Fringe in the future.



## One of the most successful years for results in the School's history



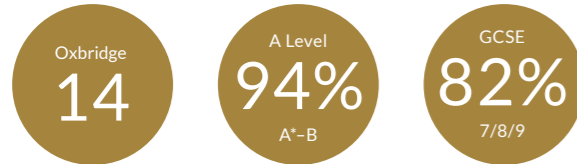
A Level students celebrated outstanding achievements with 93% of all grades awarded at A\*- B (94% A\*- B when combined with the IB results). A total of 49 pupils gained straight A\* and A grades (or Pre-U equivalent). IB students achieved an average total of 39 points. This is 9 points above the global average and places Whitgift as the top boys school for IB in the UK.

Headmaster, Mr Chris Ramsey stated, "I'm delighted that the results reflect their dedication and hard work as well as the excellent support and guidance from tutors and support staff. I hope their achievements will truly inspire next year's Sixth Formers and show them what is possible when they make the most of opportunities."

Fifth Formers followed up with a superb set of grades at GCSE and IGCSE. 82% of all grades achieved level 7/8/9 (A\*-A) and almost a third of grades were awarded the highest level of 9. A total of 27 pupils achieved eight or more grade 9s in their subjects and an impressive six boys achieved 9s in all their entries - something achieved by very few pupils nationally.

Whitgift is delighted to also confirm 14 students will be attending Oxford and Cambridge to read a variety of subjects, and 81% of students achieved their first-choice destination.

The School wishes all the students the best of luck as they continue to work towards their future careers and aspirations.

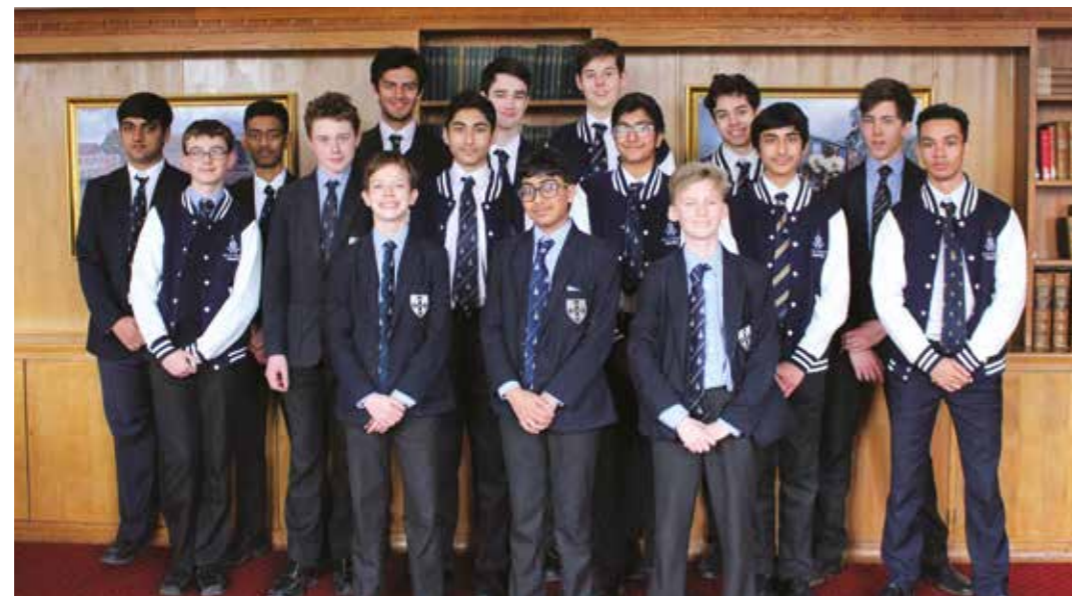


## Up for debate

The debating club have been very busy this year. Highlights include taking three teams to the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) Schools Debating Competition in January 2019, where Issac Fung (Sixth Form) ranked 17th individually of the 103 speakers present, and together with David Lawrence (Fifth Form) that team ranked 11th of 52.

London School of Economics & Political Sciences (LSE) Juniors also took place in January; with Whitgift entering five teams including eight individuals from the Second and Third Form who were complete beginners at debating. They did very well with Third Form student Matthew Dokoupil (who ranked 3rd novice speaker of the 45 present) and Conrad Wojcik (Second Form) only narrowly missing the novice final.

The Oxford School Finals Day, the biggest debating competition



in the UK, took place at the prestigious Oxford Union in March. Two Whitgift teams competed with 114 of the best from across the UK, Ireland, Canada and elsewhere. After four preliminary rounds (all debated with only 15 minutes preparation time) on topics ranging from 'This House would legalise the sale and purchase of human organs' to 'This House believes that the

feminist movement should reject the glorification of motherhood', Issac Fung and Alex Carpenter (both Upper Sixth Form pupils) ranked 16th of all teams present. David Lawrence and Matthew Dokoupil, who had qualified only in Fifth and Third Forms respectively, ranked 84th, with Matthew the 22nd best novice speaker individually.

The team now have their own Whitgift Debating varsity-style jacket, which Upper Sixth Form student Freddie Rawlins wore to great acclaim at the Oxford regional and KCL competitions.



## Whitonomics praised for new design at Shine Media Awards



Creating a completely student-led magazine is no easy feat, but it was nevertheless a task taken on by team of Sixth Formers from the beginning of the academic year. With the guidance of Economics & Business Studies Teacher, Mr Mohammed Al-Hasso, the students planned out the entire process; discussing article titles, the process of editing, the magazine's theme and design. Aware that the previous issue of *Whitonomics* had won an award for 'Exceptional Promise', they were determined to follow this success.

Editor-in-Chief, Julian Cheng summarised, "One of the biggest changes we made to the magazine was its design. Taking inspiration from professional magazines such

as *The Economist*, we worked to bring a modern twist to the whole magazine."

The students dedicated hours after school and during the half-term to perfect the design, drawing intricate illustrations, creating a political cartoon as a cover page and more. The team also spent time editing the articles, ensuring each one went through multiple versions of editing in order to gather different opinions and feedback.

This undoubtedly paid off, with the team being highly commended for 'Best Cover' at the Shine Media Awards in July and Julian Cheng winning the award for 'Best Cartoon'. The judges praised the 're-vamped' *Whitonomics* as one of a 'bold and professional design' which 'would jump out on a news-stand'.

This is a great achievement for the entire team, including Saam Fakhim (Chief of Design), Alex Nam (Illustrator) and all the writers that contributed. We hope they inspire the next *Whitonomics* production team on to great things.



## LGBT History Month



Back in February 2019, LGBT History Month saw a range of assemblies, talks and events celebrating queer history and culture, and the Whitgift Queer Society had its first meeting. Its aim is to promote an inclusive and accepting environment and to provide a space for students to support each other and discuss LGBTQ issues.

A series of talks also took place over the month, all covering LGBTQ themes: Mr Smith, Head of History & Politics, gave a lecture about the role of the US Supreme Court in shaping US society and values, Mr Hunt, Head of Languages, presented a seminar on Polari, the "secret

language of Britain's LGBT community", and Mr Bregman delivered an introduction to transgender issues. An unsung Old Whitgiftian, Roberta Cowell, was not only a World War II fighter pilot and racing car driver but also the first woman to go through gender reassignment surgery in the UK! In form periods across the School, boys learned about LGBT history and discussed discrimination, organised by Ms Curtis-Rouse, Head of PSHEE & Critical Reflection.

As well as rainbow flags up in every part of the School, in the Raeburn Library Head Librarian Mrs Bauer set up a display of books and a timeline of LGBTQ history, including a table celebrating iconic poet, playwright and LGBTQ hero Oscar Wilde.

**Whitgift at Pride in London**  
The Whitgift Queer Society attended the annual Pride in London parade in July 2019. The



theme for this year's parade was #PrideJubilee, commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the Stonewall uprising in New York which is recognised as the start of the modern LGBTQ rights movement.

With over 30,000 participants in the parade, Whitgift, with a

group consisting of nine Sixth Formers and two members of staff, was proud to attend for the first time. Many recognised the School name and told us how excited they were that a school was marching, and the group also had a fantastic reception from attendees representing Croydon PrideFest.

# The Jungle Book

Whitgift's Performing Arts Centre was transformed into an enchanted jungle clearing, with an auditorium in the round for the Lower First and First Form production during Lent Term.



Effective make-up enhanced the characterisation, but it was the talent of Whitgift's youngest actors at embodying their animal personas that truly captured the spirit of each creature and made for impressive and enjoyable viewing. The original music composed by Graduate Music Assistant Mr Liam Connery and Director of Music Ms Rosanna Whitfield was also spot on.

Director of Drama, Mr Daniel Pirrie commended the young cast, "many for whom this was their first experience on a stage. The progress each boy has made over the months of rehearsals is extraordinary and to know this is the first of hopefully many more productions at Whitgift is thrilling."

This entertaining and high-energy production was testament to the hard work of the whole company, whose enthusiasm and enjoyment clearly rubbed off on the audience. A special matinee show was hosted as part of the Whitgift's Primary

## performing arts

School outreach programme and in conjunction with our local primary schools which was a wonderful afternoon and it was a pleasure to see so many older boys in the audience, supporting their fellow students.

A big thank you to the entire cast and crew who all did a wonderful job, including the boys who assisted behind the scenes and backstage. The Directorial and Production Team of Mr Daniel Pirrie, Mrs Faye Carter and Miss Nicole Sheffel put in a huge amount of hard work as did Mr Peter Crook's stage team. We eagerly await next year's First Form play and hope many of the boys will be encouraged to participate in further Whitgift drama events.

*'A special matinee show was hosted as part of the Whitgift's Primary School outreach programme'*







## Cricket

OWs Jason Roy and Rory Burns playing together in the Test Series v Australia and Ireland, along with the New Zealand and Australian World Cup Cricket Teams training on Northfield prior to The Cricket World Cup were two of the highlights of this summer. Here at the School, National Finals have been reached alongside international representation and County Cup wins!

In the T20 campaign, the 1st XI were exceptionally led by Will Heaver with Nyeem Young and Nico Reifer displaying international quality for their home nation Barbados.

The U15As had some excellent performances from the whole squad; most notably Tim Lloyd and Moiz Rana. At the National T20 Finals the team won the semi-final by four wickets but lost the final by just ten runs to a strong Sedbergh side.

For the U14s, Arjun Gill and Vansh Jani were key players. Selection for the Scotland U15 team for Seth McDowall shows he has a bright future ahead.

The U13s highlight of the season was Rahul Tangirala's 128 not out vs Cranmore while Jens Wagstaff and Shaheer Alam won the cricket prizes.

U12s had an excellent unbeaten season; George Grisdale scored a maiden century to get the team through to the semi-final of the Surrey Cup (208 for 3) and Captain, Jack Mortlock, then lead from the front to achieve a win in the final against Trinity. Batting by Tom Mead, Alex Chambers, Ollie Hunt and Shiv Prashad and bowling from Hamish Walters and Zak Mirza were all highly noteworthy. The stand-out player of the season with his consistent spin and volume of wickets, was Zak Dossa.

### Highlights from Old Whitgiftians:

- Rory Burns scored his maiden century for England in an Ashes test and continues to cement his opening spot in the team.
- Jason Roy became a World Cup winner and broke into the Test team.
- Dominic Sibley continues to score runs at Warwickshire and is currently in line to be selected in the Test side.
- Laurie Evans has been a regular in the Sussex Team in every form of the game while still regularly showing himself to be one of the top T20 Blast batsmen.
- A recent move to Warwickshire has allowed Michael Burgess to keep wicket on a regular basis.
- Ryan Patel, Jamie Smith and Freddie van den Bergh all continue to feature at Surrey CCC.



## Whitgift CCF Annual General Inspection

On Friday 26 April the Combined Cadet Force (CCF) held the Whitgift Annual General Inspection and were very pleased to welcome back Old Whitgiftian, Brigadier Jon Swift OBE, as the Inspecting Officer. Pupils from Whitgift and two partner schools, St. Andrew's CE School and Thomas More Catholic School, took part in a wide range of activities from climbing to kayaking in the swimming pool, and survival tasks such as building shelters and cooking. They were also involved in military activities such as camouflage, concealment and flying on the flight simulator.

The formal Inspection of the Guard of Honour was led by Junior Under Officer, Andrew Bonner (Upper Sixth Form) and the Corps of Drums, under Drum

Major Naveen Dhar (Lower Sixth Form). Brigadier Swift praised their performance and commented that he thought it was even better than when he had commanded the Guard of Honour 28 years ago! Despite the intermittent rain, spirits remained high and he commended the cadets for their very high standards and obvious enthusiasm.

The Inspection was rounded off by the exciting and much anticipated arrival of the Wings RAF Parachute Display Team, who jumped into the grounds despite the low cloud and increasing winds. The older boys then put on a very lively and spirited Platoon Attack Demonstration and the Corps of Drums performed the Beating Retreat.



In his address to the cadets, staff, parents and OWs, Brigadier Swift spoke highly of the School and the CCF and he felt it encouraged leadership, resilience, and fun, rating the CCF as outstanding. At dinner in the evening, presentations of tankards were made to the senior boys. It was noted over 30 Old Whitgiftians had been involved in helping on

the day, which was testament to their loyalty to the School and their CCF experiences.

Head of History and Politics, Mr Smith summarised, "An excellent day for the boys and CCF adults, it was a pleasure to host Brigadier Swift and so many other Old Whitgiftians and very pleasing to be rated as an outstanding CCF."



# performing arts



## Around 'Big School' in 80 Days

Big School turned into a dynamic and fast-moving world stage to become the backdrop for *Around the World in 80 Days* by Jules Verne, this year's Junior School performance.

The story begins in London where Phileas Fogg is revealed as a man of great order and extreme discipline. At his gentlemen's club he accepts a wager to travel around the world in 80 days and, along with his manservant, Passepartout he sets out on his adventure filled journey.

Travelling by train, steamship, sailing boat and even elephant,

they overcome kidnappings, natural disasters, Sioux attacks and even dodge the persistent Inspector Fix of Scotland Yard, who is convinced that Fogg has robbed the Bank of England, to finally win the extraordinary wager (thanks to the duo inadvertently 'gaining' a day by travelling eastwards around the globe).

An energetic and humorous cast played out their multiple characters with great charm, keeping the audience amused and on the edge of their seats for three nights in June.

The performance Director, and Teacher of Drama, Mr Simon Hudson enthused about the cast, "The great thing about directing these talented young actors is that they have worked tirelessly and imaginatively on eccentric characters, physical set pieces, complex transitions and pacy dialogue; all with utter professionalism."

Congratulations to all who were involved for another great production, supported by a strong behind the scenes crew of students alongside the Whitgift team.



*'An energetic and humorous cast played out their multiple characters with great charm'*

# performing arts



## Whitgift International Music Competition 2019

The Whitgift International Music Competition (WIMC) 2019 took place during the Easter holidays from Sunday 7 to Thursday 11 April. A vast array of international students from countries including Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Hong Kong and the UK, resulted in a wonderful sense of community within the boarding house and music department.

The competition rounds took place over three days. During the semi-final, each competitor performed a programme of three contrasting pieces lasting 20 minutes each, and those who made it through to the final had 10 minutes to play one movement of a concerto. The rounds took place in front of a panel of adjudicators and there was a vast array of instruments, with violinists as well as a range of woodwind and brass players competing.

The prizegiving and gala concert featured performances from a selection of this year's WIMC competitors and a special guest performance by Brian Wong (Third Form), playing the harmonica.

Jessica Duchon, Music Journalist and WIMC Adjudicator commented, "The results are not only transformative for those who win but enhance the lives of the other students who have the chance to collaborate with their peers. It brings music into lives that might otherwise miss that chance and expands everybody's world view and cultural understanding."

Thank you to all the competitors, staff and adjudicators for contributing to another successful WIMC and to Upper Sixth Former Matthew Munks and Third Former Brian Wong for assisting as Whitgift Young Ambassadors.



*'The competition expands everybody's world view and cultural understanding'*

## Whitgift launches its History Festival

For two days in June 2019, the Performing Arts Centre was transformed into the first ever Whitgift History Festival. The School was very pleased to welcome both students and parents, as well as visitors from local schools, Old Whitgiftians and members of the general public.

The festival hosted a series of fascinating talks, including one from Professor David Olusoga on *Forgotten Soldiers of Empire*, highlighting the often-overlooked contribution of troops from the British Empire in World War One. This talk nicely married with a talk on *Fighting the People's War* by Dr Jonathan Fennell, who debunked the popular narrative that everyone was eager to fight in World War Two and knew what they were fighting for.

The most emotional talk was delivered by Harry Olnor, a Holocaust Survivor, who passionately described his experience of Nazi antisemitism. He explained his good



fortune to survive Plaszow, Buchenwald and Theresienstadt concentration camps and as he was dying from typhus, how he was rescued and arrive in

Britain. Incredibly, he said that he did not hate the Germans and indeed that everyone must avoid hate, as that is what corrupts society. In addition, there was a very thought-provoking presentation by Dr Sam Willis which encouraged everyone to think about History in a different way. Dr James Kitchen, an Old Whitgiftian, and Dr Chris Mann, both from the War Studies Department of the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst gave everyone detailed insights into the Post World War One settlement in the Middle East and the experience of one British Army Officer from the Western Front to the Russian Civil War.

Head of History and Politics, Mr Keith Smith summarised, "The History Festival was designed to look at less common historical themes and to encourage people to both think about and enjoy History for its own sake. It was great to see young

**HISTORY**  
FESTIVAL

and old getting involved in asking questions of the visiting academics and pleasing to see over 800 people attend with such positive feedback."



## Whitgift Chamber Orchestra concerto

At the beginning of March 2019, the Whitgift Chamber Orchestra (WCO) performed pieces from Mendelssohn, Strauss, Vivaldi and Paganini culminating in Beethoven's *Eroica* Symphony.

The first movement from the *Horn Concerto No.1, Op.11* by Strauss was an enjoyable piece, specifically when soloist, Lower Sixth Form student Adam Field demonstrated velocity and skill.

Equally impressive was the three movements from *Double Cello Concerto in G Minor* by Vivaldi with solos performed by Upper Sixth Formers, Alex Ciulin and Kosta Popovic. It was evident the hours of practice paid off when it came to learning and perfecting it.

The concert had incredible performances by the soloists and Whitgift Chamber Orchestra. Second Form pupil, Ben Naylor

said, "I have been playing the violin for just over a year and can now fully appreciate how exceptionally difficult it is to sustain the high notes performed by Mendelssohn."

Director of Orchestral Music and conductor of the event, Mr Philip Winter commented, "To play Beethoven's *Eroica* Symphony is a challenge for a professional orchestra and a

fantastic achievement for the members of the WCO, the depth of musical understanding needed is enormous and everyone who took part rose to the occasion to a very enthusiastic audience."



# sport

## Basketball

For the first time ever, Whitgift's basketball team made it to final in the U19 Men National Schools Competition. The match was played at the National Basketball Performance Centre in Manchester where Myerscough College, a renowned basketball academy, proved to be too strong. Nonetheless, an incredible and historic achievement for Whitgift. The 1st team also came second in both the LISBA League and Cup competition.

Whitgift's U15s exceeded all expectations and were crowned LISBA League champions, as well as LISBA Cup winners after defeating City of London School for boys in both finals.

Team Captain and Fourth Former, Myles Alcindor, was selected for England's U15 team in June 2019. He already represented his country in international tournaments in Paris and Copenhagen.



## Water Polo

Water Polo Squads have had a fantastic year, with the U18s placing 2nd in the London League after drawing narrowly with Alleyns. Some of the boys who played in the U18s then took this drive to the next level by getting through to the ESSA National finals, in which Whitgift came 5th overall. The U16 squad then managed to win 4 consecutive matches, going on to win the London League.



The most notable achievement over the past year was the Under 13s who came 2nd in Nationals after losing out on 1st place to Trinity. Huge congratulations to the boys who played superbly on the day including Second Formers Rey Abdulhafiz, Will Cleverly, Charlie Cotgrove, Dylan Helmer, Robert Kubasiewicz, Nico Lane, Ben Townrow, Jamie Miller, Thomas Norrey and Fernando Watt-Rodriguez, and First Formers Rudy Kool and Joe Mumford.

The School was also delighted for Toby Roberts (Fifth Form) representing England in the U17 LEN European Aquatics, and Max Hubrich (Fourth Form) being selected to train with the England National Academy.

## Cycling

Lower Sixth Former and mountain bike enthusiast, Luc Roux, secured an impressive 1st place in The Bull Track BR4R Downhill Series (South East) twice. Once as fastest over all categories and then as 4th fastest over all categories. He also came 2nd in the Root 1 Racing Tidworth (South West).

Luc has placed 18th and 19th place in nationals so far this year, however he has not raced over the summer due to an injury. The School wishes him a speedy recovery, ready for the September nationals in Scotland.



## Swimming

Over 100 swimmers have participated in competitions this year, with many squads working hard and achieving fantastic results. In November 2018, the U13 relay team came 3rd in the National Medley Relay at the London Aquatics Centre. They went on to win the 'Warwick Open' and to claim several trophies at the Croydon Schools' event. Other highlights included a group of students travelling to the Olympic Pool for the prestigious Bath Cup event in March 2019. They included Lower Sixth Form student and Captain Tanglin Ireland, Rowan Fuss (Fourth Form), Christopher Finch (Fourth Form), Stanley Jones (Lower Sixth Form), Theo Thompson (Fourth Form). They swam incredibly well and just narrowly missed out on the final. Finally, the team

competed and won the London Schools Cup, which was another great occasion.

There has been great individual success this year: Alex Corver (First Form) breaking the 100m Butterfly (SC) record and becoming the overall Kent County Swimming Champion; Theo Thompson qualifying for the English and British Nationals; Christopher Finch qualifying for Nationals and Artyom Boyarov (Third Form) taking 11 seconds off his 100m freestyle pb in one year.

This year the School also introduced the Whitgift Swimming Club Championships, where the students compete against each other across nine events to find the Whitgift Swimming Champions.



## Ski Season

Second Former, Augustin Bozzetto, came 24th International U14 and 8th British U14 in the Lowland Ski Championships, with 308 participants. Five countries were represented and for each category only the top 15 skiers of each country attended.

Augustin also took part in the BASS (British Alpine Seeding System) races in May which comprises of three indoor ski races in Landgraaf (Netherlands), acting as a qualifying round for April 2020 National British Championships in Tignes. He took two 2nd placings and one, 3rd, allowing him to qualify for the National British Championships.

Augustin took part in over 15 competitions this winter as part of the French Circuit. The Coq d'Or (in L'Alpes d'Huez) is the highest and ultimate competing level in France consisting of 1500 children U12 and U14. In his category there were over 450 boys U14 and after three days of races, he was one of only 150 who went to the finales. He finished in the top 30 from 2006 and then on the last day he came in the top 40 of all U14.

The School wishes Augustin further success and looks forward to following his first race of the season where he will be competing in the International Lowland Championships in Landgraaf towards the end of September 2019.



## Supporting Charities at Whitgift

Supporting local and international charities is an important part of outreach work at Whitgift. It helps to raise awareness amongst both students and staff, and the funds raised assist some of the most vulnerable people in society. Nearly £7000 was raised this year for the School's three chosen charities; Bees for Development, ShelterBox and a local charity called Canine Partners.



Bees for Development ([www.beesfordevelopment.org](http://www.beesfordevelopment.org)) works mainly in Ethiopia to provide a regular income to thousands of remote families, by giving them new skills in producing honey and beeswax through beekeeping.



ShelterBox ([www.shelterbox.org](http://www.shelterbox.org)) provides emergency shelter and other essential items for families around the world, who have been robbed of their homes by natural disaster or conflict.

Canine Partners ([www.caninepartners.org.uk](http://www.caninepartners.org.uk)) is a registered charity that partners specially trained assistance dogs with people who have physical disabilities, providing greater independence by offering security, companionship, and practical help with everyday household tasks.



The work of charities at Whitgift is co-ordinated by the Charities Committee, chaired by School Captain, Zain Peerbhoy. Raising funds involves students running events, liaising with and promoting charities. Last academic year, several successful events were accomplished in partnership with members of the Parents' Association.

Chaplain and Charities Co-ordinator, Rev Alan Bayes commented, "During the Michaelmas term please look out for several fund-raising efforts including a Sixth Form Charity Concert, First Form cake sale and the popular First Form disco run in conjunction with Old Palace of John Whitgift and Croydon High. Closer to Christmas, presents will be collected for a local charity, Evolve Housing that provides seasonal gifts for the homeless."



All the charities supported by the School are chosen by the Charities Committee and are based on recommendations received from pupils and staff. The School would like to thank everyone for their continued support, time and generosity for the Whitgift charities.

## Smith's – 2019 House Cup Winners

This year, the House Competition saw students representing their Houses (Andrew's, Brodie's, Cross's, Dodd's, Ellis's, Mason's, Smith's and Tate's) in events that tested every imaginable set of skills.

The annual event aims to find the most talented Whitgift House and adopts a points scheme, awarding eight points to the winners of an event, seven for second, etc. No points are offered to Houses who do not present a team. A game-changing ten points is offered to the winners of the events such as House Music and House Drama.

Smith's has proudly taken the House Cup from last year's winners, Andrew's, with new house captain Upper Sixth Former Max Brown, who proudly collected the Cup at the Celebration of Whitgift Life in July.

House Co-ordinator, Mr Benjamin Morris, commented, "Smith's has led all the way and dominated the competition from start to finish. They have shown an incredible amount of dedication towards ensuring the cup is yellow once again."



## New musical instrument designed as part of A Level DT

Lower Sixth Form student Saam Fakhim collaborated with good friend and composer, Amir Konjani, to be the client for his Design, Technology and Engineering A Level project. The composer of Oscar winning movie *The Silent Child* has worked with many renowned conductors and has been commissioned by the London Symphony Orchestra, BBC News, British Museum and many others.

The project brief was to create an instrument that could be integrated into an orchestra to make composition pieces more innovative. Since most orchestral instruments have remained unchanged for decades, this allowed him to devise an interactive music sculpture to explore hypermodernity within the design. The shapes used were irregular contours instead of geometrically mirrored shapes found in nearly all instruments (where the instrument is

symmetrical) and this brought forward the idea of bringing an unused set of antlers and upcycling it into the heart of the project.

Saam Fakhim commented, "My client Amir has been one of my primary sources of inspiration to follow a route in Industrial or Product Design and as someone with a keen interest in art, this project allows an interesting combination of design, art and music to create something unique and original."

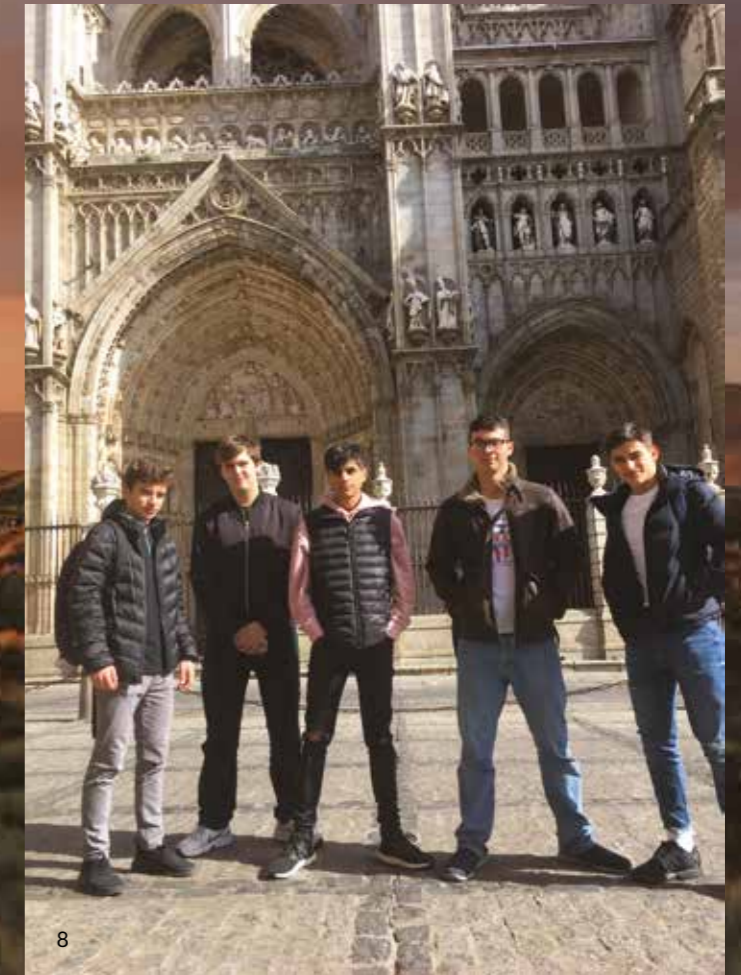
The project was titled 'Sisar' – a Persian based name which cannot be directly translated, but can be approximated to '30 heads' in English. The musical instrument plays like a harp but with a totally original sound stage. Congratulations to Saam Fakhim for his innovative design and we hope this project serves as a thought-provoking and interesting piece of work to everyone who sees it.



# trips

Highlights from this year's academic, cultural and sporting trips.

1. CCF Royal Naval trip
2. Chiddingstone Castle
3. Rugby U15 Training Camp Quissac, Montpellier, France
4. Junior Cricket tour to Barbados
5. Second Form pupils exchange trip to Zaragoza, Spain
6. Senior Rugby Tour to New Zealand
7. Third Form – Upper Sixth Form Desert Springs Golf Tour
8. Sixth Form trip to Madrid
9. South Bank Art trip
10. U13 Hockey tour to Barcelona



# sport



## Hockey

The Indoor Hockey season marked the start of a busy year for both disciplines of the sport. The School's teams always embark on a tough fixture card, playing with some of the best schools in the country. The U14s defended their divisional title from last year, unbeaten throughout the tournament and cementing themselves as a strong force in schoolboy hockey. The U16s did tremendously well by qualifying unbeaten through the divisional finals and earning a place in the National finals. The seniors also performed brilliantly to book a place in the National final. Both teams went to the National finals with high hopes and after an outstanding second half performance from the U16s, the

boys booked a place in the final vs Repton School with the boys claiming the win. The U18s also made it to the final where they fought hard against a very good performance from Altrincham Grammar School. After a tense penalty shootout, the team was proclaimed champions of England at U18 and U16 Level and Whitgift became the only school to ever accomplish this feat on three different occasions.

There were high hopes for the National Outdoor Competition, with last year's successes of three national titles being hard to replicate. After a great season with many boys participating and having the opportunity to represent across all levels and in all competitions, the School

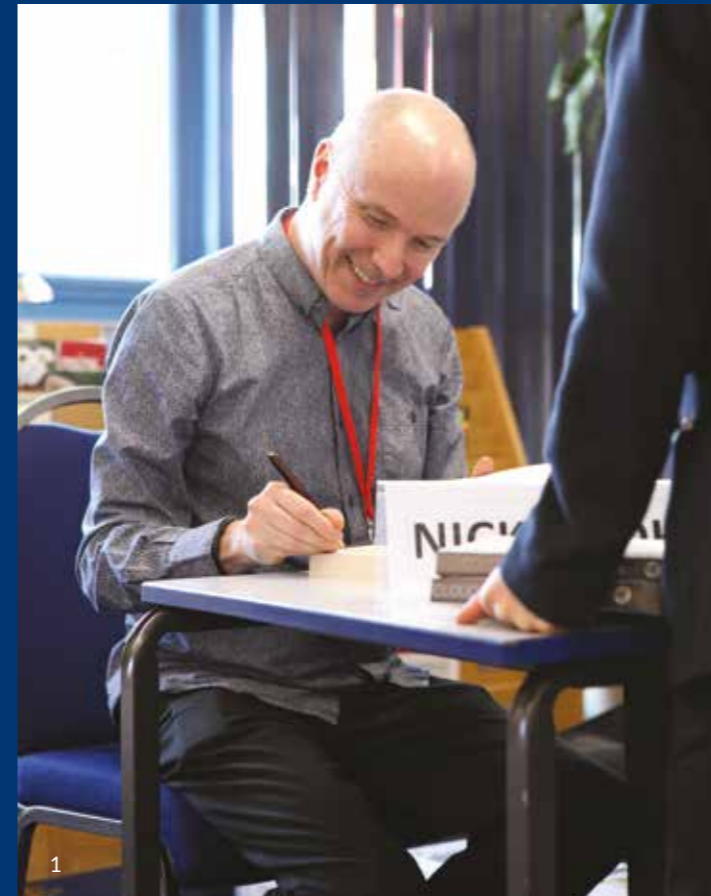


honor list is very impressive: U18 Silver Medalist, U15 Silver Medalist, U14 Bronze Medalist, U13 Independent Schools Champions and Bronze Medalists in the England In2Hockey National Championships.

Whitgift is also very proud of the number of boys that have gone to represent Surrey and

especially England; OWs Rhys Smith, Luke Taylor, Zach Wallace and Jack Waller playing for Great Britain. OWs Adam Buckle, Noah Darlington and Max Denniff are playing for Great Britain U21s. Upper Sixth Former pupil Josh Gravestock currently plays for Great Britain U21s and a further six current pupils are playing for England U18s and U16s.

# visitors



1



2



3




4



5

1. Nick Cook visits Whitgift for World Book Day
2. OW, Sir Peter Michael, visited Whitgift as part of the Academic Enrichment Programme
3. OW, Callum Hudson-Odoi returns to Whitgift
4. OW, Lord Justice Keith John Lindblom spoke to students in March
5. OW, Richard Thorpe, gave a motivating talk to Whitgift's First Form pupils





**hairspray**  
• THE BROADWAY MUSICAL •

Wednesday 4, Thursday 5, Saturday 7 December 2019  
7.30pm, Big School

Tickets: £8, Concessions £4

For more details and information on how to book, please visit  
[www.whitgift.co.uk/events](http://www.whitgift.co.uk/events)

Photography

Front cover: House Music Competition, DFPhotography

Inside: DFPhotography, Sports Action Photo, Daniel Fearon, Getty Images

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### LONDON MYRIAD ENSEMBLE: ROALD DAHL

Monday 30 September  
7.00pm, Concert Hall  
Tickets: £5, FREE admission for Whitgift students (by reserving on WisePay only)

### WSPA QUIZ NIGHT

Friday 4 October  
7.00pm, Big School  
Tickets: £16

### HOUSE DRAMA

Friday 11 October  
6.30pm, Performing Arts Centre  
FREE admission (by reserving on WisePay only)

### THREE SCHOOLS' CONCERT

Wednesday 16 October  
7.00pm, Fairfield Halls, Croydon  
Tickets: Reserve via Fairfield Halls box office (see events page on Whitgift website for more details)

### ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT

Vicky Featherstone (Artistic Director, Royal Court Theatre)  
Friday 18 October  
4.00-5.00pm, Concert Hall

### CHORISTERS AT THE RITZ

Saturday 30 November  
3.30pm and 5.30pm, The Ritz, London  
Tickets: Bookings via The Ritz (see events page on Whitgift website for more details)

### CHRISTMAS CONCERT AT ST GEORGE'S, HANOVER SQUARE

Friday 6 December  
6.30pm, St George's, Hanover Square

### HAIRSPRAY

Wednesday 4, Thursday 5 and Saturday 7 December  
7.30pm, Big School  
Tickets: £8, Concessions\* £4 (by reserving on WisePay only)

### CHARITY CONCERT

Tuesday 10 December  
7.00pm, Big School  
Tickets: £6 (tickets will be available on the door, cash payments only please)

### CAROL SERVICE

Thursday 12 December  
7.30pm, Croydon Minster  
FREE admission (by reserving on WisePay only)

## BOOKING INFORMATION

Please visit [www.whitgift.co.uk/events](http://www.whitgift.co.uk/events) for all our events and information on how to book.

\*Concessions:

Children 16 and under, Over 60s, Students (17-25 in full-time education)

WHITGIFT  
Haling Park  
South Croydon  
CR2 6YT  
United Kingdom

Telephone: +44 (0)20 8688 9222  
Email: [office@whitgift.co.uk](mailto:office@whitgift.co.uk)  
[www.whitgift.co.uk](http://www.whitgift.co.uk)

Find us on  
Twitter: @WhitgiftSchool1  
Twitter: @WhitgiftSport  
Facebook: Whitgift School,  
South Croydon  
YouTube: Whitgift School

